



LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of NEW ORLEANS

Volume 57, Issue 4, Nov/Dec 2015

League Essentials

SAVE THE DATES

Early Voting

Saturday, November 7, thru
Saturday, November 14, 2015

Constitutional Amendment Study

Saturday, November 14, 2015
9:30 am - 11:30 am
Rosa Keller Library
4300 South Broad Street, NOLA

LWVNO Board Meeting

Wednesday, November 18, 2015
LWVNO Office 6:30 pm

LWVNO Holiday Party

Sunday, December 13, 2015, 5 pm
Mark Your Calendar, Invite a Friend
details to be announced

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Message from The President

Dear Members,

One down....one to go - and that is just for this election season!! What with the numerous candidates and the lively rhetoric and debates, next year's presidential election seems to be right around the corner, nipping at our heels!

While some may be suffering from campaign/election fatigue, League of Women Voters members are working diligently to interest others in elections, issues, and the get out the vote effort.

League Voter Services committees, both here in New Orleans and throughout the state, provide citizens with the information they need to cast an educated vote. Our widely-used Election Guides offer residents an unbiased overview of the candidates' stance on the important issues that affect the citizens of this state and of our parishes. Encourage your friends, neighbors and colleagues to make use of this online service (lwvno.org) for our area representatives and for state-wide candidates. Thanks to the expert guidance of Linda Walker, over the years, our Guides have become a reputable, reliable resource for election information.

Looking ahead to the presidential election of 2016, LWVNO will coordinate with several organizations, universities and local high schools to organize and mobilize voters. Strategic plans will be formalized to register new high school voters, mobilize college students to vote, and to provide a creative platform for our 25-45 year-old voter bloc to get out the vote. More to come on those efforts!

The national League of Women Voters has two very important studies and our local League will be holding consensus meetings on these contemporary issues this fall (see details in the calendar).

Please take the time to look at the links: the Constitutional Amendment Study:

<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/constitutional-amendment-study> and

Money in Politics: <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review>.

We will be interested in your input at our upcoming consensus meeting.

The state and the local League is very interested in Medicaid Expansion in Louisiana and in January, Linda Hawkins, an expert in the field of healthcare, will provide a very informative presentation on this topic.

Rosalind Blanco Cook

President

Women in the Military

Having just honored veterans on November 11, we give thanks to our veterans who have served and continue to serve our country with dignity and courage.

Women have served in the U. S. Armed Forces since the

Revolutionary War.

Today, there are over two million women Veterans across the nation, representing 9.2 percent of the entire living Veteran population. We honor your service.





Registrating Voters at All Souls Church

LWVNO Website

We have lots of election information on our website for the November 21st election, with links to the LWCLA website and links to the Louisiana Secretary of State website. Don't forget to check it out for your information and send it to others asking for information.

This past election cycle, counting the candidates eligible to run in Orleans Parish seemed to be a moving target. At the beginning five of the legislative seats were unopposed. Then as the season progressed four of the candidates withdrew and two were declared ineligible. Of the forty-three remaining candidates twenty-eight posted their information on the LWVNO website. This resulted in a participation rate of 61%. Following the deadline to post candidate information to the public, two of the non-participating candidates asked to have their information posted. Following a diligent search it was determined that they had not sent in their information. This is a common occurrence each election cycle. Additionally, many of the special interest groups send candidates questionnaires related to their issues. It is quite likely candidates become confused answering the material. This was the case of one candidate who sent us answers to three other questionnaires before he submitted the League's answers.

From October 5th, the date the information was posted, through election day the website had 15,633 visits. This is down from previous elections and reflected the voter turn-out for Orleans Parish. The turn-out for Orleans varied from 37.9% to 22.8% depending on the precinct and the interest in a legislative race. With few legislative seats in the run-off on November 21st, we may expect the turn-out to be even lower. If interest builds for the governor's race we hope the turn-out will be better.

Linda Walker

Voter Service Committee Chair

TAKE A NEIGHBOR TO VOTE NOVEMBER 21st

Be sure to take a friend or neighbor to vote on November 21st. Let the elderly and infirm know that they can absentee vote or early vote. So, don't vote alone, make it a group effort.

Linda Walker

Voter Service Committee Chair

Urban Conservancy 2015, Urban Heroes Celebration

November 12, Carmo Urban Cafe, 527 Julia Street NOLA 6:30-9 p.m.

Congratulations Wendy. Wendy King is now LWVLA Environmental Committee Chair.

Constitutional Amendment Study

While all 27 of the amendments adopted since 1787 have been initiated by Congress, Article V of the Constitution, includes a provision that "The Congress...on application of two-thirds of the several State shall call a convention for proposing amendments."

There is currently a movement among conservatives for a state-generated Article V Constitutional convention to contemplate an amendment, or suite of amendments, intended to curb federal power and its domination of the states. Indeed, on April 12, 2015, a Maryland attorney filed a federal lawsuit against members of Congress for failure to call an Article V Constitutional Convention, alleging that 35 states have already submitted applications for a convention call. Please see <http://www.foavc.org/>

But even some conservatives worry about a "runaway convention," in which the delegates produce a number of other changes to the Constitution. For example, liberals might be motivated to use a convention to overturn the Supreme Court's Citizens United ruling. The backers of a convention think the prospect of a runaway convention can be prevented with precise instructions and ironclad clauses binding appointed delegates, but there are ample reasons to think they would prove insufficient. For more details read <http://www.forbes.com/sites/stevenhayward/2014/08/07/an-article-v-constitutional-convention-a-bad-idea-whose-time-has-come/>

For these reasons, the LWVUS has conducted a Constitutional Amendment Study. See the LWV Guide for the study at [http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/constitutional-amendment-](http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/constitutional-amendment-study-guide)

[study-guide](http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/constitutional-amendment-study-guide). The LWVNO will be holding a Consensus meeting to discuss the results of this study and determine if there is a consensus on a number of issues defined by the study (the questions are listed in the above Study Guide). Francine Guigno is the facilitator for the meeting which will be held:

Saturday, November 14
9:30 am - 11:30 am
Rosa Keller Library
4300 South Broad Street

This meeting is open to the public though only LWVNO members can vote on the consensus questions. We urge you to prepare for, attend, and participate in this important study. The results of the consensus will be presented at the national LWV Convention, June 16-19, 2016, and, if adopted, will become the basis of the LWV position on this important topic.

Rosalind Blanco Cook

President



Membership

Let's get our membership numbers up in neighboring parishes. We have 13 members now in Jefferson Parish. Let's aim for 26 before the end of our League year in June. LWVNO, as participating members of LAW, meets with our elected officials to push for issues important to women in Louisiana. Numbers count. We want to invite our neighbors and friends to join us especially before the next legislative session begins.

Criminal Justice Committee Report

The St. Tammany League is hosting a meeting for John Lindner, Chief Public Defender for St. Tammany Parish, on November 12. Mr. Lindner is asked to clarify his office's role in reducing mass incarceration and to update us as to the changes in operation noted in the Technical Assistance

Report of 2012 for the 22nd Judicial District. A pre-read of "Just Mercy" is recommended. All state leagues have been asked to do this as well.

LWVNO is scheduling a tour of the Orleans Parish Jail. All state Leagues have been asked to do this as well.

Bonnie Schmidt attended the Catholic Symposium for Systemic Change and has been asked to serve on their committee. She has also attended Justice and Beyond, a group that meets in New Orleans.

In an effort to continue to raise the awareness of our League member's articles and reports have been emailed to committee members.

Bonnie Schmidt

City of New Orleans Recycle Drop-off and Shred Day

America Recycles Day event

November 14, 2015, 8am-1pm

The City of New Orleans Department of Sanitation offers a monthly recycling drop-off for New Orleans residents at the Recycling Drop-Off Center (2829 Elysian Fields Avenue) on the second Saturday of every month from 8:00am until 1:00pm. Recycle Drop-off days give New Orleans residents the opportunity to recycle special materials like electronics, including televisions, in addition to paper, plastics, and metal cans.

The November 14 Recycle Drop-Off will be a special "Shred Day." The Department of Sanitation offers citizens the ability to shred personal and/or sensitive paper goods up to 50 pounds per person.

Volunteers needed! This will also be an America Recycles Day event, part of an annual, national effort encouraging people to pledge to recycle throughout the year. Volunteers will be needed to assist with directing cars to the various drop off stations and to assist with unloading paper, plastics, small metals and e-waste. Volunteers must wear closed in shoes. We would like volunteers to arrive by 7:45 a.m.; however, you can come at any time to assist for any portion of time from that 7:45 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. If you can help, let us know at keepneworleansbeautiful@gmail.com

Items Accepted at the Recycling Drop-Off Center

All food items should be thoroughly washed before recycling. Sorting is not required; however, citizens should separate paper, metals, cardboard and plastics, which are disposed of through different processes.

- Paper Products (newspapers, junk mail, phone books, catalog, office paper, color inserts)
- Plastics #1 through #7 (water, soda, juice, detergent, plastic pots from nurseries, plastic bags, etc.)
- Metals (Aluminum, Tin, Steel Cans)
- Cardboard/boxboard (cereal boxes)/wax board (juice and milk containers)
- Mardi Gras beads
- E-waste (computers, laptops, cell/phones, telephone systems, cable, x-Boxes, Play stations, Wii, MP3s, DVRs, DVDs, UPS, circuit systems, ink jet and toner cartridges, laptops, printers, fax machines, uninterruptible power supplies, circuit boards, digital cameras/picture frames, stereos, speakers, MP3 players, security systems, GPS devices, video games)
- Televisions (limit 4)
- Batteries (AA, AAA, AAAA, C, D, 6, & 9 volt)
- Light bulbs (incandescent and fluorescent)
- Tires (limit 4)

For more information on the Second Saturday Recycle Drop-offs, visit

<http://www.nola.gov/sanitation/recycling/drop-off/>

Healthcare Committee

In keeping with the goals of the LWVUS, the New Orleans League has been working to expand Medicaid coverage for those whose income is less than 100% of the federal poverty level. I have represented our city at two statewide Healthcare Committee meetings, as has Joyce Corrington, the state LWV president.

Linda Hawkins, of Abita Springs, spearheaded a healthcare debate in September between Jay Dardenne and

John Bel Edwards (the other candidates could not attend). The LWVNO and the LWVLA served as sponsors of this well-attended event, and Wendy King was timekeeper.

Enrollment for Medicaid and for Medicare supplement insurance coverage began November 1. To obtain coverage beginning January 1, 2016, enrollment must be completed by December 15. Medicaid enrollment remains open until January 31, but late enrollment will delay the beginning of coverage. For those with incomes between 100% and 400% of the federal poverty level, federal subsidies/credits are available. Medicaid enrollees are reminded that if they make no changes to their insurance policy, it will automatically continue, but next year's policy may offer different benefits and may cost more. How to sign up? Online at www.HealthCare.gov. In addition, Navigators for a Healthy Louisiana offers help from trained advisors (real people!) at 800/435-2432.

Patty Andrews

Healthcare Committee Chair



Jay Dardenne and John Bel Edwards

Photo by Felicia Kahn

LWVNO Board of Directors 2015-2016

President.....Rosalind Blanco Cook

Vice President.....Francine Giungo

Secretary.....Suzanne Dicharry

Mission

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major policy

Treasurer.....Yvonne Mitchell-Grubb
Board: Lisa Manning Ambrose, Pat Bedenbaugh,
Wendy King, Barbara LaFleur, Jessie Nieblas

issues and influences public policy through
education and advocacy.

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