



The League of Women Voters – Waco Area *VOTER*

Annette Lindsey, President, 776-7752

Karen Schleicher, Editor, 495-2295

September 2008

President's Letter

Dear Members,

After several weeks of hot, dry weather and a rather dry calendar, I'm ready for the change that the fall offers. Already we've enjoyed a change in weather with much needed rain and even some lower temperatures. My hope is that this is an indication of good things to come during the approaching season.

This important year for the League of Women Voters-Waco Area allows us to remind the public who we are and what we do. We expect to be busy providing resources for voters, excellent program meetings, information on crucial legislative issues and opportunities to meet other concerned people. All of this can succeed best with your active participation, so keep up with current events, attend meetings, distribute voting information and invite friends to join our league. Go to www.lwv.org and then to www.vote411.org for all the latest information about voting, including voter registration, absentee voting and polling places. Together we can make this an excellent year.

During the summer your board had a productive planning retreat. Jenice Long and her program committee are selecting topics that make a difference in our lives. Lisa Shaver is planning on expanded distribution for Voters' Guides and will need our help. Rosemary Townsend has applied for a grant so that we can purchase extra copies of the Voters' Guides. Dorothy Schleicher stays ready to send information to prospective members so please let her know names of people you think would be interested in LWV. Karen Schleicher has submitted information to the state office for our web page, www.lwvtexas.org/waco.htm. The rest of us are "taking care of business." We have a group of outstanding, dedicated officers.

I look forward to seeing you at our first meeting at 5:30 p.m. on September 9 at Gratziano's.

--Annette

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings will continue to be held in a private room at Gratziano's Italian Restaurant, in the Shops of River Square on Franklin Avenue. The manager is working with us to make meetings manageable and easy, but would like for us to have at least 12 in attendance to justify the use of a private dining room. The wait staff will take your order as you arrive and serve all the meals at once. We will pay as we exit the meeting. We think this will reduce interruptions during the meeting. Thanks for your help.

Program Meeting
Tuesday, September 9
5:30 p.m.

Gratziano's Restaurant in River Square

Speaker: Karen Hall
McLennan County Elections Office
Topic: The Administration of the Election Process

September Program Meeting

Karen Hall, Assistant to Kathy Van Wolfe, McLennan County Elections Administrator, will speak on the Administration of the Election Process at our September 9th program meeting.

The program will include a discussion of the procedures for maintaining security of the voting machines and ballots; chain-of-custody protocols for the voting machines; procedures for verification, backup, tabulation, and possible recounts; training of election workers and voter ID procedures.

--Jenice Long

Dates for Your Calendar

- Sept. 9** Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.: Monthly Meeting, Gratziano's
- Sept. 18** Thursday, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.: Community Race Relations Coalition Annual Meeting, Family Health Center, 1600 Providence. Reservations: 750-5774
- Oct. 6** Monday: Deadline for Voter Registration
- Oct. 14** Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.: Monthly Meeting
- Oct. 20-31** Early Voting
- Nov. 4** **Election Day**

From the Membership Chair

Greetings! In this significant election year, the League of Women Voters' work is even more vital than usual. We are looking forward to a great year.

If you have not yet paid dues, please send your check to Kimberly Kellison, 2817 Cumberland, Waco, 76707, or bring it to the next meeting. Dues for 2008-2009 are \$55.00 for an individual member, and include national, state and local dues. A family membership is \$82.50. We greatly appreciate those who contribute extra funds that enable us to broaden our work locally. I look forward to seeing you on Sept. 9th!

--Dorothy Schleicher

LWV Nonpartisan Policy

League members, as well as the general public, frequently wonder about our nonpartisan policy. The official policy is printed below.

“The choice made in 1920 to neither support nor oppose any political party or candidate for public office continues today to ensure that the League's voice is heard above the tumult of party politics. The nonpartisan policy is key to the LWV's reputation and adds strength to the League's position on issues. It makes possible wide acceptance of and participation in League voters service and other educational activities. It enables Leagues to hold respected, thoughtful candidate forums in which all eligible candidates participate, to hold balanced forums, and to bring different or opposing views together for true dialogue and discussion.

At the same time, the League is a political organization and encourages members to participate fully in the party of their choice (as long as the individual does not represent the League publicly). It is an advantage to the League to have politically active members and, equally important, it can be a personally satisfying experience.”

November 4 General Election Voters' Guides

The LWV-Waco Area will distribute Voters' Guides prior to the November 4 General Election. As always, the Voters' Guides are intended to inform voters about the candidates' positions on important issues. This year's Voters' Guide will include the presidential candidates' answers to questions about global climate-change control, rising health care costs, the growing economic disparity between middle-class and well-to-do Americans, and the United States' strategy towards emerging global powers such as Russia and China [see specific questions below]. The Voters' Guide will be available online along with other voter information at the LWV VOTE411.org website. Printed copies of the Voters' Guides will also be distributed locally. If you are interested in assisting with the local distribution of the Voters' Guides, contact Lisa Shaver at lishaver@msn.com.

--Lisa Shaver

Voters' Guides Questions to the Candidates

1. What, if anything, do you believe the federal government should do to control global climate change?
2. What should be done at the federal level, if anything, to combat the high cost of health care?
3. What, if anything, should the federal government do about the growing economic disparity between the middle class and the well-to-do?
4. What, if anything, should the federal government do to create the world's best educational system for all children in America?
5. What should the U.S. strategy be towards rising global powers like Russia and China?

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

LWV-WACO AREA OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2008 - 2009

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

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.