



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF NEW ORLEANS LEAGUE ESSENTIALS

Volume 50 Issue 2

September/October 2007

****September 19**– General Meeting at 7PM at the Pratt Stanton Manor,
1224 St. Charles Avenue, featuring Ellen Tuzzolo,
Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana and
Ilona Picou, Special Assistant to the Chief Juvenile Judge.
Remember—criminal behavior is a call for help.
Please come to learn how you can aid these youth in distress!

New Orleans Recovery District Holds Community Forum

On August 22, about one hundred community members attended a public forum to hear Recovery School Superintendent Paul Vallas share his vision for the coming school year. State Superintendent of Education Paul Pastorek and Louella Gibbons, a member of the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, were also present. A concentrated effort to hire 560 qualified teachers from around the country is in full swing to fill current classrooms as well as those to open in coming months. Gargantuan efforts were made to repair, paint and equip all schools, as well as bring restrooms up to standard, before the September 4th opening. Each classroom will have standardized materials so that all teachers have adequate resources to teach their students. Teachers will receive ongoing staff development, too. Dr. Vallas hopes to limit class size and to provide computer technology for classrooms and training for teachers in their use. A goal for high school technology is to provide a laptop for each student.

Because student test scores on the state LEAP test are generally below expected standards, students will have extended school hours beginning in October. After the first few weeks of school, students in grades six through twelve new to the district will be placed in Welcome Schools. There they will be evaluated academically and assessment of their emotional and physical state will take place. This process is expected to take two weeks. Other issues of concern were safety and security, a need for mental health professionals, the formation of Transition schools for students with serious behavior problems and constructive work with the over-aged students in many classrooms.

-Ann Meese

Letter from the President

Beginning this month, we have planned a series of programs of interest to all members. We start with Juvenile Justice, Sept. 19th, and will include another "bring a bottle and a buddy" dinner program in November. October is packed with forums sponsored by us with other organizations which can be viewed in person or on TV. I continue to send out all information that I think will interest you from the state and national Leagues and other news sources. This is to spark your interest in community happenings and to join us in a committee or a program. Voter service is a high priority and the very soul of the League. Join Linda Walker and her committee to be part of that activity. Even if you cannot join us in person, your membership alone tells us that you are supportive of our efforts, ones that make you proud to be a member.

Lea Young

IMMIGRATION STUDY

For those of you who would like to become better informed on our immigration study, National has announced that they will condense the articles posted on the web and publish them in the National Voter. This will make it easier for those of you who do not have access to the web. Also, the consensus questions have been published on the web and National will be publishing pros and cons sometime in early September. We will keep you posted as we hear more.

The Immigration Study Committee has not met over the summer but will be gearing up the later part of September. We welcome new members.

Elizabeth Rack

Follow-up With Judge Bell

In an interview with Chief Juvenile Judge, David Bell, on September 6th, I learned that although homeless kids are still a problem in New Orleans, his staff only sees about 3-5 per month currently. Girls and Boys Town have been providing emergency shelter needs, while the Offices of Child Services and Youth Development have helped in reuniting these children with their families.

The Courts are currently looking at where juvenile offenders live and offering educational, recreational and community services in these areas to cut down on crime. The philosophy is— if juveniles are pleasantly occupied in their own neighborhoods, they don't need to get into trouble in some other area of town. He said that people only know what they've been taught, so it's important to give them the information they need to make the best decisions for themselves. As

kids tend to do what we expect of them, if we raise our expectations, they might just rise to the occasion.

The Judge also mentioned that many people are afraid of our youth so they give them a wide berth when our kids really need involvement, an assessment of need (physical, social, and psychological) and practical solutions that are implemented in a timely fashion. The last part of the equation is what's so slow in our present situation. However, he stated emphatically that in the long run, considering the consequences, helping these kids is the easiest and most cost-effective stance to take.

Anne Redelfs

Member Contributions—Thanks So Much!

Jane Jurik, to the Ed Fund, in memory of Dick Troy
Sylvia Warren, in memory of Peg Murrison Wright
Lea Young, in memory of Dick Troy

Ina Davis, Carol Good, Dr. Wilma Longstreet, Helen and Bill Malin, Dorothy Smith,
and non-member, Julie Fischelson

Getting to Know You!

Meet some of our members:

Dr. Ann Meese, the new chair of the Education Committee, received her PhD from the University of Missouri in General Administration with her minor field in Black Studies in 1997. She retired from the St. Louis Public Schools as elementary principal of Jefferson Elementary School in 2003. She moved to New Orleans from Columbia, Missouri in July of 2005, and joined the New Orleans League in the spring of 2006. As Chair of the Educational Committee, Ann hopes to have the opportunity to share her knowledge gained from working with urban schools. She heartily encourages other Leaguers to join her.

Ann's daughter, Rachel, and her partner, Jason Schoenfeld, evacuated with her to Maryville, Illinois, where they stayed with her son, Thomas, and his wife. There, Rachel gave birth to grandbaby Bella before returning to New Orleans where she and her partner currently reside.

My name is **Christine Breault**. I am new to the League and a member of the Juvenile Justice Committee. My husband is a hardworking, insightful family practice doctor who works with a wide range of people in and around the New Orleans area. We have a 15-year-old son who is a student at NOCCA; he's an aspiring filmmaker. I grew up in California and graduated from the University of California at Berkley. I attended

Golden Gate University Law School in San Francisco. I then practiced family, civil and criminal law with Native Americans in the Dakotas before moving to New Orleans.

Like so many people, we lost our home in the flooding caused by the negligence of the Army Corps of Engineers. This has been a hardship to our family because we were separated and displaced for over a year. Currently, I support levees.org because I believe this group is working diligently to make sure the levees are rebuilt adequately and that greater safeguards will be provided for the people living within their protection. I'm also involved with the Road Home Program because New Orleans is in a state of crisis regarding housing. Many thousands of people are homeless and are not able to rebuild because of the Road Home funding shortfall. Also, there is scarce transitional low-income public housing or shelters for people who want to return and rebuild their houses. We have a unique and vital culture, and I feel we have a responsibility to preserve this heritage and help those who share in it. I also believe the Federal Government has a duty to correct the damage caused by their faulty levees and to do all they can to rebuild our city.

Membership Report: We welcome one new member this month, **Sarah S. Pailet**, 1750 St. Charles, #419, NOLA 70130, 504.522.8224 and welcome back **Lela C. Neff**, 1224 St. Andrew, NOLA 70130, 523.401.8996. We are sorry to report that longtime League member, **Barbara Lawson**, has relocated to Portland, OR.

Lost Contact:

If anyone knows the whereabouts of the following members whose mail is being returned, please call the League Office (581-9106) or e-mail jjurik@bellsouth.net
Helene L. Baginsky, Lifetime Member, **Edith Honold**, Lifetime Member
Carol Levy

In Memoriam

Former member Thornhill (Thorny) Penfield III died 8-21-07
Richard Boebel, husband of deceased member Jean, died 9-1-07

Our Sympathy

LWVNO Board 2007-2008

President: Lea Young, 1st Vice-President: Pat Kimmel, 2nd Vice President & Membership
Chair: Jane Jurik, Secretary: Wendy King,
Treasurer: Joan Frances Smith; Directors: Renee Smith,
Anne Redelfs (Essentials Editor), Ann Meese, and Francine Guigno
(504) 581-9106 (phone and fax); Internet address: www.lwvno.org

Food For Thought: Fixed ideas

“How old are you?”

“Forty.”

But you said the same last time I asked you two years ago!”

“Yes, I always stand by what I have said.”

- Idries Shah

Please attend the following events!

October— No General Meeting. See you at the Gubernatorial Forums.
Remember these dates are subject to change so call to confirm.

October 11– Council at Large Forum with 13 candidates and moderator, Roop Raj.
Co sponsored with CBNO/MAC and the Urban League of Greater New Orleans
at Xavier University, 7-9PM, telecast with WDSU. Open to the Public.

November 14 - General Meeting at 7PM at St. Henry’s, 821 General Pershing.
Bring a bottle and a buddy and enjoy a talk on New Orleans’ Educational System.

December 9– **Holiday Party!**

More Volunteers Needed: Every Saturday through October 6th, Leaguers will be
registering voters. If you’re interested, call Patty Andrews at (504) 895-1181.