

League of Women Voters
of Dallas

VOTER



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



A TOAST TO NEW MEMBERS!

League of Women Voters Cordially Invites You and Your Guests

To Learn about the League

At a Champagne Membership Party

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

At the Home of Susybelle Gosslee

9511 Faircrest Drive, Dallas 75238

Please RVSP 214-688-4125

Or via League Office email: lwvdallas@sbcglobal.net



An Optional Extra Bonus!

4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Training to Become a Registrar for Voters



January Unit Meetings

January Unit Meetings will feature an introduction to our new local study on "Human Trafficking and Prostitution", adopted last March at the Annual Meeting, as well as a preview of meetings, forums, events, voter service activities and other exciting opportunities coming up in the spring.

January 11

Wednesday Morning Unit10:00 a.m.
Center for Community Cooperation
High Plains Room
2900 Live Oak Street Dallas 75204

Wednesday Evening Unit 6:00 p.m.
Angela's Café
7979 Inwood Road Dallas 75219

January 12

Thursday Morning Unit9:30 a.m.
St Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church
6525 Inwood Road Dallas 75209

2011–2012

**Board
of
Directors**



*From the
President's Desk*

*Michelle Manners,
President*

President

Michelle Manners

VP Advocacy

Susan Oviatt

Co-VP Organization

Rebecca Bergstresser

Co-Vp Organization

Patti Crumley

VP Programs

Mildred Derrough Pope

VP Voter Outreach

Cal Chaney

Secretary

–

Treasurer

Miriam Foshay

Directors

Ann Adams

Carolyn Dunnigan

Sandra Johnson

Scherry Johnson

Brenda Marks

Fran McElvaney

Ana Robles

Toni Rose

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

I hope everyone is enjoying a special holiday season with family and friends.

As we approach year end, it is a good time to think about tax and estate planning issues. This is often a time when individuals and couples consider gifts to their families and favorite charitable causes.

We are so grateful for the generous bequest of \$10,000 from Roger Kallenberg to the League of Women Voters Dallas. Roger will be sorely missed by all who knew him. We know how much he loved the League and appreciated the work that we do.

Gifting is an effective estate planning tool. Estate tax savings may result since gifting reduces your assets during your lifetime, so less will remain in your estate upon your death. Income tax savings are achieved as you reduce your assets, since you also remove the income generated by those assets from your taxable income. There are several types of Charitable Trusts that allow you to pass assets from your estate tax-free.

December 31, 2011, is the deadline to gift up to \$100,000 from your IRA to a charitable cause. This opportunity existed for 2010 and 2011 only.

Your generosity is appreciated!

Michelle

The League of Women Voters of Dallas has received a bequest of \$10,000 from the estate of **Roger Kallenberg**. It is a specific gift to be used for general purposes.

LWVD is most grateful for this bequest as it is for Roger's life and his years of service to our community.

~ Consider serving on the League of Women Voters Board of Directors ~

Nominations for Board of Director positions for 2012-2013 are due by February 10, 2012

Susan B. Anthony Luncheon and Silent Auction is Just Around the Corner!

Last Call! Already? Yes. The Susan B. Anthony Award Luncheon, our League's single fund-raising event, is just a month away. We have invited the public. We are the hosts. Let's make it a day to remember.

What can a member do on February 10?

- be a welcoming and helpful table monitor at the silent auction
- help create a smooth checkout by being a cashier or cashier's assistant

What can members find now for the silent auction?

- restaurant and service provider gift cards
- movie, orchestra, opera, theater and lecture series tickets
- books, both fiction and nonfiction, new and gently used
- jewelry, accessories, art and handmade things
- vacation stays and celebrity luncheons

There's still time, but there's less time than there was. Use the enclosed donation form and see how easy asking for auction donations can be. Since this event benefits the Education Fund, all donations are tax-deductible.

Contact Becky Brakke at 214.363.0921 bbindal@aol.com or Jane Pak at 972.233.2715 pakjane@aol.com and let us know how you can help the League! Volunteer to help at the event. **And please don't forget to deliver your auction contributions to Becky and Jane before the end of January.**



Alix Mason and Catherine Turner demonstrate items to be found at the Susan B. Anthony Silent Auction.

2012 LWV Texas State Convention

April 13-15, 2012
San Antonio, Texas

Want to visit San Antonio? And spend time with some fascinating, well-informed women who are movers and shakers in their communities?



Come and experience the:
LWV Texas State Convention
April 13-15, 2012 in San Antonio, Texas
at The Hilton - San Antonio Airport on NW 410 Loop

The room rate is \$104 (plus state sales and occupancy taxes) and includes free parking and a complimentary breakfast coupon good for both Saturday and Sunday mornings. Take a good friend with you and split the cost – that's just \$52 a night!

Mark your calendars NOW for this biennial event. More information – including how to register for the convention – is at <http://www.lwvtexas.org/convention.php>.

Don't forget the silent auction at the convention. Remember, this is your opportunity to influence what the League does at the State level. And if you want to run for the State Board of Directors, this is your big chance. Contact Joyce Robinson at jbrobinson@cableone.net.



(As Rebecca Bergstresser says – I like this! It reminds me that my LWVD experience got a huge jumpstart with the first state convention I attended – in San Antonio. Betty Anderson from Lubbock was LWVTX President, and I had never in my life seen one woman control an entire auditorium of excited, contentious participants with such charm, wit, clarity and decisiveness. And San Antonio was so beautiful! Sold.)

LWV Dallas Study on Trafficking and Prostitution: The Face of Modern Slavery

by Study Chair Susybelle Gosslee

The LWV Dallas approved the study of prostitution and trafficking at the April, 2011 Annual Meeting. The study committee was formed and started during the summer. The members are Clare Chaney, Pat Vaughn, Beverly Tobian and Jamie Metsinger.

When I state that human trafficking is a modern form of slavery, people sometimes tune out as their eyes glaze over or perhaps they suddenly perk up with a strange fascination of the topic. Yet, the elements of trafficking and prostitution fit the definition of slavery. Both are critical issues in Dallas.

According to the definition of trafficking in the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, trafficking is "the recruitment, transport, transfer, harboring and/or receipt of persons by means of threat of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability and/or giving payment or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of exploitation." Exploitation includes, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs.

While trafficking and prostitution are not new issues, they have grown to be the second largest industry in the world and are occurring in the Dallas area. Every year, thousands of men, women and children fall into the hands of traffickers in their country and abroad. Every country in the world is affected by trafficking, whether as a country of origin, transit or destination of victims.

When an issue is shown to be both timely and something for which the League and its members can effect change consistent with our principles, a study is approved. The purpose is to develop an understanding of the issue, come to consensus, form a position based on that consensus, and do advocacy with the different levels of government to build a better society.

Trafficking in persons has three constituent elements: the act (what is done); the means (how it is done); and the purpose (why it is done).

Most girls who have been trafficked, whether in New York or in Cambodia, eventually surrender. They are degraded and terrified, and they doubt their families or society will accept them again.

Customers are, of course, the reason trafficking and prostitution continue, and many of them honestly think that the girls are in the brothels or on the street voluntarily. Many are, of course. But smiles are not always what they seem. Many flirt to avoid being beaten or other abusive responses from their pimps. As one young girl said, "We smile on the outside, but inside we are crying."

(Look for more information about trafficking and prostitution in upcoming Voters.)

Voter Outreach Grant

We have a grant! The Dallas Women's Foundation has awarded LWVDEF \$5,100 to provide voter education and voter registration to Hispanic women in Dallas.

Last summer, Elizabeth Walley and Miriam Foshay collaborated on a proposal (the **Latina Empowerment Project**, or **LEP**) to reach out to one of the most underserved and underrepresented minorities in Dallas – its Hispanic population, in particular Latinas. Of all the minorities, Hispanics voted in 2008 at a rate of only 40% of eligible voters, far below all others. We hope to change that! And we are looking for volunteers to help with this project.

The idea for this proposal started last spring at Earth Day Dallas. While Elizabeth was manning (womanning?) our booth, a Hispanic woman came by and talked about her enthusiasm for voter registration and voter education. For Elizabeth, this was exactly the music she has been singing for years. She arranged a meeting with Maria Boccalandro and Miriam, and out of this came the grant proposal.

Maria is the director of Nodo Group, an international network of consulting firms in Venezuela. She is bilingual and has more than thirteen years of experience in organizational development consulting. We propose to pay her a nominal sum to develop and present a class in Spanish to explain the U.S. electoral system, how to vote and how to contact your elected representatives. We also plan to have voter registrars on hand to register those who are eligible but unregistered.

This project is a pilot for what we hope will be a larger, continuing effort. The proposal was for ten classes with about 20 attendees each. The goal is to arouse community awareness, to engage leaders within the community, and to create a program that will be self-sustaining.

The classes will be around dinnertime, and we will provide food to attract the hungry. We hope to have our first class in late January or early February, and to complete all classes well before the fall election. Elizabeth has already developed a program that she is trying out in local churches.

If you are interested in helping with this worthwhile project, please contact Elizabeth at (214) 695-1361 (ewalley1@gmail.com) or Fran at the League office at (214) 688-4125 or (league@lwvdallas.org).

Study Opportunity:

Should Government Services Be Contracted Out To Private Companies?

If you read the headlines, you know this is a very timely issue at every level of government. A new LWVUS study addresses this question and study papers are available on the website.

To see and download the study: Go to <http://www.lwv.org> and enter "Privatization" in the search box; click on the title The Legal Framework of Transparency and Accountability within the Context of Privatization to open; for a printable copy scroll to the end of the paper and click on the link http://www.lwv.org/files/BP_PrivStudy_LegalFramework.pdf.

A local study committee is forming now. If you would like to participate, please contact Barbara Weinstein at (972) 661-8452 or gewwendt@swbell.net.

Susan B. Anthony Silent Auction Volunteers Needed

- Auction Table Monitors
- Auction Closers
- Remainder Sales
- Cash Cashiers
- PayPal Cashiers
- PayPal Greeters

- Auction Cash & Carry
- Auction Floor Closers
- Organizer Cashiers
- Cashier Assistants
- PayPal Assistants

Other Luncheon Volunteers and Positions...
 Table Centerpieces, Programs, Desserts, Greeters, Registration



SUSAN B. ANTHONY NEEDS YOU

The Susan B. Anthony Luncheon honoring Jan Sanders is fast approaching. A few good women and men are still needed to make it a success especially in the Silent Auction area. Everyone cruises the auction section making it a great place to meet old friends and assist them in finding the perfect items for their bids. Auction monitors and cashier assistants unite the lucky auction winners with their items and expedite the purchasing process. Contact Jane Pak @ 972.233.2715 for further information.



Voter Registration



Elizabeth Walley and Fran Morris registered voters and updated current voter's registration information at the **Primrose Oaks Senior Community** on Tuesday, December 13.

OWL, The Older Women's League
 "The Voice of Mid-Life & Older Women"
 Invites you to the Panel Discussion:

Women Reinventing Themselves in Mid-Life
 Wednesday, January 25, 2012
 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
 The Senior Source 3910 Harry Hines Blvd

RSVP: 214-823-5700 *Optional lunch: \$19.00*

JANUARY CALENDAR

- 1 New Year's Day
- 5 Board Meeting
- 11 & 12 Unit Meetings
- 12 February VOTER Deadline
- 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 27 February Board Meeting
 Reports 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

The Dallas **VOTER** is the official publication of the League of Women Voters of Dallas, published 10 times yearly.

Volume 18, Number 5



**Copied on
Recycled Paper**