

VOTER

OCTOBER 2008

AMARILLO LEAGUE OF WOMEN

VOTERS

Margaret Peebles, Editor

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

☉ **New Citizens Ceremony**

Federal Court House
205 E. 5th
Amarillo, TX 79101

10:00 am to Noon
Hand Out Voter Registration Cards

*Volunteers needed!! Contact
Margaret Peebles lealonlealon@yahoo.com or
call 806 356 8119*

☉ **Candidates Forum**

Tuesday, October 14, 2008
Senior Citizens Center
Main Hall, 1220 S. Polk
6:30 pm light refreshments
Meet and greet candidates
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm program

Moderator- LWV Member Patti Lou Dawkins
There will be a reading of pro-con proposition of
restoring Randall County Court House which is
on the ballot for the general election.

*Volunteers will be needed—Contact Janette
Kelley at 373-0855 or Margaret Peebles at 356-
8119 or lealonlealon@yahoo.com*

☉ **October 20 to October 31, 2008—
early Voting!!**

☉ **October 28, 2008—Last Day to apply
for ballot by mail!**

☉ **LWV GREENERY SALE**

New Company-Different Selections
Late October until November 4, 2008

Mail Out of information in late October
**CONTACT: Susan Smith 352-2425 or Janette
Kelley 373-0855**

☉ **General Election**

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

*Volunteers needed to answer phones in the
League Office!! Contact Janette Kelley at 373
0855*

☉ **JOINT AMARILLO LIBRARY & LWV WATER STUDY MEETING**

Central Library
413 SE 4th
Saturday, November 1, 2008
3:00 PM

*Special Guest, Jarrett Atkinson, Asst. City Mgr.
Will speak on Water and water needs.*

This is a **PUBLIC FORUM** so please come and
invite friends interested in water in the panhandle.

☉ **Board Meeting**

Friday, November 7, 2008
Senior Citizen's Center on Tyler
May also enter on Polk
Lunch is at 11:30 for \$6.00 in the cafeteria
Bring your tray to the meeting room
12:00 noon--meeting

☉ **League Christmas Party**

Friday, December 12, 2008
Tentatively at Susan Smith's Home
Details will be published later

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Watching the so-called presidential debates has
left me shaking my head. What we have
witnessed so far has not been debates in any sense
of the word. A debate is “a regulated discussion
of a given proposition between two matched
sides.”

I heard Gwen Ifill on Meet the Press Sunday
morning bemoan the fact that there is very little a
moderator can do when the candidates refuse to
cooperate with the ground rules.

It was not always this way. Some of us remember when the National LWV sponsored the presidential debates: 1976, 1980, and 1984. But in 1988, they met so much resistance to their strict rules they voted unanimously to pull out and issued the following press release:

“The League of Women Voters is withdrawing sponsorship of the presidential debates because the demands of the campaign organization would perpetrate a fraud on the American voter. It has become clear to us that the candidates’ organizations aim to add debates to their list of campaign-trail charades devoid of substance, spontaneity and answers to tough questions. The League has no intention of becoming an accessory to the hoodwinking of the American public.”

The Commission for Presidential Debates which now sponsors the debates is controlled by the two major parties and their contributors. You can read more about this issue at opendebates.org.

Mina Fields Johnson

VOTERS GUIDE REPORT

The **VOTERS GUIDE** has gone to press with 11,000 copies being printed. The **GUIDE** will be ready for the candidate forum on October 14, 2008. The **VOTERS GUIDE** is the most important work of the League as perceived by the public. The voting public is dependent upon the League to provide insightful questions for our local candidates to answer that reflect what the candidates believe in and what they will do if elected. Many thanks to the members who formulated questions and proof read the finished **VOTERS GUIDE**. This year, the Amarillo League is seeking to get our **VOTERS GUIDE** on line through the Texas State LWV website, www.lwvtexas.org. Distribution Chairman, Alan Abraham is set to go with this years’ **VOTERS GUIDE** distribution. He has checked out former sites and will cover the 3 Starbuck Coffee Houses himself. Mina Johnson will cover Roasters Coffee House. Volunteers will get materials to United Supermarkets, Hastings and the Libraries. Barbara Cheek will get copies to KGNC radio. A

teacher from Canyon High School has requested 150 copies of the **GUIDE** for her classes to be distributed from the Canyon Library. Last year the league got copies into the hands of AISD seniors and this year Alan Abraham will approach AISD to see if we can reach more senior high school students. In 2008, we hope to spread the **VOTERS GUIDE** further and better.
Barbara Cheek, 3rd Vice-President (Voters Services)

SUCCESSFUL FINANCE DRIVE

Thanks to the efforts of several of the League of Women Voters of Amarillo, we once again had a successful **FINANCE DRIVE**. Those members directly involved were: Alan Abraham, Barbara Cheek, Mina Johnson and Robert Goodrich. Also Kay McMinn, our treasurer, helped keep up with donations as they came in. The reason I said those members who helped **DIRECTLY** with this effort, actually it is a fact that our organization provided a real and vital service to the citizens of our city as well as surrounding areas. It is because of the work of many that we had such a favorable response when we asked for financial support. The timing of the drive was a contributing factor. The following businesses/individuals were donors and should be thanked by one and all of you who may have contact with them:

Amarillo National Bank
Amarillo Postal Employees Credit Union
Natalie Buckthal
Glenda Cook
Pattilou Dawkins
Connie Ditto
Bonnie Dugie
Education Credit Union
Exposito School of Hair Design
Doug and Lou Ann Garrett
George and Nikki Gatlin
Happy State Bank
Carl Hare
Ann Hicks
High Plans Dermatology
Janette Kelley
Dale and Tonya Kleuskens
Wendy and Stanley Marsh 3
Dusty McGuire

Eileen Murphy LCSW
Carol Nicklaus
Alice O'Brien
Gene Parker, Randall County Comm.
The People's Federal Credit Union
Myrna and Dan Raffkind
Teri and Tom Roller
Kimberly Rutherford
Buddy Seewald
The Honorable Pamela Sirmon
Maria Sticksel
Stockyard Café
Eugene Strouse
Claudia Stravato
Susan Thompson
Trailer Auto Sales

Plans are underway for our League to once again have a GREENERY SALE. We will work with a different company this year so the items offered will be slightly different. Hopefully, this project will also prove to be a financial success. We need help sorting out the greenery and to help with delivery (when it comes in shortly after Thanksgiving).

Susan Smith, as membership chairman, will notify members of upcoming meetings with postcards. Robert Goodrich is chair of the telephone committee. Members helping with this are Pat Doyle, Nikki Gatlin, and Isabell Thompson. We have a list of prospects for League membership. If you know of someone who might be interested in joining us, please tell our president, Mina Johnson 373-6976, Susan Smith 352-2425, or Janette Kelley 373-0855. Remember: MEMBERSHIP IS EVERYONE'S JOB!!

Janette Kelley, Organizational Vice-President

Amarillo Water Study Begins

Our water study is now officially underway following State Senator Kel Seliger's presentation on Monday evening, September 29. He was well received by the audience, there were people in attendance who had not previously attended our meetings and forums (at least not since I've been a member), and we also had a couple of new additions to our membership. I was pleased with

the meeting, except that I would have liked to see many more people in attendance. I encourage all of our members to turn out for as many of the public water forums as possible, and encourage family and friends to do so as well. The issues with which we shall be dealing in this study affect the future and well-being of the Texas Panhandle.

Senator Seliger responded to all the questions submitted to him in advance by the environment committee, as well as questions asked by members of the audience. He mentioned three specific approaches that he thinks will be helpful in dealing with impending water crises throughout the state of Texas: the passage of legislation that will put teeth in the rules established by water districts and water boards, wind energy, and desalinization. He mentioned that he plans to introduce legislation that will impede the exportation of water from the Ogallala. Another of Senator Seliger's suggestions was to establish an interstate commission to monitor the condition of the Ogallala. His wide-ranging remarks suggest other questions that the environment committee may wish to address in the course of our study.

Senator Seliger encouraged everyone present to be sure to attend the next public forum, to be held on Saturday, November 1, in the upstairs meeting room of the Central Library, 413 SE 4th Ave, when Jarrett Atkinson, Assistant City Manager of Amarillo, will be the presenter. Senator Seliger praised Mr. Atkinson's wealth of knowledge of and experience with water issues and told us how Mr. Atkinson has been invaluable to him as he has sought to learn as much as possible about the complicated system that controls (or fails to control) water usage in the state of Texas. I believe Mr. Atkinson's presentation may well be one of the most important forums we have during our study, and I hope all of you will be able to attend.

Don't forget the Candidate Forum on Tuesday, October 14 at the Amarillo Senior Citizens Association, 1220 South Polk Street, and beginning at 7:00 P.M. There is adequate convenient parking, and refreshments will be provided, beginning at 6:30.

Joyce Hinsley
2nd Vice-President (Program)

VG Distribution to Begin October 13 **Volunteers to Deliver VOTERS GUIDES**

If you would like to help get the Voters Guides for the general election distributed to our Amarillo and Canyon sites, please contact Distribution Chairman, Alan Abraham, at 355-1637 for an assignment. You can volunteer to visit as few or as many sites as you wish, and you will be welcomed at each site because they are expecting you. The Guides will be ready October 13, and stored in Mina Johnson's garage, 1615 S Bryan St. #10, next to St Andrews Episcopal Church.

Observer Corps Enters 3rd Month of Activity

The Amarillo League of Women Voters established its own Observer Corps this summer and in a short period of time has made its presence known at such public settings such as the Amarillo City Commission, Potter and Randall County Commissioners Courts, the TIRZ #1 Board and the Panhandle Underground Conservation District. The rationale for "observers" at public meetings is to educate League members on local matters while ensuring that the public's right to know is honored. To join the Corps, you may contact Coordinator Alan Abraham at 355-1637; or alannancy@sbcglobal.net.
Alan Abraham

Amarillo League Registers New Voters at three Venues in 2008

This year, Amarillo's League had a GREAT year for voter registration. Our League covered three venues, the first at AC College on September 11, 2008. Volunteers Joyce Hinsley, Mina Johnson, and Lou Ann Garrett handed out 50 voter cards with addresses and Deputy Registrar, Lou Ann Garrett, registered 10 new voters for Potter county and 8 new Randall voters. On Saturday, September 27, at the United Market on Washington, volunteers Alan Abraham and Robert Goodrich handed out 22 registration cards before noon and afternoon volunteers Lou Ann

Garrett, Barbara Cheek, and Glenanna Craig handed out an additional 26 voter cards. Lou Ann registered 6 new Randall county voters. Also on Saturday, Mary Kay Wells, Laksimwati Cortes and Margaret handed out 59 registration cards. Deputy Registrar, Margaret Peebles, registered 2 new Randall County voters and 10 new Potter County voters.

Margaret Peebles, Director, Place 3

WELCOME!

Welcome to new members *Carol Cherish, Jana Comerford, Harry Everett, Arzella Kay, Stanley Marsh 3, and Senator Kel Seliger!* The membership for the Amarillo League now stands at 44 with ample room remaining for continued growth. Please refer any prospects to me for League and membership information,

Susan Smith, Membership Chairman

LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Our League President, Mina Johnson, brought up at the October board meeting that there are people would join the League but lack the ability to pay the dues. Only \$11.00 of the dues stays in Amarillo. The other portion goes to state and national. The board has voted to establish a scholarship fund to aid those who would like to be members but are financially unable. More details concerning the scholarship will appear soon. A committee was appointed to brainstorm the issue and report back to the board. The committee consists of Janette Kelley, Kay McMinn and Joyce Hinsley. Look for further information in the next VOTER. Comments can be emailed to Joyce Hinsley at djh4290@suddenlink.net or Kay McMinn at dbmcminn@suddenlink.net. Janette Kelley can be reached at 373-0855.

Margaret Peebles

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.

The **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS** is open for membership to all citizens (men and women) 18 years of age or older. Its purpose is to promote the informed, active participation of all citizens in their government. It does not support or oppose any political party or candidate but does take action on issues after study and consensus by its members.

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The hard work and dedication shown by your League is what keeps our organization strong and well respected.

Amarillo League of Women Voters
P. O. Box 19333
Amarillo TX 79114-1333
TEL: 806 372-5438

Dues are as follows:

\$60.00—single membership
\$90.00—family membership
\$35.00—student membership

To join, please send your check made out to Amarillo League of Women Voters to Kay McMinn, Treasurer, 3512 Killeen, Amarillo TX 79109.