

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of WICHITA FALLS

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Web Page: www.lwvtexas.org/local/wichitafalls/

VOTER for April 2011

-- NOTE: On page 3 is also a notice of our May 4th Annual Meeting --

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DO YOU NEED HELP?? CONSIDER INTERFAITH MINISTRIES
BYRON FRANCOIS, will brief us on what InterFaith Does in Wichita Falls
Wednesday, April 6th - - - at Luby's Cafeteria
Go thru lunch line prior to 12 noon call to order

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Byron Francois was scheduled to speak at our February meeting, but it was cancelled because of the ice storm, so he has been rescheduled for the April meeting. He is an ordained minister in the Seventh Day Adventist Church, but since 1998 has devoted his full-time efforts as Service Director for InterFaith Ministries in Wichita Falls. This involves training & supporting the many volunteers that work at InterFaith, and making the "final decisions" in hard cases.

InterFaith began in 1979, following the massive tornado that hit Wichita Falls, and flattened 1/5th of the town. InterFaith Disaster Services was formed by local churches + the National Council of Churches, but when the immediate work was completed, more than 50 local churches (of every denomination) wanted to continue the work, so InterFaith Ministries was born. Churches provide most of the funding & volunteers to support what InterFaith does.

The Mission of InterFaith: It is an emergency center for families who struggle financially because of medical emergencies, loss of employment, car repair, or other unexpected expenses. InterFaith provides financial assistance with rent, utility bills, deposits, prescriptions, and other basic needs, and a food pantry is available for food, cleaning products, and hygiene items. **Byron will focus** on help to the elderly & the medication program.

Byron grew up in New Orleans, and received his Bachelor's degree in Theology from Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama. He says InterFaith is dedicated to following the commission from the New Testament to help the sick, the weak, the widows & orphans, and those in need. However, its effort is only for emergencies & provides only "short-term" assistance. He will explain how it works, who supports it, the dedication of the working volunteers, and how it has had significant impact in our area.

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MEMBERSHIP IN THE LEAGUE

The LWV is open to all adults. Dues are \$55 per member annually (or \$75 to a couple). New member dues paid in April & May are good through June of 2012.

Friends of the League are contributors of at least \$15 or more, to help cover LWV expenses (*primarily Voters Guides & other service to voters*). Send Dues or Donations to the Treasurer at P.O.Box 4034, Wichita Falls TX 76308. Even better--bring to a meeting.

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CITY ELECTION ON MAY 14th - - LWV VOTERS GUIDE & CANDIDATE FORUM

Here are some dates to keep in mind:

- April 14th -- Last day to register to vote.
- May 2nd -- Early Voting begins
- May 10th -- Early Voting ends

Candidates on the Ballot:

- Councilor at-large: Dorothy Roberts-Burns & Robert Seabury.
- District 1 Councilor: Chris Ballard & Michael L. Smith
- District 2 Councilor: David Brock, Annetta Pope & Dennis Rivard

A VOTERS GUIDE will be distributed starting about April 21st, and will also be on our Web page.

A CANDIDATE'S FORUM will be held on Monday, April 25th, 7 p.m., in the City Council Chambers, at City Hall. It will be broadcast live on the City's Time-Warner cable channel, and replayed at various times thereafter, until just before the election.

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LWV-TEXAS LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

The State League (LWV-Texas) publishes a Legislative Newsletter on a bi-weekly basis during each year's meeting of the Texas Legislature. Members whose email addresses are on file with the State office, receive these Newsletters on a regular basis.

If you have not been receiving the Legislative Newsletter, and are a League member with an email address, contact Larry Lambert at larylambert@prodigy.net, and he will endeavor to get your email address properly registered with the State office, and forward you an email from the State office which contains a link for members to use in accessing the Newsletters.

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EARTH DAY is APRIL 22, 2011

Earth Day is a day that is intended to inspire awareness and appreciation for our Earth's natural environment. Earth Day was founded in April of 1970 by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson, as an environmental teach-in. While the first Earth Day was originally focused on the United States, it was taken international in 1990 and organized events in 141 nations. It is now coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network, and expanded to celebrations in 175 nations .

April 22nd corresponds to spring in the Northern Hemisphere and autumn in the Southern Hemisphere. Numerous communities celebrate the event with an Earth Week of activities. In 2009, the United Nations designated April 22nd as International Mother Earth Day.

The LWVUS is supportive of virtually every reasonable activity which will help us preserve our environment, and is asking all Leaguers to be aware of Earth Day activities in our local communities.

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT.....Penny Miller

In a few days local League members will receive the information needed for the annual business meeting in May. Please take the time to review the information carefully in advance. We'll have plenty of time to discuss the various items of business, but it will be helpful if members are familiar with those items and prepared with any questions they may have. We don't have any other program at the annual meeting

Below is included the Agenda for the meeting, as well as a description of the Committee Reports that will be forwarded within the next few days. Notice that after the regular items is a time for "Misc. items and Discussion." So, if you have any questions about any aspect of the League, feel free to bring them up.

The Texas Legislature is still in session. I hope everyone is reading the state legislative newsletter and contacting our representatives on those issues of concern to them. I hope you will continue to stay alert and active for the remainder of the session.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING - - - MAY 4th, 2011

The Bylaws require members at the Annual Meeting to vote on, for the coming League Year (beginning July 1st), the following items: [1] The election of officers, directors, and three members of the nominating committee, [2] Adoption of a local program of action and study, [3] Adoption of an adequate budget, and [4] Any other items as directed by the Board. - - - - with a 30-day advanced meeting notice.

Annual Meeting Agenda

- 12:00 Call to order
- Prior minutes.
- Treasurer's report.
- Items for Approval (for 2011-12)
 - Election of Officers
 - Program of Action & Study
 - Annual Budget
 - Miscellaneous Items & Discussion
- 1:00 Adjourn.

The following committee reports will be forwarded to the Membership later this week, for use at the Annual Meeting. Here is a brief description of what each report will include:

Nominating Committee.

The Bylaws provide that officers & four directors are elected at the Annual Meeting for one-year terms. The new president and board may later select up to four additional directors.

The three nominating committee members elected at the annual Meeting must be non-board members. Nominations may be made from the floor, with prior approval of the nominee.

The president may later appoint two additional members (from the Board) to complete the five-member nominating committee.

Program Committee.

The Bylaws require action at the Annual Meeting on our Program of Action & Study for the next League year. This will include a summary of our existing Program items, and whether the Board recommends their retention or removal. It will also include any new study that the Board might recommend.

Budget Committee.

The Bylaws provide that an Annual Budget (with an estimate of revenues & expenses) shall be adopted at the Annual Meeting, to support the work of the League as a whole.

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See you on Wednesday, April 6th, at Luby's. Feel Free to forward this VOTER to your friends & associates. Feedback to LaryLambert@prodigy.net, or by phone or fax to 767-0129