



BRIEF LEAGUE REPORTS

fall 2015



LWV OF CADDO-BOSSIER

rented a booth at the Southern Hills Business Expo to publicize the League's activities and recruit new members. A background visual emphasized "In Thriving Communities Citizens Vote." Two posters showed percentage graphs of who voted by political party and compared voter turnout in Caddo Parish for the 2012 presidential election with voter turnout for the May, 2014 bond issue election. In addition people were offered a mini-pie when they completed a Voter Survey where they listed the "top three issues you care about most." Sixty-eight people participated across five age brackets. Results: (1) Education; (2) Economy/Jobs; (3) Roads/Bridges; (4 and 5 tie) Public Safety and Health Care. The results will be sent to elected officials at the local, state and federal levels.



LWV OF LAFAYETTE

has been front and center in facilitating public awareness for local elections. In a first-time ever collaboration with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL) College of Liberal Arts, they co-hosted forums for candidates vying for sheriff, city-parish president, and city-parish council.

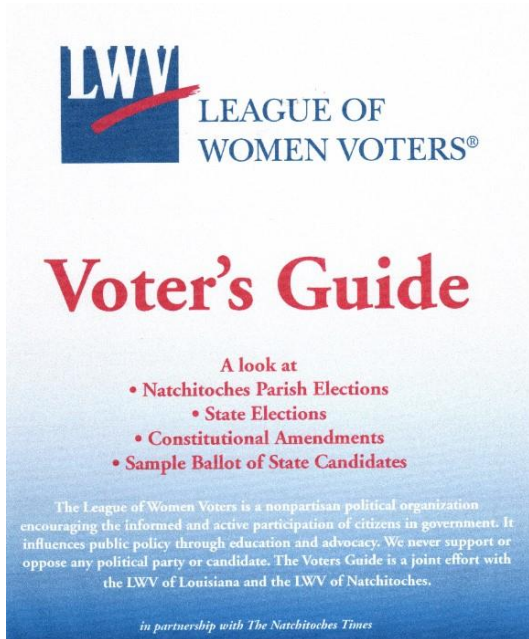
In another first, they partnered with Acadian Open Channel to make possible *Know Your Candidate* videos, allowing candidates the chance to make a free informative video to be aired on AOC, and available on the League's and AOC's websites.

They celebrated their first Constitution Day at ULL by hosting a voter registration table, and on National Voter Registration Day they registered 96 students at a local high school. Their final voter registration drive for this election season was held at Lafayette's first-ever Stump Speech Candidate Meet and Greet, an event co-hosted by all print and television media affiliates in Lafayette.



CANE RIVER M-A-L UNIT TO BECOME LWV OF NATCHITOCHEES

The Natchitoches MAL unit held its first Annual Meeting to set goals, agree on bylaws, and elect officers. These steps bring the group closer to becoming fully accredited as a local LWV of Natchitoches. Officers from left are Secretary Kelly Savell, Co-Chair Emily Allen, Treasurer Connie Conine, Chair Meg Fitzhugh and Board Member Betty Shields. Not pictured is Board Member Judy Allen.



A Voter's Guide to candidates for Natchitoches Parish and statewide offices was prepared by LWVN members and made available to voters as a supplement to the *Natchitoches Times* newspaper. The newspaper distributed 6,000 copies to their subscribers, and Ann Manger spent several days driving to deliver 500 copies to the many smaller communities of the parish—to convenience stores, banks, and more. The Registrar of Voters noted seeing voters come in for early voting with copies in their hands.



LWV OF NEW ORLEANS

was awarded the Diana Lewis Citizen Participation Award by the Committee for a Better New Orleans (CBNO) for its work in changing the dates of the Mayor and City Council election. This effort began with a LWVNO 2011 study conducted by the Voter Service Committee, Linda Walker, chair. The results were published in a booklet titled "Celebrate or Vote" and showed that voter turnout was adversely affected by calendar conflicts between elections and New Orleans' social events. The LWVNO used this study to successfully advocate for the passage of two legislative bills and to win voters' approval of a City Charter change. President Rosalind Cook accepted the award for the League at the annual CBNO luncheon.

LWVNO volunteer annually register 700 new citizens to vote and during Voter Registration Week helped the Registrar of Voters cover a number of locations throughout New Orleans. Members also continued their long-time legislative advocacy for the issues identified by the Legislative Agenda for Women (LAW): Equal Pay, Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Medicaid Expansion, Reproductive Rights for Women, and Sex Education.



LWV OF ST. TAMMANY

has for twenty-five years systematically observed or followed the meetings of their Police Jury and now Parish Council. The day before the first Council meeting of each month they arrange a meal/coffee time that a dozen or more League members attend. The focus on Parish Council issues, along with parish election races, unites members, who come from the many municipalities and smaller communities of St. Tammany Parish, which is served by 14 Council members from 14 Council districts.. Two of the original volunteer observers still continue the organizing: Kada Harris calls members for a head count, notifies the restaurant and picks up Council agendas. Barbara Dodds does the research and presides at the meeting. Good discussions follow, and the informed members each have time to contact their district's Councilman. Some members then watch the live broadcast at home. (Photo from NOLA.com, the Time-Picayune Archives.)

LWV LOUISIANA CO-SPONSORED FORUM ON HEALTHCARE

Linda Hawkins, representing the LWVLA's Healthcare Committee, was a member of the planning team for the 2015 Gubernatorial Candidate Forum on Healthcare. She is shown with Alma Stewart, organizer of Healthcare for Everyone Louisiana and Host of forum, and Dr. Corey Hebert, the Moderator. Gubernatorial candidates Jay Dardenne and John Bel Edwards responded to questions before an audience of about 300 at Dillard University in New Orleans.



2015 Gubernatorial Candidate Forum on Healthcare





LWV OF LOUISIANA VOTERS' GUIDE

LWVLA president Joyce Corrington and other members met candidates for statewide offices at the Secretary of State's office when they came to qualify. They were told that the LWVLA was preparing a Voters' Guide and encouraged to participate by answering policy questions relevant to the offices they were seeking. Almost 80% responded. Their answers, along with LWVLA's analysis of the proposed Constitutional Amendments, are posted online on the state League's website www.lwvofla.org

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