



The Voter

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**You are cordially invited to the
San Marcos LWV Christmas Brunch**

10:00 – 1:00 Saturday, December 4th

**Carole Belver's home
1711 Palomino Lane
San Marcos**

In the spirit of the season, members are encouraged to bring cash donations for the Hays Caldwell County Women's Center, or unwrapped gifts for women and children.

*Please RSVP to Carole Belver by **December 1st** at cbelver@gmail.com or 512-395-5369.*

The League will provide ham and members are asked to bring sides and desserts. It would be helpful to have an idea of what people are bringing, so please indicate that as well in your RSVP. There will be a short board meeting after the brunch, followed by the distribution of Wine Tasting tickets and flyers for that event.

Directions to Carol's house:

From San Marcos take Hopkins to RR12, turn right. Go 2.1 Miles to Country Estates Drive. Turn right. Turn right onto Palomino Lane. The road twists and turns but keep making right turns for approximately 1.2 miles. The house is on the left, white mailbox. Lost? Call 392-0961.

Voter Service Report

Grace Melcher Neal

The TEF 10-6 Directors report for the general election has been completed and sent to the state office for approval. TEF 10-6 is a project required by the state LWV to allow us to spend our education funds to pay for our activities from this last election. Mary Borm initiated the original paperwork to define the project; I was assigned the task of local project director. I coordinated with our state supervisor, approval of the ACC and

city of San Marcos propositions that we wrote for our local Voters' Guide. My directors' report included the following primary accomplishments of this project:

- a. Collection of views and editing of pro/con statements for three propositions presented on the general election ballot.
- b. Hosting an Advisory Council luncheon with leaders from the local business community, non-profit organizations and neighborhood organizations.
- c. Creation of questions for 17 contested races for local Voters Guide and two debates by league members
- d. Production of a local Voters Guide and supplements covering the Hays county area elections for distribution by the San Marcos Area LWV and the Wimberley LWV Mal unit.
- e. Hosted two Candidate Debates for 14 contested races including a forum for 3 contested races

All copies of local documents, flyers, handouts, San Marcos Voters Guide and supplements were also included in the report.

Coming up in 2011 will be the School Board Election in May for the following San Marcos CISD School Board positions: District 1, District 2 and District 3.

Thank you again to the voter service members who put in many hours to create questions, contact candidates, and work on the debates.

Water Forum: Six Area LWV Chapters Co-host

Annalisa Peace, San Antonio LWV

Approximately fifty people attended a *Forum to Address State Water Issues* at the Guadalupe Blanco River Authority (GBRA) Board Room in Seguin on Saturday, November 6th. The Forum, co-sponsored by the GBRA and the League chapters of Wimberley Valley, Victoria, San Marcos, San Antonio, Kerrville, and Comal County, covered the State Water Plans for Region L and Region J, surface and ground water law and regulation, and upcoming legislation relating to water allocation. Featured speakers included Con Mims (Chair of the Region L Planning Group), Feather Wilson (Region J Water Planning Group), Suzanne Scott (General Manager of the San Antonio River Authority), James Murphy (Executive Director of Water Resources, GBRA), and Greg Ellis and Mark Taylor (attorneys with expertise in water law).

Expertise among those in the audience complemented that of the panelists. Current and past elected officials from various groundwater districts in attendance, as well as representatives from the LWV chapters, made this a most edifying discussion of a topic that is on everyone's mind these days. Evaluations submitted by those participating rated the forum very useful and indicated support for additional gatherings to discuss other aspects of Texas water.

School Nutrition Study

Jeannie Lewis

The San Marcos League voted to adopt the "Study of School Nutrition in the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District" at our annual meeting this last May. We agreed to wait until after the busy election season to begin the study. The following members signed-up to work on the study: Jeannie Lewis (Chair), Jan Rudnicki, Vickye Lambdin, Mary Borm, Bobbi Carmichael, and Jane Hughson. Other League members are encouraged to join the group. Please contact me if you are interested. We also ask experts outside the League for their input. Please let me know if you have suggestions of individuals in this field that might be interested in participating.

I anticipate that the study will take about a year to complete. The study committee will begin meeting about once a month once we determine who will be on the committee and when we can meet on a regular basis.

These are some tasks that the study committee will need to complete :

- Determine the focus and scope of the study and obtain approval from the Board
- Send letters of our intent to the SMCISD School Board and administration requesting cooperation
- Conduct interviews with relevant stakeholders
- Conduct tours to determine current standards and practices
- Prepare and conduct a survey with assistance of statistical experts at Texas State
- Collect demographic information that may be relevant to childhood nutrition
- Collect research relating to school nutrition
- Define what ideal nutrition is for children
- Investigate the potential of school gardens
- Form relationships with other local groups interested in this issue
- Sponsor at least one public meeting on school nutrition --- a panel or forum
- Determine local obstacles to good nutrition and propose alternatives and solutions
- Prepare a facts and issues booklet on school nutrition and distribute to League members and other interested parties.
- Prepare and obtain Board approval on consensus questions
- Conduct a consensus meeting for League members
- Prepare a position statement and obtain Board approval

Following approval of a position statement, the League is free to advocate for those positions --- to the School Board, in Letters to the Editor, in alliances and coalitions with other local groups interested in this issue.

Calendar of Events

December 4 Christmas Party/Meeting
January 20 Annual Wine Tasting

LWV Related Information

Texas LWV

<http://lwvtexas.org>

Texas LWV Legislative Newsletter

<http://www.lwvtexas.org/LNL/2009/LNL%2020.6.pdf>

National LWV

<http://www.lwv.org>