



# IRVING VOTER

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF IRVING

Fall

2011

vol. 18 Issue 3



Voter Editor Judy Smith

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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.



A Word From Our

President

Dear League friends, Welcome back from what I hope was a refreshing, invigorating summer ready to renew your enthusiasm and excitement for League activities.

What we did on our summer vacation:

- Published our **WEBPAGE - lwvirving.org** – congratulations to Phil Smith!
- Co-sponsored with area Leagues the **Summer Membership Seminar** about attracting younger members (Irving LWV hosted and Greater Irving/Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce provided the meeting place)

--Celebrated **Women's Equality Day** with lunch and a presentation about Carrie Chapman Catt, our heroine and energizer. The Plano/Collin County League performers were wonderful.

Upcoming events:

--**September 24: North Texas Regional Water Forum** at the Irving Central Library. The Irving League is a co-sponsor, along with area Leagues and groups. Please register; see how and details at our new website: **lwvirving.org**

--**October 24 – Consensus Meeting on Water as a Commodity** for League members - details later

--**April 13-15: State LWV Convention in San Antonio.** This will be an exciting and fun opportunity to learn more about the League, meet new friends, and to become energized (more details later).

Here's what you can do now:

- tell others about our website: **lwvirving.org**
- read our website **lwvirving.org** often
- attend League meetings and events
- volunteer for a job, or at least say yes, when asked
- bring a friend to League events
- tell others about the League
- become informed about and involved in local government
- read League (State and US) materials

**And, never forget that we are NONPARTISAN – we never support any candidate or party.**

Best wishes for a great League year,  
Mona

**SEPTEMBER 2011**

Thursday 1	City Council Meeting City Hall	7 pm
Monday, 5	Labor Day	
Tuesday 13	LWV Board Meeting LC Association – 5 <sup>th</sup> floor	2 pm
Monday 19	IISD Meeting Singley Academy Auditorium	7 pm
Wednesday 21	City Council Work Session City Hall	1 pm
Thursday 22	City Council Meeting City Hall	7 pm
Saturday 24	Regional Water Meeting Irving Central Library	1- 4 pm



## INTRODUCING YOUR 2011-12 Board of Directors

**President** – Mona Wyatt  
**Secretary** – Carol Bell  
**Treasurer** – Phil Smith  
**Program VP** – Janice Carroll  
**Observer Corp** – Jan Killen  
 & Alicia Fernandes-Mott  
**Special Projects** – Carole  
 Shlipak  
**Community Relations VP**  
 Kathrine Pennington  
**Community Outreach**  
 Genevieve Ramos  
 Voter Service  
**Voter Guides**- Irene  
 Jackson  
**Candidates Forums**  
 Julie Esstman  
**Voter Registration**  
 Paulette Austin &  
 Genevieve Ramos  
**YEO** – Anne Pfaff  
**Voter Editor** – Judy Smith  
**Organization VP** – Judy Smith  
**Membership** – Kathrine  
 Pennington (Adm.)  
 Lely White – Recruitment  
**Arrangements**  
 Genevieve Ramos  
**Finance Development**  
 Judy Smith – Direct Mail  
 Carol Little - Special Events



Picture (L to R) Mona Wyatt,  
Carol Bell, Julie Esstman, Janice  
Carroll, Judy Smith, Carole  
Shlipak, Paulette Austin, and  
Phil Smith

## INTRODUCING IRVING'S NEW WEBSITE

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, Irving joined the growing number of leagues around the US that provide and maintain a local website. It is a website that provides unbiased, important information to our Irving voters and will assist all voters in finding information quickly and easily about the election process. The site includes: (1) voter information regarding registration, precinct, and poll location; (2) election information including candidates; (3) current office holders for national, state and local offices including school board. The Irving website, <http://www.lwvirving.org>, uses the same structural format that many leagues are now using to provide site continuity and commonality. The site design maximizes the point/click capability to redirect the user to the site responsible for maintaining the information such as the Texas Secretary of State website. The site should become the site-of-choice in the future for anyone needing information concerning the election process.

*Submitted by  
Phil Smith - Webmaster*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NORTH  
TEXAS REGIONAL  
WATER  
MEETING  
September 24, 2011  
Irving Central Library  
It's free but call Fran Morris  
at 214-688-4125 to RSVP



**“Will There Be Enough  
Water in Texas,”** will be  
co-sponsored by six area  
chapters of the League of  
Women Voters of Texas  
and two area groups of the

Sierra Club. It will be held at the Irving  
Central Library, 801 W. Irving Blvd,  
from 1:00-4:30 and is free to the public.

Several distinguished speakers have  
agreed to present information on the  
supplies and delivery of water in our  
region and will answer questions from  
the audience. They include Lewis  
McMahan, a Director of the Texas  
Water Development Board, Tod  
Maurina of the North Texas  
Groundwater Conservation District,  
Denis Qualls of Dallas Water Utilities,  
and Tyson Broad of the Sierra Club. A  
talk on the basics of Texas water law  
will be given by Simone Kiel of Freese and Nichols, a consulting  
firm to the State of Texas.

Mr. McMahan will speak on the role of the Texas Water Development Board, Mr. Maurina will discuss groundwater conservation districts and how they work, Mr. Qualls will cover the

regulations governing water utilities, and Mr. Broad will give the environmental perspective.

In addition several other water professionals will sit on a panel titled, "Are We Ready for a Major Drought?" They include the above speakers and **Todd Reck of Irving Water Utilities** and Linda Christie of the Tarrant Regional Water District. Mary Vogelson of the Region C Water Planning Group of the TWDB will moderate the panel discussion. She also serves as the Water Issue Chair of the League of Women Voters of Texas.

More information can be found at <http://texaswaterforum.org>, including links to the websites of the League of Women Voters of Texas and the Sierra Club. A new publication of the LWV-Texas, "Should Water Be A Commodity?" is available on the lwvtexas.org website. [www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org). A text-only version of the Facts and Issues are posted for those of you who prefer to print that version. It will have links so that you can see the maps and graphs without having to print them. Please feel free to make copies of this important publication to give to your friends and prospective members. It will be an excellent tool to show others the important work we do to increase understanding of major public policy issues. Also additional print copies may be ordered from the

state League office for \$1.00 per copy.

If you have additional questions or comments please contact Janet Imhoff at [janimhoff@tx.rr.com](mailto:janimhoff@tx.rr.com), or Mina Johnson at [minanell@arn.net](mailto:minanell@arn.net).

## OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER CALENDAR

### OCTOBER 2011

Monday 3	IISD Board Meeting Singley AA	7 pm
Wednesday 5	City Council Work Session City Hall	1 pm
Thursday 6	City Council Meeting City Hall	7 pm
<b>Tuesday 11</b>	<b>LWV Board Meeting</b> LC Association – 5 <sup>th</sup> floor	<b>2 pm</b>
Tuesday 11	Last Day to register	
Monday 17	IISD Board Meeting Singley AA	7 pm
Wednesday 19	LWVTX Birthday	
TBA	Early Voting begins for November Election	
Monday 24	First Day to Early Voting	
<b>Monday 24</b>	<b>League Meeting</b> <b>Water Consensus Meeting</b>	<b>7 pm</b>
Wednesday 26	City Council Work Session City Hall	1 pm
Thursday 22	City Council Meeting City Hall	7 pm

### NOVEMBER 2011

<b>Tuesday 8</b>	<b>LWV Board Meeting</b> LC Association – 5 <sup>th</sup> floor	<b>2 pm</b>
Monday 14	IISD Board Meeting Singley AA	7 pm
Wednesday 16	City Council Work Session City Hall	1 pm
Thursday 17	City Council Meeting City Hall	7 pm
<b>Monday 23</b>	<b>LWV Meeting</b> <b>Education</b> Bi Lingual or total emersion?	<b>7 pm</b>

### DECEMBER 2011

Tuesday 6	Annual Holiday Party	7 pm
Wednesday 7	City Council Work Session City Hall	1 pm
Thursday 8	City Council Meeting City Hall	7 pm
Monday 12	IISD Board Meeting Singley AA	7 pm

### To visit the Irving Website

<http://www.lwvirving.org>,



or google  
[www.lwvirving.org](http://www.lwvirving.org)

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## INTRODUCING YOUR OBSERVER CORP



League members **Jan Killen** and **Alicia Fernandez-Mott** will be serving your board by observing Irving's City Council meetings and the Irving Independent School district board meetings.

Jan and Alicia will be the eyes and ears of the League at public meetings. Until this committee grows in numbers, Jan and Alicia can only cover a limited amount of meetings. However due to Irving Television Network and electronic agenda's they will be able to cover enough so that the your League board will be able to determine if any issue discussed falls under a National, state or local study. If so then board is enabled to lobby on that that particular issue.

Participants in this program will limit their role to



observation. They do not speak, testify, or act in any way in support of League positions of issues that may present themselves.

Excellent reports have received this month and your board is watching to determine action.

## MEETINGS, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS IN REVIEW....

### Voter Registration

September 12, 2011

Members continued to provide voter registration service at the Citizenship & Naturalization Center in Irving during the months of June, July and August.

As we perform this function, it has become evident that the majority of these immigrants are convinced that there is something inherently good for the community and for themselves in participating in elections. They recognize the benefits of citizenship and share a sense of duty or obligation to participate in the electoral system of their adopted country.

Our presence at the Swearing-in ceremonies serves to equip citizens with the tools for registering to vote. We provide them with information on requirements such as the need to be registered to vote no less than thirty days before the election in which they may wish to vote; the fact that once registered, voters remain registered as long as they remain qualified; and the need to re-register once they change address.

During the months of June, July and August, representatives from the Irving LWV serviced ceremonies on the following dates:

**June** - June 9 (70 candidates), 10th (119 candidates), 23rd (80 candidates) 24th (80 candidates), and 29th (80 candidates)

**July** - July 11<sup>th</sup> (94 candidates from 35 countries) 14<sup>th</sup> (123 candidates from 36 countries) 28<sup>th</sup> (124 candidates from 42 countries)

**August** - August 4 (97 candidates from 40 countries), 18<sup>th</sup> (124 candidates from 33 countries), 25<sup>th</sup> (123 candidates from 35 countries) 31th (125 candidates from 38 countries)

Every effort is being made to encourage wider participation from League members in this worthwhile exercise. Special thanks are in order to **Phil Smith, Debbie Fleck and Anita Tipping** who helped out during the month of June.

Submitted by  
**Paulette Austin & Genevieve Ramos**  
Voter Registration

**YEO** (Your Elected Officials Brochures) will be distributed throughout the Irving community at such places as the Irving Library, The Senior Citizen's Center, City Hall, Irving Chamber of Commerce, and Las Colinas Association.

Submitted by **Anne Pfaff** – YEO consultant

## VOTER SERVICE -

Up Coming Amendments will be found on Irving's Website <http://www.lwvirving.org>,

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## SUMMER SEMINAR



Genevieve Ramos, Kathrine Pennington, Carol Bell, Janice Carroll, Jill Martinez and Phil Smith were among the many Irving members who attended the Summer Seminars on **June 25, 2011** which also included members of area Leagues. This seminar was held in Irving at the Irving-Las Colinas Chamber of Commerce building and the discussion centered around "Engaging Young Voters"- high school, college, university students, and young working adults from 18-35. We learned about Millennials and highlights of outstanding projects in Texas and across

the nation who have successfully engaged young people in civic life. Irving was one of 3 sites chosen to hold these meetings. Other options for attendance were The Woodland's on June 4 and Austin on July 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Woman's Equality

**Day** August 31, 2011

League members and guest met on August 31, 2011 at Northlake College South Campus to celebrate Woman's Equality Day. **Patty Jantho, Janice Schieffer and Dorie Cranshaw,**



members from the Collin County League of Women Voters gave a fabulous presentation covering the life of Carrie Chapman Catt. The woman's suffrage movement historically dates from 1848, with the first Woman's rights convention held in Seneca Falls, New York. The presentation also covered Carrie Chapman Catt's involvement with the movement from her entry into the movement in 1890 through the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment and founding of the League of Women Voters—both taking place in 1920-91 years ago. The meeting was attended by members **Paulette Austin, Janice Carroll, Helen Chaplin, Debbie Fleck, Jan Killen, Dorothy Leibensberger, Dagmar Metzler, Estele Odell, Kathrine Pennington, Genevieve Ramos, Brynne Sissom, Judy Smith, Norma Stanton, and Mona Wyatt.** Guest included, Representative **Linda Harper-Brown, Jan Dixon, Janet Duaine, Donna Egen, Kathleen Murphy, Madiene Stanton, Mikini Sukura-Hearn and Malerie Weiss.**



## CONGRATULATIONS

To Beth Van Duyne – **First Woman Mayor**

## NEWS FROM THE STATE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

**National Focus** has been:

- Advocacy – Redistricting Plan
- Membership and Leadership
- Observing the UN
- Offers 2 Webinar Opportunities to Voter Service
- Annual Telemarketing Outreach Programs Planned for September 13 - October 15

**State Focus** has been:

- Membership goals
- Program Planning – Consensus on Water on Commodity
- Voter Registration

## WELCOME NEW MEMBER DAGMAR METZLER

And **HAPPY SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**



**Sharon Barbosa-Crain**  
(Sept. 3), **Thomas Burhoe**  
(Sept. 9), **Paulette Austin**  
(Sept. 9) **Jill Martinez**  
(Sept.14), **Anita Tipping-  
Wheeler** (Sept. 14), **Eileen  
Kensinger** (Sept. 21)  
**Estelle O'Dell** (Sept. 24),  
and **Virginia Yates** (Sept.  
30)