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2006-2007

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Evelyn Bonavita
Dee Brock
Virginia Camfield
Louise Chandler
Dorothea Chessher
Nan Clayton
Jonathan Coopersmith
Dallas Symphony Orchestra
Sondra Ferstl
Melvin Golden
Hampton Inn
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Gloria Herman
Judy Hollinger
Janet Imhoff
John Johnson
Ellen Johnston
Ann E. Knight
Shirley Kraft
Jayne Krawietz
Virginia & Ed Leech
Nada Lulic Boyt
Jensie Madden
Jane-Elizabeth Madison
Hannah Margolis
Phillip Mathis
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Katherine Aubin
Michelle Augustine
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Martha Tarpley
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International
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Galia Vargas
Wilma Vickers
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Bettie Ward
Audrey Weil
Novella Wiley
Janice Williams
Jean Willis
Sydney Wirsdorfer
Diane Wonio
Barbara Yantis
Nelly Young
Margaret Zepeda



LOCAL LEAGUES

Amarillo

Arlington

Austin Area

Bay Area

Brazos Valley

Comal Area

Concho Valley MAL

Corpus Christi

Dallas

Denton

El Paso

Gainesville

Galveston Area

Hidalgo Co.

Houston Area

Irving

Johnson Co. MAL

Kerrville

Lubbock

Marshall/Harrison Co.

Midland

Montgomery Co.

Plano/Collin Co.

Richardson

San Antonio Area

San Marcos Area

Sherman/Grayson Co.

Tarrant Co.

Tyler/Smith Co.

Victoria

Waco

Wichita Falls



League of Women Voters of Texas

League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund

A Message from the President

The League of Women Voters is well known as the premier grassroots civic participation organization in Texas. Before every election, the League provides voters with nonpartisan information about candidates and issues. Voter education has been a central objective of the League since its formation.

The League of Women Voters was born from the vision of the woman suffrage movement. From the beginning, registering voters and getting people to vote were important activities of the League. Nonpartisan *Voters Guides* were produced and distributed; and meetings were held to inform voters about candidates and issues, just as they are today.

The League of Women Voters of Texas, a nonpartisan political organization, promotes informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Although the League neither supports nor opposes political parties or candidates, it acts on issues its members have studied.

Membership in the League is open to all women and men. Voting members must be citizens 18 years of age or older. There are 32 local Leagues in Texas as well as members-at-large in Texas communities that do not have a local League. LWV-TX was founded in 1919, one year prior to the passage of the amendment to the U.S. Constitution that gave women the right to vote.

With assistance from the state office and its full-time staff of two, volunteers contribute several hundred thousand hours (worth more than \$4 million) to conduct League studies, voters service projects, and advocacy based on League positions. Financial contributions to LWV-TX enable it to help local Leagues in their services to their communities and strengthen League advocacy efforts in the public interest.

LWV-TX is classified as a 501(c)(4) organization by the Internal Revenue Service; neither dues nor contributions may be deducted as charitable donations.

The League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund is making democracy work by providing nonpartisan, factual information about voting, government, and public policy to Texas citizens. Contributions to the Education Fund support studies, publications, dissemination of information about issues that affect Texans, and projects to encourage and increase informed voting as well as services to strengthen local Leagues and ensure that League guidelines and nonpartisanship are upheld. Gifts may be designated for specific projects approved by the trustees or for the overall voters service and citizen education activities of the fund.

LWV-TEF has been classified as a publicly supported educational trust in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is not taxable as a private foundation, as defined in Section 509 of the code. Therefore, donations to the LWV-TEF may be deducted as charitable contributions.

During fiscal year 2007, the state board and local Leagues engaged in a very timely state study, “*Mandated Achievement Testing in the Public Schools of Texas.*” The report, called *Facts & Issues*, has been written and mailed to each member. This fall local Leagues are in the consensus part of the study.

In an effort to give LWV-TX and its Education Fund more financial stability, the Minnie Fisher Cunningham Society, named for the foremost leader of the Texas Women’s Suffrage Association, was established for donors of major gifts and bequests. By the time charter membership closed on December 31, 2006, nineteen members had come forward with major gifts, multi-year pledges, or information that they have included the League in their will.

Local Leagues across the state, with support and guidance from LWV-TX, were busy studying local issues, advocating League positions in their communities and in Texas, holding voter registration and Get-Out-the-Vote drives, conducting forums, producing *Voters Guides*, and educating citizens about issues that are important to our Democracy.

From the beginning, the impact of the League of Women Voters of Texas has far exceeded what might be expected based on its limited financial resources. The “mighty political experiment” is still an experiment. But dedicated members of the Leagues, who believe in Making Democracy Work, provide countless hours of services worth millions of dollars every year. The League perseveres to ensure that citizens in Texas are kept informed with nonpartisan unbiased information so Texans can cast informed votes and participate knowledgeably in public policy issues.


Darlene Hicks,
President and Chair

CITIZEN EDUCATION

Project Voter

- Sponsored the only live forum with the U.S. Senatorial candidates, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, Barbara Ann Radnofsky and Scott Jameson. Produced at KLRN, a PBS station in San Antonio, the debate was broadcast statewide prior to the November 2006 general election.
- Received a grant from the LWV Education Fund and the Constitutional and Legal Policy Program of the Open Society Institute to provide additional information on the Texas judicial system and all statewide judicial candidates in the November 2006 general election *Voters Guide*.
- Distributed 557,070 printed *Voters Guides* in English and Spanish for the November 2006 general election in cooperation with local Leagues, libraries, and newspapers.
- Provided audio-taped versions of the *Voters Guides* for blind and visually impaired citizens upon request.
- Distributed 18,100 *Voters Guides* in English and Spanish for the general election to libraries across the state that are not served by local Leagues.
- Received over 2 million hits on the League’s website as members of the public turned to the League for unbiased, nonpartisan information about public policy issues and voting.
- Advised the Literacy Coalition of Central Texas in their efforts to create a *Voting Made Simple Voters Guide* for readers with lower literacy for the November 2006 general election. Provided them with voting information for use as filler and verified that their guide was non-partisan and accurate.

Project Citizen

- Developed a televised forum on judicial independence in April 2007 as part of the LWVEF-Open Society grant. Entitled *Safeguarding Democracy: Promoting an Independent Judiciary*, the forum featured a distinguished panel of former Texas Supreme Court Justices Craig Enoch, Bob Gammage, and

Xavier Rodriguez. The forum was produced in partnership with the Texas Young Lawyers Association and PBS station KLRN of San Antonio and taped for distribution to other PBS stations.

- Prepared a *Facts & Issues*, “Mandated Achievement Testing in the Public Schools of Texas,” to be published in August 2007. This *Facts & Issues* reports the research of a committee of League members on the topic chosen at the 2006 biennial statewide convention. Consensus on the topic will be taken in the fall of 2007.

ADVOCACY IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

- Early in the 80th Legislative Session, convened League members along with members of the House of Representatives and the Senate at the state Capitol in Austin for LWV-TX Lobby Day on January 30, 2007. Senator Jeff Wentworth presented comments on up-coming legislation. League members gave presentations on LWV-TX advocacy issues and tips for visiting with their legislators.
- Acted on legislative issues with program chairs and members of the Capitol Corps from LWV-Austin Area attending committee hearings, providing testimony, sending action alerts to League members, and visiting with legislators. Issues included:
 - campaign finance reform,
 - air quality,
 - recorded votes,
 - funding for state parks,
 - health care for older Texans,
 - immigration,
 - juvenile justice,
 - child care,
 - Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP),
 - women’s health issues,
 - water resources,
 - election laws, and
 - redistricting.
- Published a Legislative Newsletter every two weeks during the session and every week during the last month of the session, which was available

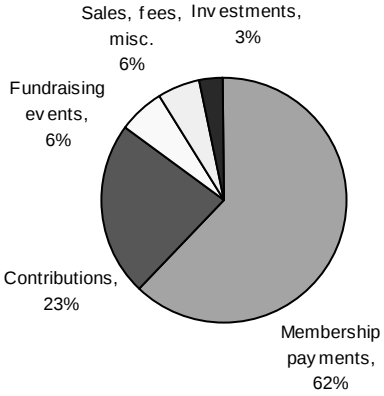
electronically to all members and other subscribers.

- Achieved a major accomplishment with the passage of a bill to record votes in the legislature, which will be submitted to the voters on November 6, 2007, as an amendment to the state Constitution. The LWV has long advocated for the right of voters to know how their legislators vote on an issue.
- Joined with AARP on an amicus curiae brief in support of plaintiffs in Ray v. Texas, which is on appeal to the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. This case concerns an election code issue regarding helping older and disabled voters who may need assistance to cast their ballots.

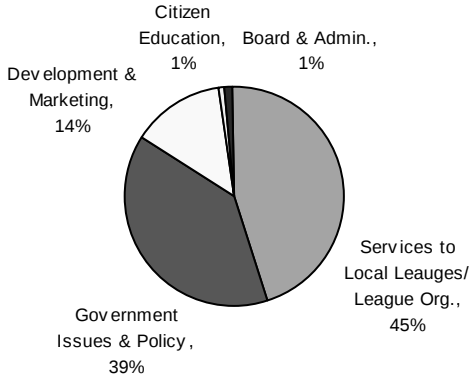
SERVICE TO LOCAL LEAGUES

- Provided regional trainings which were attended by twice the number of members as the previous year’s single statewide Leadership Institute.
- Continued to work with citizens who wish to organize local Leagues where none exist.
- Served Members-at-Large (members in areas where there is no local League) with periodic mailings and publications.
- Supported local Leagues with visits for customized training.
- Provided organizational tips to all local Leagues via emails.
- Enabled local Leagues to help each other by writing articles for the *Texas VOTER* about their accomplishments and sharing ideas that other Leagues could adopt.
- Developed a process for citizens who inquire to join a local League immediately via the LWV-Texas website.
- Completed posting all League publications on the website for easier access by members and the public.
- Helped local Leagues with no website use their pages on the LWV-Texas website more effectively.
- Provided two power point presentations for each League’s use, one on the principles of the League and the other on how to do League program.

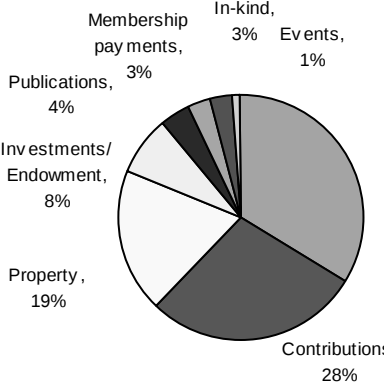
2006-2007
LWV-TX Income - \$80,194



LWV-TX Expenses - \$73,648



LWV-TEF Income \$96,226



LWV-TEF Expenses - \$98,557

