

League of Women Voters
of Dallas

VOTER



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

Your Interviewing Skills Are Needed

**Brenda Marks, Advocacy
Vice President**

In preparation for the 81st session of the Texas Legislature the State League has requested that **we conduct legislative interviews with the 14 members in our area.** We have been assigned **State House Members Carol Kent, Robert Miklos, Dan Branch, Terri Hodge, Yvonne Davis, Helen Giddings, Barbara Mallory Carroway, Allen Vaught, Rafael Anchia, Roberto Alonzo, Joe Driver and Will Hartnett; and State Senators Royce West and Bob Deuell.**

The State League has done a great job of putting together questions and background information on subjects of primary interest statewide to help us with the task at hand. The completed questionnaires must be returned to the State League offices by Friday, January 30, 2009.

The Dallas League is blessed with members who are well informed on the issues and willing to "get their hands dirty" finding out what our representatives think about those issues. I encourage any member who would like to take part in the upcoming Legislative interviews to contact the office or me directly at bmmarks@smi-law.com. **Don't stay on the sidelines; get in the game!**

Celebrate the Holidays; Look Ahead to Another Year *Mildred Pope, Program Vice President*

December Units will meet at their regular times to celebrate the holidays with their members and plan ahead for the coming year.

It's time to do Local Program Planning for 2009-2010. The Program Exploratory Committee and Unit Program Chairs will present their planning proposals for your input. This is the time to bring your ideas and suggestions about our local program, as well as local positions we might explore and update in general meetings or public forums.

Planning for two more unit meetings with public officials is underway. North Dallas has already invited Mavis Knight, one of Dallas' State Board of Education members to speak in January. Think about which public official you'd like your unit to invite.

LWV-Texas is focusing on the latest agenda of the State Board of Education to revise the state's science curriculum. Challenges to the practice of teaching evolution as science are expected. Individuals may provide online comments concerning the proposed first draft of the science curriculum. Look for details at lwvtexas.org. Contacting your State Board of Education representative is also suggested.

Oak Cliff 10:00 Wednesday. Primrose Oaks Community Room, 2999 S. Hampton Rd at Perryton across from Kiest Park. Contact **Mildred Pope** at 214-374-8067 or mderrpope@yahoo.com

East Dalls Noon Wednesday. Lakewood Branch Library, 6121 Worth, by Abrams & LaVista. Contact **Suzanne Wills** at 214-324-1594 or suzwills@swbell.net

Evening 6:30PM Wednesday. Central Market (2nd floor Community Room B) 5750 E. Lovers Lane at Greenville Avenue. Contact **Jan Anderson** at 214-621-8597 or service@pttw.info

North Dallas 10:00AM Thursday. Meet at the home of **Jane Pak**, 7107 Churchill Way. Contact **Gayle Hurst** at 214-348-7112 or FAX 214-348-7112.

Mockingbird 9:30AM Thursday. St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church at Inwood at Mockingbird. Contact **Pat Vaughan** at 214-350-2623 or dallasvaughan@aol.com or **Eleanor Sutherland** at 214-368-8215 or ews4167@att.net

From the President's Desk

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I am ecstatic.

I am delighted.

I am absolutely thrilled.



The resulting outcome of this year's political season did not just produce the first African American President of the United States of America, (of which I am indescribably blissful), it also produced a wave of potentially new members to our organization who have a passion for civic service and political leadership. Building on the League of Women Voter's legacy, we now have opportunities to link emerging leaders across this community to other progressive pipelines of civic engagement and experiences.

We can now build on this momentum and offer additional transformative leadership development intentionally designed to empower this new group of advocates to become highly-effective, authentic, values-driven leaders. Our designs and opportunities must be intentional and deliberate.

Who we are and what drives us as advocates of democracy started when someone or perhaps some one thing began to peek our interest and caused us to investigate further. We began to ask questions, seek new knowledge and before long became a part of a movement whose history is long and highly respected. What would be an unforgettable tragedy is to let this moment disappear with nothing new to show for it in Dallas.

So once again, I am issuing a call for action. It happened just as I had imagined--endless volunteers excited and engaged in learning more about democracy, voting, campaigning, young, mature, and energized. We cannot let this moment in history get away.

Until next time...

Libbie Terrell Lee

Units Plan Successful Meetings with Public Officials

Challenged to review our program positions on Local Government, Social Policy, and Natural Resources and to invite public officials to discuss them, our unit leaders aced the first round of meetings in November.

Oak Cliff and East Dallas led off with a panel on current education issues, focusing on ethics, grading, and term limits. Ms. Ellis emphasized the high quality of many DISD programs and the transparency sought in the disclosure statements that are now required. Mr. Garza, a banker by profession, emphasized the financial checks and balances now in place, the advantages of term limits, and the problems of unfunded mandates. Ms. Knight described the State Board's mission to provide consistent educational standards and discussed the textbook situation at some length.

Mildred Pope, Oak Cliff Unit Leader (right) introduced panelists: (left to right) DISD School Board members Leigh Ann Ellis and Jerome Garza along with State School Board member Mavis Knight at the joint meeting with the East Dallas Unit.



Although the public officials, whom Miriam Foshay and Evening Unit Leader Jan Anderson invited, were unable to attend, **State Representative Terri Hodge graciously filled in. She led a discussion to learn what the electric utility issues** of concern were and to assist in planning for an Issue Forum on Public Utility Regulation in early January before the start of the 2009 State Legislative session. Stay tuned!

Pictured at the left are Dottie Box and Arlene Pitt with Representative Terri Hodge in the center of the front row. In the back row: Linda Wassenick, Mirian Foshay, Jan Anderson, Jack Ferguson, and Monita McGhee.

North Dallas and Mockingbird Unit members worked hard to generate a full house--28 members and guests--to hear **County Commissioner Maureen Dickey report on elections, jail, and transportation issues.** She is a strong supporter of terms limits for all elected officials, hiring social workers in the jail, and public-private solutions for transportation financing. Members agreed to write letters and postcards to the Commissioners Court regarding the needs of women in the criminal justice system.

North Dallas and Mockingbird Unit members gather for their joint session.



Commissioner Dickey (right) listens to questions from Glee Huebner (center) and a guest.



The League of Women Voters of Dallas Education Fund
announces the selection of
Cecilia Guthrie Boone
as the **2009** recipient of the **Susan B. Anthony Award**

A visionary leader who is impassioned about women's and girl's issues and who inspires all those around her to reach higher and do more, **Cecilia Guthrie Boone truly represents the Susan B. Anthony archetype.** While a young professional at IBM when women were just beginning to break into career paths previously restricted to men, she became aware of the disparity of opportunity between men and women. **Those experiences shaped Cecilia's choice of women and girl-serving organizations as places where she could address the gender inequity making women and children both the most vulnerable and fertile ground for social change.** Cecilia's generous leadership has empowered countless young women and girls by making sure they have choices and opportunities.



First as a tireless, working board member and then as Board President of Girls Inc. of Greater Dallas, she led this organization through financial difficulties, revising their development plan to compensate for diminished state and federal funding. She also brought change and growth by improving their administrative and board infrastructure.

As a member of the board and the Executive Committee of the DCCCD Foundation, Cecilia raised and gave money to support the DCCCD's "Rising Star" program, which provides community college scholarships to high school students maintaining a 'B' average. Recipients of these scholarships are 70% young women, many of them Hispanic. Cecilia's leadership helped expand this effort to 2800 students, 85% being the first members of their family ever to have gone to college.

At the Dallas Women's Foundation, **Cecilia took to new heights the Foundation's mission to promote and nurture women's philanthropy.** As well as serving as President, she initiated their "Quantum Leap Donor" plan securing \$10,000 per year for three years donors to support the organization's capacity-building efforts. Currently, **Cecilia is chairing their \$30 Million Campaign.**

Cecilia is also the **past chair of Planned Parenthood of North Texas, Planned Parenthood of North Texas Action Fund and Annie's List,** a PAC that recruits, trains and funds progressive female candidates running for statewide office in Texas. Currently, she is the **chair of the Boone Family Foundation, on the Dallas County Community College Foundation board, on the KERA board, and a member of the Dallas Assembly, the Dallas Summit and Charter 100.** Additionally, she is **an adjunct faculty member at the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University and a member of the Harvard-Kennedy School Women's Leadership Board.**

Born in Kentucky, Cecilia Guthrie Boone worked for IBM in Indiana, Ohio and Texas. While in Texas she met and married her husband, Garrett. With other partners, they began their fledgling business, The Container Store, in 1978. Currently, Garrett is Chairman Emeritus of The Container Store and one of the co-founders of Texas Business for Clean Air. They have three adult children, Aimee, Katherine and Guthrie. In her next life, Cecilia will do more reading, traveling and quilting.

Save the Date

to Celebrate!

Friday, February 13, 2009

The LWV-Dallas Education Fund
2009 Susan B. Anthony Award Recipient

Cecilia Guthrie Boone

**who exemplifies the characteristics of Susan B. Anthony;
independence, persistence, determination, and
dedication to obtaining equal rights for all citizens
of the United States of America**

Lakewood Country Club
6430 Gaston Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75214



**Sign Up to Help at the 2009
Susan B. Anthony Award Luncheon**

Jane Pak and Becky Brakke, Silent Auction Co-Chairs

We need your help to make this vital fundraiser for the Dallas League a success. Auction attendees love restaurant, retail store, spa and service gift certificates as well as theater, symphony, opera, talk series and sporting event tickets. We like books, including gently used. We also like handmade and homemade items, art and decorative items, gift baskets, jewelry, vacation packages and surprises. **Please consider joining us to help in the following ways!**

1. For the silent auction, I will contribute ...

2. I will help ...

- Recruit items
- Pick up donated items the week of the auction
- Help with set up the night before and/or the morning of
- Help pack up at the end
- Be a table monitor during the auction
- Be a cashier during the auction (willing to miss the program)
- Be a cashier helper

3. Garden baskets sound like a good idea. I will ...

- Help Ann Ross and Becky Brakke create them.
- Donate empty baskets and bring them to a unit meeting or the League office by January 15th.

Contact Jane at pakjane@aol.com / 972-233-2715 or Becky at bbindal@aol.com /214-363-0921 and let us know how you would like to help!

Tom Thumb /Safeway

Good Neighbor

Program

2917

Our most recent rebate

\$112.21

Sign up this month!

Sincere thanks to the group who were at the ready during early election and election day: **Katherine Homan, Pat Vaughan, Ellen Key, Suzy Wills, Lea Frailey, Ann Adams, Libbie Lee, Julie Lowenberg, Jan Anderson, Ann Ross, Barbara Materka, and Gayle Hurst.** Many calls were answered, and a few got lost (because yours truly didn't catch a few call-backs). Several did extra duty as well. And **special thanks to Meg Kimberland** for following up on us.

--Eleanor Sutherland

A Board Note

At their regular meeting in November the **Board** agreed to share with the membership the need to keep the League of Women Voters of Dallas funds in the black. This 501(c)4 account pays our bills and membership fees associated with Organization and Advocacy. Dues and money donated to this account are not deductible for income tax purposes. However, funds raised by the LWVD Education Fund (a 501(c)3 account) are deductible because they are used for Education and Voters Service. If you do not itemize deductions, please consider making your donation to the League of Women Voters of Dallas. Please help keep our operating account healthy!

IN MEMORIAM

Our deepest sympathy goes out to **Ellen Solender** whose husband

Robert L. Solender

died of leukemia on November 10, 2008.

The memorial service will be held on Monday, December 15 at at 3:00 p.m.
at the First Unitarian Church of Dallas.