

THE VOTER

"Not for Women Only"

3212 Collinsworth St
Fort Worth, TX 76107
Phone and FAX 817-348-8683

**SUMMER 2009 VOTER
MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK**

**WWW.LWVTARRANTCOUNTY.ORG
LWVTARRANTCOUNTY@SBCGLOBAL.NET**

LWV-TC Announces Its New Web Site

The League of Women Voters of Tarrant County has a new web site with many new features!

Our goal is to build a community and give you the opportunity to know all our fascinating members! As a member of LWV-TC, you are eligible to join our new web site.

To view our new web site or to join, please go to www.lwvtarrantcounty.org. Then, click on the link that says Register and complete the simple registration form. Once you are approved as a member of LWV-TC you can complete your profile at any time and view our other members.

This site is open to the public, but only registered members of LWV-TC who have signed in with

a password are allowed to view the Members page. On this page, you can get to know the other members by reading their profiles. The profile tells about each person with interests and contact info, and you can upload a photo as well.

Also, there are secure online payment options to join or update your membership through the web site. This is the most efficient and least costly way to renew your membership, and we hope the most convenient for you.

The League is excited to share our new web site with our members and our community. Check us out!



SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ New LWV-TC Web Site
- ◆ LWV-TC September Member Social and October Roast Scheduled
- ◆ Approved Program '09 - '10
- ◆ Approved Budget '09 - '10
- ◆ Remembering Peggy Terry & Ara Sullenberger



Mark Your Calendar!

It's time to mark your Calendars! The League of Women Voters of Tarrant County is hosting a Member Social, to be held at Dolores Geisel's home, 900 Larkspur Lane, Fort Worth, 76112, on Saturday, September 26, from 2:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m. Look for your invitation (with directions) in the September VOTER.

Also, the LWV-TC Roast Committee is actively preparing for the 2009 Celebrity Roast, to

honor The Honorable B. Glen Whitley, County Judge, Tarrant County Commissioners Court. The Roast will take place on Tuesday, October 20, at Ridglea Country Club, 3700 Bernie Anderson Avenue, Fort Worth, 76116. The reception will begin at 6:00 p.m. — 6:45 p.m., Dinner and Roast, 6:45 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.

Purchase your tickets on line in September.
www.lwvtarrantcounty.org

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The mission of the League of Women Voters is to encourage informed and active participation in government and to influence public policy and advocacy.

President

Nancy Stevens

President-Elect

Dawn Ellison

Vice Presidents

Program – Marion Henderson
Community Relations –
Dorie Cranshaw
Organization – Penny Clowers

Secretary

Martha Kissinger

Treasurer

Dolores Geisel

Directors

Linda Pavlik
Mary Stallings
Ann Sutherland
Georgia Kidwell
Judy Wood

Nominating Committee

Pat Cheong, Chair
Emma Allen
Dolores Ruhs

THE VOTER

Dawn Ellison
Donnetta Howard
Martha Kissinger
Audrey Weil

Office Administrator

Donnetta Howard
Office Hours: MWF
11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Mailing Address

3212 Collinsworth St
Fort Worth, TX 76107

Telephone

817-348-VOTE (8683)

Fax

817-348-8683

E-mail Address

lwvtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net

Website

www.lwvtarrantcounty.org



President's Letter

Greetings!

I hope you have had a restful summer and are ready to start the new year of League activities refreshed and eager for new challenges. Though it has been a long time since the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors and committees have been busy through the summer.

The Roast Committee has worked hard this summer to pull together the October 20 Roast of County Judge B. Glen Whitley (who, by the way, has been a League member). Please mark your calendars for a fun-filled event at Ridglea Country Club. Details will follow in the next Voter.

Ellen Boyer, our webmaster, and her committee (Dorie Cranshaw, Dawn Ellison, and Dolores Geisel) have devoted untold hours to creating our new website, and Donnetta Howard has offered invaluable feedback. If you haven't already checked it out, please go to www.lwvtarrantcounty.org. There is a tab for members, and you can follow Ellen's simple directions to add yourself to the website and gain access to areas that are open only to members. Check it

out – it's easy to use!

The Environmental, Healthcare and Voters Guide committees have also been busy through the summer. Voter registrars from the League have helped new citizens register to vote at Naturalization ceremonies, and we will do more voter registration at upcoming back-to-school events. A number of new members have joined during the summer as well.

Our kickoff event for the new League year will be a member social at Dolores Geisel's home on September 26 from 2 - 4 p.m. We'll be happy to share more about what we've been doing this summer and find out where you would like to be involved. Please come to this event, and if you know of someone you'd like to introduce to the League, bring her (or him) with you.

See you there!

Nancy Stevens



Strategic Planning Board Meeting



Dorie Cranshaw, Marion Henderson, Nancy Stevens, Judy Wood, Marty Kissinger, Mary Stallings, Linda Pavlik, Dolores Giesel, and Dawn Ellison (photographer).

The Board met in July at Linda Pavlik's home to discuss the coming year.

One exciting new venture that came out of this meeting was the proposal to establish a League Contemporaries group for young professionals in the 21— 40 age range.

Board members Linda Pavlik and Mary Stallings are taking the lead on this effort. More to come in an upcoming VOTER newsletter.





Naturalization



Erin Carlson helps a new citizen fill out her voter registration application.

Thirty one new citizens from 16 countries were sworn in at a ceremony May 21, by Judge John McBryde at the U. S. District Court in Fort Worth. League of Women Voters members Barbara Rubin and new member Erin Carlson participated in the ceremony, handed out voter registration applications, and newly minted registrar Janine Thomas signed up several new voters. As expected, the largest group of immigrants came from Mexico, but a sizeable group from Viet Nam ran a close second.

April 23 ceremonies honored 77 candidates from 32 countries. The League was represented by Etta Miller, who made the presentation to the candidates,



League member and new Voter Registrar Janine Thomas check over the voter application of a new citizen.

and registrar Lucia Coloñ, who signed up the new voters.

On March 26, 72 candidates from 25 countries became citizens. The League was represented by Barbara Rubin and Myrtle and Howard McMahan. Judge McBryde took time during the ceremony to recognize Howard McMahan's service for many years as Fort Worth City Manager.

Special Ceremony

On June 18 in a very special Naturalization, which was filmed for Constitution Day (Sept. 17), 36 new citizens from 23 countries became U. S. Citizens. A flag ceremony led by the Sons of the American Revolution, the pledge led by a Cub Scout troop, and welcoming greetings in Spanish, Vietnamese, and Korean, were only part of a day filled with pomp and circumstance for the new citizens.

The keynote address was given by the Honorable Irma Ramirez, U. S. Magistrate Judge in Dallas and the daughter of Mexican Braceros.

Participating for the League were Ellen Boyar, Myrtle and Howard McMahan, Barbara Rubin, and registrar Janine Thomas. Janine was introduced to the candidates, as, not only the registrar, but herself a Naturalized U. S. Citizen.

This was also the first time we have been able to take photographs during the ceremony.



Candidates for citizenship take the Oath of Allegiance at the Naturalization Ceremony.

Last But Not Least

Seventy-six new citizens from 28 different countries became U. S. Citizens at a Naturalization Ceremony Thursday, August 20. Judge John McBryde presided over the ceremony.

League of Women Voters members passed out voter registration forms at the ceremony, and registrars were there to take the completed forms. Prior to the ceremony League member Barbara Rubin explained to the group the importance of voting in every election.

Others participating for the League were Myrtle and Howard McMahan, Registrars and League members Emma Allen, M. Vincent Kiernan, and Janine Thomas. John Nolan from the Arlington League also attended.

Following the ceremony, several new citizens turned in their voter registration applications.



LWV-TC Program for 2009–2010

1. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- A. SUPPORT the regulation of gas drilling in the Tarrant County League area to mitigate environmental and safety risks. 1-07
- B. SUPPORT the creation of Landscape and Tree Ordinances in all Tarrant County communities to promote the livability of the community through preservation of trees and green space. 2-05, 3-06
- C. SUPPORT action to fulfill the recreational needs of the community through acquisition and development of sufficient park land to meet or exceed the national minimum standards. 1-04
- D. SUPPORT a governmentally subsidized transportation system. 5-97
- E. STUDY the impact of the Trinity River Vision (TRV) Project on Tarrant County residents.
FOCUS: Consensus on whether or not the TRV is supportable balancing the environmental impact and costs involved with the promised economic and aesthetic improvements to the area.

2. ETHICS IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- UPDATE and SUPPORT the enactment of an ethics code by each local governmental entity in the Tarrant County League area. 5-90
FOCUS: Enforcement of existing codes.

3. COUNTY ISSUES

- A. SUPPORT measures to improve Tarrant County government. 5-72
- B. SUPPORT a County-wide ambulance service. 4-84
- C. SUPPORT 3-digit non-emergency telephone system in Tarrant County. 12-00
- D. SUPPORT optically scanned paper ballot and/or electronic ballot systems which include rigorous security measures to ensure that the machines and associated software are not compromised, and include an individual audit capacity for purposes of recounts and authentication of elections. 5-04
- E. SUPPORT access to library services for all residents in Tarrant County. 5-88

4. SOCIAL POLICY

- A. SUPPORT continuation, improvement, and expansion of health services for the medically indigent in Tarrant County, including undocumented immigrants, in order to overcome barriers to accessibility. 5-01, 4-06
- B. SUPPORT access to housing for people with low income in Tarrant County. 5-89
- C. SUPPORT continuation, improvement, and expansion of services to children and youth that address various identified problems. 3-05
- D. SUPPORT aggressive planning and working with other concerned groups to coordinate mental health services. 5-78
- E. SUPPORT community-based services to women that encourage self-sufficiency and address social problems, and efforts to provide funding from private and public sources for women's services in Tarrant County. 5-97
- F. SUPPORT adequate free legal services for the indigent in Tarrant County. 3-07

5. EDUCATION

- A. SUPPORT for a coordinated and integrated family life curriculum in kindergarten through twelfth grade in school districts in Tarrant County. 11-96
- B. SUPPORT a quality public education system which develops the greatest potential in each individual. 5-88
- C. SUPPORT for programs which allow pregnant students to continue their education and for educational efforts to reduce teen pregnancy, including a comprehensive program of sex education at all levels. 11-96
- D. SUPPORT for increased funding for school libraries. 5-88

Numbers indicate year and month in which position was adopted.

LWV-TC Budget For 2009—2010

	Proposed 2009-10 Budget	Optional Ad'ns to Budget	2008-09 Budget	Actual Pro- jected thru 5/31	GOTV Actual*
Income					
Membership Dues	8000		8500	7439	
Roast	20000		24412		
Fund Campaign	4000		4000	6010	
Other Fundraising Activities	600		0	992	
Interest Income	400		1200	431	
Honoraria & Memorials	300		0	425	
Other Contributions & Support	300		500	740	12913
Inkind	100		100	107	
Total Income	33700		38712	16144	12913
Cost of Goods Sold					
Cost of Roast	8000		9000	1000	*
Cost of Fund Campaign	600			545	*
Cost of Other Fundraising	100			263	
Total Cost of Goods Sold	8700		9000	1808	
Gross Profit	25000		29712	14336	12913
Expense					
Texas PerMemberPayment	2772		2300	2772	
National PerMemberPayment	4263		2700	3468	
Voters Service/Educ/Forums	200	300	500	927	
Voters Guide	200		1200	173	10900
Payroll	7700		8112	7055	
Payroll Taxes	590		650	555	
Rent	5400		5100	5370	
Insurance/Property Taxes	800		1000	929	
Telephone/Internet/Web	1400		1500	1349	
Office Supplies	275	125	400	154	
Postage	500		300	468	
Printer & Copier Supplies	400		100	401	
Softwe/Hardwe Maint/Purchase	0	500	2250	311	
Leadership Training	0		50	35	
Membership&Recruiting	100		100	0	
Annual Meeting	100		300	100	
President/Pres.-Elect Expense	300		350	142	
National Convention	0	2500	2500	548	
Subscriptions	0	50	50	0	
Recognitions	0	250	250	100	
Total Expense	25000	3700	29712	24857	10900
Net Income				-10521	2013

* Joint Project with Arlington LWV for Nov 08 Election

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* Deposit for Roast in 2009-10

SW Lunch Unit Tours School-based Clinic

After our usual delicious lunch at Trinity Terrace on May 21, six members of the Southwest Lunch Unit toured the John Peter Smith school-based clinic in White Settlement at 8307 Downe Dr. League member Daurice Ring, who is the nurse practitioner in charge of the clinic, described her work and showed us around the facility. It was a very interesting and informative hour.

The clinic is in the White Settlement ISD but also serves students somewhat over the district borders in adjacent districts. The building is a converted temporary, with a waiting room at one end, an overflowing office where the paperwork is done and three examination rooms, one of which is only used for storage because it lacks water. JPS provides the equipment and supplies; the school provides the building, utilities, and cleaning.

Daurice, whose speciality is family practice, has an assistant, and if usage reaches a certain level (an average of 20 patients per day for 3 months) a third person can be added. They are about to reach this level. She is in regular contact with a JPS physician. Services provided include immunization, treatment of minor injuries, general and school physicals, treatment for sore throats and colds, and management of chronic diseases. A parent or responsible adult must accompany the child; appointments can usually be made for the same day or the next day.

The cost per visit is \$5 and the main focus is on children lacking insurance; children on Medicaid can obtain free service elsewhere and those with insurance must pay the regular co-pay, which is usually higher. These other groups will be seen if the parents find the clinic more convenient in spite of the higher cost. Younger siblings of district children are also eligible to use the clinic and occasionally the clinic will serve high school graduates who go on to local colleges. An effort is made to hold down prescription costs by prescribing from the \$4-5 list offered by many local supermarkets. For expensive drugs not on the list, the patient is sent to JPS to use their discount pharmacy. There is no attempt to determine immigration status unless there is a special need which can only be addressed by a group providing services to the undocumented.

The clinic is open on school days, Monday through Thursday, and until noon on Fridays after arranging with the school district to do their own trash that day so as to cut down on cleaning costs. The clinic is closed weekends and on some school holidays but open most of the summer.

The clinic serves a very low-income population, who tend to avoid medical assistance until things have become serious. So there are efforts to overcome this. In fact many of the services are an effort to prevent the much higher costs of an emergency room visit.

In Memorium

Mrs. Peggy Terry, homemaker, bookkeeper and self-described "political junkie," was a very active member of the Tarrant County League for many years and continued to be an active member of the Arlington League of Women Voters when it was formed. Peggy passed away Wednesday, March 18, 2009. A lifelong learner, her other interests included reading, sewing, tailoring and needlework, music, dance and theater, gardening and travel.

Mrs. Ara Broocks Cox Sullenberger, past LWV member and retired Professor Emeritus of Mathematics from Tarrant County Junior College, passed away Wednesday, June 22, 2009. She dedicated her career to teaching and gave most generously of her time to those who were willing to learn.

They both will be sorely missed.



Membership

NEW MEMBERS - Lupe Arriola, Peggy Howell, Jane E. Humphries, Elizabeth Jane McCune, Janine Thomas, and Karen Vanderwerken

NEW SUSTAINING MEMBERS - Clyde Picht and YWCA Fort Worth & Tarrant County

RENEWING MEMBERS - Vicki Barber, Kay Bolz, Lon Burnam, Dorie Cranshaw, Sandra Gonzales, Marion Henderson, Martha Kissinger, Marilyn Hallam McNertney, Susan Miller, Mariel Peterson, Rita Rivers, Hubert & Mary Strom, Ann Sutherland, Edward Vela, Jr., Beth Wild, and George & Sydney Wirsdorfer

RENEWING SUSTAINING MEMBERS - Louise Carvey, Dawn Ellison, Dolores Geisel, Edith Jones, Karen Kologe, and Linda Ragsdale

Help Us Bring New Talent into the League of Women Voters

We're the League of Women Voters of Tarrant County, one of the hundreds of local organizations across the nation whose members are committed to Making Democracy Work. Our non-partisan organization encourages informed and active participation by citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League of Women Voters does NOT support or oppose any political party or any candidate. Our goal is to empower citizens to shape better communities around the world.



MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

\$59/yr	Regular full voting member	\$ _____
\$49/yr	Senior full voting member, Age 65 and older	_____
\$89/yr	Family (two members in one household; one membership vote)	_____
\$100/yr	Sustaining Membership ~ Elizabeth Cady Stanton	_____
\$150/yr	Advocate Membership ~ Carrie Chapman Catt	_____
\$200/yr	Patron Membership ~ Mary McLeod Bethune	_____
\$300/yr	Benefactor Membership ~ Eleanor Roosevelt	_____
_____	Contribution	_____
	TOTAL	\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

LWV/US PMP	\$29.20
LWV/TX PMP	\$22.00
PMP = Per Member Payment	

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (E-mail) _____

(Fax) _____

Membership dues and contributions are not eligible for a tax deduction under I.R.S. 501(c) (3) rules. You may make an additional tax-deductible contribution by writing a separate check payable to the LWV/Texas Education Fund. This will be used for educational projects benefiting the League of Women Voters of Tarrant County. Mail your membership application, dues, and contributions to LWV-TC, 3212 Collinsworth Street, Fort Worth, TX 76107 or join online www.lwvtarrantcounty.org.



Quarterly LWV-TC Calendar

All Members and Guests are welcome and encouraged to attend any League event.

League Office Hours: M, W, & F 11:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

September

- 14 Board Meeting
- 15 Mid Cities Unit
- 17 Southwest Lunch Unit & Evening Unit
- 24 Environmental Committee Meeting
- 26 Member Social

October

- 12 Board Meeting
- 15 Southwest Lunch Unit & Evening Unit
- TBD — Mid Cities Unit
- 20 ROAST
- 29 Environmental Committee Meeting

November

- 3 Election Day
- 9 Board Meeting
- 17 Mid Cities Unit
- 19 Southwest Lunch Unit & Evening Unit
- 26 Environmental Committee Meeting

December

- 11 All-Day Symposium on Transportation
- 14 Board Meeting
- 15 Mid Cities Unit
- 17 Southwest Lunch Unit & Evening Unit
- TBD — Environmental Committee Meeting

