



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF RICHARDSON

Editor: Brenda Boston

VOTER

Calendar		
Jan. 14, 2015	7pm	LWV-R Board Meeting; PM Realty Board Room in Promenade Tower, 300 N Coit in Richardson. All members are welcome.
Jan. 17	9am-noon	CHIP Help Session @ St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church; 1220 W. Belt Line, R75080
Jan. 19		Martin Luther King Holiday
Jan. 28		Periodic Program Review Meeting



Ellen Steger, *President*



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

As 2014 comes to a close, it's a good time to look back on the accomplishments of the Richardson League of Women Voters. We are only half-way through our fiscal year, but we've had LOTS of accomplishments:

- ✓ Hosted a public meeting titled "Are YOU Water Wise?"
- ✓ Hosted a forum for Texas House District 102
- ✓ Hosted a forum for State Board of Education District 12
- ✓ Hosted a table at Huffhines Art Trails; distributed over 500 *VOTERS GUIDES* and answered lots of questions about the November election
- ✓ Helped voters with questions received by telephone and email
- ✓ Tweeted important election information
- ✓ Held a Calendar Planning Meeting
- ✓ Produced 7 informative, monthly *VOTER* newsletters
- ✓ Attended meetings of LWV-Dallas Low Voter Turnout Study Committee
- ✓ Attended meetings of the LWV-Far North Dallas League

Mark your calendars!

- **Wednesday, January 28, 2015**, will be a Periodic Program Review. LWV-R member Nancy Wilson has spearheaded a review of the Government positions that LWV-R voted on at its Annual Meeting in May, 2014. Her committee will pass on the results of their review. More details later.



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Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)/Medicaid for Children

Martha Dorris

CHIP@lwvrichardson.org



In Texas, children without private health insurance may be able to get services through CHIP or Children's Medicaid. Both programs offer a wide range of services including regular check-ups, dental care, eye exams and glasses. Children must be citizens or legal residents to receive benefits.

The following is a summary of our latest CHIP activities:

- ✓ **Nov. 8:** At the Richardson ISD Parent Involvement Fair, volunteers Rae Hoover and Loren Stenberg, both of whom were trained at LWV-R sponsored sessions, and Brenda Santacruz, the Outreach Specialist from the Community Council of Greater Dallas who routinely assists us with our Spanish speaking families, distributed information about the insurances and helped several families apply.
- ✓ **Nov. 15:** At St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church (St. B), Brenda Santacruz, Martha Dorris and George Ann Dukes (St. B member trained at LWV-R sponsored session) helped three families complete application forms. One of the parents who completed the application took 4 forms with her for other families she planned to assist along with phone numbers for answering any questions that might arise.

The following is a summary of coming volunteer opportunities:

- **Jan. 17, 2015, and Feb. 21, 2015, and March 21, 2015:** Application Help Sessions at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church, 1220 W. Belt Line Road, Richardson, TX 75080 from 9 am until noon.
- **March 25, 2015:** Northlake Elementary School Health Fair, 10059 Ravensway Dr., Dallas, TX 75238 from 5:30 to 7 pm.

If you are interested in helping with one of these events or with just coming to see a session and meet some of our families, please contact me. In addition, now would be a great time to contact your elected representatives in Washington, D.C. to ask them to reauthorize CHIP. All of the states are planning budgets and need to know what funds will be available.

Thank you for all of your support for efforts to enroll children in affordable insurance programs.

League of Women Voters Launches Education Blog To educate and inform on issues relating to public education

Hello Leaguers,

Last June in Dallas, we held an Education caucus to gauge the interest in sharing information about school choice and accountability. There were 92 League members from 32 states in attendance. We agreed to form national committees to track legislation and advocacy efforts regarding privatization of our public schools.

We have now launched a League Education Issues blog. We ask for your help in advertising the blog in your communities. Please let your membership know that they can subscribe and contribute to a better understanding of what is occurring in each state.

SUBSCRIBE AT: <http://lwveducation.com>

Regards,
Sue Legg, Ph.D.
Chair, School Choice Project
Florida League of Women Voters



From Factmonster.com:

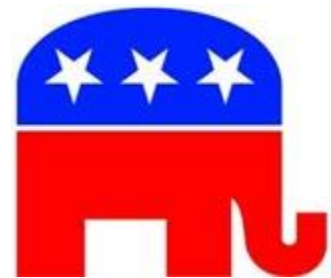
The Democratic Donkey and the Republican Elephant

Ever wondered what the story was behind these two famous party animals?



The now-famous **Democratic donkey** was first associated with Democrat Andrew Jackson's 1828 presidential campaign. His opponents called him a jackass (a donkey), and Jackson decided to use the image of the strong-willed animal on his campaign posters. Later, cartoonist Thomas Nast used the Democratic donkey in newspaper cartoons and made the symbol famous.

Nast invented another famous symbol—the **Republican elephant**. In a cartoon that appeared in *Harper's Weekly* in 1874, Nast drew a donkey clothed in lion's skin, scaring away all the animals at the zoo. One of those animals, the elephant, was labeled "The Republican Vote." That's all it took for the elephant to become associated with the Republican Party.



Democrats today say the donkey is smart and brave,
while Republicans say the elephant is strong and dignified.