

League of Women Voters
of Dallas

VOTER



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

MARCHING FORWARD!

Thanks to everyone for making the Susan B. Anthony Luncheon and Silent Auction another big success. It brought all together to celebrate our democracy. We have the vote, free speech, and liberty. The April VOTER will have articles and pictures for your enjoyment.

We can now look forward to greater success in public education. Our unit meetings in March will be what I hope will be a spirited conversation about our public schools, our charter schools, our private schools. (See page 4 for more information.)



Join us on March 9th and 10th. Our Advocacy VP Susybel Gosslee and Education Director Bill Betzen have an interesting program to present to all of us. Come and bring a friend.

Call to LWV TX 2016 Convention!

Chris Davis Garcia
2016 Convention Chair

Every two years, LWV Texas convenes a state convention to which delegates and members from 25 Leagues around the state - plus Members-at-Large are invited. The 2016 Convention will be held Friday-Sunday, March 11-13, 2016, in Houston at the Westin Houston, Memorial City. \$140 Registration fee through March 8.

I personally don't want to be anywhere else on this special weekend that's just 40 days or so away! It's been a privilege to be your convention chair and to work closely with the LWV Houston Area local arrangements committee, chaired by Judy Hollinger with several terrific volunteers! I hope to see YOU in Houston!

If you would like to be a delegate at the convention, please contact the LWV Dallas office and/or Miriam Foshay at mcfoshaylwv@gmail.com.



March Unit Meetings

Education Updates



Mar. 910:00 am

Wednesday Morning Unit
Mildred Pope 469.235.7077

Center for Community Cooperation

Piney Woods Room
2900 Live Oak Street
Dallas 75204



Mar. 109:30 am

Thursday Morning Unit
Kathy Calhoun 214.943.6738

The Episcopal Church of St Thomas the Apostle

6525 Inwood Road
Dallas 75209



Mar. 1011:30 am

Far North Dallas Unit
Ann Grant 972.931.5628
Anne Tabb 972.392.7067

Egg and I

15203 Knoll Trail
corner of Arapaho & Montfort/Knoll



Mar. 10....6:30 pm

Thursday Evening Unit
Arline Pitt 972.243.3966

Angela's Café

7979 Inwood Road
Dallas 75219

GENERAL AND UNIT MEETING DATES & TOPICS

Mar. 09/10 Education Updates
Mar. General Meeting - TBA
Apr. 13/14 TBA
Apr. 30 LWVD Annual Meeting
May 11/12 Do Your Own Thing!



INSIDE THIS VOTER...

-President's Message
-Vote411.org, Voters Guide & Voter Registration Volunteers
-Annual Meeting Save-the-Date
-March Unit Meetings-Education
-In Memoriam
-Conversion to 501(c)(3) Organization



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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

by Eileen Rosenblum

Hats off to Leigh Bailey for her successful chairmanship of our annual Susan B Anthony Luncheon. Jane Pak and Beckie Brakke and the SBA auction committee were again highly successful. Although we don't have the exact final tally yet, we think this was the most financially successful luncheon we have ever had. We sincerely appreciate Cecilia McKay for making the initial contact with Regina Montoya. Regina was an outstanding awardee.



Thank you all for your volunteer efforts before, during, and after the Susan B. Anthony luncheon. We appreciate all of you who provided your precious time to help LWV Dallas succeed.

Work is just about complete on our new bylaws. These bylaws will provide us with the necessary language to become a non-profit organization. The committee consisting of Dominique Torres, Susybelle Gosslee, Linda Wassenich, Cecilia McKay and Eileen Rosenblum have all participated in researching and crafting the bylaws. Linda Wassenich agreed to chair the committee and will be presenting the bylaws at our annual meeting at the Edgemere on April 30th.

I am looking forward to visiting with you at our annual meeting.

Eileen Rosenblum
LWVD President



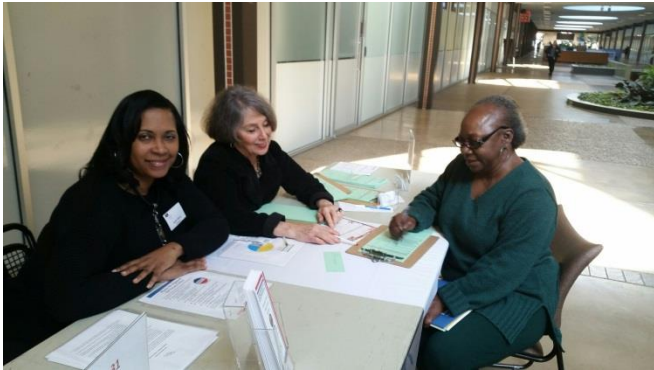
Special Note: Elizabeth Walley and Dorie Cranshaw and their volunteers and wranglers did a monumental job gathering information and putting it together into *Vote411.org* and the *Voters Guide* for the Primary Elections scheduled for March 1st. There was also a very special group of volunteers who helped with mailing out and delivering 12,000 *Voters Guides*. A huge thank you goes to them all. We could not have done it without you!



League Volunteers are Registering Voters!

Working alongside volunteers from Team Dallas Votes and LULAC, League volunteers helped to register hundreds of voters at a number of locations in January, including at the flagship Half Price Books store on Northwest Highway, UT Southwestern, Bryan Adams High School and Samuell High School.

Although the voter registration cutoff for the March primary election was February 1, we will continue with registration projects throughout the spring as people’s interest in registering intensifies the closer we get to November. The Dallas chapter has been awarded two grants from the LWV US to help pay for voter registration efforts.



Karen Ellison and Susan Oviatt registering a voter.



Volunteers like Leigh Bailey registered over a hundred at Half Price books.



Cecilia McKay registered many voters at UT Southwestern.



Magda Cruz and Lauren Burgess registered nearly a hundred at Bryan Adams High School in just one day.

SAVE - THE - DATE
LWVD 78TH ANNUAL MEETING
 April 30, 2016, Saturday
 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 The Edgemere
 8523 Thackery Street @ Northwest Highway
 Dallas, Texas

DID THE GOOD OL' DAYS HAVE SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS?

A Thumbnail Sketch On Then and Now - Information for March 9th and 10th Unit Meetings

by Susybelle Gosslee

Public education in its various forms has been available in the United States since the country's founding, but it became compulsory everywhere around 1900. Today, traditional public education is mostly controlled and administered by state and local governments. Elected local boards of education can have tremendous influence on what is taught in the schools and how they operate. State boards of education have considerable influence over which textbooks are produced for sale, especially in large states like Texas and California.

It is important to recognize that there was never a time when everyone succeeded in US traditional public schools. Furthermore, not everyone even went to school. The 2000 Census Bureau reported, "As recently as 1950, 34% of the population 25 and older had completed four years of high school or more. Steady increases in educational attainment have taken place since then, with the result that by 2000, a record 80% of the population 25 and older had completed four years of high school or more. During a span of 50 years, completion of high school went from being the mark of the educated minority of the population to the minimum education level attained by four out of five adults."

In the US, the high school graduation rate did not reach 50% until 1940. The graduation rate dropped during World War II as many young people joined the military and rose to 70% by 1970. The Department of Education announced that the graduation rate had reached 78.2% by 2012, the first significant increase in three decades. Some criticize the dropout and graduation rates as signs of the low quality of American education, but the facts reveal a more complicated picture.

Public charter schools were authorized by a 1995 law and operate with a reduced level of state oversight, based on their own promise they could educate kids better and

for less money than the ISDs with which they compete. How did they do last year?

Traditional independent school districts outperformed public charter schools in Texas on 3 of 5 state-mandated high school standardized tests (STAAR) in 2014. The charter schools outperformed ISDs on one, and they tied on one. In 2014, only 1.2% of ISDs (1 of every 102) did not pass the state's financial accountability ratings, while 8.2% of charters fell short (1 of every 12).

A major difference in traditional public schools versus public charter schools is that parents of traditional public school students can vote for trustees who are accountable to the public. Parents of traditional public school children have access to the trustees to communicate their needs. There is taxation with representation. Charter school parents cannot participate in choosing charter schools' boards of directors nor do they have input into how the money is spent.

Public charter schools primarily locate in larger urban and suburban areas. In fact, 60% of charter campuses are located in the top five most populous Texas counties. Charters compete with ISDs since they get \$734 *more per student* from Texas education funding than the state gives the ISDs. These funding differences only get wider when "weights" are added to students who are categorized as economically disadvantaged, English as a second language, special needs, etc.

Come to the March 9th and 10th Unit meetings to learn more and discuss public education, including traditional and charter schools in Dallas. Susybelle Gosslee and Bill Betzen will present information. – *Marlene Cohen*



~ In Memoriam ~

Renee Michelle Pope-Nweze

Deceased 2/12/2016

Organization VP Mildred Derrough Pope lost her daughter recently. She passed away after a hard-fought battle with cancer. Our warmest thoughts and prayers are with Mildred and her family during this difficult time.

Donations can be made to: Holy Cross Catholic Church
Attention: Liturgy Department Choir
5004 Bonnie View Road, Dallas, Texas 75241

DONOR HONOR ROLL

Many thanks to the following who have given to LWVD and LWVD EF since the last report in the January VOTER.

BENEFACTOR

Pat Vaughan

PATRON MEMBERS

Carol Brin, Janice Brin, Cheryl Pollman, Katherine S. McGovern

MEMORIALS

Ann Cameron Shuman in Memory of Sally Eatmon
Linda Wassenich in Memory of Pepper Aronoff
Barbara Materka in Memory of Marion Gholston

SCHOLARSHIP

Helen Frank

DONORS

Terry Brown, Madeleine Crouch, Joyce Forney, Virginia Whitehill,

DONORS

Liz Wally, Kathryn Tucker, Eleanor Sutherland, Miriam Foshay, Dan Henry Lee III, Just Give 1511, Michael Wimbish, Cecilia McKay, Pat Mitchell, Kathryn Tucker, Katie McDermott

A huge thank you to the donors through the Susan B. Anthony luncheon, who will be recognized at a later time. This year's luncheon was one of our most successful!

**REMEMBER
THE LEAGUE
IN YOUR WILL**

WHAT IS YOUR LEGACY TO THE LEAGUE?

You love our democracy, right? You cherish our freedoms, right? You love the League of Women Voters, right? So what are you doing to make sure they continue?

Your legacy to the League may involve making a bequest to the League in your will. If you designate endowment, your gift will be held in perpetuity, and the income spun off from your gift as interest, dividends, and appreciation can be used to fund annual activities. If you make your bequest to the Long-Term Reserve, the League will have a little more flexibility as to how the gift can be used, such as for a special project. The funds will not be held in perpetuity.

Consider how you want to support the League, both now and in the future. If you have any questions, you can contact Linda Wassenich at 214-368-5305 or LindaVote@gmail.com.

Susan B. Anthony Luncheon and Silent Auction

You are invited to view Jan Naxon's photo album: [2016Feb LWV Regina Montoya honoree, Lakewood CC](#)

[<email.jpg>](#)

2016Feb LWV Regina Montoya honoree, Lakewood CC

Dallas, Texas -

Feb 11, 2016

by **Jan Naxon**

League of Women Voters annual Dallas luncheon - 2016 honoree Regina Montoya. Photos by @2016JanNaxonPhotography. (jan_naxon@yahoo.com 214-662-3455)

[View Album](#)

[Play slideshow](#)

[Contribute photos to this album](#)

Message from Jan Naxon:

Hi all. I included both "fit for print/media" photos and almost anything else for choices, memories of the day for Regina, family and friends...and the LWV. Enjoy. It was a beautiful day and lovely event. Congrats, Leigh, on getting it done so well!

If you are having problems viewing this email, copy and paste the following into your browser:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/h/sredir?uname=103266385738954291730&target=ALBUM&id=6251923569071262657&authkey=Gv1sRgCPqVt8uWuarfyQE&feat=email>

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[<picasaweblogo-en_US.gif>](#)

PRESENTATION TO UNIT MEETINGS JANUARY 13 &14, 2016 CONVERSION TO 501(c)(3) ORGANIZATION

WHAT: Conversion of the LWVD to one entity, 501(c)(3) (currently known as LWV Dallas Education Fund), while the 501(c)(4)(currently known as LWV Dallas (Operation Fund) will remain as a “shell”(inactive). In addition, the new 501(c)(3) LWV Dallas will have an IRS “h” designation that would allow us to use our 501(c)(3) budget for lobbying activities as long as they don’t exceed 20% of our budget.

WHY: Under the current structure the 501(c)(3) entity houses all education activities while the 501(c)(4) entity houses the membership and lobbying activities. From an accounting point of view this is a cumbersome and at times confusing process. It requires two audits @\$1,000 each. It also makes it difficult to recruit someone to take on the job of treasurer. Fundraising for the 501(c)(4) is also very difficult because the donations to the operations fund are not tax-deductible.

WHEN: At the Annual Meeting on April 30, 2016, a vote will be required from the members to approve the bylaw changes required by this action. At the 2015 Annual Meeting the members approved to go ahead with the process of conversion.

HOW:

- Researched the experience of other States (LWV Wisconsin, LWV Minnesota, LWV California and LWV Oregon).
- Consulted with a pro-bono lawyer experienced in non-profits (D’Ann Johnson of Texas C Bar).
- Established a local committee, composed of League members with the necessary skills and experience to research the conversion and make the necessary bylaw revisions.

BACKGROUND: The 2005 Wisconsin state convention authorized an investigation into the feasibility of converting to a 501(c)(3) only. They consulted a pro-bono lawyer who helped them develop a plan. The plan was presented at their 2007 Wisconsin State Convention. Following approval by the IRS, the Leagues in the State of Wisconsin made the conversion. LWV Oregon converted recently. As of March 2015, 17 California Local Leagues have converted. LWV Minnesota is in the process of helping its 34 Local Leagues with the process of conversion.

ADVANTAGES:

- Reduced complications in maintaining the books for LWVD making it easier to keep and find new treasurers.
- Many potential donors want a tax-deduction for their donations. The 501(c)(4) entity does not provide for tax-deductible donations.
- LWVD will file only one tax return.
- Financial reports will be easily understood.
- LWVD will no longer have to have separate fundraisers for each organization.
- Fundraising will be easier because of the tax-deductible nature of all contributions.

DISADVANTAGES:

- Will have to carefully monitor the monies spent on lobbying activities for accurate reporting. Under the IRS “h” designation LWVD could spend up to 20% of its budget on lobbying activities.

Should the LWVD be in a position to spend more than 20%, we would reactivate the 501(c)(4) shell we plan to maintain.

	DIRECT LOBBYING	GRASS ROOTS LOBBYING	TOTAL LOBBYING
2012 LWVUS	4.7%	4.0%	8.7%
2013 LWVUS	4.0%	2.4%	6.4%
2014 LWVUS	4.1%	2.4%	6.5%

LWVD spends a very minimal amount on lobbying activities.

EXPERIENCE OF LEAGUES THAT HAVE ALREADY CONSOLIDATED:

- Enables the local Leagues to convey to their donors that their contributions are fully tax-deductible.
- From discussion with leaders of Leagues that converted, none have found any problems or unforeseen consequences from the conversion.
- Some Minnesota Local Leagues have been asked to complete volunteer time sheets, which have been automated, however they found that most of their activities are educational.

Eileen Rosenblum and Cecilia McKay – January 11, 2016

M A R C H 2016

2 SMU Women’s Symposium

3 LWVD Board Meeting 11:45 am- League office

9/10 LWVD Unit Meetings (see pg. 1 for details)

15 April VOTER articles **DUE**

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**

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

**League of Women Voters of Dallas
2720 N. Stemmons Freeway, Suite 812
Dallas, TX 75207-2241**

Voice & Fax: 214 688-4125

E-mail: lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net

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