

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of WICHITA FALLS**

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

***VOTER*** for February 2010

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**JUDGE JANICE SONS, talks about her work as Justice of the Peace;**

**ALL IN A DAY'S WORK - The Good, the Bad, & the Ugly.**

*Wednesday, February 3rd --- at Luby's Cafeteria*

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

**Judge Janice Sons** has been Justice of the Peace for over 20 years, and says she has "seen it all." The J.P. does more than perform marriage ceremonies. It is the first entry point for most persons charged with crime in this County. She sits as Magistrate Judge, setting criminal bonds. She conducts trials on Class C Misdemeanors. But she also presides over eviction cases, other civil litigation involving alleged damages up to \$10,000.00, and other lawsuits, both with juries and without.

**On top of that,** she is involved with many civic groups, which reach out to those in need. She lists her top three as: The Association for Retarded Citizens, the Race for the Cure, and Leadership Wichita Falls. ARC is #1 because of the status of her grandson.

**Judge Sons began** her public career as a Legislative Aide for Rep. Charles Finnell; then as Legislative Aide for Sen. Ray Farabee; and was appointed to the bench in 1988, following the death of Judge Stewart. She has been easily reelected every four years since that time.

**Janice is also known** as one of the most entertaining speakers in this area, and you don't want to miss this meeting, where she provides a unique insight to how the Justice System is working in Wichita County (or maybe not always working as intended)!!!

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**DUES & CONTRIBUTIONS to the LEAGUE**

**League Dues** are \$55 annually (or \$75 for a couple), and extend thru June 2010. New Member Dues, however, paid in February, *are prorated at 50%.*

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

*This is a big election year,* so we really need all the help we can get.

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**VOTERS GUIDES for MARCH 2nd PRIMARY ELECTIONS**

**Both Republicans & Democrats** will hold their Primary Elections on Tuesday, March 2nd, for offices from Governor & U. S. Senator all the way down to Justice of the

Peace. And we will be publishing a *Voters Guide for Wichita County*, which will incorporate all of the State-wide races, as well.

**Early Voting begins** on Tuesday, February 16th. Therefore, we are targeting our distribution of *Voters Guides* to begin the weekend before (on Feb. 11th or 12th). They will be at our regular sites, which includes each Public Library in the county.

At the same time we start distribution of the printed *Voters Guides*, we hope to have a pdf copy posted on our web page: [www.lwvtexas.org/local/wichitafalls/](http://www.lwvtexas.org/local/wichitafalls/), available to read, download, or copy.

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### **WILL THERE BE ANY LOCAL CANDIDATE FORUMS???**

*For the Democrats?* Although there are several Democratic candidates, none of them are contested in the Primary.

*For the Republicans?* There are local Primary contests, among competing Republicans, for the following positions: State Representative; 78th District Judge; Criminal District Attorney; County Court at Law #1; County Court at Law #2; Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1-Place 2 (Wichita Falls); & Justice of the Peace, Pct 4 (Electra).

**So, the LWV will Not** be holding a Primary Candidate Forum. But the Republican Party has a public Forum being scheduled at press time. The Republican County Chair advises that it is tentatively set for **Tuesday, February 16th, 7 p.m., at the MSU Akin Auditorium**. He says it is free and open to the public. With the plethora of Republican Primary contests, he expects the Forum to be well attended.

**The League of Women Voters** encourages attendance at all public Forums, as a way to become better informed (along with studying the *Voters Guide*). The League will be holding a Candidate Forum prior to the General Election on November 2nd. By that time there may also be candidates from the Libertarian & Constitution Parties, as well as contests among Republicans & Democrats, and we will plan to invite all of those in contested races to participate.

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### **HOME & GARDEN FESTIVAL, February 27th & 28th**

**The League will** have a table at the Home & Garden Show, to be held at the MPEC Center. Since it is the weekend before the March 2nd Primary Elections, we will be distributing *Voters Guides*. Lou Lechman has agreed to be Scheduling Chair for our League table. So, you might want to call her to get the best times for you. Her phone is 692-0480, and her email address is [louellen@wf.quik.com](mailto:louellen@wf.quik.com).

The event will be open on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**The Festival is** one of the biggest attendance events held, each year, at MPEC, so it is important that the League presence and our *Voters Guide* distribution be as successful, as possible. So, think seriously about taking a time-slot for that weekend.

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### **DO YOU WANT TO ATTEND STATE CONVENTION IN APRIL??**

**LWV-Wichita Falls** is one of 30+ other Local Leagues, across the State, that are focused on making sure that citizens are as fully informed about "our" government, as possible. Every two years, at State Convention, delegates from the Local Leagues gather in Convention.

**The purpose of convention** is to [1] consider and approve the State League program, [2] elect the State Officers, [3] consider and approve a State Budget, [4] transact any other necessary business, [5] find out what other Leagues are doing that might be helpful for us, and [6] participate in workshops and other learning ventures. It is also a time to have Fun & Fellowship (or is that Sistership??).

**Our Local League** is entitled to five delegates, consisting of our President plus four others as selected by our Board. If you want to go to San Marcos, on April 23-25, to participate in Convention, please tell the President. Penny Miller's contact information is by phone at 867-9761, or email at [pdmiller.lwv@gmail.com](mailto:pdmiller.lwv@gmail.com).