

LWV[®] *The* Galveston E-Voter

Issue 5 – the League of Women Voters of the Galveston Area – January 2008

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Dear League Members:

Happy New Year to all our League members. Here's a recap of the events of the past two months and information on upcoming events.

UTMB Health Fair – two Leaguers who are also Deputy Registrars, Katherine Thatcher and Deborah Ford, registered voters on Saturday, November 10th. They were part of an event hosted by UTMB at its clinic at St Vincent's House. Katherine and Deborah also distributed League information and answered questions about upcoming elections.

Elected Officials Reception - the League's Elected Officials Reception was held Tuesday, Nov. 27, 2007. Approximately 60 people attended the event including Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas. President Mary Ross and Board Member Terri Farmer spoke informally to the guests. From the comments made that night, everyone had a great visit with their elected officials and the candidates in the upcoming elections.



The LWV-GA Reception was well attended and everyone enjoyed the socializing and refreshments.

General Meeting – our next General Meeting will be on January 15, 2008 and will feature Cheryl E. Johnson, Galveston County Tax Assessor-Collector. Please mark your calendar for this date and plan to attend this important event. It will be your chance to hear from one of our county's busiest elected official.

Consensus Studies – We are still looking for volunteers to participate in the League's Immigration Study (LWV-US). The immigration consensus questions are now available on the LWV-US website for discussion purposes. While excellent articles outlining immigration issues are available on the public section of the LWV-US website, access to the consensus questions requires logging into the members' section of the website. The Consensus Report is due Feb. 1, 2008 so if you are interested in participating in this study, please let us know.

As we have stated before, and as Terri Farmer so eloquently repeated at the Elected Officials Reception, consensus studies are the best way to reason through and resolve controversial public policy issues. We hope that many of our members will find the time to participate. Please contact Mary Ross at 409-741-0593 if you are interested.

Board Nominations – this is the time of year to select a slate of officers for the LWV-GA board for the 2008-2009 term of office. If you are interested in any position on the board or want to suggest someone for a board position, please contact Mary Ross at 741-0593.

Candidate's Forums – as you are aware, 2008 will be a very busy election year. The League plans to hold at least one candidate's forum and if you'd like to participate or help out, please contact Deborah Ford at 763-5386. Our first forum is scheduled for March 2008.

Board Meetings – League member Vicki Jo Casals suggested we announce upcoming Board Meetings. We think that's an excellent idea and encourage all members to attend when they can.

Board Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at the McCullough Room of the Rosenberg Library starting at 5:30PM. Meeting dates for next two months are:

February 6, 2008
March 5, 2008

News from Brandon Spenrath, Associate Administrator,
of the League of Women Voters of Texas:



LWVTX CONVENTION '08
Fort Worth, Texas
Cowtown...Culture...Community
April 4-6 2008

Make your plans now to attend the State Convention in Fort Worth, April 4-6.

We will be staying in the completely renovated Hilton Fort Worth that is located within walking distance of Sundance Square, Bass Hall, Sid Richardson Museum and downtown shopping. Go to www.hilton.com and take a look.

There will be a Pre-Convention Tour of the Fort Worth Stockyards, Friday morning, hosted by Host League Tarrant County. Leaving the Hilton at 10am and returning by 12:30pm in time for the afternoon workshops. Go to the website at www.lwvtexas.org and take a look.

Two fabulous back to back workshops are offered on Friday afternoon: Advocacy and the Relationship Between the Three Levels of League, conducted by Carolie Mullan (Texas), LWVUS Board member; and a Membership workshop conducted by Cheryl Graeve, LWVUS Senior Director for Membership.

There will be a dinner Friday evening. This is the time for our host, Tarrant County, to shine as they provide an evening of music, good food, door prizes and socializing. This will be preceded by a tour of the Sid Richardson Museum.

Saturday morning we begin our plenary and will hear the Secretary of State Director of Elections, Ann McGeehan, share information on elections in Texas, with time for Q & A.

The 11th Environmental Awareness Awards Luncheon will be held Saturday at noon and the EA Awards will be presented.

The Saturday evening banquet will be at the Hilton with Keven Ann Willey from the Dallas Morning News as the keynote speaker. Very special donated items will be auctioned by Ft. Worth's own Auctioneer, Dan Tribble.

Sunday morning will conclude our plenary with the announcement of the 2008-2010 LWV-TX Officers and Directors, followed by a post convention tour of Fort Worth museums offered by our Host.

During our festivities, special awards will be awarded to local Leagues, a gathering for LL Presidents, and a chance to meet our LWV-TX Program Chairs. There will be the fabulous Silent Auction available for you to bid from Friday morning until Saturday evening.

Please mark your calendar now. It is important that each League in Texas participate in convention.

SEE YOU IN FORT WORTH!

Mark Your



Calendar!

01/15/08
General Meeting
featuring Cheryl E. Johnson, Galveston
County Tax Assessor-Collector
Wortham Auditorium
Rosenberg Library
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

