

League of Women Voters of Wichita Falls

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Web Page- - www.LwvTexas.org/WichitaFalls.htm

VOTER for January 2009

**LAURA WIJKOWSKI, Director of River Bend Nature Center
speaks on: ELEPHANT POO-POO, PAPER & MORE**

Wednesday, January 7, 2009 - - - at Luby's Cafeteria

Go thru lunch line prior to the 12 noon, call to order

As the new Director of the River Bend Nature Center, Laura Wijkowski is also venturing into a new kind of non-profit management work. She has over 30 years of non-profit management, but the last 28 years of her management experience has been with the Girl Scout movement. That is what she was doing in Chickasha, Oklahoma, before she moved to Wichita Falls, to take her new position.

Raised in Chicago, she received her degree at Missouri Valley College, in the non-profit management field. She and her husband have a daughter, who attends the University of Central Oklahoma, and she says they also have three dogs.

Ms. Wijkowski tells the editor that she came to this position with a primary mission of continuing the development of the volunteers program. An organization like River Bend cannot survive without significant numbers of people who think the thrust of the organization is worthwhile, and dedicate themselves to its success. She will focus on the recent changes in River Bend, its expansion of facilities, the benefit that River Bend offers to the local community, and its connection to the Natural Environment in Texas.

DUES and CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LEAGUE

League Dues are \$55 per member annually (or \$75 for a couple).

Friends of the League are contributors of at least \$15, or more, to help cover LWV expense. Larger Tax-Deductible Contributions from friends, go specifically for Voters Guides, and other educational projects. Checks of this nature should be made payable to LWV-Texas Education Fund.

Bring Dues or Contributions to a meeting or mail to the League treasurer at P.O.Box 4034, Zip 76308

LOOKING AHEAD to our February 4th Meeting

Dr. Jeff Stambaugh, Director of the Munir Abdul Lalani Center for Entrepreneurship & Free Enterprise, will talk about the Center and its role in fostering new businesses, and to encourage established businesses, to include the incubator program in their outreach.

LWV ACTION REPORT ON OUR RECYCLING POSITION

In 1998 the League studied the issue of Recycling in the Wichita Falls Area, with Irene Lambert as study chair. After a consensus meeting of our membership, we

developed a Recycling Position, which may be summarized as follows: ***The League strongly supports feasible and practical methods of recycling that the city, county, and other entities have or may begin, including curbside recycling. We support educating the public on the Three R's - - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.*** We also publish each year a Brochure: Where to Recycle in Wichita Falls.

On December 2, 2008, the River Bend Nature Center presented, to the WF City Council, a plan to expand Curbside recycling. They presented facts, figures, arguments, & valid points to the Council. Penny Miller as president of the League also spoke in favor of the plan, based on our League Position. The Mayor asked that they meet with the City staff to refine the request.

On December 4, 2008, League VP Dolores Pratt, appeared before a meeting of the Non-profit Management Center group about Recycling, including presentation of copies of our Recycling Brochure.

A copy of our Recycling Position, established in 1998, will be available for those attending our January 7th meeting, for a more detailed review of our Recycling Position, and background on its development.

LWV OFFICER PROFILE - - DR. MICHAEL PREDA, Vice-President

Mike Preda, Ph.D, is Vice-President for Community Relations with the LWV-Wichita Falls. This includes oversight of Legislative Affairs, Voters Service, and the Voter Newsletter.

He is a professor of political science, and has taught at Midwestern State University since 1976. Prior to coming to MSU, he taught at McMurry University in Abilene, Texas. Mike earned his Ph.D. at the University of Oklahoma, his M.A. at East Texas State University (currently Texas A&M-Commerce), and his B.A. at Wayne State University (Michigan). He also took summer courses at the Univ. of Lausanne, Switzerland. He has taught 22 different university level courses. He is a former partner in a local political consulting firm.

He is married to Chriss and they have two sons - - Drew, who lives in Atlanta, and Ben, who lives in Dallas. One of his proudest moments was to have completed 100 kilometers in the Hotter 'n Hell 100 bicycle ride twenty years ago. He suggests that no one ask how long it took him to complete the ride.

See you on Wednesday, January 7th, at Luby's.

Feel Free to forward this VOTER to your friends & associates. Feedback to LaryLambert@prodigy.net or 767-0129