

## Tuesday Topics Summary November 5, 2024

President Mary Lou Davis opened the meeting. She reminded us that the LWV is a non-partisan organization. She then thanked all volunteers. The postcard effort resulted in more than the 500 planned for and 1,000 postcards were sent to registered voters to encourage them to vote. The additional postcards required more funding. Members are asked to contribute to the postcard stamp fund.

President Davis announced we have 240 members. Allan Foster, membership chairman, reminded members that November is the month we collect dues for the upcoming year.

Glennie Buckley introduced our speaker, Marvin Burris, who spoke about "The History of Abilene." Mr. Burris began by telling about himself and the many positions he has held in government service. He then started his presentation. In 1856 Abilene was the first cowtown in Kansas. The Herseys moved to the little town with no name, an overland stage stop. Mr. Hersey was asked to name the town. His wife, a religious woman, had read in the Bible about a place called Abilene, so she named the new town Abilene, which means city of the plains. Saloons were built and the Kansas Pacific Railroad passed through the town. Joseph G. McCoy was looking for a railhead for shipping cattle. Over the next few years, thousands of cattle were shipped and McCoy built the Drovers Cottage where cattlemen could stay. Texas cowboys came to Abilene and became uncontrollable. Cattle owners met and hired a lawman, Tom Smith. Smith issued a warning that there were to be no guns in town. He was killed in 1870. Eisenhower considered Smith to be his hero.

Wild Bill Hickock was hired to replace Tom Smith. Hickock was killed playing cards. The cards in his hand were a pair of black 8's and a pair of black Aces. This became known as a "Deadman's Hand." Hickock and Calamity Jane are buried in the same cemetery.

Throughout his presentation, Mr. Burris showed photographs of different people in Abilene's history. He also showed brief entertaining movie clips in which Abilene is mentioned.

Mr. Burris took questions and then the meeting was adjourned.