

Voter

NOVEMBER 2008



VOL 38 • No 3 ★ ★

★ ★ ★ LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SAN ANTONIO AREA

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



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Now that the general election is over, we can finally leave our election "mode" and transition to the League "mode" at least until the mayoral/city council races in May, 2009. For me, election night is watching the returns and enjoying the end of countless political commercials. I want to give our membership an update on what the board members have been doing since the annual meeting in May.

Voter Registration Drive

We have been to numerous places registering new voters and assisting those who had questions about the eligibility to vote. The League phone which is "pounded" to my office phone at Palo Alto College. We have receive thirty to forty calls a day about the general election. I want to give special thanks to those board members and League members who helped in this effort.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER *continued on page 2*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETINGS

Monday, November 24: What is the future of our economy?

Depending upon what commentary you listen to, this country is either in a recession, depression or on the brink of recovery. What direction are we headed in and what should we be going to safeguard our personal finances? Hopefully, you will bring your questions and concerns with you to our November General Meeting which will be held at Palo Alto College's Student Center Annex. The program will begin at 6:30 pm. Our guest speaker will be Assistant Professor of Economics Belinda Roman. She has been teaching at Palo Alto College for over six years and is currently completing her doctoral degree at the University of Western Ontario. She is the author of "Introduction to Macroeconomics." For directions to the campus, please call Ginny Stowitts Traina at 486-3149 or her secretary Madalitt Fuentes at 486-3140.

Saturday, December 13: Annual Program Review

Once a year League members are asked to review state-sponsored programs and local League positions as to whether or not they should be continued as is, discontinued, or continued with modifications. Members who attended the Annual meeting in May received the latest update on our positions. Our review meeting will be held at the home of Saradell Crawford. Usually, we tie this into a holiday event where everyone needs to bring some sort of "goody" item. We will be notifying you about the exact time and directions. So, please mark your calendar!

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Corner	1
League Meetings .	1
Lwvsa Officers ...	2
New Members ...	2
Membership	
Chair Note	2
National News ...	3
Calendar	4

2008-09 LWVSA OFFICERS

2008-09 LWVSA OFFICERS

President Ginny Stowitts Traina
1st Vice President Kathy Sadler
2nd Vice Pres Deborah Deffenbaugh
3rd Vice President Sally Bolster
Secretary Dr. Marty Cruz-Bock
Treasurer Phyllis Ingram
Voter Service Kay Ford
Membership Martha Lankford
Marion Edson
Finance Elena Guajardo
Publicity Chris Riley
Communications Patricia Sommersby

Directors
Nancy Craig
Arlis Olson
Annalisa Peace

.....

NEW MEMBERS (3/08)

DOROTHY M. VINCENT
32015 Scarteen • Fair Oaks Rch 78015
830-981-8583 • dotbob@gvtc.com

CHRISTINE WESTERMAN
220 Old Mill Rd • Pipe Creek 78063
632-3487 • cwesterman@swcu.com

MS. JAN PERANTEAU
470 Furr Dr (National Member)
78201-4425 • 733-5923

PATSY DILL MOSS
4335 Irene Dr (National Member)
78222 • 337-6439 • dillmoss@aol.com

S. ANDREA ALEMAN
3629 Medical Drive #1114
78229 • 387-4021 * aaleman@utsa.edu

MICHELLE COLLINS
113 CR 5631 • Castroville, TX 78009
210-788-4510 • meechelle2000@yahoo.com

TINA PIERCE
3851 Candleglenn • 78244

President Ginny Stowitts Traina Office: 486-3149 vstowitts@mail.accd.edu
First Vice Pres Kathleen Sadler Home: 824-0623
2nd Vice Pres Deborah Deffenbaugh Home: 824-0558 dsdeffenbaugh@swri.org
Third Vice Pres Sally Bolster Home: 499-4871 Sallybolster@aol.com
Secretary Dr. Marty Cruz-Bock Home: 653-5947 Mbo232@aol.com
Treasurer Phyllis Ingram Home: 764-1557 Pingram1@satx.rr.com
Membership Martha Lankford Home: 340-5366 Mblankas@satx.rr.com
Marian Edson Home: 494-9569 Marloedson@satx.rr.com
Finance Elena Guajardo Home: 681-6798 Webekg@swbell.net
Voter Service Kay Ford Home: 545-5492 Fordvillage@satx.rr.com
Publicity Chris Riley Home: 681-5889 Mayorriley@hotmail.com
Communications Patricia Sommersby Home: (830)980-7055 Psommersby@aol.com

Directors
AnnaLisa Peace Home: 299-2696 Annalisa@acquiferguardians.org
Arlis Olson Home: 661-0841 Arlisolson@juno.com
Nancy Craig Home: 342-080

NOTE FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Please check your listing in the **Membership Directory**. If it is incorrect, or if your e-mail address has changed, please let Membership know. We are using the internet more and more to connect with our members, and if we don't have your e-mail correctly listed, then you will miss out on member updates and reminders. You can contact us by phone or through e-mail. Martha Lankford, Chair: 340-5366, mblankas@satx.rr.com or Marian Edson, Home: 494-9569, Marloedson@satx.rr.com.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER *continued*

Speeches on Voting Issues

I presented at Morningside Manor to a group of dedicated voting seniors and at O'Connor High School to a group of first time voters. Phyllis Ingram spoke at an early morning breakfast for professional women.

Annual Fund Raiser

On September 19, 2008, we had a very successful fundraiser in roasting State Senator Leticia Van de Putte at Oak Hills Country Club. I want to extend special thanks to Elena Guajardo, Phyllis Ingram, Marian Edson, and everyone else who worked so hard on this event.

Voters Guides

We successfully distributed 30,000 voters guides to local colleges and universities and area libraries. Special thanks to my students and League member Rex Field for making those deliveries.

On a special note, we had to change our **website**. For now, we are connecting with the State League web site at www.lwvtexas.org/sanantonio/htm.

Ginny Stowitts Traina

Voter is published several times a year by the League of Women Voters—San Antonio Area
1809 Blanco Road • San Antonio, TX 78212
www.lwvsa.org Vol 38 • No 3

President: Ginny Stowitts Traina 402-9675
Office: 921-5022
Editor: Patricia Sommersby 830-980-7055

NATIONAL NEWS

The League of Women Voters, Supported by a \$250,000 Grant from American Express, Helps Americans Vote

The League of Women Voters Education Fund, boosted by a generous grant from American Express, is working to provide voters in 16 key communities across the country with the tools and information they need to participate in this year's historic election on November 4th. "We are absolutely thrilled to have partnered with American Express to get the word out that voting is the most important thing Americans can do to improve their communities—and their own lives—in 2008," said Mary G. Wilson, national president of the League of Women Voters.

As part of the program, League members from coast to coast have undertaken voter registration drives, conducted candidate debates and community forums, and produced nonpartisan Voters' Guides. They have also encouraged Americans to serve as poll workers in what will be a record turnout year. "At American Express we believe that serving our communities is integral to running a business successfully and part of our individual responsibilities as citizens of the world," American Express Foundation President, Timothy J. McClimon said, "We are pleased to support the critical civic engagement work of the League of Women Voters and this important and timely initiative. The communities include Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Broward County Florida, Greensboro (NC), Houston, Los Angeles, New York City, Philadelphia, Greater Phoenix, Portland (OR) Salt Lake City, San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle. For more information about exercising your most important civic right—the right to vote—visit the League's one-stop election center, www.VOTE411.org. To learn more about the American Express Foundation, visit www.americanexpress.com/corp/philanthropy.

It is Time to Rise Above Partisan Politics — *League of Women Voters Urges People to Vote*

"It is time for politicians, advocates and the media to stop attacking our nation's election process and start encouraging people to go to the polls," Mary G. Wilson, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States, said. "Our process may not be perfect, but people all over the country – election officials, grassroots political workers and ordinary citizens – are doing the best they can to ensure that all Americans can participate in a fair election this fall. "We are 15 days away from Election Day. It is time to rise above partisan politics and ensure that every eligible voter participates in this election — by going to the polls, casting an absentee ballot or participating in early voting," she said. "This election is too important for anyone to feel they must stand on the sidelines because harbingers of doom who have a vested interest in attacking our election system continue to barrage voters with daily doses of fear about our electoral process. Intimidation tactics such as those that have been used recently in an effort to discredit the third party voter registration efforts of ACORN have no place in the American political process," Wilson stated.

With respect to this specific scare tactic, Wilson noted that according to the Bureau of the Census approximately 8.5 percent of all new voter registrants were registered by "third party" organizations in 2004, the last year for which statistics are available. Such registration has been even more important in reaching prospective African-American, Hispanic, and low income voters. "The facts clearly show that voter registration efforts by "third party registrants" are key to building a more representative democracy," she said. Long before the term "third party registration" was coined, the League was working to assure that EVERY voter, regardless of background, has fair access to voter registration. "It is a testament

NATIONAL NEWS *continued page 4*

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE SAN ANTONIO AREA
1809 BLANCO ROAD
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78212
(210) 657-2206
www.lwvtexas.org/sanantonio/htm

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT No. 1873
SAN ANTONIO, TX

NATIONAL NEWS *continued*

to the good work of the voting rights community that there is an increased energy, and a rise in new voter registrations, this election year," Wilson said. "I encourage every eligible voter in the United States to take the one step that will show the world that Americans stand firmly against the political fear mongers who are the real threat to our democracy: Stand firm by exercising your right to vote."

The League of Women Voters encourages everyone to get prepared by visiting www.VOTE411.org for polling locations and information about voting in your state." 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. Membership in the League is open to men and women of all ages.



Calendar

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24: LEAGUE MEETING
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13: ANNUAL PROGRAM REVIEW
JUNE 13-15, 2009: LWV NATIONAL COUNCIL

Join ... THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS



(NOT FOR WOMEN ONLY!!) MEMBERSHIP IN THE LEAGUE IS OPEN TO ALL U.S. CITIZENS 18 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER. MAIL THIS FORM AND A CHECK FOR \$60 (\$90 FOR TWO PERSONS AT THE SAME ADDRESS) TO: **THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS** • 1809 BLANCO RD • SAN ANTONIO, TX 78212

Name _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____