



The League of Women Voters – Waco Area *VOTER*

Annette Lindsey, President, 776-7752

Karen Schleicher, Editor, 495-2295

October 2008

President's Letter

Dear League Members,

The Cooper Foundation has provided a grant to the Waco Area League of Women Voters to purchase over 20,000 Voters Guides to distribute in McLennan County. What a thrill to provide this highly-regarded tool to citizens of our area. We expect our order to arrive by October 7. Now we need help from all members to deliver them to sites throughout the county. Please see the article on page 2 for details on this effort and how you can help. This is a wonderful opportunity to help citizens make informed choices and also to publicize the good work of League of Women Voters.

Those of you who attended our September meeting will agree, I think, that Karen Hall, assistant administrator of the Elections Administration Office, gave an excellent program on the use of voting machines in McLennan County. Despite reading negative reports of faulty machines in other parts of the country and instances of hacking computer programs, I feel confident that our local officials have done an outstanding job to prevent both human error and intentional abuse. We always appreciate the attention the elections office gives our League of Women Voters.

While every election is important and even historic, this one seems to have extraordinary significance. Both parties offer unique opportunities for our country in that we will either have our first African-American president or our first female vice president. As you converse with acquaintances, invite them to check out the LWV website for voting information: www.vote411.org. This is also an excellent time to invite people to attend a meeting and join our organization.

You can download a ballot at the Elections Office website:

www.co.mclennan.tx.us/elections/ballotsnov0408/ballotstyle110409.html.

Click on the style for your precinct number in the chart that appears.

As you gather with family or friends to watch the candidates debate, try to maintain an objective perspective and evaluate who most effectively provides the information and suggestions for governing our nation. The national LWV office prepared questions for us to consider, and they are printed in this *Voter*. Share these questions with friends and family so that we may all be more effective listeners and watchers.

Our October meeting provides an occasion to depart from the election process and focus on an important issue, the environment. We will meet at the new Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce to learn about and tour their environmentally-sound and aesthetically-pleasing building. (See the article on page 2 for more information.) After the program those who would like to eat together may walk across the street to our usual meeting place, Gratziano's, for a Dutch-treat dinner. This is an excellent opportunity to invite a guest. We want to have a good turnout when the president of the Chamber speaks to us.

– Annette

☞ October Program Meeting ☞

**Tuesday, October 14
5:30 p.m.**

Note change of location for this meeting only:

**Greater Waco Chamber Headquarters
101 S. 3rd St. at Heritage Square**

**Speaker: James G. Vaughan, Jr.
President/CEO of the Greater Waco Chamber**

**Topic: The Greater Waco Chamber: The First
Green Chamber Building in America**

Those who wish to eat afterward may dine together at Gratziano's Restaurant in River Square immediately following the program.

Dates for Your Calendar

- Oct. 6** Monday - Deadline for Voter Registration and Address Changes
- Oct. 14** Program Meeting. Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce, 5:30 p.m.
- Oct. 20-31** Early Voting
- Nov. 4** Election Day

League Gets Grant for Voters Guides

The Cooper Foundation of Waco has generously provided funding for the purchase of 20,000 Voters Guides from the state league to distribute at no charge to voters in McLennan County. The guides offer non-partisan information on candidate positions to help voters make informed decisions.

We need you to be one of what the *Waco Tribune-Herald* recently called “democracy’s unsung heroes: Volunteers in the League of Women Voters” (editorial October 5). To sign up to help to distribute these guides, please let Lisa Shaver, Voter Services Chair, know when you are available to help. Her e-mail address is ljshaver@msn.com and her phone number is 715-7000. You may also contact Annette Lindsey at all439@sbcglobal.net or 776-7752. Some funds are available to pay mileage for those who drive extra distances to deliver the guides.

Thanks to our Vice-President for Community Relations Rosemary Townsend for her work in obtaining this grant.

Waco’s “Green” Chamber Building

The Greater Waco Chamber opened the first “green” Chamber building in America this summer on downtown’s Heritage Square. Our October 14th program meeting will offer members and guests the chance to tour the Chamber’s beautiful new headquarters and learn more about the green initiative from Chamber President and CEO Jim Vaughn, who has been recognized as a “Featured Hero” by the [Audubon Society](#) for his efforts.

The Chamber aspires to be the first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)-certified building in Central Texas. LEED emphasizes state-of-the-art strategies for sustainable site development, water savings,

energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

Questions for Viewing the Debates

The candidates:

- Do they answer questions directly, or do they evade them or fail to answer the specific question?
- Do they give specifics about their stands on the issues, or do they speak in generalities? Do they support their positions and arguments with facts and figures?
- Do they talk about their own policies and positions, or do they mostly attack their opponents?
- Are their proposals realistic? Can they actually carry out the promises they are making?
- Do they appear sincere, confident and relaxed?
- Do they show how their backgrounds and experience qualify them to hold the office?
- Are their answers consistent with their previous positions, and if not, do they explain why?
- What image are they trying to create?
- Do their responses appear overly rehearsed or “canned”?

Media coverage:

If you are watching the debate on television, are reaction shots or other techniques used to create a sense of drama or conflict?

Are you being influenced by comments made by reporters and commentators immediately before and after the debate?

Early Voting

From October 20 – 31, citizens may vote early at the McLennan County Elections Administration Office, Robinson City Hall, Lacy Lakeview Civic Center, Multi-Purpose Community Center on Elm Street or the First Assembly of God Church on Bosque Boulevard. Sites are open even during the weekend, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday and from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday. The Elections Office staff encourages people to vote early and avoid the risk of personal schedule conflicts on Election Day.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-WACO AREA
P.O. BOX 7311
WACO, TX 76714-7311**

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Name: _____

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Please check one: New Member Renewing Member

Membership dues are \$55.00 per member per year or \$82.50 for household membership. (NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE). Please make check payable to the League of Women Voters Waco Area and mail with this form to:

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-WACO AREA
P.O. BOX 7311
WACO, TX 76714-7311**

For your donation to be tax deductible as a charitable contribution, make check payable to: LWV-Texas Education Fund, a 602c(3) organization, and mail it to the above address. It will be deposited to the LWV-Waco area account and used to support voter services and citizen education activities.

The LWV-Waco Area is a volunteer organization with state and national affiliation dedicated to citizens' participation in government; a major source of non-partisan information on voter registration, election issues and candidates; an organization that studies and takes action, and is open for membership to all women and men 18 years and older. Call 776-7752 to find out where and when you can take the first step in making a difference on issues that matter to you.