

82nd Annual Meeting

Workbook

100th Anniversary Edition

Saturday, May 16, 2020

1:00 pm

Via Zoom

**League of Women Voters of Dallas
2020 Board of Directors**

Officers	Name and Expiration of Term
President	Diane Tasian (21)
President-Elect	Open
Advocacy Vice President	Open
Membership Vice President	Shannon FitzGerald (21)
Organization Vice President	Nia MacKay (20)
Program Vice President	Patricia Muñoz (21)
Voter Outreach Vice President	Open
Secretary	Linda Wassenich (21)
Treasurer	Phillip Courtney Hogan (20)
Directors	
Susan B. Anthony Luncheon Co-Chair	Lisa Sherrod (20)
Susan B. Anthony Luncheon Co-Chair	Rebecca Acuña (20)
Silent Auction Chair Director	Becky Brakke (20)
Voter Registration Director	Barbara Larkin (21)
VOTER Editor Director	Jessica M. Coggins (21)
Voters Guide Director	Open
Unit Coordinator Director	Open
Communications Director	Jean Conway (20)
19th Amendment 100th Anniversary Director (Appointed)	Sally Branch (21)
Nominating Committee 2020	
Chair	Cecilia McKay (Elected)
Member	Eileen Rosenblum (Elected)
Member	Elizabeth Walley (Elected)
Member	Nia MacKay (Appointed)

Meeting Officials 2020:

Parliamentarian - Cecilia McKay
Time Keeper - Courtney Hogan

Secretary - Linda Wassenich
Teller - Patricia Muñoz

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DALLAS
82nd ANNUAL MEETING WORKBOOK
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82nd Annual Meeting Order of Business

Registration and Networking

Call to Order and Announcements

Credentials Report

Order of Business & Adoption of Rules

Minutes of the May 4, 2019 Annual Meeting

Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2019-2020

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget Proposed for 2020-2021 - Discussion & Vote

Development Report

Finance Report

Periodic Program Review - Recommendations & Vote

Program Planning - Recommendations, Adoption of Program
Support Positions & Vote

Nominating Committee - Election of Officers & Directors

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

50-Year Members

President's Meritorious Service Award

Myrtle Bales Bulkley Award

Virginia Macdonald Leadership Award

STATE OF THE LEAGUE

Message From the President

Advocacy Report

Membership Report

Program Report

Voter Outreach Report

Recognition of Outgoing Board Members

"I Wish the League Would..."

Adjournment

Proposed Rules for the Annual Meeting

Composition: Admission to the Annual Meeting is open to members and non-members. Only members may vote.

Quorum: Ten percent of the paid membership shall constitute a quorum.

Debate: Only members have the privilege of the floor. No person may speak twice until all who wish to speak have had opportunity to do so. Debate shall be limited to 1 minute per speaker, plus time required completing a sentence. All speakers shall identify themselves by name and the unit they attend, if any.

Voting Procedure: The order of voting at the Annual Meeting shall be to vote first on local proposed program items as recommended by the board; then on the not-recommended subjects in the order in which they were presented and adopted for consideration.

Proposed Program: Following presentation of the proposed program, questions for clarification may be asked. Debate on the items in the proposed Program will not be held until all other items to be considered have been presented.

Rules for Adoption of Program

Not-Recommended Items: Members wishing to move consideration of not-recommended items should notify VP Program before presentation of proposed program in order that time can be divided fairly among all items. Two copies of motion shall be given to the secretary. The motion should include a focus and an outline for work. Immediately after presentation of the proposed program, **members may move consideration** of not-recommended subjects for program. The member moving consideration of a subject is allowed five minutes in which to state supporting reasons. Only subjects previously proposed to the board may be presented. Questions for clarification may then be asked.

The **vote to consider will follow immediately**; a majority vote will place a not-recommended item before the annual meeting without a further motion. Items receiving a majority vote will be allotted time in the hour set aside for debate.

Debate: Debate on program items will be held in the order in which they have been presented. Debate is limited to the item under consideration.

Closing Debate: If a member feels that debate has gone on too long, he or she may say, "I move the previous question." This motion, which must be seconded, **is not debatable** and will be put to an immediate vote. A two-thirds (2/3) vote is necessary to adopt this motion. If adopted, debate is immediately ended and the motion under debate is voted upon.

Amendments: During debate on each item, amendments to the wording may be made. These amendments may be made for the purpose of clarification, emphasis, or editorial change, but may not enlarge the scope or change the meaning of the item. Substantive amendments to the proposed program must be submitted in the form of not-recommended items, the procedure for which is described above.

Voting on Program: Voting on program will take place **immediately after debate** on program. Unless a motion to the contrary, voting will take place in the order of presentation of the items. A **majority** vote is necessary for adoption of items in the proposed program. **A two-thirds vote is necessary to adopt a not-recommended item.** You may vote for as many items as you wish to have on the program.

Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting

League of Women Voters of Dallas Minutes of the 81st Annual Meeting Saturday, May 4, 2019 The Edgemere Auditorium, 8523 Thackery Street, Dallas, TX

Board Members present: Karen Bassett, Becky Brakke, Brittney Farr, Courtney Hogan, Katherine McGovern, Cecilia McKay, Lisa Sherrod, Diane Tasian, Elizabeth Walley, and Linda Wassenich.

Board Members absent: Rebecca Acuña and Dorie Cranshaw.

Call to order and introductions: President McKay called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. She recognized past presidents who were present: Pat Sabin, Julie Lowenberg, Linda Wassenich, Susybelle Gosslee, Michelle Manners, and Eileen Rosenblum. Genie Fritz was also recognized as a past president and for serving as our sponsor for holding the Annual Meeting at The Edgemere's beautiful facility. This meeting fell on Genie's 95th birthday; so she was feted with birthday cake. Genie has been a member of the League for 67 years.

Also recognized were:

LWV-TX board members: Eileen Rosenblum, VP; Miriam Foshay, Treasurer, and Elaine Wiant, immediate Past President.

Meeting officials were announced:

Parliamentarian: Sally Branch

Teller: Patricia Muñoz-Elizondo

Time Keeper: Courtney Hogan

Secretary: Linda Wassenich

Others recognized were Fran Morris for her administrative support in planning the annual meeting. Michelle Manners and Patricia Muñoz-Elizondo for helping at registration, and Becky Brakke for serving as the photographer.

Credentials Report: Eileen Rosenblum gave the credentials report. A quorum was present.

Order of Business and Adoption of Rules: Cecilia pointed out that the Order of Business and the Proposed Rules for the Annual Meeting and the Rules for Adoption of Program were located on pages 4-5 of the Annual Meeting Workbook and that no changes have been made from the previous year.

Minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting: The minutes were approved as presented in the Annual Meeting Workbook.

Treasurer's Report: Courtney Hogan presented the Treasurer's Report which was acknowledged.

Budget: Miriam Foshay, Budget Chair, presented the proposed budget. It was noted that the staff time was reduced from full time to half time. The budget was approved. The budget committee recommended that the dues be continued at \$75 per year, which was approved.

Bylaws: Linda Wassenich, Chair, presented the proposed Bylaws amendments. The only item that required additional discussion was Article VII, Section 4, regarding quorum at meetings. Susybelle Gosslee moved and Mary Vogelsson seconded that the proposed amendment read: "Voting members present shall constitute a quorum at the annual meeting of the membership." Motion Passed. Then Susybelle moved and Sandy Thornton seconded an amendment to the proposed amendment to say: "Ten percent of the voting members present shall constitute a quorum at the annual meeting of the membership." Motion passed. With these changes, the entire package of proposed amendments to the bylaws passed.

Development Report: Linda Wassenich reported on the updated figures of funds raised since the publication of the Annual Meeting workbook. These totals included a \$10,000 gift from the estate of Pat Vaughan. The total reported was \$82,896.75, which included the gross amount raised through the Susan B. Anthony luncheon.

Minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting (Continued)

Finance Report: Michelle Manners presented the committee's report, which was that no changes be made in the investment strategy of the account. The report was acknowledged.

Pat Vaughan Legacy Fund Committee: Sandy Thornton, chair of the committee, presented a proposal to establish a dedicated fund for voter education, outreach and services in honor of Pat Vaughan. Pat, LWVD President in 2013-15, passed away in January 2019. The motion was approved, and Kim Vaughan, Pat's niece, was introduced.

Periodic Program Review: Diane Tasian, Program VP, reported that the committee did not meet this year. She moved that, as the existing positions are pertinent and sufficient, the local positions be readopted in accordance with the Rules for Adoption of Program. Joan Ridley seconded. Motion passed.

Program Planning Committee: Diane Tasian moved on behalf of the committee that no new studies, updates or reviews with the objective of developing or modifying local League positions be undertaken during 2019-20, that the current update study of "Low-Income and Affordable Housing and the Effects of Gentrification" continue for another year, and that the recommendation for a study of net neutrality and digital privacy be sent to LWVUS. Motion passed.

LWVD Accomplishments: Cecilia called on Diane Tasian and Elizabeth Walley to present their reports which could be found on pages 35-42. Their reports were well received and applauded.

Nominating Committee Report: Eileen Rosenblum, Nominating Committee Chair, presented the report from the Nominating Committee. Cecilia called for nominations from the floor. There being none, the slate was elected unanimously and sworn in by Elaine Wiant, past president of LWV-TX.

Presentation of Awards:

50-year members: Terry Casey, Julie Lowenberg and Michael Lowenberg were cited for 50 years membership in the LWVD. Terry could not be present because she had just returned from a three-week trip to Africa. Julie accepted the 50-year pins on behalf of herself and her husband.

President's Meritorious Service Award: Cecilia presented the President's Award to Lisa Sherrod and Rebecca Acuña for serving as Chairs of the Susan B. Anthony luncheon for the second year in a row and agreeing to serve as Chairs again in 2020.

Myrtle Bales Bulkley Award: The Myrtle Bales Bulkley Award was presented to Miriam Foshay. Cecilia acknowledged Miriam's service to LWVD and LWV-TX as treasurer and budget chair over a number of years. Miriam was also recognized for leading LWV-TX and many local Leagues in their conversion to 501(c)(3) entities.

Virginia Macdonald Award: The Virginia Macdonald Award was presented to Diane Tasian, a community volunteer and civic leader, who has been a member of the League for many years but recently became more involved and accepted the board position of Program VP in which she proved to be a fast learner and extremely capable.

Recognition of Outgoing Board Members: Cecilia recognized outgoing board members Elizabeth Walley, Dorie Cranshaw, and Katherine McGovern for their invaluable service and presented them with mementos.

"I Wish the League Would": Cecilia read the suggestions that has been submitted on the cards provided for this purpose. Cecilia and Diane responded to the suggestions with updates.

Adjournment: Upon a motion by Eileen Rosenblum, the meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Linda P. Wassenich

Secretary

Treasurer's Report - Courtney Hogan

	<u>6/1/19-5/31/20</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget/ (Under)</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Contributions	23,172	15,545	7,627
Fundraising net	72,445	49,016	23,429
Grants	5,550	-	5,550
North Texas Giving Day	5,491	5,000	491
Membership Dues	<u>13,825</u>	<u>20,588</u>	<u>(6,763)</u>
Total Income	120,482	90,149	30,333
Expense			
Communications			-
General Operating Expenses	38,075	* 49,129	(11,054)
Member Services	-	5,830	(5,830)
PMPs	14,595	14,634	(39)
Publications and Voter Service	<u>13,612</u>	<u>20,556</u>	<u>(6,944)</u>
Total Expense	<u>66,282</u>	<u>90,149</u>	<u>(23,867)</u>
Net Income	<u>54,201</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,201</u>

* \$4200 has been estimated to be incurred between 4/15/20 and 5/31/20

Miriam Foshay-Chair, Courtney Hogan and Diane Tasian

**Proposed Budget
6/1/20 - 5/31/21**

Contributions	
In Kind Donations	200
Member	10,000
Non-member	1,500
Special Programs Donations	6,000
Total Contributions	17,700
Fundraising	
North Texas Giving Day	5,000
SBA Luncheon Income (Net)	34,768
Total Fundraising Income	39,768
Grants	5,000
Membership Dues	
Membership Dues	20,588
Less: National PMP	(8,192)
Less: State PMP	(5,632)
Net Membership Dues	6,764
Total Income	69,232
Gross Profit	69,232
Expenses	
Communications	
Publications	1,500
Web Site	400
Total Communications	1,900
General Operating Expenses	
Banking & PayPal Fees	1,060
Club Express	1,267
Insurance	1,368
Miscellaneous	350
Rent	9,121
Salary	23,252
Total General Operating Expenses	38,098

2020 - 2021 Proposed Budget (Continued)

	Proposed Budget 6/1/20 - 5/31/21	
Organization		
Meetings and Studies	420	
Annual Meeting	880	
Contract Labor (Vote411)	2,500	a)
Equipment	0	
Office Supplies	2,600	
Postage & Printing	0	
Total Organization	6,400	
Publications & Voter Services		
Candidate Forums	0	
YEOs	857	
Vote411	800	
Voters Guide	21,177	b)
Total Publications & Voter Services	22,834	
Total Expenses	69,232	
Net Ordinary Income	(0)	

Notes

- a) For assistance with Vote411
- b) Includes \$8,000 for Spanish translation

Development Committee Report

Cecilia McKay, Diane Tasian, and Linda Wassenich-Chair

In 2020 the League of Women Voters is celebrating its 100th birthday and the 100th anniversary of women getting the right to vote in the United States. It was a long struggle from the Women's Rights Convention in 1848 to the passage of the 19th amendment in 1920 and a poignant reminder that the good we seek to do takes time to come to fruition, but we have to start somewhere.

LWV-Dallas has gained new members and received generous support from both members and the public. Special thanks go to Cecilia McKay, Immediate Past President; Lisa Sherrod and Rebecca Acuña, co-chairs of the Susan B. Anthony Luncheon; Becky Brakke, Silent Auction Chair; and Diane Tasian, President, for all that they have done to lead in our efforts to raise much needed funds for the League's work in Dallas. The Susan B. Anthony Luncheon raised significantly more money this year largely because our co-chairs found new sponsors and donors and raised the ticket prices.

The League participated in the North Texas Giving Day fundraising drive, sponsored by the Communities Foundation; conducted its fall fundraising direct mail campaign; and held a spectacular Susan B. Anthony Luncheon, all while planning another luncheon in September to celebrate 100 years in which women have had the right to vote.

Development Committee Report (Continued)

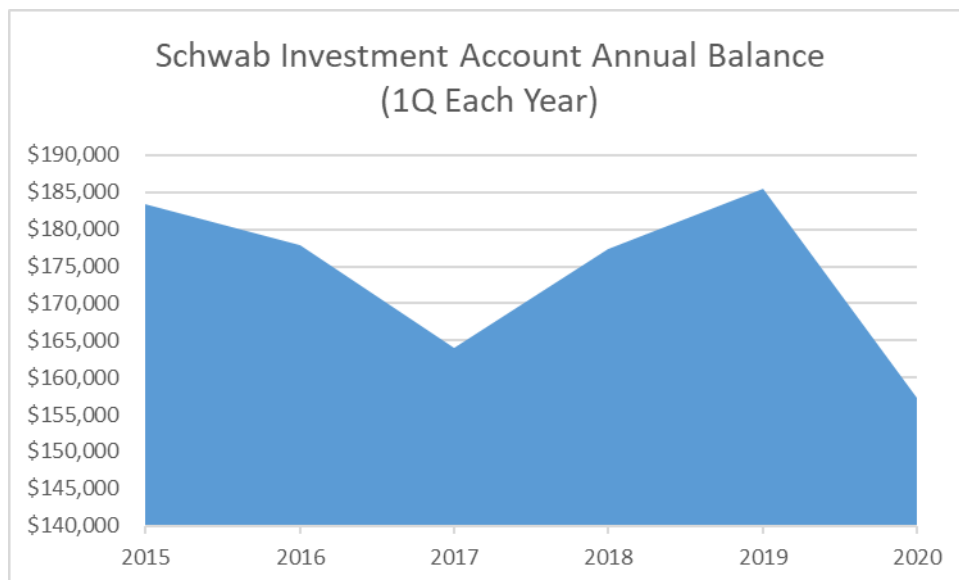
Preliminary results through March 15, 2020, are summarized below:

General contributions	\$12,172.50
Scholarships	950.00
Patrons and Benefactors	2,000.00
Honor and Memorial Gifts	4,389.00
Grants and Bequests	5,950.00
North Texas Giving Day	5,491.29
Rebates	64.19
Susan B. Anthony Luncheon (gross)	80,124.67
Silent Auction	9,148.00
Total	\$120,289.65

Finance Committee Report

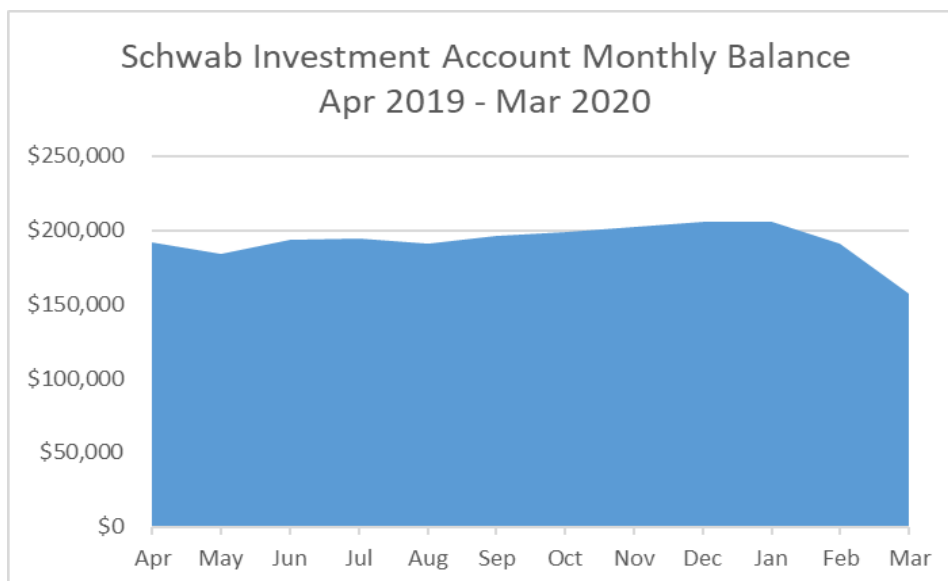
Dorie Cranshaw-Chair, Courtney Hogan, Michelle Manners, Cecilia McKay, Diane Tasian, Sandy Thornton and Linda Wassenich

The recent market volatility due to the worldwide coronavirus pandemic has impacted our investment account negatively. The account has lost 23% of its value since January 1st (through 3/31/20). The overall level of the account is back to levels last experienced in 2012.



Prior to the pandemic volatility, the account had been performing well ending the 2019 calendar year with a balance of \$205,478. As of March 31st, the value was \$157,255.

Finance Committee Report (Continued)



The Finance Committee has met several times over the course of the year to review our investments. No new deposits or withdrawals were made from the account in the past 12 months. We continue to maintain the recommended 50/50 balance between stocks and bonds plus cash.

As of 3/31/20, the allocation of the account was:

Stocks	52.14%
Bonds	41.41%
Cash	6.44%

A recap of our holdings is as follows:

Positions for LWVD Schwab Acct

XXXX-4480 as of 03/31/2020

<u>Description</u>	<u>Acct %</u>	<u>Yield</u>	<u>Market</u>		
			<u>Value</u>	<u>Cost Basis</u>	<u>Gain/Loss</u>
BLACKROCK MULTI SECTOR I	13.63%	13.19%	\$21,428	\$28,859	(\$ 7,431)
CBRE CLARION GLOBAL REAL	13.14%	12.74%	\$20,661	\$30,705	(\$10,044)
EATON VANCE FLOATING RATE	14.65%	8.25%	\$23,034	\$30,438	(\$ 7,404)
SPDR S&P DIVIDEND ETF	6.34%	3.48%	\$ 9,971	\$ 6,590	\$ 3,381
VANGUARD TOTAL STOCK MKT ETF	32.02%	2.13%	\$50,353	\$30,344	\$20,009
BNY MELLON SM CAP STOCK INDEX INV	3.37%	--	\$ 5,304	\$ 5,526	(\$ 222)
SCHWAB INTL INDEX FUND	10.41%	--	\$16,371	\$21,263	(\$ 4,892)
CASH & MONEY MKT	6.44%		--	--	\$ 10,132
ACCOUNT TOTAL	--		--	--	\$157,254

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACTION: The Finance Committee recommends no changes to the investment strategy of the account at this time.

Periodic Program Review Report—Patricia Muñoz

The LWVD Periodic Program Review (PPR) Committee did not meet this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic curtailments. I recommend all local positions be readopted in accordance with the Rules for Adoption of Program.

Program Planning Committee Report

Cynthianna Hahn, Julie Lowenberg, Carole Mitchell, Patricia Muñoz-Chair, and Diane Tasian

The LWVD Local Program Planning Committee recommends:

1. That no new studies, updates, or reviews with the objective of developing or modifying local League positions be undertaken during 2020-2021. The local positions can be found in the LWVD Handbook and on the website at <https://my.lwv.org/texas/dallas/> under the tab “About LWV of Dallas” in the Handbook.
2. That the current update study, “Low-Income and Affordable Housing and the Effects of Gentrification” be completed this year.

The LWVD proposed State study on social media was not accepted. LWVTX recommended their position on Voting Rights/Election Laws be reviewed and updated. LWVD will summarize concerns about social media and citizens right to know to the review committee.

General Meeting Topics suggested for 2020-2021:

- *Representative Government: Voting*
 - * Update on LWVTX positions adopted at 2020 Convention
 - * Election security
 - * Voter suppression
 - * Voting rights
 - * Universal voting by mail and electronic registration in pandemic
 - * Vote Center and equipment assessments by Dallas county after the Presidential election
 - * How grass roots organizations are working to Get Out the Vote.
- *Natural Resources: Environment*
 - * Climate change and what local governments can do
 - * Recycling, especially impacts of plastic and microfiber
 - * Regenerative agriculture
 - * Composting in an urban environment
 - * Tour a Texas worm ranch

Unit Meeting Topics suggested for 2020-2021:

Throughout the year give updates on LWVTX positions adopted at 2020 Convention.

Representative Government:

- *Census / Redistricting*
 - * Importance of participation in both census and redistricting
 - * How is LWVD involved?

Program Planning Committee Report (Continued)

- * How to identify?
- * Ways to stop, control, regulate
- * What is being done in other countries
- Citizen Right to Know: Social media
This is a recommended issue in the LWVTX 2020 Convention Workbook.
 - * What are the League positions at local, state and national levels?

Social Policy and Human Resources:

- Healthcare
 - * Mental health services
 - ◇ Decriminalization of mental illness
 - ◇ Homeless and mental illness
 - ◇ What resources are available?
 - * Rural healthcare in Texas
 - ◇ Video for Sunday Morning show on CBS
 - ◇ Native Americans
 - ◇ Rural families
 - ◇ Impact of healthcare workers
- Education
 - * Funding and oversight of privatized public schools
 - * School Dropout Prevention Program – Bill Betzen presentation
 - * Understanding DISD feeder schools
 - * Civics and government in our schools
- Housing - Study consensus process
 - * Affordable housing and gentrification in Dallas
 - * Design issues – space limitations; monotony of design; quality of construction

VOTER articles suggested for 2020-2021:

- Childcare
 - * Obstacles and opportunities for broad availability of quality, affordable childcare and after school care
 - * Parental leave
- Crime
 - * Gun Control
 - ◇ Reduction of shootings
 - ◇ Loopholes in the law
 - ◇ Mayor's directive
 - * Enforcement
 - ◇ Issues related to hiring and staff retention
 - * Domestic violence
- Immigration
 - * Need for national policy
 - * Transparency
 - * Efforts in Dallas area
 - * Healthcare impacts
- Judicial selection
 - * How do other states handle judicial selection?
 - * What impact will the loss of straight ticket balloting have?

Adoption of Program Support Positions

All local positions, with no changes, will be presented together at the Annual Meeting and be voted on at one time. Positions with recommended changes will be voted on individually. If a member requests an editorial change at the Annual Meeting, that change will be referred to the Program Planning or Periodic Program Review Committee of the following year for proper study, discussion and vote by the membership.

Nominating Committee Report

Nia MacKay, Cecilia McKay-Chair, Eileen Rosenblum and Elizabeth Walley

LWVD Bylaws Article IV, Section 2 - Number, manner of selection and Term of Office: The Board consists of nine elected officers, no more than eight elected directors and not more than eight appointed directors.

POSITION	NOMINEES	TERM	YEARS
PROPOSED OFFICERS			
President	Diane Tasian	1 Year*	2020-2021
President-Elect	Open		
VP Advocacy	Robin Lederer	2 Years	2020-2022
VP Organization	Open	2 Years	2020-2022
VP Membership	Shannon FitzGerald	1 Year*	2020-2021
VP Program	Patricia Muñoz	1 Year**	2020-2021
VP Voter Outreach	Barbara Larkin	2 Years	2020-2022
Secretary	Linda Wassenich	1 Year*	2020-2021
Treasurer	Sandy Thornton	2 Years	2020-2022
PROPOSED ELECTED DIRECTORS			
Director #1-SBAL Co-Chair	Jessica M. Coggins	2 Years	2020-2022
Director #2-SBAL Co-Chair	Regina M. Coggins	2 Years	2020-2022
Director #3-Silent Auction	Becky Brakke	2 Years	2020-2022
Director #4-Candidate Forums	Chelsea Keller	1 Year**	2020-2021
Director #5-VOTER Editor	Jessica M. Coggins	1 Year*	2020-2021
Director #6-Unit Coordinator	Shannon Long	2 Years	2020-2022
Director #7-Communications	Ana Christa Robles	1 Year*	2020-2021
Director #8-19th Amendment 100th Anniversary	Sally Branch	1 Year*	2020-2021

* Completing second year of a two-year term ** Completing an unexpired term

Nominating Committee Report (Continued)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE			
Chair	Elizabeth Walley	1 Year	2020-2021
Member	Katherine McGovern	1 Year	2020-2021
Member	Marlene Cohen	1 Year	2020-2021

Profiles of the Board Nominees

OFFICERS

Diane Tasian - President 2020-2021

Diane Tasian has served as a volunteer for most of her adult life. Before going to work she was on the Boards of the C.G. Jung Society of North Texas and Our Friends Place. While working, she maintained a connection with Our Friends Place as a member of the Advisory Committee and on the Property Committee. She also became active with Hearts & Hammers as a team captain.

After retiring, Diane returned to the Board of Our Friends Place to serve as Chair of the Property Committee. In 2012 she returned to Hearts & Hammers to serve on the Council as a “techie”. A long-time League member, in 2015 she began contributing time and talent to LWVD, first helping deliver Voters Guides, and in 2016 serving on the Fair Park study group. In 2017 she attended the Austin Advocacy days and served as a Voters Guide wrangler. She is also active with the Faculty Women’s Club (U.T. Southwestern Medical Center) serving on the Directory Committee. Diane has served on the Board of LWVD since 2017.

Diane holds a BFA degree from the University of Houston and an M Arch degree from UT Arlington. She was a licensed architect in Texas and a credentialed USGBC LEED AP BD+C. Her specialty was healthcare architecture. She retired in 2010.

Diane and her husband live in Dallas. They have two daughters and sons-in-law and four granddaughters. Her hobbies are reading (primarily historical, mystery and fantasy), needlepoint, and yoga.



Robin Lederer - VP Advocacy 2020-2022

Robin Lederer is founder and CEO of The UniBeacon Group, a Dallas-based consultancy that serves leaders of accomplished local organizations by helping them make practical use of modern marketing and management methods to make their organization better able to thrive in a changing and competitive environment. Robin has a Master of Business Administration degree from Penn State University and a Certificate of Social Media and Digital Communications from SMU. Robin’s award-winning career included a rich variety of innovative thinking and professional achievement. She directed front-line teams that implemented telecom sales and service to major corporations. Robin helped lead product design and marketing for a new American-British joint venture introducing global telecom service for international corporations. She spearheaded the design and launch of innovative products that turned AT&T’s stand-by telecom capacity into a new \$10+ billion wholesale business. In the coveted role as AT&T expat executive in Mexico City, Robin initiated groundbreaking partnerships of technology giants to offer advanced telecommunications throughout Central America. She rose to be Assistant Vice President of Marketing for AT&T.

After Robin was transferred to AT&T headquarters, she and her husband Don decided to make their

Profiles of the Board Nominees (Continued)

home in Dallas with its blossoming cultural and urban life. Robin has long volunteered her energy and experience to a variety of Dallas organizations, including six years as an active member and, eventually, as chair of The Arts Community Alliance of Dallas (TACA), Board of Governors Arts Grant Panel, as a recurrent member of a grants review panel for the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture, as an elementary school tutor with the Dallas ISD Reading Partners Program, and as a member of the League of Women Voters of Dallas. These activities have offered exceptional opportunities to participate in the life of Dallas, to appreciate Dallas organizations and to work with their leaders.



Shannon FitzGerald - VP Membership 2020-2021

Shannon FitzGerald was born in Dallas and grew up in Greenville, Texas. She completed a BA in Psychology from the University of Notre Dame, an MS in Kinesiology from the University of North Texas and a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Pittsburgh. She worked off and on for 25 years at the Cooper Institute doing physical activity research. She's been married to her husband Rob for almost 27 years and has a daughter and twin sons. When not working on Signup Genius for voter registration, she enjoys running and traveling with her family.



Patricia Muñoz - VP Program 2020-2021

Patricia Muñoz was born and raised in the lovely mountainous city of El Paso, Texas. She is a graduate from Texas Woman's University in Denton. She has two grown children who she likes to go on movie "dates" and out to dine with. She is very active in the LWV Dallas where she holds the position as Program VP and is temporarily Unit Program Coordinator. She is also Secretary for La Voz Del Anciano, Metro Arts and Educational Council, Martha Knowles Memorial Parliamentarian Unit, Home Association (TSTHSA) where she serves as Secretary/Treasurer, and Dallas County Tejano Democrats (DCTD), where she is also Secretary and Female VP. Patricia enjoys reading, sewing, camping, fishing and hanging out with her most precious mother who will be turning 97 years old on May 19, 2020.



Barbara Larkin - VP Voter Outreach 2020-2022

Barbara Larkin was born in Washington DC and grew up in Virginia, New Jersey and Texas. She was a Plan II major at UT Austin and then went on to get an MBA in finance, also from UT Austin. She worked for twenty-five years, first at First National Bank of Chicago in Chicago as a lender and investment banker and then moved to Dallas where she worked in financial strategy, purchasing and supply chain for both PepsiCo and Yum Brands. In the last few years, she has been registering voters and getting out the vote of young people and new citizens. She is married to Pat Larkin and has two children, Davis and Abbi, both in college.



Profiles of the Board Nominees (Continued)

Linda Wassenich – Secretary 2019-2021

A member of the LWV since 1970, Linda Wassenich has served on the boards of LWV Dallas, LWVTX, and LWVUS in a number of different positions for 31 of her 50 years of membership. She was President of LWVD from 1995-99, Vice President of Public Relations for LWVTX from 2001-10, and Director of Development on the LWVUS board from 2012-16. She is currently on the LWVD board as Secretary.

Linda holds a B.A. with University Honors from Texas Christian University and an MSW from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Her career focused on public policy in health care and fundraising, primarily for the Visiting Nurse Association. She served on the board of the Human Rights Initiative from 2004-10 and on the board of the Community Council of Greater Dallas from 2004-12, in which she served as Vice President, Secretary, Chair of the Development Committee, and Chair of the Advisory Council of the Dallas Area Agency on Aging. She was president of the Women's Council of Dallas County and a participant in Leadership Dallas.

Linda has been recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals in Dallas as the Outstanding Fundraising Executive and by the National Association of Social Workers, Dallas, with the Social Worker of the Year and the Lifetime Achievement in Social Work awards. She received the Laurel Award from AAUW and the Women of Spirit Award from the American Jewish Congress, Southwest Division. In 2013, she was named the TCU Honors Program Alumna of the Year. In December 2019, Linda and husband Mark were awarded an honorary Doctor of Letters degrees from Texas Christian University.



Sandy Thornton - Treasurer 2020-2022

I hated accounting in college, but loved finance and economics. My professional career was telephone engineering and technical sales for AT&T for 34 years. I don't know why I am put into these money positions on boards, but they seem to want me for my spreadsheet prowess.

I joined LWV Dallas in 2002 and was appointed to the board in 2003 serving as Forum Coordinator until 2007. In 2013 I was elected to the board as Treasurer and served until 2016, and continued to volunteer as acting Treasurer until 2017. The League is special to me for our mission and accomplishments. I proudly received the Myrtle Bayles Buckley Award in 2018 for long time service to the League and the community.

After I retired from AT&T in 2000, I began volunteering for political campaigns and non-profit organizations. I served as the Supervisory Committee Chair at my credit union, responsible for hiring professional auditors and overseeing cash and expense reports from 1988 to 1995. I served as vice chair of the Board of Directors from 1995-1996. I have served as Chair of the Board of Go Federal Credit Union since 1996. I told my fellow board members that I wish to step down as chair in 2019 to let someone else have the experience of leading the board. As of March 2019, I am now Vice Chair of the board.

From 2002-2007, I was treasurer of a new non-profit, People Empowerment Project. We worked with middle school children to develop student councils, which were non-existent in inner city schools, to teach them about working with government entities such as the school board, Dallas City Council, Dallas Police, and creating a working government for the student body.

Profiles of the Board Nominees (Continued)

Since 2013, I have served as Director of Finance/Treasurer for Golden Crown Literary Society, an international organization that provides a Writing Academy, and annual recognition of genre literature. I am one of the originators and leader of Women With Pride Book Club sponsored by the Resource Center that started in 2009, and we have had the author with us by Skype or in person at every meeting.

I'm not sure I know how to retire.

DIRECTORS

Jessica Montoya Coggins - Susan B. Anthony Luncheon Co-Chair

Jessica Montoya Coggins is the Founder and CEO of JMC Strategy Group, a communications and advocacy firm. Before starting the firm, Jessica was the Digital Writer and Digital Director of North Carolina at the For Our Future PAC and Action Fund. For Our Future was a groundbreaking progressive organization that focused on empowering people and community-based partners through a dynamic field and digital organization plan.

Jessica is also a successful journalist and writer. She has authored numerous stories for NBC News Digital on politics, culture, education, and the economy. In 2015 she was invited by the White House to cover the inaugural "Beating the Odds Summit" hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama for first-generation Black and Latino college students. Jessica has been a contributor at a number of diverse publications, including Jezebel, Salon, The Women's Media Center, and Latino Magazine.

Jessica has a B.A. in English Language and Literature and a Citation in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies from Harvard University. As an undergraduate, she interned at the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom. On campus, Jessica was a writer at both *The Harvard Political Review* and *The Harvard Crimson*, where she was an editor and columnist.

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Regina Montoya Coggins - Susan B. Anthony Luncheon Co-Chair

Regina Montoya is a Harvard-trained attorney who has been nationally recognized as one of the top lawyers in the country, and she is a former award-winning television commentator. She is the CEO & Chairperson of Regina T. Montoya, PLLC. Ms. Montoya is a frequent public speaker on a wide range of issues including healthcare, poverty, diversity and children.

One of the first Latinas to earn partnership in a major corporate law firm in the United States, Ms. Montoya received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Minority Counsel Program of the State Bar of Texas. Recently, the American Bar Association selected Ms. Montoya as a recipient of the Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award.

In 1993, Ms. Montoya served in the White House as an Assistant to the President and Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. In 1998, she was nominated by the President to serve as a U.S. Representative to the 53rd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Ms. Montoya also served as the Senior Vice President, External Relations and General Counsel at Children's Medical Center of Dallas, the seventh-largest pediatric health care provider in the nation.

A leader in the nonprofit community, Ms. Montoya is the immediate past Chair of the Board of the Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund (MALDEF). She is a member of the Board of Directors of Girls Inc. (National Board), the Texas Book Festival, the Center for Public Policy Priorities, the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society, Inc. (Secretary of the Board), Dallas Education Foundation and the SMU Tate Lecture Series.

Profiles of the Board Nominees (Continued)

Ms. Montoya has received numerous awards for her corporate, philanthropic and nonprofit accomplishments. Among her awards are the Harvard Alumni Association Award, the Susan B. Anthony Award from the League of Women Voters of Dallas, the “Can Do!” Award from the Wilkinson Center and the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas Real Woman Award. Ms. Montoya has been recognized by numerous publications for her achievements, including *Hispanic Executive Magazine*, which featured her on the cover of its July/August/September 2014 edition and *Hispanic Business* magazine, which twice named her one of the 100 most influential Hispanics in the US.

Ms. Montoya earned her B.A. from Wellesley College, where she is a Trustee Emerita, and her J.D. from Harvard Law School. She also has served as vice president and elected director of the Harvard University Alumni Association.



Becky Brakke – Director, Silent Auction Chair 2020-2021

Once Becky Brakke’s daughters left home for college, she moved from PTA involvement to work with the League of Women Voters. She has served on the Board, chaired the Study on “Elections and Voter’s Rights in Dallas County” and served as a Unit Leader.

Fundraising became a special interest leading to involvement with Jane Pak as co-chair of the silent auction of the SBA Luncheon. Becky introduced the idea of the European flower baskets and enjoys working with a special team to create these baskets each year. In 2015, Becky co-chaired a special benefit tea event for the League featuring Rena Pederson speaking of her book, *The Burma Spring: Aung San Suu Kyi and the New Struggle for the Soul of a Nation*. In 2017 Becky introduced a refocused silent auction with less paperwork and a focus on special hosted meals and other experiences.

After thirty years of seeking the perfect antique at flea markets and estate sales, Becky retired from her antique business in 2019.



Jessica Montoya Coggins - Director, VOTER Editor 2019-2021

(See Jessica’s profile on page 19)



Shannon Long - Unit Coordinator 2020-2022

Shannon has extensive experience in the areas of fundraising, organizing political forums, communications through Social Media, and event organizing. She has held responsible positions for *Mesquite Relay for Life*, the Dallas County Democratic Party and the Dallas County East Democrats where she currently holds the position of Vice President.

Shannon graduated from Mesquite High School in 1992. She has a Master Telecommunicator license with the Texas Commission of Law Enforcement (TCOLE) and is a certified TCOLE instructor. She is also a Certified Emergency Medical Dispatcher by the National Academy of Emergency Medical Dispatch.

Shannon has three grown children, Kevin (28), Jessica (26) and Kaylea (22). She spends most of her free time with her two grandchildren Brookelynn and Elvis. A third grandchild, Avery, is due to arrive on April 23d. When she can fit it into her schedule, she also enjoys crafts and photography.



Profiles of the Board Nominees (Continued)

Chelsea Keller - Director, Candidate Forums 2020-2021

Both of Chelsea's grandmothers' political activism and community involvement led her to an interest in both areas from a very young age. She currently works in marketing and website development, and she has previously worked with several political campaigns in order to promote general volunteer engagement and empowerment, especially in the youth sector. Chelsea believes strongly in ensuring that everyone has the right and the opportunity to vote. She considers the League of Women Voters essential in 1. registering voters and 2. educating all voters through Vote411 and the candidate forums. She looks forward to working with all the outstanding members of the league. Chelsea enjoys reading and exercising in her spare time and lives with her boyfriend in Addison.



Sally Branch - 19th Amendment 100th Anniversary Chair 2020-2021

Sally is a licensed insurance agent who worked in financial planning (CFP) business for 43 years. Her work included life, disability, health, dental, long-term care, and insurance for individuals and businesses groups.

She has served as President on the Boards of Business and Professional Women (BPW), Dallas, Inc.; Hillside Neighborhood Association; Women's Federal Credit Union; and the Philanthropic Education Organization (PEO) which funds higher education scholarships and loans to women. She was on the Board of the Dallas Association of Life Underwriters and the Friends of the Dallas Public Library.

Sally says she has enjoyed helping Becky Brakke with the Susan B. Anthony Luncheon auction as a "hunter and gatherer" for items for the last two years. In the summer of 2019, she initiated the *Meet & Greet* at the homes of League members Clare Chaney and Louise Hytken. Becky Brakke and Marilyn Halla helped by providing the food. What else gets our Leaguers out in the summer!

Sally has a BA in Journalism from Trinity University, San Antonio, TX, and a M.Ed. in Counseling/ Administration for higher education from the University of North Texas, Denton, TX

Sally played tennis at Highland Park H.S., and at Trinity University. As an adult she participated in tennis leagues and also played golf. Now she is an avid walker, does water exercises and participates in tone classes. She enjoys gardening in her spare time.



Ana Christa Robles - Director, Communications 2020-2021

AnaChrista is a proud Dallas native and University of Texas at Arlington alumna committed to community empowerment. She possesses a zeal for community building and deep-rooted desire for progress. She was born and raised in Oak Cliff, where her passion for community involvement, knack for personal relationships and organization are on full display, as she promotes citizenship, civic engagement, the arts and education.

AnaChrista currently serves as immediate past chair for the Hispanic Women's Network of Texas, Dallas Chapter, where her previous roles included chapter chair, education chair and professional development chair.

AnaChrista has dedicated over twenty years of community service in the North Texas area.

AnaChrista has dedicated over twenty years of community service in the North Texas area. Some of her community service includes the League of Women Voters in Dallas, Oak Cliff

Profiles of the Board Nominees (Continued)

Some of her community service includes the League of Women Voters in Dallas, Oak Cliff Coalition for the Arts, the National Association for Elected Officials (NALEO) and various local, statewide and national political campaigns. She was recognized as a 2019 Fierce Female in the Oak Cliff Advocate, is a graduate of the 2018 Mayor Star Council Class, 2017 Oak Cliff Coalition for the Arts Volunteer of the Year, and 2016 Hispanic Women's Network of Texas, Estrella of the Year recipient. By day, AnaChrista supports the diversity inclusion and human resources teams at VisitDallas.

AnaChrista is a giver, connector and collaborator. In her free time, she enjoys travel, volunteering and mentoring.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Walley - Chair, Nominating Committee 2020-2021

Elizabeth came to appreciate the importance of government during a career working for and in government - as an auditor, consultant and finally as a municipal finance director - and determined that after retirement she would dedicate time to doing what she could to make government work for us all. The League of Women Voters turned out to be a good fit offering her the opportunity to do what she loves best, educate and engage people in voting, that most important aspect of citizenship. For several years Elizabeth served as the Vice President of Voter Outreach. In 2019 she retired from the Board but continues to participate actively, spending most time on Vote411 and the Voters Guide. She lives in Mesquite with her husband and five cats.



Marlene A. Cohen - Member, Nominating Committee 2020-2021

Marlene has been an active community volunteer concerned with the welfare of women, children, and families and the protection of individual rights for over 40 years. A former computer programmer/systems analyst, Marlene is a full-time community volunteer.

Marlene is a former vice president of programming for the League of Women Voters Dallas. She is also a longtime member of the Executive Committee of the Jewish Community Relations Council, and, over the years, has volunteered with many nonprofits. Currently, she is volunteering with the Dallas Coalition for Hunger Solutions (DCHS) and the Dallas Anti-Poverty Coalition, working to find solutions for poverty, especially food insecurity.

Serving her second year as a member of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature (TSHL), Marlene is on the TSHL Health and Human Resources, Communications, and Technology committees. She is on the Dallas Area Agency on Aging's Advisory Committee and the Senior Source's AGE Executive Committee.

Marlene is a past President of the National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Dallas Section (NCJW) and its Evening Branch, Women's Council of Dallas County, and elementary and junior high PTAs. As a past co-chair of NCJW's Texas State Policy Advocacy Network, she led advocacy actions involving reproductive justice, immigration reform, public education, and expansion of healthcare at both the State and Federal levels.

Marlene served six years as a City of Dallas Senior Affairs Commissioner, appointed by former District 12 Councilperson Sandy Greyson. While a member, she served on the Commission's Safety/Health and Budget committees and chaired the City of Dallas' Senior Affairs Commission's Mayfair

Profiles of the Board Nominees (Continued)

2015, attended by approximately 1,000 Dallas area seniors. Current District 12 Councilperson Cara Mendelsohn appointed Marlene to the City of Dallas Mobility Advisory Committee.

Marlene and her husband, Arnold Kaber, Ph.D., live in Dallas and have two grown daughters, Carly and husband Justin and Stacy and fiancé Jim.



Katherine McGovern - Member, Nominating Committee 2020-2021

Katherine retired from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of the United States Attorney, Dallas Division April 2011 after approximately 21 years as an Assistant United States Attorney responsible for representing the interests of the United States of America in significant civil litigation. After retirement and a vacation to England and France, Katherine was elected as the 2012 Democratic nominee for Congressional District 32 against the incumbent Pete Sessions. While not successful, Katherine gained significant knowledge and understanding of the concerns, interests and expectations of the people living in CD 32 (essentially the gerrymandered north-east quarter of Dallas County plus 9 precincts in Collin County). Katherine practices law limited to civil matters. She maintains a highly selective practice designed to focus on using her knowledge and skills effectively. In 2016, Katherine was a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

For a number of years, Katherine has been involved with the League of Women Voters with efforts to re-engage voters and others in discussions of public policy and common good issues, and in efforts to get people to vote. On occasion she has been a public speaker before the Dallas City Council and the Dallas County Commissioners Court on public policy issues pending for decision. Katherine has served as a Dallas County Election Judge in numerous elections since 2008 and is a deputy registrar. Currently, she is President of the Preston Royal Library Friends and is an active supporter of the Dallas Public Library. Over the years, Katherine has been a volunteer with the North Dallas Shared Ministry.

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

50-Year Members

The League of Women Voters honors fifty-year members who have shared their talents with the League over the course of half a century or more. In recognition of the contributions that they have made, they are given life-time status with free membership at all levels of the League. We thank them for decades of leadership, service and dedication. Their commitment to making democracy work inspires us all.

Our newest 50-Year Member is **Linda Wassenich**

Our 50-year Members are: ***Terry Casey, Eleanor Conrad, Joyce Forney, Genie Fritz, Sue Lichten, Julie and Michael Lowenberg, Dorothy Masterson, Eleanor Sutherland and Barbara Weinstein.***

In Memoriam

We are saddened to announce the passing of 50-year members **Carol Brin** and **Barbara Jane Fisher Mahon Materka**. Their contributions to the League and to our Community will live on.

President's Meritorious Service Award History

The President of the League of Women Voters of Dallas may give one or more awards to deserving members at the Annual Meeting. Suggested guidelines include: a League member and volunteer who is not currently serving on the LWVD board at the time the award is presented; a League member who has demonstrated devoted service to the League that is above and beyond the norm, over a period of years; a League member who has been recommended by the members of the Board and/or the Awards Committee; a League member who has not been a recipient of other League awards, notably the Bulkley Award or the Macdonald Award.

These guidelines are only suggested and nominees do not have to meet each of them for consideration. The President will make the final choice and present that name to the Board of Directors for approval.

Former Recipients include: **Jean Cozzens & Mary Fugger** 1996; **Madeleine Hervey, Robin Yaklin, & Margie Haley** 1997; **Ann Jones & Mary Vogelson** 1998; **Pat Vaughan & Bessie Weed** 1999; **Agnes Ellsworth** 2002; **Nancy Todes & Jane Davis** 2003; **Barbara Downey** 2004; **Linda Wassenich** 2005; **Dottie Box & Ann Adams** 2006; **Ann Jones, Brenda Marks, & Linda Sharp** 2007; **Becky Brakke, Alix Mason, & Jane Pak** 2008; **Cecilia McKay** 2009; **Gayle Hurst, Cherlyn Remington & Eleanor Sutherland** 2010; **Patti Crumley & Ann Ross** 2011; **Elizabeth Walley & Miriam Foshay** 2012; **Rebecca Bergstresser** 2013; **Fran Morris** 2014; **Mary Overton** 2015; **Leigh Bailey Carrizales** 2016; **Ann Adams, Lea Frailey & Alice Johnson** 2017, **Chris Guldi** 2018 and **Rebecca Acuña & Lisa Sherrod** 2019.

2020 President's Meritorious Service Award Recipient

The 2020 President's Meritorious Service Award goes to **Kimberly Bowe**.



Kimberly was selected for this award based on recommendations by Shannon FitzGerald and Linda Wassenich. Kimberly had been attending the League's Thursday Evening Unit when she and Linda discovered they had a friend in common - Marilyn Brill. Marilyn lived in Pennsylvania and was present when Linda attended the LWV-PA state convention in 2013 as the liaison from the National Board to Pennsylvania.

After a while Kimberly shifted to one of the League's morning Units. In March 2019, after listening to members' concerns at a Unit meeting, Kimberly sent me an email where she thoughtfully addressed several issues that came up in the Unit meeting. In the email she recommended LWVD get a membership management software. That email went immediately to Shannon FitzGerald and Nia MacKay and thus began our journey to ClubExpress. Kimberly offered the suggestion and took the lead on its implementation. Kimberly has been there for the team every step of the way. What started as a membership software evolved into the major endeavor of transitioning to a new website. She has worked with Board members, ClubExpress technical support, and Ceci Silva, our Office Administrator, always with grace and gratitude to make this project become a reality.

For her leadership, understanding of management software, hard work and guidance, it is my pleasure to present **Kimberly Bowe** with the 2020 President Meritorious Service Award.

Diane Tasian - LWVD President

Myrtle Bales Bulkley Award History

The Myrtle Bales Bulkley award was first presented at the Annual Meeting in 1989 and it has been given yearly ever since. The award was named in honor of Myrtle Bales Bulkley, a charter member of LWVUS, long-time member of LWVD, and mother of League member Virginia Whitehill.

Myrtle was born in 1899, in the farming community of Colo, Iowa. She attended Iowa State Teachers College just prior to the passage of the Women's Suffrage Amendment in 1920. As a student she worked with other young women who lobbied for suffrage by giving talks, writing letters, and making posters.

Myrtle Bulkley joined the League during a visit to Washington D.C. in 1920. She also was proud of having attended meetings at the home of Alice Paul, the suffragist who organized picketing of the White House in 1918, which successfully persuaded the President to support Votes for Women. The suffrage movement sparked a lifetime of activism for Myrtle. Following a year as a teacher in a one-room school house in rural Iowa, she left her position to become an advance agent on the Chautauqua circuit, booking the traveling lecturers and entertainers who brought culture and enlightenment to small towns in America. After that she left Iowa and became a sales representative for Compton's Encyclopedia in New York. She wrote the first sales manual for Compton's, an innovation at the time, which was translated into several languages.

At age 26, she married Harold Bulkley. They had two children, a daughter, Virginia, and a son, Jonathan. From her home in Pelham Manor, NY, she remained active in the League and, perhaps owing to her experience with the Chautauqua circuit, was able to get prominent people like suffragist Carrie Chapman Catt and Ralph Bunche to address the League.

Myrtle moved to Dallas in 1972. Several years later, when conservative forces tried to rescind Texas' ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, she was among the speakers defending the ERA in an address to the Texas Legislature. She told them, "I want the ERA for my daughter and grand-daughters, but I want it for myself, too." She got a standing ovation. Myrtle died in Dallas in 1990.

The award is offered to a League member in recognition and appreciation of many years of exceptional service to the League and to the community.

-Prepared by Virginia Whitehill, Myrtle's daughter

Former recipients include:

Eleanor Sutherland 1989, **Pearl Wincorn** 1990, **Bea Sutherland** 1991, **Diana Clark** 1992, **Catherine Perrine** 1993, **Helen Harwig** 1994, **Rebecca Bergstresser** 1995, **Essie Reed** 1996, **Barbara Materka** 1997, **Virginia Bulkley Whitehill** 1998, **Barbara Weinstein** 1999, **Linda Wassenich** 2000, **Sandy Greyson** 2001, **Fran Faris** 2002, **Jo Fay Godbey** 2003, **Roger Kallenberg** 2004, **Becky Sykes** 2005, **Nancy Todes** 2006, **Pat Vaughan** 2007, **Susybelle Gosslee** 2008, **Liz Wally** 2009, **Barbara Downey** 2010, **Elaine Wiant** 2011, **Katherine Homan** 2012, **Ann Adams** 2013, **Becky Brakke**, **Patti Crumley & Jane Pak** 2014, **Cecilia McKay** 2015, **Elizabeth Walley** 2016, **Mildred Derrough Pope** 2017, **Sandy Thornton** 2018 and **Miriam Foshay** 2019.

2020 Myrtle Bales Bulkley Award Recipient

The recipient of the 2019 Myrtle Bales Bulkley Award is **Dorie Cranshaw**.



Dorie may have begun life as a city planner, but her interests are far more wide ranging. She rose to positions seldom held by women in the freight railroading industry, becoming the second female trainmaster, the first division superintendent and one of the first female corporate vice presidents in the history of the industry. In addition to city planning and freight railroading, she's had careers in mediation (specializing in divorce and custody) and in financial planning, demonstrating a wide range of interests and capabilities. In the League of Women Voters, her passion is voter service.

Working with Elizabeth Walley, Dorie transformed the Dallas Voters Guide from a slim volume that only covered some contested races to the comprehensive publication that one Dallas Morning News employee described as "putting our guide to shame." Following the mantra "if it's on the ballot, it's in the Voters Guide," Dorie worked to include races for

judges and precinct chairs in addition to the more visible offices, and to publish guides for local elections, primaries and runoffs. She has herself served as a precinct chair and was delighted to be a delegate to a national nominating convention in 2012. In addition, she's president of her neighborhood association, a DISD advocate, and a world traveler who would be returning from Japan if the coronavirus pandemic hadn't disrupted her plans.

Dorie's vision for the League is to become more assertive in promoting its agenda at the local, state and national levels. In today's political environment, relentless promotion and agitation is required if one's voice is to be heard.

Virginia Macdonald Leadership Award History

In 1996 the Dallas League initiated an award to honor the lasting legacy of courage and inspiring leadership of Virginia Macdonald.

Virginia was born in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1898. Developing her civic awareness early, she graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Political Science and became a social worker in her home town. She joined the League in 1932. During World War II, Virginia joined her husband at several U. S. Marine bases around the country. After his detachment from the Corps in 1946, they chose Dallas as home base for Mr. Macdonald's insurance business.

Virginia became the Dallas Board Secretary in 1947, a position she had filled on the Minneapolis League Board. Shortly after her election as Dallas League President in 1955, she obtained co-sponsorship from SMU of the national League project "The Freedom Agenda," a series of seminars designed to review, discuss and promote understanding of our constitutional freedoms as defined in the Bill of Rights. A record crowd of more than 170 people attended the lectures at SMU after the project came under attack from publications and organizations of the far right. Because of warnings against the demagoguery of Senator Joseph McCarthy and the House Un-American Activities Committee, Virginia's steadfastness in defending the project and SMU President Dr. Willis Tate's involvement were models of courage under fire. She even stood up to an FBI investigation of her as a possible communist!

Virginia served as Dallas League President in 1955 to 1961. She was elected to the state board in 1962 and the national board in 1964. She was also a charter member of the Dallas United Nations Association and supported such national League issues as foreign economic policy and U.S.-China

Virginia Macdonald Leadership Award History (Continued)

relations. In Dallas, Virginia spoke out for the League on methods for achieving school integration, not a favorite topic for many Dallasites in 1960. After her national board service, Virginia returned to the Dallas League board and served as secretary from 1967 to 1982.

Perhaps the most outstanding memory of Virginia among several generations of Dallas League members is that of League mentor and trainer. On and off for some thirty years she taught new board members the fundamentals of the League and how each individual portfolio contributed to what she championed: total board responsibility.

Virginia died in 1983 having been a League member for over 50 years. In addition to her service, Virginia will be remembered for her integrity, fierce loyalty to the League, courage, independence, precision, and a sense of humor "...as firm in a considered opinion as she is open to a new idea..."

The Leadership Award in Virginia's name is given from time to time to a League leader who has exhibited courage in working for change and who inspired leadership in others. A committee made up of past recipients of this award would convene to recommend a new recipient.

Former recipients include:

Julie Lowenberg 1996, **Dorothy Masterson** 1997, **Molly Van Ort** 1998, **Genie Fritz** 1999, **Mary Vogelson** 2000, **Lucy Polter** 2001, **Pat Sabin** 2002, **Harryette Ehrhardt** 2003, **Molly Rooke** 2004, **Joanne Hill** 2005, **Adlene Harrison** 2006, **Marsha Fogarty** 2007, **Linda Camin** 2008, **Linda Sharp** 2009, **Angela Hunt** 2010, **Beverly Tobian** 2011, **Fran McElvaney** 2012, **Carol Donovan** 2013, **Suzi Wills** 2014, **Lynda Taylor Ender** 2015, **Bill Betzen** 2016, the **Hon. Theresa Daniel** 2017, the **Hon. Toni Rose** 2018 and **Diane Tasian** 2019.

2020 Virginia Macdonald Leadership Award Recipient

The recipient of the 2020 Virginia Macdonald Leadership Award is the Honorable **Mavis Knight**.



Mavis has served on the LWVD Education Issue Committee for years. Recently she has served as a consultant to the Committee while she is working on her Ph.D. She has served the League by moderating education programs and by proof-reading statements for advocacy and League positions. This is how Susybelle Gosslee described Mavis when she served as moderator for the General Program "*Does Current State and Local Funding Provide for a Quality Education?*" held August 2018: "Her experience as a community volunteer helped her be a reasonable representative on the Texas State Board of Education. Knight resisted efforts to politicize standards in science, history and social studies. She's been part of the sensible center that has tried to focus on facts, not ideology, in writing state standards. Knight's constructive leadership and decades of

experience have been a great benefit for Texas school children.

Mavis has given over 30 years of volunteer service working with organizations to provide mentoring and other services, to youth, families, and senior citizens in Dallas. She served on numerous DISD advisory committees; as president of the Dallas Council of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and various PTA positions at the district, state and national levels. She has served on the Boards or leadership committees of many other organizations. She was elected to the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE) in 2002 and served until 2016. She has served as Secretary of SBOE and as Vice Chair of the Board's Committee on School Initiatives. In 2011 she was inducted into the African American Educators Hall of Fame. Mavis did much of this while raising three sons with her husband Richard Knight, Jr. They have 9 grandchildren and at least one great-grandchild.

For her courage in working for change in the education system and for inspiring leadership in others, the Honorable **Mavis Knight** is the recipient of the 2020 Virginia Macdonald Leadership Award.

STATE OF THE LEAGUE

Message From the President - Diane Tasian

Although this year the 100th Anniversary of League of Women Voters and the 19th Amendment are the historical milestones of 2020, the coronavirus has tried to cast a shadow over us. We are fortunate that the achievements this Spring such as the Voters Guide/Vote411, the many voters newly registered, and the Susan B. Anthony Luncheon occurred before the pandemic took hold. The successes of these accomplishments are a tribute to the dedicated League members who enthusiastically volunteered. As I think of the League milestones and see the impact of the pandemic, I am struck by the resilience of our volunteers, League members, and Board. It is amazing how quickly we have pivoted to online meetings. The strength of the pivot is a demonstration of the strong ties among the members and their shared values. The pandemic has reinforced the importance of League actions as we navigate this crisis. Thank you for your dedication, creativity and enthusiasm!

Thank you to our Membership Ladies, Alice Johnson, Lea Frailey and Ann Adams for maintaining the membership renewals process and card files which runs in tandem with our digital process. Their efforts went on hold when the office began Shelter in Place and is now in the capable hands of Ceci (Cecilia) Silva, our office administrator as she works from home.

A special thank you goes to Alice Johnson, Becky Brakke and a team of volunteers for successfully resurrecting the YEO (Your Elected Officials). You can find it on the website.

The dedication of Co-Chairs, Lisa Sherrod and Rebecca Acuña, and Silent Auction Chair, Becky Brakke, and all the volunteers who sustain this event made the Susan B. Anthony Luncheon one of the most successful ever. Thank you to all who came, made donations, and enjoyed the fun! Thank you to Texas state congressional representatives Angie Chen Button, Victoria Neave, Rafael Anchia, Rhett Andrews Bowers, Toni Rose, Carl Sherman, Sr., John Turner and Terry Meza for their resolution celebrating the event. The proclamation has been framed and is hanging on the wall in the office. Once we are free to visit again, please stop by to see some of the proclamations we have received over the years.

Voter Services volunteer Elizabeth Walley and her team have successfully delivered Voters Guides and Vote411 online in both English and in Spanish for each election. Our nonpartisan Voter Guide/Vote411 covers more races than any other publication in Dallas county.

Voter Registration Director Barbara Larkin and her volunteers registered many voters before the effort was halted by the pandemic. Now, they are shifting their focus to advocacy for issues such as online voter registration and universal mail in ballots while we are all Sheltering in Place. We are also strengthening ties to other Leagues in the Metroplex to assist with voter registration of newly naturalized citizens.

Our interaction with members is undergoing a major transformation behind the scenes. Please help us become more relevant by answering the invitation to fill in interests on your membership profile which will come soon. Watch for new ways of interacting on advocacy, discussions of issues, gatherings, and how we connect based on interests of our members

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as your president this past year. As the pandemic restrictions are lifted our calendars will be full of rescheduled 100th Anniversary events and new ones still on the drawing boards. Please help us celebrate!



Advocacy Report - Diane Tasian

Advocacy is a fundamental activity of the League. It is based on positions that have developed over the years around issues in need of solutions. We try to let the membership know of issues, as they arise, on the website, in the VOTER, and at Unit meetings. Please watch for requests to contact your elected officials (calls for action). We hope that you will bring us news of issues important to you. You can find our positions summarized in the Handbook which is on the website. The next edition of the Handbook is developed from the actions at this Annual Meeting. We will let you know as soon as it is published. The following list is a sampling of advocacy activities this past year.

Trinity River Corridor: In June, 2019 at the last city Council meeting of Sandy Greyson's tenure as council member, Genie Fritz and her husband Ned, who passed away in late 2008, were honored by the city when they renamed The Buckeye Trail in the Great Trinity Forest the *Ned and Genie Fritz Texas Buckeye Trail*. Thank you Sandy Greyson for your thoughtful effort on Genie's behalf! This gesture followed the council reaffirming the protection of the Great Trinity Forest the month before. LWVD has held a position on the Trinity River Corridor since 1995 and, although heartened by this support, the League will be watching closely as ideas about the utility of the Trinity evolve.

Education:

- Last June, I provided a statement at a DISD Board meeting in opposition to private partnerships because they eliminate the ability of parents to hold privatized administrations accountable for their children's education. I want to thank Susybelle Gosslee and her Education Issues Committee for keeping the League aware of developments at DISD.
- In September I spoke to the DISD Board about the educational process for overage students.

Healthcare: Again, this year in collaboration with the Women's Issues Network we were a sponsor of the sixth annual Our Bodies Our Lives event which celebrated the 47th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision.

Voter Services: Please join me in thanking Karen Bassett, Elizabeth Walley and Barbara Larkin for their very effective advocacy for Vote Centers. Karen, Elizabeth, and Barbara served on a citizen advisory committee when the county was transitioning to election day Vote Centers. As soon as they realized that the Vote Center legislation required the elimination of temporary voting locations, they met with each DCCCD campus president to alert them to the loss of the temporary voting locations at the DCCCD campuses and advocated changing to Vote Centers. In addition, they and I spoke at public hearings in support of the Vote Center concept. And, once Dallas county received state approval to implement Vote Centers, they met with the various campuses about Vote Center logistics. After the November 2020 elections we look forward to working with the county as they assess the utilization of Vote Centers in future elections.

Throughout the year, Elizabeth Walley, Barbara Larkin and I have participated in a networking group, Voting in Dallas, which is chaired by Liz Wally.

Membership Report - Shannon FitzGerald

As of March 2020, the LWV Dallas has 271 members, making ours the second largest League in Texas.

After the 2019 annual meeting it was decided that the League needed to utilize member management software, and therefore, adopting new software has been our primary focus for the Membership Committee over the past year.

This new platform will allow us to help grow our membership, engage the community, simplify administrative tasks, and support the activities of the League. In the fall the board voted to move

Membership Report - Shannon FitzGerald (Continued)

forward with management software from ClubExpress. As part of this adoption process, we will transition to a new website in June 2020.

With ClubExpress, anyone who visits the website can:

- Access all of the necessary information to cast an informed vote in Dallas County
- Receive emails from us, including our newsletter
- Sign-up to attend a meeting/event or volunteer with the League via the interactive calendar.
- Individuals can download events to their calendars and receive confirmations and email updates automatically.
- Donate and get a thank you/tax email back immediately
- Join LWV-Dallas, mark interest area, and confirmation immediately

Our members will be able to:

- Update their own addresses and emails at any time and add a photo of themselves
- Contact each other more easily through the online, up-to-date directory of members
- Join committees/express interests and get emails from those specific groups
- Print an end-of-year list of their donations for taxes

We are hoping the new website will help us both recruit new members and retain old ones.

In addition to this project, we continued to recruit members at various events throughout Dallas.

At the 2019 Annual Meeting, members voted to retain the following membership fees: Individual membership dues are \$75, an additional Household member is \$37.50, Student is \$25.

Memberships may be upgraded to Patron for an additional \$75 and to Benefactor for \$425 more.

What really matters from the point of view of social capital and civic engagement is not merely nominal membership, but active and involved membership.

~ Robert D. Putnam

Program Report - Patricia Muñoz

2019-2020 Unit Meetings

2019

- September Presentation on Citizens Climate Lobby
October Dallas County New Voting Equipment Introduction
Gold Star on Driver's License
Propositions on the Ballot
November History of Moms Demand Action
December Program Planning and Holiday

2020

- Jan American Promise
March Keeping Tabs on America
Voting equipment Flash Drives
Pangolins and Coronavirus

2019 -2020 General Meetings

- October 13, 2019 The Truth About Immigration
March 19, 2020 (Postponed) "Women's Vote: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" Patty Jantho's play
"LWV's recent successes and goals for the future" by
Elisabeth MacNamara, Past LWVUS President

Voter Outreach Report - Barbara Larkin & Elizabeth Walley

Vote411/Voter Guides

Elizabeth Walley oversaw collection of candidate information and operation of the on-line voter guide, Vote411.org, for the November 2019 Constitutional Amendment and local election and the March 2020 primary election. She also oversaw publication and distribution of the print version of the Voters Guide for both elections. Both efforts were assisted by dozens of volunteers.

For the November 2019 election, we covered special elections and referendums for eight jurisdictions in both Vote411.org and in printed mini guides. We included the LWV TX analyses of the ten Constitutional Amendments in printed mini guides for various jurisdictions, and also distributed printed guides purchased from LWV TX with the Constitutional Amendment analyses in both Spanish and English for parts of the county where local elections were not held. We printed and distributed 1,000 jurisdiction specific mini guides and 2,000 English language and 500 Spanish language guides purchased from LWV TX.

For the March 2020 primary election, of the 54 local candidates we were responsible for in contested races, 43 responded for a response rate of 80%. LWV TX provided information on state level candidates and LWV US provided information on presidential candidates. All information in Vote411 was available in both Spanish and English. We distributed 13,000 copies of our printed English language guide and 1,000 copies of Spanish language guides purchased from LWV TX.

Voter Outreach Report - Barbara Larkin & Elizabeth Walley (Continued)

Work was underway on Vote411.org and the printed voter guide for the May 2020 local election when it was interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic. Dallas County announced in March that it would be unable to administer the election while observing health protocols mandated by the Governor. Local jurisdictions postponed their planned elections to November, to coincide with the General Election. The data collected up to the time work stopped has been preserved and when we are able we will pick it up again, probably in September.

Statistics on Vote411.org usage in recent elections is not yet available because the coronavirus pandemic.

Quantities of printed guides distributed for the most recent two elections was consistent with quantities for the immediately preceding elections. Demand for printed guides is less in recent years as more users are relying on the Vote411.org. Budgetary pressures are no longer limiting production of printed guides thanks to a large decrease in overhead costs for LWVD and generous contributions from donors. Thank you.

A goal for the future is to continue provide pro-con analyses for all bond elections and referendums in Dallas County. There is shortage of this type of information available to voters and they want more. We provided good information on all the bond elections and referendums this past year and hope to continue to do so in the future.

Voter Engagement:

Barbara Larkin, Director of Voter Registration, has been leading the Voter Registration and Education program for the past year.

Voter Registration:

Our primary focus is Voter Registration and Education at the seven Dallas Community Colleges: Brookhaven, Cedar Valley, Eastfield, El Centro, Mountain View, North Lake and Richland. We also organized other community events at churches, expos, candidate forums, speaker events and high schools. We registered 1,625 new voters in the fall and 1,095 in the winter for a total of 2,720 new voter registrations between August 2019 and mid-March 2020.

Voter Education:

We trained all our volunteers to do more than register voters but to also teach new voters how to look up in their county website whether they are registered and if all their information is correct. We found that almost half of students either thought they were registered when they were not, or thought they were not when they actually were. We believe that empowering young voters to use the county or state website to see that they are legitimately registered helps them to feel more secure about going to the polls. We want all the young voters we converse with to understand how the democratic process works and how to look up who are their legislative representatives. We spent many hours explaining what a Primary is and how to prepare to vote by using the Vote411.org website and/or the printed Voter's guide.

Class Room Talks:

We created a speedy (10-15 minutes) classroom talk about voting that works in the fast paced Community College environment. Trained volunteers spoke in over 60 Community College classrooms about the importance of voting, the logistics of voting and how to get ready to vote by knowing and following your current representatives. We also always register those that need to be registered during the talk.

Summary of LWVD Events and Registrations

<u>Fall 2019 and Winter 2020</u>	<u>Days/ Events</u>	<u>Voter Registration</u>	<u>Classroom Talks</u>
Brookhaven College	32	449	18
Cedar Valley College	22	157	6
Eastfield College	26	397	14
El Centro College	20	226	2
Mountain View College	8	225	1
North Lake College	20	432	21
Richland Community College	14	699	0
Other Community Events	<u>15</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>0</u>
Total	157	2,720	62

Grow the Volunteer Base: We have been emphasizing growing our Voter Registration volunteers to expand our effort, using over 125 volunteers to work on over 400 shifts this winter at the seven Community Colleges and other events around the DFW area. We utilized over 800 volunteer hours during January, February and March of 2020. We have a vibrant campus leadership team and competent and knowledgeable VDRs who enjoy educating new voters.

Get Out the Vote: We also planned fifteen Get Out the Vote Events to both direct students to the polls and to help them get prepared to vote. We had Get Out the Vote events at all colleges multiple times during the 11 day early voting period and also on March 3 election day.

Vote Centers Located on Campus: During the summer months of 2019, the President of LWVD and the Communications and Voter Outreach teams jointly met with all the Dallas County Commissioners and all the Presidents of the Community Colleges in order to discuss the benefits of having a voting site on campus. This was important because HB1888, passed during the 2019 legislative session, had eliminated the ability of Community Colleges to be a three-day voting location as most had been in the past. All seven Dallas County Community Colleges agreed to be full time voting sites for the 2019 November election and through the 2020 spring Primaries and November general election. We believe that having on campus voting sites at the colleges will continue to be important in encouraging new young voters to vote.

Other Activities: Forums and Presentations

We co-hosted candidate forums with the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce for the Tx HD 108 Democratic primary and the US Rep 32 Republican primary. Barbara Larkin spoke to the Dallas Bar Association meeting in January to encourage members to volunteer with LWVD in its campus voter registration and education events. Barbara also reaches out to other groups to find new Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) volunteers that want to help register and educate voters.

OUR DIVERSITY STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters of Dallas (LWVD), in both its values and practices, affirms its belief in, and commitment to, diversity and pluralism.

LWVD welcomes any person to participate in any activity of LWVD, regardless of gender, race, religion, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or political persuasion.

LWVD recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making.

LWVD subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that inclusiveness enhances its capability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

LWVD affirms its commitment to reflecting diversity in its membership, board, staff and programs.

WHAT DOES THE LEAGUE DO NOW?

The League of Women Voters is a peoples' organization that has fought since 1920 to improve our government and engage all Americans in the decisions that impact their lives. We operate at national, state and local levels through more than 800 state and local Leagues, in all 50 states as well in DC, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong. We never endorse or oppose political parties or candidates, but we are political.

Formed from the movement that secured the right to vote for women, the centerpiece of the League's efforts remain to expand participation and give a voice to all Americans. We do this at all three levels of government, engaging in both broad educational efforts as well as advocacy. Our issues are grounded in our respected history of making democracy work for everyone.

WHY SHOULD YOU SUPPORT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS?

The League is different from many organizations in that what it accomplishes comes directly from the involvement of its members. It is a **grassroots organization** providing every member with opportunities to learn and educate others about government, and take action on public policy. We walk our talk: we believe that we need everyone to participate in order for our community to be strong, safe and vibrant. Whether you contribute your time, your money, or both you can feel confident that your investment in democracy goes further in the League.

Groups of League members meet to discuss topics in a respectful setting. They learn effective techniques for public discussion, how to advocate on specific policies, and what the issues beneath the rhetoric are. Our study and consensus process ensures that we are fully informed on issues before we take a stand. We also host public forums and debates which are well known for being fair, transparent and civil. This approach has earned the League a global reputation for integrity and thoroughness.

Your participation in League will expose you to a breadth of experiences and issues that will not only inform you but create greater possibilities for civic engagement than you might imagine. You can spend as much or as little time as you wish. Whether you aspire to leadership or are keen to follow the lead of experienced members, the League will excite, use, and nurture your civic curiosity, ideals, or desire for action. We offer our members webinars, conference calls, workshops, other events and mentorship opportunities throughout the year, at the local, regional, state and national levels.



EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

100 Years Milestones

The League of Women Voters U.S. was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt on February 14, 1920 during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association.

The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote was ratified on August 26, 1920.