

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of WICHITA FALLS

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

VOTER for March 2010

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DISASTER RELIEF IN THE WICHITA FALLS AREA

**KATRINA FARLEY, with the American Red Cross, &
GENE PEPITON, with Wichita, Archer, Clay Baptist Assn.**

Will tell us how it works, and what they do

Wednesday, March 3rd - Luby's Cafeteria

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

We hear about disasters in New Orleans, Houston, Florida, etc. on the news. Massive aid, etc. But what happens when we have a disaster in our area? Who goes to the front line? What kinds of services to they perform? Why do they do it? How is it paid for? And, Where do we turn-to first, if we are one of the victims?

Katrina Farley & Gene Pepiton know the answers to all of these questions, because they, and their organizations, are at the forefront of Disaster Relief for the Wichita Falls & North Texas Area !!

Katrina has been in charge of the local 16 county area of the Red Cross since October 2009. Raised in Joplin, Missouri, she served 13 years there, with the Girls Scouts, rising to CEO before moving to Wichita Falls. She will shortly have completed her degree in Criminal Justice at Missouri Southern State University. The **Red Cross** provides helps in rescue, provides shelter, and will deliver food during disasters.

Gene has served as Mission Director for the Area Baptist Association for 23 years. Raised in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, he graduated from the Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary, in Fort Worth, and served pastorates in Louisiana, Texas, & New Mexico, before coming to Wichita Falls to head the Wichita, Archer, Clay Baptist Assn. It's main focus in local disasters is to provide food for both victims & relief workers. He coordinates the services supplied by the volunteers from his 69 locally affiliated churches.

The Red Cross & the Baptist Association work closely together, during local disasters, and Katrina & Gene will work together in presenting our program at next Wednesday's meeting.

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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 March, ***are prorated at 50%***.

Friends of the League, are contributors of at least \$15 (or more), to help cover LWW 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.

We have two more elections to go, this year, (City/School Elections in May + General Election in November) so we really need all the financial help we can get.

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AS THIS VOTER GOES TO PRESS, there are several things to note, this week, and next week.

Thursday, Feb. 25th, 2 p.m., at the MSU Dillard Business Bldg., Rm. 101. The Texas Primary System, will be the subject of a discussion in this year's "Prof. Edwards Discussions in Politics Series." Open to the public. No reservations required. No charge.

Friday/Saturday, Feb. 27-28th, is the Home & Garden Festival at M.P.E.C. The League will have a table, and be distributing *Voters Guides* for next Tuesday's Primary elections.

Tuesday, March 2nd, is Election Day. Get a *Voters Guide* online at www.lwvtxas.org/local/wichitafalls/, or a print version at the Wichita Falls Public Library, Luby's Cafeteria, the Home & Garden Festival, or any one of our other usual distribution sites.

Bad News about Voter Guide distribution at the Courthouse. The Secretary or State has ruled that since early voting is taking place on the 2nd Floor, such Guides cannot be distributed inside the building. We appreciate the efforts of the County Clerk, Lori Bohannon, in getting a different ruling, but she was unsuccessful.

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS HAD ITS 90th BIRTHDAY IN FEBRUARY.

Washington, D.C. - - "More than 850 state and local Leagues across the country will celebrate this milestone 90th Birthday throughout the year 2010," said Mary G. Wilson, national president of the League of Women Voters. "But most importantly, we'll be doing what we always do: discussing the important issues, challenging the status quo, and demanding accountability in government."

On February 14, 1920, after a 72-year struggle, and when passage of the 19th Amendment appeared to be imminent, members of the National American Woman Suffrage Association met to form the LWV. Carrie Chapman Catt first proposed the creation of a League to "finish the fight" and to work to end all discrimination against women. While initially concerned with the status and rights of women, the League gradually expanded its interests to include issues affecting the whole community. Today, the League works to effect change on a variety of issues including health care, climate change, election & campaign finance reforms, land use, and education. It also publishes Voters Guides to provide non-partisan information about candidates for office. In addition, 25 years ago, the League opened its membership to men.

"For the last 90 years, the League has left its footprint on American history, and our democracy is stronger for it," Wilson concluded. "We look forward to continuing this work over the next 90 years."

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IF YOU WANT TO BE A DELEGATE TO THE LWV STATE CONVENTION:

Contact President Penny Miller. It will be held April 23-25, 2010, in San Marcos. Our League is entitled to 4 delegates. Penny Miller & Pan McKay have already been selected, but there are two more slots. Our League will pay the registration, but other expenses are personal.

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 League 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 for Fun, Fellowship, and Eating !!

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Feel Free to forward this VOTER to your friends & associates. Feedback to LaryLambert@prodigy.net, or 767-0129