

League of Women Voters
of Dallas

VOTER



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

When the Legislature Meets, the LWVTX Takes Action!

Local League members will meet at **Unit Meetings** on **March 11 & 12** to learn more about the state League's priorities. Laura Ashburn, Advocacy Chair for LWV Texas, has laid out the major issues that are at the top of the list for 2015. At the state League's Lobby Days in February, members learned more about our priorities.

During the regular sessions of the Texas Legislature, LWVTX publishes the bi-weekly **Legislative Newsletter**. You can find it at www.lwvtexas.org/legislative_newsletter.php. In each newsletter, Issues Chairs report on current legislation and the League's

position on each.

At the March Unit Meetings, Dallas League members will give legislative updates. This, combined with the **Legislative Newsletter**, will give you the chance to do your own "lobbying" on the issues that most concern you.

This will be your chance to
Make Democracy Work!

Choose a unit meeting near you and bring a friend. (See *Unit Meeting details on calendar pg. 7.*)

Connections

Voter Turnout and Public School Education

BULLETIN: *Colleagues from SMU and the Dallas League will update us at this meeting on the results of the voter turnout studies conducted in 2014.*

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.

LWV Dallas General Meeting

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

11:30-1:00

**The Senior Source
3910 Harry Hines Blvd
Dallas 75219**

RSVP to (214) 688-4125 or LWVDallas@sbcglobal.net
(please indicate if you'd like to reserve a box lunch for \$10)



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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- Fran McElvaney-
- Cecilia McKay-
- Mary Overton-
- Susan Oviatt-
- Eleanor Sutherland-
VOTER Editor

It is good to be back after two months away from my presidential duties. I am so very grateful that President-elect Eileen Rosenblum stepped up to keep the work of the League going. She certainly demonstrated the value of the position of president-elect. She provided the leadership that was needed in my absence. I learned long ago the importance of having a designated leader in case the assigned person cannot do the job. Eileen proved that she is a capable leader for LWVD.

During my thirty years as a League member, I have admired the way that so many dedicated people who believe in the mission of the organization work together to get things done with little regard for credit. The past two months have been a real test of that practice. Many members have worked together as a team to make things happen. The work of the League has continued as usual.

On February 12th, the nineteenth annual Susan B. Anthony Luncheon was a huge success thanks to the work of a hard working team under the leadership of Mary Overton, luncheon chair. Even though Mary is a fairly new LWV member, she proved that she can recruit helpers as needed, pay attention to every detail and get things done. The silent auction so brilliantly coordinated by Becky Brakke and Jane Pak year after year with help from many other volunteers provides an opportunity for those attending the luncheon to shop for treasures while contributing to the League. Even though a lot of work is involved, they make it seem like fun.

In January, LWVD board members worked to develop a strategic long range plan to move us forward to our 100th anniversary in 2020. Professional management consultant David Overton donated his time to facilitate the process while Dorie Cranshaw as chair of the planning committee was responsible for starting our planning project. You will hear more about this project at the annual meeting on April 18th.

Michelle Manners put together a blue ribbon committee of LWVD members to review our finances and financial policies and make recommendations for better management. You will learn more about this project at the annual meeting.

It is a delight to work with the dedicated people who are so committed to LWVD and do what needs to be done to Make Democracy Work. If you want to become more involved, let a board member know. We can use all the help that is available—and, it is fun!

Pat Vaughan
LWVD President

Office Administrator
Fran Morris

▪ Daylight Saving Time Begins March 8 ▪

2015 Susan B. Anthony Award Luncheon and Silent Auction

Mary Overton and Eileen Rosenblum, Co-Chairs

With an outstanding honoree, compelling speakers, super volunteers, a lively silent auction, great guests, and sunny weather, the 2015 Susan B. Anthony Award Luncheon and Silent Auction was a memorable event.



Thank you to everyone who helped make this event a success!



Special thanks to the Silent Auction Committee led by Becky Brakke and Jane Pak. The energy in the Auction room was very lively and the displays of goods and plants visually stunning. One guest said it was the

loudest "silent auction" they had ever attended.

The Registration team worked very well in the new location, thank you to Fran McElvaney for your leadership, and thanks to Dorie Cranshaw for printing all of the nametags. Kudos to Sandy Thornton for handling checkout with her dynamic team. The Program Book was edited and formatted by Cecilia McKay-many thanks.



Gratitude and thanks to Scherry Johnson, who was the event Photographer. Our Office Administrator, Fran Morris was essential in making this event a success-thank you Fran!



Special thanks to our three greeters, students from Paul Quinn College! It was helpful to have them show our guests to the new registration location.



If you were unable to attend this year's event, please mark your calendar for next year. We'll be announcing the date soon.

Editor's Note: Compliments are coming into the office regularly on what a superb job Mary Overton did - a huge thank you Mary!



Ann S. Margolin

February 15, 2015

Dear Pat,

My deepest thanks to the League of Women Voters of Dallas for the Susan B. Anthony Award and for the beautiful luncheon. It was a great honor to receive the award and I want to thank you and the members for this wonderful opportunity.

Sincerely,

Ann



Update: Trinity River First: There is no Parkway: There is a Toll Road... In a Floodplain

by Susybelle Gosslee

The highest and best use of a flood plain is the conveyance of flood water. Originally, the Trinity River levees were built to protect downtown economic development from floodwaters. Usually the river was low enough that one could easily pass over or through it, but as the population grew and more effluent water was drained into it, the river had more water.

The Trinity River is considered free, public, open land as opposed to private developed land that costs more to obtain. After many failed attempts to make the river a channel to the gulf and create Dallas as an inland port, a different idea arose. The Trinity River Corridor Project proposed a nine-mile, 8-to-10 lane toll road with a park inside the levees. The original bond proposal emphasized a park project with an "abstract idea" showing floating sailboats and adjacent restaurants. The emphasis originally was for the park, but the idea was always about a road.

When thinking of the park and recreational use, the water quality in the river ranks in the top third of Texas' most polluted rivers. The EPA classifies the river as "non-compatible for contact recreation". Because of the toxic pollution levels, fish in the river are inedible. For recreational purposes, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has said that the Trinity River and its branches in North Texas are too high in pollutants, especially bacteria from sewage, to be safe for extended human contact.

The river is an environmental resource. Airflows from the southeast are cooled by the Great Trinity River Forest 68% of the year. The cost of polluting, complying with the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and riparian habitat, among other things, make the cost of building a road within the floodway even more expensive. Rain water from the roadway would have to be cleaned before it could flow into the river. The road will flood. Many of the trees are currently being felled by the city. The land is no longer "free", and it is already developed to convey floodwater and ... by *nature*.

Current traffic estimates do not justify the need for a toll road. How high or how low does the road have to be to interface with the bridges, and at what cost? How does a nine mile limited-access thoroughfare access economic development beside the road? Ask your city council person.

Bottom line!!! The road already costs more than was originally proposed and is into billions with no funding; maintenance of Dallas' infrastructure is years behind; the Corps has already said filling the floodplain will increase flood threats. Our League position has been in opposition to this road for these and many other reasons.

Please call your city council member or me with your questions. We can refer you to the EIS, the CORPS reports and other materials, and write more specific information in the VOTER to keep you informed.



AFTER SELMA

submitted by Elizabeth Walley

By now most of us have seen the movie and know of the events of March 1965 when civil rights activists lead by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. marched from Selma Alabama to Montgomery for voting rights. Their bravery and determination ignited a fire in the nation which resulted in the Voting Rights Act of 1965, a landmark in self determination.

What transpired between the marches in Selma and the signing of the Act in August 1965? On this 50-year anniversary some of our memories need refreshing.

On March 15, in the wake of the violence in Selma, President Johnson addressed a joint session of Congress in which he announced his intent to introduce a sweeping voting rights bill. He ended his address with the words, "**WE SHALL OVERCOME**", a rallying cry of the civil rights movement.



AFTER SELMA *cont...* The bill was introduced in the Senate two days later. It was jointly sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, a Democrat, and Senate Minority Leader Everett Dirksen, a Republican. President Johnson was apprehensive that southern Democrats would filibuster the bill so enlisted Senator Dirksen's help to muster support among Republicans.

There was contentious debate in the Senate over the definition of what would trigger the "special provisions" whereby a jurisdiction with a history of discrimination would be required to get preclearance from the Justice Department before making changes to voter registration or election procedures. Differences were finally resolved and on May 25 the bill passed the Senate with a vote of 77-19, with Senators representing Southern states offering the only opposition.

The bill was debated more slowly in the House of Representatives. After some delays by southern Democrats, the bill reached the floor of the House on

July 6. It passed on July 9 by a vote of 333-85 with broad bipartisan support.

The Senate and House bills then went to conference committee, which was charged with reconciliation. Throughout the debate, and also in conference committee, a major point of contention was the prohibition against poll taxes. However, after the Attorney General declared that polls taxes are unconstitutional, a reconciled bill was passed by Congress and signed by President Johnson on August 6, 1965.

What is so very striking about the passage of the Voting Rights Act is how easily the parties came together on a major, controversial matter of justice, despite the bitterness and violence and the unwavering resistance of some southern Governors. The rumor is that President Johnson twisted more than a few arms to get the bill passed, but it is obvious that more than a simple majority were in support in the end. **Will we ever again see our elected officials put aside their partisanship so readily?**

TX Department of Family and Protective Services Implements New Program in Dallas County

by Susybelle Gosslee

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services reported on January 8, 2015 that they have developed a new program that will be implemented in Dallas County. Their new program is called Alternative Response (AR) and is a new way for CPS to work with families in lower risk cases of child abuse and neglect. AR is an approach that allows CPS to respond differently to accepted reports of child abuse and neglect based on such factors as the type and severity of the alleged maltreatment, number and sources of previous reports, and willingness of the family to participate in services.

It's a more collaborative and family-friendly approach to working with families who need help. The AR approach involves families in decision-making, encourages collaboration and focuses on identifying concerns and finding solutions. Some reports will continue to be routed to the traditional investigations pathway, while other reports – based on their eligibility – will be routed to the new AR pathway. This program also allows CPS to intervene in more supportive ways by focusing on families' strengths/needs and providing services.

~ Nancy Wilson Boye ~

Nancy Boye, advocate for social change and LWVD member, died December 27, 2014. She volunteered often for the League including the 2013 and 2014 Susan B. Anthony Luncheon/Auction. She co-founded Proyecto Adelante, a program to assist Central Americans in Dallas. She lived in Central America serving on the General Board of Global Ministries.

May Elections

The city councils, the county commissioners and other Dallas county officials will face election on May 9, 2015.

"Wranglers" are still needed to help prepare a *Voters Guide*. If you'd like to become a "wrangler", contact Dorie Cranshaw at [214-358-7282](tel:214-358-7282) or doriebigd@aol.com.

~ March Tidings ~

by Eileen Rosenblum, President Elect

Thank you to all who supported the Susan B. Anthony Luncheon and Silent Auction. Many of you volunteered to help with auction, registration, and auction check-out. Others supported the League by bringing friends to the luncheon, finding donors to the silent auction, buying and putting together tables of friends, buying ads or making donations. Kudos to *Mary Overton* who brilliantly shouldered much of the responsibility and was certainly the brains behind this successful event. *Jane Pak* and *Becky Brakke* were invaluable volunteers and made the silent auction the success it was. Although we don't have the exact amount of income tallied yet, we know we exceeded our goal of \$35,000.



We have many events planned for the spring. Some of us traveled to Austin in February for the Texas League of Women Voters Lobby Days. We will share what we learned at our March unit meetings.

Thank you to *Elizabeth Walley* for arranging for Voter Registration Deputization February 21st. Elizabeth is a passionate volunteer. She and *Susybelle Gosslee*, another hard working volunteer, have arranged for a general meeting entitled Connections – Voter Turnout and Public School Education. At this meeting we can look forward to some very knowledgeable speakers who may have some important hints about how we can work with our new Texas Legislators. Thank you to both of them for their hard work for the League.

Marlene Cohen has scheduled a Program Planning Committee meeting for March 2nd. This is in preparation for the annual meeting, 21-days notice to the membership. Thank you to Marlene for her volunteer spirit. Recently Marlene was honored by the National Council of Jewish Women at their annual luncheon. We are proud to have her as our Program Vice President.

Mark your calendars! We are currently planning our annual meeting Saturday, April 18, 2015. It will be held at the Edgemere Retirement Community this year. We will have many important topics for discussion and a new slate of officers and board members to elect. A very special thank you to *Julie Lowenberg* for chairing the nominations committee. The committee has been working hard to put together a highly competent slate of officers and board members for our near future. Thank you to *Genie Fritz* for her help in procuring the Edgemere for us.



The League is working with the Dallas Bar Association on putting together a Candidates Forum for the Dallas Mayor's race. If this happens, and it is tentative for now, the forum will be at the Belo Mansion on March 30, 2015 at 12:00 noon. This will be a wonderful opportunity for LWV Dallas to meet highly informed young lawyers who may be interested in participating in future league activities. We will contact you once we have the go-ahead from the Bar Association. Thank you to *Cheryl Camin* for connecting us to the Dallas Bar Association and to *Rob Crain* who is working hard on putting the event together.

Finally, you need need to sharpen your pencils! I know our Texas Legislature will provide us with ample opportunity to contact them regarding our opinions on pending legislation.

Again, thank you to all of you for all you do for the League! I look forward to working with you in the next two years.

TENTATIVE
Candidates Forum
Dallas Mayor's Race
March 30, 2015 at 12:00 noon
Belo Mansion

MARCH

- 4 SMU Women's Symposium
- 5 **LWVD Board Meeting** 11:45 am (*League office*)
- 7 Volunteer Deputy Registrar Class (11am – 12pm)
- 11&12 **March Unit Meetings** (*see pg.1 & below*)
- 17 St. Patricks Day
- 17 **April VOTER articles DUE**
- 24 **LWVD General Meeting - Connections** (*see pg. 1*)
- 26 Volunteer Deputy Registrar Class (7pm – 8pm)
- 29 Palm Sunday



2015 Local Election Calendar Election Day – Saturday, May 9, 2015

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.

<p style="text-align: center;">50TH Annual SMU Women's Symposium</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>We've Shaped Our History. Let's Create Our Future</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday, March 4, 2015</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Program: 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, Community Awards Reception & Dinner: 5:30 – 8:00 PM</p> <p style="text-align: center;">To learn more details go to www.smu.edu/womsym</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LWV Dallas will be there!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SAVE THE DATES</u></p> <p>March 24, 2015 – Tuesday General Meeting – Connections – Voter Turnout and Public School Education</p> <p>April 18, 2015 – Saturday LWVD 77th Annual Meeting</p> <p>May 2015 Voters Guide and Vote411</p> <p>May 9, 2015 – Saturday May Elections</p>
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<p><u>Mar. 11....10:00 am</u> Wednesday Morning Unit Mildred Pope 214-374-8087 Center for Community Cooperation Piney Woods Room 2900 Live Oak Street Dallas 75204</p>	<p><u>Mar. 11.....6:00 pm</u> Wednesday Evening Unit Sheila Collins 214-801-9987 Angela's Café 7979 Inwood Road Dallas 75219</p>	<p><u>Mar. 12....9:30 am</u> Thursday Morning Unit Rotating Leaders The Episcopal Church of St Thomas the Apostle 6525 Inwood Road Dallas 75209</p>	<p><u>Mar. 12....11:30 am</u> Far North Dallas Unit Ann Grant & Anne Tabb 972-931-5628, 972-392-7067 Egg and I 15203 Knoll Trail corner of Arapaho & Montfort/Knoll</p>
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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 _____

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League of Women Voters of Dallas**

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

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