

League of Women Voters  
of Dallas

# VOTER



*A nonpartisan organization that encourages informed participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

## The League of Women Voters of Dallas Education Fund

cordially invites you to the

### Fourteenth Annual Susan B. Anthony Award Luncheon

Friday, February 12, 2010 at 11:00AM

Lakewood Country Club  
6430 Gaston Avenue, Dallas 75214

honoring

## Julie Lowenberg

who exemplifies the characteristics of Susan B. Anthony:  
independence, persistence, determination, and dedication to  
obtaining equal rights for all citizens of the United States of America.

Speaking on **'How Far We've Come'**

Dallas County Commissioner **Maurine Dickey**,  
Rev. Dr. **Sheron C. Patterson**, Senior Pastor of  
Highland Hills United Methodist Church, and  
**Ann Stuart, Ph.D.**, TWU Chancellor and President

**Honorary Co-Chairs** Dorothy Jane Kassinoff and Cheryl Pollman

**Honorary Host Committee**

Rebecca Bergstresser, Phyllis Bernstein, Cecilia Boone, Marlene Cohen,  
Patti Crumley, Sally Dunning, Lois Finkelman, Kathy Freeman, Audrey Kaplan,  
Liz Lerner, Barbara Lischer, Joy Mankoff, Barbara Materka, Harriet Miller,  
Lucy Polter, Essie Reed, Jennifer Todes Rose, Pat Sabin, Eleanor Sutherland,  
Becky Sykes, Maddy Unterberg, Molly Van Ort, Mary Vogelsson,  
Linda Wassenich, Virginia Whitehill, Elaine Wiant.

**Luncheon Co-Chairs** Rose Harder and Katherine Homan

(972) 233-3073 or [roseanddwh@aol.com](mailto:roseanddwh@aol.com) and (214) 948-6992 or [kvhoman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kvhoman@sbcglobal.net)

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*From the  
President's Desk*



The League's Susan B. Anthony luncheon on February 12th is only a few weeks away now. Please plan to join us as we celebrate our honoree, Julie Lowenberg, who has throughout her many years of service to the community indeed personified the characteristics of Susan B. Anthony: independence, persistence, determination, and dedication.

This year we will also be celebrating the 90th anniversary of the founding of the League of Women Voters and the 90th anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment which secured voting rights for women. Our luncheon theme of "How Far We've Come" recognizes these two milestones and will be the topic of our speakers' remarks. Our speakers--Businesswoman and Dallas County Commissioner Maurine Dickey, Reverend Dr. Sheron C. Patterson, and TWU Chancellor and President Ann Stuart--are all leaders in their respective fields and have shown us in their careers how far women have come.

Be sure to leave time to check out all the wonderful items that will be available at the silent auction tables. Bidding will begin at 11:00.

Another 90th celebration worth noting is the birthday of long-time League member and past LWV-Dallas president Barbara Materka, who turned 90 on Christmas Day 2009. Happy Birthday, Barbara!

Primary elections are rapidly coming up. LWV-Dallas does not produce a Voter's Guide for primary races but will be a co-sponsor, together with the National Council of Jewish Women, LWV-Plano/Collin County, and LWV-Richardson, of a candidate forum for two State Board of Education positions. District 9 is currently represented by former SBOE chair Don McLeroy who has two challengers. District 12 incumbent Geraldine (Tincy) Miller also has two challengers. The forum will be held on the evening of February 17th with the location still to be determined. Look for final details in an upcoming e-blast.

## **We're Mega-Celebrating!** **Rose Harder and Katherine Homan, Luncheon Co-Chairs**

As the colorful postage stamp on your Susan B. Anthony Award Luncheon invitation indicates, the operative word is **Celebrate**. This year we are celebrating Susan's birthday by celebrating our honoree **Julie Lowenberg** and by celebrating the **LWV's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday**.

To help us do all this celebrating, we have invited three accomplished women in heretofore male-dominated fields to speak to us about 'How Far We've Come.' **Telling us about what obstacles they faced, what changes they have seen, and what advice they would give to young women today** will be Dallas County Commissioner **Maurine Dickey**, Rev. Dr. **Sheron C. Patterson**, Senior Pastor of Highland Hills United Methodist Church, and **Ann Stuart**, Ph.D., TWU Chancellor and President.

Come **join the celebration** and in the process **support the League's Education Fund** so it can continue to print and distribute free copies of the *Voters Guide* as well as provide nonpartisan opportunities for the public to hear speakers at issue and candidate forums. **Party on!**

## **Focus on the Silent Auction! Now and at the Luncheon!** **Jane Pak, Silent Auction Co-Chair**

Have you contributed to your Unit basket? Check with your Unit Leader to find out how you can participate.

Many businesses consider offering certificates for goods and services a marketing opportunity. Have you offered that opportunity to the businesses that you frequent?

Have you made arrangements to get your Silent Auction items to Becky and Jane by **February 7**?

Have you signed up to help at the Silent Auction? Table monitors, cashiers and cashiers helpers are all needed for this lively League event. Call **Jane** (972-233-2715) or **Becky** (214-363-0921) now.

## **A Peek at Some Early Auction Items**

- ◆ A Marc Chagall lithograph
- ◆ A week's stay in a vacation home in Durango, Colorado
- ◆ Two round-trip Southwest Airline tickets
- ◆ A dinner and a luncheon, each with a celebrity guest
- ◆ Gift certificates from L'Ancestral Restaurant, Edgemere, Fish City, Cristina's Mexican Restaurant and Bugatti's
- ◆ Tickets to the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Theatre Three, Dallas Summer Musicals and Contemporary Theatre of Dallas
- ◆ Family memberships to the Dallas Zoo and Frontiers of Flight Museum
- ◆ Jewelry and hand-knit scarves
- ◆ Surprises!

**List is not inclusive.**

**Arrive early.**

**Bring your checkbook.**

**Tell your friends.**

## **Clean Elections Gaining Momentum** **Liz Wally, League Member and Clean Elections Dynamo**

The role of money threatens our democracy more insidiously and obviously day by day! Over the last few years, we have watched as both parties' representatives on the national, state, and local levels cave in on critical issues for fear of losing campaign contributions for present political gain or potential jobs after leaving office.

Is democracy for sale? Whose voice is louder? The electorate? Or those with the most dollars to hand out? The power of **money is polluting our democracy**, potentially skewing every decision that is made in the political arena and beyond. We have to change this! And we can!

Around the country, there are a number of states and cities that have adopted a new option for elections--voluntary public funding for elected candidates. **Maine and Arizona have had "Clean Elections"** since the late 1990's and this funding option for candidates has been very successful. Since the national League of Women Voters has a position supporting this concept, state Leagues have been instrumental in helping to pass legislation to provide public funds to candidates. Funding sources, elected offices where the option is offered, and specific procedures vary slightly for each state or city, but the basic steps from initiating the funding option through monitoring and evaluating the whole process are similar.

A candidate can opt to become a "Clean" candidate after showing a required base of support and agreeing to neither accept funds from others (over a certain small limit) nor to fund her/himself. Once this decision is made, funds, suitable to the specific office, are provided for the primary, if there is one, and then for the general election.

This process seems to be **bringing down the total costs of elections** in those cities and states where the Clean Elections option is offered. But the main advantage to the constituents and the candidate is that (s)he does NO dialing for dollars. Instead, the **candidate's time is used to meet with constituents** and to talk with them about their issues. It has increased the number of people running for office, the subjects discussed, and, if the candidate is elected, (s)he is free to vote based on the interests of her/his constituents, rather than on those of the largest donors. The number of candidates choosing the Clean Election option has grown steadily where it is offered.

There is an effort to pass a public-funding option in most of the states in our country, as well as various cities. **In Texas, we have a state-wide organization, Clean Elections Texas**, which has recently incorporated as a not-for-profit organization and has formalized the work on this issue that has been done over the last three to four years by various groups.

**Contact Liz Wally** at 214.821.2237 if you would like to get involved or have questions. **The website is [cleanelectionstx.org](http://cleanelectionstx.org).**

### **Counting Prisoners and the Census (Continued from Page 5)**

policy affecting African-Americans that should be changed. Noting that about **1.2 million of the nation's 40 million African Americans are in prison**, Morial said, "What we have in the prison population issue is a built-in undercount."

**Texas** cannot change the Census Bureau's methodology to count the incarcerated at their homes, but it **could and should remedy the distortion** between urban and rural counties by adjusting the Census Bureau data to recognize prisoners as residents of the communities where their homes and families are.

Meanwhile, the right of each citizen to equal access to Congressional or Legislative representatives is something that **LWV-Texas could and should support** more strenuously. **State Program VP Janet Imhoff** is putting this matter on the agenda to discuss at their February Board meeting.

Stay tuned. This may be business for us to address at our **State Convention in San Marcos in April!**

## Registering New Citizens is Different Now! *Cherlyn Remington, Voter Outreach VP*



Katheine Homan, Cherlyn Reminton, and Philippa McDonald represented LWV-Dallas. Absent for photo session, Ann Adams also participated.



Irving Leaguers, Nona Wyatt, Carol Oxcan, and Genie Mitchell, pose with Katherine Homan. Photo credits to Cherlyn Reminton's staff.

Not only do we no longer register new citizens at the Dallas Convention Center, but we also use a new system. We go over to the year-old **Citizenship & Naturalization Service Facility in Las Colinas** that has its own Ceremony Room. New citizens are sworn in there almost every day – often twice a day!

Registering this niche population has its 'twist' if the new citizens intend to **change their names**. In that case, we advise them to take a white voter registration application card and wait to mail it in with their new name *after* they have received their Driver's License bearing their new name. This way the Secretary of States Office computer can immediately match the voter applicant's name with the driver license rolls and seamlessly process the mailing out of the voter registration card.

We conducted our first two registrations on January 8 and 15 together with our sisters from **LWV-Irving**. Since this new citizenship facility is a Regional Office, LWV-Irving is planning to recruit **LWV-Arlington** and **LWV-Tarrant County** to join us in this citizen registration effort. LWV-Dallas will be recruiting **Richardson, Denton and Plano/Collin County Leagues**.

Registering new citizens is heartwarming--especially the part when you say, "**Congratulations. You're a new voter!**"

## Counting Prisoners and the Census *Suzanne Wills, Secretary and Katherine Homan, Organization VP*

Equal representation in Congress and the Legislature is fundamental to democracy. Yet a little known quirk in the census rules is being allowed to undermine that doctrine.

Like most states, Texas relies on Census Bureau data to draw its legislative boundaries so that each will contain the same number of people. Equally sized districts ensure that each resident has an equal access to a representative to advocate for his or her needs. The Census counts everyone including people who can't vote such as prisoners and children.

Since children have a stake in their communities, no distortion of representation arises from counting them. The same, however, cannot be said for prisoners, because the **Census Bureau counts prisoners as residents of the community where they are incarcerated**.

Where this many people are counted as residents has a significant effect on representation. **Voters in the largely rural communities where prisons are located have increased legislative power. Conversely this voting strength is lost to the inmates' home communities.**

Commerce Department Secretary Gary Locke met recently with a dozen African-American leaders including the National Urban League, the NAACP, and the Revs. Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson. At a press conference afterwards, Marc H. Morial, president of the National Urban League and chairman of a census advisory committee, raised prison-based gerrymandering as one of the issues of Census Bureau

(Continued on Page 4)

**Mass Transit Solutions in North Texas**  
**Frederick Lopez Shares His Ideas on Relieving Traffic Congestion**  
*from Suzanne Wills' Wednesday Unit Report*

Our guest speaker, Frederick Lopez, spoke at all three unit meetings this month. His presentation was interesting and well-illustrated. Although we publicized his subject as information about Regional Mobility Authorities (RMAs), he focused on one kind of mobility—**mass transit**.

Mr. Lopez, currently a graduate student in Urban Affairs at UT-Arlington, has developed a comprehensive, **legislative idea to relieve traffic congestion** in the 16 counties that make up North Texas area, where there will soon be about 7 million people, many with no access to mass transit. His considerable public policy experience with transportation issues at various levels of government contributed to the development of a plan that includes a regional planning board and a new funding structure.

He suggests **a regional planning board** of about 19 members, weighted to reflect the population of the area and previous contributions to mass transit. They would work to create a seamless system that would get riders to their destinations without the inconveniences of changing from one system to another or purchasing a number of tickets.

**A new funding structure** would make it practical for areas of different size and wealth to participate. Those who cannot afford to pay for full service might get a track and a minimum station to encourage economic development.

**Natural gas severance taxes** could be used to fund mass transit. A local severance tax could be imposed or a ceiling could be imposed on the severance taxes that now go to the state "Rainy Day" Fund. Taxes above the limit could be returned to natural gas producing areas such as the Barnett Shale is in North Texas.

The state could **invest in companies that develop technologies that benefit mass transit** and use the profits from these companies for mass transit. The Emerging Technology fund works this way and has been successful.

**LWV-Richardson to Sponsor Judicial Meeting**

The **League of Women Voters of Richardson** will hold a public meeting **February 9, 2010 at 7:00PM** in the Richardson Room of the **Richardson Civic Center** on the topic of **voting responsibly for judicial candidates**. Speakers for the evening will be **Dr. Anthony Champagne** Professor in the School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas, and **Keven Ann Willey**, Vice President and Editorial Page Editor of the Dallas Morning News. Moderator will be **Jeff Whittington**, KERA Senior Producer and Host.

The meeting is designed to help voters make informed decisions in judicial elections. Topics will include the history of the election of judges in Texas, considerations in evaluating judicial candidates, and methods used in other states to select judges. Written questions will be accepted from the audience.

**Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty**  
**2010 Annual Conference**

**Seizing the Momentum: Building Capacity, Community, Coalition**  
**Saturday, February 20, 2010, 9:00AM - 5:30PM**

Highland Park United Methodist Church  
3300 Mockingbird Lane at Hillcrest

Please make your reservations by going to [www.tcadp.org](http://www.tcadp.org) or send to TCADP, 2709 South Lamar, Austin, Texas 78704. Register by February 1st for the discounted rate.

# League Bulletin Board

## Contributions

Sharlene Block in honor of **Barbara Materka**; **Nettie Terry Brown**; **Judy** and **Sam Coats**, Patron Members; **Patti Crumley**, Non-event Fundraiser in honor of **Barbara Materka's** birthday; **Ann Folz** in honor of **Barbara Materka's** birthday; **Joyce Forney**; **Eve** and **Newell France**; **Helen Frank**, Non-event Fundraiser in honor of **Julie Lowenberg**; **Lynn** and **Sharan Goldstein** in honor of **Julie Lowenberg**; **Katherine Homan**, Patron Member; **Kathleen Irvin**; **Judy Jacks**, Non-event fundraiser; **Roger Kallenberg**, Non-event Fundraiser; **Virginia Kerner**, Non-event Fundraiser; **Sam** and **Irene Kogutt**; **Sue Lichten** in honor of **Barbara Materka's** birthday; **Barbara Lynn**; **Fran McElvaney**, Non-event Fundraiser in honor of **Barbara Materka**; **Jane Pak**, Non-event Fundraiser; **Arline Pitt**; Non-event Fundraiser; **Grier** and **Lorraine Raggio**; **Mary Ann Redmond**, Non-event Fundraiser; **Judi Stewart**, Non-event Fundraiser; **Eleanor Sutherland**, Non-event Fundraiser; **Thursday Unit Members**, Non-event Fundraiser; **Linda Wassenich** in honor of **Barbara Materka's** birthday; and **Virginia Whitehill** in honor of **Barbara Materka**.

## Calendar

### February

- 4 - Board Meeting at 11
- 11 - Mar.VOTER Deadline
- 12 - **SBA Award Luncheon**
- 16-26 - Early Voting for March Primaries

### March

- 2 - **Primary Election Day**
- 4 - Board Meeting at 11
- 10-11 - **Unit Meetings**
- 11 - Apr.VOTER Deadline
- 21 - Voter Registration at the Dallas Arboretum
- 27- **Annual Meeting 8:30AM**

## Welcome New Members

**Shakti Biskamp**  
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**Guy Huntley**  
New local member  
**Louise Hytken**  
Household member  
972-490-3935  
[ghuntley@usa.net](mailto:ghuntley@usa.net)

**Tom Thumb /Safeway  
Good Neighbor Program  
2917**  
**Our most recent rebate  
\$78.46.**  
**Please join our program.**

United States  
**Census  
2010**



**IT'S IN OUR HANDS**

## Directory Changes

**Cheryl Camin**  
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## Help Make Democracy Work

# Join the **League of Women Voters of Dallas** *Not for Women Only!*

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DALLAS  
DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters of Dallas (LWVD), in both its values and practices, affirms its belief in, and commitment to, diversity and pluralism.

LWVD welcomes any person to participate in any activity of LWVD, regardless of gender, race, religion, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or political persuasion.

LWVD recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making.

LWVD subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that inclusiveness enhances its capability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

LWVD affirms its commitment to reflecting diversity in its membership, board, staff and programs.

### Membership Levels

\_\_\_\$60/year Individual \_\_\_\$30 additional member at same address  
\_\_\_\$150/year Patron \_\_\_\$500/year Benefactor

\_\_\_Reduced Membership rates available upon request. Call 214-688-4125  
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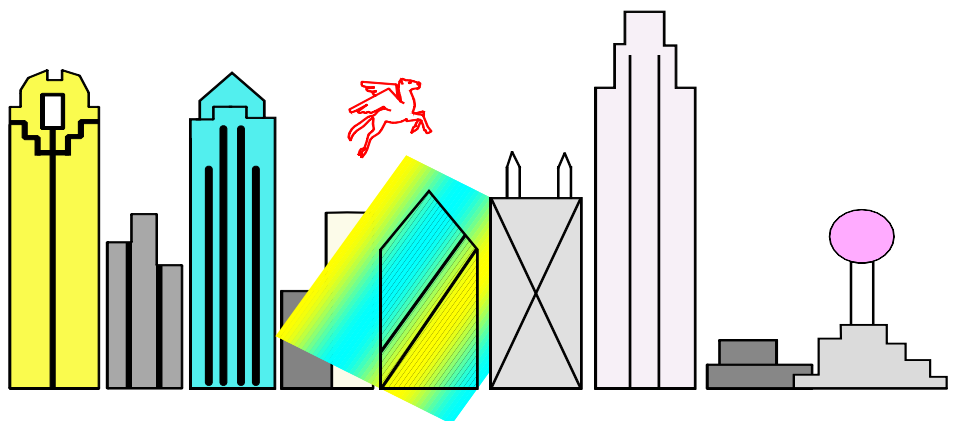
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Cell \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail** a check payable to **LWVDallas** with this information  
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at the address noted below

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The Dallas **VOTER** is the official publication of the League of Women Voters of Dallas, published ten times yearly.

**Volume 16, Number 7**

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