

League of Women Voters
of Dallas

VOTER



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

Unit Meetings: April 9 & 10

Update from Committee Studying Methods to Improve Voter Turnout in Local Elections

The committee studying Methods to Improve Voter Turnout in Local Elections continues to move forward. We'll provide an update at the April unit meetings.

Voter Education

We had meetings with Mavis Knight (State Board of Education (SBOE) District 13). She is very supportive of a proposal to beef up coverage of voting in public school curriculum and will help us. Barbara Weinstein is heading up this effort.

Contact her for more information or to volunteer at [972.661.8452](tel:972.661.8452).

Direct Mail Statistical Study

Husband of LWV member Mary Overton, David Overton, helped us think through the logic of a sound statistical test of the effectiveness of informational direct mail on the turnout of low propensity voters.

SMU and Dallas County are helping with the test, which will be conducted in conjunction with the fall General Election.

The plan is to send certain pieces of mail to a sample of several thousand low propensity registered voters in Dallas and see if they are more motivated to vote as a result. Elizabeth Walley is heading up this effort.

Contact her for more information or to volunteer at [214.695.1361](tel:214.695.1361).

Social Media

A pilot test of a text message voter alert system was somewhat disappointing as our student helpers were only able to enroll around 60 participants for the primary election.

A small group of young tech savvy people has been assembled to see if there's a way to make it more attractive to prospective users and make it "spread" for the general election.

Contact Elizabeth Walley for more information at [214.695.1361](tel:214.695.1361).

Attend Your Unit on the Voter Turnout in Local Elections Update

Apr. 910:00 am

Wednesday Morning Unit –
Mildred Pope

Center for Community Cooperation
High Plains Room, 2900 Live Oak
Street
Dallas 75204

Apr. 96:00 pm

Wednesday Evening Unit –
Sheila Collins

Angela's Café
7979 Inwood Road
Dallas 75219

Apr. 109:30 am

Thursday Morning Unit –
Patti Crumley, Pat Vaughan

**St Thomas the Apostle
Episcopal Church**
6525 Inwood Road
Dallas 75209

Apr. 1011:30 am

Far North Dallas Unit –
Bessie Weed, Barbara Weinstein
Egg and I
Corner of Arapaho & Montfort/Knoll
Dallas

**The Community Forum,
"The Blueprint to End Chronic Homelessness"
scheduled for Wednesday, April 30,
has been postponed to a new date and time
in the next program year.**

Inside this VOTER
President's message
Wrap up of the Susan B. Anthony gala
More at the units on voting
More on opportunities to volunteer
DineAround at National Convention
Silent Auction at LWVTX Convention



From the President's Desk...



Mission Statement
The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

**2013 – 2014
LWV Dallas
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As I was writing my report for the 2013-2014 Annual Meeting, I realized what a very busy League year this has been, thanks to a lot of work from many of our members. By the time you read this, I hope that many of you will have attended that meeting, shared in making important decisions for the League, and renewed your enthusiasm for involvement. The League offers opportunities for involvement for members with a wide variety of talents and interests. If you missed the meeting and would like a copy of the Annual Meeting Workbook, please call the office and ask for one. You will probably be impressed by all that has been accomplished by our Dallas League this year.

We are very pleased that our membership has increased by 8% this year to a total of 304 members. Have you invited your friends and acquaintances to join? Most people join because they are invited, especially by someone they know.

Our four active units under the leadership of Mildred Pope, Sheila Collins, Patti Crumley, Bessie Weed and Barbara Weinstein have met six times so far this year with two more to go. Units provide a great way to get to know other League members, to be involved at the grass roots level, and to learn about a variety of issues. Unit meetings this year have focused on human trafficking, methods for improving voter participation, program planning for all three levels of League, update on U.S. agriculture policy, and information on a variety of other issues. If you do not attend unit meetings regularly, a visit to one meeting may give you a taste of what you have been missing--lively, civil conversation with well-informed, interesting people.

In addition to completing our local study on Human Trafficking in Dallas County begun in 2011, participating in the state study on Human Trafficking in Texas and the national update on U.S. Agriculture Policy, a highlight of this League year has been the progress on our current local study of participation in elections. The enthusiastic committee working on this project under the leadership of Elizabeth Walley is addressing issues that can make real differences for voters: signage for voting locations, television and radio announcements, voting education for high school students, and social media voting reminders. See Elizabeth's article in this VOTER for more details. This project is an outstanding example of how the League can truly help make democracy work.

Remember that our LWV National Convention will be at the Omni Hotel in Dallas this summer, June 6 – 10. Volunteers are needed for all sorts of tasks to help make this convention a success for Dallas and the League. Let us know if you can help.

The League of Women Voters of Dallas is vibrant and exciting thanks to all our members who volunteer their time and effort to get our work done. Everything accomplished by the League depends on the commitment of our members.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with all of you.

Pat Vaughan
President, LWV Dallas

A FEW FACTS ABOUT THE 2014 PRIMARY ELECTION

Courtesy of your Voter Turnout study committee

Texans turned out to vote, both for early voting and on election day, March 4. Statewide and Dallas County voter turnout was somewhat less in 2014 than in 2010.

<i>(all numbers are approximate)</i>	2014	2010
Statewide Turnout	1,880,000	2,165,000
Dallas County Turnout	148,000	155,000
Texas Population	26,500,000	25,000,000
Registered Voters	13,600,000	13,000,000

During the same period the population of Texas increased and Voter registration numbers were up.

Primary turnout tends to be volatile depending on many factors -

- Voters' perception of competitiveness,
- Candidate name recognition,
- High profile local races, and
- Weather all influence turnout.

There is surprisingly little correlation between turnout in a primary and turnout in a general election. For example, in Dallas County, Republican turnout in primaries usually exceeds Democratic turnout, but since 2006, Democratic turnout has exceeded Republican turnout in November general elections. Turnout rates in primaries are usually only half or less than those of general elections.

RUNOFF

The next step for this year's primaries is the run-off. Early voting for the primary run-off will be held from May 19 to May 23.

Election day for the run-off will be May 27. Times and locations will be available on the Dallas County Elections website. www.dallascountvotes.org.

NOTE: There may be polling place location changes for the run-off. Before you go to vote in the run-off, check to be sure you know where your polling place is.

Women's Issues

Historically, American women, both Democrats and Republicans, have worked together to achieve many goals, all of which, at the time, seemed insurmountable. These goals include:

1. the right to vote;
2. access to education;
3. access to birth control;
4. the ability to be employed;
5. the right to own property;
6. the ability to sign contracts;
7. access to credit; and
8. maternity leave.

that we still have a lot of work to do to obtain equal rights for women, especially in the areas of equal pay and access to health care. Yes, I said "access to health care" because the issue has gone way beyond "choice."

Texas legislators have cut funds for women's health clinics and imposed numerous restrictions, which doctors claim are "medically unnecessary." Senate Bill 5, now the law in Texas, leaves 200,000 low-income women without access to health care. This is not a partisan issue. It is a nonpartisan women's health issue.

After this last legislative session, it is apparent

LWVTX State Convention Is Coming!

Your League needs you! Everyone who has been to the LWV Texas state convention reports that it is informative, exciting, and loads of fun.

This year, the LWV Texas biennial convention will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Austin April 25-27. The president of our national league, Elisabeth MacNamara, will be the keynote speaker for the Saturday luncheon. Be prepared to be inspired and motivated!

The Hon. William "Bill" Hobby, former Lieutenant Governor of Texas, will make a presentation about his mother, Oveta Culp Hobby, a remarkable woman: parliamentarian for the Texas house of Representatives at age 21, League president, and first Secretary of

Health, Education and Welfare (and first female cabinet member!). In addition to these speakers, there will be workshops on many topics of interest to Leaguers.

YOU can be a delegate to Convention! Dallas can have 26 delegates, and we seldom fill our quota. Being a delegate means that you have voting rights to represent your League, the right to speak before the convention, to introduce motions, to propose studies and to comment on others' proposals. If you are new to the League, you will find this a fascinating way to learn about what we do. Whether a new or long-time member, you will enjoy the camaraderie and the opportunity to meet League members from other communities. If you would like to be a delegate, please contact Fran Morris at 214-688-4125.

NOW is the time to make hotel reservations!
For more information, see <http://www.lwvtexas.org/convention.php>

Important deadlines:

- **April 4, 2014: Last day to reserve a room at the hotel and receive special group rate.**
- **April 11, 2014: Deadline to register for Friday night event sponsored by LWVAustin Area.**
- **April 15, 2014: Last day to register for convention and receive the early bird discount.**
- **April 1, 2014: Reserve a space for local League sales and exhibits.**

A Silent Auction will be held to raise money for the state League's Education Fund. Dallas member, Miriam Foshay, is chair of this event. The LWVTX newsletter has instructions about how to get your contribution to Austin. Generally, you can send it to the office: LWV Texas, 1212 Guadalupe, Suite 107, Austin,

Texas 78701, or bring it with you. Please send information ahead if you are bringing it so that a bid sheet can be made ahead.

This auction is just as important to the state League's Ed Fund as was ours at the Susan B. Anthony luncheon.

Check details at <http://www.lwvtexas.org/convention.php>

Heroic American Women

Annette Strauss The second female mayor of the city of Dallas from whose vision was born the Family Gateway Center for homeless families.

Sacagawea 1787-1812. Acting as interpreter and guide for the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the Shoshone woman accompanied Lewis and Clark in their exploration of the Western United States. The National American Woman Suffrage Association of the early twentieth century adopted her as a symbol of women's worth and independence, erecting several statues and plaques in her memory to spread the story of her accomplishments.



Rosa Parks 1913-2005. Her refusal to relinquish her seat to a white man violated Alabama's segregation laws and brought national attention to the civil rights cause. The black community boycotted the bus system for 381 days, resulting in the end of segregation on Montgomery's buses.

Kalpana Chawla 1962-2003. As the first Indian American astronaut and first Indian woman in space, her initial flight was as a mission specialist and primary robotic arm operator on the space shuttle Columbia in 1997. In 2003 Chawla was one of seven crew members killed in the space shuttle Columbia disaster. She had a Texas connection as she obtained her first M.S. degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington.

2014 LWV National Convention Dallas, Texas

Events of Interest

Dine Around

Food + Drink + Talk = Lasting Convention

Memories & Friends

Do you like fabulous food, good wine and great conversation? Who doesn't? Then join us Sunday, June 8, 2014, 5:30 – 8:00 pm, to explore Dallas's growing and vibrant neighborhood restaurants, with great local food, talented chefs and great atmosphere.

We will be fanning out from the Omni Dallas in groups of ten to city neighborhoods ranging from the new Klyde Warren Park to Bishop Arts to Deep Ellum to Oaklawn and Uptown. We'll feast on everything from seafood, Southwestern cuisine and BBQ (this is Texas after all), to locally sourced menus of all types. And we'll hear lots of tall tales from Dallas's most interesting dinner guests. When you arrive at Convention, look for the Dine Around table where you can sign up for one of the restaurants. To see the list of restaurant options go to <http://www.lwv.org/content/your-guide-lwvus-convention-2014> and click on Dine Around

Red Hot Patriot:

The Kick Ass Wit of Molly Ivins

The League of Women Voters of Dallas is hosting this "glorious, jaw-dropping and spectacularly funny

performance" about Texas journalist Molly Ivins in a production by Stage West Theater, on Saturday, June 7, 2014, 7:30 pm, at the Omni Dallas Downtown – Dallas Ballroom. Seating is limited, so buy tickets now for you and also for friends/relatives not attending the Convention. Go to <http://lwv.org/go/redhotpatriot> to purchase tickets.

Tours

Two tours will be offered on Tuesday, June 10, at 1:00 pm following the closing of the convention: *Dallas Highlights Tour* covering the top sights and attractions of downtown Dallas! Art, architecture, JFK, professional sports, parks & more; and the *George W. Bush Presidential Center* located on the Southern Methodist University campus. For more information on the GWB Presidential Center go to <http://www.georgewbushlibrary.smu.edu/>. To register and for a full description of the tours, go to <http://www.lwv.org/content/your-guide-lwvus-convention-2014>, click on Tours.

National Convention Personnel Committee June 6TH – 10TH, 2014

Mildred Pope, VP Organization

Volunteerism is the backbone of this country. When one thinks of the League of Women Voters it is our foundation. With the upcoming convention scheduled for June 6TH – 10TH our aim is to recruit a minimum of one hundred and fifty (150) volunteers to staff said convention.

The process is well under way with the help of several area leagues. However, we are confident that during the State Convention and afterward many other local leagues will offer their assistance as volunteers. Currently we have fifty six (56) volunteers registered with the need for one hundred (100) more, so please encourage your friends and families to sign up!

Recently, Constance Smith has joined the personnel committee as co-chair, and we are

most appreciative as she brings with her years of experience working with volunteers by way of The Senior Source and City of Dallas Director of Senior Affairs. It will indeed be a joy to work with Constance. I hope the League of Women Voters realize what an asset we have acquired. When meeting Constance in the near future, please give her a very warm welcome.

Believe it or not, as we are recruiting volunteers, the need is equally as great locally. Dallas needs volunteers in the following areas: Unit Coordinator, Unit Leader for Wednesday Morning, Observer Corps, and Office help for various projects.

IS IT WORTH IT?

by Becky Brakke, Jane Pak, Ann Adams, Patti Crumley, Katherine Homan

That is the question we of the Susan B. Anthony Silent Auction Committee ask ourselves. Especially as we deal with a series of deadlines, an unbelievable amount of paperwork, collecting and begging for gift cards, sorting, polishing and arranging an amazing variety of donations and then packing up everything for transport to Lakewood Country Club where each treasure will sparkle on an auction table.



Yet, as guests begin to arrive on the morning of the luncheon, our answer becomes apparent. Old friends meet and greet each other



around the silent auction tables. Their level of jubilant chatter increases as names and bids are entered on the bid sheets. In some instances, friendly competition starts and the bidding climbs--sometimes over the suggested value. What fun to see!

Now, as the committee finalizes results and tabulates the best-ever silent auction proceeds, we can say that the answer to our question is a definite YES. We can also say that what happens around the auction tables is not only worth it, it is priceless.

Thank you, SBA Silent Auction Volunteers, those who solicited and donated auction items and those who staffed the event from set-up and table monitoring to checkout and clean-up...

Bill Betzen, Kathy Calhoun, Linda Camin, Sen. John Carona, Cal and Clare Chaney, Judy Coats, Bob and Shirley Cooper, Maurine Dickey, Carolyn Dunnigan, Harryette Ehrhardt, Lynda Ender, Jack Ferguson, Ann Folz, Miriam Foshay, Eve France, Frances Gonzalez, Ann Grant, Genie Fritz, Adlene Harrison, Gayle Hurst, Scherry Johnson, Libby Lee, Sue Lichten, Julie and Michael Lowenberg, Michelle Manners, Barbara Materka, Virginia McAlester, Ruth Morgan, Fran Morris, Susan Oviatt, Lucy Polter, Ann Ross, Pat Sabin, Eleanor Sutherland, Sandy Thornton, Elizabeth Walley, Liz Wally, Linda Wassenich, Earl and Bessie Weed, Barbara Weinstein, Virginia Whitehill, Elaine Wiant, Elaine Wildman, Suzanne Wills, the Wednesday AM Unit, Arline Pitt and the Evening Unit ...

**...and those unsung heroes who pitched in whenever and wherever they saw a need.
Thank you!**

APRIL



- 3 **Board Meeting** LWVD members are welcome
- 9&10 **Unit Meetings – “Local Voter Turnout Study”**
- 14 **Passover (sundown)**
- 14 **LWVUS Consensus Due- “Agriculture Farm Bill”**
- 15 **May VOTER Articles Due**
- 20 **Easter**
- 25-27 **LWVTX State Convention- Austin**
- 25-27 **Earth Day Dallas Celebration @ Fair Park, Dallas**

League of Women Voters of Richardson

Richardson ISD
Board of Trustees
Candidate Forum

Thursday, April 24, 2014
7:00pm

Richardson ISD Administration Building
Auditorium
400 South Greenville Avenue
Richardson, TX 75081

Join the **League of Women Voters of Dallas**

where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

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.

It's not for women only!

Membership Levels

___\$60/year Individual ___\$30 additional member at same address

___\$150/year Patron ___\$500/year Benefactor

___Scholarship information available upon request. Call 214-688-4125

___\$25/year Student \$___ Contribution to LWVD Scholarship Fund

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phones: Home _____ Work _____

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**Mail your payment to -
League of Women Voters of Dallas**

2720 N Stemmons Frwy, Ste 812 S
Dallas, TX 75207

**League of Women Voters of Dallas
2720 N. Stemmons Freeway, Suite 812
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