



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF NEW ORLEANS

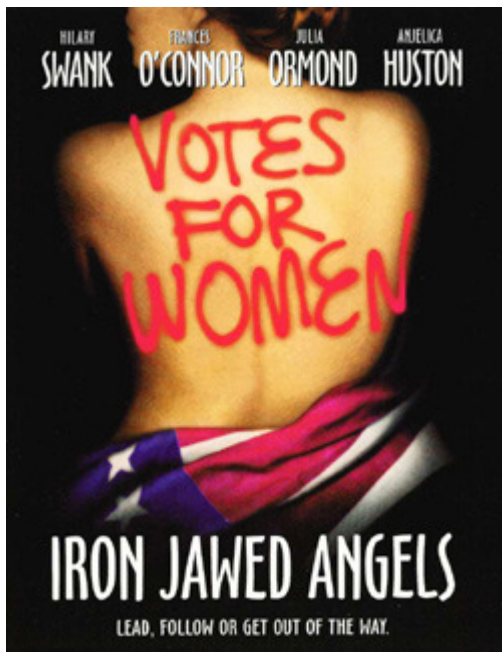
**LEAGUE ESSENTIALS**

Volume 53, Issue 3

February/March 2011

**Bring a Buddy and a Bottle!**  
**Join Us for a FREE Movie Night**

*Continuing Our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Celebration of the Suffrage Movement*



Starring Hilary Swank as Alice Paul &  
Anjelica Huston as Carrie Chapman Catt

**Wednesday, March 16**

**6:30 – 9:30 pm**

**PJ's Coffee House**

**5432 Magazine St. at Jefferson Ave.**

*Free Pizza and Popcorn with your Merlot!*

## Letter from the President:

*Now that the new year has begun, we are planning a variety of programs to capture your interest. Once again we will host our "Bring a Buddy and a Bottle" program which makes it fun to participate while sipping wine and eating good food. Also a field trip is in order and I am working on one to Port Fourchon when the weather is warmer. This year our League is co-hosting with St. Tammany the state League convention at The Columns Hotel April 1-3. The committee is developing some great programs and we are seeking delegates to attend. Lastly, I want to congratulate all who came to our Holiday/Suffrage party as it was a celebration of strong women who worked to win the right to vote for all of us. We are still doing our part to keep all men and women updated on elections and current events.*

*Many thanks go to our gracious hosts, Dr. Bert and Joel Meyer, who provided the perfect setting for the annual party. And to our board which worked as a group to create the right atmosphere and tribute to our 90 years as an organization. We have much to celebrate and hope you will join us in all of the future fun!*

***Lea Young***



## **Holiday/Suffrage Party Success**

Renee Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> VP & Party Chair

The December 5 party at the lovely home of Dr. Bert and Mrs. Joel Myers, was an overwhelming success. At least 75 members and guests joined in the camaraderie, sharing memories and good food from Copeland's. President Lea Young provided us with a history of the League and the Suffrage movement. Ann Meese, Judy Fisher, Rosalind Cook and Cecilia Victorian read first person narratives highlighting the lives of Lucretia Mott, Carrie Chapman Catt, Sojourner Truth and Susan B. Anthony. These brave women played key roles in gaining various rights for women, including the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. We then toasted all with our souvenir commemorative champagne flutes. Dr. Pamela Tyler, an Associate Professor of History at the University of Mississippi, gave us an inspiring speech about the history of the League in the South and in Louisiana. She sold and autographed copies of *Silk Stockings and Ballot Boxes: Women and Politics in New Orleans 1920-1963*. Mildred Fossier brought an engraved silver bowl from the LA Suffragists owned by her grandmother to share with the audience.

Board Secretary Lela Neff conducted interviews of members to preserve the wealth of knowledge our members have about the political landscape of New Orleans and how it has changed over the past decades. Another goal of the interviews is to determine our members' vision of the League for the next 90 years!

# Progress and Turmoil in Public Education

Ann L. Meese PhD, Education Chair

The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) recently renewed thirteen charters for schools in the fifth and final year of their original charter. BESE by law can renew for three, five, or ten years based on the School Performance Score which includes both academic performance and sound financial management (SPF). Seven schools were renewed for three years, four schools for 4 years, one for five and one for ten (KIPP Believe College Prep). The charter for Tubman Elementary (part of the Algiers Charter School Association (ACSA) was not renewed because of both inadequate performance and financial management.

BESE also reinvestigated the earlier decision at its December meeting to deny four new charters (George Washington Carver Charter School Association for Carver High, the Lord Beaconsfield Charter Association for L.B. Landry High, the Walter Cohen Alumni Association for Cohen High School, and the Friends of King School for Craig Elementary). The revised plan will allow the Recovery School District to support these schools in forming successful applications as much as possible for the 2011-12 school year.

Also in the January headlines have been the key issues in the five public meetings (by city council district) to consider school facility assignments by the RSD. The community input has been excellent as school supporters sought repair dollars for current buildings, assignment to existing building or precise groundbreaking times for new buildings. Issues involving the New Orleans Parish Schools were brought up depending on the ownership of the particular building discussed. The RSD reported back to each audience the recommendations given and district leaders plan on returning to the public with their recommendations. This may require changes to the School Facilities Master Plan.

In the January 24 – 30 issue of *The Louisiana Weekly*, the outgoing Board President of the Orleans Parish School Board, Woody Koppel, in an interview with the newspaper, accused BESE of planning to retain control of once failing schools indefinitely through the RSD. OPSB members Thomas Robichaux and Brett Bonin also vocalized their concern about the delay in returning local public schools to the OPSB. It appears that the major concern of BESE to return control to the OPSB is whether or not they would continue the current commitment to the expansion of charters.

It also appears that a number of neighborhoods want schools in their vicinity to serve at least 50% of the school population from the neighborhood itself. Some of these buildings have already housed charter schools that serve the entire city on a lottery basis. Community voices have protested some school assignments because they are not neighborhood friendly. They are suggesting alternative solutions such as Morris Jeff or Audubon Schools. A school in discussion was the Colton School on St. Claude Avenue in Faubourg Marigny. The school is proposed to become a Knowledge is Power (KIPP) School. The debate over Colton “was a future snapshot of how charters cut across conventional racial and ideological divides — unlike virtually any other issue. In general, by majority though, the neighborhood contingent was White while most of the KIPP supporters were Black — defying the argument that charters are racially supported or opposed, one way or another.”

The coming months and years are vital to the education of our children and to the economic strength of our city. It is never all right for children to attend a failing school. How this city meets the challenge should engage us all in conversation, suggestions and support.

**LWVNO and LWVST are co-hosting the  
STATE LEAGUE CONVENTION  
SEEKING DELEGATES**

**April 1-3, 2011**

**The Columns Hotel  
3811 St. Charles Avenue**

Lea Young, Convention Co-Chair

We can send 14 delegates to represent our League. *And we will pay your \$100 registration fee.* It is a chance to see League on a state level and meet members from around Louisiana. Learn important current updates by the experts on the following topics at the Saturday workshops:

**Louisiana's Future:**

- 1:30 ~ "Can Energy Production & Coastal Restoration Co-Exist?"
- 2:30 ~ "The Economic Future of LA: \$ and Sense"
- 3:30 ~ "Redistricting: Drawing the Lines"

**Capacity Building:**

- 1:30 ~ "Parliamentary Procedure Training"
- 2:30 ~ "Using New & Old Media Tools to Build, Involve & Activate Your Community"
- 3:30 ~ "Teaming, Succession and Mentoring"

There will be a luncheon on Saturday and a reception on Saturday evening taking place at The Columns Hotel.

 [LWV LA Convention 2011 Registration Form.pdf](#)

Dear Members, Let me explain the convention form for those of you who would like to attend either as a delegate or just to attend workshops or the reception.

- To be a delegate costs \$100 which will be paid by our League to represent us.
- The reception on Saturday evening is \$36 and would be paid by you. If you want to bring a guest, date, husband, etc., mark the space for 2, 3, etc., multiply by \$36, and enclose the check in that amount to the League office..
- If you want to come on Sunday only, the cost is \$50 which includes the brunch.
- If you only want to go to the workshops, the cost is \$5 per workshop and you can just show up.

- If you want to volunteer to help me with registration and other activities just email me when you can help.

Lastly, the address to mail the form and any check is **1215 Prytania #224 NOLA 70130**. Please get it to me by **February 21** as we then have to send it on to the state. They need head counts to know what to arrange for each activity. I encourage you to come for something even if it is only one workshop. This is why we belong to the League to learn important issues and the ways to work on them. Thanks, Lea

I will post more information on the website and by email closer to the event. **For those who wish to be actual delegates, I need your commitment no later than February 21.** Questions? Email me at [yxenos@gmail.com](mailto:yxenos@gmail.com). Lea



## Recycling Update

Wendy King, Environmental Chair

I contacted the New Orleans Sanitation Department, to get an update on when city-run curbside recycling services would return. Currently, each of our city's three garbage-collection companies has also included curbside recycling in its contract for 2011-2012. However, we don't have any firm dates about the resumption of the city's curbside recycling services. Our best guess is this spring. The trend right now is towards single-stream recycling, with the recyclables mixed together, rather than sorted, in wheeled bins similar to those used for garbage pick-up.



Our condolences to the family and friends  
Of long time member

**Ed Connelly**

He was a valued and devoted Voter Service volunteer.



## Welcome New Members:

Estelle Campagne	343-4562	<a href="mailto:palenville8@yahoo.com">palenville8@yahoo.com</a>
Ernest Duffy	952-3705	
Marie Williams	392-7074	<a href="mailto:justice089@aol.com">justice089@aol.com</a>



## **LWVNO Needs Help!**

### **Seeking Part-Time PAID Office Worker**

We need a contract worker for 8 hours per week to file, open mail, answer the phone, direct information to appropriate sources and perform minimal computer record keeping.

**If interested, contact Lea Young at 362-9603.**



### **Critical Redistricting Meeting for New Orleans**

**Thursday, February 17, 6:00 p.m.**

**Dillard University, Georges Auditorium, Room 115**

Rosalind Blanco Cook, Voter Service Chair

It is no secret ~ Louisiana is the sole Southern state to lose a U.S. Congressional seat. Even before the release of the 2010 census statistics, the prediction was that the state would suffer this loss. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau is used to determine how to divide the 435 House seats among the 50 states. Louisiana's Congressional delegation will be reduced from 7 to 6 House seats. A majority black Congressional district in Louisiana will be maintained to comply with the federal Voting Rights Act.

In a special session beginning March 20, the Louisiana Legislature will go through an intense, political process to redraw boundaries for the state's legislative, congressional, courts of appeal, the state Supreme Court, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Public Service Commission districts. **Before the start of this special session, public meetings will be held. Attend this one!**



### **Election Schedule Study Committee Meeting**

**Saturday, March 26, 10:00 a.m.**

**Borders Bookstore at the corner of Louisiana and St. Charles Ave.**

**All League Members are invited to participate.**

Linda Walker, Study Chair

Come to the committee meeting if you want to help with the survey, interviews or research or contact Linda Walker at 899-2582.

