



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®] OF NEW ORLEANS LEAGUE ESSENTIALS

Volume 48 Issue 2

May/June 2006

ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2006

JOIN US FOR BRUNCH AT THE NEW ORLEANS LAWN TENNIS CLUB

9:30am -- 11:30 am

Doors will open at 9:00 am for coffee and registration

Meeting will begin promptly at 9:30 am

Guest Speaker to be announced

Cost \$25.00

Officers will be elected for 2006-2007

Budget approved

Reports

A count of attendees is necessary to plan the food.

RSVP BY Tuesday, May 30th

Call: Jean Fischer at 861-1807 or Helen Malin at 393-8029

LWVNO Proposed Budget 2006-2007*

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Dues	8000	Office:	
Contributions:		Rent	4800
Members	2000	Postage	600
Non-members	2400	Supplies	200
Interest	40	Telephone	800
Special Events:		Equipment	300
Social	200	Roster	300
Annual Meeting	800	"Essentials"	800
Fundraiser	1000	Meetings	200
		Membership Services	200
		Printing	100
		Special Events:	
		Social	200
		Annual meeting	800
		Affiliations	105
		Internet/web	600
		PMPs:	
		LWVUS	2582
		LWVLA	1620
TOTAL	14440	TOTAL	14207

* Budget Committee Members include Dorothy Smith, Norma Frieberg and Eve Herman.

Nominations for 2006-2007 Offices

The Nominating Committee for LWVNO's 2006-2007 slate of officers was selected by the Ad Hoc Steering Committee. The Nominating Committee, Jean Fischer, Marion Bourgeois and Donna Moran present the following nominees for office:

President – Lea Young

Vice President – Mary Francis Gardner

Treasurer – Dorothy Smith

Secretary – TBD

Board Members – Ellen Miclette, Linda Walker, Wendy King, and Pat Kimmel

The Nominating Committee for 2007-2008 is yet to be determined.

Voter Service ... Back to Our Core Mission

Under the unusual circumstances, a decision was made last fall to focus solely on voter service this year. The following is a litany of the election activities undertaken by LWVNO. An in-depth report will be included in the Annual Meeting booklet.

October: Invited by Sec. of State Alter to participate in summit on impending election. A volunteer from St. Tammany LWV represented LWVNO at meeting.

November: Met with Orleans Registrar of Voters, Louis Keller, and Clerk of Criminal District Court, Kimberly Williamson Butler, to determine local resources and needs. Letter to the editor published in New York Times.

December: Lobbied City Council, State Legislature and Governor to set alternate election date as soon as possible and to create consolidated polling sites. Began recruiting citizens to volunteer as poll commissioners.

January: Over 900 citizens volunteered as poll commissioners; League members trained as commissioners

February: Formed coalition of sponsors for mayoral forums (LWVNO, National Council of Jewish Women, Urban League of New Orleans, ACORN and Young Leadership Council); planned for Internet candidates' guide; California LWV donated website hosting and software for use. Applied to LWVUS Education Fund for 501c(3) project status.

March: First 3 days of March, manned table at Convention Center to collect candidate information for Internet candidates' guide. Collected information from 104 of 111 candidates from all races. Only complete non-partisan candidates' guide available for elections. March 15th, met with Gracia Hillman, U.S. Election Assistance Commissioner. March 16th, held our most successful primary mayoral forum ever. 21 of 23 candidates participated and over 1,000 citizens attended at Temple Sinai. Event was broadcast live on NPR's WWNO FM and simulcast on www.wwno.org for displaced citizens. March 17th launched Internet candidates' guide to the public. Production began on 2 public service announcements by the Loyola University Communications Dept. for the League.

April: Distributed 15,000 flyers with voting information to libraries, FEMA centers, other groups, etc. PSAs were released to 5 local TV stations and were aired in prime time. The PSAs advertised the Internet candidates' guide and informed citizens how to find their new polling site. April 22nd, primary election held and LWVNO members filled many slots as commissioners. Election night, League members covered 8 polling sites collecting results and reported them to FOX 8 television.

May: May 11th, mayoral run-off election forum with 5 co-sponsors held in Nunemaker Hall on Loyola campus. Internet election guide had over 20,000 visitors seeking information since release on March 17th.

HELP WANTED: GOOD-BYE TO 234 LOYOLA AVE.!!!

On February 15th, management notified us that the building housing our office was being closed due to irreparable damage from the flooding in the basement and first floor. Our office was unharmed, but the air conditioning and other mechanical equipment in the building cannot be repaired. Our goal is move during June. Our final destination is uncertain at this time but we do have prospects. We need volunteers to pack up files and the small things in the office. The plan is to work on Saturday mornings May 20th and May 27th. If you can volunteer either of those days, call the office at 581-9106 and leave a message on the machine with your name and current phone number.

WANTED: Your e-mail address!! If you have an e-mail address and you have not been receiving regular bulletins from the League with information and action alerts, please consider sending your address to annipettit@mac.com so she can add you to the New Orleans League listserv.

President's Message: Tribute to a Heroine

The League, as a reflection of the rest of the city, has experienced the loss of treasured members. Other League volunteers have come forward to keep the League operational and do a magnificent job for our voter service. I am not going to list all those folks that deserve our thanks and my gratitude. Instead I chose another special Leaguer.

There is one League member that is a true heroine in every sense of the word. She has contributed more to the recovery of New Orleans than any of the officials that have been receiving the media attention. She exemplifies the very best of any New Orleanian. That is Marcia St. Martin. Marcia is the director of the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board. Despite the loss of her own home, Marcia managed the operations of the S&WB before, during and after the storm to minimize the impacts, maintain services as long as possible, drain the water from the city quicker than expected and return services with partial staff and on a decimated budget. In the meantime, she was sleeping on the floor of her office at night, and meeting with state and federal officials during the crisis.

Prior to when the storm hit New Orleans, Marcia made certain that the sewerage treatment basins were emptied to prevent raw sewage from entering any floodwaters. They maintained the drainage pumps until the salty floodwaters stopped them. They maintained treated drinking water on the East Bank for several days until the power went down. The West Bank treatment plants never went down and that plant has been the only drinking water supply for all of S.E. Louisiana with the exception of the East Bank of New Orleans. When the S&WB got the system's giant drainage pumps back on line, they emptied the floodwaters from the city in record time. Before other services are reliable, the S&WB under Marcia's leadership, has enabled our citizens to return to their homes.

Now Marcia is managing the recovery of the system and looking for the resources needed to take care of the long-term needs of the city. Many parts of our antiquated plants and delivery systems must be replaced.

We owe the existence of our city to Marcia and her staff. "Thank you" will never be enough.

Membership Update By Marion Bourgeois

The membership of our League has been a roller coaster ride for 2005-2006. Here is a summary of the facts:

In early June 2005 we had 173 members but as of January 31, 2006 the number was down to 131 members. The good news, however, is that we have 19 new members including 16 since January. But we are saddened to report two deaths: Robert Haspel and Edwina Reisfeld.

Directories will be made available at the annual meeting on June 3rd.

LWVNO JOINS COMMON GOOD

By Carol Good

Non-profit organizations across our community ... religious, philanthropic, educational, civic, neighborhood and cultural ... have joined together because of their concern about the future of an integrated New Orleans. Over the past few months, Common Good has been identifying critical issues and developing our understanding of several of these issues.

We have had three general meetings, the first to discuss housing, the second to discuss education and the third, crime. As a result of the last meeting, a joint forum, sponsored by Common Good and The Police and Justice Association, was held with the mayoral candidates on May 15th at Loyola on the subject of crime. The League, a member of Common Good, was asked to help plan the program, publicize the event and encourage our members to attend.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF NEW ORLEANS**
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AD HOC STEERING COMMITTEE, LWNNO Board 2005-2006

President, Elected: Linda Walker; 1st Vice-President, Elected: Barbara LaFleur;

Treasurer, Elected & Acting Secretary: Dorothy Smith;

**Board Members: Ann L. Pettit (Elected); Wendy King (Elected); Marian Bourgeois (Appointed); Ann Duffy (Appointed);
Ellen Miclette ("Essentials" Editor, Appointed)**

(504) 581-9106 (phone and fax); Internet address: www.lwvno.org

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 3rd (Saturday): LWNNO Annual meeting, Guest Speaker: Stephanie Grace, Times-Picayune

June 9 – June 13: National Convention in Minneapolis

Check our website, www.LWNNO.org for updates on future events.