

League of Women Voters
of Dallas

VOTER



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

February - the Shortest Month How It Does Make an Impact?

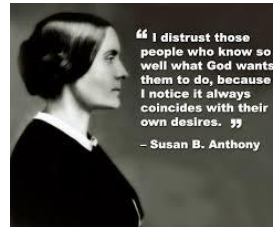
Just notice all the birthdays, all the special days and celebrations:



Two U.S. Presidents, a pioneering woman who helped women get the vote, the beginning of the League of Women Voters. And we also

have Punxsatawney Phil, the groundhog who checks the weather for sunny days. There's the Chinese New Year – Year of the Goat. Valentine's Day brings out the lover in everyone.

Last but not least, the League of Women Voters of Dallas celebrates and honors a woman whose accomplishments most follow the way of Susan B. Anthony.



This year's honoree is Ann Margolin. On February 12, we salute her.

There will be no Unit Meetings in February.

More Looks Ahead...

The 77th Annual Meeting of the LWV Dallas will be held on April 18, 2015.

At this meeting the League will select new Program issues for study, make adjustments in the bylaws, as needed, pass a new projected annual budget, and elect new officers and directors of the board.

These items will be provided to the members prior to the meeting in the March VOTER. This will prepare us for the meeting. It's like doing your homework before the big test. Plan to attend.

~ More details to follow. ~

May Elections & Voter Registration

The city councils, the county commissioners and other Dallas county officials will face election on May 9, 2015. "Wranglers" are needed to help prepare a *Voters Guide*. Details are in Dorie Cranshaw's article on pg. 4 of this VOTER.

Become a Deputized Voter Registrar or renew. Classes will be held courtesy of the Dallas County Elections Department. See Elizabeth Walley's notice on pg. 5 in this issue.

Get into the action!



LWV TX Advocacy – Lobby Days February 23 & 24, 2015

Laura Blackburn, LWV Texas Advocacy Vice President reminds you to pre-register for Lobby Days online at www.lwvtexas.org. The cost of Lobby Days is \$10.00. You will be sent a special email giving you all of the information about hotel rooms, speakers, and the agenda.



A block of rooms is being held for League members planning to participate in Lobby Days at LaQuinta Inn Austin Capitol, 300 11th Street in Austin. Call the Group Reservations Department at 866-527-1498, and identify yourself as a member of LWV Texas (confirmation number 09071417). See the *Calendar* page for more information.



From the President's Desk...

**2014 – 2015
LWV Dallas
Board of Directors
.....**



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.

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- Eleanor Sutherland-
VOTER Editor

There is so much happening it is hard to know where to begin. I must say, it is all very exciting.

The Long-Range Planning Committee held a board retreat at David and Mary Overton's lovely home on Friday evening, January 9 and Saturday, January 10. The retreat highlighted priorities for the committee to consider in the new five-year plan. Chair, Dorie Cranshaw and the committee have worked tirelessly on this important task. We owe David Overton a big thank you for adeptly facilitating the meeting. We appreciate Mary Overton for hosting the meeting.

Mary Overton, Chair of the Susan B. Anthony Luncheon and Eileen Rosenblum Co-Chair, are working long and hard on the many details related to the luncheon. Be sure to buy your tickets. The luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, February 12, 2015 and will be held at Lakewood Country Club. We still need volunteers. Please call Jane Pak or Becky Brakke if you can donate your time or you have an auction item to donate. Don't forget to ask your favorite eatery for a gift coupon.

Elaine Wiant has reminded us that Lobby Days in Austin are February 23 and 24, 2015. We are encouraged to put together a table of eight for the Monday evening program where former Senator Ray Farabee will be remembered. On February 24, we will have an opportunity to meet with some of our legislators. Please let us know that you are interested in attending and if you are interested in sharing a hotel room or carpooling.

Our wonderful President, Pat Vaughan, is ill. She recently underwent kidney-stone surgery. We wish her a speedy and easy recovery. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Finally, there will be no Unit Meetings in February because of the Susan B. Anthony Luncheon.

Thank you all for all you do for the league.

Best Regards,

Eileen Rosenblum

LWVD President-Elect

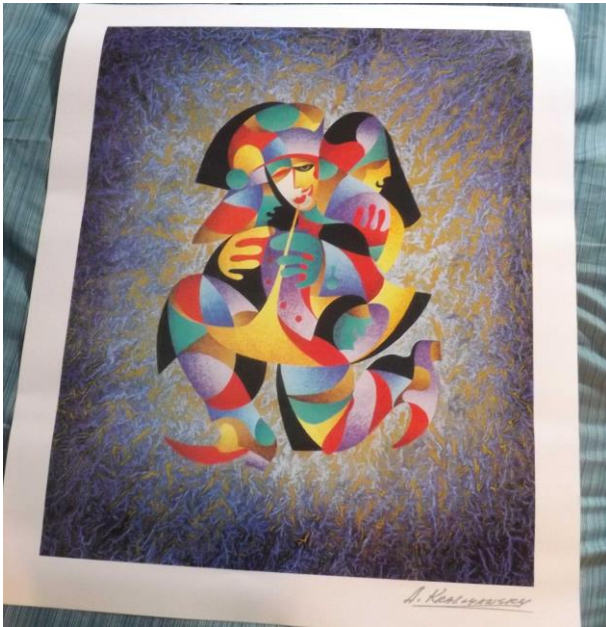


Don't forget! League member Arline Pitt still has thumbdrives of the amazing book of history and pictures of the Dallas League of Women Voters she put together for the silent auction at last year's Susan B. Anthony Luncheon. *(They are only \$15.)*

Office Administrator
Fran Morris

Join in the Fun!

Treat yourself to the Silent Auction at the 2015 Susan B. Anthony Luncheon Thursday, February 12, where you'll find this year's unique collection of good things and special delights.



- An invitation to a formal dinner at the home of Harryette and John Ehrhardt on Thursday, April 20, with special guest District Attorney Susan Hawk.
- Tickets to *The School for Wives* in February or March and *Colossal* on April 8 at Dallas Theater Center, a Thursday show at Contemporary Theatre of Dallas, a Landmark Theatre movie, a LOOK Cinema movie, the Perot Museum and the Nasher Sculpture Center; Dallas Symphony parking passes.
- Gift certificates from Woodlands, Ziziki's, Blue Mesa, Pappadeaux, Nazca Kitchen, Lucky's Cafe, Edgemere's Medici Restaurant, Neuhaus Cafe, Meso Maya, Hollywood Day Spa and Castle Gap Jewelry.

- This original seriolithograph by Anatole Krasnyansky titled *Play that Horn II, #15* or a Chinese print titled *Cock, Hen and Chickens* or a certificate for a portrait of your family by Robin Jackson Photography or Jamie Smith from *In Front of the Lens*. Robin photographs weddings and Jamie likes newborns; both like children.

- Hand-knit baby sweaters and scarves of all descriptions, Spring Flower Baskets in all colors, books for every interest, including signed first editions by Lady Bird Johnson, Ann Richards andwho else? Come see.

It's not too late to be a part of this annual event hosted by the League of Women Voters of Dallas.

- Donate items to the silent auction by contacting Becky Brakke at 214-363-0921 or Jane Pak at 972-233-2715.
- Volunteer to help at the event. You'll meet other League members. Cashiers are especially needed.
- Purchase a luncheon ticket. Invite your friends. Arrive early. Join in the fun.



The Susan B. Anthony award luncheon is held on February 12 because Susan B's birthday is the day before. Valentine's Day is two days later. One lucky winner will take home a lovely little heart-shaped Nambé bowl, a perfect holder for some Valentine chocolate. Another winner will take the wine basket... a bracelet from Castle Gap?... a hand-crafted pottery vase?...the black, zip top Coach tote bag?... the red Urban Junket tote bag? Surprises and more to come!

Helpers Needed for May Voters Guide!

The *Voters Guide* is the best known and most respected product of the League of Women Voters. LWV Dallas is planning on publishing a *Voters Guide* for the upcoming Dallas City Council and DISD elections in May. Now YOU can help be a part of its creation!

The League needs 12-15 volunteers to act as candidate contacts, or “wranglers”. Each volunteer wrangler will be responsible for 6-8 candidates. We will provide you with the candidate names and basic contact information, and we will also take responsibility for sending out the questions to candidates and logging their responses.

***We need you to* -**

- contact the candidates,
- confirm their phone numbers and email addresses, and
- forward any problems they may encounter in responding to the League’s questions.

For these candidates, you will be the primary point of contact with LWVD.

The time commitment involved is only a couple of hours in early March, but we need to know we can count on you as we plan the way forward.

If you’d like to become a “wrangler” or have any questions,
contact **Dorie Cranshaw** at **214-358-7282** or **doriebigd@aol.com**.

Dallas ISD to Remain an Independent School District with Democratic Elections

by Susybelle Gosslee, Chair of the DISD Education Committee and Bill Betzen

On January 20, members of the Dallas ISD Home-Rule Commission voted 10 to five on a resolution to “not write a charter for the district.”

A Home-Rule Charter could have changed the district to have been operated by either a for-profit or a not-for-profit charter school management company allowing them to be free from some state mandates. The state mandates include, but are not limited to, election of school board trustees, class room size, discipline of children, curriculum, teacher pay, and teacher recourse if fired. The 15-member commission assembled in June 2014 and has had almost a year to create a charter but is not required to do so. Any proposed charter would need to be approved by a majority vote in an election with at least a 25% voter turnout.

The vote for the resolution determined that the district will remain an independent school district, maintaining

the democratic process in the election of school board trustees, continuing to follow the standards developed over decades to protect students and teachers, keeping the facilities in public control, and maintaining the Texas curriculum standards, the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The State Board of Education has the legislative authority to adopt the TEKS for each subject of the required curriculum. More can be learned at <http://tea.texas.gov/index2.aspx?id=6148>

Commissioner D. Marcus Ranger put forth the resolution to not write a charter, and requested the commission to take a vote now. With the vote, Home-Rule Commission chair Bob Weiss and the commissioners now know the direction they are headed. They will focus on writing a summary which will include a list of recommendations that have been gathered from public testimony. The list will be submitted to the Dallas Trustees to consider.

The group Support Our Public Schools (SOPS) initiated the home-rule process and obtained enough signatures to require trustees to appoint the commission. The commission has spent seven months meeting and listening to community members, education leaders and organizations. Ranger said that a vast majority of those who have come before the commission to speak have been opposed to home-rule.

The Dallas effort is the first use in Texas of a 1995 state law that allows a voter-approved charter for a school district. The League will be following the bills submitted to the Texas Legislature on charter schools and other education issues and will be advocating for League positions.

Read more about the continuing work of the Commission at www.homerulecommission.com.

Local Election Calendar May 9, 2015 Election

First day to Apply for Ballot by Mail	Tuesday	March 10
Last day to Register to Vote	Thursday	April 9
First day of Early Voting	Monday	April 27
Last day to Apply for Ballot by Mail	Thursday	April 30
Last day of Early Voting	Tuesday	May 5
Election Day	Saturday	May 9

There will probably be runoffs for some elections. The runoff schedule will be published later.



Connections

Voter Turnout and Public School Education



Dr Robert Sanborn, a noted leader, advocate and activist for education and children and the President and CEO of CHILDREN AT RISK will discuss connections between voter turnout and education. He will enlighten us as to what Common Core is, how it compares to our curriculum in Texas, what's in our current curriculum on voting, and also share ideas on how Texas curriculum could be enhanced to better prepare our young people to become informed voters.

Mark your calendars! Tuesday, March 24, 2015, 11:30-1:00

The Senior Source || 3910 Harry Hines Boulevard || Dallas 75219
Free admission and parking. || Box lunches will be available for \$10.

RSVP to lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net or (214) 688-4125

(please indicate if you would like a box lunch for \$10)



2015-2016 Voter Registration Deputization

ALL voter registration deputizations in Texas expired at the end of 2014. Deputizations obtained now will be good for 2015 and 2016 (when we will elect a new President).

Mark your calendars! LWV Dallas will host a **Voter Registration Deputization Class** on **Saturday, February 21st, 10 a.m. - 12 noon** at the **Lakewood Branch Library || 6121 Worth Street || Dallas 75214**. Deputization will be provided by the Dallas County Elections Department, after which we will tell you about upcoming registration opportunities and give a "how-to" on conducting voter registration drives and getting out the vote.



We'll also provide materials so that you can go out there and start registering ASAP! **RSVP to lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net or (214) 688-4125.**

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

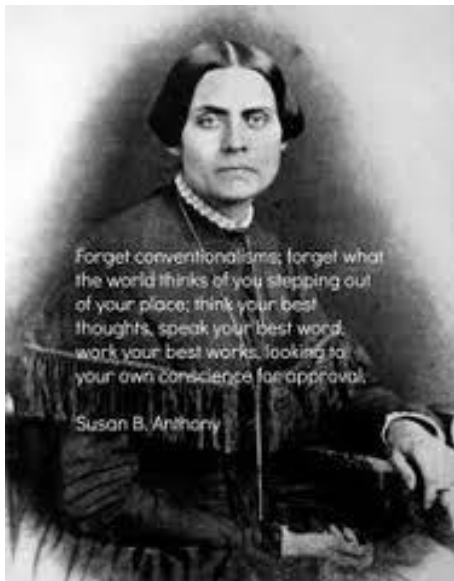
Let's give a big shout-out to the following for supporting the League with donations to LWVD and LWVD-EF since December 15, 2014. Donors to the Susan B. Anthony luncheon will be recognized at a later time.

Carole Braden, Lemlee Berhe, Bill Betzen, Terry Brown, Donna Beavers, Madeleine Crouch, Barbara Coleman, Patti Crumley, Amy Louise Carpenter, Serena Connelly, Sally Dunning, Joyce Forney, Genie Fritz, Jeanne Fagadau, Helen Frank, Carolyn Fusinato, Lois Finkelman, Sharan and Lynn Goldstein, Vee Gerken, Scherry Johnson, Carolyn Laivins, Julie Lowenberg, Pam Meyercord, Jackie McElhaney, Jim Nugent, Audrey Naarden, Cheryl Pollman, Adrienne Rosenberg, Essie Reed, Eleanor Sutherland, Diane Tasian, Linda Wassenich, Jerry Weiss and Michael Wimbish.

Special gifts were made by Becky Sykes in honor of Pat Vaughan and by Sue Lichten in honor of Barbara Materka's 95th birthday.

Doug Taylor and Annabelle Catterall gave to support the League's public education efforts about the proposed home rule school district.

Adrienne Rosenberg and Rose Harder gave to the LWVD Scholarship Fund.



SAVE THE DATE

50TH Annual SMU Women's Symposium

We've Shaped Our History. Let's Create Our Future

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Program: 11:00 am to 5:00 pm,

Community Awards Reception and Dinner: 5:30 - 8:00 PM

To learn more details and to register go to

www.smu.edu/womsym

Registration deadline is February 25, 2015 at midnight!

League of Women Voters – Dallas Testimony – You Can Read It!

by Susybelle Gosslee, VP Advocacy

Public testimony is presented on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Dallas many times during the year to various governmental organizations with the purpose of advocating for League positions and affecting public policy. You can find this testimony on the LWVD website at www.lwvdallas.org then clicking on the [Advocacy Section](#).

The most recent testimony was presented on January 15 at the public hearing in the Arlington City Council Chamber and is on the website. It is the League's comments to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality regarding the Texas State Implementation Plan (SIP) for Air Quality. You can make comments online.

Information is constantly being placed on the website to inform League and community members about current issues. Please use it and other sources to write your own statements to public officials.

LWV DALLAS Stands Up For Clean Air and Public Health At TCEQ Hearing

by Susybelle Gosslee, Vice President Advocacy

Deaths from ozone pollution in the DFW area rank second in the country behind the number of deaths in the Northeast from ozone pollution. The League stated to the TCEQ, "This is intolerable and the TCEQ can save lives." Ozone is created when Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) from power plants and other sources mix with volatile organic compounds (VOC's) from cars, trucks and other sources and sunlight.

The League submitted testimony to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) hearing on the State Implementation Plan (SIP) on January 15 at the Arlington City Hall.

The League reported, "Citizens depend on the TCEQ and the EPA to protect them from destruction by pollution." The science exists to protect the air we breathe. Environmental damage and serious health problems continue to exist. Dirty air is not the alternative to food on the table or the availability of jobs. The options are not "either/or"; the options are "both/and". We can have clean air and food and jobs. More needs to be done to protect the public."

Sixty-eight percent of the time the wind in the DFW area is from the Southeast. This southeast wind brings air pollution from Big Brown coal, Martin Lake and Monticello into this area. Many young people of child-bearing age who are in the family-forming stage of life are moving into Dallas County. Dallas County's population has grown at a faster annual rate since 2010 than it did in the decade from 2000 to 2010. All people, and especially youngsters, are particularly vulnerable to ozone pollution. The population in the DFW-Arlington region grew more than any other metropolitan area in the country between July 2011 and 2012. There are millions of people of all ages who need to breathe clean air and are affected by what the TCEQ enforces.

Ozone above us in the stratosphere protects us from solar radiation, but when it is where we live at ground level, it contaminates our lungs. Ozone is oxygen gone bad. It can cause health problems such as minor throat irritation, reduced lung function, inflammation in airways and cardiac problems. The LWV statement was that cutting ozone will protect the public from its harmful effects.

Another pollutant, particle pollution or particulate matter, is killing people and causes the light brown haze that hangs over Texas. C. Arden Pope III, Ph.D. discovered in Utah Valley that there were fewer deaths and hospitalizations when the local steel mill closed. They saw measurable lung and cardiac effects increase when the mill was open. The smallest particles had the most damaging lung and cardiac effects.

The Office of Management and Budget found in 2007 that there was a cost of cleaning up particles over the previous 10 years. Research provides a scientific basis for stronger particulate matter standards. The cost of cleaning up particles over the previous ten years provided an estimated savings in terms of health impacts of between four and forty billion dollars per year. All other regulations pale compared to impacts to benefits of cleaning up particulate matter. Cities which clean up their air can increase life expectancy even allowing for other variables. Mixtures of chemicals in the air create an impact such as climate change. We all need clean air to save public health, economic health and environmental health.

The League of Women Voters supports state government and the TCEQ's action for control of air pollution in North Texas and throughout Texas. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has the power to set and enforce standards stricter than those required by the federal government. Adequate funding should be made available by the Texas Legislature to carry out the research, planning and enforcement of regulations to protect the public's health and the environment. The League supports legislation that allows local and regional governments to set and enforce standards stricter than those of the state and encourages citizen involvement in the rule-making and enforcement process.

LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara states, "Any action to block the EPA from updating Clean Air Act protections, or any delay on behalf of the Administration to avoid implementing new clean air and industrial pollution requirements, is an attack on the health of our children and families, plain and simple."

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 _____

Cell _____ E-mail _____

Mail your payment to - League of Women Voters of Dallas

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Dallas, TX 75207

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