

# The Voter

Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Plano/Collin County

January 2009

## Children First! Collin County Coalition

By Janice Schieffer

Last October, LWV Plano/Collin County approved joining a new organization called *Children First! Collin County Coalition*. This organization will work to improve the quality of life of children through the development of strategic initiatives related to public policy, advocacy, public awareness and community programs.

This coalition of mostly nonprofit agencies was formed last spring when it published the results of a study by Children's Medical Center: *Beyond ABC: Growing Up in Collin County*. The study presented issues and recommendations for Collin County in the areas of health, economic security, education and safety for children.

Children First! will participate in **Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol, Wed., Feb. 4, 2009**. All interested persons are invited to go to Austin to speak up for Texas kids, joining hundreds of other concerned people from across the state. Activities include issues briefing, rally on the Capitol steps and visits with legislators.

The trip registration of \$30 includes round-trip luxury motor coach transportation, breakfast, box dinner, and briefing materials. The bus will depart Children's Medical Center Legacy at approximately 4:30 a.m. and Children's Medical Center Dallas at 5 a.m. and return by 8 p.m.

Visit [www.childrenfirstcollincounty.com](http://www.childrenfirstcollincounty.com) for more information and to obtain a registration form. You may also contact Janice Schieffer ([Janice@schieffer.us](mailto:Janice@schieffer.us), 214-415-3476) for more information.

---

## Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrars: Renew Your Commission for 2009-10

By Janice Schieffer

Visit the Collin County Election Dept., 2010 Redbud, Suite 102, McKinney, during their business hours, Mon-Fri, 8-4:30 to be on record, and receive written instructions for which we will be responsible when registering new voters. No class is offered. Join our group on **Thurs, Jan. 22**, LWV Plano/Collin County TX Newsletter

## How Does the Current Financial Crisis Affect YOUR City and County Budgets?

By Donna Bening,

Our members and the public are invited to a free forum:

Learn about the sources of income for local governments including schools, cities and the county.

What cuts in services are being considered to cope with reduced revenue, credit?

Will approved bonds delay construction or voter consideration be postponed?

*Saturday, Feb. 28, 2009, 10:30 a.m*

**Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Road, Plano, TX**

Speakers:

-[Kenneth Maun, Collin County Tax Assessor/Collector](#)

-Richard Matkin, Associate Supt., Business Services, Plano ISD

-Karen Rhodes, Budget Director, City of Plano

-Mindy Manson, Wylie City Manager

-Monika Arris, Collin County, Budget & Finance Dir.

Sponsored by:

**League of Women Voters of Plano/Collin County**

---

when a LWV group will meet at 10:30 in Christ United Methodist Church parking lot, SW corner of Parker Rd & Coit Rd, in Plano, and carpool to McKinney to become re-deputized and then go out to lunch together at noon at Ralph & Kacoos, 401 N Central Expy in Allen. We have invited the county elections administrator to join us. For more information, call Janice at 214-415-3476 or RSVP to her e-mail [janice@schieffer.us](mailto:janice@schieffer.us) by Jan. 19.

## The Texas 81<sup>st</sup> Legislature Begins

by **Janet Imhoff, LWVTX Program Chair**

The attention of the League will now turn from Voter Services and toward advocacy on our Program in the new Legislature. The session begins January 13 and will run until June 1. Each League is conducting interviews with our legislators to give vital information to the League Lobby Corps in Austin. The Lobby Corps is composed of members of the LWV-Austin, who work with the League Chairs of the different program areas, so hearings can be attended on any bills we are watching or advocating.

LWV/Plano was assigned to interview Senator Shapiro and four Representatives: Madden, McCall, Paxton and Laubenberg. LWV-Richardson helped us by conducting the interview with Rep. Madden, as we share his district.

### Lobby Day and Statewide Conference

**All League members are invited** to come to Austin for this important League event. We will meet in the state Capitol on **Monday morning, March 9**, to hear about our legislative priorities. We will then meet with our Representatives in the afternoon to discuss our issues. The conference, also held in the morning, is to consider changes to two of our program areas so that we may advocate more effectively. Those programs are **Judicial Selection and Child Abuse and Neglect**. More information will be in the LWV-TX Voter in early February.

LWV/Plano will be carpooling down on Sunday afternoon, March 8. Please let any Board member know if you would like to go. We will be making room reservations in February at the Hilton, which is in walking distance of the Capitol. It is a fun event!

-----  
Website for the Texas Capitol to help you follow the Legislature's action on-line:

[www.capitol.state.tx.us](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us)

## LWVUS Study of the National Popular Voter Compact, Jo Ellen Roach, Chair

Is the Electoral College an antiquated institution that actively disenfranchises voters and occasionally makes the candidate with fewer popular votes president? This question prompted a 1970 study by the LWVUS of the presidential electoral process that led to a decision to support the direct election of the president by popular vote. However, this would require amending the Constitution, a very long and uncertain process.

The LWVUS is studying an alternative proposal: the National Popular Vote Compact (NPV). The NPV Compact provides a way to elect the president by popular vote without amending the Constitution. Each state votes in its legislature whether to join the compact, and it will take effect only when the plan has been enacted by states collectively possessing a majority of electoral votes.

The Plano/Collin County League will explore the pro's and con's of the Electoral College and the National Popular Vote Compact on the evening of **Wednesday, March 18, 7 p.m. at Plano's Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd.**

A background paper and pro's and con's plus the wording of the NPV itself, are now available on the LWVUS website, at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

### Global Climate Change – A League Priority, Barbara Hotinski, Chair

At the last convention, LWVUS designated climate change as a priority issue for advocacy and member education. Visit [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) to learn what the League is currently doing at the national level and also to see how individuals can assist in the ongoing efforts to combat global warming.

When you go to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) click on "Take Action" and then on "Global Climate Change." From there you can see press releases, two articles from past *National Voters*, and a link to the **Background papers**. This year LWVUS has written six papers, including: (continued on page 3.)

(Climate Change, continued from page 2)

-“Cities Take Action to Curb Global Warming”

-“Coal-The Great Hope, the False Promise, or a Disaster in the Making?”

-“Do a Little, Change a Lot: A Biographical Sketch on Energy”

-“Economic Effects of Not Taking Action on Climate Change”

-“State Actions Address Climate Change” and

-“Things You Can Do For Free (Or Almost Free) to Cut Your Use of Gasoline, Diesel Fuel, Heating Oil, Propane and Electricity”

**LWV P/CC To Celebrate Women’s History Month -Saturday, March 28, 12 noon** By Patty Jantho

On Saturday, March 28, LWV P/CC will celebrate Women’ History with a luncheon and a readers theatre presentation by our members. The play, “Window on the Past: Revisiting the First National Woman’s Rights Convention” is set in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1850. The convention was very well covered by the press and thus, we have direct quotes from the selected speakers at the actual event. This gives a sense of the then-prevailing attitudes toward women and how selected women reacted to it.

We have invited the Richardson League to join with us both to celebrate women and to become better acquainted as cooperating, sister Leagues.

We have selected Ralph & Kacoo’s at 401 Central Expressway in Allen TX as the restaurant. Join us at 12 noon on Saturday, March 28. The final menu and price will be set later in January and the membership will be advised soon thereafter.

This is a dandy opportunity to invite potential members including relatives and friends -- all to join in the fun and this annual celebration of women.

**Holiday Party Was a Success!**

By Patty Jantho The Holiday Party held on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the home of board member Patty Jantho's daughter, Holly Nichols, gave us an opportunity to meet two visiting foreign students. Walla, from the delta region of Egypt, is here studying accounting for a year at the Richland College (Dallas County Community College District). The other foreign visitor was a English teacher from the Ural region of Russia who was here on a State Department sponsored program, called Open World, that brings qualified specialists from around the world to the U.S. for a brief exposure to developments in their fields of interest.

This program may be of interest to LWV P/CC since we ourselves could petition Open World to host a small group (between five and seven women) for an eight day stay in our area, providing housing and professional exposures for which we would be duly compensated. This is a subject for discussion at a later date after this initial view.

Good food and drink were shared; and our members were very clever in the ways they described and labeled the auctioned packages (without actually naming the item). The auction earned \$ for our LWV treasury. Our president, Erma Spencer, bought items that she in turn gave to our two visiting guests-- to their delight. If you missed the fun, we hope to see you in 2009.



## Join the League of Women Voters

To become a member of the LWV Plano/Collin County: Send a check for your annual dues (which are not tax deductible\*) to the P.O. box below:  
\_\_\_\_\_ individual \$55  
\_\_\_\_\_ household \$80

**Membership and More:** Would you like to become involved in supporting your League by participating in one or more of these advocacy or study or organization supports?

- \_\_\_\_\_ Action
- \_\_\_\_\_ Economic Development
- \_\_\_\_\_ Electing the President (Popular Vote study)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Fundraising
- \_\_\_\_\_ Global Warming/Climate Change (study)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Health Care (advocacy)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Local Government Finance (study – Feb. 28)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Open Space/Land Use
- \_\_\_\_\_ Membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ Observer Corps
- \_\_\_\_\_ Public Education
- \_\_\_\_\_ Publicity
- \_\_\_\_\_ Services to Seniors in Collin County (Nov.)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Transportation in Collin County.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Voter Services
- \_\_\_\_\_ Voting Procedures (study)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Women's History event – March 28

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: LWV of Plano/Collin County,  
P.O. Box 866592  
Plano TX 75086-6592**

\*The League of Women Voters is a 501.(c) 4 organization in the eyes of the IRS and contributions are not deductible unless the check is made payable to the "LWVTexas Education Fund", "Plano/Collin County account" noted in the memo line, and mailed to the same address. Education Funds are used for citizen education. **Thank you**

**Please copy this information and give to a friend who may benefit from the LWV information and services.**

## Calendar of LWV Events:2009

January 21 – 7 p.m. Board meeting at Christ United Methodist Church, room 225. Members welcome.

Jan.22, 10:30 – Carpool to McKinney to re-deputize volunteer registrars & lunch together at noon.

Feb.4 – Children's Advocacy Day at TX Capital

February 18 – 7 p.m. Board meeting

Feb. 28 -10:30 a.m., Haggard Library, 2501 Coit Rd., Forum on "Financing Local Government" (see page 1.)

March 9, Carpool to Austin for LWVTX Lobby Day

March 18, 6 p.m., LWVP/CC Board meeting,

March 18, Discussion before Consensus meeting, 7 p.m. at Haggard Library, on "National Popular Vote Compact"

March 28, 12 noon, "Women's History" luncheon and readers theatre event at Ralph & Kacoos in Allen.



### LWV Plano/Collin County Board 2008-09

Erma Spencer, President 972-491-6107

Patty Jantho, Vice President & Publicity Chair  
469-737-3626

Jackie Fleschman, Secretary 972-306-8819

Sharon Goldgar, Membership/Treasurer 596-6397

Donna Bening, VOTER Ed. & Local Government  
Finance Committee 972-964-8951

Janet Imhoff, Program Chair 972-547-4270

Pat Lawson, Observer Corps 972-633-2273

Janice Schieffer, Voter Services Chr. 214-415-3476

Meg Titus, Nominations, Fundraiser 972-424-4993