



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF RICHARDSON**

Editor: Nancy Wilson

---

# VOTER

---

## CALENDAR

Jan. 8, Wed. 7:00pm LWV-R Board meeting. 300 N. Coit, PM Realty Board Room  
Members are welcome at all Board meetings.

Jan. 24, Fri. Deadline for February VOTER.

Feb. 12, Wed. 6:30pm Finance Drive letter signing  
7:00pm Local Program Planning meeting

Looking ahead:

April 25-27, 2014 LWV-Texas Convention – Austin TX  
June 6-10, 2014 LWVUS Convention – Omni Hotel, Dallas, TX



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Ellen Steger



Happy New Year! I wish only the best for you and your family in 2014.

The beginning of a new calendar year marks the half-way point in the League's fiscal year. Your Richardson League has been busy with lots of activities. See below for a summary of our activities in the first half of our year.

However, our 2013-2014 To-Do List had lots more on it. There's so much more we could do if we had more volunteers. **Is 2014 the year for you to actively participate in Richardson League activities?** Contact me at [president@lwvrichardson.org](mailto:president@lwvrichardson.org) to discuss possibilities.

Upcoming 2014 events that YOU could help with include:

- ✓ an opportunity to work the 2014 LWV Convention in Dallas,
- ✓ March 4, 2014, Primary Elections
- ✓ Forum for May 10, 2014, School board Election (if contested)
- ✓ November 4, 2014, Elections – US, and Texas

"L"

## FINANCE DRIVE

by Brenda Boston, Finance Chairman

The 2014 Finance Drive for the LWV-Richardson is underway. It is time to replenish our bank account again so we can continue the work of the League for the following year.

If you have names of any new prospects for our campaign, please let me know right away ([finance@lwvrichardson.org](mailto:finance@lwvrichardson.org)). Try to think of people or businesses in Richardson that would be interested in supporting the Richardson League's work.



Our letter signing party is on Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the PM Realty Conference Room #220, on the second level of the Compass Bank Building. Refreshments will be served. Finance letters to the community are much more effective with hand written notes from League members, so please try to participate.

Your help will be appreciated. This is truly a team effort.

+++++



### Special Invitation to join a LWV-D study committee working on Methods to Improve Voter Turnout in Local Elections

The League of Women Voters of Dallas is currently working on a Study: Methods to Improve Voter Turnout in Local Elections. The study committee is taking a very comprehensive look at the options, and conducting some interesting original research.

The committee welcomes anyone who would like to join with them as they move forward on this interesting topic. For more information please call or email Barbara Weinstein. Email: [gewwendt@swbell.net](mailto:gewwendt@swbell.net) ; Home phone: 972 661 8452.

+++++

Notes from:  
**LEAGUE PROGRAM:  
STUDY TO ACTION IN TEN STEPS**  
*A Guide to League Study, Consensus, and Concurrence*  
(The full document is at [www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org).)

- League positions are based on study and represent substantial agreement among our members.
- Reaching member agreement on what will become League advocacy positions is the goal of League study and is required before action can be taken.
- Studies take place at all three levels of the League, depending on the level of government capable of making the changes members seek.
- Consensus and concurrence are the two decision-making processes the League uses to reach member agreement. Whichever method is used, it must respect the League’s grassroots structure, nonpartisanship, and the distinction between education and advocacy.

### The Ten Steps

<b>1. Program Planning and Adoption:</b> Be sure there is clear member support for adoption of the study item .....	Page 4
<b>2. Consensus and Concurrence:</b> Have the board approve an appropriate member agreement process .....	8
<b>3. The Study Committee:</b> Open the study process to all members .....	10
<b>4. Writing the Consensus Questions:</b> Develop good consensus questions or concurrence statements .....	14
<b>5. The Facts and Issues publication:</b> Inform members about the study <i>issues</i> .....	15
<b>6. Preparing for Consensus:</b> Inform members about the <i>process</i> for reaching member agreement and provide opportunities to participate .....	17
<b>7. The Consensus Meeting:</b> Create an atmosphere of trust.....	19
<b>8. Determining Consensus:</b> The board will carefully evaluate whether agreement has been reached.....	21
<b>9. After Consensus Is Approved:</b> Maintain records adequate to ensure that future members understand the agreement that was reached .....	23
<b>10. Taking Action:</b> Act to bring about governmental change .....	24
<b>Appendix I: League Principles</b> .....	26
<b>Appendix II: Tips for Conducting Interviews</b> .....	27
<b>Appendix III: Planning a General Meeting or Public Forum</b> .....	28

Note: The VOTER, Vol.53,no.3 (August 2013) contained an article entitled “What is Program? What is a Study? What is Consensus?”



**LWV NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**June 6-10, 2014**

The Local Arrangements Committee is already hard at work recruiting those very important people who will make the Convention in Dallas a success:

***VOLUNTEERS!***

It is not too early to let us know that you will be helping! The Chairs of each committee will be planning trainings as needed and they would like to know who will be participating.

The Volunteer Form (below) shows the positions and times available. Also note that as a volunteer, you will not be paying Convention fees, but you will get a complimentary ticket to the Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> show:

***Red Hot Patriot***  
***Molly Ivins One Woman Show***

**Sign up today!**



*Your Richardson League President, Ellen Steger, is LWV National Convention Sub-Committee Chairman for Microphone Monitors. She would love to fill the microphone monitor positions with Richardson people!*





## Be a LWVUS National Convention Volunteer June 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014

We are asking all the Dallas and surrounding area Local Leagues' members to volunteer for the **2014 National Convention to be held at the Omni Downtown Hotel, 555 South Lamar St., Dallas.**

Volunteers are needed for many different jobs, some behind the scenes, and some on the floor of the convention. Don't miss the chance to be part of this exciting League event. Every volunteer will receive instructions for her/his task.

*Every volunteer gets a free ticket to see the Red Hot Patriot-Molly Ivins One Woman Show on Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup>!*

**Volunteers are needed as follows:**

Every day (June 6-10)

- Registration
- Credentials
- Information Desk
- Personnel/Volunteer support
- Dine Around Hostesses

Friday-Sunday (June 6-8)  
Hospitality

- Saturday-Tuesday (June 7-10)
- Doorkeepers
- Election Tellers
- Microphone monitors
- Timekeepers
- Ushers

**For questions or an email form? Contact: Mildred Pope [mderrpope@yahoo.com](mailto:mderrpope@yahoo.com) 214-374-8067  
Cecilia McKay [cemck@swbell.net](mailto:cemck@swbell.net) 214-500-8848**

-----  
**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **League** \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Interest** – Please mark in order of preference – 1, 2, 3, etc.

Registration/Credentials \_\_\_\_\_ Information \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer Support Room \_\_\_\_\_

Hospitality \_\_\_\_\_ Doorkeepers \_\_\_\_\_ Microphone Monitors \_\_\_\_\_ Ushers/Tellers \_\_\_\_\_

Whatever you need \_\_\_\_\_

**Dates** – Please choose the times and dates you are available to work and indicate: AM, PM or AD (All day). The number of hours you will be asked to work (4 – 6) depends on the task assigned.

Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup> (PM or Evening) \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Monday June 9<sup>th</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> (AM) \_\_\_\_\_

**Detach and return this form A.S.A.P, no later than March 31, 2014 to:  
Mildred Pope, 3217 E. Ledbetter Dr., Dallas, TX 75216**



**LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF RICHARDSON**

**Fall, 2013, in Review**

**Voter Service**

- ◆ At a booth at Huffhines Art Trails, LWV-R distributed 500 *VOTERS GUIDES* for the Texas Constitutional Amendment election
- ◆ Helped voters with questions received via telephone and e-mail
- ◆ Mailed and distributed an updated *GUIDE TO ELECTED OFFICIALS*

**CHIP (Partners with RISD Council of PTAs)**

- ◆ One training session
- ◆ Summer Outreach Event
- ◆ Monthly Health Fairs

**Program & Advocacy**

- ◆ Member meeting on LWV-TX's *Human Trafficking* study
- ◆ Attended LWV-P/CC and LWV-D meetings on *Human Trafficking*

**Communications**

- ◆ Updated the LWV-R website with information concerning voting, elections, and events
- ◆ Tweeted about important election and LWV-R events
- ◆ Published 6 monthly *VOTER* newsletters

**LWV-R Meetings**

- ◆ Calendar Planning Meeting
- ◆ 2 Board meetings

**Miscellaneous**

- ◆ Sponsored the political science/government table at the Friends of the Library book sale.
- ◆ Attended meeting in preparation for 2014 LWVUS convention in Dallas.

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE UNITED STATES: Supports New IRS Proposal for Tax Exempt Groups.

**Washington, DC** – The League of Women Voters of the U.S. today spoke out in support of the new [notice of proposed rulemaking](#) for non-profit, 501(c)(4) organizations announced last week by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

“We could not be more thrilled that the IRS is taking this first important step in curbing the abuse of non-profit, 501(c)(4) organizations for partisan political activity,” said Elisabeth MacNamara, national president of the League.

“Since the *Citizens United* case, we have seen (c)(4) non-profits used to funnel millions of dollars of secret money into candidate elections, and this threatens the integrity of our elections and government decision-making,” she said.

“New IRS regulations covering non-profit organizations are one of the most important reforms that can be taken under current law to overcome the effects of *Citizens United*,” MacNamara continued.

Some have suggested that the new proposal goes too far by including voter registration and voter guides under the definition of candidate-related political activity which would be controlled under the proposal governing 501(c)(4) organizations. “This IRS action is about dark, secret money in America’s elections plain and simple,” MacNamara said. “Unlike some opponents of such reforms, the League thinks the concern about truly nonpartisan activity is overblown,” she continued.

“It is important to remember this is just a proposal – a good one, but still just a proposal, and an incomplete one as well,” MacNamara said. The League will be reviewing it closely and submitting comments to ensure that true nonpartisan election information activities for the appropriate 501(c) organizations are protected.

The IRS notice of proposed rulemaking is a request for comments on key issues as the IRS considers a new set of rules governing 501(c)(4) organizations and is not a complete new set of proposed rules. In addition to asking for comments on its proposed new definition of “candidate-related political activity,” the IRS is seeking comment on whether similar rules should be extended to business and labor associations under sections 501(c)(6) and (5), how much “candidate-related political activity” should be allowed for a (c)(4) organization, and how best to deal with truly nonpartisan and unbiased voter information activities by such organizations.

“We are very pleased that the Administration has finally stepped up to the plate on this,” MacNamara said. “The critical question is whether the IRS will continue and will ultimately adopt strong reform regulations. There will be an outcry, but the IRS must persevere and stop the abuses we are seeing with secret campaign money,” MacNamara concluded.

