



VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF IRVING

WINTER VOTER 2009 VOL 16 ISSUE 1

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A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Carol Huntley Little

Wow what a year!!!

2008 kept our league busy with voter's registration drives, collaborating debate watching events with the library, political

forums with The Greater Irving/Las Colinas Chamber and the Sheriff's forum with the Dallas League, just to name a few. With all the national & local politics going on, we still managed to do our monthly programs geared to voter education and awareness.

Kudos to all of the members for adjusting to the crazy schedules required to complete the year's activity.

With the beginning of a new year and a new administration we will again tackle those tough issues both locally & nationally to try and keep you informed. Please take note in this publication of the upcoming programs for the next months; I guarantee you Genie Mitchell, our program VP, have some great informative programs planned for you.

Remember all meetings, including board meetings, are open to everyone and we welcome any ideas for future topic at the meetings.

Bravo! We now have 70 members that was my goal but we're not stopping there.

Please welcome our latest members Carolyn Ozcan and Howard and Janis Tubre.

Have you sold your Wii tickets yet? Have you signed up for the two fundraising dinners? Julie Esstman and her fundraising team is doing a yeoman's job. Please participate in this fundraising activity if you can so that we can continue to produce the Voter's Guide and fulfill our mission of educating voters.

LWV CALENDAR

Color Codes: **Board Meetings** **League Meetings**
Getting Together **Holidays**
State Events reminders

FEBRUARY 2009

February 9 **First day for candidate to file for local election**

Tuesday 10 **Irving League Board Meeting 11:30 am IHOP**

Saturday 14 **LWVTX Birthday**



Monday 16 **President's Day**

Monday 23 **Irving League Meeting 6:30 pm – Irving Public Library - in the auditorium**

Charter Review Committee
Discussing city single-member districts

Open to the public

Friday 20 **Deadline to register For Lobby Day**

Monday 9 LWV/TX Lobby Day and
Statewide Conference
Austin
Last day for candidate
to file for local election

Tuesday 10 **League Board Meeting**
11:30 am IHOP
Fundraising dinner
Featuring Craig Watkins
"Innocence Project"
6-8 pm at 234 Steeplechase Dr.
Reservations required

Monday 23 **Irving LWV Meeting**
6:30 pm – Irving Public
Library - in the auditorium
Work Force Housing

Tuesday 27 **Fundraising lunch**
featuring Christina
Gears 11:30 – 2:30 pm
"Women Helping
Women" Shop for jewelry
from Beads for Life.
Reservations required

APRIL 2009

Thursday 9 **Last day to register to**
vote in May School
Board and City
Elections

Tuesday 14 **LWV Board Meeting**
11:30 am IHOP

Thursday 9 **Last day to register to**
vote in May School
Board & City Elections
Earth Day

Wednesday 22 **Candidates Forum**
TBA

Monday 27 **Early Voting Begins**

MAY 2009

Tuesday 5 **Early Voting Ends**
Saturday 9 **Election Day for City**
Council and School
Board

Tuesday 12

LWV Board Meeting
11:30 am IHOP

Saturday 16

Irving LWV Annual Meeting
10 am. - Las Colinas
Country Club
Memorial Day

Monday 25



UP-COMING EVENTS

Big News You have been receiving messages about three events that have been planned by your Fundraising Committee chaired by member Julie Esstman. Because it is becoming more difficult to procure money to pay for the printing of our Voter's Guides, we thought it would be not only fun but educational to sponsor the following events: A dinner featuring **Craig Watkins**, 2008 Texas Man of the year, takes place on **March 10**, a luncheon featuring **Christina Gears** is on March 27th and the drawing for the Wii game is March 31st. Deadlines are around the corner so **please make your reservations now** for **tickets are limited** and please continue to **sell** your chance tickets to win a Wii. More information, contact Judy Smith at Philudy@tx.rr.com

UP-COMING MEETINGS

"EVENING WITH THE LEAGUE"

Single member Districts

Monday February 23
6:30 P.M.

This meeting will feature a review of the work being done by the Council-appointed Charter Review Committee. It's chair Joe Putnam and another member of the committee will lead the discussion regarding the pros and cons of single member districts. It should be noted that changes in the City Charter may be made only through Charter Elections. Please come ready with questions and comments. Come ready with questions and comments.



Mark your calendar for the **March 23** "Evening with the League" at 6:30 pm on **Work Force Housing**. Place TBA

MEETINGS IN REVIEW

League Looks at US Position on Popular Vote vs. Electoral College

The League of Women Voters of Irving met on **November 17** at 11:30 a.m. at the Irving Public

Library Auditorium. Program chairman Genie Mitchell coordinated the meeting led by panelists Elaine Wiant, LWV-US board member and former Irving resident, and Judith Rearden, local League member who has studied the Electoral College.

After a review of the 38-year history of the League's position supporting the direct election of the President, a new study was adopted at the national convention in 2008, "The Advisability of Using the National Popular Vote Compact Among the States" (NPV). The National League took a position in 1970 to abolish the Electoral College, revised the position in 1982, and updated it in 2004. The position will be apart of a Texas study of voting procedures in 2009. Texas has 34 electoral votes and must vote all of them for the candidate that received the most popular votes on November 4, as do all but two states.

The League believes there should be uniformity across the nation in the systems used to elect the President. The "winner-takes-all" method should be replaced by direct election by popular vote, to align with principals of representative government. Studies show that more than 70 percent of American citizens favor the change to a popular vote. Four times in our history the Electoral College system has enabled candidates who have not received the most votes cast by American voters to become President. More than 700 proposals for change have been introduced in Congress. Some states with power disproportional to their smaller population are resistant to the change.

Every Vote Equal: A State Based Plan by National Popular Vote Press is a reference for the study. Additional information is at www.NationalPopularVote.com Please direct any program questions to Genie Mitchell at 214-697-2587.

Submitted by Jan Killen, Publicity/PR



December 11
HOLIDAY PARTY

Member **Stephanie Hall** and her partner Marylen hosted a very upbeat holiday party. It was attended by

a combination of old and new members, and guests. We were treated to holiday music provided by pianist Giorgio "George" Primo.

January 26 - "Direct Popular Vote as an Alternative to Electoral College"

The League continued to examine the **National Popular Vote (NPV) Compact** as an alternate to the Electoral College to elect the President of the United States. The National League [www.lwvus.org] took a position in 1970 to abolish the Electoral College, revised the position in 1982, and updated it in 2004. The position will be apart of a Texas study of voting procedures in 2009. Background material with supporting and opposing articles are available at [National Popular Vote \(NPV\) Compact](http://www.lwvus.org/NationalPopularVote(NPV)Compact) The Irving League arrived at consensus but results won't be posted until the National League completes it findings

Attending were members **Jan Killen, Judy Smith, Dorothy Leibensberger, Caroline Ozcar, Judy Rearden, Carol Bell, Norma Stanton, Cynthia Faust, Carol Huntley Little, Davis Trubo, Genie Mitchell, Mona Wyatt, Tom Burhoe, Julie Esstman, Anne Pfaff** and guest **Dick Dobson**.



LEAGUE HAILS NEW ERA OF TRANSPARENCY

Obama Signs Presidential Memos for Government Transparency, Openness

Washington, DC – Mary G. Wilson, League of Women Voters President, applauded President Obama's bold steps toward creating a more open and transparent federal government on his first day in office. Ms. Wilson said "to make a commitment to transparency on day one demonstrates that the Obama Administration is prepared to improve the way Washington works for all Americans. Given the

gravity of the issues facing our nation, the League is encouraged by the administration's strong recognition of the need to increase public access to the governmental decisions and policies that affect all Americans," Wilson stated. League is encouraged by the next President's promised approach to governing - one that is open, tolerant, transparent, inclusive and effective."

NEWS: [League Action on Climate Change](#)

The League was at the forefront of efforts to curb climate changes this month, urging the incoming 111th Congress to [take quick and strong action by supporting a cap on greenhouse gas emissions](#) and demand a stronger proposal than that recently put forth by the [USCAP coalition](#). Additionally, the League released useful [fact sheets on climate change](#).

NEWS: [League Urges House to Reauthorize SCHIP](#)

The League sent a letter to members of the House of Representatives this month, urging them to support reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). **NEWS: [League Urges Pelosi to Bring DC Voting Rights to the Floor](#)**

The League and coalition partners sent a letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi urging her to bring HR 157, the "District of Columbia Voting Rights Act" or DC VRA to the floor of the House as soon as possible.

LWVTEXAS NEWS

The conference is being held in conjunction with League **Lobby Day on March 9**. The purpose of the Statewide Conference is to consider changes to two League Programs - **Child Abuse and Neglect and Judicial Selection** - so that we can lobby more effectively in this Legislative session.

We need all Leagues who are sending any size delegation to the Conference/Lobby Day to register in advance. One person can represent a League, although each League is allowed two votes and any number of attendees. If the League president cannot attend, she or he may appoint an alternate to vote for her or his League.

81ST TEXAS LEGISLATURE Volume 20, No. 2

By Mary Finch, Advocacy
Vice President Scherel Carver, Editor

February 6, 2009

The Texas Legislature is getting started slowly this session because of the Speakers race in the House, internal rule changes in both the House and Senate, and a week's recess for the Presidential Inauguration

in Washington D.C. Committee assignments are usually available around the end of January but are not expected before the first week in February at the earliest. Input for this second Legislative Newsletter is being collected before these committee assignments are made, so none of the bills previously reported in the first newsletter have been assigned to a committee. **When You Go To Austin: A Guide to the 81st Legislature** will not be published until all the committee assignments have been made.

Bonnie Leitch, Program Chair for Financing State Government, says to expect more finance bills as the legislature begins its business in earnest. The \$9.1 billion drop in revenue because of the national recession might be balanced by a combination of the \$2 billion surplus from 2007 budget and \$9.1 billion for the rainy day fund.

The League signed onto several coalition agreements this fall. Two Child Health agreements are printed in full at the end of this newsletter.

Plan to come to Austin for **Lobby Day March 9**. We will lobby on redistricting, county authority, and a moratorium on the death penalty. A special League showing of *Iron-Jawed Angels* will be held at the Thompson Center on the University of Texas campus **Sunday night March 8**. See you there! A "capitol" idea for keeping up with the latest news from Austin.

MEMBER NEWS



We remember former LWV member **SIMONE SCHREUR** who died December 2008

By Carole Shlipak
LWV member
and former LWV President

When I learned of Simone Schreur's death, I knew I wanted to be at the funeral. We became friends in the early 70s, when I was president of the Irving League and she became its secretary. She was a most conscientious and committed League member. But more than that, she was a very lovely person, who was so very thoughtful to others.

Some years later, her husband, Harm Schreur, was elected to the Irving City Council. She took great pride in his position and enjoyed viewing city government from a different perspective than that of a League member.

At the funeral, her son, Steve, gave a moving eulogy of her life. He mentioned the four organizations that his mother belonged to and that were significant to her...one of which was the Irving League of Women Voters. He recalled when he was about eight years

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 old, (he's now about 50), Simone took him to a parade celebrating women gaining the right to vote. He also remembered going with her to distribute *Voters Guides* in different Irving locations.

Simone was a true asset...to her family, her friends and to Irving.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Ava Washington – Joined October 2008
Elyce Hall - Joined November 2008



Lynn Jaco – Joined November 2008 (Unfortunately she is moving to Denton)
Howard (Davis) & Janis Tubre – Joined December 2008
Carolyn Ozcan – Joined January 2009
Paulette Austin - Joined January 2009

The Irving League has reached our membership goal of 70 members!



How League member Irene Jackson spent Christmas day

She was stranded on a mountain in a cabin in Eagle Nest, New Mexico watching the snow fall all of Christmas day and part of the next. She had to be rescued by snowmobile. Slogged through snow and ice from there through Clayton, New Mexico and to Texline and barely got out of Amarillo before it started snowing there too. It was the most exciting Christmas she's had in years.

DID YOU KNOW. League Board member **Eileen Kensinger** used to belong to the Boys 4H club, **Tom Burhoe** worked 30 years for IBM, that **Genie Mitchell** enjoys watching baseball, that **Jan Killen** has tattoos, that **Carol Bell** grew up in Cincinnati Ohio, **JoAnn Sherlock** worked for the Irving library for 20 years and survived a stroke and **Stephanie Hall** loves to fish. **Judith Rearden** has had a conversation with Hillary Clinton and **Phil Smith** helped give birth to the Bell Helicopter's famous tilt-rotor know as the Osprey and **Judy Smith** was a military sweetheart and for those who know her would smile and Mona Wyatt collects rusty objects. Our president **Carole Little** wins the "Day Timer Award", an honor once held by **Carol Shlipak**. (Translation - Every day on their calendar's is full)

BRAVO TO LEAGUE MEMBERS

who are either selling or buying chance tickets to raise money to continue to print the Voters Guides!



- Paulette Austin
 - Carol Bell
 - Lee Ann Boyle
 - Kitty Boyle & family
 - Rose Canneday
 - Helen Chapin
 - Julie Esstman
 - Cynthia Faust
 - Christina Gears
 - Eileen Kensinger
 - Carol Huntley Little
 - Jill Martinez
 - Betty Miller
 - Anne Phaff
 - Joe Philipp
 - Carole Shlipak
 - Judy and Phil Smith
 - Sandra Stewart
 - Ava Washington
 - Mona Wyatt
- (Let me know If I've missed anyone)

We know the rest of our membership is still busy selling the tickets so remember to turn in your money and stubs by **Monday, March 30th** so everyone who bought a chance will be included in the drawing on Tuesday, March 31st.



A big thanks to the **39** out of 60 members who sent money to help buy the Wii game so we could sell chance tickets to earn money to support the Voters Guides.

WINTER BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

- 6 – Carole Shlipak
- 7 – Cynthia Faust
- 8 – Janice Carroll
- 10 – Carol Bell
- 11 – Genevieve Ramos
- 29 – Kay Schecht

DECEMBER

- 13 – Anne Pfaff
- 24 – Carole Larkin

JANUARY

- 26 – Joanne Sherlock
- 31 – "Davis" Tubre

FEBRUARY

- 9 – Suzy Beeman
- 18 – Carla Smith
- 19 – Norma Stanton
- 29 – Genie Mitchell

MARCH

- 2 – Rita Raines
- 23 – Jan Killen