

League of Women Voters  
of Dallas

# VOTER



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

**Online  
Voters Guide  
Is Ready and  
Waiting at  
[lwvdallas.org](http://lwvdallas.org)**

See Page 3 for details.

## **Awardees To Be Honored at Annual Meeting!**

Celebration treats are in store following our business labors. **Essie Reed** will be saluted for her **50 Years of League Membership**, **Cecilia McKay** will be presented with the **President's Meritorious Service Award**.

**Linda Sharp** has been selected to receive the **Virginia Macdonald Award** Since 2005, Linda has been active with the LWV-D City Government Observer Corp. She participated in the Local Program Planning committee in 2008 and chaired the bylaws committee in 2007.

Linda's chief interests are in the area of environmental affairs. She currently is a member of the City of Dallas' Environmental Health Commission. She has held office in several local environmental organizations and was the alternate for the public position on Region C Water Planning Group from 2004 to 2008.

## **Quorum Needed at Saturday, May 16th Annual Breakfast Business Meeting**

**Katherine Homan, Organization VP**

We will be convening once again at **8:30AM in O'Hara Hall on the 7th Floor of our Downtown Public Library**. No charge for parking, but bring your ticket up for validation.

Breakfast 'noshings' will be available to fortify you for the heady matters we will be voting on--most especially deciding whether or not to conduct a **study on TIFs and MMDs**. Additional considerations will involve approving a new **support item for our Appointed Boards & Commissions position** and voting on major changes to our bylaws, along with the **2009-2010 Budget**.

Last but not least, we will elect a roster of **new officers and directors**, topped by a **new president**. The original slate of nominees has been amended with the nomination of **Cherlyn Remington** for VP Voter Outreach and **Karlton Remington** for another two-year term as Director.

Your presence is vital in order for all this business to be officially conducted. Check back in the **April issue of the VOTER** to refresh your memory about each of these proposals.

Registrations **due Monday, May 11** by mailing in or faxing to 214-688-4126 the enclosed Registration form. Even simpler, call 214-688-4125 and leave a message with the League Office. \$10 for optional breakfast 'noshings' will be collected at the door.



Essie Reed



Cecilia McKay



Linda Sharp



Liz Wally

**Liz Wally** will receive the **Myrtle Bales Bulkley Award** at the Annual Meeting. When she moved back to Dallas in the late 1980's, she joined the League and has served in various positions on and off the board since then. She has been treasurer, unit leader, nominating committee member, and voter service and registration chair, among other roles.

Liz is well known for her work in peer mediation and conflict resolution. She worked with Dispute Mediation Services, the DISD and other school districts, and many other organizations. Liz is active in neighborhood zoning issues and currently serves on the city plan commission.

--Bios by Linda Wassenich, Awards Committee

## From the President's Desk

2008-2009

### **Board of Directors**

#### *Officers*

#### **President**

Libbie Terrell Lee

#### **President-Elect**

Sandy Greyson

#### **Vice Presidents of**

#### **Organization**

Katherine Homan

#### **Program**

Mildred Pope

#### **Advocacy Brenda Marks**

#### **Voter Outreach Toni Rose**

#### **Secretary**

Suzanne Wills

#### **Treasurer**

Miriam Foshay

#### **Directors**

Ann Adams

Barbara Downey

Carolyn Dunnigan

Rose Harder

Ellen Key

Cherlyn Remington

Karlton Remington

Nancy Todes

Well, this is my last message to you as president of the League of Women Voters of Dallas. I thank you for your support. I have been honored by this opportunity and hope that I have in some way earned the trust and confidence you placed in me.

This organization epitomizes all that the democratic process represents, including advocacy and education. As I state often, it is indeed an honor and a privilege to serve as the leader of this historic organization, and you have shown indescribable support and commitment during these past 24 months. While what I envisioned us accomplishing has not all been attained; we have most definitely not lost stride, and the League continues to be looked to as the "gold star" for fair and impartial positions on issues that matter to the community.

Our greatest remaining challenge is to put doable strategies in place to replicate what we do with new and gifted young women and men who too have a passion for community service.

An unknown poet shared these words...*"The heights achieved by the greatest were not attained by sudden flight; but they, while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night."*

Giving the voters of Dallas access to the best possible information so they can cast an informed vote is the League of Women Voters of Dallas' primary mission. I challenge you yet again to use your gifts and talents, so that we can continue to speak implicitly to the issues that affect us all. The community looks to the League to inform and educate on issues that are in the forefront and that matter the most.

I asked you to join me in forging two initiatives in 2007. Each on its own was expected to strengthen our respect in this community.

I asked that we commit to meeting as a general body four times a year. The plan was intended to put in place a "call for members" effort in a deliberate attempt to diversify our membership by strategically inviting women and men from other ethnic groups who share our mission and vision. I also asked that we think critically of meaningful ways to awaken the "sleeping giant" known as the 18 – 35 year-old voters, especially female voters; and then identify and implement ways to generate excitement while creating lifetime voters.

The sleeping giant was awakened in 2008, but now we are challenged to make certain that these new emerging Dallas County leaders are engaged so that the social justice issues we advocate on behalf of will also be advanced...while strengthening and diversifying the membership of the League of Women Voters of Dallas.

It's been great, FRIENDS, and I thank you.

Moving forward...



Libbie Terrell Lee

## **Are You Ready to Vote in the May 9 Election? You Will Be with the Following Voting Information.**

First, find out **what's on your ballot**. Go to [dalcoelections.org](http://dalcoelections.org), click on 'Check your Voter Registration Status' and enter your name. That will take you to your Voting Precinct Information. Click on 'View Ballot for this Precinct' and **print**.

Your ballot will show **two candidate races**, one for the City Council and one for an At-large trustee to the Dallas County School Board. It will also show **two propositions** for Special Amendments to the Dallas City Charter.

Second, see **candidate answers to Voters Guide questions** by going to [lwvdallas.org](http://lwvdallas.org) and clicking on *Voters Guide*. Also, see the Pros and Cons to Propositions 1 and 2. Mark your ballot accordingly.

Third, **Vote Early** at the time and place of your convenience. Early voting begins on **Monday April 27** and extends all the way through to **Tuesday, May 5**. This includes Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3 times and places. For details on the hours of operation and all the Dallas County locations at which you may vote, **see the insert**.

Fourth, if you are **voting on May 9 Election Day** Saturday, remember that you must vote **at the precinct listed on the Voting Precinct Information** you clicked on originally. If you do not vote at your assigned polling place, your votes will not be counted.

### **Important Reminder:**

The ballot language on Propositions 1 and 2 is critical, especially because it contains double negatives. The examples below may help to clarify the intent of your vote.

**If you wish to prohibit the City of Dallas from taking the steps set out in the Proposition 1 to fund payment of a convention center hotel, vote YES. If not, vote NO.**

**If you wish to prohibit the City of Dallas from taking any of the actions outlined in Proposition 2 (unless subsequent notice and voter approval is given), vote YES. If not, vote NO.**



LWV-D President Libbie Lee is pictured with LWV-US President Mary Wilson, LWV-D Organization VP Katherine Homan, and LWV-US Secretary-Treasurer Elaine Wiant, who is a local League member, at the reception for President Wilson at the Communities Foundation of Texas site.

## **Change in Drug Policy** **Suzanne Wills, Drug Policy Issues Chair**

**It looked like business as usual in the first days of President Obama's presidency.** The Drug Enforcement Administration raided two medical marijuana dispensaries in California. The US delegation to the United Nations blocked harm reduction measures, such as sterile syringe programs and treatment for drug addiction, in talks concerning a new UN drug policy strategy in Vienna.

**Then things began to change.** White House spokesperson Nick Shapiro announced that the DEA raids on dispensaries would not continue after President Obama appointed a new Administrator saying, "The president believes that federal resources should not be used to circumvent state laws." As a candidate Obama, along with all the other Democratic candidates and two Republican candidates, had pledged to stop the raids.

Several days later, on his first day on the job, Attorney General Eric Holder said in response to a question about the raids, "What the president said during the campaign, you'll be surprised to know, will be consistent with what we'll be doing in law enforcement." **There have been no more raids.**

The United States gave its negotiators at the United Nations summit new guidelines: "**The US will endorse and support needle exchange programs.**" Obama is a long standing supporter of the programs. However, the US has not supported all harm reduction measures endorsed by the Europeans and the term "harm reduction" may not appear in the final UN declaration.

**President Obama's choice for director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), the drug czar, is the clearest indicator that meaningful reforms may be on the horizon.** He is Seattle Police Chief R. Gil Kerlikowske. Seattle was among the first cities to implement syringe exchange programs. The city categorizes marijuana arrests as the lowest law enforcement priority and has implemented innovative overdose prevention strategies. The State of Washington legalized medical marijuana ten years ago.

Multiple sources report that Tom McLellan, Ph.D., cofounder and CEO of the Treatment Research Institute at the University of Pennsylvania, will be named deputy director of demand reduction at ONDCP. McLellan is a highly respected researcher specializing in treatment quality and outcomes measurement.

**These developments could be isolated incidents or they could be signals that the Obama administration intends to focus federal drug policy on harm reduction and begin to cede marijuana policy to the states.** That would be the biggest change in drug policy since alcohol prohibition was repealed in 1933.

## **Form-based Zoning Update** **Sandy Greyson, President-Elect**

Several previous VOTER articles discussed the form-based zoning issue that has been working its way through Dallas City Hall for the last two years. Form-based zoning will be used to create walkable, urban neighborhoods similar to West Village and Mockingbird Station. On February 25th, the City Council voted unanimously to support a neighborhood/developer compromise on this issue that included important protections for homeowners in existing neighborhoods. Those protections related to height, buffer zones, and adequately sized development parcels to prevent spillover parking.

During the vote, Council added a provision that form-based zoning be reviewed in 18 months. Since the poor economy will probably preclude major developments from occurring during that time, Council directed staff to work with individual council members to identify areas in their respective districts that might be good candidates for the creation of walkable, urban neighborhoods through the use of form-based zoning.

## **“Do Your Own Thing” in May**

Oak Cliff Unit decided to tour the new Audubon Center at their regular meeting time, Wednesday, May 13 at 10:00AM, bringing box lunches. East Dallas will join. All members are welcome.

### **April Units Report**

**Eleanor Sutherland** reports that the **Mockingbird Unit** met with **North Dallas Unit** at St. Thomas the Apostle Church with 18 members in attendance, including our resource person **Mark Wassenich**. Mark was the League's representative on Forward Dallas! Project, a two-year process to create a citywide comprehensive plan for land use, transportation, and economic development.

Mark gave an **overview of form-based zoning/planning** as related to how the city manages planning and development. The discussion covered a little history, and another approach to planning and zoning, the process carried out by Forward Dallas!

**Suzy Wills** arranged for the East Dallas Unit to hear from **Lilac Aminri** and her father who owns the former Best Scrap Metal on South Lamar. Renaming the company **Green Earth Metal Recycling, Inc.**, they described their effects to recycle and reuse as well physically destroy scrap metal. Their services include taking care of obsolete and non-working computers, monitors, printers, fax machines and other office or home electronics. They can provide a certificate that all data on storage device is electronically wiped clean if not physically destroyed.

**Mildred Pope**, leader of the Oak Cliff Unit, faced a last-minute schedule change, but came up with an excellent resource person, **Timothy Herfel from the Water Quality (and Quantity) Protection Division of EPA Region 6**, who educated us about Clean Water Standards. In narrative terms, the law provides that toxic chemicals shall not be present in toxic amounts as well as no objectionable algal densities or nuisance aquatic vegetation. His agency is an independent one that moves in the direction that science takes it. However, they are not always immune to politics; citizens should urge their representatives to keep the EPA free from political influence.

**Leader Jan Anderson** and **Evening Unit members** agreed to postpone their April meeting (which had many conflicts) until their regular meeting night, Wednesday, May 13. Contact Jan for further details at 214-621-8597 or [service@pttw.info](mailto:service@pttw.info).

## **Protecting Our Natural Resources**

*Mildred Derrough Pope, Program VP*

The League of Women Voters is an organization of women and men with a multitude of interests; however, for the most part our families are our primary focus. In April our Units focused on **“Care of our Natural Resources,”** mindful of the fact we must begin the process in our homes.

We can begin with our children and grandchildren by encouraging them to free themselves from the forty to sixty-five hours per week many of them spend attached to electronic media. **Our children's missing connection with natural resources possibly threatens the future health of our natural resources and of our people.** I suggest that spending time outdoors is the best way for children to develop a connection to nature and the foundation on which to continue environmental stewardship.

For those of us responsible for the care and well-being of our homes, I offer a recipe for a **General All-Purpose Cleanser**. Mix one (1) part water with one (1) part distilled white vinegar into spray bottle. This cleanser works great on countertops, glass, mirrors, and toilets.

There are many **benefits of cleaning with vinegar**. It is inexpensive, effective sanitizer, removes odors, rather than covering them up, and is environmentally friendly. The acidity of vinegar makes for a mild disinfectant, great for cleaning after cooking. You can also clean your computer, printer, fax machine, and other office equipment with vinegar and water and may also be used to clean your window blinds and windows.

## **Su\$an B. Anthony Award Luncheon & \$ilent Auction Report**

*Katherine Homan and Mildred Pope, Co-Chairs*

Despite these terribly tough economic times, our Susan B. Anthony Award Luncheon and Silent Auction was more successful than ever before and exceeded even our highest hopes. In round figures, we grossed \$72,000 and netted \$57,000! In greater detail, of the 60 sponsorships, 41 were from members and 19 from nonmembers, and of the total tickets sold, 44% were to members and 56% to nonmembers.

In addition to **Cecilia Boone**, our irresistible awardee, credit for this fundraising achievement should be attributed to our Honorary Host Committee with Co-Chairs **Serena Simmons Connelly** and **Lisa Simmons** and to Executive Committee members **Cecilia McKay, Becky Brakke, Jane Pak, Ann Ross, Suzy Wills** and **Miriam Foshay**. Special recognition and appreciation is due, however, to our remarkable Office Administrator **Meg Kimberland** for coordinating from 'behind the scenes' the logistics of this entire event.

If you were unable to attend this splendid event, a video by **Cherlyn** and **Karlon Remington** is available for online viewing at our [lwvdallas.org](http://lwvdallas.org) web-site.

Cheers and bravos to everyone's '*Failure is Impossible*' spirit and efforts!

### **What a difference volunteers make!!!**

*Jane Pak and Becky Brakke, Silent Auction Co-Chairs*

We would like to say a "Susan B. Anthony" Thank You to everyone who was involved in the Silent Auction at the League Award Luncheon on February 13<sup>th</sup>. So many were ready to roll up sleeves to help this year, and what a difference that made!

**Ann Adams** and **Patti Crumley** were on board early, writing solicitation letters and running countless errands. Always willing to lend a hand, they stayed to the end--talking to merchants, creating displays, filling out bid sheets, toting, setting up, and then packing up supplies for next year.

**Anne Ross** said "I'll do that" at one of our early planning meetings when a new idea was discussed—**creating flower baskets**. And what a professional job she did. To make the flower basket project work, ten Leaguers donated baskets so we could cut costs.

Thirty-one Leaguers responded to pleas for auction items—hand knit scarves, hand knit baby blankets and sweaters, symphony and theater tickets, service and restaurant gift certificates, gift items, books, hand crafted jewelry, original art and much more. Two of you were ready to open your homes – either to create an interesting dinner or to donate a week in your vacation home. **All the Units created unique baskets filled with tempting merchandise.**

The Honorary Host Committee responded with wonderful support and interesting items. Additional Leaguers and friends volunteered to help at the event. Fourteen of you served as table monitors, and sixteen of you took positions in the check-out process. And what a smooth check-out we had!! **Pat yourselves on the back and congratulate the person you worked next to.** You all helped create a wonderful and profitable Silent Auction.

As we bask in the afterglow of this event, we cannot say "**Thank You**" enough.

### **LWV-TX Announcement**

**Mary Finch, Advocacy VP**

**Lynda Ender**, LWV-Dallas, has agreed to become the new **Program Chair for Health Care for the Medically Indigent** (Medicaid.) She comes with a wealth of experience working with Medicaid and League advocacy.