



2018 - 2019

LWV-TC

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October 2018

# The VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® of Tarrant County

*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



We've had a busy month at the League. What an amazing push by all Volunteer Deputy Registrars in the area to get as many people registered to vote as possible. Now comes the hard part, encouraging people to do their homework and get out to the polls. As we studied in our unit meetings last month, voter turnout is extremely low in Texas. When you open up your Voter's Guide, you will also see another related trend.

We appreciated the many candidates who fully participate in the democratic process. Unfortunately, there are some candidates that refuse to participate in voter education activities at the state and local levels.

When candidates refuse to participate in opportunities to help their future constituents learn more about their views and their ideas for the future of their local communities and Texas, this is a huge loss for Texas voters. This is a consistent trend that Leagues all over the state are experiencing.

Research conducted on voter behavior and participation shows that not only does the public expect candidates to participate in voter education activities, but also, that voters are more likely to vote when they know who the candidates are and where they stand on the issues. So when candidates choose not to participate, it's the voters that lose and our democracy that is harmed.

League members and voters can support democracy in Texas by encouraging candidates to reply to the League's Voters Guide questions and participate in debates and forums. I want to encourage all League members to support our democracy and take action by contacting candidates by phone, email or over social media. There is still time for candidates to respond to our nonpartisan online Voters Guide available at [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org).

*Now to another piece of Tarrant County League news. I would like to express my utmost gratitude to Doris Sawey, our Administrative Assistant. Doris has submitted her resignation so that she can take better care of herself. Her last day in our office will be November 30. The board and I wish her well. Her skills have been so valuable to the League and she will be hard to replace. Please send her well-wishes and/or stop by the office to express your appreciation.*

Sincerely,

## LWVTC Administrative Assistant Job Posting

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 [lwvtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net) 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.

[\[LWVTC Administrative Job Description\]](#)

### Required 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.
- ◆ Have the ability to be diplomatic with the public and League volunteers, members, and donors.
- ◆ Ability to work with variety of personalities.
- ◆ Ability to accept guidance and supervision.
- ◆ Flexibility to work on a variety of concurrent projects.
- ◆ Initiative and judgment in determining which issues need to be referred to a League officer.

## Calling on Volunteers: Fundraising Committee

As most of you read in our October Voter, the League will run out of funds in January 2019. We are calling on any member who is willing to serve on the Fundraising Committee. If you are willing to serve, please email Doris at [lwvtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwvtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net) or call the office at 817-348-8683 so you can be put on the list. This group is scheduled to meet on November 8, 2019 at 5:30pm at the conference room of our office building. Fundraising recommendation will be presented to the board on Monday, November 12, 2018.

For more information on the fundraising committee meeting, see below:

Initial Planning Meeting	Presentation of Recommendations to the Board
<p><b>Event:</b> Fundraising Committee Meeting</p> <p><b>Place:</b> 5608 Malvey Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room Fort Worth, TX 76107</p> <p><b>Date:</b> Thursday, November 8, 2018</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 5:30pm</p>	<p><b>Event:</b> Presentation by Fundraising Committee to the Board</p> <p><b>Place:</b> 5608 Malvey Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room Fort Worth, TX 76107</p> <p><b>Date:</b> Monday, November 12, 2018</p> <p><b>Time:</b> 5:30pm</p>

## 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](mailto: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. League office is open on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8am-12pm. Recommendations will be communicated to the board.

### Wanted - Please Help!

We are still in need of 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 unit meetings. Please email one of the members of our nominating committee, either:

Nancy Stevens [kenandnan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kenandnan@sbcglobal.net) or Carol Cordell [carolcordell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolcordell@sbcglobal.net)

Because there are many misconceptions about homeless, we will start with a conversation about the basics. These questions may seem obvious, but you would be surprised. These questions are worth reconsidering and discussing. Please take time to look at all three of the websites within these set of questions as you prepare for the November unit meeting.

### Questions

- 2) What experiences have you had with homelessness?

**This site responds to questions 2-8 questions:**

**<http://homelesshub.ca/resource/homelessness-questions-answers>**

- 2) Different types of homelessness:
- *Absolute Homelessness*
  - *Concealed Homelessness*
  - *At risk of Homelessness*
- 3) Why does homelessness generate so much debate and confusion?
- 4) Isn't homelessness a mental health and substance use problem?
- *Substance Use*
  - *Mental Health*
- 5) Who are people who are homeless?
- 6) Does welfare prevent people from becoming homeless?
- 7) What is the health status of people who do not have housing?
- 8) Don't some people choose to be homeless?

**This site responds to question 9:**

**[Study: Homeless women in Fort Worth frequently victims of physical, sexual violence](#)**

- 9) How do women experience homelessness differently than men?

**Finally, please spend time on this website:**

**[Tarrant County Homeless Coalition](#)**

**As you look through the tab that says "Help", think about what it would be like to be searching for services for yourself. <http://ahomewithhope.org/help/>**

- 10) What thoughts and feelings would you be experiencing if you were needing to use this site for yourself?

**For questions 11-12, look through the information on the tab that says "Education." <http://ahomewithhope.org/education/>**

- 11) How do we, as a nation, end homelessness?
- 12) What can we do to help in our community?

The attached document outlines many of these readings. Click the [link](#) here to view the document on you web browser. This document is also available in the [Units](#) portion of our website.

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](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](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.

**Donate!**

Thank you to all of the people 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.

## Responses to Questions asked at September Unit Meetings

The topic in September was Promoting Voting. Thanks to our Mid-Cities for providing the following responses:

Question 1: Does the information on the state league's webpage cover promotion of voting adequately and effectively?

About half the group had visited the web site: <https://my.lwv.org/texas/get-out-vote-0>

Those who did though it is an extremely valuable resource. It is very thorough and although there is a tremendous amount of information it is very professionally done. Congratulations to the State League!

Question 2: If yes, how? If not, what else is needed or could be better presented?

There were no suggestions on improving it.

Question 3: How can local LWV members, as individuals, best use this information to promote voting locally?

Members should share this web site with friends and other organizations where they are involved. It is a tremendous resource for league members and we should promote it on our website and at Hot Topic Luncheons and whenever members gather, as appropriate. Perhaps at voter registrations?

Question 4: What should LWV Tarrant do as an organization to promote voting locally?

Group focused on ideas for LWVTC to have an impact on increasing voter turnout.

- a. Promote on our web site and however possible the Lyft offer to provide free rides to the poles. A Unit member will research these possibilities
- b. Investigate the possibility of being a partner with the group in South Lake that has run a "Why Vote" event successfully. They would be interested in the League's reputation and for the league they are an approach to those 44% who refuse to vote.
- c. Develop and execute a plan to increase use of the Voters Guide in Tarrant County. Develop an initiative to get sponsors for the purchase of yard signs promoting Vote 411.  
Yard signs can be distributed first to members and as the project expands to strategic neighborhoods and areas of the city. These may be stored in member garages for recurring use.
- d. Consider a postcard party targeting a neighborhood, apartment building, or other such group-inviting them to register and vote. (Example given was an ACLU postcard party where volunteers handwrite messages encouraging ACLU members to vote. The ACLU then addressed the cards and mailed them to their members. (Get Out the Vote Initiative)
- e. Consider having roving vans patriotically decorated circulating the city during early election promoting voting and offering rides to the polls. This would need sponsors.
- f. Be sure all voter registration by League members offer the reminder post cards to be filled out by those we register.



### In Memorium

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



Have you moved or changed your phone number? Please contact the League office at 817-348-8683 or email us at [lwvtarrantcounty@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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>



# 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

# OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2018 CALENDAR

## October 2018 ~ Units Topic - Botanic Gardens - Resources available on the website

- October 15** ~ Arlington Area Unit; **7 PM**  
**October 16** ~ NE/Mid-Cities Unit Meeting; **7 PM**  
**October 18** ~ Fort Worth Downtown Lunch Unit; **NOON**  
**October 18** ~ South/Southwest Dinner Unit; **6 PM**  
**October 22** ~ Monday Matinee; **11 AM**  
**October 22** ~ **November 2** ~ **Early Voting!**  
**October 26** ~ **Last Day to apply to Vote by Mail.** (Received, not Postmarked)



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

- November 2** ~ **Early Voting ends**  
**November 6** ~ **Election Day**  
**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, no VOTER

**Enjoy the holidays with your family and friends**

### Welcome New LWV-TC members:

*Victoria Hartman*

### Thanks to renewing LWV-TC members:

Laura Bergin, Penny Clowers, Marva Easter, Peggy Hendon, Anna Holzer, Doreen Kaszak, Georgia Kidwell, Jim Curts & Margaret Martin, Kathy Mitchell, Mary Catherine Monroe, John & Sandra Nolan and Betty Swaim