

League of Women Voters
of Dallas

VOTER



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

School Board Elections May 8, 2010

A *Voters Guide* for DISD District 4, 5 and 7 School Board races is currently available online at www.lwvdallas.org. The candidates for District 4 are **Nancy Bingham** (incumbent) and **Camile White**, District 5 candidates are **Lew Blackburn** (incumbent), **Daphne Edmond**, and **Claudia Fowler**; and for District 7 they are **Eric Cowan** and **Louis Trujillo**.

Last October we held candidate forums for school board Districts 1, 3 and 9 races at three DISD elementary schools, arranged by our Voter Outreach Forum Coordinator **Carolyn Dunnigan** with DISD.

This spring we continued that service and arranged candidate forums for Districts 4, 5, and 7. In District 7, we were able to co-sponsor with Rosemont PTA and RECPTA to host Eric Cowan and Louis Trujillo.

When Mr. Trujillo canceled at the last minute, we had to close the forum, because, under League policy, no forum can be held if only one candidate is present. The Rosemont PTA and RECPTA co-sponsors held an informal Q&A with Candidate Eric Cowan and Moderator DMN Reporter Roy Appleton.

What's On Tap for the 'Do Your Own Thing' Unit Meetings

All Welcome - Guests Included!

Wednesday Unit – May 12 at 10:00AM

Brunch & Movie

The Young Victoria, based on the courtship and early reign of England's longest-serving monarch, portraying the new, inexperienced Queen establishing her authority over those who would rule in her stead.

At the home of **Katherine Homan** – 1629 Handley Drive, 75208
RSVP to (214) 948-6992 or kvhoman@sbcglobal.net

Evening Unit – May 12 at 6:30PM

Pot Luck Appreciation Dinner for Unit Leader **Jan Anderson** and Welcome for 2010-11 Unit Leader **Susan Saunders**.
SMU Episcopal Student Center – 3308 Daniel Avenue near Hillcrest.

Additional parking allowed after 6PM behind Dallas Hall or in the Law School Parking Garage.

Thursday Unit – May 13 at 10:00AM

Speaker Jennifer Cottingham, Program Manager with City of Dallas Water Facilities, followed by a light lunch at the home of **Gayle Hurst** – 9713 Milltrail Drive, 75238 - (214) 346-7112

Note the time change

and be sure to come out to hear
City of Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert
present

A Progress Report on The Greening of Dallas

5:30-7:00PM on April 27, 2010

in the Oak Corner Room of the

Center for Community Cooperation

2900 Live Oak, Dallas 75204

We're sending positive thoughts to our president, **Sandy Greyson**, who is in Atlanta to attend her 92-year old Mom who fell and broke her hip.



2009-2010

**Board
of
Directors**

Instead of her usual President's Message, we've excerpted portions of her State of the League Report from the Annual Meeting Workbook, including some items from the Organization and Advocacy Vice Presidents that may be new to those of you who weren't at the meeting.

Officers

President

Sandy Greyson

It's amazing how fast a year can go by in an organization like the **Dallas League of Women Voters**, with its ambitious array of activities. The League year started last July with a productive board retreat during which the calendar of programs was planned and operational changes were discussed.

Vice Presidents

Our program year got off to a rousing start with our transportation forum and luncheon at the Belo Mansion in September....

VP Organization

Katherine Homan

The board initiated another effort in connection with League finances--holding a "non-event" fundraiser in the fall to benefit the 501 (c) (4) operating fund....

VP Program

Mildred Pope

Speaking of the Susan B. Anthony luncheon, ...over two-thirds of our guests made it through the snow to Lakewood Country Club, a huge tribute to our gracious honoree, **Julie Lowenberg**.... Many, many kudos to the intrepid luncheon and silent auction committee members who created a memorable and successful event....

VP Advocacy

Brenda Marks

VP Voter Outreach

Secretary

Suzanne Wills

The Economic Development Tools (TIF) Study is well underway with the able guidance of co-chairs Barbara Downey and Brenda Marks. We were sorry to lose co-chair **Judy Jacks**, who moved to Denver in February; she had contributed a great deal of time and energy to the study before she moved. We miss her but wish her much happiness in her new city, where she says she plans to join their League right away!...

Treasurer

Miriam Foshay

In addition to thanking the officers and board of directors, I want to give my special thanks to **Katherine Homan**, who works hard for LWVD every day, who knows all there is to know about League, and who was always happy to share her knowledge and insights with me whenever I asked....

Directors

- Ann Adams
- Judy Coats
- Barbara Downey
- Carolyn Dunnigan
- Rose Harder
- Judy Jacks
- Ellen Key

And last but not least, thank you to all of you, the League members who make LWVD the outstanding organization that it is. Your concern for good government, your interest in national, state, and local issues, your attendance at meetings, your financial support, your efforts to register and educate voters, and your ongoing efforts to improve government at all levels, make me proud to serve as your president.

The State of the League

Continuing with excerpts from the Annual Meeting Workbook
which is now available on our lwvdallas.org website.

Organization - Katherine Homan, Vice President

The commitment to 'change' so evident during the 2008 presidential election campaign was one that LWV-Dallas also embraced during its July 2009 Board Retreat, led by our new President **Sandy Greyson**.

A substantial change was related to our saving money, trees and reducing paper clutter by 'going green' with the electronic distribution of our VOTER newsletter and posting online of our Membership Handbook and Directory. The cost-savings from these printing and postage expenses have been a significant help in keeping us from raising our \$60 dues.

Advocacy - Brenda Marks, Vice President

Compared to last year -- the busiest election year in decades -- this year has been rather quiet. But the coming year heralds to bring some of the toughest battles in recent memory to the Texas Legislature. The Comptroller of the Currency, Susan Combs, forecast in her most recent revenue estimate that the next legislature faces a 10.5% decrease in available revenue sources. Texas is a low tax state that maintains a historical structural budget deficit which it has managed to cover in prior years, but the 2006 property tax cuts made that job difficult even in good years. In the coming session, legislators will need to find buckets of money in a budget cycle that will rely on decreased sales and franchise tax revenue. Into that caldron you can throw the never-ending saga of the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT). TXDOT has informed state leaders and the public that, by 2012, it will have no money to fund new roads. The contentious subjects of Voter ID and immigration will also be back, one of which (Voter ID) was the subject of a March 2010 Republican primary non-binding ballot proposition.

The Dallas League became a founding coalition member of the North Texas Clean Air Task Force, which started off strong by holding a public hearing on the proposed new EPA ozone standard on March 16, 2010, at Arlington City Hall. EPA Region 6 Administrator Dr. Al Armendariz and a long list of elected officials from the Dallas-Fort Worth area participated. The Dallas League was ably represented by LVD Treasurer Miriam Foshay, who testified on the League's behalf and about how dangerous ozone levels have affected members of her own family. Thank you, Miriam!

I know that many letters and phone calls were made by LWVD members on many important issues at every level of government these past months. Thanks to all of you for doing your part to remind our elected officials that they work for all of us, not just a select few.

Beware of Census Scammers

Katherine Homan, Organization VP

As pointed out in the April VOTER, the U.S. Census Bureau will be working during the next few months attempting to collect census forms that were not returned.

The Bureau and consumer watchdogs, however, are warning of scammers posing as census employees in the following ways: as (1) **US Census e-mail** asking you to complete an online form or (2) **Census callers** requesting additional information such as your Social Security number or other financial information. Even if you have Caller ID, keep in mind that con artists can "spoof" their numbers to make them look official. (3) **Field workers going door to door will have badges that do not have a picture**, so feel free to ask for a driver's license or other photo ID. A census worker should not enter your home or ask for money.

In short, the Census Bureau will **not be phoning or e-mailing**. Do not hesitate to **be cautious with someone representing themselves as a census worker**.

Many thanks to Arline Pitt for taking photographs of the event and sharing them for this presentation.

41 voting members were present which is more than the 10% quorum needed to conduct official business.

President Sandy Greyson acknowledged and thanked **Carol Brin** for her 50 years of membership in the League..



Jack Ferguson helps Miriam Foshay solve some last minute technical problems for her Budget presentation while Liz Wally, Ellen Key, and Suzy Wills chat in the background.

Annual Meeting Highlights

Angela Hunt's short message included information about the Trinity Project and her position that money for flood control should be taken from Toll Road funds and not from Park funds. She recommended safety first and advocated access points and trails to get people out to enjoy the Trinity Project.



Sandy Greyson, President and Angela Hunt, Macdonald Awardee



Barbara Downey, Bulkley Awardee and Liz Wally, Presenter

Barbara Downey mentioned two insights from her league experience. First, the League is an organization not a person. You can't talk to it. You must address your concerns to individuals who are participating in it. Second, the bylaws of the League have been essential in preserving the national organization for 90 years and our own organization for 72 years. It's important to know them and follow them.



Gayle Hurst

"Thank you for the Presidential Award presented at the Annual Meeting. It is a personally humbling experience—considering what many of you Leaguers have accomplished!"-- Gayle Hurst

Gayle was honored for her long and loyal leadership in the North Dallas Unit which has now evolved into the Wednesday Unit along with the Mockingbird Unit. Keeping the unit growing and active in spite of changing conditions in women's organizations has been Gayle's accomplishment. She keeps it personal; her members get colorful reminder notes and invitations in the mail to lovely luncheons in her home. We give lip service to the grassroots nature of our organization, but Gayle is in there feeding and watering those roots. She shares her enthusiasm and interest in community issues with unit members.

Presidential Meritorious Service Awards

Eleanor resurrected the Mockingbird Unit and kept it going until it merged with North Dallas. Throughout this process she was a Co-Unit Leader and the only one keeping everyone in e-communication. In her service as League Historian, she compiled two albums of photos going back to when they were in black & white, and she continues to round up volunteers to work our League Hot Line during Early Voting and on Election Day. She is also the one we have turned to for years to provide those ubiquitous certificates we hand out—her own included.



Eleanor Sutherland and Sandy Greyson, President of the Dallas League



Cherlyn Remington

Cherlyn's meritorious service this year went above and beyond the call of duty, considering her serious illness and surgery in the fall of '09. Despite it, she had the inspiration for us to conduct voter registration at the Dallas Zoo, showed up to tape the Transportation Forum, and helped with the New Citizen voter service training of other North Texas Leagues at the new Citizenship & Naturalization Center in Las Colinas. As Cherlyn explained, she is also a preacher and has resigned her League office to begin a mission to Mexico.

72nd Annual Meeting



**Combined
Unit
Meeting
on April 8
at the
Center for
Community
Cooperation**

Thanks to Lilia Hollis for taking photographs of this event and sharing them for this presentation.

The Panel for TIF 101 included Theresa Daniel, Moderator and two experts, Consultant Mark Stein and Professor Rod Hissong.

Our expert panelists provided slide presentations that helped us understand the use of Tax Increment Financing Districts to stimulate economic development in the city.

Texas law requires that they be formed in blighted areas or on unused land that would not otherwise attract development. They are guided by a citizen advisory board, but controlled by the City Council.

Members asked questions about providing affordable housing, impacts on other taxing districts, and whether they were to the advantage of the city in the long run.



Katherine Homan is ready with handouts to welcome guests that included an Iraqi delegation sponsored by the World Affairs Council.

Our president was among the questioners.



Linda Camin chaired the event for the TIF Committee and answered questions from our Iraqi visitors.



League Bulletin Board

Contributions

Carol Brin; Carole Cohen in honor of **Julie Lowenberg**; **Madeleine Crouch**; **Theresa Daniel**; **Joanne Early** in honor of Richard Halsey; **Roger Kallenberg**, Patron Member; Lori Krostag; Melissa Petty in honor of Richard Halsey; **Jacquelyn McElhaney** in honor of Richard Halsey; **Linda** and **Mark Wassenich**, Patron Members and contribution; **Virginia Whitehill** in honor of Richard Halsey; **Elaine Wiant**, Patron Member.

Calendar

May

- 4 - Early Voting ends
- 6 - Board Meeting at 11
- 8 - **Election Day**
- 12-13 - Unit Meetings
Do-Your-Own-Thing

New Members

Jerelyn Arbuckle

4800 Victor St
Dallas 75246
214-841-0202 (H)
214-549-2580 (C)
jeriarbuckle@sbcglobal.net

Rebecca Bomhorst

1405 Indian Creek Dr
Dallas 75115
Becky.bomhorst@gmail.com

Donna Favour

9523 Fallbrook Dr
Dallas, 75243
214-341-2588

Charlotte Hyams

9600 Golf Lakes Tr, #1008
Dallas 75231
214-346-6572
Charlott_hyams@att.net

Directory Changes

Miriam Foshay

682-651-4124 FAX
Michelle Manners
214-707-6184

Our Membership Directory is available at
<http://members.lwvdallas.org>

Tom Thumb /Safeway
Good Neighbor Program
2917

Our most recent rebate
\$108.32.
Please join our program.

IN MEMORIAM

We note with sadness the passing of two steadfast League supporters.

Helen Harwig passed away of March 29, 2010, in West Bloomfield, MI, at the age of 90. **Eleanor Sutherland** recalls working with Helen in the office where her special interest was in keeping the membership count accurate. She was active in Voters Service, always ready to register citizens. She served on committees, came to unit meetings, served as treasurer, and was on the board for many terms. She was named a recipient of the Myrtle Bales Bulkley Award in 1994. Helen was always there for the League.

Richard S. Halsey, who passed away on March 28, 2010, in Dallas at the age of 81, was a stalwart supporter of the League of Women Voters—philosophically and financially. At the time of his death, he was engaged in a major project documenting the stories of 100 women activists who changed America. Known for his passionate advocacy of citizen action, Richard believed in the power of each individual to make a difference for the greater good.

Help Make Democracy Work

Join the **League of Women Voters of Dallas** *Not for Women Only!*

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.

Membership Levels

___\$60/year Individual ___\$30 additional member at same address
___\$150/year Patron ___\$500/year Benefactor

___Reduced Membership rates available upon request. Call 214-688-4125
___\$25/year Student \$____ Contribution to LWVD Scholarship Fund

Name(s) _____

Address _____

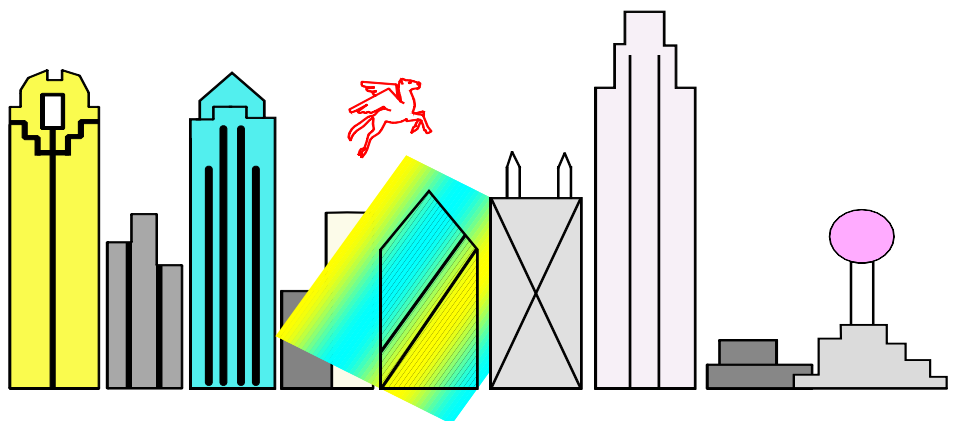
Phones: Home _____ Work _____

Cell _____ E-mail _____

Mail a check payable to **LWVDallas** with this information
to the **League of Women Voters of Dallas**
at the address noted below

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

Office: 214-688-4125
Fax: 214-688-4126
E-mail: lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.lwvdallas.org



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You may contact
Editor Barbara Downey
214-948-6641 bdowney3@sbcglobal.net
Office Administrator Lilia Hollis
214-688-4125 lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net



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