



League of Women Voters of Fort Smith

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2013 Voter

From the President:

The 2012-13 Board strove to provide the League and the community with a well-rounded array of programs. The League began the year with a panel discussion on the Arkansas Medical Marijuana Act that came before voters in the 2012 November election. Four candidate forums were held for local and state offices. Other programs included presentations on school safety, reports on the city from the Mayor and the Chief of Police, Arkansas highways, the Dream Act, Our Changing Political Climate, a plea for continuing a Sebastian county sales tax, a 2013 Legislative Update from two State Representatives, a panel discussion on the disadvantaged in our community, and a report from a League member on her American Women's History Tour.

On September 25, 2012, League members participated in a voter registration drive in two locations in conjunction with National Voter Registration Day. We also funded a local student to attend Girls' State.

Membership is the strength behind any organization. Your dues provide the bulk of our operating expenses which allow us to produce quality programs which, in turn, provide important information to the Fort Smith community. We are pleased to announce that the LWVFS has received a certificate of special recognition from LWVUS for increasing our membership by 16%! *LET'S KEEP GROWING!*

The League enjoys a good reputation in the area. Area leaders and candidates are eager to come speak to us. The media have been in attendance at most events. President Cole has announced several events on local radio. Meetings are posted on The League of Women Voters of Fort Smith Facebook page and in the *Times Record*.

Thank you to all who have made this a successful League year. Please review the 2013-2014 Proposed Programs, the report of the Nominating Committee, and the proposed 2013-2014 Budget for your consideration.

Proposed Programs for 2013-2014

- ◆ Local, State and Federal Education Issues
- ◆ Local, State and Federal Candidate Forums
- ◆ State and Local Government Issues
- ◆ Economic Issues
- ◆ Natural Resources Issues
- ◆ Social Services for All Ages
- ◆ Retain All Previous League Stands
- ◆ Retain Program Emphasis for National and State League

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Slate of Officers & Board Members – Odd Year

Per Article IV, Section 1, Officers; and Article V, Section 1, Board of Directors of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Fort Smith, the Nominating Committee submits the following slate of officers and board members for 2013:

President - Jeannie Cole

1st Vice President – Cathy Williams

Secretary – Luanne Weir

Board Member – Yvonne Keaton-Martin

Board Member – Tracy Pennartz

Continuing to serve on the Board as Directors for the remainder of their 2-year terms are:

2nd Vice President – JoAnn Gedosh

Treasurer – Karen Farris

Past President – Dolores Chitwood

Board Member – Nancy Brewer

Board Member – Judith Hansen

Board Member – Dorothy Johnson

The Board wishes to thank the 2013 Nominating Committee:
Dorothy Johnson, Chair; Sheryl Flanagan; Julie Moncrief; Diane Burl; Karen Farris

2013-14 Program Ideas

1. Candidate Forums – Mid year elections? School Board candidates?
2. Riverfront Development – Carolyn Plank – Neighborhood Coalition
Jim Dunn – Marshall’s Museum, Tim – Chamber 783-3111
3. Chaffee Development – Ivy Owen
4. 3rd High School
5. Tornado Shelters – Emergency Management
6. *Trains, Planes & Automobiles* – Matt Pitch – RITA - Transportation
7. Natural Resources
AOG – Mike Callen 783-3181; OG&E - Rob Ratley – 479-414-2087
Alternative Energy Sources for AR
8. Western AR Planning & Development District – WAPDD – 6 Counties
John Guthrie 785-2651 - Fed Non-Profit Plan Devel – Grants
9. Economic Development
Sam Sicard – FS Chamber/NWAR Partnership samueltsicard@fnbfs.com
John Taylor – Finance
Mike Malone
10. Child Social Services Issues
Jared Broyles - - 459-0080
Fran Hall – Juvenile Detention – 651-3048; 783-3532
Children’s Emergency Shelter Director
11. *“This is What I Think/If I Were In Charge”* Forum