



# The Voter

In this issue...

- **Annual Christmas Brunch**
- **Donations for Local Charities**
- **Two League Members Honored**
- **From the President ...**
- **“Successful” Election Season for Local League**

**You are cordially invited to the  
San Marcos Area League of Women Voters  
Festive Christmas Brunch**

**10 a.m. Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>  
Carole Belver's home**

**1711 Palomino Lane  
San Marcos**

Visit and relax with fellow members, sample the delicious buffet,  
sip champagne mimosas or coffee or tea.

Members traditionally bring side dishes to go with a ham the League provides.  
**Please RSVP** to let Dianne Wassenich know which dish or beverage you want to bring.  
(393-3787 or [wassenich@grandecom.net](mailto:wassenich@grandecom.net)).

There will be a brief meeting where plans for the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual  
Wine Tasting will be discussed, and tickets to sell for the event will be distributed to members.

**In the spirit of the season, members are encouraged to bring donations for the local Food Bank or  
the San Marcos Animal Shelter (see details below)**

Directions: From San Marcos, take Hopkins to RR12, turn right  
Go 2.1 Miles to Country Estates Drive, turn right  
Turn right onto Palomino Lane, the road twists and turns but keep making right turns for approximately  
1.2 Miles  
House is on the left, white mail box  
Lost? 392-0961

## Donations for Local Charities

League members are encouraged to bring donations for the **San Marcos Animal Shelter** or the local  
**Food Bank** to the Christmas Party. Donations can be cash or selected from the items listed below. The

Shelter receives pet food and some other donations from the local HEB so pet food is not needed. The Food Bank can accept food items but it is more efficient to donate cash, which they use to purchase food at reduced prices. ***The League will present the items to the Shelter and Food Bank.***

**Items Needed by the Animal Shelter:**

- Any sized blankets or towels (bath, hand, or dish) new or gently used
- Liquid bleach, Liquid Pine Sol or similar cleaner
- Dishwashing sponges with one scrubby side
- Dishwashing liquid
- Cat and dog toys, or cat litter
- Dog beds --- new or gently used and clean
- Dog and cat grooming items --- and shampoo
- Cash donations always welcome, too

## Two League Members Honored

### **Betsy Robertson – San Marcos Women’s Hall of Fame**

"It is difficult to juggle home, work and community service while still maintaining a balance, but Betsy Robertson has demonstrated just that during the past 30 years. She is a dedicated mother, loving wife, successful business owner and prolific volunteer," said Rosemary Suniga. For these reasons she was inducted into the San Marcos Women’s Hall of Fame at an induction ceremony at the San Marcos Activity Center on Thursday, November 13, 2008.

"Betsy has contributed thousands of hours toward the betterment of this city serving in various capacities on numerous boards and commissions..." one of which is serving on the board of the San Marcos League of Women Voters. We congratulate Betsy on her honor, and are proud of her association with our organization.

### **Beverly Sladek – Receives Award at State Conference**

Four individuals were recently honored at the State Conference for Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TexTESOL) in Richardson, Texas on November 6-8th. The recipient from our area was Beverly Sladek. Beverly currently teaches in the English as a Second Language (ESL) Department at Texas State University. The award recognized her academic and professional achievements, as well as her ability to motivate and positively impact her students and colleagues.

Beverly also serves on the San Marcos League of Women Voters board, and we proudly celebrate her honor and recognize her professional achievements.

## From the President...

What an adventure! The November elections are over and we have a new administration. What an exciting time to live, not only in our nation, but community. Congratulations to all the local citizens who got out and voted in this unprecedented election. It was amazing how many first-time voters made it out to the polls.

"Thank you" to all the league members who went over and beyond the call of duty to put together our Fall Campaign. Starting with the First Annual Meet and Greet that was a huge success, publishing an outstanding Voter’s Guide and then the grand finale of the Debate. It could not have happened without each of you.

But especially Jeannie Lewis for her tireless effort in making sure the candidates were contacted, called and called and called...

To Dianne Wassenich for her hours and hours on the computer putting together the Voter’s Guide,  
To Pat Murdock for her expertise in getting the word out to the media and for making us all look good,  
To Carol Peters and her team for making sure that we had great eats at the Meet and Greet and community advisory council,  
To Jan Rudnicki for her hard work in getting the newsletter published.

And to the other board members, Theresa Schwartz, Peggy Townes, Margaret Lindsey, Mary Borm, Beverly Sladek, Betsy Robertson, Katherine Wells and Doug Holcomb whose guidance is invaluable.  
**THANK YOU!**

A special Thank you to Kaylene Ray for moderating the debate once again this year.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at my home on December 6 for our Annual Holiday Brunch, and especially to the wine-tasting fundraiser in January 2009.

Until then, Carole Belver

## Voter Services Report

by Mary Borm, Voter Service Chair

We have finished, I believe, the most successful Voter Service month in the League's history; preparing and distributing the Voters Guide and holding the Candidates Debate. Both were very successful and well received and appreciated by the general public. All League members should feel very proud of the positive contribution that our local League made in this November election. It was expensive, too, with the cost of printing the Voters Guide and renting the rooms for the Candidates Debate.

The month started with the Advisory Council helping formulate questions and concerns of the community, followed by a meeting of League members to prepare questions for both the Voters Guide and Candidates Debate. Dianne Wassenich and Jeannie Lewis then worked long hours preparing the Voters Guide and Candidates Debate. Both are pros at their jobs and are invaluable to our League. Be sure to thank them for the long hours and dedication that went into their jobs. The entire Voter Services Committee is to be commended for their excellent teamwork during the preparation and execution of these projects during this record-setting election. About 16,000 voted in this election compared to last November, when less than 3,000 voted.

Both the Voters Guide and the Candidates Debate were available to the public in more places than ever before. The Voters Guide was inserted in the Daily Record and an extra fifteen hundred copies were distributed around the County. The State Voters Guide was also distributed around the county, and fifteen hundred of those were purchased already printed from the state LWV in Austin. At one point we were afraid that we would run out, as additional copies were needed at the San Marcos Library and Activity Center. It was also available on four web sites, [www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org), [www.sanmarcosrecord.com](http://www.sanmarcosrecord.com), [www.newstreamz.com](http://www.newstreamz.com) and [www.sanmarcosmercury.com](http://www.sanmarcosmercury.com).

The Candidates Debate was held at the San Marcos Activity Center to a packed, standing-room only crowd estimated at around 250 citizens. In addition, it was video taped by Time Warner, where it was available on their Digital Channel and **it was** also available for viewing on the internet web site [www.newstreamz.com](http://www.newstreamz.com).

Many, many League members helped with the Candidates Debate and in distributing the Voters Guides. Thanks, Kaylene Ray for your usual professional job as moderator, Brenda Smith for agreeing to be Kaylene's backup if needed, Carole Belver for greeting the candidates and citizens, Doug Holcomb and Jan Rudnicki for being the official time keepers during the Debate, Peggy Townes, Pat Murdock and Theresa Schwartz for helping with the set up and handing out materials, Margaret Lindsey and Katherine Wells for handing out membership literature and collecting dues, Jane Hughson and Frances Emery for organizing candidates who were introduced but didn't debate, Mark Taylor, Ofelia Vasquez-Philo, Jan & Ken Burks and Carol Pino for distributing Voters Guides around the County, and to other members whom I may have overlooked. It was successful only through all of your help.

## Dates to Remember

<b>Dec. 6</b>	Christmas Meeting and Party
<b>Jan. 29</b>	Wine Tasting, Quail Creek Country Club

