



2017 - 2018

LWV-TC

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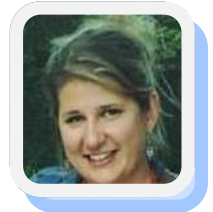
**Facebook**

www.facebook.com/LWVofTarrantCo  
www.facebook.com/LWVofArlingtonAreaTX



*The mission of the League of Women Voters is to encourage informed and active participation in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.*

**A Message from your President**



Dear Friends,

Here we are at another primary season! With early voting beginning soon, we hope you will share our *Voters Guide* with your neighbors, friends, and family so that they can go to the polls in just a few weeks with all the information they need to cast a confident, informed vote. As always, thank you for everything each of you have done to make that resource happen. The League is, first and foremost, a grassroots organization. We could not be the trusted source in our community for fair, balanced voter information that we are without the hard work of individuals like you.

On another note, we had a wonderful presentation from Elaine Wiant, President of LWV-Texas, at our board meeting last week. She discussed all that may be gained with the possible conversion of the League of Women Voters into a single, 501-C-3 organization. Her presentation could not have been timelier. While LWV-Tarrant County has a healthy Voter Education Fund (the 501-C-3), we have always struggled with raising operating funds because they are not tax deductible.

You will remember the email appeal you recently received where we asked each of you to donate to our operating fund (the 501-C-4) to “keep the lights on.” **Thank you to each of you who responded with kind words and generous donations!** Your support means the League will continue to operate out of our small but functional office with the tremendous contributions of our administrator, Doris. Please be assured, though, that the need for operating funds will remain over the next few months while we wait for the 501-C-3 conversion to be approved and implemented at the state level. Nevertheless, our “scrappy” Tarrant County board marches on, exploring every opportunity available to us to generate operating funds, including soliciting donations, implemented membership drives, and exploring a possible increase in dues that we hope you will consider with an open mind at our Annual Meeting in May.

Many of you responded with kind notes of encouragement that remind us why we serve on the Board of Directors. Thank you. Together, we will make sure that the much-needed League is around to serve the Tarrant County community for years to come.

Sincerely,

~Encourage your friends, family and colleagues to visit us at ~

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

~Remind your friends, family and colleagues to LIKE us at ~

[www.facebook.com/LWVofTarrantCo](http://www.facebook.com/LWVofTarrantCo)

## **February Unit Topic - TARRANT COUNTY INDIGENT HEALTH CARE SERVICES EXCLUDE UNDOCUMENTED RESIDENTS**

A very special thank you to Ann Sutherland, FWISD Board of Trustees, and Reed Bilz, LWVTC for putting together these resources and questions.

Both the Texas Constitution and state law require county hospitals to provide health care services, specifically to all residents who qualify by virtue of their financial profile. Tarrant County included the undocumented in their service population until a new 1996 federal law accidentally prohibited states from using either state or local funds for this purpose. This law was amended in 2003, resulting in the reactivation of the previous requirements to provide medical services as earlier specified. However, the Tarrant County Commissioners Court, acting through its appointees to the county hospital district board, refused to resume services to undocumented residents through action taken in 2004.

Since then, Tarrant County's growing population of undocumented residents (currently 138,000 strong, have been deprived of their constitutionally mandated health services with the exception of emergency services and some federally-sponsored school based clinics. (The clinics provide primary care to children enrolled in schools and their siblings, but only after referral by school personnel. Children whose families are not yet enrolled are denied services, even over the summer when schools are closed.) Other Tarrant County residents receive indigent medical care provided their income is below 250% of the federal poverty level (\$61,500 for a family of four).

Unequal treatment of members of any community appears to violate the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, especially when there is a disparate impact, as is the case with the undocumented population, who are 80% Hispanic in Texas.

Experts estimate that the undocumented population in Tarrant County totals about 133,000. Over three-quarters are uninsured, leaving nearly 100,000 residents without the services their neighbors take for granted and to which they are legally entitled.

Tarrant residents who lack documentation are thus irreparably harmed. This falls most heavily on families with undocumented members. Uninsured low-income children miss more days of school, are less likely to graduate high school and attend college, and earn lower wages than insured children. The impact reaches all children in school, whether undocumented or not. Out of concern, the Fort Worth ISD has formally voted to request review of these practices in 2017. The Tarrant County Commissioners Court has so far failed to respond. Not a single member of the Tarrant County Commissioners Court has publicly supported providing these services.

Tarrant County is the only major Texas county to refuse to provide these legally required services! Indeed, a recent evaluation reveals that Arlington and Fort Worth have been found to be the most hostile major cities in Texas to immigrants, in the bottom 10% of the 50 American cities included in the review. Meanwhile, residents who can provide documentation of their legal residence are served at far higher levels than the income level of our undocumented residents.

Star-Telegram writer Bud Kennedy published a long article decrying the low reputation of Fort Worth in January, 2018. This situation will not change until Tarrant County residents broaden their horizons regarding their less fortunate neighbors.

The League in general, and LWVTC in particular, have a long history of interest in health care issues. We currently have a comprehensive position on health care that states: The League of Women Voters of Tarrant County supports the continuation, improvement and expansion of health services for the medically indigent in Tarrant County, *including undocumented immigrants*, in order to overcome barriers to accessibility.

In 2006 we studied the lack of access for undocumented residents at JPS facilities. We made a presentation before the hospital board and spoke with County Commissioners. We failed to change the restrictive policy, but we added undocumented immigrants to our position and the following to our extended Health Care position: *County property taxes designated for JPS Health Network should be used to provide expanded preventive and emergency health care for all Tarrant County residents. A larger percentage of the current surplus of the JPS budget should be spent in providing preventive health care for needy Tarrant County inhabitants including undocumented immigrants, by expanding the number of school-based clinics and the number of beds in JPS hospitals.*

## Questions for discussion:

JPS is planning a large bond issue, to be voted on in the Fall, to expand hospital facilities. Is it time to take ACTION on our health care position and demand that our County Hospital serve all residents including those who are undocumented?

1. Is such action needed at this time?
2. If so, what form should the action take?
  - a. Letters to the Editor
  - b. Presentations to the JPS Board
  - c. Presentations to County Court and individual Commissioners
  - d. Legal prosecution

The **Voters Guides** for the March 6 Primary Elections have been posted to our website .

They can be accessed at the following two links:

### Local races :

[http://lwvtarrantcounty.org/files/2018\\_lwvtc\\_primary\\_election\\_nonpartisan\\_voters\\_guide.pdf](http://lwvtarrantcounty.org/files/2018_lwvtc_primary_election_nonpartisan_voters_guide.pdf)

### State and National races:

[https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2018\\_primary\\_votersguide.pdf](https://my.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2018_primary_votersguide.pdf)



## Unit Topics

If you have a topic of interest you would like to see discussed at an upcoming Unit meeting, please forward your request to Mary Beth Garcia at [mbalbaneze@hotmail.com](mailto:mbalbaneze@hotmail.com) or send it to the League office.



**A SPECIAL WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

*Jim Boyd, Kathryn Bryan, Dana Burghdoff  
and Linda Patterson-Dryden*

**A BIG Thank You TO RENEWING LWV-TC MEMBERS:**

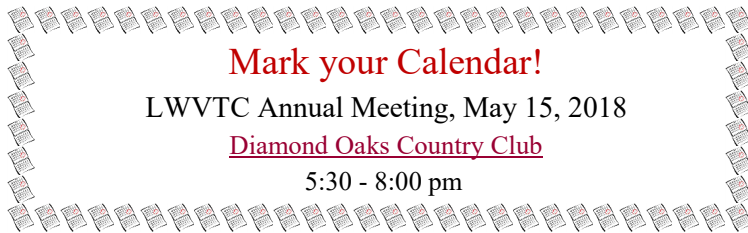
*Christie Campbell and Carol Cordell*

**Not sure when your membership comes up for renewal?**

Contact Doris at the League office.

Email [lwtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net) or call 817-348-8683.

She will be happy to help.

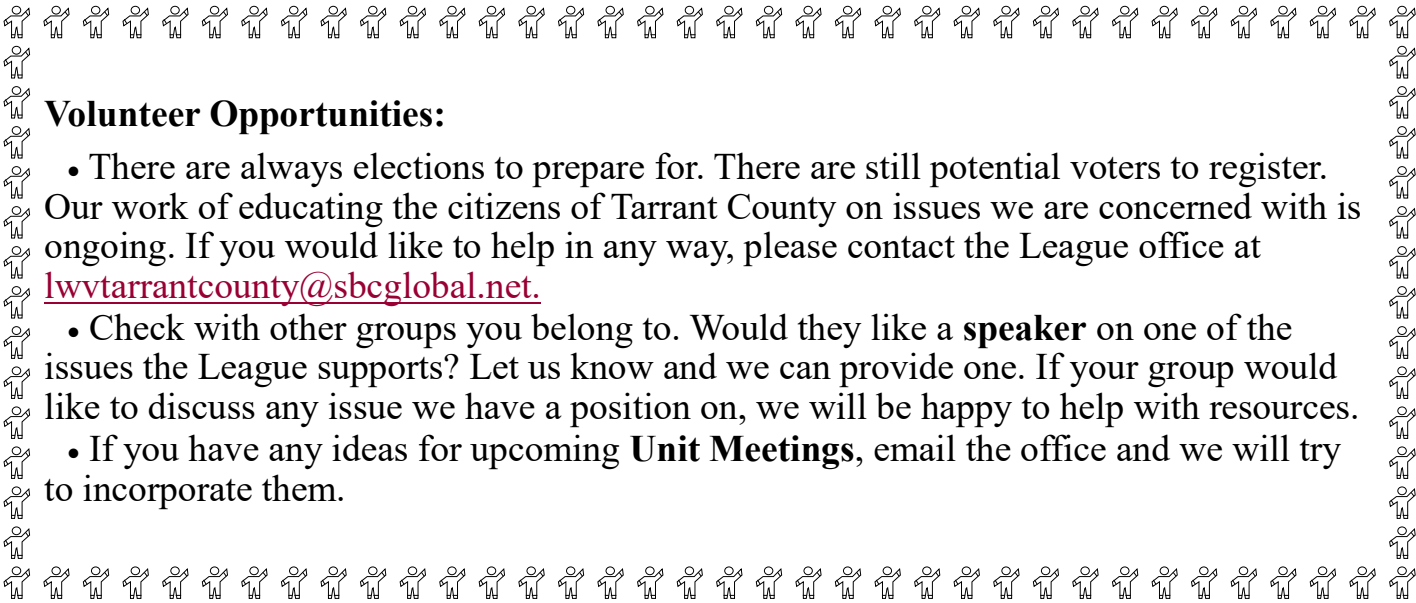


**Mark your Calendar!**

LWVTC Annual Meeting, May 15, 2018

Diamond Oaks Country Club

5:30 - 8:00 pm



**Volunteer Opportunities:**

- There are always elections to prepare for. There are still potential voters to register. Our work of educating the citizens of Tarrant County on issues we are concerned with is ongoing. If you would like to help in any way, please contact the League office at [lwtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net).
- Check with other groups you belong to. Would they like a **speaker** on one of the issues the League supports? Let us know and we can provide one. If your group would like to discuss any issue we have a position on, we will be happy to help with resources.
- If you have any ideas for upcoming **Unit Meetings**, email the office and we will try to incorporate them.



Have you moved or changed your phone number? Please contact the League office at 817-348-8683 or email us at [lwtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net) so we can update our Local and National Roster. Thanks!

Do you know that we have the following social media accounts for the League?

Our Facebook Page is <https://www.facebook.com/LWVofTarrantCo/>

Our Twitter page is @LWVTarrant or you can access us by clicking on <https://twitter.com/LWVTarrant>

## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

### Bring Your Talent into the League of Women Voters

We are the League of Women Voters® of Tarrant County (LWVTC), one of the hundreds of local Leagues across the nation whose members—men and women—are committed to Making Democracy Work. Our nonpartisan political organization encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. LWV does NOT support or oppose any political party or any candidate. Your membership automatically enrolls you in LWV-Texas and LWVUS at no additional cost and provides publications from all three.

Mail your membership application, dues, and contributions to LWVTC, P. O. Box 100175, Fort Worth, TX 76185 or enroll online at [lwvtarrantcounty.com](http://lwvtarrantcounty.com)

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

#### Basic Membership:

- \$70/yr **Regular** full voting member
- \$105/yr **Family** (two members in one household)
- \$40/yr **Student**

Or

#### Supporting Membership:

- \$100/yr **Sustaining** Membership – Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- \$150/yr **Advocate** Membership – Carrie Chapman Catt
- \$200/yr **Patron** Membership – Mary McLeod Bethune
- \$300/yr **Benefactor** Membership – Eleanor Roosevelt

### ***THE VOTER NEWSLETTER BY U.S. MAIL***

- \$10/yr (*online VOTER is no additional cost*)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Mobile) \_\_\_\_\_ (Fax) \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to attend one of our Unit meetings? If so, please indicate which Unit would best suit your needs.

- Arlington Area
- Downtown Fort Worth Area
- Northeast Tarrant County
- South/Southwest Tarrant County

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ For a tax deductible donation, write a separate check payable to:

*LWV Texas Education Fund.*

# FEBRUARY - MARCH 2018 CALENDAR

## February 2018 ~ Study Topic for all Units - Indigent Health Care Services

**February 13** ~ Birthday celebration for the League. See below for details

**February 15** ~ Fort Worth Downtown Lunch Unit; **NOON**, Trinity Terrace, Blue Spire Room, 1600 Texas Street; Reservations suggested but not required. Lunch is optional, cost is \$16. Call Marjorie Montgomery, 817-885-8372 for reservation.

**February 15** ~ South/Southwest Dinner Unit; **6 PM**, Olive Garden at I-20 and Hulen in the shopping center; Reservations suggested. Call Mike Baldwin, 817-249-2193, for information

**February 15** ~ **Candidate Forum**, Northeast Tarrant County Democratic Candidates; **7 PM**, Tio Carlo's Tex-Latin Spirit Restaurant, 4843 Colleyville Blvd.

**February 19** ~ Arlington Area Unit; **7 PM**, Fielder Museum, 1616 W Abram, Arlington. Call Sharon Whittington, 817-615-1656, for information

**February 20** ~ NE/Mid-Cities Unit Meeting; **7 PM**, Barnes & Noble in the Shops at NE Mall; Melbourne Rd. next to Best Buy; Reservations suggested. Call Margaret Martin, 817-503-0180, for information

**February 26** ~ Monday Matinee, *Twister*; **11AM**, Arlington Police West Service Center, 2060 W Green Oaks Blvd, Arlington. Bring a sack lunch and a friend.

## March 2018 ~

**March 6** ~ **Primary Elections**

**March 15** ~ Fort Worth Downtown Lunch Unit; **NOON**

**March 15** ~ South/Southwest Dinner Unit; **6 PM**

**March 19** ~ Arlington Area Unit; **7 PM**

**March 20** ~ NE/Mid-Cities Unit Meeting; **7 PM**

**March 26** ~ Monday Matinee; **11AM**

## May 2018 ~

**May 15** ~ LWVTC Annual Meeting; 5:30 - 8:00PM



## The League is turning 98!



Come and help us celebrate.

Our birthday is on Valentine's Day and lucky for us, Fat Tuesday is the day before.

We will be gathering for a Happy Hour celebration on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 from 5-7pm at the T&P Tavern.

A donation of \$10 or more to the League's operation fund is required.

We will be purchasing appetizers for our guests.

Alcohol or other drinks are Dutch treat and there will be Happy Hour prices.

Please feel free to wear your Mardi Gras colors.



## In Memorium

Please consider making a donation to LWVTC in honor of someone special.

Make your check out to *LWV Texas Education Fund* to take advantage of the Tax Exemption.

All Members and Guests are welcome and encouraged to attend any League event.

**League Office Hours: M, W, F / 8:30am—12:30pm**

~ we are on the web! ~

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