



2018 - 2019

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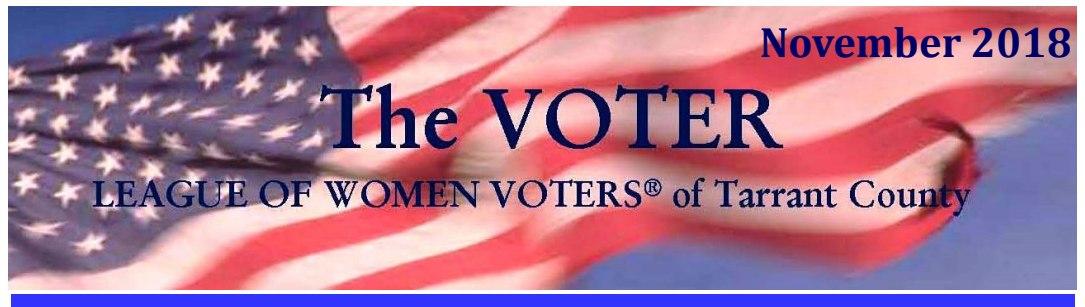
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www.lwvtarrantcounty.org

Facebook

www.facebook.com/LWVofTarrantCo
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The mission of the League of Women Voters is to encourage informed and active participation in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

President's Message



Thanksgiving is upon us, and it is one of my favorite holidays. I think Thanksgiving brings out the best in people when they take time to reflect on important relationships and gifts in their lives.

One of the best examples of the expression of thankfulness happens each election, and I never get tired of it. Women from all around the Worcester area of New York cast their ballots, collect their "I Voted" sticker and make the pilgrimage to Mount Hope Cemetery to place their sticker on the gravestone of Susan B. Anthony. I have a good friend who has a real problem with this because she feels like it is disrespectful to a gravesite. I would agree that maybe the permanent red lipstick kiss on the stone is pushing it. However, my emotions are a lot more in line with the pilgrims. On election day the cemetery is full of people, and many wait in line see her grave. The cemetery puts out additional boards during elections that have higher voter turnout to handle the sheer volume.

What a celebration of overwhelming thankfulness for a life dedicated to the pursuit of equality and justice with unwavering persistence. Susan B Anthony would not get to see the passage of the 19th -amendment and the fruits of her labor. I get choked up every time I think -about all the ways in which I benefit from all of the hard work that women -before me have put in to make sure my voice is heard.

I hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving full of food, family and friends. When you are busy thinking of all that there is to be thankful for, give a little thought to our suffragette sisters.

Sincerely,

Encourage your friends, family and colleagues to visit us at - WWW.LWVTARRANTCOUNTY.ORG

Remind your friends, family and colleagues to LIKE us at - WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LWVFTARRANTCO



**It is with the heaviest of hearts that the board announces the passing of two members:
Georgia Kidwell on November 2 and Jim Atkinson on October 16**



Our dear friend Georgia Kidwell had recently moved into her daughter's home in El Paso and passed away surrounded by her family. Georgia was a member of the league for almost 50 years. Georgia's granddaughter, Savannah Pine writes, "She was an incredible woman. As she demonstrated through her work with Rotary, American Association of University Women, the City of Hurst, and League of Women Voters (to name a few of her many associations), and also through instilling the importance of women's rights and voting rights for everyone in my mom, Sydney, Jackson, and me." Georgia has been a rock for our organization, serving on both the Tarrant County and state board of

directors. She had a lot of influence with getting the JPS School-Based Health Care facilities established. The health care facility on Pipeline Road in Euless, located on the campus of the HEBISD Central Junior High School, was named for Georgia Kidwell.

There will be a requiem mass honoring the life of Georgia Kidwell at 10:00am, Monday, November 26, 2018 at St. Vincent's Cathedral Church at 1300 Forest Ridge Dr, Bedford, TX 76022. Reception to follow at the church. Condolence cards can be sent to Georgia's daughter:

Susan Pine
837 Forrest Willow Circle
El Paso, TX 79922



James W. "Jim" Atkinson was born Sept. 3, 1931, in Columbia, Mo., and died Tuesday, Oct. 16, 2018. In 1961 Jim moved from Kansas City to Fort Worth working for Retail Credit Co. and later became director of personnel for Pangburn Co. Retirement led to work as a counselor for a prison release program and as a police consultant. An alumnus of the University of Missouri and Texas Christian University, Jim was president of the Missouri Valley Graduate Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity, and a lay minister at Trinity Episcopal Church for 20 years. Active in Boy Scouts for 35 years, Jim served as cub master of Pack 50, scoutmaster of Troop 40, and on the Longhorn Council executive board.

In the community, he was active with Habitat for Humanity and Code Blue, and a founder of the Foster Park Neighborhood Association, director of the Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association, a board member of AARP Chapter 4116, on the Salvation Army advisory board and president of the Fort Worth Human Resource Association. Along with Judy Wood, he was active in the League of Women Voters, Archeological Society, Civil War Roundtable and Kimball, Modern and Carter Art museums. A devoted explorer, he hiked the Ozarks, mountains of New Mexico and Colorado, Chisos and Big Bend, and was certified for ascending Snee Berg in the Austrian Alps. Jim was a Marine Corps officer candidate when Korean combat ended. He authored "The Soldiers Chronology" and was a member of the Marine Corps Historical Society. He and Judy wrote "Lives of Texas Brick and Their Makers" and "Fort Worth's Huge Deal: Unwinding Westside's Twisted Legend." Jim is survived by Judy (nee Wood), "his everything"; four of his five children, Judy's son, Scott; six grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and a godson.

Condolence cards can be sent to:

Judy Wood
3913 Willow Way Road
Fort Worth, TX 76133



In Memorium

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

REMINISCENCES OF PAST PRESIDENTS

A PARTIAL HISTORY OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TARRANT COUNTY

Georgia Kidwell, President, 1979-1980

“The goal of Participation-Enthusiasm-Promotion set the tone for a busy year of League activities during my presidency.

Culminating a year’s work of planning, in October was the International Year of the Child Workshop, “The Rights of the Child”. One hundred forty-five people attended, twelve organizations were supporting sponsors. The various rights of the child were topics of workshops. Valuable contacts and networking among the various organizations resulted. Rachel Gooch and Virginia Sloan chaired this very successful event.

League self-evaluation study was done with recommendations for future planning given by the board. The results were a good picture of how our members perceive the League. Other Leagues in Texas were interested in our evaluation efforts.

In March, we celebrated the LWV 60th Anniversary. Judge Mike Moncrief declared the week of March 10th as LWV Week and presented the League a proclamation from the Tarrant County Commissioners Court. March 16 was the big 60th Birthday Event at the Livestock Exchange Building on the historic Northside. A book of memories was collected and given to the League. A scrapbook of early local League activities was presented to the Tarrant County Historical Commission. Nikki Hatley chaired this event, which brought over 100 League members, friends, local elected officials and supporters together to celebrate.

Voter Service activities were foremost in the spring. Many candidate forums were held. The Hurst City Council forum was broadcast on Cable TV, a first for our League. Mary Strom, Voter Service Chair, was busy preparing the guides for the local elections and the primary election. For the first time, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram agreed to publish the guides. This was something our League had been wanting to have done for years, so we were very excited to have it become a reality.

In March, a “Drive for Conservation” was put on by Atlantic Richfield Corporation and sponsored by the League with several other organizations and the City of Fort Worth. The display was outside the federal building where many people could see and learn how to conserve gasoline when driving their cars.

An ad hoc committee was formed at the request of Arlington League members to explore the possibility of forming their own League. Joyce Morgan chaired this committee and the subsequent transition committee.

Marty Kissinger, President-Elect, and I went to Washington, D.C. for the LWV National Convention. A highlight of the event was the appearance of President Jimmy Carter.

It was a busy and exciting year! I believe we reached our goal of Participation-Enthusiasm-Promotion. Although not everything we hoped for was accomplished, many things we never realized were accomplished.”

Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, December 9th - Christmas Party at Dawn Ellison's, 2-4 p.m., 500 Throckmorton Street, Apartment 2612.. Let’s gather at Dawn’s apartment in The Tower for a purely social holiday get-together. No homework required except to bring your holiday cheer. The board will provide refreshments.



Saturday, January 5th - Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training. All of the volunteer deputy registrar badges expire December 31st this year and must be renewed for 2019-20. We will be partnering with the Tarrant County Elections Administration to train new volunteers and renew current volunteers.

Friday, February 15th - League of Women Voters 100 year anniversary luncheon. Details to come soon



LWVTC Administrative Assistant Job Posting

Doris Sawey is retiring as office administrator at the end of November. The board has formed a hiring committee to look for a new administrative assistant. This committee includes Nancy Stevens, Mike Baldwin, and Dawn Ellison. Please contact the League office by email at funddevelopment@lwvtarrantcounty.org or call at 817-348-8683 if you are interested in this position or if you have a recommendation. Board members will be filtering in and out of the office, shadowing Doris so that we can make this transition as easy as possible. See the attached [job description](#) for details about the position.

Skills and Competencies:

- Computer proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, Publisher, Adobe Pro, QuickBooks and other programs
- Comfortable working in a single-person, non-profit environment
- Able to be diplomatic with the public and League volunteers, members, and donors, and to work with variety of personalities
- Flexibility to work on a variety of concurrent projects
- Initiative and judgment in determining which issues need to be referred to a League officer.

Board Member Needed - Please Help!

We still need a member to serve as our Vice President of Program. This person would be a member of the board and organize the unit topics materials for the remaining unit meetings. Please email one of the members of our nominating committee:

Carol Cordell carolcordell@sbcglobal.net or Nancy Stevens kenandnan@sbcglobal.net

Calling on Volunteers: Fundraising Committee

The Fundraising Committee is hard at work on two fundraisers over the next few months, but we can always use more help, from event organization to rounding up silent auction items to contacting potential donors.

If you are willing to serve, please email Nancy Stevens at funddevelopment@lwvtarrantcounty.org or call the office at 817-348-8683.

Calling on Volunteers: Budget Evaluation Committee

The board has called on volunteers who have expertise in financial management to work together to do a hot wash of our League's budget and finances to make sure we are maximizing our funds the best we can. If you are willing to serve, please email Doris at lwvtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net or call the office at 817-348-8683 so you can be put on the list. This group does not have a set meeting date or time which will be dependent on the volunteer's availability and when the League office is open. The League office is open on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8am-12pm. Recommendations will be communicated to the board.



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

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

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

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

As we begin a new year of Unit meetings, it is good to remind ourselves that LWV is a non-partisan organization. Our conversations need to be about the issues and not take on a partisan tone.

Many people feel like issues are partisan because political parties have become the champions for their point of view on that issue. Please remember that this is not how the LWV operates. League members do expensive study on a topic and only when there is a consensus reached do we publish a stance on an issue. This enables us to then advocate/lobby for our position on that issue.

For example, the League has this position on public education funding:

The League of Women Voters of Texas supports a school finance system that provides taxpayer equity and an equitable distribution of funds to ensure that all Texas school children receive a high-quality education.

If we feel like this is not happening then we can advocate/lobby for our position. Without this position we cannot speak about it as an organization. Some politicians have taken a stance on an issue but that does not make that issue partisan and those politicians do not affect our stance as a League.

If you want to review our National, State and Local stance on issues and please do so by clicking the links below:

National League Stance on Issues: https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/impact_on_issues_2016-2018_positions_in_brief.pdf

Texas League Stance on Issues: <https://my.lwv.org/texas/positions>

Tarrant County Stance on Issues: http://www.lwvtarrantcounty.org/files/lwvtc_local_program_2018_-_2019.pdf

Leslee Barnes



Unit Topics for this year

November 2018 - Homelessness in Tarrant County

December 2018- No Unit meetings – enjoy the holidays

January 2019 - Immigration

February 2019 - Gun Control/Public Safety

March 2019 - ERA / Women's Services

April 2019 - Environment – (Hazardous materials in and traveling through Tarrant County)

May 2019- No Unit meetings – Plan to attend the Annual Meeting at Diamond Oaks on May 21.

League Members Select 2019 Priority Issues- for LWV Texas

The three issues that received the most votes from members are:

- 1) Voting Rights/Election Laws
- 2) Public School Finance
- 3) Women's Health

Donate!

Thank you to all who donated to our North Texas Giving Day fundraiser. We received donations from 35 people amounting to over \$4,440. This is a great start to our goal of \$15,000. We only have \$10,560 left to raise to make it through our fiscal year.

HOWEVER!

With our present contributions, we can keep operations going until January 1, 2019. So please keep the League in mind when making your end of year donations. All donations made to LWV TEF are tax deductible.

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

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2018 CALENDAR

November 2018 ~ Units Topic - Homeless in Tarrant County - [See links to Resources on page 3](#)

November 15 ~ Fort Worth Downtown Lunch Unit; **NOON**, Trinity Terrace, 1600 Texas Street; Blue Spire Room, Reservations suggested but not required. Lunch is optional, cost is \$16.payable by cash or check made out to Marjorie Montgomery only. Call Marjorie Montgomery, 817-885-8372 for reservation.

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

November 19 ~ Arlington Area Unit; **7 PM**, Fielder Museum, 1616 W Abram, Arlington.

November 20 ~ NE/Mid-Cities Unit Meeting; **7 PM**, Barnes & Noble in the Shops at NE Mall; Melbourne Rd. next to Best Buy; Reservations suggested. Call Carolyn Kitchens, 817-312-6872, for information

November 20 ~ Thanksgiving

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

December 2018 ~ No Unit Meetings, no Board meeting

December 9 ~ Christmas Party at Dawn Ellison's, 2-4 p.m., 500 Throckmorton Street, Apartment 2612.. Let's gather at Dawn's apartment in The Tower for a purely social holiday get-together. Reservations are required for admittance to the tower. RSVP to (703) 517-6471 or dellison321@gmail.com. Bring your holiday cheer; the Board will provide refreshments.

Enjoy the holidays with your family and friends



Welcome New LWV-TC members:

Laura Dyson, Patricia Huston

Thanks to renewing LWV-TC members:

Mike Baldwin, Reed Bilz, Meredith Edwards-Cornwall, Jim Fletcher, Ruthann Geer, Linda Hanratty & Bob Vann, Ann Price, Ann Smith, Cathy Stein, Nancy Stevens, Ann Stevenson, Mark & Randi Thistlethwaite, and Pamela Wright