

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of WICHITA FALLS**

P.O. Box 4034, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308

Phone/ Fax: (940) 767-0129

Web Page: [www.lwvtexas.org/wichitafalls/](http://www.lwvtexas.org/wichitafalls/)

***VOTER*** for February 2012

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**PRIVATIZATION of GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONS**

**At the U. S. Federal Government Level.**

**By MARK SNYDER, Director of Business Operations - SAFB**

*Wednesday, February 1st, at Luby's Cafeteria*

*Go thru lunch line prior to the 12 noon, call to order*

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**When is it appropriate** for the government to transfer a service from a governmental agency & its employees, for which it has direct oversight, to a private company & its employees, where its oversight is more remote? That question is not just logistical, it is also political. So, the LWVUS has been studying the issue of Privatization of Government Services for the last year, and is now asking Local Leagues across the country to respond to the issue.

**Mark Snyder should have** a significant insight to this issue, since he is Director of Business Operations at Sheppard AFB. As part of his duties, he serves as the primary small business specialist for the Base. He has several university degrees, including an M.B.A. in Business Administration. Besides his 22 years of service in the United States Air Force, and AF Reserve, he has worked for Boeing Aerospace Corp., DynCorp, the U.S. Army, and the U.S. Coast Guard. Mr. Snyder was born in El Paso, and now lives in Wichita Falls with his wife, Eileen. Their son, Nicholas, is a captain in the U.S. Army, currently stationed at Peterson AFB in Colorado.

**He will focus on** the following aspects of Privatization//Outsourcing: [1] The Goals of such procedure, [2] The Community impact, and [3] Issues to be considered. This is a "hot" issue all across the country, including in Washington D.C. and in our Military Establishment. This is a program you will not want to miss.

**Why the LWV focus on Privatization?** The LWVUS, and all Local Leagues across the country are studying this issue. Later in this VOTER we will elaborate in more detail.

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**DUES & CONTRIBUTIONS to the LEAGUE.**

**League Dues** are \$55 annually (or \$75 for a couple), and extend thru June 2012. New Member Dues, however, paid in February, are prorated at 50%.

**Contributions** are used primarily for Voters Guides & other voter services. We really need the contributions, because this will be an expensive voting year. We do not charge for Voters Guides, but they do cost us money. Contributions of \$15, or more, makes one a *Friend of the League*.

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**OUR MARCH 7th MONTHLY MEETING.**

**Continuing our focus on privatization**, City Attorney Miles Risley will be our speaker. He has been asked to explain what is going on in Texas, and local communities (such as ours) with privatization, including the limitations imposed by State law.

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**OUR MARCH 17th CONSENSUS MEETING.**

**Our focus on privatization will come to a head** on Saturday morning, March 17th, when we meet to consider the questions being posed to all Local Leagues about the issue. As a result of Local League input, the LWVUS will put forward a proposed "League Position" on the issue, for debate and adoption at the national convention, next summer.

**The Scope of this study** (as set out by LWVUS) is "to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state, or local government services, assets, and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, & preservation of the common good."

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**WHEN WILL PRIMARY ELECTIONS OCCUR?**

**Republican & Democratic Primary Elections** have already been postponed from March 6th to April 3rd, and may be postponed again (to as late as June 26th)!! That is because of the political wrangling, which has now involved Federal Courts in San Antonio & Washington D.C. plus the U.S. Supreme Court.

**We will publish a Voters Guide**, posing questions to the candidates, who are finally certified. But we do not know when we can start, because final candidate filings have also been postponed.

**Another problem.....** we are supposed to have City Council & School Board elections on May 12th. We will need to pose questions to those candidates, and publish a Voters Guide at the appropriate time. But use of the limited number of local voting machines is also at issue. That is because the City/Schools rent their voting machines from the County. But what if the elections cause a conflict, where will the machines come from? Let's just keep our eyes open..... that's what our Voters Service Committee is doing, every day.

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**THE APRIL 13-15th LWV-TEXAS, STATE CONVENTION.**

**The 2012 State Convention** will be in San Antonio (at the Hilton San Antonio Airport Hotel) in April, and our Local League will be entitled to four voting delegates. More details will come later, but anyone wanting to consider being a delegate needs to contact President Mike Preda, as soon as possible.

**Our previous delegates** can confirm that the State Convention is lots of fun, study, and importance to the LWV-Texas, including the 30+ Local League across the state.

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**A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT..... Dr. Michael Preda**

**It is a pleasure to invite you** to join me, and the board members, to attend the next meeting of our League on Wednesday, February 1st. We look forward to hearing Mr. Mark Snyder, of

Sheppard AFB, who will speak about privatization issues. As always, you are encouraged to bring a friend to our monthly luncheon at Lubys.

**This is a busy election year.** As you know, the recent decision of the U.S. Supreme Court has been to order the federal district court in San Antonio to make the final decision about which maps to use in redistricting. Scheduling of dates for the Party Primary elections should occur afterwards. We can only schedule our events following the decisions of those persons with greater authority. What an incredible election and campaign year! Yet, after all of this, there will still be regular elections with winners & losers. We always appreciate the support of the best folks around....LWV-WF members.

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Feedback to this VOTER may be made to [LaryLambert@prodigy.net](mailto:LaryLambert@prodigy.net), or to 767-0129.

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