



The Voter

LWV Wimberley Valley Mal Unit Newsletter
Number 3

The President's Corner

Fall Greetings to LWV-WV!

The board has held its first board meeting of the calendar year and participated in Board Training. This year we had two trainers, Jensie Madden from LWV-Comal Area and Frances McIntyre of LWV-Austin. We set the goals for 2010-2011. We will

- *continue to develop our membership base
- *expand our fund development
- *distribute LWV-TX Voters Guides and Hays County Voters Guides published by LWV-San Marcos
- *conduct Voter Registration Drives
- *host Candidate Forums
- *participate in the LWV-TX Study: Texas Water Resources as a Commodity
- *hold informational meetings related to State and National programs and
- *involve the membership in our activities.

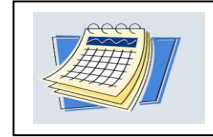
We began the League year with a well-attended Candidate Forum on August 30th for the Wimberley City Council, Place 2 Election held on September 18th. Our next events are Voter Registration, distribution of Voters Guides and a Candidate Forum on October 14th.

Please sign up to attend the LWV Regional Water Forum on Saturday, November 6 in Seguin. This forum is part of the LWV-TX Study on Texas Water Resources as a Commodity. This is an educational/informational meeting focusing on the current uses of water in our watershed and the planning that is taking place to assure sufficient water for all of us to share. I sent you an informational sheet about this important meeting several days ago. Please contact Dorothy Knight for further information as she is on the state and regional committees for the water study. The board hopes to see members other than board members attend this meeting. There will be car pools organized for those who do not wish to drive.

Check out our calendar for other events planned for this year. Watch for email notifications of all our activities.

Plan to attend as many events as you can!

Carol



LWV-WV MAL UNIT CALENDAR 2010-2011

September

28 Voter Registration Training/Deputizing

October

**1-2 Voter Registration
Voters Guide Distribution**

14 General Election Candidate Forum

15 Board Meeting

November

05 Board Meeting

06 LWV-TX Regional Water Meeting in Seguin

14 Membership Meeting ("Iron-Jawed Angels")

December

11 Holiday Brunch

January

07 Board Meeting

Homeowner's Association Legislation

February

04 Board Meeting

LWV-TX Lobby Day

Fundraising

March

4 Board Meeting

"Know your Community Study"

April

1-2 Voter Registration

08 Board Meeting

18 Candidate Forum (City Council/School Board)

May

05 Annual Meeting

**SAVE THE DATE!
LWV REGIONAL WATER FORUM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6**

9:00 am – 3:30 pm
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority Annex,
905 Nolan, Seguin, Texas

As last summer's drought made clear, Texas has limited water resources. We who live in Central Texas are all too familiar with the competing interests of agriculture, industry, population growth and endangered species for that limited water supply. Who makes the decisions about where the water goes, and how much can be pumped? Who is planning for future needs? Is water in Texas a resource or a commodity?

These questions are part of a new LWV-Texas study of **"Texas Water Resources as a Commodity."** Representatives of six local Leagues in our region have planned a daylong event to focus on the current uses of water in our watershed, and the planning that is taking place to assure sufficient water for all of us to share. The Guadalupe Blanco River Authority is co-sponsoring this event at their headquarters in Seguin, which is centrally located between Kerrville and Victoria, the two ends of our watershed.

Experts will describe the state water plan, the Region L water plan, information from the Headwaters region in Kerr County, current state regulations that govern the sale and transfer of water rights by river authorities, and the permitting of water transfers by groundwater districts. League members from Kerrville, Wimberley Valley, San Marcos, Comal Area, San Antonio, and Victoria will have the opportunity to talk to each other in small groups about how regional water practices impact us in our hometowns.

This forum is designed for everyone, starting with basic information and building on that knowledge as the day progresses. We also hope to have a second forum in a few months to focus on other aspects of the LWV-TX study, like interstate and international water transfers.

Join us in doing what the League does best, educating ourselves and the public about important policy

Staying Connected

LWV Texas, 1212 Guadalupe St.,
Suite 107, Austin, 78701, 512-472-1100
LWV U.S., 1730 M Street N.W., Suite 1000,
Washington, D.C., 20106-4508. 202-429-1965
Email: lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org
Website: www.lwvtexas.org
Access: User Id: Member
LWV U.S.
Create a personal user id and password

decisions. **Plan now to get together and come to Seguin on November 6th.**

RSVP: (361)573-1317 or kathyhunt@suddenlink.net. Box lunch will be provided. (Indicate your choice of turkey or vegetarian sandwich). Cost: \$10 (includes lunch, refreshments, and handouts). Pay on day of forum. **RSVP deadline: October 22, 2010.**

Planning Committee: Chair Jensie Madden (LWV-Comal Area), Evelyn Bonavita (LWV-San Antonio Area), Annalisa Peace (LWV-San Antonio Area), Dianne Wassenich (LWV-San Marcos), Dorothy Knight (LWV-Wimberley Valley), Kathy Hunt (LWV-Victoria), Diane McMahon (LWV-Kerrville), and Frances Lovett (LWV-Kerrville).

VOTER SERVICE FALL SCHEDULE

The League of Women Voters-Wimberley Valley has plans for Registrar Training on September 28, at the Wimberley Village Library to prepare participants for registering voters at Brookshire Bros. on October 1 & 2, prior to the registration deadline, October 4. Voter Registration will also take place at Wimberley High School and Katherine Anne Porter High School during the lunch hours on Friday, October 1.

The Fall Candidate Forum is scheduled for October 14, 2010, 7:00-9:00 P.M., and will be held at the Wimberley Community Center, Johnson Hall. The Forum will afford candidates from four of the races in the November General Election to meet the citizens and answer questions submitted from the audience. The races represented in the Forum will be as follows:

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 45

Jason Isaac (R) / Patrick Rose (D)

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 5

Mark Lowe (L) / Rebecca Bell-Metereau (D)

HAYS COUNTY SHERIFF

Gary Cutler (R) / Tommy Ratliff (D)

HAYS COUNTY JUDGE

Bert Cobb (R) / Jeff Barton (D)

Note: All of the candidates in each of these four races were invited to participate; this list represents the candidates who confirmed that they would participate.

The Voter Guide has been received and will be distributed to locations in Wimberley, including Deer Creek Nursing Center, WHS and KAPS, and Wimberley Community Center. LWV-WV will also distribute the Voter Guide to the Woodcreek City Hall, Driftwood Community Center, and Dripping Springs. The Voter Guide will be placed at all voting poll locations prior to early voting, October 18-29, and Election Day, November 2.

Cookie Hagemeyer, Voter Services Chair

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Joan and I really enjoyed making our presentation to the New Neighbors Club. Our 5-10 minute talk took more like 20 minutes, I think, as we had many questions and a lot of interest from the club members.

We had six prospective members sign up for more information about League and about LWV-WV's plans for future activities.

We have two new members, Wanda Bradfield and Dana Carmean whose main interest is in water issues.

Welcome Wanda and Dana!
-Linda Lang



Current LWV-TX Study: Texas Water Resources as a Commodity

Focus: An update of our Water position to consider the competition for water in Texas, including governmental policy, public interest rights, and water resources protection concerns

- Scope: The study will be conducted by taking these actions:
- Analyze current state regulation which govern the sale or transfer of water rights
 - Consider ramifications if Texas were to classify water as a commodity rather than a natural resource
 - Explore options such as a state-run water marketing administration
 - Assess laws that would be needed for interstate or international water transfers
 - Assess the best use of our water (i.e., public interest concerns, environmental factors, effect on third parties, future water requirements)

This study was recommended by the LWV-Comal Area and six other leagues, including the Wimberley Valley MAL unit, It was adopted at LWV Convention 2010. Dorothy Knight is serving on the Statewide Study Committee that will develop the questions to be sent to local leagues for study and consensus.

The committee met in Austin in July and will meet again on October 1 to consider a draft of questions for local leagues to use in educating themselves about water resources in Texas. These questions will also be used to focus the educational content of the regional water forums that will be conducted across the state.

A Brief History of the League

The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 by Carrie Chapman Catt during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The convention was held six months before the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified.

The League began as a "mighty political experiment" designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters. They were encouraged to use their new power to participate in shaping public policy. From the start, the League was an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that citizens should play a critical role in advocacy. The League was then as it is now, a non-partisan organization.

PLEASE NOTE DUES INCREASE

**YEARLY DUES FOR LWV-WV MAL UNIT
MEMBERS ARE NOW
\$55.00**