

VOTER

December 2016

AMARILLO LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

<http://lwvtexas.org/amarillo.htm>

President's Report

The presidential election is over, but the Amarillo League can be proud of the many services we provided to help voters get better informed and ready to cast their ballot. Besides multiple voter registration efforts (see Carolyn Barnett's report), we published and distributed 7,000 Voters Guides before early voting began, with thanks to chair Donna Raef Kizziar, distribution chair Norma Brooks, Alan Abraham and other League members. We sponsored an Election Forum, with over 100 people attending, on October 20 that featured candidate introductions and pro and con speakers on the seven City of Amarillo bond proposals. Thanks goes to our speakers from those respective citizen groups, chair Robert Goodrich and his committee, moderator James Hunt, Girl Scout Troop #5754, Claudia Stravato and her West Texas A&M Political Club students, and hospitality chair Laksmiwati Cortes and her committee that provided the delicious refreshments.

Now that the presidential election is over, we can begin to think about upcoming League events. For one thing, our national and state dues have been paid. Needless to say, this has left our checking and education funds greatly depleted—of our \$65.00 individual dues we get to keep \$8.00. Therefore, your board is discussing possible fundraisers. If you have any ideas please let us know.

At the request of the state board, legislative interviews have been done by some of our faithful League members.

Sylvia Perkins and a former League member, Tonya Kleuskens, interviewed Senator Kel Seliger; Susan Smith met with Representative Four Price. Marilyn Van Patten and I plan to meet with Representative John Smithee—seem he's been busy in Austin!

We are planning our annual Christmas party on Saturday December 10 at the Southwest Brach Library at 11:30AM. Members are asked to bring a food item—if that would be a problem for you, come on anyway—we always have plenty.

We recently lost longtime member Kay McMinn. Kay was also our treasurer for over twenty years. She called it a "labor of love." A memorial fund has been started to honor her. If you would like to contribute, please send donations to LWV-Amarillo, P.O. Box 19333, Amarillo, TX 79114.

Some of our members have had serious health problems. We are thankful to report that Rose Lee Powell is now at home, Lou Ann Garrett has been given approval to stand on that foot with the broken heel and Jeanette Springer has recovered from an earlier car wreck. Norma Brooks has recently had surgery for ovarian cancer. Myrna Raffkind is in the Arbors recovering from a broken hip—she hopes to go home soon. Please keep all these gals (as well as all of us) in your thoughts and prayers. We all need all the help we can get!

On May 6th Amarillo will have elections for the City Commission, AISD & Amarillo College. Even though it is quite a while away, it will be here before we know it—no rest for the weary! Program Vice President, Sylvia Perkins, is planning a luncheon in January.. I hope all of you have a blessed holiday season and stay healthy!

Janette Kelley
LWV– Amarillo President

Vice President Report

State League Interviews

Every two years the League interviews our Senator and Representatives. Kel Seliger, Four Price, and John Smithee have or will be interviewed. The State LWV has two questions to ask: (1) What are your priorities for the 85th legislative session? (2) What issues do you feel will be priorities and why?

Members of the league have these interviews and the results are emailed to the state League.

Voter Registration

September, October, and November were busy months for the Amarillo League of Women Voters.



On Monday, September 19, Robert Goodrich, Babs and John Noah, Lou Ann Garrett, and Ann Hicks helped Amarillo College celebrate US Constitution Day, Washington Street Campus, by handing out pocket constitutions and voter registration cards. On the same day Carolyn Barnett promoted the Amarillo League of Women Voters and distributed voter registration cards at Senior Day at the Tri-State Fair. On Tuesday, September 27, Laksmiwati Cortes, Maisie Everett, Ann Hicks and Sue Howard celebrated National Voter Registration Day by providing voter registration cards to citizens at United Supermarket, 45th and Bell.



Lou Ann Garrett provided voter registration cards and registered students, Thursday, September 29, at a lunchtime program on the election in the Oak Room of the College Union Building at Amarillo College.



Saturday, October 1, the League volunteered at three United Supermarket locations to provide voter registration cards and register voters. Sylvia Perkins and Benita Guerrero were at Amigos; Alan Abraham, Robert Goodrich, and John and Babs Noah were at United on River Road; and Norma Brooks, Jeanette Springer, Lou Ann Garrett, and Carolyn Barnett were at United on South Washington.



Alan Abraham headed the campaign of Volunteer Deputy Registrars at Randall County Annex to register citizens to vote per request of Shannon Lackey, Voter Administrator for Randall County.

Amarillo LWV members volunteering for the three dates, September 30, October 3, and October 11 (the last day to register to vote on November 8) were Sylvia Perkins, John and Babs Noah, Lou Ann Garrett, Robert Goodrich, Ann Hicks and Alan Abraham. Alan also received volunteer help from non-member friends who are Volunteer Deputy Registrars.

The League had a booth at the “Welcome Home Veterans” celebration on Saturday, November 3, at the Rex Baxter Building, Tri-State Fair Grounds. Robert Goodrich, Carolyn Barnett, and John and Babs Noah volunteered for duty. Voter Guides were available for attendees.



Many thanks to all the members and friends who made this a successful season for registering voters, providing voter registration cards, and promoting the Amarillo League of Women Voters at these events.

Carolyn Barnett

Voter Registration Chair

Membership

Welcome to new and returning members: Laurie Brown, Joan Griffin, Ann Jones, James Lowder & Naly Lowder!

We are so happy to have you join us! I would be delighted to followup with any prospective members so please feel free to forward me their names and contact information.

Have you checked out the state League website? lwvtexas.org

There's lots of tremendous information on this site. Be sure to click on the FOR LEAGUE MEMBERS link on the left side of the home page.

Also, don't forget to follow the League of Women Voters Texas on FACEBOOK and on TWITTER (just type our name in the search box of those websites).

Utilizing these sites will bring you the very latest information from our League and help you stay informed with issues of interest to our members. You can also follow the League on PINTEREST. <https://www.pinterest.com/LWVTX/be-a-texas-voter/>

Regards to All!

Susan Smith
Membership