

Voter

MAY/JUNE 2010



VOL 40 • No 2 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE SAN ANTONIO AREA



Annual League Meeting

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

Date: Saturday, May 22, 2010

Time: 11 am for meeting • 12 noon for lunch

Place: Thurmunz Restaurant (formerly Water Street)
Broadway at Lincoln Heights

Price: \$20

Speaker: Dr. Richard Middleton, Superintendent of Northeast Independent School District, Dr. Middleton heads up the second largest school district in Bexar County with approximately 65000 students. Northeast has just been recognized by the Houston-based advocacy group, Children at Risk, for its excellence.

NEISD had more schools in the top ratings than any other district in our area. Dr Middleton is also serving on a committee appointed by the Legislature to study school funding. We look forward to learning more about the state of our schools and to find out how we can help to make education in our state better for all students.

Please make reservations by **Monday, May 17, 2010** by contacting **Sally Bolster at 210-499-4871** or email at sallybolster@aol.com.

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Highlights from LWVSAA Panel Discussion on FUTURE ENERGY SOURCES

Presented by the League of Women Voters of the San Antonio Area. Program Introduction: Jean Aratingi ,Moderator: Annalisa Peace. Panelists: Robert Harris, FAIA Board Member - U S Green Building, Paul Barham Senior Director, Generation Research and Planning - CPS Energy, Thomas (Smitty) Smith Public Citizen

On Saturday morning, March 6, 2010, we presented a panel discussion on Future Energy Sources at the AIA Center for Architecture in the Pearl Complex. We are very grateful to the AIA San Antonio and to their most gracious director, Torrey Carelton, for making their lovely state of the art venue available for this program.

FUTURE ENERGY SOURCES *continued on page 4*

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2010-2012

The Nominating Committee submits the following slate of officers and directors for election to two-year terms, June 1, 2010 through May 31, 2012, on the board of directors of LWVSA.



Officers: Treasurer – Leslye Altemeier, Second Vice President – Phyllis Ingram, Third Vice President – Jean Aratingi. **Elected**

Directors: Sally Bolster – Membership, Marian Edson – Web/membership, Arlis Olson – Voter Service, Annalisa Peace – Environment. THE COMMITTEE PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING FOR ONE-YEAR TERMS ENDING ON MAY 31, 2011: **Elected Directors:** Nancy Craig – At Large, Deborah Deffenbaugh – At Large, Elena Guajardo – Finance.

2011 Nominating Committee: Board Members – Jean Aratingi, Sally Bolster. Non-board Members – Evelyn Bonavita, Rita

Burnside, Martha Lankford. *Nominations also may come from the floor at annual meeting provided the nominee has consented.* **Returning**

Officers: President – Ginny Stowitts-Traina, Secretary – Marty Cruz-Bock, First Vice President – Mary Anne Kramer. *Respectfully submitted, 2010 Nominating Committee: Kathleen Sadler, chair, Sharon Bartling, Rita Burnside, Romayne Karl, Mary Anne Kramer*

BOARD NOMINEE BIOS

Leslye Altemeier, Treasurer. Leslye moved with her husband Bill to San Antonio in 2007, leaving Columbia, Missouri, where she had been active in the League for 14 years. Raised in Cincinnati, she earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Cincinnati and later earned a master's degree in library science. Her varied career includes 13 years spent as a tax preparer with H&R Block. Although her favorite pastime is reading, Leslye enjoys following the stock markets and is a member of an investment club. She and her husband have three children and three grandchildren.

Phyllis Ingram, Second Vice President. Phyllis has handled several jobs on the LWVSA board, most recently treasurer and chair of the silent auction at the League's fundraiser. She volunteers at the Children's Shelter of San Antonio and has served on its board for the past nine years. During her career, the US Small Business Administration named her Women in Business Advocate of the Year. She also served as national president of American Women in Radio and Television. She now serves as treasurer of that organization's local chapter, the San Antonio Media Alliance.

Jean Aratingi, Third Vice President. Jean has served the League in jobs ranging from unit chair to local president to state vice president during time spent in Louisiana, Texas, and New Jersey. She joined the League in New Orleans in 1974 and continued her involvement during stints in Dallas and the New Jersey suburbs. She and her husband moved to San Antonio in 2007 where she became active again in League as a board member. Born and raised in New York City, Jean spent eight years teaching in New York City public schools.

State Convention News

We are back from convention. Those attending were Ginny Stowitts- Traina, Arlis Olson, Sally Bolster, Mary Anne Kramer and Jean Aratingi, all officers on our local board. This was both an educational and informative event. For those of you who missed it, and especially those who may consider attending at another time, I am sharing a few highlights. Remember, this convention is open. Any League member may attend either as a delegate or as an observer.

Star of Justice Award

One of the first things on the agenda was the presentation of the Star of Justice Award by the Texas Access to Justice Commission. It was inscribed "for extraordinary dedication and exceptional service and leadership in pursuit of access to justice for all." The League felt especially honored since this was the first time the award was given to an organization rather than an individual.

National League President Address

We then had an address by our National League President, Mary Wilson. Mary attempted to answer a question posed to her by a lot of League members, "What can we do to remain effective?" She emphasized that we must remain non-partisan. One of our strengths is we examine both the pros and the cons and take a position based on the facts. Taking a position based on the facts is not partisanship. We must stand on our principles of non-partisanship and take a stand based on facts even though it may hurt us.

Stand on Principles

While we stand on our principles, we must also honor the art of compromise if we are to get anything done. She said the League was one of the few and maybe the only true grass roots organizations in the nation. While other organizations may have national organizations of volunteers, they often have only a staff person working in a city. The work the members of each local League do is vital, even at the Washington D. C. level.

When an action is proposed, at the national level, our Senators and Representatives know there are thousands of supporters for this action in their home state. In addition, it puts a face on the League. When someone in Washington speaks to our Senators or Representatives, they can say, "Oh, I know Sally.", she has contacted me on previous issues



We wouldn't want you to think it was all work. We had a great time! From Left: Mary Anne Kramer, Sally Bolster, Ginny Stowitts-Traina, Arlis Olson, and Jean Aratingi.

Question and Answer

In a question and answer period after the address she said that National memberships are being phased out. Contributions to the National League will be considered as a donation in the future. They have found that most National members do not become local members even though the local League works diligently to recruit them. This is because most contributors to the National League were really just donating in the first place and were not interested in becoming members.

Business Portion

Following the address was the business portion of the meeting. One of the highlights of the business portion was success stories given by each League president. I got several good ideas as I am sure others did also. Reports were given by several of the advocacy chairs, officers were elected and so forth. I was particularly pleased to see a new study approved on water issues and one approved for further study on powers and restrictions of homeowners associations. You will be hearing more about these issues.

Hope to see you in 2012 when the convention will be held here in San Antonio!



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FUTURE ENERGY SOURCES *continued from page 1*

Robert Harris, FAIA and the US Green Building Council, gave a fascinating presentation about conservation of energy with sustainable building techniques, and how buildings, in all their many facets, were the largest users of energy in the US. Paul Barham, Senior Director Generation Research and Planning at CPS energy, treated us to a look into the various CPS options and plans in San Antonio's energy future. Thomas (Smitty) Smith - Public Citizen, added an environmentalist perspective to the various options outlined by Mr. Barham.

Following these presentations was a very lively and informative question and answer session. We were very fortunate to have many in the audience who were able to further contribute their expertise on San Antonio's energy future during this discussion.



Local League News

LWVSAA Hosts Forum at the Water Symposium

February 15, 2010. Sally Bolster, League of Women Voters, moderated the ***Civics & Water: Who Controls Your Water?*** panel discussion. The panelists were Mr. Robert R. Puente (President and CEO, SAWS); Suzanne B. Scott (General Manager, San Antonio River Authority); Ronald Ruiz (Assistant General Manager - External Affairs for the Edwards Aquifer Authority); Brad Groves (President of the Board, Trinity-Glen Rose Water Conservation District); Kerry McCollough (District Planner for Bexar Met). The panelists represented the various San Antonio water authorities. In addition to the purpose of each organization, the panelists discussed the present state of San Antonio water, problems being worked, and the future of San Antonio Water. A lively question and answer period followed.

Voter by Email...

We are considering sending the **Voter** out by e-mail. It will be a pdf file. Those without e-mail will still receive theirs in the postal mail. If you have e-mail but would prefer to have a printed copy, let Arlis Olson know at arlisolson@att.net or 210-661-0841.