



IRVING VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF IRVING

Winter 2012

Vol. 20 Issue 1 ★ Voter Editor Judy Smith 1802 Puritan Dr. Irving TX 75061 (972) 251-3161 (972) 785 - VOTE

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

President's column



Happy New Year and welcome to an exciting year!

Please read and make a note of our upcoming activities listed in the VOTER.

I encourage you to make 2012 the year you get involved, volunteer more, and show your support of the League. We need you and your ideas, energy, wisdom, and creativity.

Do you know how to:

- register new citizens?
- find us on Facebook?
- access VOTE411.org?

Just ask me!

Have you:

- checked out our website lately?
- told all your friends about our website?
- volunteered to register new citizens to vote?
- volunteered to register new citizens to vote?
- volunteered for any League activity?
- invited a friend to a League meeting?
- attended a League meeting?

Food for thought. . . .

What advice do you have for the League?

How can we improve our service to you? What issues concerning city government or education do you think the League should address? Looking forward to our year together.

Mona

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JANUARY 2012

Tuesday 10	Board Meeting LC Association 5 th floor	2 pm
Monday 23	General Meeting on City Infrastructure with focus on SH # 183 in Irving West Library 4444 W. Rochelle Rd Rd.	11:30 am
Friday 27	Overview, quick tips for anyone interested In REGISTERING VOTERS Corner Bakery RSVP Please	10.30 am
Tuesday 31	State of the City Address	

FEBRUARY 2012

Tuesday 14	Board Meeting LC Association 5 th floor	2 pm
TBA	General meeting Learning English in Public Schools/ Immersion - Part 2 Place TBA	7 pm

MARCH 2012

Tuesday 13	Board Meeting LC Association 5 th floor	2 pm
Monday 22	LWV Meeting Environment	11:30 am

All of our meetings are open to the public



We continue to be thrilled to be using the League's Website www.lwvirving.org Check it out for it's a good way to become an educated voter!

If you have a Face Book page be sure to check ours!

UP COMING MEETINGS...



Monday, January 23, 2012 – noon

West Library

444 W. Rochelle Rd. at Esters Road

You are welcome to bring a "Brown bag" lunch.

Bottled water provided

Public is invited!

FOCUS - State Highway 183 Construction Update.

City of Irving Director of Traffic and Transportation Dan Verdral will present information on the status of SH 183, including right-of-way acquisition, the design, as well as the timeline for completion.

No cost but reservations assist with room layout.

You will qualify to for a door prize if RSVP's are made by

Friday, Jan. 20



Friday, January 27, 2012 – 10:30 am

Corner Bakery – 118 E. John Carpenter Freeway
and O'Connor Rd.

Come learn tips on how to **facilitate the Voter registration experience** for new citizens at the United States Immigration and Citizenship Services (USCIS) in Irving. Katherine Homan, Dallas League member, has been working with new citizens for a long time and will provide answers to questions and advice on how to make the process smoother and easier.

You do not need to be a registrar. You will be provided with a quick overview for completing the registration card. The task is easy and the reward of sharing the happiness of the new citizen is uplifting. However because of the number participating (190 one day in November and almost always over 100!), we desperately need more volunteers to distribute the cards and answer questions.

Come have some fun with like-minded friends and learn something new and how to help. Several of our regular volunteers will be there to talk about their experiences, to discuss often-asked questions, and to encourage your participation.

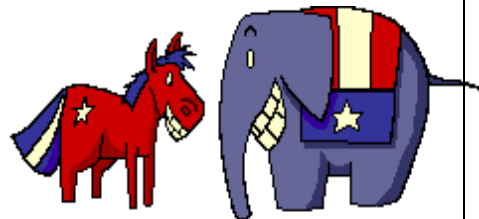
Please respond to Paulette Austin at pauletteaustin@yahoo.com by Wednesday, January 25. (She'll make reservations for space)

Save the Date

2012 STATE OF THE VOTE

A fundraising event

March 14, 2012 – Lunch time



Professors Carl Jillson (SMU), James Riddlesperger (TXU) and Alan Saxe (UTA) will discuss candidates, super pacs, and the division within parties. Don't miss it. Invitations and more information coming soon!

MEETINGS IN REVIEW

"LEARNING ENGLISH IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS"

A meeting series

November 29, 2011

The League presented speakers that addressed the current position of the State of Texas in general as it addresses bilingual learners and bilingual educational programs. While the meeting did not address the Irving Independent School District programs specifically the information presented is what this school district bases their current programs on. In **February the League is planning a program on the use of "immersion" as a means to teach our students.** The date has not been set at this time due to speakers' schedules. Look for future emails on this subject and, of course, it will be posted on our website at lwirving.org. A third meeting in this series is tentatively planned for a panel discussion of the pros and cons of all methods – so stay tuned! The goal of this series is to present information to enable our members and the members of our community to make an informed decision on how to best educate the children in our schools.

At the November 29th meeting, two speakers addressed the education of our English Language Learner Students (ELLS) - Rossana Boyd, Ph.D., the Director of Bilingual/ESL Teacher Certification Programs at the University of Texas, and Hector H. Rivera, Ph.D., the Director of the Center for Child and Community Development at Southern Methodist University. Both presented extensive information on this broad

subject. A copy of their power points can be accessed on the League's website, as well as some preliminary articles on the use of immersion in our schools that have been provided to the League. All have links to other sources of information. And more information will be posted in the future.

Both speakers emphasized that this is not only a state issue, but a national and even a global issue in the world of education. Based on 2008 statistics California has the most *ELLs* and Texas is second. Dr. Boyd focused on the legal history at the Federal level and State level and the legal mandates that all school districts are required to follow. Dr. Rivera addressed the studies that support not only the educational but social value of bilingual education programs.



We know that there are studies contrary to the first point of view and many support sheltered English immersion programs. So watch for further information about a meeting in February on this very important but very complicated subject!

L-R Dr. Hector Rivera, LWV Program VP Janice Carroll and Dr. Rossana Boyd Attending were Paulette Austin, Suzie Beeman, Vanessa Bell, Carol Bell, Gabriel Bach, Janice Carroll, Julie Esstman, Alicia Fernandez-Mott, Debbie Fleck, Irene Jackson, Cynthia Jenkins, Eileen Kensinger, Jan Killen, Dorothy Leibensberger, Carol Little, Michael McPhail, Charles Mott, Betty Miller, Ann Ouzts, Judy Pierson, Genevieve Ramos, Carole Shlipak, Judy and Phil Smith, Lynn Walters, Lely White and Mona Wyatt
DON'T FORGET to Mark your calendar for **February 27** to learn about the other side of the coin.

Janice Carroll – Program VP



December 6, 2011

LEAGUE HOLIDAY PARTY



The event evaluations indicated all those attending wanted to return to the Aloft Hotel and relieve the tensions of the holidays next year.
Party – goers were: Cynthia Jenkins, Paulette Austin and her friend visiting from Paris, Steve and Carol Bell, Janice Carroll, Representative Linda Harper Brown, Eileen and Dave Kensinger, Jan and Byron Killen, Betty and Allan Miller, Estelle and Fred O'Dell, Kathrine Pennington, Anne Pfaff, Kay Schecht, Phil and Judy Smith, Norman Stanton, and Mona Wyatt



League member and former President Norma Stanton was honored on December 20 for her work with DART by naming the entrance to the TRE Equipment Maintenance Facility at Rock Island the *Norma Stanton Way*. She served many years to bring light rail to Irving. Many spoke of her accomplishments such as DART chair Gary Thomas, Representative Linda Harper Brown, DART board member John Danish and Irving Mayor Beth Van Dyne.

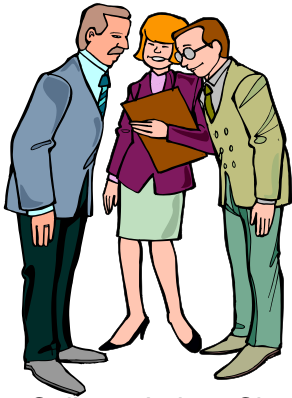


League members in attendance Lely White, Carol Bell, Phil Smith, Jan Killen, Judy Smith



Carole Shlipak and Anne Pfaff. Mona Wyatt,

Michael McPhail, and Eileen Kensinger were there as well.



Where to find Your ELECTED OFFICIALS BROCHURE

The current *Your Elected Officials* are available at the City Hall, all of the Irving Public Libraries, the Heritage Senior Citizens Center, The Greater Irving/Las Colinas Irving Chamber of Commerce and the Las Colinas Association. We have more if anyone would like additional copies or would like them to be made available at other locations. The local brochures will be updated in May and the State and National brochures will be updated in the fall.

Anne Pfaff – YEO Director

News from the State League

Texas Photo ID Requirement: DOJ has until mid-March to decide

Check the state site: <http://www.lwvtexas.org/>



News from the National League

The national League announced the launch of their new website, www.lwv.org on Thursday, December 1.

Remember to Visit your Irving Website

www.lwvirving.org

Voter Service Up-date

By Paulette Austin
Voter Service Director

The Schedule for Swearing-in ceremonies during November and December 2011, at the USCIS in Irving, covered some 14 days. The Irving LWV took part in ceremonies as follows:
* November 3, 7, 10, 14, 17, 21 and 28 covering 165, 190, 110, 103, 138 and 128 candidates respectively.

* December 1, 5, 8, 12, 15 and 19 covering 116, 146, 142, 131, 123 and 133 candidates respectively.

The team extends thanks to Anne Pfaff, Estelle O'dell, Carol Bell, Julie Esstman, and Alicia Fernandez-Mott who volunteered and assisted in explaining the process to newly



To take effect, the Texas law requiring voters to show a photo ID at the polls must receive federal approval. The US Department of Justice has up to 60 days to review data on voters without an acceptable photo ID provided by Texas on January 12 and make a decision. Stay tuned.

LWV-TX August ([click here](#)), November ([click here](#)), and January ([click here](#)) letters to DOJ on voter photo ID.

Explanations of the Texas photo ID requirement in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Basic information ([click here](#)) on voter registration and voting in Texas.

New Primary Date: April 3

Texas primary elections have been delayed until April 3 by agreement of the Democratic and Republican parties and order of the San Antonio District Court. The deadline to register to vote in the primary elections will be March 5. This delay allows time for the Supreme Court to consider the state of Texas objection to interim redistricting maps ordered by the San Antonio court. If the Supreme Court consideration is lengthy, it may not be possible to complete all the actions necessary for elections on April 3 and the primaries may be further delayed.

sworn-in citizens, during the above reporting period.

Voter registration deadline is 30 days prior to each election. With elections scheduled for **April 3, 2012 (Primary Elections); May 12, 2012 (Local elections) and Nov.6, 2012 (General Election)**, efforts are being made to intensify voter registration initiatives.

With regard to the new voter ID law, Texas does not yet have the federal approval required before the law goes into effect.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Members were asked to share how they spent their December holidays. Here are some of their answers:

Jan Killen hosted some people, who they did not know, for Christmas dinner, along with friends they had known a long time. It was very

enjoyable!

Mary Oberlin did the same thing they do every year--eat early, go to 7:00 pm candle light service at PPUMC, come home, open gifts, have a glass of cheer then all the children go home. They also have Christmas dinner, with part family and part friends, especially those friends who will not be with family. This year late afternoon on 25th, they joined their sweet neighbors who have four cats, and played with them for a couple of hours.

Norma Stanton had a very White Christmas week in far northwest of New Mexico. One of her best memories was going to dinner in a horse drawn sleigh in the snow.

Michael McPhail forgot that a New Years Day Party he was invited to started at 2 PM and he showed up early enough to help get the food prepped, set up, and sample the deviled eggs.

Judy and Phil Smith hosted several parties and there were several surprises at a few. The favorite was one during the Teddy Bear Supper. Santa arrived and took requests from the younger family members. The adults felt like kids again.



League MEMBER'S Birthdays

We missed wishing Leaguers who had November and December Birthday's **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

November

6 – Carole Shlipak

7 – Cynthia Faust

8 – Janice Carroll

10 - Brynne Sissom

Carol Bell

11 – Genevieve Ramos

February

9 – Suzie Beeman

19 – Norma Stanton

2 – Gabriel Bach

December

13 - Anne Pfaff

21 –Kathrine Pennington

24 - Lynn Walters

26 – Sarah Kammerer

January

17 – Dagmar Metzler

March

23 – Jan Killen

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



CONGRATULATIONS

Anne and Wayne Pfaff

The Irving Schools Foundation recently presented the Legacy Award (the very first) to League member Anne and her husband Wayne. The presentation took place at the Irving Schools Foundation Inaugural Legacy Gala. Anne, the League is very proud of you and Wayne!

Leaguers

Check this out. You may not want to miss this panel discussion sponsored by OWL – Dallas Chapter (Older Women's League)

"WOMEN RE-INVENTING THEMSELVES IN MID-LIFE"

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

11:30 am until 1:00 pm

The Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd., Dallas, Texas 75219.

The panelists include:

P. Jay Peterson – Retired diplomat, joined the Peace Corps at age 60.
Anne Hoyt – Left her career and opened Wholesome Foods Bakery.
Melinda Folse – Fulfilled her dream of owning and working with horses.

There is no cost for attending the meeting unless you wish to purchase lunch for **\$10**.

CEU's for social workers will be offered (No charge for OWL members/\$5 for non-members).

Please call 214-823-5700 no later than Monday, January 23rd to RSVP and/or order a lunch.

Desserts will be provided by Wholesome Foods Bakery. Melinda Folse will bring her new book to purchase and have autographed.