

# VOTER

MARCH 2010

AMARILLO LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Margaret Peebles, Editor

<http://lwvtexas.org/amarillo.htm>

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

### **♠New Citizen Ceremony**

**Date:** Monday, March 15, 2010

**Place:** Federal Court House  
501 SE 5<sup>th</sup> Ave

**Time:** 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

*Volunteers are needed! Please call Maggie Peebles at 356-8119 if you can help!*

### **♠5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sunshine Week National Dialogue**

**Date:** Friday, March 19, 2010

**Place:** Conference Room  
Polk Street Methodist Church  
1401 S. Polk

**Time:** 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

### **♠Water Consensus Meeting**

**Date:** March 30, 2010, Tuesday

**Place:** SW Library  
6801 SW 45<sup>th</sup> Ave

**Time:** 6:30 – 8:45 pm

*(Materials will be emailed or delivered to you after March 15, 2010)*

## **HOLD THE DATE!!**

Plans are being made for a great League fundraiser on September 30, 2010. The fundraiser is a “Roast” of our mayor, Debra McCartt. Mayor McCartt is very excited about helping us out. Stay tuned for more details.

*Janette Kelley, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*

## **President’s Message**

March is here! Can spring be far behind? For those of us throughout the country who have been in danger of cabin fever from all the snow and ice of the past month, the sunny days of this week have been a welcome change. The moisture was welcome, though, and we could have had far worse weather than we actually saw here in the Panhandle; so I dare not complain much.

In case you’re wondering how you can fill the increasing daylight hours as we head into spring, with Sunshine Week and Daylight Savings Time both beginning Sunday, March 14, I invite you to check our calendar for this month.

Several of you have indicated your willingness to help with voter registration, and on Monday, March 15, volunteers are needed to provide voter registration cards to the new citizens who will be sworn in at the naturalization ceremony that day. If you have not been to one of these events, I can recommend it to you as a worthwhile way to spend an hour or two of your time. You do not have to stay for the naturalization ceremony itself, but that also would be worth your time. If you can help, please contact Margaret Peebles.

On Friday of that same week, the Amarillo League invites you to join us in the Conference Room located inside the office complex of Polk Street United Methodist Church, 1401 South Polk, to watch the **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sunshine Week National Dialogue** on openness in government, co-hosted by the LWV Education Fund and webcast live from **11:00 AM to 1:00 PM** our time. This year’s theme is “Building Transparency” and includes representatives from the White House, the Department of Justice, the newspaper industry and open government organizations. You’ll have an opportunity to e-mail questions to the participants

if you wish. Robert Goodrich will be our site facilitator, and we are really grateful to the pastors and staff of Polk Street UMC for allowing us to use this outstanding, very comfortable facility. Water, tea, and coffee will be provided. Bring a sack lunch and come join us. I think it will be an interesting event, and Robert assures us that we should not have the technical difficulties that hampered last year's attempt to observe the occasion.

Above all, I urge you to reserve the evening of Tuesday, March 30, to participate in the consensus meeting that will bring to a close the water study that has occupied us for the past two years and which, we hope, will mark the official beginning of our efforts to educate the community and the Panhandle (as well as the rest of the state) on the importance of preserving those playa lakes that have so far not been disturbed, since they are the primary source of the small amount of recharge that occurs with the Ogallala and are a vital resource for area wildlife and migrating birds. So please join us at **6:30 pm in the Southwest Branch Library on Tuesday, March 30**, as we begin what will undoubtedly be an interesting, thought-provoking discussion that we hope will culminate in our being able to come to consensus on water issues that are of paramount importance for our area.

Our corps of Amarillo League Observers and the members of the Environment Committee were delighted to hear a few days ago that the Texas Water Development Board found the varied Desired Future Conditions set by the four groundwater conservation districts of Groundwater Management Area 1 to be reasonable and the proposed water management plan for the next five-year period that begins in 2011 to be a viable one. A public hearing will be held on the proposed plan on April 28, and representatives from the Amarillo LWV will be present. That is another event that many of you may wish to attend.

As many of you know, the Amarillo League is 60 years old this year, and all of us are pleased over the many things that have been accomplished in those years. For the Amarillo LWV to continue to be a vital organization in the community,

however, we must be diligent in recruiting and involving new members so that they will be prepared to carry on the work in the years ahead. The past several months we have been fortunate in gaining several new members, for whom we are very grateful. If any of you know of other good prospects for League membership, please let us know so that we may invite them to League events. I call to your attention the following additions to our membership since last June (some of whom are former members who have rejoined): Linda Eichblatt, Judith Jones, Dr. Brian Eades, Dr. Paul Matney, Jim and Sylvia Perkins, Anite Pitts, Norma Brooks, Leslie Crawford, Mary Lou Bell, Laurie Ezzell Brown (*Canadian Record*) and Jerry Stein. Let us extend a sincere and hearty welcome to all of them. Just as importantly, let's all try to recruit many additional enthusiastic new members in the coming months.

*Joyce Hinsley, President*

## **Voter Registration Drive**

On Saturday, January 23, 2010, our League had a Voter Registration Drive at the United at 4701 S. Washington and the Downtown Library. We had excellent publicity courtesy of Lou Ann Garrett, Director Place 4--Publicity in both the newspapers and on the television news. The hours were 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at both locations.

At both locations, people came in especially to see us and they mentioned the news announcements on KAMR 4 and KFDA 10. At the Downtown Library we passed out almost a full packet of the new "Facts for Voters". The total voter cards passed out were 57 at both locations.

*Margaret Peebles, Place 3 Director*

## **Meet the Candidates Reception**

On Monday, February 15, 2010, our League held a Candidates Reception for primary candidates at the Sunset Art Gallery of Amarillo. It was a success with over 100 people attending not counting our League members and past presidents.

The Reception was organized by our 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President, Barbara Cheek. Janette Kelley, our 1st Vice-President organized the National League's

90<sup>th</sup> birthday party. Special thanks go to our hospitality chair, Laksmiwati Cortes. She ably organized the food served at the Reception and birthday party. We were honored to have so many of our past presidents attend.

The event opened with Girl Scout Cadet Troop 5189 under leader, Stacy Leinen presenting the colors. Current League President Joyce Hinsley opened the program and introduced Janette Kelley who talked briefly about the National League's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and introduced the past presidents. Past Presidents attending were: Gwen Frazee, Chris Bell, Susan Coleman, Bonnie Dugie, Joan Levy, Barbara Cheek, Lou Ann Garrett, Mina Johnson and Janette Kelley. Past Presidents received special name tags and ribbons. Two additional Past Presidents were contacted but could not attend. The two are Caroline Chamblin of Albuquerque, New Mexico and Sonya Berg, also of New Mexico, near Las Vegas.

The program was turned over to Marilyn Van Petten, League member and moderator who introduced timekeeper, Ann Hicks. Each opposed candidate was allowed a two minute presentation and unopposed candidates were allowed one minute. Campaign materials were on tables outside of the room.

Members of the public were invited to stay for the cutting of the birthday cake. Janette Kelley prepared a special stand-up display of League material which commemorated the League's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The display was compiled by Janette and included several notebooks on the national, state and local League.

An informational pamphlet prepared by Pauline Robertson was inserted in the program which told about the National League and the Women's Suffrage Movement. The reception program was prepared by Sue Howard with assistance from Janette Kelley and Barbara Cheek.

*Voter's Guides* were made available by *Guide* distribution chair and Place 1 Director, Alan Abraham. Alan also saw that our sound equipment was set up and functioning. Publicity was by Lou Ann Garrett, Place 4 Director.

Thanks to all Amarillo LWV members who participated in this event and most especially the next day clean-up committee of Barbara Cheek, Alan Abraham and BJ Opperman.

*Barbara Cheek, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Janette Kelley, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President & Margaret Peebles, Place 3 Director*

## **VOTERS GUIDES**

The *VOTERS GUIDES* were about perfect and all who helped with this important document should be applauded: Mina Johnson, Joyce Hinsley, Alan and Nancy Abraham. Linda Eichblatt, and Mickey Cathey of Sir Speedy printers.

The printer took special care to get everything correct this time and the *Guides* were delivered before early voting. *Voters Guides* were available at the door of the Candidates Reception. *Barbara Cheek, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President*

## **VOTERS GUIDE Distribution Report**

The distribution of 8,000 *VOTERS GUIDES* went smoothly with 7 volunteers serving 86 sites across Amarillo and Canyon. A hearty thanks to all who helped on this project. The Amarillo League owes a special debt of gratitude to Mina Johnson for the use of her garage as a central distribution point. *Alan Abraham, Director, Place 1*

## **OBSERVER CORPS**

Two public meetings were formally "observed" and reported, Downtown Urban Design Public Meeting and the Panhandle Water Planning Group Region A, in February. The City's Comprehensive Planning Process is currently in the hands of the consultant, so not much is happening there publicly.

The biggest news is the City's January 12<sup>th</sup> approval of a \$12.5 million incentive package for Alstom Power Inc., a European wind energy component manufacturer, using Amarillo Economic Development Corporation funds (the one-cent sales tax) and the City's pending March

16<sup>th</sup> action to approve issuance of certificates of obligation to pay for their portion of the TxDot/ARRA (American Recovery & Reinvestment Act; i.e., “stimulus money”) Grand bridge project, which is close to a million dollars.  
*Alan Abraham, Place 1 Director*

## **WE MADE THE EDITORIAL PAGE!**

The League has had some good exposure in the editorial pages of local newspapers resulting recently, we hope, in education for area voters! Following the January publishing of our state president Karen Nicholson’s op-ed piece about the State Board of Education and my “Letter to the Editor” giving the name and address of our area’s SBOE member, Bob Craig of Lubbock, we’ve had more items appear on the *Globe-News* editorial pages.

President Joyce Hinsley had a “Letter to the Editor” published February 14 explaining why only Democratic and Republican candidates would be speaking at our Candidates Reception and Vice-President Barbara Cheek had a guest column on the importance of participating in one’s precinct conventions on election night published February 25 in the *Amarillo Independent* and the *Canyon News* and on February 26 in the *Globe-News*. The *Canadian Record*’s editor also indicated that her newspaper would run the op-ed piece. John Kanelis and the *Globe-News* have also taken up the cause of not “rewriting history” in the state’s social studies curriculum via several editorials, which is encouraging.

Our Candidates Reception news releases also received good press from newspapers and notice in the electronic media, which helped result in the great turnout at that event.

The League’s **VOTERS GUIDE** was available on our Amarillo page of the state League’s website. My appreciation and admiration go to all who worked so hard on our voter’s service activities and communication with the public.  
*Lou Ann Garrett, Place 4 Director (Publicity)*

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

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

The **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS** is open to all women and men who subscribe to the League’s purpose and policy.

### **JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

The hard work and dedication shown by our League is what keeps our organization strong and well respected.

**Amarillo League of Women Voters**  
**P. O. Box 19333**  
**Amarillo TX 79114-1333**  
**TEL: 806 372-5438**

Dues are as follows:  
\$65.00—single membership  
\$97.50—family membership  
\$40.00—student membership

***The Amarillo League of Women Voters supports member- scholarships. If you cannot afford regular dues—please call Mina Johnson, Chair of the Scholarship Committee at 373-6976 for details!***

To join, please send your check made out to Amarillo League of Women Voters to:

Kay McMinn, Treasurer.  
3512 Kileen, Amarillo,  
TX 79109.