



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. 22	6-8pm	Health and Fitness Night, Merriman Park Elementary School, 7101 Winedale Drive, Dallas 76231
Jan. 24	6:00pm	"Over the Hump" pot-luck party for members and spouses. Details will be emailed to members.
Jan. 28	6:45pm	Periodic Program Review Meeting; 14 Harper's Ferry in Richardson 75080
Feb. 15		Susan B. Anthony's Birthday
Feb. 16		Presidents' Day
Feb. 21		CHIP Help Session @ St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church; 1220 W. Belt Line, R75080; 9am-noon
Feb. 23-24		LWV-TX Lobby Days in Austin



Ellen Steger, *President*

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Happy New Year! I hope you are rested up from the holidays and are energized to start a new year.

LWV-Richardson has some exciting events lined up to kick off the new year.

Martha Dorris, LWV-Richardson's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) liaison could use some help at the next CHIP Help Session at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church, 1220 W Belt

Line in Richardson 75080, from 9am-noon on Saturday, January 17, 2015. No experience necessary! A second volunteer possibility is January 22, a Health and Fitness Night at Merriman Park Elementary School.

LWV-Richardson Charter Member Nancy Wilson has spearheaded a review of 3 of the 8 positions held by LWV-Richardson. She will present the findings at the Periodic Program Review Meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2015, at her home: 14 Harper's Ferry in Richardson 75080. Refreshments will be at 6:45pm; the meeting will begin at 7pm.

There are more details about these activities later in this newsletter.

Periodic Program Review meeting Jan.28, 2015 6:45 p.m.

...Nancy Wilson



To many League members across the country, action in the local community is one of the most interesting, effective, and rewarding activities that LWV offers. This is the part of League where members identify a local issue that needs to be addressed, conduct a rigorous study process, and then reach a fact-based consensus position on which they speak and act and upon which many residents have come to rely.

LWV-Richardson, in over half a century, has conducted studies and reached consensus positions on a great number of important local issues. These are listed in the member handbook, grouped into eight major categories. At each Annual Meeting, the membership votes to keep, restudy, or drop each position.

LWV-Richardson's growth over the past years has brought newer members who want to know more about the program positions. The League has adopted a four-year cycle in which each program is reviewed in greater depth at least once every four years. In 2014-15, the focus is on three positions: (I) City Charter, (II) Election Laws and Procedures, and (VI) Televising City Council. These will be discussed on January 28 at the Periodic Program Review (PPR) meeting. **DO PLAN TO COME AND LEARN!** The agenda is designed for members, but anyone interested in the League is welcome.

To prepare for the meeting, it will help you to:

- read the LWV-R positions in your handbook – focus on the three positions to be discussed. *(The 3 positions to be studied are reprinted on the next page.)*
- Google online “LWV Road from Study to Action” for THE source of information about League Program.

The committee consists of Sue Sloos, Martha Dorris, Jean Richards, and is chaired by Nancy Wilson.

Meeting details:

LWV-R member meeting - Periodic Program Review
Wednesday, January 28
6:45 p.m. Refreshments and Conversation
7:00 p.m. (Sharp, please) Call to Order.
14 Harpers Ferry, Richardson. (Wilson home.)

Contact Wilson972@att.net if you have questions. I'll see you at the meeting!

Nancy

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF RICHARDSON

POSITIONS

The League of Women Voters of Richardson currently has 8 positions. Three of the positions will be studied at the Local Program Review on January 28. Only the 3 positions to be studied that night are printed here. All 8 positions can be found in your handbook.

I. CITY CHARTER: The League of Women Voters of Richardson believes that the Charter should provide a flexible and consistent framework to enable the city to function effectively and respond to the needs of its citizens. We support:

A. Electing City Council Members and Mayor

1. Election of the Mayor by City Council.
2. Seven Council Members all elected at large; those members in elected Places 1, 2, 3, and 4 must reside in the correspondingly numbered districts.
3. District boundaries that are drawn to ensure equal representation on the Council. These boundaries should be reviewed by a Commission after every census (every ten years). The Commission should be made up of citizens appointed by the Council and representatives of all areas of the city;
4. Staggered terms of office for Council Members.
5. Compensation set by the Council by ordinance at least six months before an election.

B. Miscellaneous

1. Adequate and timely input from citizens into the budget-making process: the proposed budget should be published a sufficient time before a public hearing is held, and sufficient time should be allowed after the public hearing before adoption by the City Council.
2. Publication and adequate opportunity for public input on all ordinances before adoption by the City Council.
3. A review of the Charter at least every ten years by a charter commission of citizens.

II. ELECTION LAWS AND PROCEDURES: We support:

- A. Consolidation of elections where possible;
- B. Itemized bond elections.

VI. TELEVISION CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS: The League of Women Voters of Richardson supports video recording the Richardson City Council meetings and making them readily available to the public by television or other electronic means.

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

Martha Dorris

CHIP@lwvrichardson.org



During 2014, the LWV-Richardson sponsored 7 application help sessions at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church (St. B), with an average of 5 families receiving help per session. At least thirty families were helped with the applications during the St. B Health Fair. In addition, 12 volunteers trained for helping with the newly revised forms.

The Richardson ISD invited us to 8 on-site events such as health fairs, picnics, town hall meetings, and parent information fairs during which we talked to at least 85 families. We were invited to 4 other venues to distribute information: one for the RISD nurses, one at Eastfield College, one at Gloria dei Rey, and one for the City of Dallas.

Thank all of you for the tremendous amount of time and effort that has been devoted to this advocacy.

If your schedule permits and if you are interested in helping or observing, we have the following opportunities planned:

- ✓ Jan. 17, 2015: 9 am to noon, Application help session, St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church, 1220 West Belt Line Road, Richardson 75080
- ✓ Jan. 22, 2015: 6 to 8 pm, Health and Fitness Night, Merriman Park Elementary School, 7101 Winedale Drive, Dallas 76231
- ✓ March 25, 2015: 5 to 7 pm, Health Fair, Northlake Elementary School, 10059 Ravensway, Dallas 75238

The *Dallas Morning News* reported that Texas leads the nation in uninsured residents, with nearly a quarter of its population--6.4 million people--lacking health insurance (1/2/15, Briefing, p.1). Many of these are children who are eligible for CHIP or Medicaid. Our efforts continue to be essential to the health and well being of our children. Thanks again for all of your help.

Martha Dorris

CHIP@lwvrichardson.org

972-470-0584 (League office)



Lobby Days Austin, Texas February 23-24, 2015

The dates are set, rooms in the hotel are reserved, and speakers have been confirmed! The cost of Lobby Days is \$10.00. Online registration will be available soon.

[Click here for detailed Lobby Days agenda](#)

A block of rooms is being held for League members planning to participate in LWV-TX Lobby Days Feb. 23-24, 2015, at:

La Quinta Inn Austin Capitol
300 East 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701

The hotel is within walking distance of the Capitol. The room rate is \$139, plus tax, and the block of rooms will be available at this price through Sunday evening, Feb. 8, 2015. Call the Group Reservations Department at [1-866-527-1498](tel:1-866-527-1498) and identify yourself as a member of LWV-TX (confirmation number 09071417). If other League members will share your room, please provide the hotel with their names.



Making Democracy Work Dinner Feb. 23, 2015

LWV-Texas will honor the late Senator Farabee at the *Making Democracy Work Dinner* on February 23, 2015. Senator Farabee's sons, Steve and David Farabee, will co-host the event and Steve's wife, Karen Farabee, of Austin will co-chair.



Kenneth "Ray" Farabee passed away on November 20, 2014. A Wichita Falls native, his Senate career was marked by pioneering work on end-of-life decisions, AIDS, mental health treatment, the prison system, and the issuing of state debt. Along the way, he earned the nickname "Fairabee" for his ability to work across the aisle.

Senator Farabee helped the League pass garnishment of wages for child support legislation in the 80's. He also achieved mental health code reform, juvenile justice improvements (took kids out of the adult prison system), and passage of a bill allowing state agencies to maintain daycare facilities on the premises for employees. He was a true champion of League priorities!

Texas Monthly selected him as a BEST LEGISLATOR for 5 consecutive sessions. Senator Farabee's late wife, Mary Margaret Farabee, co-founded the Texas Book Festival.

Famous Firsts by American Women



Rebecca Ann Latimer Felton (June 10, 1835 – January 24, 1930) was an American writer, lecturer, [reformer](#), and politician who became the first woman to serve in the [United States Senate](#). She was the most prominent woman in [Georgia](#) in the [Progressive Era](#), and was honored by appointment to the Senate. At 87 years, nine months, and 22 days old, she was the oldest freshman senator to enter the Senate. To date, she is also the only woman to have served as a [Senator from Georgia](#). Her husband [William Harrell Felton](#) was a member of the [United States House of Representatives](#) and [Georgia House of Representatives](#) and she ran his campaigns. She was a prominent society woman; an advocate of prison reform, women's suffrage and educational modernization; and one of the few prominent women who spoke in favor of [lynching](#). In *The Creation of Modern Georgia*, Numan Bartley reports that by 1915 she "was championing a lengthy feminist program that ranged from prohibition to [equal pay for equal work](#)."

In 1922, [Governor Thomas W. Hardwick](#) was a candidate for the next [general election](#) to the Senate, when Senator [Thomas E. Watson](#) died prematurely. Seeking an appointee who would not be a competitor in the coming [special election](#) to fill the vacant seat and a way to secure the vote of the new women voters alienated by his opposition to the [19th Amendment](#), Hardwick chose Felton to serve as senator on October 3, 1922.

Congress was not expected to reconvene until after the election, so the chances were slim that Felton would be sworn in. However, [Walter F. George](#) won the [special election](#) despite Hardwick's ploy. Rather than take his seat immediately when the Senate reconvened on November 21, 1922, George allowed Felton to be sworn in. This was due in part to persuasion by Felton and a supportive campaign launched by the women of Georgia. Felton thus became the first woman seated in the Senate and served until George took office on November 22, 1922, one day later.

Her shenanigans resulted in the ignominy of being the last former [slaveowner](#) to serve in the U.S. Senate.

From Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rebecca_Latimer_Felton