

TheVOTER

Publication of the Amarillo League of
Women Voters- **July 2018**

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2017-2018

President - Janette Kelley

1st VP - Organization - Vacant

Secretary - Cristy Wilkinson

Director 3 - Voter Registration - Rotating

Director 4 - Publicity, Lou Ann Garrett

Director 5 - Membership, Rose Lee Powell

2018-2020

2nd VP Programs, Kathryn English

3rd VP VOTERS GUIDE Service - Vacant

Treasurer - Kay Pechin

Director 1 - Editor - Claudia Stravato

Director 2 - Forums - Robert Goodrich

**Director 6 - VOTERS GUIDE Editors
Lou Ann Garrett & Cecily Riesenberg**

Director 7 - Hospitality - Mellessa Denny

Telephone - Maisie Everett

DUES

Just a friendly reminder that our dues for the new year were due on June 1, 2018. If you haven't gotten around to sending us your dues, annual dues are \$65.00 for individuals, \$97.50 for couples and \$40.00 for students.

Please feel free to contact KAY PECHIN if you have any questions at: kaypechin2015@gmail.com or by phone at 812-457-5490 or by mail, at PO Box 19333, Amarillo, TX

KEY DATES FOR BALANCE of 2018

Aug. 4 & 5 - Voter Registration

Civic Center Ama-Con Convention

Aug. 24 - Annual Louise Daniel Luncheon

Polk St. United Methodist Church 11:30

Sept. 6 - Board Meeting - 5:30 pm

Schlotzskys @ 34th & Bell

Sept. 22 - Voter Registration

TBA

Sept. 25 - National Voter Registration Day

Oct. 4 - Board Meeting - 5:30 pm

Schlotzskys @ 34th & Bell

Oct. 10 - Membership Luncheon

TBA

Oct. 11 - "Meet the Candidates Forum"

Amarillo College Downtown Campus

Oct. 12 - VOTERS GUIDE

Ready for Distribution

Oct. 22 - EARLY VOTING BEGINS

Nov. 1 - Board Meeting - 5:30 pm

Schlotzskys @ 34th & Bell

Nov. 6 - ELECTION DAY

Nov. 14 - Membership Luncheon

TBA

Dec. 1 - Annual Holiday Party

TBA

VOTER REGISTRATION- Aug. 4 & 5 CIVIC CENTER AMA-CON CONVENTION

Yea! We already have several volunteers for voter registration at the AMA-CON pop culture convention which draws many young people.

Those already volunteering to staff the table are: Ann Hicks, Babs and John Noah, Alan Abraham, BJ Opperman Maisie Everett, Lou Ann Garrett, Kay Pechin, Mellessa Denny Robert Goodrich and Anne Jones, et al

The hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and 12 to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Two-hour shifts are suggested, and we like to have 2 people staff a table. You don't have to be a Volunteer Deputy Registrar to hand out voter registration cards!

We need a few more to cover all the time slots so contact Kathryn at: kat_english@hotmail.com.

ANNUAL LOUISE DANIEL LUNCHEON

Louise Daniel Women's History Luncheon to honor women in oil & gas industry

“Women in the oil and gas industry” will be the focus of the 9th Annual Louise Daniel Women's History Luncheon and Women's Equality Day Celebration at 11:30 a.m. Friday, August 24, in the Great Hall of Polk Street United Methodist Church, 1401 S. Polk.

Our League is one of the sponsors of this event, which has grown each year. Last year we had some 280 attendees! League members on the steering committee include SUSAN COLEMAN, who has written the interesting history handout for the luncheon; MARILYN VAN PETTEN, who has coordinated Louise's (donated) landscape photographs, one of which will be offered in a raffle drawing; JANETTE KELLEY, who helps with registration, and me, who does publicity. Caroline Chamblin, former Amarillo League member now of Albuquerque, one of the committee founders, plans to come in to give a remembrance of Louise at the luncheon.

Featured speaker will be Juanita Malecha, longtime landman and a Vice-President of Pantera Energy Co. of Amarillo. She will share her story of how a girl who grew up on a farm at Umbarger with five brothers got into the oil and gas business and became one of the first women landmen in the Panhandle—and how attitudes toward women in oil and gas management have changed in the years since.

Louise, who died in 2003, had been a longtime League member, science teacher, education advocate and community leader. The luncheon honors her last wish, to remind women of all ages of the efforts and struggles of earlier women to overcome barriers to equality and to celebrate their contributions to Panhandle history.

The luncheon is held close to Women's Equality Day, which commemorates passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920 giving women the right to vote.

Please mark your calendar for August 24! As the time grows closer, all League members should receive an invitation with pertinent reservation information. Let me know if you have any questions at ladgarrett@gmail.com or contact another LWV committee member.

Lou Ann Garrett

BIOS of NEW OFFICERS

Hello League Members! My name is **KATHRYN ENGLISH and I am excited to serve as your new **Vice President of Programming**.**

I first became involved with the LWV during my time at West Texas A&M University. As a member of the Political Science Club, our fearless leader Claudia Stravato got us involved with League events. After my graduation in 2016 with a degree in political science, I kept involved with League but only recently became a proud member.

I am a Long-Term Care Ombudsman with the Area Agency on Aging, a program of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission here in Amarillo. As a Long-Term Care Ombudsman, I travel across the Panhandle and advocate for residents helping to ensure the highest attainable quality of life and care in our communities' long-term care facilities. I have a passion for public service and am thankful every day to serve our aging population.

In my free time, I can be found eating great Thai food with my friends, bingeing on the latest drama on Netflix, or working on my next craft project. I love to knit, paint, and sew. I am addicted to podcasts and audiobooks. And I am currently trying my hand at playing the guitar.

I am originally from a small oilfield town in West Texas called Denver City, but I am happy to call my little Amarillo apartment, with all its noisy pigeons, home.

I look forward to contributing to the League's mission of “Making Democracy Work!”

KAY PECHIN - Treasurer

Hello, everyone. My name is Kay Pechin, your new Treasurer. I come to you from the Hoosier State - Indiana.

I grew up in a large family (I have two brothers and two sisters) in Evansville, Indiana. As kids, my family spent almost every summer visiting grandparents in Northwest Oklahoma and Southwest Kansas. My mother still lives in Evansville with one of my brothers. My other siblings live in Wyoming, Colorado and Indiana.

I attended college at the University of Evansville and graduated in 1985 with a BA in History. I attended American University in Washington, DC, and obtained my Masters in International Affairs in 1988. After taking a little time off to goof off in Los Angeles, I went back to school for my law degree. Then, to the relief of my family, I finished my Juris Doctorate in 1994 at Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis. That ended my career as a professional student.

I moved to Amarillo in December 2012 to take the position as Managing Attorney for the Amarillo Branch Office of Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas. This is my dream job and my passion - to use my law degree to help individuals and families who are disenfranchised access the judicial system. For many years I was a family law attorney. Now my practice is concentrated in foreclosure prevention and bankruptcy.

Most of my time outside of work is spent taking care of my rescue dogs and cat and at the barn with one of my two Quarter Horses: Susie resides at a spa-like ranch in Canyon and Artie is now a pasture ornament at my sister's ranch in eastern Colorado. Artie and I competed as amateurs in jumping. Susie, the latest addition to the Pechin menagerie, and I plan to work on competitive trail or dressage.

MELLESA DENNY - Hospitality

I teach and coach speech and debate at Amarillo High School. My students compete at speech and debate tournaments on the

local, state and national level. I also coach the AHS mock trial team as well.

I just finished my 20th year of teaching. I am married to Steven, who is a criminal defense attorney and helps me coach the mock trial team, and we have one son, Grant, who is a sophomore at AHS.

As a family, we volunteer for our church, Paramount Baptist, and for the Diabetes Foundation of the High Plains because my son is a type 1 diabetic. I served as President of the Texas Speech Communication Association, written numerous articles for the National Federation of High School Associations magazine, and received the UIL Sponsor Excellence Award this past year.

I love reading, scrapbooking, cooking and hosting parties, and spending time at our cabin in Angel Fire.

I joined the League of Women Voters because I want more people to be involved in our democracy. My students and I study government, the Constitution, legal issues, social issues, the economy and many other topics that are directly impacted by voting. I want to help people exercise their right to vote and help them to be informed citizens.

FROM the PRESIDENT

On July 14, the Board met for board training and to set the calendar for the balance of the year. I feel we accomplished a lot.

We are now working on dues renewal and hope non-renewals will respond quickly.

We are going to have a busy League year as usual and hope that all of you will be willing to help out where we don't have formal leadership. If the upcoming voter registration event is an indication, we won't have any problems!

Have a great rest of the summer.

Janette Kelley