

**WGG Meeting
March 4, 2019**

Women for Good Government held the March 2019 meeting the Old Quarry Library.

Our guest speaker was **Dr. Emily Northrop, PhD**, Professor of Economics Environmental Studies Program, Southwestern University. She is an active volunteer with the **Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL)** and is the CCL liaison to Representative John Carter.

Citizens' Climate Lobby is a non-profit, nonpartisan grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change. Dr. Northrop explained that greenhouse gas (principally carbon dioxide) acts as a blanket in our atmosphere creating the greenhouse effect. As we add greenhouse gases to the atmosphere the greenhouse effect is getting stronger warming the climate of our planet. As "volunteer citizen lobbyists" CCL volunteers receive training to build bipartisan relationships with elected officials, the media and their local community. CCL believes that the "solution to climate change is democracy".

The impact of climate change can be felt in extreme weather – frequent and intense heat waves, damaging storms and higher sea levels – which affects animals, crops; every aspect of our lives.

The (U.N.) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warns that we have 12 years to cut emissions in half

- Practical and realistic things to do to reduce emissions can be found at www.drawdown.org

Dr. Northrop said that we cannot rely on individual choices to fix pollution and three ways for policy to address it involve basic economics:

1. Regulation – EPA Clean Power Plan 2015
2. Green New Deal is a statement of values and aspirations; social and economic goals, and climate goals
3. Price Pollution – carbon tax, cap & trade

CCL is lobbying hard and has bipartisan support for **Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act**, also known as **H.R. 763**. Dr. Northrop explained that H.R. 763

- Effective
- Creates Jobs
- Good for people
- Bipartisan
- Revenue Neutral

Jeremy Smith (executive Director) and **Madeline Eden** (Technical Director) from **Register to Vote.org** updated us on the register the vote efforts from 2018. They registered 133,000 new Texas voters or about 4000 voters per district. 109,000/133,000 or roughly 80% of them voted. The program cost was about \$80,000 from community, Austin, volunteers and donors. They are working with the Texas Secretary of Stae to upgrade voter registration. **Map the Vote** is updated in Texas and we can check to register people.

Sheri Soltes is running for Travis County Commissioner Precinct 3.

Lorraine Broll submitted the following summary of business conducted after Dr. Northrop's presentation and Jeremy Smith's update

Greetings all,

Thank you all who attended yesterday. It was a very good presentation by Dr. Northrop, informative and interactive.

This is a report for those who could not attend yesterday, as well as a record of the meeting.

SUMMARY: The WGG attendance at the monthly meetings at the Old Quarry exceeded allowable room capacity in Jan, Feb and March. WGG must move its monthly meetings to a new location that will accommodate 100+ people. A new location has been identified and reserved: First Unitarian Church, 4700 Grover. The new location is not free. To cover the cost of the rental fee at the new location, the WGG voted unanimously to institute membership dues of \$20.00 annually to pay for the new meeting location for the period April through November 2019.

DETAILS:

As you know we added an item to the agenda to address an urgent matter: moving to a new location for our meetings; and, instituting membership dues to pay for a new meeting location.

We are so fortunate that the WGG membership has grown significantly in the last three years. We are most certainly, if not the largest, one of the largest "progressive" clubs in Travis County. There are 565 people on our mailing lists. We saw an impressive and significant increase in attendance at our 2018 campaign HQ work days as well as at our monthly meetings in 2019. And, we hope see this continue.

SO, bottom line:

We exceeded the allowable capacity of 60 people at the Old Quarry Library for the last 3 monthly meetings. In February, 104 people attended and several were turned away.

The head librarian called me after the February meeting and let us know that we have to move. She was so very nice and let me know they so enjoyed our being there. This is the second library we have outgrown - YAY, WGG.

We have looked for another "free" facility that will accommodate 100+ people. Carver Library has the large meeting room but is not available the rest of 2019.

We found a space: First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover

This space is not free, but the church has given us a significant and very generous discount: the fee for April through November is \$1,020.00.

The members present at the meeting on Monday, March 4, 2019 were informed about our meeting room situation, the necessity to begin charging membership dues, a short discussion followed, and questions were answered. The suggested membership dues are \$20.00 (annual) to be paid in January of each new year (or at the December annual meeting).

The member were informed that a vote to approve instituting annual membership dues (\$20.00) is required. The president asked for a motion to vote to approve WGG membership dues. Joanne Richards offered the motion. The motion was seconded.

The president asked for a show of hands for a YES vote on membership dues.

The vote was unanimous to approve instituting membership dues. No objections observed or recorded.

Lorraine Broll, Executive Committee member, volunteered to serve as Treasurer for the remainder of 2019. Lorraine will open a checking account for the Women for Good Government at a credit union. We will add a Treasurer to our officer list to be elected by membership, along with the other officers, at the December 2019 Annual Meeting.

An announcement was made after the vote was taken that members present yesterday could pay dues at the end of the meeting.

Thank you all who paid your dues yesterday. We received enough money yesterday to pay for half of the contracted rental fee.

If you care to pay your dues before the April 1 meeting (cash or check), or if you think you will not be able to attend the April 1 meeting, you may send a check to:

Lorraine Broll, Treasurer
Women for Good Government
[6104 Roxbury Lane 78739](mailto:6104RoxburyLane78739@gmail.com)

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH.

Mary Patrick, President
Kathi Miller, Vice President
Kelley Bowen, Secretary
Lorraine Broll, Treasurer (volunteer), Executive Committee Member
Dorothea Adams, Executive Committee Member
Barbara Mason, Executive Committee Member
Susan Thomson, Executive Committee Member