

# Denton VOTER

*The League of Women Voters of Denton, Texas  
Established 1961*

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

[www.lwvdenton.org](http://www.lwvdenton.org)

**August 2007**

Sue Smith, President  
Sondra Ferstl, VOTER Editor

## CALENDAR

**Sunday, August 26, 3 p.m. Board Meeting** at the home of Ken & Sondra Ferstl, 1505 Victoria. Members are always welcome to attend Board Meetings.

**Thursday, September 13, 7 p.m. General Meeting.** Room 176, EESAT Building at the University of North Texas. Educational Testing in the Texas Public Schools. Barbara Burns, presenter.

**Sunday, September 16, 3 p.m. Board Meeting** at the home of Peg LaPoint, 1900 Highland Park Circle.

For a more complete calendar of the LWV-Denton activities for 2007-2008, please see the listing on p. 3.

*You should have by now received a membership renewal notice. Thanks to those of you who have already sent your 2007-2008 dues in to the League.*

*Membership in the League of Women Voters of Denton is \$50 for an individual member. Household memberships are \$50 for the first person and \$25 for each additional person residing at the same mailing address. Full-time students may join for \$20. Send a check payable to LWV-Denton to P.O. Box 424945 TWU Station, Denton, Texas 76204.*

## STANDARDIZED TESTING: Investigating Its Effectiveness

Instead of the 3 R's, Texas now emphasizes the 3 T's: TEKS, TAKS, and more testing. For educators in Texas, the current accountability system is riddled with challenges. What is the best way to test students? What should be included in the state's curriculum? What should be part of the state's accountability system? How should the state's standards be aligned with national guidelines? Because of the diverse population in the state, what should be done to ensure equitable opportunity for all students?

Those and other questions have prompted a state-wide study by the League of Women Voters. Before the membership attempts to reach a consensus on this topic, Barbara Burns, a member of both the Denton League and the state committee, will present findings at the September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Joining Barbara Burns, a high school social studies teacher for 28 years, will be her daughter, Michele Yardley, an elementary teacher for 8 years. Their insights will lend understanding to a complex, relevant issue.

A Facts & Issues on the Educational Testing Study will be mailed to every member with the Texas VOTER on August 28. It is full of information on every facet of Texas' mandated testing program.

Children are this country's future, making a highly effective educational system a necessity. To learn more about this timely topic, attend the upcoming meeting and invite a friend to join you for an informative evening.

Barbara Burns, Educational Testing Study chair



### **PRESIDENT'S PODIUM**

Welcome to LWV-Denton 2007-2008. It has been a long time since Annual Meeting last April. It will be difficult to summarize the meeting for those who had to miss. We had a review of programs and voters service activities and a financial report that included a successful Finance Drive.

Tracy Lindsay received the LOLITS awards for her invaluable assistance to us in printing our Voters Guides. Peg LaPoint received the Gladys Barstis award. Beyond her duties as Program Vice President, she made arrangements for our meetings at UNT, including providing parking hangtags for all who attended.

We adopted the proposed program as listed in your March Denton VOTER. Judy Giese presented the Nominating Committee report, which was accepted. Serving this next year

will be Sue Smith, President; Linnie McAdams, Organization Vice President; Ken Ferstl, Secretary; Barbara Coe and Maggie Dodd, Directors; Nominating Committee members, Kay Branum, chair, Dorothy Adkins and Rosemary Witmer, members. Continuing officers are Peg LaPoint, Program Vice President, and Sondra Ferstl, Director.

Our guest speaker was George Campbell, City Manager for Denton. He remarked on the increased population and land annexation, the Workforce Commission report that indicates more people are coming to Denton to work than are leaving and on commercial developments.

I hope you will make note of our first meeting September 13<sup>th</sup> on Mandatory Testing in the Public Schools. I can't imagine you don't have an opinion on that subject.

Sue Smith, President



Peg LaPoint, Gladys Barstis Award recipient, with our Annual Meeting Speaker, City Manager George Campbell. *Photo by Byron Witmer.*

## **LWV-DENTON CALENDAR FOR 2007-2008**

The Board agreed tentatively on the following dates for Denton League activities in 2007-2008.

### **2007**

- August 26 – Board Meeting, 3 p.m., Ferstls
- September 13 – General Meeting, 7 p.m., UNT EESAT Bldg.,  
Informational Meeting on Mandatory Testing in the  
Public Schools (LWV-Texas study)  
16 – Board Meeting, 3 p.m., La Points
- October 11- General Meeting, 7 p.m., November 6 Bond Election for  
Denton ISD and proposed Texas Constitutional Amendments  
14 – Board meeting, 3 p.m., Ferstls  
25 – General Meeting, 7 p.m., UNT EESAT Bldg., Consensus  
on Mandatory Testing in the Public Schools  
LWV-Texas Education Fund Voters Guide and LWV-Denton  
Voters Guide to November 6 Election
- November 6 – Election Day  
15 – General Meeting, 7 p.m., UNT EESAT Bldg., Informational  
Meeting on Immigration (LWVUS study)  
18 – Board Meeting, 3 p.m., LaPoints  
29 – General Meeting, 7 p.m., UNT EESAT Bldg., Consensus  
Meeting on Immigration Study
- December 2 – Board Meeting, 3 p.m., LaPoints  
13 – Christmas Party and Local, State, and National Program  
Planning, time and location to be determined

### **2008**

- January 13 – Board Meeting, 3 p.m.  
24 – General Meeting on Electronic Voting
- February Finance Drive  
LWV-Texas Education Fund Voters Guide to March 4 Primary  
Election  
10 – Board Meeting, 3 p.m.  
21 – General Meeting, 7 p.m. Gas Wells in Denton
- March 9 – Board Meeting, 3 p.m.  
13 – General Meeting, 7 p.m., Regional Water Planning
- April 4 – 6 – LWV-Texas State Convention, Fort Worth  
13 – Board Meeting, 3 p.m.  
19 – Annual Meeting  
LWV-Denton Voters Guide to May 10 Election
- May 10 – Election Day

**CONTRIBUTORS TO FINANCE DRIVE  
2006-2007**

*The following persons contributed  
to LWV-Denton.*

**Friend**

Dr. Horace Brock  
Maggie Dodd  
Jerry Eastup  
Mr/Mrs George Hopkins  
Dale Kimble  
Barbara MacMillan  
Richard Mauldin  
Agnes Rogers  
Joe & Betty Roy  
R.E.J. Sears  
Lois Sorensen  
George Spuller  
Linda & Ray Stephens  
Sue & Jack Thomson  
Judge Darlene Whitten

**Supporter**

Kay Branum  
Ruth Clark  
Dorothy Damico  
Janet & Ed Ellis  
Ken Ferstl  
Sondra Ferstl  
Bill & Judy Giese  
Marcia Henderson  
Lina Kirkpatrick  
Jo Kuhn  
Cora Martin  
Linnie McAdams  
Dr. Bettye Myers  
Fritz & Renata Schwalm  
Deborah & Keith Shelton  
Sue & Wes Smith  
Charles Stafford

**Benefactor**

Euline Brock  
Pat Cheek  
Ted & Barbara Coe  
DeBerry Funeral Home  
Roberta Donsbach  
Shirley Holland  
Alonzo Jamison  
Sarah McIntire  
Nelvia Smith  
Dorothy Van Dyck  
Rosemary & Byron Witmer

**Patron**

Linda Brock  
Joe Mulroy

*Contributors to the League of Women Voters  
of Texas Education Fund*

**Friend**

Dorothy Adkins  
Carol Riddlesperger  
Rosemary & Byron Witmer

**Supporter**

Margaret Griffin  
Ann MacMillan

**Patron**

Paul Voertman

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Rita & Jay Jones  
3409 Dunes Street  
Denton, Texas 76209

Samra Jones-Bufkins  
2112 Longmeadow St.  
Denton, Texas 76209

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sue Smith, President, [lwvdenton@earthlink.net](mailto:lwvdenton@earthlink.net)

Peg La Point, Program VP, [tnplapoint@msn.com](mailto:tnplapoint@msn.com)  
Linnie McAdams, Organization VP,  
[LMMcAdams@verizon.net](mailto:LMMcAdams@verizon.net)

Ann MacMillan, Treasurer, [amacmill@music.unt.edu](mailto:amacmill@music.unt.edu)  
Ken Ferstl, Secretary, [klferstl@charter.net](mailto:klferstl@charter.net)

Sondra Ferstl, VOTER Editor and Director,  
[smferstl@charter.net](mailto:smferstl@charter.net)  
Barbara Coe, [barbarajcoe@charter.net](mailto:barbarajcoe@charter.net)

Maggie Dodd, Director,  
[maggiedodddenton@aol.com](mailto:maggiedodddenton@aol.com)