



The League of Women Voters – Waco Area *VOTER*

Annette Lindsey, President, 776-7752

Karen Schleicher, Editor, 495-2295

May 2008

President's Letter

What a great year to be a member of the League of Women Voters. The political campaigns have reinforced the need for good government and voter education.

At our Annual Meeting on May 13, we will review the past year and make plans for the new. Prior to the business meeting, Dr. Richard Riley, Professor of Political Science at Baylor University, will speak on ethics in government. Dr. Riley's areas of interest include legislative-executive relations, separation of powers, civil liberties and first-amendment freedoms. He is co-author of a well-known political science text, *Constitutional Government: The American Experience*.

Following the program we will elect officers, approve the budget, decide on meeting times and hear a program report for the coming year. Of course you will have the opportunity to visit with valued friends who share your interest and commitment to voter education and good government. This is an excellent opportunity to invite a guest, especially prospective members. Please see the announcement in this *Voter* about the meal arrangement. While a reservation is not necessary, it does help the restaurant plan for our event.

Because attendance at evening meetings is significantly better than noon meetings, the board is recommending that all meetings occur in the evening. Please give careful thought to this proposed change in our schedule and be prepared to vote at our annual meeting.

During the past year we enjoyed excellent programs, reaching consensus on both state and national studies, meeting new members and registering voters. I am especially grateful for the constant support from the board of directors. Karen Schleicher manages to take my meanderings and turn them into the *Voter* so that you have regular information about League

activities. Ann-Claire Anderson takes thorough notes as secretary and provides a careful record of our decisions. Ginger Sutcliffe sees to it that *Voters Guides* are ordered and distributed. Cathy Gordon publicizes our events. Dorothy Schleicher manages membership issues. Kim Kellison, our diligent treasurer, accurately handles our financial responsibilities. Please let these women know how much you appreciate their work on our behalf.

David Schleicher, Waco ISD board member and husband of our own Ann-Claire Anderson, spoke at the April meeting on the WISD bond issue. It was an informative session with significant information about the needs in this district.

Don't forget to vote on May 10. Area school-board candidates, other government officials and school bond issues are on the ballot.

I look forward to seeing you on May 13 at our Annual Meeting.

-- Annette

★★★ ANNUAL MEETING ★★★
Tuesday, May 13
5:30 p.m.
Gratziano's Restaurant
Speaker: Dr. Richard Riley
Professor of Political Science, Baylor

Set menu price of \$16.00 includes salad, drink, dessert, tax and gratuity with choice of entrées:

- Chicken Parmesan *or* Eggplant Parmesan with either Spaghetti Pomodoro or grilled vegetables, or
- Cajun Chicken (pasta and grilled Cajun chicken tossed in Cajun-Alfredo sauce).

E-mail or call Karen Schleicher at krs3@sbcglobal.net or 495-2295 by noon on Monday, May 12 to reserve. Please indicate entrée choice.

Please have exact amount of cash or check payable to LWV-Waco.

From the Membership Chair

We have been so pleased to welcome a number of new members this year, including Shirley Crockett, Barbara Hills, Lisa Shaver, Beverly Smith, Rosemary Townsend, and Lu Treadwell. Each of these new members is an excellent addition to our organization.

Our annual meeting on Tuesday, May 13th, would be a perfect time to take care of your membership dues for the coming year. We have not raised the dues this time, so they are still \$55.00 for a single membership, or \$82.50 for a household membership.

We look forward to another great year as we study crucial national issues and work toward better voter education in this important election year.

--Dorothy Schleicher

Remember to Vote May 10

Early voting started April 28 and continues through May 6. Among the important items on the ballot are bond issues for several Central Texas school districts, and several seats are up for election on the Waco City Council. If you think you will be out of town on May 10, please vote early. You may vote at the County Elections Office on Washington between 4th and 5th Streets or obtain a mail-in ballot by calling that office. You may also visit their web site at www.co.mclennan.tx.us/elections.

--Ginger Sutcliffe

Immigration Position LWVUS

Leagues across the country engaged in studying immigration issues and reaching consensus during the past year. Members of the national study committee sifted through the consensus reports and prepared the following LWVUS Immigration Position. It is interesting to read this document that represents the thinking of groups across the US.

LWVUS Immigration Position

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United

States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the U.S. on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the U.S.

To complement these goals the League supports federal policies to improve economies, education, job opportunities and living conditions in nations with large emigrating populations.

In transition to a reformed system, the League supports provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status

The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

Criteria for Legal Admission to the U.S.

The League supports the following criteria for legal admission of persons into the United States:

- Family reunification of spouses or minor children with authorized immigrants or citizens;
- Flight from persecution or response to humanitarian crises in home countries;
- Economic, business and employment needs in the U.S.;
- Education and training needs of the U.S.;
- Educational program opportunities; and
- Lack of a history of serious criminal activity.

Administration and Enforcement

The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment.

The League supports:

- Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee status;
- Verification documents, such as status cards and work permits, with secure identifiers;
- Significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers;
- Improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies;
- More effective tracking of individuals who enter the United States; and
- Increased personnel at borders.

The League also supports programs allowing foreign workers to enter and leave the U.S. to meet seasonal or sporadic labor needs.

Unauthorized Immigrants Already in the U.S.

In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity.

Minutes from 2007 Annual Meeting:

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTES OF THE WACO AREA ANNUAL MEETING—May 8, 2007

Approved:

The LWV-Waco Area Board of Directors and Membership met on Tuesday, May 8, 2007 at Gratziano's Restaurant in downtown Waco.

After a very interesting speech by Judge Felipe Reyna, the annual meeting of the Waco Chapter of the League of Women Voters was called to order by President Annette Lindsey. Tom Ragland moved that we approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion passed.

The Treasurer passed out copies of the financial report and we discussed fees for the coming year—both individual as well as household membership dues. We voted to go to \$55.00 for individual memberships and \$82.50 for household memberships. After a discussion of the budget for the coming year, it was accepted.

We were reminded that during the coming year we continue to focus on immigration issues.

Cathy Gordon brought a report on revisions to the by-laws. The by-laws changes are to bring us in accordance the national by-laws. Tom Ragland moved that we adopt all revisions and the motion passed.

On behalf of the board, Cathy Gordon gave the Spark Plug award to Annette Lindsey for keeping us in line and full of excitement.

Annette reminded us about the upcoming training meeting in Ft. Worth and the meeting was adjourned.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-WACO AREA
P.O. BOX 7311
WACO, TX 76714-7311**

LWV-WACO AREA OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2007 - 2008

Officers

President – Annette Lindsey (776-7752)
Program Vice President -
Secretary – Ann-Claire Anderson (399-0127)
Treasurer – Kimberly Kellison (757-2047)

Directors

Voter Service – Ginger Sutcliffe (752-6805)
Membership Chair – Dorothy Schleicher (776-0086)
Voter Editor – Karen Schleicher (859-5617)
Publicity - Cathy Gordon (772-2838)

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.