



March 2020



The VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® of Tarrant County

2019-2020

LWV-TC

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COUNTY.ORG](http://WWW.LWVTARRANTCOUNTY.ORG)

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Many thanks to our 2019-20 community sponsors:

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The League Mission is to empower voters and defend democracy. We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate. We believe in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

Celebrating Women's History

On March 20 we celebrate the centennial of woman suffrage with an evening Gala Celebration at Ridglea Country Club. Ticket sales close on Monday, March 16, so if you have not done so already, purchase a ticket or two — or a table for 8 — right away through www.lwvtarrantcounty.org. Thanks to chair Vickey Ward and the hard-working planning committee, this promises to be a fun evening with live and silent auctions, raffles, a buffet dinner, and presentation of our League's first Democracy Star awards to six women in elective office. (see page 2 for details). We are looking forward to an evening when we put aside partisan divisions and honor women from across the political spectrum who are serving in federal, state and local government.

The Gala committee still needs volunteers to help gather silent auction donations and to help with the silent auction itself, to decorate the ballroom before the Gala, and to assist dinner guests who may need help with the buffet. Contact fundraising chair Vickey Ward at vickeyward54@swbell.net if you can help. And if you need a ride to the Gala, contact Nancy Stevens at 817-637-9524 for assistance in finding a ride.

Last month, the national **League of Women Voters turned 100 on February 14,** and asked local Leagues to mark this event with a Day of Action. Here in Tarrant County we delivered hundreds of print Voters Guides to libraries and nursing homes and wrote about [Vote411](#) on social media.

Party primary day in Texas saw a huge turnout, and a few races will require run-offs. Kudos to Vice-President for Voter Services Erin Merkel and her team, Carol Cordell and Jennifer Nunley, for gathering candidate information, encouraging candidates to respond, and then making Vote411 the go-to website for unbiased information for candidates of both parties. Now that the party primary election is mostly history, Erin will need help again gathering information for city council, school board, and other elections in May. Please let her know if you can help.

A Note about Covid-19, the coronavirus:

We are monitoring health alerts for Tarrant County, where there have been only isolated cases so far. As of this writing, we still expect to go forward with all scheduled events, and we will exercise the reasonable precautions, such as having hand sanitizer available, avoiding shaking hands, and not crowding too close together. Please check email regularly for updates from the League office or League presidents, in case the public health situation requires cancellation of events.



Celebrating 100 YEARS of the 19th Amendment

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TARRANT COUNTY

★ 19TH AMENDMENT CENTENNIAL GALA

Be a part of "herstory!" Join us for a nonpartisan evening of fun as we honor our
DEMOCRACY STAR AWARD RECIPIENTS



★ **MARCH 20, 2020** 5:30 pm Ridglea Country Club ★ Buffet Dinner
Live Auction featuring four exclusive vacations ★ Silent Auction & Lively Festivities
Tickets & details at lwvtarrantcounty.org

Do you have your tickets for our biggest event of the year?

Our March 20 evening gala will celebrate the centennial of women gaining full voting rights in the United States. Please join us that Friday evening at Ridglea County Club for dinner and presentation of our first-ever Democracy Star awards to six Tarrant County women who are serving or have served in elective office. It took the efforts of both Republicans and Democrats to pass the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution, so we invited the Tarrant County Democratic and Republican party chairs to each select three women officials. The honorees are Congresswoman Kay Granger, State Senator Beverly Powell, District Attorney Sharen Wilson, Fort Worth school board member Ashley Paz, and retired justices Sue Walker and Maryellen Hicks. Karen Nicholson, Vice-President of the national League of Women Voters and a past president of the Texas League of Women Voters, will interview these honorees about their paths into public service. There will also be live and silent auctions, a heads-and-tails raffle, and other fun events through the evening.

Tickets are now on sale through www.lwvtarrantcounty.org and Eventbrite. Individual tickets are \$90 for League members and one guest, \$100 for non-members, and tables of 8 are available for \$800. **The deadline for reservations is Monday, March 15, so make your reservation soon.**

March 20, 2020, 5:30 Cash Bar and Reception; 6:00-9:00, Buffet Dinner and Festivities.

Ridglea Country Club, 3700 Bernie Anderson Drive, Fort Worth, TX 76116. Valet parking available.

If any member would like to attend but does not drive, call Nancy Stevens at 817-637-9524 to arrange a ride.

This year we had numerous requests for our print Voters Guides, and voters are learning that the Vote411 website is a reliable source for information about candidates. This year, we would like to expand the generic Vote411 information about the role of Mayor, City Council and School Board, with additional details such as term length, at large/single member district, duties, etc. Much of this information can be found on the city or ISD websites. Please let Erin know if you can help tailor this information so we can add value to our site. Go to <https://signup.com/go/HuyEBrC> to volunteer, and Erin will email you the generic information we have for the office(s) you sign-up for. Please then respond before March 27th.



Voter Registration

For Women’s History Month, the UTA Women’s & Gender Studies Program is planning a voter registration drive on March 18 from 11-2. Another is planned at TCU on March 24th. Several Volunteer Deputy Registrars are needed for each event. For VDR opportunities, sign up at <https://signup.com/go/WUgzyMJ>.

Candidate Forums for May Elections

The League has been invited to help with Forums for Keller, Euless, Kennedale and Westworth Village. We will also be having one in Arlington. If you wish to assist with any of these, please sign up at <https://signup.com/go/HnErqAu>. Information on forums will be posted as it is received, so please continue to check www.lwvtarrantcounty.org for the latest information.

If you wish to be part of our Candidate Forum Team of Moderators and Timekeepers but have not yet had training, please contact Erin at 817-223-1525 or emerkel.lwv@gmail.com. There will be a training for new moderators and timekeepers in late March or early April.

Election Protection

Pam Wright and Erin Merkel received training and took action in the largest-ever nonpartisan Voter Protection effort in our state’s history as part of the Texas Voter Protection Coalition. The Coalition’s goal is simple: not one single eligible voter should lose their sacred right to vote because of suppression tactics, intimidation, or the spread of misinformation. For information about future Voter Protection trainings, contact Erin at emerkel.lwv@gmail.com.



Membership Report

Since the beginning of our fiscal year on June 1, 2019, we have deactivated 22 members and have added 27 new members. Our membership now stands at 115.

Please welcome our 8 newest members:

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Onyinye Akujuo | Julie Delio | Randi Hartin | Jackie Hon |
| Lisa Lachance | Jennifer McSpadden | Leah Peev | Schelly Ward |

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March Unit Meetings Topic: Bring Your Own Issue

For March unit meetings, we are trying something a little different. Bring Your Own Issue (BYOI) allows each unit to discuss an issue that may be more local than county-wide in its scope or may be particularly interesting to one unit's members. The Trinity Terrace/Downtown unit plans to discuss voter suppression, and other units can use this as an opportunity for members to voice what their concerns are, what our local league should be doing or studying, and what the state League should be considering. If you have a topic for discussion, contact your unit leader to suggest it.

Unit meetings will take place the week of March 16-20. See the calendar (page 6) for specific meeting times and locations, as well as contact information for the unit leaders.

LWV Texas State Convention Is April 17-19

The Crowne Plaza Austin will be the site for the League's biennial state convention on April 17-19. All members are invited to attend, and the last day for Early-Bird registration fees is March 17. The deadline for all convention registrations is April 1, and the registration fee includes Workshops, Saturday Luncheon, and Plenary Sessions. Go to <https://my.lwv.org/texas/convention> for details about the convention and hotel reservations.

LWV Tarrant County can send up to 10 members as delegates. If you wish to be a delegate rather than an observer, contact Pam Wright at w.wrights@verizon.net as soon as possible.

LWV Tarrant County Annual Meeting on May 9



This year's Annual Meeting will be a brunch on Saturday, May 9, at Ridglea County Club from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The annual meeting is where the general membership votes on new officers, the budget for the coming year, any proposed changes to by-laws, proposed changes to programs, etc. Our guest speaker will be Elaine Wiant, past president of LWV Texas and former Treasurer of the national League.

The menu will be a plated brunch. Pricing is not yet final but will be between \$20 and \$25 per person. Further details and your Annual Meeting workbook will be sent out in April.

Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrars Needed

As part of Women's History Month, we have two voter registration opportunities at college campuses in March:

March 18th - UTA has requested a minimum 8 VDRs from 11 am to 2 pm to work up to 5 tables across campus.

March 24th - TCU is holding an event titled "Suffrage & Voting Rights: Revisiting & Reimagining a Movement" from 3:30 to 6 p.m. VDRs are needed from 3 p.m. to about 6:30 pm. Volunteers may work in 2-hour shifts, but feel free to sign-up for both if you wish to stay for the event programs - they look interesting!

Click the following link for more information and/or to volunteer: <https://signup.com/go/WUgzyMJ>.

Arlington Unit Creates Exhibit for Fielder Museum

The Arlington unit of LWV Tarrant County has created an exhibit about the nineteenth amendment and the suffrage movement for the Fielder Museum in Arlington. Featuring dresses, photos, newspaper clippings and other artifacts from the period, the exhibit explains the complicated path that finally led to women being able to vote in 1920. Kudos to Erin Merkel for her extensive research and clever writing, and Sharon Whittington for her assistance with setting up the exhibit.

Cathy Stein took charge of a ceremony formally opening the exhibit on March 8 — International Women’s Day — with County Commissioner Devan Allen discussing the importance of voting, Elections Administrator Heider Garcia explaining the new voting machines, LWVTC co-president Nancy Stevens speaking about the 19th and early 20th century women who spent their lives working to give women the vote, and Judge Sue McCoy talking about the brave suffragettes who organized, marched, demonstrated, and pressured male politicians to ratify the 19th Amendment, then overcame obstacles of poll taxes, short periods for registering to vote, and competing legislation to actually vote in 1920.

The exhibit will remain on view on the second floor of the Fielder Museum until mid-September. The Fielder House Museum is located at 1616 W. Abram Street in Arlington.



The League Board Represents
Left to right: Erin Merkel, Vickey Ward, Peggy Hendon and Nancy Stevens

Other Women’s History Events in Tarrant County

March 14 ~ The road to suffrage was even longer for African-American women. A [lecture at the Fort Worth Public Library](#) will explain more about the long road to full voting rights and the role of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, from 1 -3 p.m. in the Tandy Lecture Hall of the Fort Worth Central Library in downtown Fort Worth. Admission is free.

March 24 ~ In partnership with LWVTC, TCU faculty, staff, graduate students, alumni and community members will join to host a symposium on the centenary of U.S. women obtaining the right to vote. [Suffrage & Voting Rights: Revisiting and Reimagining a Movement](#) will take place March 24 from 4—6 p.m. The League will register voters before and after the event.

March 25 ~ Daina Ramey Berry will visit TCU for an evening of conversation about her most recent publication, *A Black Women’s History of the United States*. Learn about lesser-known black women who contributed to the history of our nation March 25 at the third annual [Black Women’s History and Culture Forum](#), presented by TCU’s Comparative Race & Ethnic Studies and Women & Gender Studies.

April 28 ~ Sportswriter and novelist Marjorie Herrera Lewis will speak about her historical novel, *When All the Men Were Gone*, at the spring fundraiser of the [American Association of University Women Tarrant County Branch on Tuesday evening, April 28](#). The dinner will be from 6 – 8 p.m. at the UNT Health Science Center, 1000 Montgomery Street in Fort Worth. Tickets are \$40. For information or to make reservations, contact Emelia Hoefle at eme-lia1301@gmail.com.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

We are the League of Women Voters of Tarrant County (LWVTC), one of the hundreds of local Leagues across the nation whose members — men and women — are committed to Making Democracy Work.

Our nonpartisan political organization encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. LWV does NOT support or oppose any political party or any candidate. Your membership automatically enrolls you in LWV-Texas and LWVUS at no additional cost and provides publications from all three.

Mail your membership application, dues, and contributions to:

LWVTC, P. O. Box 100175, Fort Worth, TX 76185 or enroll online at <http://lwtarrantcounty.org/join.html>.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Basic Membership:

- \$75/yr **Regular** full voting member
- \$115/yr **Family** (two members in one household)
- \$5/yr **Student**

Or consider one of the following:

Supporting Membership:

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

THE VOTER NEWSLETTER BY U.S. MAIL

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

Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Address: _____ City/Zip: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Mobile) _____

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

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

March

Wednesday, March 11, 5:45 p.m. ~ Gala/Fundraising Committee meeting, Cat City Grill

Week of March 16 ~ Unit Meetings — Bring Your Own Issue

Monday, March 16 ~ Arlington unit meeting, Fielder Museum, 1616 W. Abram in Arlington. For more information, contact Jeanne Culver at 817-496-5534.

Tuesday, March /17 @ 6:45 p.m. ~ Northeast Tarrant County/Mid-Cities unit meeting, Barnes and Noble bookstore in the Shops of NE Mall, on Melbourne Road next to Best Buy. For more information, contact Penny Clowers at 817-834-7755.

Wednesday, March 18, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. ~ Voter Registration at UT Arlington. Volunteer Deputy Registrars will staff up to 5 tables across campus. To volunteer, go to <https://signup.com/go/WUgzyMJ>

Thursday, March 19, noon ~ Fort Worth Downtown Lunch unit meeting, Trinity Terrace, 1600 Texas Street. Meeting begins at noon in the Sunroom on the ground floor. Members who wish to purchase lunch in the Bistro across the hall should arrive at 11:30. Brownbag lunches are also welcome. For information, contact Reed Bilz at 817-292-7974.

Thursday, March 19, 6 p.m. ~ Fort Worth Evening unit meeting, La Madeleine restaurant, corner of Hulen Street and I-820. For further information, contact Mike Baldwin at 817-249-2193.

Friday, March 20, 5:30–9 p.m. ~ LWV Tarrant County Gala for Nineteenth Amendment Centennial, Ridglea Country Club (see page 2). **Tickets are on sale now.**

Monday, March 23, 11 a.m. ~ Monday Matinee; Arlington Unitarian Universalist Church, 2001 California Lane, Arlington 76013. Bring a sack lunch and a friend.

Tuesday, March 24, 3-6:30 p.m.~ Voter Registration at TCU. Volunteer Deputy Registrars will staff registration tables at the university's Suffrage & Voting Rights presentation. To volunteer, go to <https://signup.com/go/WUgzyMJ>

April

Thursday, April 2 ~ Last Day to Register to Vote in local elections

Friday-Sunday, April 17-19 ~ LWV Texas Convention, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Austin

April 20-28 ~ Early Voting in local elections

May

May 2, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. ~ Local Elections

May 9, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. ~ LWV Tarrant County Annual Meeting, brunch at Ridglea Country Club

May 26 ~ Run-off Election for party primaries