



VOTER

Calendar	
Date	Event
Aug 19	St. Barnabas Health Fair
Aug 26	Women's Equality Day, Dallas City Hall
Sept 6	LWV-R Board Meeting
Sept 27	LWV-R Membership Kickoff, Civic Center
Sept 27	National Voter Registration Day

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Jean Richards

It's summer, and that means family, and travel, and ... it's hot!

Sometimes it's a bit hard to get motivated during the summer to get started on League work we talked about so earnestly at our Calendar Planning Meeting. However, several of our members have been busy this summer despite the heat.



At our Annual Meeting in May, our members voted to restudy the LWV-R positions on the City Charter and Election Laws and Procedures. Leading the restudy of the City Charter will be our newest member, Jessica Hook, and our longest-serving member, Nancy Wilson. Look for their report below.

One of our other new members, Andrea Hamblin, has not only expressed interest in leading the restudy of Election Laws and Procedures, but has also been appointed by the board to be the Vice President in charge of Organization. We are very excited about our new members' interest in jumping right into League activities.

Membership Chair Nita Thomason has been meeting with Nancy Wilson over the last couple of months, and they've come up with a great idea. Back in the 1960's, when a group of women from Richardson were interested in forming a local League, they were required to complete a project called "Know Your Town." Nita and Nancy want to give our members an opportunity to revisit this project through a series of group field trips within the City of Richardson and the Richardson ISD. Look for more information about this project soon. Nita is also planning a Membership / Kickoff meeting for League members and interested guests on September 27th. See page 2 for more information.

Four of our members attended the LWV-TX Regional Training in Arlington July 8th. See page 5 for details.

Finally, I am so pleased to report that our own Ellen Steger is home from the hospital, after what appears to have been a successful bone marrow / stem cell transplant. She'll be avoiding crowds and resting up for a while, but I'm sure she will be back with us again soon.

Membership Minute

By Nita Thomason

Do you know how to become more involved in our community?

How do demographic changes impact our schools?

Mark your calendars for our upcoming:

Membership / Kick-off Meeting

September 27, 7:00 p.m. at the

Richardson Civic Center!

We have an interesting evening planned for helping potential new members, as well as current LWV members, learn about our changing community and about the League's role in it.

- **Taylor Lough**, Assistant to the City Manager will speak about ways Richardson is changing and challenges the City faces. She will also address how to get involved with our community.
- **Mia Martin**, General Counsel for RISD will talk about the changes in our school district and some of the legal implications these changes have brought.

This should be a fascinating evening's program.

Do you have friends and neighbors who might be interested in joining the League? Bring a guest or two – the time is right for a large increase in the LWV-Richardson membership.

Also remember – if you have not renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible. Member renewals are due by September. Individual membership is \$54 and two members in the same household membership is \$81. You can bring your checkbook with you to the meeting, or mail your dues check to the League office at 300 North Coit Road, Suite 125, Richardson, TX 75080.

If you have any questions, please contact LWV-R Membership Chair:

Nita Thomason

Membership@lwvrichardson.org

City Charter Restudy

By Jessica Hook



Would you like to learn more about local governance?

Please join us for a restudy of LWV-R's position on the City Charter!

At the Annual Meeting in May, we voted to consider a restudy of our City Charter position. With the review and update of amendments to the City Charter in 2015, a restudy is needed in order to update the League's long held position. We anticipate that the restudy will be a two year process with the first year focused on research and identification of major issues and the second year focused on education and outreach. The ultimate goal is to have an updated position on the City Charter by the end of the proposed two year process.

The committee will review the current City Charter and the changes that were approved by voters in 2015. We will focus our efforts on the items that were deemed to have a major impact on city government in the Voters Guide prepared by the League prior to the City Charter amendment election in 2015. As you will recall, there were 83 amendments on the ballot and a considerable amount of effort went into preparing the Voters Guide! The guide serves as an excellent resource for focusing the work of the committee.

Some of the issues we may research include, but are not limited to:

- single member districts,
- staggered terms,
- direct election of the mayor,
- how the city attorney is hired and compensated, and
- the authority granted to the city for borrowing money and issuing bonds.

Other activities of the committee may include:

- researching Texas Home Rule Charters,
- best practices for local self-governance,
- interviewing committee members from the most recent charter review, meeting with elected officials, hosting educational activities, and
- publicizing our position on the City Charter.

If you are interested in learning more about the committee, please email charter-restudy@lwvrichardson.org.

Texas Legislature Special Session – LWV-TX Acton Alerts



The League of Women Voters of Texas has been very active this year, both during the regular session and during the current special session. Click here to view all of the LWV-TX 2017 special session [Action Alerts and Testimony](#).

Remember, if you contact your legislators about issues, please do not state that you represent the League of Women Voters. According to LWV policy, only the President or her authorized representative may speak on behalf of the League.

12th Annual HEALTH FAIR

**Saturday, August 19, 2017
9 am to 12 noon**

~ Free Children & Teen Immunizations ~

+Immunization records required+
(Children covered by private insurance may not be eligible for immunizations)

~ **New! Network of Community Ministries BACK TO SCHOOL Event**
(Backpacks, school supplies)

And Much More!

St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church
1220 W. Belt Line Road
Richardson TX 75080
(Next to Richardson High School, 1/2 mile east of Coit)

LWV-TX Regional Training

By Nancy Wilson

Nita Thomason, Susan Majors, Nancy Wilson, and new member Andrea Hamblin represented LWV-R at the LWV-TX Regional Training meeting in Arlington on July 8. LWV-TX president Elaine Wiant updated the packed room on national and state issues. She reviewed achievements of the state League and then had each attending local League share their accomplishments.

LWV-R reported on our new members, plans for '17-'18, and other activities. Mention of the Charter restudy brought a shout out from the LWV-TX president for the incredible VG produced by LWV-R for the 2015 local election. There were 83 items on the ballot. LWV-R has lobbied for over a decade for periodic charter review. Jean Richards and Ellen Steger did the heavy lifting for the VG.

The turnout of longtime and new members was excellent and the whole group was enthusiastic. The League is doing just fine!



November 7, 2017 – State Constitutional Amendment Election

This is the date on which Texas voters will vote on seven proposed amendments to the Texas Constitution. To read a Texas Tribune article on the proposed amendments, click [here](#).

The League of Women Voters of Texas will publish a VOTERS GUIDE for this election. We will link to that publication on our website, and paper copies will be available at locations around town closer to the election.

More information and analysis will be posted on our website as it becomes available.

*Make Plans to Celebrate the 96th Anniversary
of Women's Right to Vote*

WOMEN'S ISSUES NETWORK invites you to join us for

Women's Equality Day Commemorating the passage of the 19th
Amendment

Wednesday, August 23rd, 2017 @ 12:00 Noon Dallas City Hall 6th
Floor Flag Room

Mayor Rawlings and Members of the Dallas City Council will join us
for a proclamation recognizing the anniversary.

Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins and Members of the County
Commissioner's Court proclamation

This year's event will feature "Texas Women"

*You, your friends, and all members of your organization are invited.
We ask that you wear white in honor of the suffragists*

