



November 2019

The VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® of Tarrant County

2019-2020

LWV-TC
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Many thanks to our 2019 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.

Co-Presidents' Message

It has been a busy autumn for the League, with voter registration activities and volunteer deputy registrar training in September, a Hot Topics luncheon with the deputy elections administrator and League testimony before the redistricting hearing commission in Fort Worth in October, events recognizing the League's hundredth anniversary at the state and local level in October, and voter education about the November 5 election. Units and committees are still busy discussing issues and planning for 2020, though we will pause to catch our breath toward the end of December. We hope that many members will continue to spend some time with the League before we bid farewell to 2019.

The **November unit meetings will consider the 2020 census**: why it matters, what the finalized census will contain, and how we can help to make the census as complete and accurate as possible. Background materials for unit discussions were emailed to all members last week, and for those who missed it, a summary of the materials and discussion questions is included with this issue of the Voter. November unit meetings are also the place for members to propose studies and actions that they would like the state League to take up at the April 2020 state convention.

Though units do not meet in December, our committees will continue their work, in preparation for events early in the new year. **Linda Hanratty and the environmental committee** are working on the first of three planned community meetings for spring, and **Vickey Ward and the fundraising committee** need more volunteers as we prepare for our Nineteenth Amendment Gala on March 20, 2020. Our **Voter Services Vice Presidents, Erin Merkel and Nancy Kirkland**, need volunteers to serve as candidate wranglers who will each work with a small group of candidates to gather information for Vote411 prior to the March primaries, city and school board elections in May, and national, state, and county elections in November 2020. We need also need volunteers to serve on the Budget and Nominations committees and an additional person to assist with a biennial audit of our finances; all of these committees should be in place before the new year so they can begin work in January. If you can spare a few hours to work on any of these activities, please contact the appropriate committee chair, your co-presidents, or Sandy at the League office (lwvtarrant@gmail.com).

We also will make some time for fun. Peggy Hendon has offered her home for a **holiday open house on December 15** from 2-5 p.m. Please put this on your calendar and check email early in December for more details. We hope many members can join us to celebrate an active 2019.

November Unit Meetings Topic: The 2020 Census

The main topic for November unit meetings is the 2020 census. All members should have received a recent email with resources to review prior to unit meetings, and these resources are also included as an attachment to this Voter. There has been much discussion of what might be included in the census. Unfortunately, Texas is one of the states that has made no statewide provision to promote the census and ensure an accurate population count. Though demographers believe that population growth in Texas could give the state three or even four additional representatives in Congress, that outcome depends on an accurate census that counts not only the easy-to-find populations living in homes and apartment complexes, but also those harder-to-count populations in shared housing or mobile housing or with no fixed address. The census is also the data resource for distribution of federal dollars back to the states, so an undercount on the census would affect the state's share of federal funding for education, health infrastructure, and other federal programs.

Some areas for unit discussion include:

1. Do you feel that the census form will provide adequate information to school districts, businesses, and political entities for future planning?
2. Could the ability to complete the census online exacerbate the undercounting of certain populations?
3. Are there any actions that can be taken by individuals or your unit that would help to ensure a complete census count?

Units to Discuss State Program Planning in November

LWV Texas has asked for input from local Leagues no later than December 15 concerning State Program Planning. This is the grassroots process for recommending and selecting the governmental issues that need action, study, updating, or concurrence. November unit meetings are our chance to propose those issues we would like the state League to take up in 2020-21. In proposing issues that LWVTX should be prepared to address in the near future, please consider:

- Do current LWVTX program positions allow the League to take action at the state level on those issues? (Current program positions can be found at <https://my.lwv.org/texas/positions>)
- Is there a need to adopt a new state position? (This could involve proposing a study; see <https://my.lwv.org/texas/studies> for an explanation of the study process.)
- Is there a need to update or amend a current position?

If your unit wishes to address an issue, please include that information in your unit report. One recommendation has already emerged from the September Unit Meeting reports: that, as part of their preparation for the 2021 legislative session, the State League should follow up on the provisions of HR 4181 that may have an impact on the transparency of the legislative process. LWVTC will submit this recommendation as part of our State Program Planning submission.

Volunteers Needed for the 2020 Election Season!

The 2020 March Primary is closing in fast. The deadline for candidate filings to appear on the ballot is December 9. **Candidate Wranglers** are a big part of getting all the information required for VOTE411. **Please email Erin Merkel at emerkel.lwv@gmail.com and let her know by December 6th if you are interested in helping with any of the following activities:**

- Gathering candidate and contact data from candidate filings, websites, candidates, etc.
- Contacting candidates to follow up on completing their questionnaires.
- Data entry in Excel and/or formatting in Word.

Let's work together to make VOTE411 a successful and complete resource for voters in 2020!

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 20, 2020



TAKE YOUR PLACE IN HISTORY

(SOME MIGHT SAY HERSTORY)

at our 19th Amendment Centennial Gala

Please mark you calendars for a gala evening celebrating the centennial of women gaining full voting rights in the United States. The Tarrant County League has reserved the ballroom of Ridglea Country Club and has invited the Tarrant County Democratic and Republican party chairs to nominate elected women officials for our first-ever Democracy Star awards. This will be a nonpartisan event where we agree to put aside politics and political differences to recognize the contributions of six women elected officials (three Republicans and three Democrats) who have served Tarrant County and Texas over the years.

Volunteers Needed! (Something For Everyone)

Audit/Financial Review Committee

Member Edie Jones, former treasurer for LWV Tarrant County and LWV Texas, has agreed to complete a review of LWVTC finances over the last two years. She will recruit a second seasoned League member to participate, and Dawn Ellison is looking for a third participant who has League and financial experience who can learn the financial review process. If anyone would like to volunteer, or knows a League member who might be willing to serve, please contact Dawn Ellison at lwvtarrant@gmail.com.

Thank you to two off -Board members who stepped forward to help the Fundraising Committee prepare and send out sponsor solicitation letters. Meredith Edwards-Cornwall, new unit leader for the Mid-cities Unit, designed an envelope sticker intended to encourage recipients to open the envelope. New member Peggy Harwood joined Sandy, Nancy and Dawn in assembling the first 85 Sponsor letters. Thanks to Meredith & Peggy!

Fundraising Committee Needs Volunteers

The Fundraising Committee still needs volunteers for the many activities involved in making our March 20 event a big success. Donations are needed for a live auction and a silent auction, and we will need many hands for the actual event, from managing the audio-visuals to creating printed programs to working with the honorees and decorating the venue. We have sent out a first round of invitations to potential sponsors, but welcome additional suggestions for individuals, businesses and organizations that might be willing to sponsor the event. This is the League's biggest fundraiser in a decade, and its success will put us on a firmer financial footing. If you can help with any part of the event, please email fundraising chair Vickey Ward at vickeyward54@swbell.com. Additional committee members are also welcome to attend our twice-monthly meetings (see calendar for dates and location).

Off-Board Members Needed for Nominations and Budget Committees

We had no volunteers for the Nominations Committee at our last Annual Meeting, but this is a vital committee that we cannot let slide. The Nominations Committee needs at least two non-Board members to help us recruit new officers for 2020-21. Anyone who attends unit meetings would be a good candidate for this committee.

The Budget Committee also needs non-Board members to help develop our budget for 2020-21. No special financial expertise is needed for this committee, just a willingness to help set financial priorities for the League.

Beyond LWV Tarrant

LWV Texas celebrated the 100th anniversary of its founding on October 19 with a luncheon in San Antonio at the St. Anthony Hotel, which was the site of the first LWV Texas convention. Among the attendees from LWV Tarrant County were Vice-Presidents Peggy Hendon and Erin Merkel, past presidents Linda Pavlik, Kate Lattimore Norris, and Linda Hanratty, co-presidents Dawn Ellison and Nancy Stevens, and former LWV Texas president Ruthann Geer, as well as members Bob Vann, Lon Burnam, and new member Donna Moore.

Members of the Tarrant County League of Women Voters (and two spouses) also purchased a table at the **Tarrant County NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet** on October 25. The guest speaker was former attorney general Eric Holder, and a number of local individuals were recognized for their work over the years.

Commissioner Devan Allen, the newest county commissioner and the only woman serving in Tarrant County Commissioners Court, held an open house on Saturday, November 16, at her offices in the Arlington sub-courthouse. Erin Merkel, Cathy Stein and Grace Darling, and Nancy Stevens attended to meet the commissioner and her staff.

LWV Tarrant County Recognized at Commissioners Court



On October 29, County Commissioner Devan Allen presented the League of Women Voters of Tarrant County with a resolution honoring the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. Peggy Hendon, Vice-President for Organization, accepted the award for the League and gave a brief talk about the League's long history of educating and registering voters in Tarrant County. Board member Carol Cordell also attended. The Resolution is on display at the League office. (Please stop by to admire it.)

Welcome New LWV-TC members:

Emily Lewis, Sharon Richey, Patricia Caldwell, Sandra Price, and welcome back Beth Wild

Have you been meaning to renew your membership but keep putting it off? Please do so by December 31 to avoid being removed from our 2020 member roster. We pay PMP or per member payments (i.e., state and national dues) based on our membership as of January 1. Since 2/3 of your annual dues to LWVTC go to the state and national League and we must pay those whether you actually pay your dues or not, we need to clear non-renewing members from our roster by December 31. If you are not sure of your renewal status or need to make payment arrangements, please email lwvtarrant@gmail.com to check. If you have already gotten a reminder or two, please act on it promptly. We would hate to lose you!

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

11/18, 5:45 p.m. ~ Fundraising Committee/Gala planning meeting, Cat City Grill

11/18-21 — Unit Meetings. Topic: Preparing for the 2020 Census and State Program Planning

Monday, 11/18 @ 7 p.m. ~ Arlington unit meeting, Fielder Museum, 1616 W. Abram in Arlington. For more information, contact Jeanne Culver at 817-496-5534.

Tuesday, 11/19 @ 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.

Thursday, 11/21, noon ~ Fort Worth Downtown Lunch unit meeting, noon, 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 Christie Campbell, 817-732-0556.

Thursday, 11/21, 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 or Nancy Stevens at 817-637-9524.

Monday, 11/25, 11 a.m. ~ Monday Matinee; Arlington Unitarian Universalist Church, 2001 California Lane, Arlington 76013. Bring a sack lunch and a friend.

Monday 11/25 and Tuesday 11/26 ~ League office is open from 8:30—2:30.

Wednesday, 11/27 and Thursday, 11/28 ~ League office closed

December

No Unit or Board meetings; regular office hours (T W Th, 8:30-12:30) resume until Christmas week

Monday, 12/2, 5:45 p.m. ~ Gala planning/Fundraising committee meeting, Cat City Grill. Members are welcome to join the committee for this important fundraiser.

12/9 ~ Primary candidate filing deadline; our work begins

Sunday, 12/15, 2-5 p.m. ~ League holiday party (jointly with AAUW) at Peggy Hendon's home, 4508 Ridge North Rd., Fort Worth 76126

And in 2020

Wednesday, January 8, 5:45 p.m. ~ Fundraising Committee meeting, Cat City Grill

Monday, January 13, 6 p.m. ~ Board Meeting, Cat City Grill

Thursday, January 16-Tuesday, January 21 ~ Unit Meetings

Wednesday, January 22 (tentative) ~ Hearing by Texas House Redistricting Committee, Arlington