

**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/](http://www.lwvtexas.org/local/wichitafalls/)

**VOTER** *for October 2010*

**Subject: PATSY'S HOUSE.....A PLACE & AND PROCESS**

**Speaker: KERI GOINS, Executive Director**

*Wednesday, October 6th - - at Luby's*

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

**What happens when children are abused or mistreated?** Well, Patsy's House should be their first stop. *"The Mission* of Patsy's House Children's Advocacy Center is to lessen the emotional trauma to child victims of abuse, and to improve the justice system's response to child abuse by uniting the efforts of public agencies and enlisting community support."

**Housing is not** a part of what Patsy's House does. This is a common misconception. So, how does it help? That is what *Keri Goins*, Executive Director, will explain to us, at our noon, October 6th, Monthly Membership Meeting, at Luby's. This facility has been in operation since 1996, and almost 100 abused children (usually accompanied by a family member) come to the House in Wichita Falls, or in Bowie, *each month!!*

**Wichita, Archer, Clay, & Montague Counties** are included under Patsy's House umbrella, which is a part of the statewide Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas (CACTX). There is a long list of law enforcement departments, and government agencies, who depend on the work of Patsy's House. And this facility is the bridge between the abused child and help from those various agencies.

**Kerry Goins came to Patsy's House** from her position at MSU as Asst. Director of the Annual Fund. She was born & raised in the Bugscuffle area, northwest of Electra, and received both her Masters & Undergraduate degrees from Texas Tech University. She is married to a Wichita Falls police officer, and has one son, Ethan, who is three years old.

**Children are our most important resource.** No society can remain strong if it cannot properly educate and nurture is children & youth, who will be our next wave of adult leaders. So, be sure to come to our meeting Wednesday, and bring a friend, to learn how Patsy's House is functioning, for the future of our children and our society.

**OUR PREPARATIONS FOR THE NOV. 2nd GENERAL ELECTION.**

*Here are some dates to take note of:*

October 8th (Friday), we will begin distributing *Voters Guides* for the Election.

October 11th (Monday), we will hold a *Candidate's Forum* at City Hall.

October 18th (Monday), *Early Voting* begins.

October 29th (Friday), *Early Voting* ends.

November 2nd (Tuesday), this is *Election Day*.

**THE LWV VOTERS GUIDE.**

We will have our usual distribution sites across Wichita Falls, and in Burk, Iowa Park, & Electra.

It is made up of two parts. *Part I is four pages*, and includes information on Where to Vote, Where to Vote early, Where to obtain more *Voters Guides*, and how to access the *Voters Guide* via your computer, online. It also includes information from the two local races which are being contested. *Part II is 12 pages*, and covers all the statewide races that are up for election, including for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and others.

**THE LWV CANDIDATE FORUM.**

There are two contested Local Races. One is for U.S. Congress, 13th District, and the Other is for State Representative, 69th District. All candidates for these positions have agreed to participate, and it will be broadcast live on Time-Warner Cable channel 11, starting at 7 p.m. in Monday evening, October 11th. It will be held in the Wichita Falls City Council Chambers.

Taped rebroadcasts will be on Cable channel 11 regularly until the election, at various times. However, the most common scheduled times are at 4:00 pm and/or 8:30 pm on most days.

**THE CANDIDATES.**

*For U.S. Congress, 13th District*, are three contestants: Mac Thornberry (Republican from Clarendon), Keith Dyer (Independent from Iowa Park), and John Burwell (Libertarian from Abilene).

*For State Representative, 69th District*, are two contestants: Lanham Lyne (Republican), and Michael Smith (Democrat), both from Wichita Falls.

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**MEMBERSHIP IN THE LEAGUE, Runs From July 1st to June 30th.**

*League Dues are* \$55 a year (\$75 for a couple), and if paid now run until June 30, 2011.

*If you are Not a Member*, and want to join, or

*If you are a Member*, and have not yet paid this year's dues, then bring to a meeting, or mail to P.O. Box 4034, Zip 76308, dues of \$55 (or \$75 for a couple). If you are new to the League, be sure to include your Address, Phone number, and Email address.

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**A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, PENNY MILLER.**

I for one, am glad fall has arrived with a break in the heat. I want to briefly discuss a few things.

*The November Election.* In addition to nicer weather, fall also means elections are upon us. The Voters Guide will be out soon and our candidate forum is coming up. I hope you will all mark your calendars for the forum on October 11th at 7 pm. I will be out of town most of that week, but I know the Leaguers there will represent the organization well. More detailed information about the Voters Guide & Candidate Forum are explained above in this Voter.

*Talk to your friends about League.* I have given two presentations in the last couple of weeks to groups about the League, and would be happy to make presentations to other organizations you may be a part of. We want everyone to know about the important work we do. I'll be doing an interview with Channel 6 later in the week to talk about voter registration, as

well as the Voters Guide and the Candidate Forum. No telling what will actually air on the news, but every reminder helps. I would love to see more people active in the League, but they can't join if they don't know about us.

***We are a Non-Partisan organization.*** Since the elections are upon us, it is important to stress the nonpartisanship of the League of Women Voters. I am glad we have so many members active in the political process, but we all need to remember to park our candidate & party preferences at the door of our meetings. The League supports no candidate or party, and we need to guard our nonpartisanship carefully.

***We need financial support.*** We have been getting some donations in, to support our work (such as Voters Guides) and I'm thankful to everyone who has written a check or put money in the container we pass around at the meetings. If you have suggestions for individuals or organizations that would support our work, then give Dolores Pratt the contact information so we can send them a request.

Thanks for all you do for our local League. --- --- --- Penny.

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**INTERNATIONAL DAY of CLIMATE ACTION - - - OCTOBER 24th.**

**The Consensus of Scientists** is that 350 parts per million (ppm) of CO2 (carbon dioxide) in the atmosphere is the safe limit for humanity. But we are now already at 390 ppm. So, LWV-US is urging us to be aware of the Global Day of Climate Change during October, when the League and other concerned organizations will be trying to raise awareness of the potential danger. It is hoped that such awareness will encourage all governments across the planet to focus on this issue.

At [www.350.org](http://www.350.org) you can find more information, if you are interested. They are urging concerned citizens to kick-off their planning on October 10th, with an aim to have as much "awareness action" as possible by the 24th.

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Feel free to forward this VOTER to your friends & associates. Feedback to [LaryLambert@prodigy.net](mailto:LaryLambert@prodigy.net), or 767-0129.