



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF IRVING

FALL 2010

vol. 18 Issue2 ★ Voter Editor Judy Smith 1802 Puritan Dr. Irving 75061 (972) 251-3161 (972) 785 – VOTE

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Let's make a difference! I'm looking forward to the League year and hope you all will share your ideas, comments, and suggestions.

Mona Wyatt – LWV President

President's Notes



This year we celebrate the 90th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution (August 26, 1920), granting women the right to vote. We must never forget the women, and men, who struggled so long for what we now might so easily take for granted.

SAVE THE DATE

MEETING ALERT

MEET YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

Monday, September 27, 2010

7:00 PM

Irving Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce in the Vault Conference Room at 5201 O'Connor

This will be an opportunity to **meet and visit with your city council** members about your city concerns.

However, even with the passage of the right to vote, suffragists knew that the work was not finished. They quickly formed the League of Women Voters and continued to educate and agitate for active and informed public participation in government.

That's what we must continue to do. Texas was an early state (the 9th) to ratify the amendment, but our leadership hasn't translated into significant voter turnout in recent years. In the 2008 general election, Texas ranked only a disappointing 46th among the states in voter eligible population turnout. The League of Women Voters mission is to change that by helping others learn about the candidates, issues, and election processes.

What can you do?

- Attend League meetings and bring a friend.
- Invite friends to join the League.
- Register or encourage someone to register.
- Educate yourself and others about issues and candidates.
- Vote!

Please share this good source for information: www.lwvtexas.org - the state LWV website - for important voting dates; information about candidates, issues, and events; and other helpful websites. Read and share the newsletters from the State and National Leagues.



Another Alert

CANDIDATES FORUM

October 14

7:30 pm Irving City Hall – Council Chambers

7:00 – 7:30 pm Reception with Campaign Literature Available

We have confirmations from all six candidates who will appear on the ballot in the following three races: State Representative 105 - Linda Harper-Brown (R) and Loretta Haldenwang (D); State Representative 106 - Rodney Anderson (R) and Kirk England (D) ; and Dallas County Commissioner # 4: Kenneth Mayfield (R) and Elba Garcia (D).

Carole Shlipak
Chair, Candidates' Forum

Fall Calendar

September 2010

Monday 6 Labor Day
Tuesday 14 **LWV Board Meeting**
10 am – LC Association
 Wednesday 8 & 22 City Council Work Session
 11 am - City Hall
 Thursday 9 & 23 City Council Meeting
 7 pm - City Hall
 Monday 20 IISD Board of Trustees
 7 pm - IISD Board room
 Saturday 25 The Main Event 11-7 pm

Monday 27

MEET YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS
7 pm – Greater Irving Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce – 5201 N. O'Connor (Vault Conference Rm.)

October 2010

Monday 4 Last day to register for General Election
Tuesday 12 **LWV Board Meeting**
10 am - LC Association
 Monday 4 & 18 IISD Board of Trustees
 7 pm - IISD Board room
 Wednesday 6 & 20 City Council Work Session
 11 am - City Hall
 Thursday 7 & 21 City Council Meeting
 7 pm - City Hall
Thursday 14 **CANDIDATES FORUM**
7:30 pm - Irving City Hall – Council Chambers
 7-7:30 campaign Literature available and “political visiting”
 Monday 18 *Early voting for General Election begins – City Hall*
 Thursday 29 *Early Voting for General Elections ends*

NOVEMBER 2010

Tuesday 2 *General Election Day*
 7 am – 7 pm - local polls
Tuesday 9 **Board Meeting**
10 am - Associates
 Monday 15 IISD Board of Trustees
 7 pm at IISD Board Rm.
 Wednesday 10 City Council Work Session
 12 noon at City Hall
 Thursday 11 City Council Meeting
 7 pm at City Hall
Monday 29 **LWV Meeting - Up-date Kids at Risk**
11:30 am & 7 pm
Facility - TBA

MEETINGS IN REVIEW



BRUSH UP ON NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

March 22, 2010 - 7 pm – Greater Irving Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce Conference Room – 5201 N. O'Connor Blvd. #100, 75030

LWV Program VP, **Genie Mitchell** led panel members; **Rick Bidne**, President of the Las Colinas Association, **Charles Anderson**, City Attorney, **Janet Evanson**, Board member/home owner with Fairway Vista, and **Nell Anne Hunt**, Real Estate Representative with Ebby Halliday in a discussion that included their insights to their particular expertise on Home Owners Associations.

Mandatory Home Owners Associations are legal entities which are determined and defined by deed restrictions when the housing development is created. Initially, the owner of the development is responsible for all the construction of infrastructure [streets, water, sewer, utilities, initial housing stock, and any common use facilities [tennis courts, swimming pool, club house, some landscaping]. Property owners are responsible for property taxes to the usual authorities as well as a homeowners association [HOA] and a master association, if more than one HOA is part of the development.

For instance, Las Colinas Association is the Master Association of 21 separate HOAs in the 12,000 acre development. Owners pay city and state taxes as all property owners do, in addition to HOA dues and Master Association dues.

Homeowner Associations [HOA] are also known as Property Owners Associations [POA] or Common Interest Districts [CID].

Community Associations Institute [CAI] is a 30-year old professional organization which has about 60 chapters throughout the U.S. The DFW CAI has over 400 members, including property, managers, attorneys, insurers, and other professions which offer services to HOA. There are about 1500 members in Texas, with chapters in Austin, Houston, and San Antonio.

Irving also has neighborhood organizations which are voluntary groups of neighbors living in proximity

on a block or several blocks. The City of Irving has assigned a staff member to provide organizational assistance and an occasional grant of money.

Attending the meeting were **League members** Anne Pfaff, Kathrine Pennington, Julie Esstman, Tom Burhoe, LWV president Carol Little, Mona Wyatt, Paulette Austin, Genie Mitchell, Jan Killen, Lely White, Genevieve Ramos, and Phil and Judy Smith. **Guests** were Wayne Pfaff, Dan Neimeier, Clint Howard, Nick Ryan, Jeff Kessel, Carolyn Brakhage and Chuck Boyce to name a few.



CANDIDATES FORUM

Wednesday, April 21, 2010 – 7 pm
Irving City Hall
League President **Mona Wyatt**

facilitated the forum prior to Election Day on May 8. Candidates were afforded the opportunity to express their views on issues and answer questions. The election results are listed below.

In the **City Council** race in Place 1 **Mike Gallaway** was the winner. **Roy Santoscoy** won in Place 2. **Gerald Ferris** won after a run-off election on June 12. In the School Board election **Gwen Craig** won in place 1. In Place 6, **Jerry Christian** ran un-

In Place 7 **Ronda Huffstetler** ran un-

In **Carrollton-Farmers Branch School Board** **Lynn Chaffin** won the seat in Place 5. **Frank Shor** won in Place 6 and in Place 7, **Nancy Watten** was the winner. In the **Coppell School Board** Place 1 **Susie Kemp** ran un-apposed, Place 2 **David Apple** ran un-apposed and in Place 3 **Anthony Hill** was the winner.



LWV ANNUAL CONVENTION

May 22, 2010
Las Colinas Country Club

The renowned **Vivian Castleberry** who is known for her work that placed her at the forefront of women's issues in Dallas beginning in 1950 when she began her career as women's editor of the *Dallas Times Herald*. Her stories were fascinating and insightful. She touched upon the history of the Equal Rights Amendment, her career and the new Peace Institute at the University of North Texas that she helped create.

RECIPE FOR LIFE LUNCHEON raised funds to pay for Voter Guides, Tuesday, May 25, 2010



Planning committee not only worked to bring this event to the community but contributed the dishes served. They included **Julie Esstman**, Chair, **Judy Smith** and **Anne Pfaff** featured in photo. They were joined

by committee members **Eileen Kensinger**, **Mary Oberlin**, **Carol Huntley Little**, **Carole Shlipak**, **Genevieve Ramos**, **Paulette Austin**, **Jan Killen**, and **Helen Chaplin**.



Julie Esstman with Presenter, Chef, and author **Debbie Meyer-Gore**.



Kitty Boyle event hostess and attendee **Ann Gibson**

KICK - OFF MEETING for the new program year
WOMAN'S EQUALITY DAY
Wednesday, August 25, 2010



Norma Stanton member of the Irving League and former president gave an inspiring presentation that truly honored the women who fought for our right to vote.

Mona Wyatt added her graceful thoughts regarding the subject and officially opened the new program year.





LWVUS NEWS

A Few Highlights from the National Convention

LWVUS recommended program for the 2010-2012 Biennium will be the study of the **Federal Role in Public Education**. The study would focus on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, with possible consideration of funding, common standards and/or governance relationships among all levels of the government. The scope will be dependent on available resources, including committee and LWVUS staff time.

The Irving League will make the debate and study available as the study progresses.

A motion passed to adopt the **Emergency Resolution of Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill**: Therefore, we request that the LWVUS highlight the need for those responsible for the oil spill to be held accountable. Further, the LWVUS demands that our government hold those responsible for the environmental disaster accountable for the clean-up.

Motion passed to adopt a resolution in **support of safe drilling and mining for energy resources**: Be it therefore resolved that we, representatives at the 2010 National Convention of the League of Women Voters, call upon the Board to use the resources of the League to support and lobby for significant strengthening of appropriate regulation, oversight, inspection, and penalties associated with the development of fossil fuel resources. This strengthening should include elimination from national legislation of the exemptions for drilling and mining, as well as additional legislation requiring the federal agencies to regulate drilling and mining in a manner consistent with the preservation of a healthy environment. We also call on the Board to communicate with the President and the Congress putting them on notice that Leagues across the country are deeply concerned about this issue.

TAKE ACTION

[It's Now or Never for Climate and Energy Legislation](#)

Global climate change is one of the most serious

threats to the environment, health and economy of our nation. Recent scientific studies show that global warming is already causing environmental changes that will have significant global economic and social impacts.

The League believes that now is the time to act on global climate change. We can reduce global warming pollution by using existing technologies to make power plants and factories more efficient, make cars go farther on a gallon of gasoline, and shift to cleaner technologies. Cities, states and individuals are already adopting many of these solutions, which also reduce our dependence on oil, reduce air pollution, and protect pristine places from oil drilling and mining. State and local initiatives are proving that answers exist. To reinforce and expand on those efforts, the League urges federal action that reduces global warming pollutants on a national and global scale.



LWV/TX NEWS

New Study FOR 2010-2011 Texas Water Resources as a Commodity

Focus: An update of our Water position to consider the competition for water in Texas, including governmental policy, public interest rights, and water resource protection concerns.

Scope:

- Analyze current state regulations which govern the sale or transfer of water rights
- Consider ramifications if Texas were to classify water as a commodity rather than a natural resource
- Explore options such as a state-run water marketing administration
- Assess laws that would be needed for interstate or international water transfers
- Assess the best use of our water (i.e., public interest concerns, environmental factors, effect on third parties, future water requirements)

Study Committee: Mina Johnson (Amarillo), Chair, Miriam Foshay (Dallas), Deanna Frisk (Comal Area), Karen Haschke (Austin Area), Sandra Heatherley (Corpus Christi), Tonya Kleuskens (Amarillo), Dorothy Knight (Wimberley Valley), Amy Thrasher (Tyler), Mary Vogelsson (Dallas)

Timeline:

2010-2011: Research by the committee. Local Leagues may hold Regional Water Forums to educate members and the public about their

area's water resource issues.
 Summer 2011: Facts and Issues published and consensus questions approved by LWV-TX.
 Fall 2011: Local Leagues reach consensus and report to LWV-TX Board.
 Winter 2012: Position statement announced and adopted at Convention 2012.

Anyone interested in serving on the program committee please contact Mona Wyatt at Wyatt@verizon.net



Anyone interested in learning about The State of Human Trafficking in Texas and how it affect our homeless children, contact Judy Smith at philudy@tx.rr.com



Anyone interested in hosting the League's Holiday Party in December contact Judy Smith at philudy@tx.rr.com. Just furnish your home and non-

alcoholic beverage and your League attendees will bring the rest.

Our new members and those who have not been interviewed for the Voter (newsletter) are invited to fill out an interview form. Contact Judy Smith at philudy@tx.rr.com to be featured in the Voter.

MEET MEMBER Carole Larkin
PLACE OF BIRTH: Philadelphia, PA
BIRTHDAY MONTH: Dec. 25 (One reason she was named Carole.)
OCCUPATION: Helping families who have a loved one with dementia (Geriatric Care Manager)
FAMILY: Tom
PLACES SHE HAS LIVED: Philadelphia PA, Buffalo and Rochester N.Y., Grand Rapids MI, Toledo Ohio, Tiffin Ohio, Cincinnati, Ohio and Irving Texas.
HER IDEAL VACCATION: In the summer by the pool, in the winter on the slopes.
HER EPITAPH SHOULD READ: Star Fish Society Member
HER TRADEMARK EXPRESSION: If you're going to be stupid, ya gotta be tough.
HER BEST ASSET: Her sense of humor and her hair color. (Thanks Nancy)

HER WORST HABIT: She doesn't – Do you have an hour to spare?
SHE IS HAPPIEST WHEN: I've just out of the pool from swimming laps.
HER FAVORITE JUNK FOOD: Taco Bell soft tacos.
HER MOST VALUED POSSESSION: Her mother's ashes.
NOBODY KNOWS: That's the problem with her, she tells it all.
FAVORITE ALL TIME MOVIE: Young Frankenstein and Men in Black.
FAVORITE BOOK: All of Jean Auel's books.
4 PEOPLE SHE WOULD INVITE TO A DINNER PARTY: Elaine Wiant, Steven Colbert (in character), her mom, and Bob Demarco.
IF SHE HAD A DIFFERENT JOB: She would be rich.
THE ELECTRICAL DEVICE SHE COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT IS: computer and smart people.
WHAT ATTACHED HER TO THE LEAGUE: Their philosophy of helping people vote and their impartiality.
IF SHE HAD A POSITION OF POWER TO EFFECT CHANGE FOR IRVING WHAT WHOULD SHE DO: Demand absolute transparency in Irving and in government everywhere and at all levels.

ABOUT TOWN WITH LEAGUE MEMBERS

Carol Huntley Little is working to make her company, Silver Lining Events LLC, the premier event planning & marketing company in the Metroplex.

Jan Killen is still sweating overseeing repairs at their investment property due to the result of a fire! She wants you to know about the Peacemakers' Annual Luncheon (Vivian Castleberry's organization) on Sept 21 at 11:30 am, downtown Dallas. Speaker topic: Global Citizenship: The Power of One. Tickets are \$75, and you can ride with Jan. www.peacemakersincorporated.org or 972-239-2943.

Debbie Fleck relates that as a journalist, she gets invited to a wide range of events. She was recently judged the Miss Polynesia contest and the organizers gave her a large trophy for her efforts. An event she just attended was the Cowboys Kickoff luncheon at Cowboys Stadium—a fun event where guests got to see the players in suits and ties! This was thanks to an invitation from the Irving Convention and Visitors Bureau. Thanks to Diana Pfaff. She also toured the city's Convention

Center, that bronze building with lots of angles perched along Carpenter Freeway. Tours are offered the fourth Friday of the month. She could go on, but she'll stop!!

Carole Shlipak is a member of the Housing and Human Services Board. The board recommended to City Council that Tudor Lane (which had been a crime and drug infested area), be developed into lovely low and moderate income homes with a safe and secure neighborhood. City Council approved it.

Anita Tipling Wheeler signed up for the Brookhaven jazz band with Freddie Jones (www.freddiejones.net), 2nd time, playing piano, it's fun and you learn a lot about working with other musicians and singers.

She still volunteers with DFW Ambassadors, at her usual time is Thurs. 11a-3p, if anyone is interested, they're always looking for more. Her husband Lloyd signed up and will be in training this week to do that too. Still teaching piano classes to kids and beginner/intermediate adults at Northlake on Wed. nights, started last week. Have a Holiday Music course starting in November for 4 weeks that could be fun, mainly beginners but I have additional music for more advanced students.

Carole Larkin is working with families that have a loved one with dementia. She is also getting her teaching certificate in Alzheimer's care so she can teach at nursing homes and assisted living centers.

Tom Madrzykowski has been appointed the Court Mentor to Veterans Court in Dallas County District Court No. 7. The 2009 Legislature passed a bill allowing specialized Veterans Courts in Texas to divert Vets from the criminal justice system if they meet specific requirements. To be eligible a Veteran must have an Honorable Discharge, be a Combat Vet, have Post Stress Disorder or Traumatic Brain Injury, and be eligible for Veterans Affairs benefits.

Our Court is not a "get out of jail free card." The Statutes are very clear on who is eligible. Vets who have been charged with misdemeanors and up to 3rd degree felonies may apply or can be referred by their attorneys, a judge or probation officer. Vets are not assigned to our Court any longer then their probation or jail sentence would be. Currently, there are nine Veterans in the Court which meets every Monday at 8:00 am at the Crowley Courthouse.

The Honorable Michael R. Snipes is the presiding judge, is a West Point Graduate, a retired Colonel (with an eagle), and is a former Federal Prosecutor

for 13 years, and has been on the bench of Court No.7 for the last 4 years and will continue until 2014.

Tom is a VietNam vet, and is the "eyes and ears" of the Court and is responsible for recruiting other volunteer mentors to help the Iraqi and Afghanistan vets acclimate to civilian life.

League members **Dr. Lori Davis, Cynthia Faust Mary Oberlin and Judy Smith** along with **Sharon Johnston**, President of Irving Women's Network, were appointed by Mayor Herb Gears to research and identify the reasons for homeless teen population in Irving and make recommendations as to how to improve this serious problem. We became known as the Advocates for Homeless Teens and will be making our recommendations and presenting a proposal to the Housing and Human Services Board and to the City Council next month.



League members **Paulette Austin, Lori Davis, Mary Oberlin, Estelle O'Dell, and Phil and Judy Smith** served as mentors (Graduation coaches) for homeless teens as part of the Advocates for Homeless Teens initiative.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Leaguers Celebrate Birthdays this fall

SEPTEMBER

- 3 – Sharon Barbosa-Crain
- 9 - Paulette Austin and Tomas Burhoe
- 14 –Jill Martinez and Anita Tipping Wheeler
- 21 – Eileen Kensinger
- 24 – Estelle Odell
- 28 – Either Johnathan or Lee Ann Boyle

OCTOBER

- 5 - Sandra Stewart
- 13 – Mary Oberlin
- 17 – Phil Smith
- 18 – Betty Miller
- 21 – Alicia Fernandez-Mott
- 24 – Helen Schilling
- 31 – Maxann Alumaugh

NOVEMBER

- 6 – Carole Shlipak
- 7 – Cynthia Faust
- 8 – Janice Carroll
- 10 – Carol Bell
- 11 – Genevieve Ramos
- 30 – Lori Davis