

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of WICHITA FALLS

P.O. Box 4034, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308

Phone / Fax: 940-767-0129

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

VOTER for May 2010

ITEMS INCLUDED IN THIS MONTH'S VOTER:

- [1] Reminder of Annual Meeting, Wednesday, May 5th, noon
- [2] City Election on May 8th & LWV Voters Guide
- [3] Dues are now being received for new League Year (July 1st)
- [4] President's Report on State Convention

THE LEAGUE'S ANNUAL MEETING, will be at noon on Wednesday, May 5th, at Luby's Cafeteria.

Attached to this Voter is a copy of the Pre-Annual Meeting Report (2010), plus a copy of the Facts & Issues Report on the Parks & Recreation Study, both of which were sent Apr. 4th to members, and which contain everything we will be discussing, and asked to approve for our next League year.

Annual Meeting Agenda

- 12:00 Call to order
Prior minutes.
Treasurer's report.
Items for Approval (for 2010-11):
 Election of Officers
 Program of Action & Study
 Annual Budget
 Misc. Items & Discussion
1:00 Adjourn

CITY OF WICHITA FALLS MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Will be held on Saturday, May 8th.

Early Voting began April 26th.

LWV Voters Guides are available at our usual sites + via our Web Page

Attached to this Voter is a copy of the Voters Guide. It gives information on when to vote, where to vote, and who will be voted on (for Mayor & for District 5 Councilor).

On Monday evening, April 26th, **our LWV Candidate Forum** for the Mayor & District 5 candidates was held at City Hall. It was well attended, and we consider it a success. It was aired live on the city cable channel 11, on Time-Warner Cable. It will be re-aired via tape, each day prior to the election. Times will vary, but most broadcasts are at either 4 p.m. or 8:30 p.m. We appreciate the cooperation of City Manager, Darron Leiker, and Public Information Director, Barry Levy & his staff, for their help with the forum.

=====

DUES ARE NOW BEING RECEIVED FOR THE NEW LEAGUE YEAR

Our LWV year runs from July 1 thru June 30, and we are now receiving dues for the coming LWV year.

League dues are \$55 per member annually (or \$75 for a couple). Renewing or new member dues, paid now, will extend through June next year (2011).

Donations of at least \$15 (or more) makes one a Friend of the League, and are directed mostly at Voters Guides, and other related items. Send dues or contributions to the treasurer at PO Box 4034, Zip 76308, or bring to a meeting. *Larger Donations* are very helpful in continuing our service outreach to voters.

=====

**A PRESIDENT'S REPORT on the LWV-TEXAS
State Convention, held April 23-25, in San Marcos.**

Pan McKay and I represented the Wichita Falls League as delegates at the 2010 LWV-Texas State Convention. LWV-Texas meets every two years, on the year between legislative sessions to conduct business. One of the highlights of the convention was the the Access to Justice Award, presented to LWV-Texas by the Texas Access to Justice Commission and the Texas Access to Justice Foundation. The foundations was created by the Supreme Court of Texas in 1984 and is the largest state-based funder of civil legal aid in Texas. The LWV-Texas was instrumental in lobbying during the last legislative session for funding to ensure the providing of legal services to Texas citizens who cannot otherwise afford legal assistance.

Mary Wilson, LWV-US President, spoke to the convention. She spoke about how the League can continue to be as effective in the next 90 years, as it has been in the last 90 years. She feels the League's secrets to success are:

1. Nonpartisanship.
2. Study & fact-based positions.
3. Stand on principles.
4. Grassroots organization (the face of the League is the local League

members).

Ms. Wilson pledged to continue to work on strengthening local Leagues. One of the initiatives underway is phasing out of the nationally recruited member category. They will be reclassified as donors.

The LWV-US will be voting on a national PMP increase at their convention in June. PMP is the per-member-payment that local Leagues make to National (and also to State) each year. National understands that it cannot continue to increase its PMP and will be appointing a panel to evaluate other ways to help finance the organization.

Thirteen local Leagues were recognized for being in existence for more than 50 years. The oldest League was Austin, which was organized in 1919. Wichita Falls was among those recognized, as our League has been in existence since 1948.

Many ideas were shared on membership and LWV-Texas president, Karen Nicholson, challenged each of the local Leagues to recruit more members.

During the convention, LWV-Texas authorized a new state study to update our state position on water, in relation to the sale and transfer of water & water rights. In addition,

several changes were made to state positions, by the delegates. I will review these changes at our annual meeting on May 5th. LWV-Houston asked for concurrence on their position concerning homeowners' associations. It appears there are some egregious things being done by some homeowners' associations in larger cities. Because this position has great ramifications throughout the state, the convention voted the topic as a second study, with a goal to attempt concurrence before the next legislative session.

I was proud to be able to present the Environmental Awareness Award (non-profit) to our League's nominee, the Texas Master Naturalists. Several of the Leaguers in the audience were also Master Naturalists and were very happy Wichita Falls had nominated the organization. - - - Penny Miller.

=====
Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting on Wednesday. Feel free to forward this VOTER to your friends & associates.

Feedback to LaryLambert@prodigy.net, or by phone or fax to the League at 767-0129.