



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

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DALLAS

VOTER

April
2007

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SAVE THE DATE SATURDAY, MAY 5TH

Annual Business Meeting

Dallas Central Public Library
7th Floor O'Hara Hall

8:30 - 11AM

Breakfast Buffet \$10
Free Underground Parking

Your **attendance is critical** to form a quorum in order to elect new officers and adopt a budget and program for next year.

This year's awardees are:
Myrtle Bales Bulkley Award

Pat Vaughan

Virginia Macdonald Leadership Award

Marsha Fogarty

President's Meritorious Service Award

Ann Jones, Brenda Marks, and Linda Sharp.

Come and help us honor them!

Please see Registration Form insert for details.



Annual Meeting Awards Committee

Seated: Linda Wassenich, Alix Mason, Dorothy Masterson, and Nancy Todes. Standing: Virginia Whitehill, Genie Fritz, Sandy Greyson, Eleanor Sutherland, and Rebecca Bergstresser.

Combined Unit Meeting

Thursday, April 12th

11:30 AM - 1 PM

Immigration in Dallas County: Perception vs. Reality

Catholic Charities Immigration Center

5415 Maple Avenue @ Butler, Dallas 75235
(Suite 400 is located behind
Maple Plaza II Office Park.)

Immigration Study Committee Co-Chairs
Maureen Jones & Dr. Laura Gonzalez

Moderator: **Roger Kallenberg**

Panelists

Dr. Jennifer G. Cutrer, Executive Director,
Legislative Affairs, Parkland Hospital

Dr. Jose Angel Gutierrez, Professor,
Political Science, UT-Arlington

Dr. Beverly Mitchell-Brooks, President
Urban League of Greater Dallas

Anne Marie Weiss-Armush, President
DFW International, Co-founder of the
Immigrant Council for Conflict

Call the League Office 214-688-4125
by **Monday, April 9th** to reserve a box lunch
for \$10 payable at the door.

2006-2007

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John Sheehan

Nancy Todes

Adrienne Williams

Suzanne Wills

President's Post

Immigration Forum

At our **April 12th Combined Units Meeting**, we hope that you will find our Immigration Forum not only an intriguing introduction to this topic but also an in depth presentation from panelists who are "in the trenches" of immigration.

The Immigration Study Committee, co-chaired by **Maureen Jones** and **Dr. Laura Gonzalez**, has been immersing itself in learning about how immigration is impacting Dallas County. Committee members **Arline Pitt** and **Betty Bernhardt** are focusing on the environmental impacts, **Barbara Downey** and I are looking at the economic aspects, **Eileen Ricks**, **Lou Ann Ligon** and **Roger Kallenberg** are concentrating on the educational components, **Maureen Jones** on cultural implications, and **Rita Eason** and **Laura Gonzalez** on political involvement. **Indiana Porta**, a senior in International Studies at SMU, has also joined us in an internship capacity and is currently researching the civil vs. criminal aspect of immigration violations.

The one recurring difficulty and dilemma that we face is how to define and understand this issue of immigration. What kind of "problem" is it, requiring what kind of a "solution?" Is it a humanitarian crisis? Is it a civil rights issue? Is it a security matter? Is it a labor supply and demand situation? Is it simply a monumental administrative task of bureaucratic paper processing? Depending upon which way it is perceived, immigration becomes that particular reality.

Election News

Watch our web-site Calendar of Events for details on our upcoming **Mayoral Candidates' Forum**. On April 23 check out our **Online Voters Guide** for the May 12 Election. Of course, beforehand, don't forget to go to www.dalcoelections.org and **print out your sample ballot!**

Dallas League News

Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend the **Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 5th**. We are once again having it in a **Business Breakfast format**, enabling you to have the best rest of the day!

Notification of nominations for next year's Officers and Directors, the 2007-8 proposed budget and recommended programs, and suggested changes to Bylaws will all be **sent to you in a separate mailing** three weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting.

Meanwhile, take a moment and help celebrate the **Tenth Anniversary of our Web-site** by logging on to www.lwvdallas.org. The first Lucky Six people to contact our Web Wizard **Ann Adams** with the right answers to the **questions on page 6** will win a certificate for a **free Wine Tasting Event for 30 guests**.

Cheers and Salud Y'All!



Interview with Mexican Ambassador Enrique Hubbard *Maureen Jones, Co-Chair of Immigration Study Committee*

LWV-D President **Katherine Homan** and I interviewed **Mexican Consul General Enrique Hubbard Urrea** along with **Ana Virginia Hernandez** and **Consul Oscar Solis Flores**. In true League style, questions were prepared and submitted in advance for them to research any necessary data.

Question: ***Do you have statistics about Mexican citizens residing in Dallas County?***

Hubbard: Immigrant populations tend to be fluid, mobile and sometimes invisible. Our consulate serves an area from Wichita Falls to the eastern border of Texas, from the Red River to south of Waco. But we estimate that in the four counties of Dallas, Tarrant, Collin and Denton there are one million Mexican nationals. Some are dual citizens, some are legal residents and some are undocumented.

Question: ***What are the factors driving Mexicans to immigrate to the United States and to Dallas in particular?***

Hubbard: Let me clarify a misperception that Mexicans emigrate because of unemployment or poverty. In reality it is the disparity in salaries and the attraction to Dallas that causes the majority of Mexicans to come to this area. For the same work, say in construction, a person earns 175% more in Dallas than in Mexico. There are plenty of jobs in this area; thus the worker can have a better life here, as well as help his family that stays in Mexico.

Question: ***Of your estimated 30,000 Mexican nationals in North Texas correctional facilities, what are the offenses for which they are incarcerated? Have they broken laws other than their immigration violations?***

Hubbard: The number of Mexicans in correctional facilities is always changing because they are often not held for terribly long periods. Given that there are one million Mexicans in the area, this estimate of 30,000 is not terribly high. 500 of them are in jail because of repeated (three) immigration violations, and those sentences are only for six months.

Many of the people are being held because of a "culture clash; that is, they have committed crimes in this country that are not considered offenses in Mexico. For example, public drinking, underage-sex, domestic violence, driving under the influence of alcohol. Ninety percent of the cases are compounded by immigration violations. Because they are not US citizens, no bail is allowed, even if they are legal residents. Since the federal courts are so backed up, they may be held for as long as 2 years before their case makes it to court.

About ten percent of the 30,000 Mexican nationals in correctional facilities have been convicted of higher crimes such as burglary, drug trafficking, etc.

Question: ***Mexico's Ministry of Education currently provides Adult Education classes in several places in Dallas. Why does the Mexican government fund this adult education program?***

Consul Solis: To date there have been 300 graduates from the *Plazas Comunitarias* programs in Dallas. The question of education is a question of poverty. Mexico is placing a priority on literacy; first in Mexico, then Central America and then for all Spanish-speakers in the United States. As more Mexicans move into the middle class, education is valued more; so we are making an effort to provide this education to our people, no matter where they reside.

Question: ***What is your perception of the Operation Wrangler?***

Hubbard: The State of Texas gives money to local sheriffs for the purpose of stopping drug and human trafficking. During the seven days that the Dallas County Sheriff's Department participated, 90% of those detained were for lack of documents. Only 5 of the 300 detained were actually criminals, so participation was discontinued.



The Judges v. the DEA

Suzanne Wills, Drug Policy Observer

Researchers have complained for many years that the **National Institute on Drug Abuse would not release marijuana from its crop at the University of Mississippi** for research that might demonstrate the benefits of the drug. NIDA's 12 acre plot is the only legal source of marijuana in the United States. Researchers have access to private supplies of every other drug.

In early 2001, Dr. Lyle Craker, a professor in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, **University of Massachusetts at Amherst** and an expert on the cultivation of medicinal plants, **applied for a Drug Enforcement Administration [DEA] license to produce marijuana for federally-approved research** in a privately funded facility. Both Senators from Massachusetts wrote letters to the DEA in support of Dr. Craker's application. The DEA ignored his application for over 3 years. Finally Dr. Craker and his backers sued the DEA charging "unreasonable delay." The lawsuit forced DEA to issue its ruling. It **rejected** Dr. Craker's **license application** saying it "would **not** be **consistent with public interest.**" He submitted an **appeal** for a DEA Administrative Law Judge hearing which was held.

In February, 2007, **Administrative Law Judge Mary Ellen Bittner issued her ruling in an 88 page opinion.** Here are some excerpts. "The existing supply of marijuana is not adequate..." "Competition in the manufacture of marijuana for research purposes is inadequate." Making **additional supplies available "would be in the public interest."**

"This ruling is a victory for science, medicine and the public good," Dr. Craker said. "**I hope that the DEA abides by the decision and grants me the opportunity to do my job unimpeded by drug war politics.**" Dr. Craker has hope but no assurance.

During the 1980s another DEA Administrative Law Judge, Francis Young, studied marijuana for two years before ruling on a rescheduling petition. His opinion was as emphatic as Judge Bittner's. "Marijuana in its natural form is one of the safest therapeutically active substances known to man." "It would be unreasonable, arbitrary and capricious for DEA to continue to stand between those sufferers and the benefits of this substance." "The cannabis plant considered as a whole has a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States, there is no lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision and it may lawfully be transferred from Schedule I to Schedule II [available by prescription]. The judge recommends that the Administrator transfer cannabis."

The DEA ignored Judge Young's recommendation. Cannabis remains on Schedule I, unavailable for medical use under federal law. The DEA might also ignore Judge Bittner.

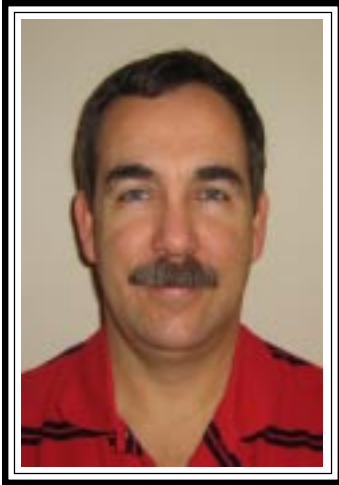
Volunteers Needed for the May 12 Election *Voters Guide*

Both the Dallas City Council and the Dallas ISD will be holding elections on May 12. The filing deadline for candidates is March 12. Early voting runs from April 30 to May 8. If a runoff election is required, it will be held on June 9. There are currently **21 candidates for Mayor, 47 candidates for City Council, and 4 for the DISD Board.**

We plan to post a ***Voters Guide*** for this election on our web site by **April 23, 2007. To accomplish that task your help is needed.** Beginning early in March we will be developing candidate questions and contacting candidates to verify email addresses and phone numbers. Later in April more help will be needed to proof read the publication.

Please call Meg Kimberland in the office (241-946-4125) and let her know when you are available. With communication on the Web, you may be able to work from home or in the office.

*Doug Taylor,
League Member &
Contributing Columnist*



Voting Matters

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) produced a white paper on **electronic voting machine vulnerability** and made recommendations about accrediting voting machines. Titled *Requiring Software Independence in VVSG 2007: STS Recommendations for the TGDC*, November 2006, it can be found at <http://vote.nist.gov/> . The Voluntary Voting Systems Guidelines (VVSG) Version 1 is available on this site: http://www.eac.gov/vvsg_intro.htm .

Why do we care about the VVSG? Well, under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) voting machines have to be accredited and tested. NIST has studied existing laboratories that the manufacturers have been using. NIST determined that the current proprietary testing is inadequate and needs independent oversight and national test standards.

The **concept of software independence** in voting systems is a great idea from NIST. The idea is that a detection method (such as audit) independent of the software used to tally the vote will detect errors. NIST was thinking of electronic tools to produce an independent voter verified audit trail. Interesting, but **can we trust the manufacturers?**

Representative Holt has a bill to reform HAVA that is under consideration in the House. The bill, HR-811, has **several strong points**. It requires voter verifiable paper trails and a mandatory audit program. While a lot of observers disagree on audit techniques, it does require the single most important technique to detect fraud: **audits**. Some feel that the audit requirements are too detailed and should be described more broadly, but they are better than what we have now.

Critics have identified **weaknesses in Holt's bill** as well. One is that it doesn't require that citizens have full access to voting records or to observe the count. Some states don't allow voter or candidate access, hence the count is done in secret and ballots cannot be independently examined. Another criticism is the composition of state audit boards does not require mathematicians or statisticians as members. Several loopholes and exceptions to audit requirements are also in the bill that may be abused. Many of the other criticisms of the Holt bill really are arguments about whether it goes far enough. <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d110:h.r.00811>:

While the League has not set a position on the Holt bill, it adopted a resolution at the last national convention endorsing voter verified paper ballots or an auditable record. So when discussing the Holt bill, we can confidently say that **the League endorses both a paper record of the vote and an audit protocol to ensure fair elections**. Many of the other provisions of the Holt bill are subject to disagreement, but if we stick to the two items above, we will have strong influence on our representatives.

Celebrating Ten Years on the Web

Yes! It has been that long since the Dallas League has been serving voters Online! **In January 1997, Ellen Joslin and Pat Vincent collaborated to establish a web page for the League of Women Voters of Dallas.** For many years Ellen served as our webmaster until she moved to Austin to be closer to her family. Currently we are using EasyWeb, a service of the California State League that provides us with a basic website for displaying our local information.

Ann Adams, our webmaster, has entered our Calendar, Announcements, Program Positions, *Voters Guide*, *Why Don't Texas Women Vote?* survey, and copies of our monthly newsletter, the *VOTER*. Watch for new developments, as plans are in the works put our televised programs on a website of our own where they can be accessed at any time.

In order to both celebrate and educate, we are **giving away certificates for a "Wine Tasting Event for 30 Guests"** to the first six Leaguers to answer the following three questions by checking out www.lwvdallas.org!

1. According to our *Join LWV* page to whom are Associate Memberships open?
2. On the *Susan B. Anthony* event page, how many different awards is Laura Estrada holding in the picture?
3. On the *Calendar of Events* page, what happens when you click on any meeting location address?

Be one of the first six members to respond by clicking on Webmaster at the bottom of any webpage and submitting your answers to **claim your opportunity to taste wines from around the world valued at \$1,000!**

Painless Fundraising

Linda Wassenich, Development

Are you looking for an **easy** way to make a **contribution** to the League? A way that doesn't cost you any money? Then, we have a couple of things to tell you about.

LWVD is enrolled in an **Office Depot program called Worklife Rewards, which gives a 5% rebate** on all purchases back to the charity. Office Depot is where the League buys its supplies, but individual purchases for personal use can also be applied. The next time you make a purchase for yourself, just give the cashier the **League's number, 1104168222**. Or you can give the **League's telephone number**, which might be easier to remember, **214-688-4125**.

Another easy way to help is to **donate your old cell phone** to the League. The League can turn in these cell phones for a cash payment. If we have enough people who are interested, we'll get set up with the company that handles these rebates. **Let me know what you think** (LindaVote@tx.rr.com).

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The **Susan B. Anthony Luncheon Committee** wishes to thank those who donated time and goods to the **Silent Auction**. Your generous contributions created a lovely setting that beguiled luncheon guests and their dollars. **Special thanks to our Unit members for the unique baskets that generated much conversation.** You should see the smiles as people talk about the silent auction weeks after the event! Please share your smiles and thanks with the merchants and contributors listed here.

Thank you to these contributors: Adolphus Hotel, Angelika Film Center, Beauty Times, Blue Mesa Grill, Café Lago, **Linda Camin**, Celebration, Corner Bakery (PrestonForest), Dallas Summer Musicals, Dallas Zoological Society, **Jane Davis, Barbara Downey**, East Kessler Park NA, **Harryette Ehrhardt**, Fish City Grill, Goodies from Goodman, Hattie's Restaurant, **Gayle Hurst**, Kathleen's Art Café, **Ellen Key**, Labyrinth Theatre, La Madeleine (PrestonForest), Landmark Theaters, Roberta Langley, Rmt., Jennifer Lipshy Photography, Luke's Locker, Luna De Noche, **Michelle Manners**, Mary of Puddin Hill, The Massage Co., McShan Florists, Methodist Hospital Gift Shop, The Mozzarella Co., Niyama Yoga Center, Office Max, Inc., P.F. Chang's, Paciugo Italian Gelato, Neila Petrick, **Beth Pirtle, Mildred Pope**, Premier Wines of Plano, Red Hot and Blue, Skippy Reynolds, Dennis Simon, Snappy Salads, Sonny Bryan's (PrestonForest), Southwest Airlines, Bob Stewart Flights, Stephanie's Manicure Salon, **Judi Stewart, Nancy Todes, Linda and Mark Wassenich, Virginia Whitehill** and each of the **LWVD units – East Dallas, Evening, Mockingbird, North Dallas and Oak Cliff**.

Thank you to these who rounded up contributions: Ann Adams, Lynda Ender, Caroline Homan, Gayle Hurst, Pat Mitchell, Judi Stewart, Linda Wassenich, Bessie Weed and Barbara Weinstein.

Thank you to these event volunteers: **Nancy Caveness, Shirley Cooper, Barbara Downey, Sarah Hauser, Gayle Hurst, Liz Wally, Suzy Wills** and all others who saw a need and volunteered on the spot.