



## The League of Women Voters – Waco Area *VOTER*

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Annette Lindsey, President, 776-7752

Karen Schleicher, Editor, 495-2295

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May 2009

### President's Letter

Dear League Members,

When Bruce Allen spoke to us in January, he commented that our group reminded him of an observation from Margaret Meade, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Well, we haven't changed the world, but we have worked on significant voter service projects that have benefited not only our organization but citizens of McLennan County. Let me be more specific. Obtaining a grant from the Cooper Foundation allowed us to distribute 21,000 Voter Guides before the fall 2008 election. Never before had the state League office received a request for so many guides from one league! In January we arranged to host an Inauguration Watch in the SBC Theater at the Mayborn Museum, along with co-sponsors KWBU and the Mayborn. A large turnout and a remarkable spirit made this event a memorable patriotic occasion.

Just recently, a candidates' forum co-sponsored by our league, KWBU, Parents for Public Schools, and the Waco Chamber of Commerce gave interested citizens the opportunity to hear candidates for both the Waco school board and city council present their positions and respond to questions. Many people helped to accomplish these projects, but I must especially acknowledge two: Ann-Claire Anderson for her work on the two public events, and our outstanding voter services chairperson, Lisa Shaver. Lisa joined our League last year and is already making a lasting contribution. I am grateful for them and all of you who helped.

Our national office does a grand job of disseminating information about issues that are important to LWV. For that information to reach

members, they must have accurate information. Please make sure your contact information is updated so LWVUS can effectively stay in contact with members. Individual members can update their own information in the national database through the national website, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) (go to "For Members" and then "Update Your Information"), or membership chair Dorothy Schleicher can enter it for you. Incidentally, LWV does not share names and addresses of its members with other organizations.

Please make every effort to attend our Annual Meeting on May 12th. *Waco Tribune Herald* opinion editor John Young will be our speaker. His fascinating perspective on national and local issues will provide a stimulating program. After dinner and his speech, we will take a short recess before going into our annual business meeting. Remember that guests are welcome. While they are free to stay for the business meeting, the recess provides a convenient time for them to leave. It is very important that you make a reservation for dinner by noon on Monday, May 11.

The nominating committee presents an excellent slate of officers for the coming year. For us to continue our effective work, we must be willing to serve with them. Please respond positively to requests for help. Even better, volunteer to help! Several projects next year such as the Guide to Elected Officials and member recruitment will need your assistance.

The past three years as president of the Waco LWV have allowed me to become involved with the League in a new way. Even though I have been a member since I moved to Waco in 1983, I discovered that I had much to learn. And what a "good learning" it has been. My respect and appreciation for the organization and all of you have increased. Thank you for this opportunity.

– Annette Lindsey

## **LWV-WA Organizes Candidates' Forum**

On April 16, the LWV-Waco Area co-sponsored a Candidates' Forum with the Waco Chamber of Commerce, Parents for Public Schools, and KWBU Radio. The two one-hour forums organized by the LWV featured all five of the candidates who are running in opposed races for Waco ISD School Board and five of the candidates running for the Waco City Council.

Participating candidates included Norman Manning and Sammy Smith—School Board District 1; Pat Atkins, Charles Harris, and Todd Moore—School Board District 6 At Large; James Armstrong—City Council District 2; Rick Allen and Toni Herbert—City Council District 4; and Jim Bush and Felecia Simmons—City Council District 5.

During the forum, moderator Karla Leeper asked the candidates questions submitted by the sponsoring organizations and then took questions from the audience. The forum, which was held at the new Waco Chamber of Commerce building, drew a crowd of close to seventy and received prominent coverage from co-sponsor KWBU Radio and the Waco Tribune Herald.  
— Lisa Shaver

### **Perfect Time to Pay Dues!**

Our annual meeting, the big one of the year, May 12th, will be a perfect time to take care of your League dues! No searching for an envelope, no hunting down a stamp—just bring a check to the meeting!

The dues are \$55 for a member, or \$82.50 for a family membership. Of our \$55 dues only \$3.30 stays with us—\$29.20 goes to a wide variety of national endeavors and \$22 goes to support projects in Texas. These dues will cover membership until June 2010. We encourage members to make an extra contribution to help us cover our local expenses. (Make checks payable to League of Women Voters-Waco Area.)

Thanks very much,  
Dorothy Schleicher, Membership Chair

### **\*\*\* ANNUAL MEETING \*\*\***

**Tuesday, May 12**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Gratziano's in River Square**

#### **Speaker**

John Young, *Waco Tribune Herald*  
Opinion Page Editor

#### **Topic**

"Politics: Tidal Shift or Cosmic Burp?"

#### **Meal Arrangements**

Please select one of our two choices:  
Chicken Cacciatore or Pasta Primavera.

Cost is \$15 (includes tax & gratuity).  
Make checks payable to LWV-WA.

**Reservations are important  
to expedite meal service.**

**Call Annette Lindsey  
at 776-7752  
or e-mail her at  
all439@sbcglobal.net  
by Monday noon, May 11.**

*Please invite guests and make meal  
reservations for them also.*

### **Nominating Committee Report**

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officer candidates to the membership for its consideration:

**President** – Ann-Claire Anderson (for a two-year term)

**Secretary** – Barbara Hills (for a two-year term)

**Treasurer** – Lu Treadwell (completing the remaining year of Kim Kellison's two-year term).

**Letter from LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson to U.S. House of Representatives Regarding Health Care Reform**  
(April 16, 2009)

America is facing a health care crisis caused by a combination of skyrocketing costs and an insurance system that leaves 47 million of us without any coverage. The current health care system is endangering both our economy and our health, and voters have made it clear that they want change. As Congress begins to consider health care reform legislation, the League of Women Voters urges you to consider the following issues.

First, health care reform legislation must guarantee quality, affordable health care to all U.S. residents. The League of Women Voters believes that it is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system. The legislation must include a benefits package that includes the prevention of disease, health promotion and education, primary care, acute care, long-term care, and mental health care. In addition, any health care package must include prescription drug coverage and allow for pre-existing conditions.

But coverage is not enough. We need to provide for quality and safety in the health care system. The League believes that Congress has taken a key step in that direction in the recently-passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act by providing funding for development of an integrated information technology infrastructure for the health industry. And, it is critical to build on this infrastructure by establishing a system-wide program to coordinate information, establish best practices and provide consumers the information they need to protect themselves and their families.

As an organization dedicated to the citizen's right to know, the League of Women Voters

believes it is essential that comparative data on treatments, benefits packages and medical outcomes be made publicly available so that individuals can make informed health decisions and so costs can be controlled.

The federal government needs to take additional strong action to reduce the costs of health care for individuals, businesses and communities. As a nation, we are spending \$1 out of every \$6 we earn on health care. Over the last three decades, increases in the amount we spend on health care have consistently risen faster than wages and inflation. If nothing is done to control costs, we could be spending \$3 trillion for health care by 2011 and \$4.2 trillion by 2016.

The League of Women Voters believes that cost containment measures must take place in the context of overall health care reform. We must reduce or eliminate the cost-shifting that currently exists in health care financing and work to streamline the system. Legislation must provide effective cost controls, equitable distribution of services and allow for efficient and economical delivery of care.

To achieve this kind of comprehensive, system-wide reform will take a shared effort by citizens and Congress. The 150,000 members and supporters of the League of Women Voters are ready to work with you to reach this goal.

And we are not alone. According to *The Washington Post*, a recent study reported in *The New England Journal of Medicine* found that 70 percent of Americans surveyed believe the health care system in this country needs major changes, if not a complete overhaul. The League of Women Voters wants to ensure that the concerns of these citizens are heard as you work to shape tomorrow's health care system.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE WACO AREA**  
**2009-2010 GENERAL FUND BUDGET**  
 June 1, 2009-May 31, 2010

<b>INCOME:</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>
	Actual	Proposed
Membership dues (08-09 actual)		
21 individual @ 55.00	1155.00	
2 household @ 82.50	165.00	
Membership dues (09-10 proposed)		
23 individual @ 55.00		1265.00
2 household @ 82.50		165.00
Donations	90.00	218.20
<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME:</b>	<b>1410.00</b>	<b>1648.20</b>

<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Local meeting expenses	33.16	80.00
Office expenses/supplies	18.02	50.00
Memorials	0.00	30.00
Newsletter (printing and mailing)	8.40	15.00
Extra mailings (speaker invitations, misc. letters)	20.51	50.00
Publications	0.00	20.00
P.O. Box fee	42.00	42.00
Bank Expenses	24.00	0.00
CRRC Membership	30.00	30.00
PMP-LWV-US (08-09 actual)		
21 individual @ 28.00	588.00	
2 individual @ 42.00	84.00	
PMP-LWV-TX (08-09 actual)		
21 individual @ 22.00	462.00	
2 group @ 33.00	66.00	
PMP-LWV-US (09-10 proposed)		
23 individual @ 29.2		671.60
2 group @ 43.8		87.60
PMP-LWV-TX (09-10 proposed)		
23 individual @ 22		506.00
2 group @ 33.00		66.00
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE:</b>	<b>1376.09</b>	<b>1648.20</b>

**TEXAS EDUCATION FUND BUDGET 2009-2010**

<b>INCOME:</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2009-10</b>
	Actual	Proposed
Cooper Foundation grant	2400.00	
Individual donations	235.00	300.00
<b>TOTAL OPERATING INCOME:</b>	<b>2635.00</b>	<b>300.00</b>

<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Back dues from 06-07	148.50	
General Voters Guides	2170.00	300.00
Unused grant funds	67.07	
Voters Guides project reimbursements	162.93	
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE:</b>	<b>2548.50</b>	<b>300.00</b>

**STATEMENT OF WORTH**

General Fund Balance as of 4/30/09	2342.17
TEF Balance as of 4/30/09	873.62
CD Balance as of 5/5/09	1179.31

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

Officers

President – Annette Lindsey (776-7752)

Vice President for Programs – Jenice Long (772-0323)

Vice President for Community Relations – Rosemary Townsend (772-7314)

Secretary – Ann-Claire Anderson (399-0127)

Treasurer – Kimberly Kellison (757-2047)

Directors

Voter Service – Lisa Shaver (715-7000)

Membership Chair – Dorothy Schleicher (776-0086)

Voter Editor – Karen Schleicher (495-2295)

Publicity - Cathy Gordon (772-2838)

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**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

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.