



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF IRVING **SPRING-VOTER 2008** VOL 16 ISSUE 2
VOTER EDITOR: Judy Smith 1802 Puritan Dr. Irving TX 75061 (972) 785-VOTE (8683)

Call to Annual Meeting

Saturday May 17, 2008

10:30 am – 1 pm
Las Colinas Country Club at 4400 N. O'Connor
972-541-1141

Agenda

10:30 am – Brunch
11:00 am – Speaker
11:30 am – Business Meeting
1:00 pm Adjournment

Our Speaker will be:
Rosemary Rumbley



We're One of a Kind

Brunch by reservation with pre-payment only

Write a check for \$20 payable Irving LWV and mail to Judy Smith . 1802 Puritan Dr. 75061 972-251-3161 **Deadline to receive checks Wednesday, May 14, 2008** – Questions Philudy@tx.rr.com

We would like to thank Dr. Janet Glenn for underwriting a portion of this event.

Did you VOTE and did you feel informed about the views of your candidate!

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

November is around the corner!

Be Prepared for Annual Meeting

Please review the program proposal for 2008-09

Did you know that the Presidential Primaries held in March had a similar number of voters as the primaries of 20 years ago? In 1988 Democrat turnout was 22.8 %, in 2008 the turnout was 22.5%; the Republican turnout in 1988 was 13.1 % and in 2008 it was 10.7%. You may remember that the 1988 candidates were Dukakis for the D's and Bush for the R's.

That was jus one of the several interesting statistics delivered by Ann McGeehan, Director of Elections, Office of Secretary of State, to the LWV members attending the State Convention in Fort Worth April 4-6.

The LWV has worked closely with Ms. McGeehan in the Texas implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) since its passage by the U.S. Congress in 2002. LWV throughout the country were instrumental in final passage and ultimate monitoring of the provision of the law.

Another interesting fact is that statewide, more than 40% of the total votes of both parties (45% for D's; 41%for R's) were cast at Early Vote sites. The number has been steadily rising since it's inception.

One of the provision of HAVA is for states to develop a database of voters. So, when you received your latest voter registration card, (one of more than 45,000 new certificates issued prior to the primaries) your number changed to a VUID which is the number assigned by the Texas system.

Some other changes are being contemplated for November 4:

1. Establish a pilot Super Precinct on Election Day that will be organized much like Early

Voting so voters may use a countywide site.

2. A pilot program to email blank ballots to voters with ".mil" email addresses on request. Voter must return ballot by mail.
3. Poll worker training is now on line: www.texaspollworkertraining.com.

These and other changes will be the focus of various State Leagues next year.

The board proposes we consider various procedures to increase voter participation by vote by-mail, Internet voting, same-day registration, and try to determine other procedures barriers to voting.

Irving members will be given a chance to study and discuss improvement to the Texas election system that received approval at the League's State Convention in April to study **VOTING PROCEDURES TO INCREASE VOTER PARTICIPATION**

Submitted by Genie Mitchell, Co-Program VP

Please review the Bylaw changes

Article VI – Sec. 2 Dues: The amount of the dues shall be set by the members at the Local Convention. The dues shall be payable June 30. Any new members joining after **January 1** will pay one-half (1/2) of annual dues. (Changed 2002)

Because of a change in the Per Member Payment schedule to LWV-US and LWV-TX the board recommends that this be changed to:

NEW - Article VI – Sec.2 Dues. The amount of the dues shall be set by the members at the Local Convention. The dues shall be payable June 30. Any new member joining after January 31 will pay one-half (1/2) of annual dues.

Please review the proposed 2008-09 Nominating Committee Report:

Officers to be elected to serve a one-year term.

PRESIDENT – Carol Little

PROGRAM VP – Genie Mitchell with Eileen Kensinger assisting

ORGANIZATION VP – Judy Smith

Officers to be elected to serve a two-year term.

TREASURER – Phil Smith

SECRETARY – Carol Bell

PUBLIC RELATIONS VP

Press Releases Jan Killen with Judy Readen Assisting

In House – “Keeping Us Connected” – Judy Smith

Directors to be elected to serve a one-year term.

VOTER SERVICE DIRECTORS – Stephanie Hall and Mona Wyatt

VOTER EDITOR – Judy Smith

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR – Eileen Parks

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR – Jane Schwartzman

The following members have agreed to **commit to an at large committee** once confirmed: JoAnne Sherlock, Tom Burhoe and Genevieve Ramos

SPECIAL PROJECTS - Off Board

FUND RAISING EVENT - Julie Esstman, Mary Oberlin, Eileen Kensinger, Ann Ouzts and Helen Chaplin

Respectfully submitted

Mary Oberlin - Chair

Jan Killen

Judy Smith

The proposed treasurer and budget report will be presented at Annual Meeting in the handbook.

DUES ARE DUE \$55

Plan to bring a separate check payable to The League of Women Voters of Irving and give to our membership chair Jan Killen at the membership table if you haven't previously mailed it.

PHOTO AVAILABLE APOND REQUEST

L to R: Genevieve Ramos, Judy Smith, Genie Mitchell, Judith Readen, Carol Little and Jan Killen

LOCAL LEAGUE NEWS

Leaguers attend State Convention

Attending State Convention in Fort Worth at the Hilton Hotel on Friday April 4th were those pictured in the photo. On Saturday, April 5th Stephanie Hall, Genie Mitchell, Eileen Parks, Genevieve Ramos and Mona Wyatt attended, and on Sunday, April 6th, Genie Mitchell and Mona Wyatt attended.

Friday's workshops featured Carolie Mullan, LWVUS Board member spoke about Advocacy and Cheryl Graeve, LWVUS Senior Director spoke to the issue of membership. There are 150,000 League members and 800 Leagues in the US.

Saturday's guest speakers were Kathleen Hicks, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Forth Worh, Glen Whitley, County Judge, Tarrant County Commissioners

Court and Keynote speaker was Becky Richard, PhD, Professor, Environmental Science Department, TCU. On Saturday and Sunday plenary sessions League members heard Ann McGeehan, Director of Elections, Office of the Texas Secretary of State, Dr. Becky Richards form TCU, Keven Ann Wiley, VP Editorial Page Editor, Dallas Morning News. She was instrumental in passing the recorded vote legislation with Richardson and the Dallas Leagues.

During the program agenda a new recommended program was adopted, Voting Procedures to Increase Voter Participation.

LEAGUERS MAN BOOTHS to register voters at the Woman's EXP at the Senior Center – PHOTO'S AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Pictured in photo, Judy Smith and Eileen Kensinger. Jan Killen and Jane Schwartzman also manned the booth.

At the **CINCO DE MAYO CELEBRATION** at Senter Park Genevieve, Ramos, JoAnne Sherlock, Judy Smith, Mona Wyatt, and Carol Bell Worked the booth.

Photo features Genevieve Ramos and JoAnne Sherlock

NATIONAL LEAGUE NEWS

Action Alert: The Senate Must Act on Global Climate Change

Let your Senators know that they should support strong action to control global warming.

ELECTIONS

League Voices Concern About U.S. Election Assistance Commission's Proposals

Go to the National League website to read the letter that the League and other groups sent to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) voicing concern over their latest proposals that would affect implementation of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

LWV of Florida Continues Fight Against Onerous Voter Registration Laws

The LWV of Florida and others filed a new lawsuit challenging a Florida voter registration law. The

revised Florida law will produce a serious chilling effect on registration drives and disproportionately affects African-American and Hispanic voter applicants who are twice as likely to register to vote through voter registration drives. "This law makes it extremely risky for our volunteers and for our organization to conduct voter registration drives in Florida," said Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti, president of the League of Women Voters of Florida and a plaintiff in the suit. "The escalating fines make voter registration drives prohibitively expensive, even for individuals who just want to help once a month

Go to your National League's web site to read an article in *The New York Times*. Florida has been on the front lines of the voter registration battle. To learn more about third party voter registration issues and the ongoing assault on voters' rights, go to the [Public Advocacy for Voter Protection project page, www.lwv.org/PAVP](http://www.lwv.org/PAVP).

LEAGUE SAYS SUPREME COURT VOTER ID DECISION "DISGRACEFUL" Voters Cannot Look to Court to Ensure Fair Elections

Washington, DC - "This is a disgraceful decision by a court that has no credibility on election issues. The court has shown once again that it does not respect voters," said Mary G. Wilson, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States. Because of the procedural status of the case, there was no record on which the Court could judge how great the burden of a photo ID requirement would be on voters. Nonetheless, the three key justices found that the burden was not "excessively burdensome." This finding is "intellectually as well as morally bankrupt," Wilson said. "There is a concerted effort in this country to disenfranchise legal voters and, unfortunately, this Supreme Court has joined those ugly efforts," Wilson said. This is a "bad decision for our democracy," Wilson asserted. "Just because the Supreme Court says a bad policy is constitutional doesn't mean legislatures should adopt it," she said. "The League of Women Voters will be fighting against these limitations on democracy in the states and, when necessary, in Congress," she said. "It is simply disgraceful when the Supreme Court refuses to protect the constitutional voting rights of Americans," Wilson said. "We can no longer look to this Supreme Court to ensure fair elections," Wilson concluded. The League of Women Voters of Indiana, LWV of

Indianapolis and the League of Women Voters of the United States filed a joint [amicus brief](#) in the Supreme Court case, Crawford v. et al.

Purchase *Choosing the President 2008 Online - Choosing the President 2008* is an essential tool for everyone – students, first-time voters and long-time voters – as we prepare for the 2008 presidential election. See the National League’s web site to purchase this comprehensive guide at a discounted price of \$11.00!

DID YOU KNOW – According to State Ranking, Texas rates (50th – Lowest, 1st – Highest)

In EDUCATION

- Public School Enrollment 2nd
- Average Teacher Salary 32nd
- Current Expenditures per Student 40th
- State Aid Per Pupil 46th
- Percentage of School Funding from Local Revenue 12th
- Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) Scores 47th
- Percentage of Population Over 25 with a High School Diploma 50th
- High School Graduation Rate 35th
- Percentage of Adults with at Least a Bachelor’s Degree 28th

STATE OF THE CHILD

- Birth Rate 2nd
- Percent of Population under 18 4th
- Percentage of Uninsured Children 1st
- Percentage of Children Living in Poverty 5th
- Percentage of Children Immunized 49th

HEALTH CARE AND WELL-BEING

Health Professionals per Capita

- Physicians 42nd
- Dentists 41st
- Pharmacist 44th
- Psychologist 39th
- Percentage Living below Federal Poverty Level 3rd
- Percentage of Population with Food insecurity 3rd
- Percentage of Population that is Malnourished 3rd
- Amount of Welfare and Food

- Stamp Benefits Paid 47th
- Amount of Monthly Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Benefits paid 42nd
- Minutes of Daily Care by Registered Nurses for Nursing Home Residents 46th
- Compliance with the Supreme Court Olmstead Decision Declaring that Unjustified Institutionalization of a Disabled Person is Discrimination 37th

WOMEN’S ISSUES

- Overall Birth Rate 2nd
- Teenage Birth Rate 5th
- Percentage of Non-Elderly Women with Health Insurance 50th
- Access to Adequate **Prenatal** Care 35th
- Percentage of Women who Have had a Dental Visit Within the Past Year 48th
- Rate of Women Aged 40+ who Receive Mammograms 44th
- Rate of Women Age 18 + who Receive Pap Smears 47th
- Cervical Cancer Rate 5th
- Percentage of Women with High Blood Pressure 15th
- Family Planning 45th
- Women’s Voter Registration 43rd
- Women’s Voter Turnout 49th
- Percentage of Women with four or more Years of College 30th
- Women’s Median Annual Earnings 28th
- Women in Managerial and Professional Occupations 28th
- Women Business Ownership 28th
- Percent of women above the Poverty Level 44th

ENVIRONMENT

- Air Pollution Emissions 1st
- Pollution Released by Manufacturing 1st
- Amounts of Green House Gases Released 1st
- Amount of Toxic Chemicals Released into Water 1st
- Amounts of Toxic Chemical released Into the Air 4th
- Amount of Recognized Cancer-Causing Carcinogens Released into Air 1st

- Amount of Recognized Cancer-Causing Carcinogens Released into Water 7th
- Number of Clean Water Permit Violations 1st
- Number of Environmental and Civil Rights Complaints 1st
- Number of Hazardous Waste Spills 2nd
- Number of Hazardous Waste Generated 1st
- Number of Hazardous Waste Site on National Priority List 9th
- Amount of Carbon Dioxide Emissions 1st
- Consumption of Energy per Capita 5th
- Consumption of Electricity Per Customer 10th
- Open Space Protection 50th
- Drinking Water Quality 38th

DEMOCRACY

- Percentage of Eligible Voters that are Registered 41st
- Percentage of Eligible Voters that Vote 44th

For statistics on State Government Taxes and Spending, more on Health Care, Health and Well Being, Diseases, Access to Capital, Workforce, Cost of Living, and Public Safety and the sources for this information please contact your Voter editor.



Meet Member - Joined 2006

MARGIE STIPES

Place of Birth – Eola, TX
Birthday – Dec. 25

Occupation – Worked in the Flight Department of American Airlines for thirty years.

Family – She has three children; Larry, Randy and Stacy

Places she has lived – She is a south Texas Gal having lived in San Angelo, Refugio, Victoria, Jefferson, Marshall, Arkansas, New Orleans, etc.

Her Ideal Vacation – A Russian Cruise

Her Epitaph Should Read – She did her best!

Her Trademark Expression Is: It's nice to be nice to nice people, but with the rest, try harder.

Her Best Asset Is – Volunteering

Her Worst Habit is – Eating chocolate everyday

She is Happiest When – I'm helping other People

Her Favorite Junk Food Is – Hersery Bars

Her Most Valued Possession – Family

Nobody Know I'm a football sweetheart for Irving's 3 high schools.

My Favorite All Time Movie is: The 10 Commandments

Her Favorite Book Is – Bible

4 People she Would invite to a Dinner Party – Coach Joe Barlet (Athletic Director for the Irving Athletic District), Coach Steven Hokenberger, Coach Brian Basil and Coach Jim Bennet – Touchdown!

The Electrical Device I couldn't Live Without is – her microwave

She was attracted to the League because – Kitty Boyle paid her membership

If I had a position of power to effect change for Irving, What would you do? That everyone would live in harmony in Irving, with no distinction between North and South.