

The Voter

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Plano/Collin County

August 2007

President's Message

By Erma Spencer

The League of Women Voters-Plano/Collin County is off to an exciting New Year. It is indeed a pleasure and honor to serve as President for the next year. Yes....I am a bit apprehensive about this responsibility. Donna and Pat have promised not to ever get to far away from me....So I should be OK.

During our July Board meeting, Board members were asked what they would like to see happen in our League this coming year. Listed below are some of the responses:

- o Improve attendance at Community Program presentations
- o Increase active membership participation in all League activities
- o Increase Community/Public awareness of candidates running for office
- o Increase Community/Public awareness about local, state and national issues
- o Expand League activities to include all of Collin County
- o Increase public awareness of the League of Women Voters of Plano/Collin County

As President, it is my sincere desire that all League programs and activities lead to the accomplishment of the above listed goals. Therefore, the Board members plan the following activities for this year.

- o Consensus on LWV-TX Educational Testing study and LWVUS study on Immigration
- o Local Transportation Issues
- o Water - Conservation Issues
- o State, National, Local Program Planning
- o Candidates Forums, Voter Registration
- o TX Constitutional Amendments on the November 6, 2007 Ballot

Please plan to attend the "Membership Reception" on August 30, to hear more about these informative, relevant programs planned for 2007-08.

Be a LWV Member

Be an Active LWV Member

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Highlights of the May 19 Annual Meeting

By Jackie Fleschman, Secretary

The April VOTER newsletter announced the planned business of our annual meeting at the Schimelpfenig Library and the proposals being considered on May 19. :

- Individual dues will remain at \$55, \$25.30 of which goes to LWVUS, \$22 goes to LWVTexas, and the balance of \$7.70 stays with our local League. We currently have about 40 members.) At the end of the 06-07 fiscal year, we have savings and checking accounts locally and an Education Fund account in the LWVTexas Education Fund. Our budget to guide our spending in 2007-08 totals \$3265).
- We elected a board of directors with one-year terms (see page 4)
- We continue a program of past positions on which we can take action. (Consensus was taken in earlier years on these study items. We chose two updates on those positions (transportation and economic development in 2007-08) (see page 3.)
- We approved bylaw changes that permit the board to do electronic voting on business when needed if a face-to-face meeting is not possible. We approved bylaw language passed on by the national LWV in 2006 permitting members to join the local LWV of their choice in their town or a neighboring area or to be a "member at large".

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- We adopted the new wording in the LWV purpose: “The purpose of the LWV-P/CC shall be to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected issues”

Calendar of LWV Events 2007-08:

In July the board approved this calendar for programs and voter service activities. The board meets on the 3rd Wed. at Christ United Methodist Church.(CUMC)

Aug. 15, 6:30 p.m., Wed. – Observer Corps meeting at Christ United Methodist Church, (CUMC) room. 225.

Aug. 15, 7 p.m., Board meeting at CUMC, #225.

Aug 30, Thurs., 7 p.m. “Kick-Off Meeting” at Davis Library,

Thursday, August 30, 7-9 p.m.
The League of Women Voters of Plano/ Collin County TX invites you to the Kick-off meeting, a “Member Reception” for members and friends at Davis Library, 7501 Independence Pkwy, Plano (for information, call Sharon Goldgar 972-596-6397)

September 19, Wed, 7 p.m., board meets

September 25, Tues., 7 p.m. - Consensus on LWVTX TAKS Study at Schimelpfenig Library, Plano

October 17, 7 p.m. Board meets

Oct. 23, 7 p.m. Tues., Forum on proposed TX Constitutional Amendments, at Haggard Library

Nov. 21, 7 p.m. Board meets

November 27, 7 p.m.– Immigration Speakers

Nov. 30, Christmas Tree Raffle at Dickens Festival, in downtown Plano

December 11, 7 p.m. - State Program Planning and Social at Janet Imhoff's home, McKinney TX

Dec. 19, 7 p.m. Board meets

January 8, 2008 – 7 p.m. Consensus meeting LWVUS Immigration study at _____

Jan. 16, 7 p.m. – Board meets

February 12, Tues.,7 p.m. - Local and LWVUS Programming Planning at _____

Feb. _____ Primary Election Candidates' Forums

Feb. 20, 7 p.m. – Board meets.

March 19, 7 p.m. Board meets

March 29, Sat., 10:00 a.m. - Transportation Alternatives in Collin Co. at _____

April 16, 7 p.m., Board meets

April 19 – Sat., 10 a.m. Economic Development with emphasis on water resources @ _____

April 22, - Candidate Forums (tentative)

May 17, 10:15 a.m. Annual Meeting and Luncheon

Constitutional Amendment Election

By Janice Schieffer, Voter Service Chair

Voters will consider 16 proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution at the Nov. 6, 2007, general statewide election. LWV-TX will have Voters Guides with pro's and con's on the amendments ready on Oct. 2, at which time the LWV of Plano/Collin County members will distribute them in Collin County locations.

The LWV of Plano/Collin County also plans to hold a public forum Tuesday, Oct. 23, at Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd. The LWV of Richardson has been invited to join in planning for this forum for election issues.

Oct. 9 is the last day to register to vote in the Nov. 6 election; early voting begins Oct. 22 and ends Nov. 2. Voters may apply for absentee ballots between Sept 7 and the Oct. 30 deadline.

If you would like to participate in planning and providing voter service activities to serve our members and the public in the Plano/Collin County area, contact Janice at 214-415-3476. As information becomes available, see our website for other forums.

Voter Registration Events

By Janice Schieffer, Voter Service Chair

LWV of Plano/Collin County members registered new voters and distributed voter registration applications following two naturalization ceremonies at the Plano Centre on Wednesday, Aug. 8, where 1100 people from 60+ nations became U.S. citizens. The next naturalization ceremony is scheduled at the same location, 2000 E. Spring Creek Pkwy, on Thursday, Nov. 1.

Thanks to seven LWV volunteers on Aug. 8:

An Exciting Year for League Programs

By Janet Imhoff, Program Director,
972-547-4270, janimhoff@tx.rr.com

This is going to be a big and exciting year for the League. We'll be having

- 1) **two consensuses** (state and national),
- 2) **program planning** for required input for the state, local and national meetings in 2008,
- 3) **two local updates** requested by our members at the May 2007 Annual Meeting.

September: The LWVTX consensus will be on our study of "Mandated Achievement Testing in the Public Schools of Texas."

We will hold this consensus meeting on September 25. The *Facts and Issues (F&I)* on this study will be mailed to every member in the *Fall Texas Voter*, mailed August 28. Be sure to read it to be prepared for the consensus discussion about the TAKS test and related issues. The *F & I* and consensus questions will also be posted on the LWV-Texas website, at www.lwvtexas.org.

November and January: The national LWV consensus on Immigration will be addressed.

On November 27 we will have speakers about the immigration issues from various angles. Then our consensus discussion will be held on January 8.

A lot of information on the Immigration study is available at the LWVUS website, including reprints from national *VOTER* articles in the February and June *VOTERS*, eight Immigration study background papers, and the consensus questions. Find these on the LWVUS website, www.lwv.org, in the Members section. To sign on to that website, use your email address as the user ID, and if you are a first time user, you will be able to set up a password.

December and February: State, National, and Local Program Planning. These meetings are held every other year before the State and National Conventions, which will be in April and June, respectively. We will hold LWVTX Program Planning on December 11, in conjunction with our annual winter holiday social. That should make for a light and fun discussion of possible restudies or updates of current program positions, or new studies to propose to the convention.

The National Program Planning meeting will be held on February 12 for the same purposes as stated above. Then we will also brainstorm about new ideas for a study of some local issue or problem for 2008-09. We will vote on a possible local study at our Annual Meeting next May 2008. Be thinking about a local issue that concerns you.

March and April: Local updates of Transportation Alternatives in Collin County, and Economic Development with an emphasis on Water Resources will be presented. These topics will be presented on March 29 and April 19. Two committees volunteered at our last Annual Meeting, but there is room for more. If you are interested in helping with research for planning for either of these meetings, please call or email me or one of the chairs, Donna Bening for "Transportation Alternatives in Collin County" or Jan Sand for "Economic Development and Water Resources"

We are hoping for a great turnout of members at these meetings. Come and join the planning committees and the fun discussions. Feel like you are doing something important for our county, state and country. Your voice can be heard. League is a grassroots organization, and the organizations reflect what the membership wants.

Help steer the planning for these programs: Join us

Sept. 4, Tues., 7 p.m. Immigration Committee will meet to plan Nov. 27 meeting, and prepare for Consensus Discussion on Jan. 8. Call Donna at 972-964-8951.

Sept. 24, Monday, 7 p.m., to plan local update about "Transportation Alternatives in Collin County". Call Donna at 972-964-8951

Economic Development & Water Resources: contact Jan Sand, 972-424-6050.

Program Planning: contact Janet Imhoff, janimhoff@tx.rr.com

LWV of Plano/Collin County Board Members and How to Reach US

The Board will meet monthly at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday at scheduled rooms at the Christ United Methodist Church or the Christian Life Center Bldg next door. Members are welcome to attend our meetings.

President, & TAKS chair: Erma Spencer
e8839@flash.net

Vice President Jamie Chermel
jamcherm@aol.com

Secretary Jackie Fleschman
jfleshman@aol.com

Treasurer/Membership Chair: Sharon Goldgar, sharon@goldgar.com

Program Chair Janet Imhoff
janimhoff@tx.rr.com

Immigration Chair, VOTER Ed., Donna Bening, donnabening@tx.rr.com

Economic Development & Water Chair Jan Sand, resand@tx.rr.com

Transportation Alternatives in Collin County Chair Donna Bening
donnabening@tx.rr.com

Voter Service Chair Janice Schieffer
Janice@schieffer.us

Website Manager, Action Chair Carol Worthington cjr722@aol.com

Fundraising Chair Theresa Eberly
terryeberly@comcast.net

Nominating Committee Chair Charlotte Mills, cbmills1@verizon.net

Observer Corps: Patricia Lawson
pat2520@verizon.net

Bylaws Chair: Barbara Hotinski
Richard.hotinski@verizon.net

Publicity (vacant)

MISSING SOMETHING?

Membership is reported to LWVUS and to LWVTX as well as recorded locally. If you are a new member who is not receiving publications, newsletters after 3 months, please contact Sharon Goldgar, membership chair, 972-596-6397 to report the problem..

League information can be viewed on these websites as well:

LWV.org LWVTX.org LWVCollin.org

Join the League of Women Voters of Plano/Collin County and Make A Difference

Joining locally automatically adds your membership in the LWV of the US and LWV Texas as well.

To become a member of the LWV Plano/Collin County:

Send a check for your annual dues (which are not tax deductible*)

_____ individual \$55

_____ household \$80

Membership and More:

Would you like to become involved in supporting your League by participating in one or more of these advocacy or study or organization supports

_____ Action

_____ Economic Development & Water Resources

_____ Public Education

_____ Healthcare

_____ Membership

_____ Observer Corps

_____ Transportation Alternatives in Collin Co.

_____ Publicity

_____ Open Space/Land Use

_____ Voter Services

_____ Fundraising

* * * * *

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

**Mail to: LWV of Plano/Collin County
P.O. Box 866592
Plano, TX 75086-6592**

***The League of Women Voters is a 501.(c) 4 organization in the eyes of the IRS and contributions are not deductible unless the check is made payable to the LWV Texas Education Fund, "Plano/Collin County account" noted in the memo line, and mailed to the same address. Ed Funds are used for voter education. Thank you.**