

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of WICHITA FALLS

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# **VOTER** *for June 2011*

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### THE SHEPPARD MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

**KAY YEAGER, Committee Chair & League Member**

**will focus on the deep relationship between City & Base.**

*Wednesday, June 1st - Luby's Cafeteria*

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

**Sheppard AFB has been** an integral part of the Wichita Falls community since it's inception as Sheppard Field in 1941, shortly before World War II. The Military Affairs Committee (**SMAC**) has become an important part of that relationship, since founded in 2005, by the Chamber of Commerce. It is now, however, an independent non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with a stated commitment to: "help protect the future of SAFB, to communicate our concerns, and to not only maintain, but strengthen our Base/Community relationship.

**Kay Yeager is chair** of the 26 member SMAC Committee, and will help us understand, not only what SMAC is & does, but why SAFB is such an important aspect of our Wichita Falls community. In April, she led a delegation from the Committee to Washington D.C. to meet with our Congressman, both Senators, and Pentagon staff on behalf of the Base. So, she will be able to give us the latest information on what may be in store for the Base, in the future.

**Kay's resume of community activities** is big enough to "choke a horse." Besides her service as Mayor in the 90s & early 2000s, and chair of SMAC, she is Chair of the Presbyterian Manor board, Chair of the First United Methodist Trustees, & President of the Perkins Lecture Committee. She is a lifelong resident of Wichita Falls, a graduate of Sweet Briar College (Virginia), and studied one year at the University of St. Andrews (Scotland), before receiving her B.A. degree, with honors, in chemistry.

**She was so anxious** to present this program, that she, and husband Frank, have shortened their vacation to Yellowstone National Park a few days, in order to make our meeting. **If you want to know more** about our relationship with SAFB, and what its future looks like, we look forward to your presence on June 1st.

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### DUES FOR THE NEW LEAGUE YEAR

**The League Year begins** July 1st. So, renewing members should get to the Treasurer, Lou Lechman, their dues of \$55 (\$75 for a couple) at an early date. Bring to the June 1st meeting, or mail to our P.O. Box.

**We also need contributions.** Since we keep only a few dollars from dues, we need contributions to continue our Voters Service.

**2012 will be a big election year**, with March Primary Elections, May City & School Elections, and the November General Election (including for President). The cost of Voters Guides will be up a lot, and we really need the help.

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### **THE CITY ELECTION: VOTERS' GUIDE & FORUM**

**We really appreciate** how every candidate responded to our Voters' Guide questions, and participated in our Candidate Forum. Also, the City of Wichita Falls (especially the City Manager & the Public Information office) was extremely cooperative. Without community support, our voter service efforts would not be successful.

**Only 2,900 citizens voted.** But we distributed over 2,500 print copies of the Guide throughout the City, and no telling how many accessed the Guide on our web page. The *local news media* (TV3, TV6, and Times Record News) also covered the election and focused on our Voters Guides significantly. With the Forum being aired live (on the City's cable channel 11) and replayed at 9 p.m. *every evening* before the election, we hope that our service to the City voters was acceptable.

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### **WE HAVE A NEW LEAGUE PRESIDENT**

**Beginning July 1st, Dr. Mike Preda** will assume the duties of President of our Wichita Falls League. Penny Miller has been President the last two years, and will assume the duties of Vice-President for Community Relations & Legislation.

**Dr. Preda is a professor** at MSU, and a long-time teacher in the area of political science. Some may wonder how he can be President of what sounds like a women's organization. When the LWV was formed in 1920, after the success of the women's suffrage movement, it was exclusively for women. But in the mid-1980s, it opened membership to men, and now about 10% of its total national members, are men. So, a slogan which has become appropriate the last few years is: *The LWV.... Not Just for Women Any More.*

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### **OUR NEW LOCAL LEAGUE STUDY: FINANCING CITY GOVERNMENT**

**At our annual meeting in May**, members voted to revisit this issue.

The *Study Focus* will be on the sources and uses of funds used by the City of Wichita Falls to support city government operations.

The *Study Scope* will be:

- [1] Sources of funds received by the city.
- [2] Statutes and regulations relating to the use of various funding sources for the city.
- [3] Funding areas to fulfill city requirements.
- [4] Budget process for the city, and how it is actually produced.
- [5] Impact of funding levels on the programs and services the city offers.
- [6] Relationship of city/county/state financing to support services.
- [7] Organizations and groups impacting funding decisions.
- [8] Knowledge of city finances by the public, and what public input is, if any, during the process.

[9] How the local LWV can influence the public and/or the city in issues relating to financing the city gov't.

**The Study Committee** will be made of League Member Volunteers. Marilyn Vaughn has volunteered to chair the committee. Members wanting to serve should contact our Program VP, Dolores Pratt. Her phone is 691-6574, and her email is [DPratt@sw.rr.com](mailto:DPratt@sw.rr.com).

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**THE CURRENT STATE LEAGUE STUDY:  
TEXAS WATER RESOURCES AS A COMMODITY**

**This study is coming to a head.** The State Committee has been working on it for the last year.

*This summer*, a Facts & Issues Report, along with consensus questions, will be submitted to all local League members. *This fall*, each League must forward its membership response to the consensus questions to the LWV-Texas Board for analysis. If local League members arrive at a true consensus, then the State Board will propose a League position on the subject, for submission to the next State Convention, for member action. Therefore, early this fall we will be holding a Consensus Meeting, to consider the report & the questions.

**The Study Focus** is considering the competition for water in Texas, including [1] governmental policy, [2] public interest rights, and [3] water resource protection concerns. Also of interest, is the current Federal Court litigation between several Water Districts in the Metroplex area vs. the State of Oklahoma, about the potential importation of water from Oklahoma to Texas, and who has the ultimate control.

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**THE CURRENT NATIONAL LEAGUE STUDY:  
THE ROLE OF FEDERAL GOV'T IN PUBLIC EDUCATION**

**This study is also coming to a head.** The National Committee has also been working on the last year.

*This spring*, five study papers have been released by the study committee. To access such study papers, use the following link:  
<http://salsa.wiredforchange.com/dia/track.jsp?v=2&c=J4fjxwKNQhBPARBCqgQ5uccpVMLvv%2FNS>. From the LWVUS web page you may download or copy pdf versions of each paper.

*This fall*, each local League is asked to focus on this subject. Later, the National Board will suggest a possible LWVUS position, for consideration by members attending next year's National Convention.

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

**This is my last month** at your League President. I have truly enjoyed the experience, but I am grateful to Mike Preda for stepping up to assume the responsibility, beginning in July. I know he will have some new, fresh ideas for the new League year and will be counting on your support.

**Thanks to those members** who served in various capacities this past year. Those of you who served on the Board, or the nominating committee, or as an observer deserve a big

pat on the back for helping make the League an effective force in the community. (Marilyn, I don't know what we'd do without you!!).

**The coming year will be busy.** Elections in 2012, our own local restudy of City finance, and several State & National studies to reach consensus on. Please take the time to get involved. Marilyn Vaughn attends almost every City Council meeting, and has volunteered to chair our restudy of City finance. If you are interested in knowing more about where the money to support our City comes from, and how it is spent, please let Program VP, Dolores Pratt, know so you can be added to the study committee.

**The June 1st meeting** will be our last, until September 7th. Former Mayor, Kay Yeager, will be our speaker about the Sheppard Military Affairs Committee. This important group works hard to keep the community, the DoD, and our legislators focused on Sheppard AFB - - a huge part of our community and our economy. Invite a friend to the meeting..... s/ Penny

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*See you on Wednesday, June 1st, at Luby's. Feel free to forward this VOTER to your friends and associates. Feedback to [LaryLambert@prodigy.net](mailto:LaryLambert@prodigy.net), or by phone or fax to 767-0129.*