

Denton VOTER

The League of Women Voters of Denton, Texas
Established 1961

P.O. Box 424945 TWU Station
Denton, Texas 76204

April 2006

Sue Smith, President
Ken Ferstl, VOTER Editor

www.lwvdenton.org

CALENDAR

Thursday, April 6, 7 pm. General Meeting, Open Doors Immigration Services. Environmental Education, Science, and Technology Building, Room 176, University of North Texas.

Sunday, April 9, 3 pm. Board Meeting. Home of Peg La Point, 1900 Highland Park Circle.

Friday, April 21 – Sunday, April 23, LWW-Texas State Convention, Corpus Christi.

Saturday, April 29, 9:30 am. ANNUAL MEETING. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1111 Cordell. **Speaker: Dr. David McEntire,** Emergency Administration and Planning, University of North Texas. Bring a salad to share! Board members will provide dessert.

Saturday, May 6, 9:30 am. Tour of Wastewater Treatment Plant and Landfill.

Saturday, May 13. City Council and School Board Elections. Early voting is May 1 – 9.

OPENING DOORS IMMIGRATION SERVICES: APRIL 6 MEETING

Anne Starnes, Executive Director, Opening Doors Immigration Services (ODIS) of Denton, will speak to the Denton League and its guests 7 pm, Thursday, April 6. Ms. Starnes has an extensive background in legal training for immigration services. She has also served as Medical Technologist in Austin, Houston, and Denton; Research Associate, Dept. of Biochemistry, Ft. Worth; Adjunct Professor, Coordinator/Lecturer, School of Visual Arts, UNT. Anne Starnes has served as Executive Director of Opening Doors Immigration Services since 2004.

Opening Doors Immigration Services is an agency "Recognized" by the U.S. Board of Immigration Appeals; its counselors are certified by the Board of Immigration Appeals. ODIS is a growing outreach program which began in April, 2003. ODIS serves immigrants in the Denton area by helping them regularize and maintain legal status, secure permanent residency, and become U.S. citizens through naturalization.

Join us for what should prove an evening of education and entertainment.

Maggie Dodd

DR. DAVID McENTIRE TO SPEAK AT ANNUAL MEETING

We are honored to have Dr. David McEntire as speaker at our annual meeting. Dr. McEntire teaches Emergency Administration and Planning at the University of North Texas. He is recognized internationally for his expertise in emergency management, international disasters, community preparedness, response coordination and vulnerability reduction. He has researched disasters in Peru, the Dominican Republic, Texas, New York and California. His research is widely published and he has presented papers at several international conferences. He conducted terrorism response training and is developing an instructor guide for FEMA. He is a contributing author for a Study of Homeland Security Preparedness for Texas.

Peg La Point, Program Vice President

PRESIDENT'S PODIUM

Please make every effort to attend Annual Meeting. Your presence is not only important since we can't vote on anything without a quorum, but you would miss out on all the fun. Please read this VOTER and bring it with you. Included in the budget is a proposed change in our dues. Both LWV-TX and LWV-US may increase our Per Member payment by as much as \$7, so the budget committee felt it necessary to suggest an increase of \$5 per member and the board agreed. We can't remember when we last adopted an increase in the dues, but it has probably been at least ten years.

If you have already responded to the Finance Drive, you may skip to the next paragraph. If you have not, please send your contribution however large or small. Our treasurer, Ann MacMillan, says 49 people have already contributed \$2,895 to LWV-Denton and \$775 to the LWV-Texas Education Fund! Maybe we can reach our goal before Annual Meeting!

This has been a great year with very good attendance at meetings, unending Voters Service activities and wonderful board members with such positive attitudes. I can't say more here or it would spoil my remarks at Annual Meeting. See you Saturday, April 29th.

Sue Smith

TOUR OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT AND LANDFILL

See where it goes and what it becomes. Saturday, May 6 at 9:30 am. The City of Denton has made exciting changes to the treatment plant that you really must see. The process is a wonder to behold. When we visit the landfill we will see the amazing composting system that is turning yard and construction waste into beautiful mulch and "Dyno Dirt." In addition to providing recycling opportunities, the City is now harvesting methane from the landfill to make biodiesel to fuel City trucks. In the near future we will have a Hazardous Household Waste facility.

Join us to see the magic on a tour jointly sponsored with the Sierra Club. Meet at the landfill at 1527 South Mayhill Road at the intersection of Spencer (just east of the Lowe's on Loop 288). Let me know you plan to attend: tnplapoint@msn.com or 891-4984.

Peg La Point, Program Vice President

WHAT'S NEW IN VOTERS SERVICE

Look for a Voters Guide to the May 13 Elections for City Council and Denton School Board! There are three candidates for mayor, and each of the at-large seats for City Council has two persons vying for the job. The two races for School Board have two candidates each.

Members will receive a printed copy of the guide.

Sondra Ferstl, Community Relations VP

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE
For Officers of LWV-Denton

Program Vice President – Peg La Point
Community Relations Vice President –
Treasurer – Ann MacMillan
Director – Sondra Ferstl
Nominating Committee Chair – Judy Giese
Members of Nominating Committee – Dale Conway and Sarah McIntire

All nominations are for a term of two years except for the chair and members of the nominating committee who serve for one year.

Rosemary Witmer, Chair
Nominating Committee 2005-2006

PROPOSED CONCURRENCE ON REDUCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

To be presented to the LWV-Denton at Annual Meeting
April 29, 2006

Proposed Concurrence:

The League of Women Voters of Denton supports adequately funded programs in Denton to reduce the incidence of domestic violence and to alleviate its effects.

Rationale:

Although the local League has been a proponent and supporter of state and local programs to reduce the incidence of domestic violence, there is no statement in our local program. It is recognized that there is a problem with domestic violence at the local level also, and the Denton League may, at times, want to address the issue. The committee has recommended, and the Board has approved, that a statement be added to our local program affirming the state position on domestic violence. Please refer to pp. 20-21 of the LWV-Denton handbook.

We propose to add a section F under " SOCIAL POLICY/HUMAN RESOURCES:
Support of:"

This proposal is submitted by the Domestic Violence Study Committee: Jean Aboul-Ela, Maggie Dodd, Gladys Maynard, and Marilyn Smith.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DENTON
Proposed Budget
6/1/06 – 5/31/07

EXPENDITURES	2005-2006	2006-2007
A. Operation Costs		
A2 General Supplies	150	50
A3 Telecommunications	200	250
A4 Post Office Box	70	80
B. Board and Administrative Committees		
B1 President	25	25
B3 Board Expenses	150	50
B4a Finance Committee	300	300
B4b Membership Committee*	200	150
C. Delegates, Travel and Affiliations		
C1 National Meetings (National Convention)	329	700
C2 State Leadership Meeting* (State Convention)	800	500
C4 Annual Meeting	75	50
C5 Workshops/conferences	80	50
C6 Women's Legislative Days*	0	200
D. Financial Support for the League		
D4a State Per Member Payment*	1,080	1,200
D4b National Per Member Payment*	1,428	1,500
E. Bulletin – Denton VOTER		
E1 Printing	200	200
E2 Mailing	300	275
F. Educational Activities		
F1 Publications	100	100
F2 Program Committees	400	50
F3 Voters Service	400	750
G. Position Support		
G1 Publication and distribution	25	25
H. Special and Miscellaneous		
H1 Special Projects	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	\$6,062	\$6,505

INCOME	2005-2006	2006- 2007
Ia. Dues*	2,500	2,775
Ib1. Contributions (members) *	2,000	1,600
Ib2. Contributions (non-members)*	1,000	1,750
If1. TEF Reserves*	0	0
If3a. Voters Service Project	400	380
If3b. 25% of LWVUS PMP	0	0
If3c. 15% of LWVTX PMP	<u>162</u>	<u>0</u>
	 \$6,062	 \$6,505

***NOTES**

Expenditures

B4b includes cost of printing and mailing Member Handbooks

C6: These funds would help defray expenses of LWV-Denton members attending Women's

Legislative Days in Austin in February 2007.

D4a Denton's membership count on which this budget and Per Member Payments (PMPs) will be based is 61 members. Of those 45 are individual members, 7 are first household members, 7 are second household members, and 2 are national members. Individual members and first household members pay the full rate of dues, the second household member pays half that amount, and the national members do not pay local dues (but receive local services). We project an increase in State Per Member Payment. The final amount will be determined at LWV-Texas Convention in late April. For budget purposes we are estimating a \$3 increase in State PMP, or \$21 per individual member.

D4b National Per Member Payment will be determined at the LWVUS National Convention in June 2006. For our budget purposes we estimate National PMP at \$27 per individual member.

Income

Ia Dues would be raised to \$50 per individual member; \$50 for the first member of a household membership and \$25 for each other member residing at the same address; and \$20 for a student membership.

Ib1 and Ib2 Contributions to the LWV-Texas Education Fund (LWV-TEF) from either members or non-members are not reflected in this budget.

If1 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.

League of Women Voters of Denton, Texas Annual Meeting April 16, 2005

The Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Denton held at the home of Jean Aboul-Ela, 1015 Ridgecrest Circle, Denton. President Sue Smith called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Jean Aboul-Ela and Marilyn Smith were thanked for their preparations for this annual event. Guest Erin DeGenero was introduced. Dorothy Adkins was named Parliamentarian; Pat Cheek and Duane Kraeger were appointed Tellers. Fourteen members were present, which constituted a quorum. The rules of the day were adopted. (Only members may address the body and vote. Speakers will limit their comments to two minutes. No member may speak a second time until all who wish to speak have spoken.)

Ann MacMillan presented the Treasurer's Report for 6-01-04 through 5-31-05. She noted that we have spent little in general supplies. The PMP for both State and national have been paid in full. This was an expensive year for Voters Service due to the number of elections. The balance in the Ed Fund is \$674.96. To date \$352.40 has been requested from the fund to cover Voters Service activities. The Ed Fund has also been used for partial payment of PMP. Six weeks remain in this fiscal year. Sarah McIntire moved acceptance of the Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Sondra Ferstl.

Minutes of the 2004 Annual Meeting were reviewed by the Board and are available for review by members.

Sue Smith presented the President's Report. Peg LaPoint was recognized for arranging a variety of programs during the year. Topics were Drug Abuse in Denton County, Hazardous Household Waste Recycling, Corporate Marketing in Denton Independent School District, City of Denton and Denton Independent School District Bond Elections, Open Spaces, Health Advocacy Training, and Denton County Transit Authority. Voters Service was decidedly active this year. Sondra Ferstl spoke to and registered students at North Central Texas College, spoke with members of the University of North Texas Chi Omega sorority. She also spoke to high school students in Sanger and Little Elm. Sue Smith spoke to McMath Middle School Junior Honor Society students. Voters Guides for the general election were distributed throughout Denton County. A Voters Guide for contested races in local elections was published.

Marilyn Smith presented the proposed budget for 2005-2006 as published in the March 2005 VOTER. It was observed that local dues have remained unchanged. A difference in allocations for National Convention 2004-2005 at \$700 and 2005-2006 at \$329 was noted. Additional expenses will come out of the 2006-2007 budget. Contributions by members for 2005-2006 were \$2000 which is a \$500 increase over the previous year. Some monies from the Ed Fund will be used to meet PMP.

Peg LaPoint encouraged input for local programs. Jean Aboul-Ela suggested "Measures Against Family Violence" be considered. Friends of the Family might be consulted concerning local efforts to contain domestic violence. Pat Cheek recommended inviting Opening Doors Immigration Services to introduce its program. The Board of Directors will meet in August to decide programs for the 2005-2006 year.

The proposed new study "Public Library System Funding in Denton" as outlined in the March 2005 VOTER was presented by Ken Ferstl. The LWV-Tyler will be contacted regarding their study. Peg LaPoint proposed adoption of current programs and the proposed new study.

Don Alexander, Denton County Elections Administrator was the recipient of the Little Old Lady in Tennis Shoes award. Mr. Alexander outlined the great demand for voter registration during the

presidential election. 326,000 voters were registered with some sites registering 1,000 a day. Denton County did not run out of ballots. Provisional ballots were largely rejected because the voters were not registered. Total cost of the election was \$345,000. Mr. Alexander spoke of purchasing 140-750 eSlate machines that satisfy state and federal guidelines for handicapped voter accessibility. No paper copy would be available. He is investigating touch screen voting machines.

Sarah McIntire presented the Report of the Nominating Committee. The proposed slate of officers are Sue Smith, President; Linnie McAdams, Organization Vice President; Maggie Dodd, Secretary; Ken Ferstl and Jean Aboul-Ela, Directors; each for two year terms; Nominating Committee, Rosemary Witmer as Chair with Dorothy Adkins and Marilyn Smith as committee members for one year term each.

Benny Parkey, Sheriff of Denton County was our featured speaker. He noted that 63% of those incarcerated in Denton County are because of drug and/or alcohol abuse. Methamphetamine is the current drug of choice. DARE is attempting to reach students. Recidivism is enormous. Judges can order required attendance at rehabilitation sites with peer groups or with a licensed counselor. Drug use is a problem, which has accelerated due to lack of parental guidance.

Marilyn Smith moved adoption of local dues structure as presented in the March 2005 VOTER. Members unanimously voted to adopt the proposed dues, budget, current program and the proposed new study. The slate of nominees, as presented by the Nominating Committee, was unanimously approved.

Peg LaPoint moved adjournment of the meeting and was seconded by Ken Ferstl. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie Dodd, LWV-Denton Secretary

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