

Denton VOTER



The League of Women Voters of Denton, Texas
Established 1961

December, 2009

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

Sondra Ferstl, President
Byron Witmer, VOTER Editor

www.lwvdenton.org

CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 15 – Bill of Rights Day

Thursday, December 17 – Holiday Party and Local Program Planning, 7:00 PM.

At the home of Byron and Rosemary Witmer, 1408 Country Club Rd, Argyle. Bring finger food to share. Distribution of Member Handbook.

Monday, January 4, 2:30 p.m. – Board Meeting,

At the home of Peg La Point, 1900 Highland Park Circle. Members are welcome to attend board meetings.

SAVE THE DATE! MARCH 4, 2010!

We will celebrate the 90th Birthday
of the
League of Women Voters!
More details in January!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS LWV-DENTON 2009-2010

President – Sondra Ferstl smferstl@charter.net
Program VP – Peg La Point tnplapoint@msn.com
Organiz'n VP – Barbara Coe barbarajcoe@charter.net
Community Relations VP
Treasurer – Sue Smith lwvdenton@earthlink.net
Secretary – Kay Branum kaybranum@aol.com
Directors – Rosemary Witmer byronw4@verizon.net
Linnie McAdams l.m.mcadams@att.net
Barbara Burns bburns333@hotmail.net

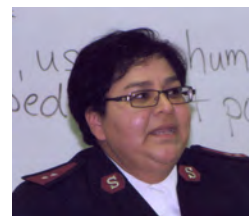
HOMELESSNESS IN DENTON

At least 29 people turned out to hear speakers discuss the homeless situation in the City of Denton at a League of Women Voters Program on Thursday November 19, 2009, at UNT's Environmental Sciences Building.



Speaking on the subject were Carla Quinn with HOPE Inc., Captain Dolores Watts of the Salvation Army, and Sara Carey of Immaculate Conception Church's Outreach Committee.

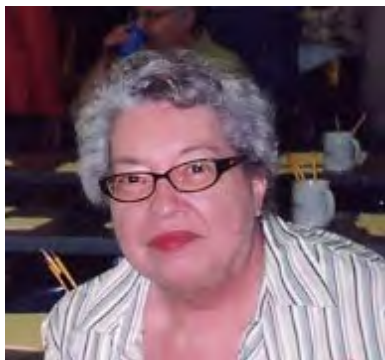
Captain Watts began the presentations telling the audience about the meals and housing provided by the Salvation Army. The Salvation Army currently has 25 beds available. The Salvation Army is first and foremost a church that provides spiritual guidance as well and food, clothing and shelter. They hope to soon begin a capital campaign to raise funds to build a facility that could house at least 100 people at a time.



Sara Carey spoke about the funds provided by Immaculate Conception Church that pay for prescription drugs for the needy, many of whom are served meals at Our Daily Bread.

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PRESIDENT'S PODIUM



As we reach the midpoint of the League of Women Voters "year" in Denton we pause for a while to think about what public policy issues we'd like to see the League address in the future. We do this process at the local, state, and

national levels. It used to be that we didn't do all three levels in the same year, but that got changed a few years back when the LWV-Texas changed the years in which we held convention. The process, called Program Planning, is the opportunity for us in the grassroots to suggest topics for study and action.

In December we gather to think about issues that affect us in Denton. What are the issues that could be addressed by the Denton City Council? By the Board of Trustees of the Denton Independent School District? By the County Commissioners Court?

I have volunteered to read through the report of the City Council's retreat last August to learn what issues the Council thinks will be facing Denton in the near future.

Barbara Burns has been attending meetings of the School Board and will give us insights into issues with which Denton ISD will deal.

We have no input planned from the Denton County Commissioners, but perhaps someone will peruse on line the minutes of the Court and offer suggestions. What we do in Denton that makes our local Program Planning special is to throw a holiday party and nosh while we talk! It makes for a lively session.

We thank Byron and Rosemary Witmer for inviting us to their home in Argyle for the meeting. Think about carpooling to help on the parking situation.

Happy holidays!

--Sondra

(HOMELESSNESS, cont'd)

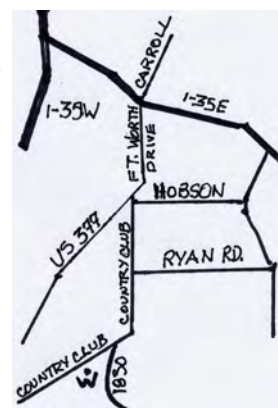
Carla Quinn, Hope Inc., explained that Hope provides rental and utility assistance, only one payment per year and they counsel families on money management including mortgage counseling certified by HUD. They also provide transitional housing for up to two years for families with minor children. As usual they have already run out of utility funds for this year. Ms. Quinn suggested that "welcome baskets" are very helpful for families moving out of the shelter into an apartment. Such things as a mop, broom, cleaning supplies, laundry supplies, kitchen towels, etc. should be included in the baskets.



– Linnie McAdams

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join us for our annual party on December 17 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Rosemary and Byron Witmer. It is your opportunity to enjoy the flavors of the season, share the company of fellow League members and celebrate the accomplishments of the past year. We will also take time to solicit your recommendations for the coming year. If you have ideas for monthly meetings or subjects of local study we will be excited to hear them. Please bring finger food to share. It can be sweet or savory. Rosemary and Byron will furnish coffee and spiced cider



DIRECTIONS

- In Denton, head south on Carroll/US 377
- Go under I-35E, continue on Ft. Worth Dr/US 377
- Turn left onto FM 1830/ Country Club Rd. (at traffic light just past Meador's Nursery)
- Continue 2.7 miles until Country Club Rd exits FM1830, just past Brush Creek Rd.
- Go 0.3 mi. to 1408 Country Club Rd. (5th house on left).
- Marker will be a lighted **NOEL** sign near the front door

WE FOUND OTHER WAYS TO VOTE

A large number of members attended the November 5 meeting to discuss five interesting ideas that may improve the process of voting and encourage citizen participation. It was very exciting to see so many people and hear their excellent input. We had a lively concurrence discussion about voting by mail, internet voting, election day registration, instant run-off voting, and election day centralized voting. The Board will now send the results of our concurrence to the Texas office to be compiled with the results from other local leagues.



Many thanks to all who participated. Thanks to Kay Branum for bringing her pom-poms and Jean Aboul-Ela for using them to show off her cheerleading technique.



– by Peg La Point

HOW TO JOIN THE LEAGUE

Membership in the League of Women Voters of Denton is \$50 for an individual.

Household memberships are \$50 for the first person and \$25 for each additional person residing at the same mailing address.

Memberships for full-time students are \$20. Dues cover the period September 1, 2009 through August 31, 2010.

To join us, please send a check payable to LWV-Denton to the Treasurer, Sue Smith, at P.O. Box 424945 TWU Station, Denton, TX 76204.

(Photos in this issue by Byron Witmer)