

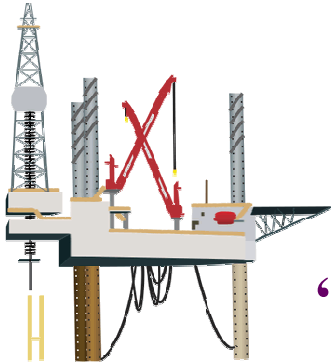


LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF NEW ORLEANS

**LEAGUE ESSENTIALS**

Volume 53, Issue 4

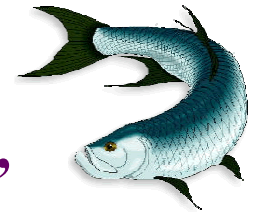
May/June 2011



**Field Trip!**

## Port Fourchon

“Gateway to the US Economy”



**Friday, May 13, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm**  
**Meet at NOMA for Hotard bus ride**  
**The bus is full.**

**\$20/person**

**Bring a sandwich and drink**

**RSVP [yxenos@gmail.com](mailto:yxenos@gmail.com)**

**Bring check that day**



### **PROGRAM:**

**9:30 am: 2 hour bus ride**

**11:30 am: Windell Curole,  
Environmentalist**

**12:30 pm: Talk with Charlotte  
Randolph, President of  
Lafourche Parish**

**1:00 pm: 2 hour tour of Port**

**3:00 pm: 2 hour ride back to NOMA**

## Letter from the President:

*As I enter the final months of my presidency, I want to thank all who have worked with me to make this a wonderfully productive year. The LWVLA convention that we co-sponsored was such a success, energizing us to tackle more issues statewide in a new era of camaraderie and commitment. Be sure to read all of the items to vote on at our Annual Meeting/Luncheon June 4th at The Columns Hotel. We will elect a new board, officers, bylaws and budget. It is a fun time to tend to business and see old friends!*

*Lea Young*



### **Of Special Note:**

- Congratulation to **Marietta Herr** who has been honored by the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana for her tireless commitment to securing an additional 3,000 acres for the Jean Lafitte National Park
- Many thanks to **Carolyn Malek** who is retiring as our office volunteer
- Welcome to our new paid Office Manager **Deborah Casey** who will be assisting the board with a variety of clerical tasks
- Once again, thanks to **Polly Guthrie** and **Betty Wisdom** for their bequests to our League enabling us to be solvent for years to come!
- Thanks to outgoing board members **Renee Smith**, **Linda Santi** and **Ann Duffy** for many years of service to our League
- Congrats to **Sandra Trahan** who was elected at the LWVLA convention to represent our League on the State Board



### **Welcome New Members:**

Erin Sapp	491-7077	<a href="mailto:erinesapp@gmail.com">erinesapp@gmail.com</a>
Regina Bartholomew		<a href="mailto:rbartholomew1@bellsouth.net">rbartholomew1@bellsouth.net</a>



### **LWVNO Goes to the Movies**

Lela Cloud Neff, Board Member

...And wasn't it grand? Under a nearly full moon and clear, mild skies, the League gathered at the charming PJ's on Magazine Street to watch ***Iron Jawed Angels***, an excellent film about how we (finally!) won the right to vote. We also dined on pizza and drank wine. It really was a lovely, inspiring evening.



### **LWVNO Makes a Movie**

Lela Cloud Neff, Board Member

During the Holiday Party, many extraordinary League members participated in the making of a short documentary video aimed at discovering what League members would like to see in the area of women's rights for the next 90 years. We look forward to premiering the documentary through our website and also YouTube in the near future. We'll keep you posted on when we will have a formal showing of the interviews. We also plan to take some of the segments and turn them into Public Service Announcements and other promotional pieces aimed at educating the greater public about our amazing League and its great members.

**Celebrate or Vote?**  
**Does the Calendar Affect Voting in Orleans Parish?**

Rosalind Blanco Cook, Member, Voter Study Committee

Before the end of May, L WVNO members will receive a provocative, thoroughly researched publication that explores our chapter's latest study. The brief and accessible booklet compares the current calendar of the Orleans Parish and the New Orleans municipal elections, with the local events calendar. Is the election process hampered by a myriad of holidays, football, Mardi Gras, and Winter Olympic Games?

The detailed analysis is complete with information garnered from interviews with those in the know—public officials involved in the workings of elections in New Orleans and Louisiana, prior candidates with first-hand experience campaigning during celebration times, and academics who have researched elections in different locations. Various options for change of the election schedule as determined by Louisiana law are presented and explained.

Consensus questions for the Orleans Parish Election Schedule Study will accompany your copy of the publication. Please review the materials and plan to attend one of several meetings for League members, scheduled for summer, to discuss the consensus questions.

***Be on the lookout! Watch your mail!***



**State Wide Feasibility Study of Full-day Four Year Old Education**

Ann L. Meese PhD, Education Chair

At the biennial League of Women Voters of Louisiana Convention held in New Orleans April 1-3, Ann Meese moved to form a state-wide committee to study the feasibility of initiating the establishment of full day early childhood instruction for four year olds. Previously published reports in Louisiana supporting this change will be gathered and summarized. Programs in other states will also be studied. The pros and cons of such a law will be addressed.

Currently the Cecil J. Picard LA4 Pre-Kindergarten Program provides over 700 New Orleans four year olds with full day pre-kindergarten classes. One of the most promising methods of closing the learning gap between children of adequate income and those qualifying for free and/or reduced lunch is increasing the number of children served. Currently, local elementary principals would like to increase the number of four year old classes but the state economic support is lower than that provided for K-12 students. Principals must use alternate funding to subsidize state support and cannot afford to do so.

Attention will be directed to the existing four year old Head Start Programs and how they would fit into this new structure. Also the partnership with high quality private and other public centers will be examined.

**Study Committee Members are urgently needed. Please call Ann Meese, 504.218.8985 home, 573.489.2715 cell, or email me at [ameese@cox.net](mailto:ameese@cox.net) to volunteer.**

**Note: Essentials is printed on Recycled Paper**

## Recycling Update

Wendy King, Environmental Chair

City-run curbside recycling services began on May 2. Residents may use leftover blue recycling bins or register for a new bin:

<http://www.nola.gov/RESIDENTS/Department-Of-Sanitation/Curbside-Recycling/>.

Collection schedule – map:

<http://www.nola.gov/RESIDENTS/Department-Of-Sanitation/Collection-Schedule-Map/>



## LWVLA Convention Pictures:



State Board Members: Wanda Wright, Jennifer Vidrine & Carol Deville



Ann Meese, Rosalind Cook, Lea Young & Sylvia Warren



Felicia Kahn, former president & 50 year member; Sandra Trahan, new member & elected to LWVLA board & Lea Young, outgoing LWWNO president.



Thetis Cusimano, LWV Lafayette President, Lea Young, Sandra Slifer, LWV St. Tammany President, Jennifer Vidrine, Lafayette League member & newly elected mayor of Ville Platte & Lawrence Narcisse, LWVLA President

Membership Roster and Workbook will be available at the Annual Meeting

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**May 13 - Port Fourchon Field Trip**

**June 4 - LWWNO Annual Meeting – insert and invitation enclosed**