

Denton Voter

The League of Women Voters, Denton, Texas, est. 1961

March 2005

Sue Smith, President
Kelly Fincher, Editor
P. O. Box 424945 TWU Station
Denton, TX 76204
www.lwvdenton.org

March 2005 Calendar

Tuesday, March 8
Board Meeting 1:45 p.m.
Home of Sue Smith

Monday, March 28
General Meeting 7:00 p.m.
**Corporate Marketing
In Denton ISD**
UNT EESAT Bldg. #176
The University now requires a
parking permit. We will provide "hang
tags" in Room 176

Saturday, April 16
Annual Meeting 9:30 a.m.
Speaker: Sheriff Benny Parkey
Home of Jean Aboul-Ela
1015 Ridgecrest Circle

Ms. Sitton gave examples of programs which encourage residents to have hazardous materials such as pesticides,

solvents, poisons, paint and household cleaners picked up by the City. The materials are be sorted and those that are safe to use stocked in a central location where citizens shop. These "stores" reduce the volume of HHW that need to be disposed of and allow residents to obtain materials for free.

Ms. Sitton is confident that grant monies could be obtained to initiate the program. Ongoing support of the facility and two employees would be around fifty cents per household per month. League members are urged to contact City Council in support of such a facility.

Members took the opportunity to quiz Ms Sitton concerning general questions of trash disposal and recycling in the City. She reminded us that any resident can order a larger cart for no extra charge. The larger 65 gallon cart avoids the need to set containers of materials beside a full bin. If possible, residents should fit all recyclables in a bin to avoid extra containers having to be loaded into the truck.

Denton residents can also order a cart for garbage and save money on their utility bill. Residents choose a 35 gallon (the same size as a recycle cart), a 65 gallon, or a 95 gallon cart and put it out for collection only once a week. All discards should fit in the cart. Because it is collected only once a week, the resident is charged less. Ms. Sitton indicated that 75 percent of residential waste is collected on the first of any household's two collection days, making it very likely that most households can easily move to one collection day a week. For more information or to order a cart, call 349-8420.

FEBRUARY MEETING Peg LaPoint
At the February meeting we heard from Shirlene Sitton, Manager of the recycling program for the City of Denton. Ms. Sitton outlined her proposal for a permanent facility which would accept hazardous household waste (HHW) from residents and either dispose of them properly or make them available for other residents to use.
Disposal of HHW is extremely expensive and the City has been unable to provide even yearly disposal events. There are enormous amounts of HHWs in the community which pose a serious environmental hazard. If a collection program could be expanded to include the reuse of some materials, the City would save money while still protecting the environment.

PRESIDENT'S PIECE Sue Smith
Annual Meeting is Saturday, April 16, at 9:30 a.m. Please bring a covered dish to Jean Aboul-Ela's home in the Southridge labyrinth. From the I-35 service road at Teasley go south and turn right on Southridge and right on Ridgecrest Circle. Bring your handbook and this VOTER to the meeting. I look forward to seeing you there.

MARCH MEETING Maggie Dodd
 Members of the study committee, *Corporate Marketing in the Denton Independent School District*, will present their findings at the March 28th League general meeting. Kelly Fincher will demonstrate fundraising activities, inviting audience participation. Maggie Dodd will outline the various types of corporate ventures in the Denton public schools reflecting commercialism at large. Dorothy Adkins will introduce the Adopt-a-School program, a partnership of business and education, and the Denton Public School Foundation grant programs. Dr. Bill Giese will review findings of several interviews held with Denton administrative persons. Barbara Coe will offer her unique perspective from the business angle. This is an information session which will be followed by a consensus statement meeting in the fall. The study proposal may be found in your Member Handbook, page 17. We look to see you March 28, 7:00 p.m. at the UNT EESAT Bldg. #176.

REPORT ON LEAGUE LOBBY DAY Linnie McAdams
 On Monday, February 28, 2005, I attended Women's Legislative Days in Austin. It was an awesome experience. When I am surrounded by such women, it really feels as if we have power! The League of Women Voters along with forty other women's groups were co-sponsors. There were young women and older women – it was good to see the Gray Panthers still working. I first listened to a discussion entitled Women's Health and Family Planning Issues. Heather Paffe (Texas Association of Planned Parenthood Affiliates), Peggy Romberg (Women's Health and Family Planning Association), and Sarah Wheat (NARAL Pro Choice Texas) were presenters. Later I sat in on a workshop entitled Texas Water in Crisis: What Will the Legislature Do? Following that I listened to a presentation on Legislating Morality by Kathy Miller, President, Texas Freedom Network.
 After lunch I heard Fred Lewis and Patrick Hansen from "Clean Up Texas Politics" speak on that subject. They showed attendees how to look up various campaign finance donations. They explained that the homebuilders gave nine million dollars to members of the legislature and now we have a "state mandated home warranty" but no way to enforce findings against the builder. Most home purchase contracts now include language requiring mediation and an agreement not to take issues to court. If the buyer does not wish to sign such a contract, the seller will simply refuse to sell. Many homeowners have been shocked to discover that even a finding in their favor has no enforcement mechanism. Money talks and nine million spoke loudly! Our keynote address was by Llenda Jackson-Leslie, President, National Women's Political Caucus. She

spoke of the power of women when we unite and work together for change. She believes if change is to occur it will be due to the efforts of women and to achieve that end she encourages women to run for elective office. I left the meeting feeling that change was indeed possible because there are so many great women working for change. We just need to make our voices heard and we need to enlist more women in the struggle.
 On Tuesday, February 28, 2005, I joined the League of Women Voters for their "Lobby Day." The League did a wonderful job of briefing members about League Positions and prepared a handout to be given to Legislators. The LWV chose to emphasize only three areas – School and Public Finance, Protect Texas Children in 2005, and Recorded Votes in 2005. We had prepared "talking points" and clear concise statements about our positions.
 With my materials in hand, I went to the Capitol and spoke with the Chief Aids of both Myra Crownover and Mary Denny. I also spoke briefly with Mary Denny. We left each of them with a cookie baked in the shape of Texas and adorned with LWV in frosting! All and all, a great two days!

AGENDA 2005 Annual Meeting
 LWV-Denton April 16, 2005

- 9:30 Congregate, food to the kitchen**
- 9:35 Welcome** Sue Smith
- 9:40 Call to order** Sue Smith
 - Appointment of tellers and parliamentarian
 - Determination of quorum present
 - Adoption of Rules of the Day
 - Only members may address the Meeting
 - Only members may vote
 - Speakers are limited to two minutes
 - No member speak a second time until all who wish to speak have spoken
- 9:45 Minutes of the 2004 Annual Meeting**
 (Copies available at meeting)
- 9:50 Treasurer's Report** Ann MacMillan
 2004-2005 Budget
- 10:00 President's Report** Sue Smith
- 10:05 Presentation of Proposed budget 2005-2006 and discussion** Marilyn Smith
- 10:10 By-laws** Sue Smith
 Announce clarification of wording Article VIII Section 2
- 10:15 Presentation and discussion of Proposed Local Program 2005-2006** Peg LaPoint
 Re-adoption of current local program
- PROPOSED NEW STUDY:**
TITLE: Public Library System Funding in Denton
FOCUS: Support provided for the public library system From the City of Denton and County of Denton taxpayer dollars) and other possible sources of revenue (e.g., user fees for non-residents).
SCOPE: Obtain information on the current funding for the Denton Public Library System. Compare funding support

from the City of Denton and Denton County with that in other Texas communities and counties of similar size, using as a guide the public library standards published by the Texas Library Association (TLA). Identify benchmarks to help determine whether this financial support is sufficient given the size of the community and the size of the library system. Consider expenditures for operations (staff and utilities) and services.

RATIONALE: The rapid growth in population in the city and county of Denton has implications for funding of municipal services. We propose to look at the impact of this population increase on our public library system, which has grown from one central library to three libraries located throughout the city. In this time of lean budgets, how do we know whether our public libraries are keeping pace with population or falling behind? To what extent does the Denton Public Library System also serve the citizens of Denton County who do not reside inside the city limits?

10:25 Report of the Nominating Committee and nominations from the floor

Sarah McIntire

2005-2006 Slate of Nominees:

President: Sue Smith
 Organization Vice President: Linnie McAdams
 Secretary: Maggie Dodd
 Directors: Ken Ferstl
 Jean Aboul-Ela
 Nominating Committee: Rosemary Witmer, Chair,
 Dorothy Adkins
 Marilyn Smith

10:30 Report on November election Don Alexander

10:50 Presentation of LOLITS award Sue Smith

11:00 Vote on: Dues and proposed budget
 Proposed local program
 Slate of nominees

11:10 Introduction of Board of Directors 2005-2006 Sue Smith

11:15 Appreciation of Board of Directors 2004-2005 Sue Smith

11:30 Introduction of Speaker Peg LaPoint

BENNY PARKEY

Sheriff of Denton County

“DRUG ABUSE IN DENTON COUNTY”

**12:00 Adjourn and close of Annual Meeting
 LUNCH**

LWV-Denton Proposed Budget 6/1/05 – 5/31/06

| EXPENDITURES | | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|---------------------|--|----------------|----------------|
| A. | Operation Costs | | |
| A2 | General Supplies | \$ 150 | \$ 150 |
| A3 | Telecommunications | 200 | 200 |
| A.4. | Post Office Box | 70 | 70 |
| B. | Board and Administrative Committees | | |
| B1 | President | 25 | 25 |
| B3 | Board Expenses | 150 | 150 |
| B4a | Finance Committee | 300 | 300 |
| B4b | Membership Committee* | 200 | 200 |

| EXPENDITURES (cont.) | | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|-----------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| C. | Delegates, Travel and Affiliations | | |
| C1 | National Meetings (National Convention)* | 700 | 329 |
| C2 | State Meetings (State Convention)* | 800 | 800 |
| C5 | Workshops/conferences | 80 | 80 |
| C6 | Women’s Legislative Days | 0 | 0 |
| D. | Financial Support for the League | | |
| D4a | State Per Member Payment* | 1,100 | 1,080 |
| D4b | National Per Member Payment* | 1,300 | 1,428 |
| E. | Bulletin – Denton VOTER | | |
| E1 | Printing | 200 | 200 |
| E2 | Mailing | 300 | 300 |
| F. | Educational Activities | | |
| F1 | Publications | 100 | 100 |
| F2 | Program Committees | 150 | 150 |
| F3 | Voters Service | 600 | 400 |
| G. | Position Support | | |
| G1 | Publication and distribution | 25 | 25 |
| H. | Special and Miscellaneous | | |
| H1 | Special Projects | 0 | 0 |
| EXPENDITURE TOTALS | | \$ 6,525 | \$ 6,062 |

| INCOME | | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1a | Dues* | \$ 2,500 | \$ 2,500 |
| 1b1 | Contributions (members)* | 1,500 | 2,000 |
| 1b2 | Contributions (non-members)* | 1,325 | 1,000 |
| 1f1 | TEF Reserves* | 0 | 0 |
| 1f3a | Voters Service Project | 600 | 400 |
| 1f3b | 15% of LWVTX PMP* | 275 | 162 |
| 1f3c | 25% of LWVUS PMP | 325 | 0 |
| INCOME TOTALS | | \$ 6,525 | \$ 6,062 |

***NOTES**

Expenditures:

- B4b. includes \$150 for cost of printing Member Handbooks and postage for mailing
- C1. LWVUS will hold a National Convention in June, 2006. Part of the expenses (e.g., registration) will be paid from the 2005-2006 budget and the remainder of the expenses will be covered by the 2006-2007 budget.
- C2. LWV-Texas will hold State Convention in 2006. We are accumulating \$800 from the 2004-2005 budget to add to the \$800 in the 2005-2006 budget to provide for delegate expenses.
- D4a. State Per Member Payment is calculated @ \$18 per individual member, \$18 per first household member and \$9 for another household member living at the same address or a student membership. The January 2005 membership report showed the Denton League had 49 individual members, 7 first household members and 7 second household members, and 1 student member. There are also 6 nationally-recruited members for whom we do not pay PMP.
- D4b. National Per Member Payment is calculated @ \$23.80 per individual member, \$23.80 for the first household member and \$11.90 for another household member living at the same address or a student member. See Denton membership report figures in D4a.

Income:

- 1a. Local dues would remain \$45 per individual member; \$45 for the first member of a household membership; and \$22.50 for each other member residing at the same address; and \$20 for a student membership.
- 1b1. and 1b2. Contributions to the LWV-Texas Education Fund are not reflected in this budget.
- 1f1. TEF Reserves are funds already on deposit with the League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund in the escrow account for Denton from which we request reimbursement from the LWV-TEF Board of Trustees.
- 1f3b. We plan to pay 15% of our LWV-Texas PMP with funds on deposit in the LWVTX Education Fund

VOTER'S GUIDE ON UPCOMING LOCAL
ELECTIONS IS COMING YOUR WAY...

Membership in the League of Women Voters for the remainder of the year is \$22.50 for an individual.

Two or more persons at the same mailing address may join for \$45 and student memberships are \$15. Dues cover the period of January 1, 2005 through August 31, 2005.

Send a check or contact Ann MacMillan, 1929 Parkside Dr., Denton, Tx, 76201, 940 565-1137 or amacmill@music.unt.edu for membership information.

Board of Directors

| | |
|---|----------|
| Sue Smith, President dentonsmiths@yahoo.com | 387-1016 |
| Peg La Point, Program VP tnplapoint@aol.com | 891-4984 |
| Sondra Ferstl, Community Relations VP smferstl@charter.net | 383-3775 |
| Marilyn Smith, Organization VP mnsdt@mail.com | 383-4410 |
| Ann MacMillan, Treasurer amacmill@music.unt.edu | 565-1137 |
| Maggie Dodd, Secretary maggiedoddenton@aol.com | 387-1675 |
| Jean Aboul-Ela, Director mohjean@msn.com | 382-3878 |
| Kelly Fincher, Director kellyfincher@charter.net | 381-0302 |

League of Women Voters of Denton
P. O. Box 424945 TWU Station
Denton, TX 76204