

# The Voter

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

**November 2010**

## LWV Calendar of Events:

### November:

17, 7 p.m., LWVP/CC Board meeting, Christ United Methodist Church, Parker Rd. at Coit, Room C225.

### December:

12, 4 p.m. Holiday party for members and guests at Pat Lawson's home, 2520 Kelsey Dr., Plano

18 (6-10 p.m.) & 21 (2-6 p.m.): Giftwrapping for tips at Barnes & Noble, Creekwalk, 801 W. 15<sup>th</sup> St.

**January: 11, noon** Texas Legislature begins  
<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us>

---

## President's Message: by Patty Jantho

The elections are now behind us. A very special thanks to Janice Schieffer and Gretchen Abner for making LWV P/CC voter services happen so seamlessly.

In October, LWV P/CC co-sponsored with Dallas Area Interfaith, & LWVDallas, "Health Care Reform: The Basics That Texans Need to Know" a presentation by the Center for Public Policy Priorities of Austin, TX with Anne Dunkelberg as featured speaker. Thanks to Mary Alice Garza.



Sandy Greyson, Anne Dunkelberg, Patty Jantho, DAI rep.



Susan Shuler accepts proclamation from Mary Alice Garza

Forty members and friends attended our Celebration of Women Luncheon on Oct. 23 where we celebrated LWV founder, Carrie Chapman Catt, and awarded a Making Democracy Work award to Susan Shuler, Executive Director, Plano Children's Medical Clinic.

Our Holiday Party on Sunday, December 12, will be held at Pat Lawson's home, 2520 Kelsey Drive, Plano 75075 beginning at 4 p.m. We have invited members of VOICE, Volunteer Outreach In Civic Engagement from Collin College, to be our guests. See the flyer for details about food and auction items (page 7). This is our "just for fun and fellowship" event and we hope to see YOU there.

Also in December, we will be gift-wrapping at Barnes & Noble, Creekwalk, located at 801 W. 15<sup>th</sup> Street. Contact any board member if you want to join us on Saturday, December 18, 6 to 10 p.m., or on Tuesday, December 21 from 2 to 6 p.m. B & N provides the paper and we do the wrapping for tips. Or, just come by and see us in action!

There are lots of ways to keep current with LWV P/CC activities—see our updated website [lwvcollin.org](http://lwvcollin.org) and see us making our debut on Facebook—special thanks to Carol Worthington and Stephanie Werner.

In 2011, we will be monitoring the Collin County indigent mental health care as reflected in the report to be published by the University of North Texas -- Phase Two Report, "Analysis and

(continued on page 2)

page 1

Recommendations for the Financing and Management and of Behavioral Health Services in Collin County”.

With the upcoming Legislative session, LWV TX will sponsor the biennial visit to Austin where we receive updates on our state policy stances and meet with legislators to encourage their support. This takes place Monday, March 7 and Tuesday, March 8. Specific details will follow early next year. This year’s legislature will be of crucial importance because of the budget shortfalls and the potential threat to programs of special League interest.

With several other N. TX Leagues, we will also be exploring a new LWV TX study, “Texas Water Resources as a Commodity” -- a local presentation tentatively to follow in April.

Finally, *thanks* to each board member who has done her job with consistency, efficiency and good cheer throughout 2010.

### **JUVENILE JUSTICE: LWV P/CC Visits the CRC and JJAEP.** Notes by Patty Jantho and Donna Bening

*At the May 2010 annual meeting, members present voted to study the education system for juvenile offenders in Collin County.*

Eight of us visited the County Residential Center (CRC) and the Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Program (JJAEP) on November 9. The CRC had 100 beds which have expanded to 130. We saw the physical layout of the CRC, the 16 pods, each pod accommodating 12 juveniles from ages 10 to 17. Each pod has individual sleeping rooms, 2 showers, and a central space where eating and class study take place. There are indoor and outdoor recreation spaces and one library/computer room also. Over 100 students are housed there in Nov. Twenty-two officers are on duty in the 12-hour daytime shift, and 18 at night. Sixty cameras also supervise. 1300—1500 students were confined in a typical year from up to 15 county ISD’s. (2008).

As heavy steel doors were opened and locked behind us, there appears to be a caring attitude about the students by both teachers and staff (all college educated) who are genuinely concerned about helping young people get their lives moving in a more positive direction. The police officers wear uniforms to teach the young people that not everyone in a uniform hates them. The teachers wear street clothes. The students wear orange jumpsuits.

We learned about the process of obtaining academic records from the student’s school and the course offerings. When a student is admitted to CRC, and registers as any student admitted to a school does, the CRC sends a record request to the sending school and places the student in classes with a group, short-term or long-term up to one year, or in special education. (Thirty-nine % of the students are special ed.) Added recognition is given students who graduate from high school or achieve a GED while at the CRC.

Voters approved bonds in 1994 to build the newer juvenile detention center which was completed in 1999 at a cost of \$7.2 million. The CRC facility will be joined by a new JJAEP facility and probation office across the parking lot sometime during early 2011. See [http://www.co.collin.tx.us/juvenile\\_probation/jrr\\_detention.isp](http://www.co.collin.tx.us/juvenile_probation/jrr_detention.isp)

JJAEP currently is housed in the Collin County Court House on Graves and is responsible for students who have been expelled from school and who attend court-mandated daytime programs and community service projects for juveniles; uniform there is white polo shirts & khaki pants.

Funding for these juvenile offender programs is 80% county money, 20 % TX budget money. Joe Scott is Director of Probation; Danny Meek is Superintendent; Cynthia Morton is the Principal of the McKinney ISD Discipline Campuses—JJAEP, CRC, and the DAEP=District Alternative Education Program. She accompanied us on the tour and answered questions along with the law enforcement staff and teachers.

The Juvenile Board is made up of District Judge Cynthia Wheless, the other district judges and the county court at law judges. Policies of the CRC are written to comply with the state standards that expanded after the Texas Youth Commission problems were exposed.

The LWV TX adopted advocacy positions to support:

- measures to ensure an effective state juvenile justice system in which the main goal is rehabilitation, providing access to adequate and appropriate rehabilitation services and programs to every juvenile offender.
- implementation of a comprehensive intervention strategy to deal effectively with juvenile violence and delinquency.
- implementation of programs and policies to prevent juvenile violence and crime
- an adequate level of funding to accomplish these goals, (prevention, intervention, then correction). 2

## **LWV P/CC Website and Facebook Are Voter Resources**, by Carol Worthington

In the weeks leading up to the Nov. 2 general election our Website and Facebook page proved to be a popular resource to the public and members.

The Website **Elections** section contains a calendar of forums and important dates, as well as extensive Voters Guides, locations of polling places, early voting times and locations, voter registration information, and district or precinct ID. Facebook presents a colorful and exciting guide to all our events and news. Currently we have a following of 58 friends of our Facebook page.

The Web address is [www.lwvcollin.org](http://www.lwvcollin.org) ; Facebook address is [www.facebook.com/LWVCollin](http://www.facebook.com/LWVCollin) .

### **November 2, 2010, General Election Wrap-up** by Janice Schieffer, Voter Service Co-Chair

LWV-P/CC was definitely in the thick of events for the Nov. 2 General Election.

**Voter Registration:** We registered 116 new Collin County voters at Collin College Rock the Vote events in September and handed out 47 mail-in forms. We also registered an additional 17 Collin County voters and handed out 50+ mail-in forms at the Plano International Festival and naturalization ceremonies.

**Candidate Forums:** We organized two candidate forums in October. The first, co-sponsored by the Leagues of Dallas, Richardson and Sherman /Grayson County, presented 12 candidates for U.S. and State district offices in the Collin County area. The second, co-sponsored by the student group VOICE at Collin College, presented all 12 candidates for Collin County contested races.



**Voters Guides:** We produced two local *Voters Guides*, one for Collin County races and one for US/State district races, which were posted on our website. As of Election Day, we had 1,380 hits on the Collin County guide and 692 hits on the US/State guide. We distributed 3,000 (2,600 English, 400 Spanish) copies of the printed LWV-TX *Voters Guide* for statewide and State Board of Education races. We also posted copies of the state guides, including a supplement for Courts of Appeals races, on our website. As of Election Day, we had the following number of hits: Statewide/SBOE (English), 6,409; Courts of Appeals Supplement (English), 2,191; Statewide/SBOE (Spanish), 282; Courts of Appeals Supplement (Spanish), 110. [C&S Media Publications](#), which publishes newspapers in Wylie, Farmersville, Murphy, Princeton and Sachse, also printed and distributed 13,500 copies of the LWV-P/CC Collin County *Voters Guide* with its newspapers.

Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with these activities: Gretchen Abner, Donna Bening, Jackie Fleischman, Sharon Goldgar, Sandy Greyson (LWV-Dallas), Janet Imhoff, Patty Jantho, Pat Lawson, Eloise Richardson, Irene Rosenberg, Janice Schieffer, Peggy Slattery, Erma Spencer and Meg Titus.

\* \* \*

**“Collin County Coalition for CHILDREN FIRST!** – Met Oct. 28, 2010 at Children’s Medical Center at Legacy, in Plano. Janice Schieffer is the LWVPlano/Collin County representative on this Coalition, but others are welcome to attend meetings—especially if they are representing the interests of other service agencies focusing on children.

The Legislative Committee reported on 2011 Legislative Priorities drafted for Coalition review as of Oct. [in the areas of health, safety, economic support, and education](#). Senator Florence Shapiro (R-Dist.8) who serves on the TX Senate Committees on Health and Human Services and Education, was present to ask questions and comment . With an anticipated TX budget shortfall of \$21—23 billion in the next biennium, she expects budget cuts, not new taxes, to meet these needs in the state. She advised that requests be accompanied by suggestions of where [selective “surgical” cuts can be made instead of cuts](#) across the board .

Children First Coalition members, 80 organizations in Collin County, self-surveyed to learn that over 1,000 families are served by member groups.

(Children First!, continued)

The top four challenges for their clients are (1) lack of funds (2) lack of public awareness (3) lack of transportation, and (4) struggles with child care. Currently these service agencies are funded by private donations, United Way or other grants some of which are federal, and by member dues and fundraising projects.

The November 18 Children First! meeting will be posted on the website [www.childrenfirstcollincounty.com](http://www.childrenfirstcollincounty.com).  
– by Donna Bening

The mission of the Children First! Coalition in Collin County is “to work to improve the quality of life of children through the development of strategic initiatives related to public policy, advocacy, public awareness and community programs.”

### Beyond ABC, 2010 Edition

by Janice Schieffer

Children's Medical Center has released an update to its 2008 edition of "Beyond ABC: Growing up in Collin County." Its 2008 publication launched the Children First: Collin County Coalition, of which LWV Plano/Collin County is a member. The 2010 edition expands the survey of children's health to the five counties comprising the North Texas Corridor - Collin, Cooke, Denton, Fannin and Grayson.

According to "Beyond ABC", Texas has the highest rate of uninsured children in the U.S. In the North Texas region, about 18 percent of our children are without healthcare coverage, and another 18 percent have only limited access to healthcare through Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Unfortunately, very few providers accept Medicaid or CHIP in this area.

Obesity and asthma are two of the most prevalent health issues for children. In addition, one in 20 children in the five-county area has a diagnosable mental illness, and many of these go untreated.

The 2010 Edition of "Beyond ABC: Assessing Children's Health in the North Texas Corridor" is available online at <http://www.childrens.com/aboutus/childadvocacy/documents/Beyond-ABC-Assessing-N-Tx-Corridor.pdf>

### **Health Reform Basics for Texans Explained**

Report by Mary Alice Garcia

Anne Dunkleberg, Associate Director at the Center for Public Policy Priorities, and one of Texas' leading experts on policy and budget issues related to health care access, presented a lively and informative program "Health Reform Basics 101" October 5 at Wilshire Baptist Church, Dallas, in a meeting co-sponsored by LWV Plano/Collin County, LWV Dallas, and Dallas Area Interfaith. Summary follows:

- For the first time: a system making comprehensive care available to all Americans (legally in the US), at a cost they can afford and health insurance marketplace requires insurers

to compete based on good care and customer service, and not by avoiding covering people or denying them care they need.

- Lays foundation for medical practice reforms based on effective health care, not just rewarding volume; this is ESSENTIAL to cost control and long-term deficit reduction.
- Cost Savings
  - § Reduces overpayments to Medicare Advantage plans (currently costing 13% more than regular Medicare)
  - § Reduces the rate of growth in Medicare's costs

**Patient's Bill of Rights: New Protections for Consumers' Health Insurance** - *The following provisions take effect at policy renewal starting on September 23, 2010:*

**For ALL policies:**

No more lifetime dollar caps

- No denial of coverage or waiting periods for kids with pre-existing conditions.
- No arbitrary cancellation of health coverage.
- Dependents allowed on parent's plan until 26<sup>th</sup> birthday (even if married).

**For non-grandfathered (new) policies.** Plans in existence as of March 23, 2010 are "grandfathered" and do not have to comply with these provisions:

- Restrictions placed on annual limits.
- No co-pays or other out-of-pocket expenses for preventive care.
- Ensuring Reasonable Rates
- 2010: Federal and state government begin annual review of health insurance premium increases. (state-regulated plans) Grants available to states, & TX applied and received.
- 2011: Insurers must pay out 80-85 cents of each premium dollar for medical benefits -- or else provide rebates to consumers.

Also in effect in 2010 -

- Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plan (PCIP) - temporary high risk pool for individuals with pre-existing conditions who have been uninsured for at least 6 months.
- Small employer tax credits available up to 35% of premium cost.
- Grants available to states: (1) to set up an Office of Health Insurance Consumer Assistance (2) to establish health insurance exchanges. TX applied and will get both!

The big expansion of coverage starts January 2014.

The full powerpoint presentation can be found on the CPPP webpage – [www.cppp.org](http://www.cppp.org); or [www.texasvoiceforhealthreform.org](http://www.texasvoiceforhealthreform.org).

**Please welcome our new League of Women Voters of Plano/Collin County members.**

Coty Rodriquez Anderson  
Shannon Rodriquez Anderson  
Dorothy Cranshaw  
Dr. Elizabeth Erkel  
Ruben Garza  
Marilyn Hinton  
Carol Hummer  
Donna Wood Martin  
Scott Martin  
Holly Nichols

We are so happy to have you become part of this non partisan grass roots organization. The League works to advocate for change, gets voters to the poll, creates opportunities for citizens to engage in discussion regarding issues, and educates the public at large.

Applications for membership may be obtained online at [www.lwvcollin.org](http://www.lwvcollin.org) or e-mail [members@lww.org](mailto:members@lww.org) to contact Eloise Richardson, 972.208.8459 to have an application mailed. Consider a gift membership.

**LWVUS Delegates at Convention 2010 adopted a study of the role of the federal government in public education.** The [Education Study Committee](#) has been appointed. Its members are Pat Aaron (IL), Gail Glick (MA), Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins (CO), Patricia Libutti (NJ), Jean Pierce (IL) and Janelle Rivers (SC). Peggy Hill (LWVUS Board Member, TX) and Joanne Leavitt (CA) chairs the Committee, which will work on producing background study materials to be posted on the LWVUS website and sent out to Leagues beginning in spring 2011.

**LWV-Texas Legislative Priorities:** Board members accepted the recommendation of the advocacy team members for the top priorities during the 82nd Texas Legislative session January—May 2011: -Redistricting, -Campaign Finance, and -Balanced Approach to a Balanced Budget. Lobby Day will be March 7 & 8 in Austin. As part of the new LWV-TX study of Texas Water Resources as a Commodity, local Leagues within each of the 16 water planning districts are encouraged to meet together to learn about their water resources and issues. We are in Region C.

**Provide Citizen Input for Plano's New Comprehensive Plan**

The City of Plano is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan, **PLANO TOMORROW**, and residents are being encouraged to attend a public meeting to lend input in the creation of this guide for the future. The first meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 9** at the Tom Muehlenbeck Center beginning at 7:00p.m. The second session is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 16** in the Plano Municipal Center at 7:00p.m. (*Same presentation at both meetings.*)

**PLANO TOMORROW** will establish a vision for the city's future and serve as a guide for local decision-makers. With valuable input from Plano citizens, the finished document will provide goals to help lead the City for the next 20 years regarding the issues of land use, transportation, housing, infrastructure, and more.. ....

Brief presentations will be made about some planning issues impacting Plano and there will be breakout sessions where you can hear more details, and talk with staff and members of the Planning & Zoning Commission (P&Z). The Commission and Planning Department staff work through the drafts of the Comprehensive Plan document and discuss the issues affecting Plano. Future dates will be posted on the website in advance of these meetings. Plano residents will soon be able to share suggestions for the city's future using an online survey.

• **Tuesday, November 16, 2010, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**  
City of Plano Municipal Center, Training Room A  
1520 K Avenue

For more information, visit <http://plano.gov/Online/ComprehensivePlan/Pages/Welcome.aspx> or contact the Plano Planning Department at 972-941-7151.  
Steve Sims, Sr Planner [stevesi@plano.gov](mailto:stevesi@plano.gov)  
Kate Perry, Sr. Planner [katep@plano.gov](mailto:katep@plano.gov)



Celebrating Women Luncheon in Allen – Oct. 23

**Cut and send**

**Join the League of Women Voters of Plano/Collin County**

Send a check payable to "LWV Plano/Collin County" for your annual dues (which are not tax deductible\*)

\_\_\_\_\_ individual \$55  
\_\_\_\_\_ household \$80 (two or more members)

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

- \_\_\_\_\_ Fundraising
- \_\_\_\_\_ Health Care
- \_\_\_\_\_ Immigration policy
- \_\_\_\_\_ Membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ Natural Resources, Environment
- \_\_\_\_\_ Observer Corps
- \_\_\_\_\_ Open Space/Land Use
- \_\_\_\_\_ Public Education
- \_\_\_\_\_ Publicity
- \_\_\_\_\_ Transportation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Voter Services
- \_\_\_\_\_ Program Planning

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

**League of Women Voters of Plano/Collin County Texas Board**  
**President, Publicity: Patty Jantho, 469-737-3626 [pnjantho@gmail.com](mailto:pnjantho@gmail.com)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Program: Mary Alice Garza 972-596-3534, [garzama@verizon.net](mailto:garzama@verizon.net)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Voter Service: Janice Schieffer 214-415-3476, [janice@schieffer.us](mailto:janice@schieffer.us)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Voter Service: Gretchen Abner, 972-612-4498, [ggvabner@verizon.net](mailto:ggvabner@verizon.net)**

**Secretary: Jackie Fleshman 972-306-8819 [sheldonfles@tx.rr.com](mailto:sheldonfles@tx.rr.com)**

**Treasurer: Sharon Goldgar 972-596-6397 [sharongoldgar@verizon.net](mailto:sharongoldgar@verizon.net)**

**Membership: Eloise Richardson, 972-208-8459 [tweetRichardson@verizon.net](mailto:tweetRichardson@verizon.net)**

**Observer Corps: Patricia Lawson, 972-633-2273 [Pat2520@verizon.net](mailto:Pat2520@verizon.net)**

**VOTER Newsletter Editor: Donna Bening, 972-964-8951, [donnabening@verizon.net](mailto:donnabening@verizon.net)**

**Website Mgr. / Action: Carol Worthington, 972-423-6070, [cjr722@verizon.net](mailto:cjr722@verizon.net)**

**Directors at Large:**

-Peggy Slattery, 214-335-5073, [pslattery40@gmail.com](mailto:pslattery40@gmail.com)

-Susan Miles, 469-865-9384, [smilesdfw@aol.com](mailto:smilesdfw@aol.com)

-Dorothy Cranshaw, 469-298-0796 [doriebigd@aol.com](mailto:doriebigd@aol.com)

**Nominations Chair: Janet Imhoff, 972-547-4270, [janimhoff@tx.rr.com](mailto:janimhoff@tx.rr.com)**

**Fundraising: Meg Titus, 972-424-4993, [meg@teamtitus.net](mailto:meg@teamtitus.net)**

**Bylaws: Erma Spencer, 972-491-6107, [ermaspencer@verizon.net](mailto:ermaspencer@verizon.net)**



Carrie Catt lives again in Readers Theatre by Board Members Patty Jantho, Janice Schieffer, Dorie Cranshaw - Oct. 2

## Holiday Party

*League of Women Voters, Plano/Collin County*

**Spouses and guests are invited.**

**Sunday, December 12, 2010, 4 p.m.**

**Pat Lawson's home,**

2520 Kelsey Drive

Plano TX 75075-8346

**Special guests:** Student members of **Volunteer Outreach in Civic Engagement (VOICE), Collin County Community College**

Tasty food, great company and, yes, an auction!

*Please bring a wrapped item for auction with a clever clue to its identity and indicating a starting price. This is an LWV "mini" Fundraiser.*

*Please bring hors d'oeuvres to share.*

Detailed email driving instructions available upon request

**RSVP: Patty Jantho at [pnjantho@gmail.com](mailto:pnjantho@gmail.com).**

## Holiday Party

*League of Women Voters, Plano/Collin County*

**Spouses and guests are invited.**

**Sunday, December 12, 2010, 4 p.m.**

**Pat Lawson's home,**

2520 Kelsey Drive

Plano TX 75075-8346

**Special guests:** Student members of **Volunteer Outreach in Civic Engagement (VOICE), Collin County Community College**

Tasty food, great company and, yes, an auction!

*Please bring a wrapped item for auction with a clever clue to its identity and indicating a starting price. This is an LWV "mini" Fundraiser.*

*Please bring hors d'oeuvres to share.*

Detailed email driving instructions available upon request

**RSVP: Patty Jantho at [pnjantho@gmail.com](mailto:pnjantho@gmail.com).**