



# The Voter

July 2012

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - CORPUS CHRISTI

**League of Women Voters**  
PO Box 8276  
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<http://www.lwv-cc.org>

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**Immediate Past President**  
Evy Coppola



LWV-CC officers for 2012-2013 are (l to r, front row) Sandra Heatherley, Matilda Saenz; (back row) Gloria Scott, Bryan Bode, Maria Jimenez, Elena Buentello, Judy Telge, and Pam Maupin. Frank Pimentel, director, is not pictured. (Please see related story, page 4.

## Monthly Meeting is July 19 at Jin's Asian Buffet

The League's July luncheon meeting will be on Thursday, July 19 at Jin's Asian Buffet, located at 4938 S. Staples (across from La Palmera Mall). The luncheon will provide an opportunity to network and welcome our new membership. The meeting will also be an opportunity to meet your new Board members and discuss League history, important upcoming dates, and volunteer and Program information. The meeting will be held in the Orchid Room from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch is \$10 and includes buffet-style menu and a drink. Reservations are not required as this new venue provides a buffet selection, at an affordable price of \$10 per person, paid at the door. Please join us as we welcome our new members and get reacquainted with those we may not have seen for a while!

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan, political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



Corpus Christi  
League of Women Voters

# President's Message

The month of July typically means participating in 4th of July celebrations, diving headlong into summer activities and complaining about the heat and higher than usual energy bills. That keeps most folks busy.



**Judy Telge**  
LWV-CC president

But not your local LWV-CC Board members. This month involves implementing decisions made by the membership at the LWV-CC May Annual meeting and the planning and prioritizing at the June Board Retreat. (see related stories)

Your LWV Board agenda for the year ahead is ambitious: reverse a declining membership; implement fund-raising activities to increase revenues; and maintain the commitment to sustaining the mission and meeting the goals of a local League of Women Voters.

Just in case you didn't know, your LWV-CC Board is a working Board! This diverse and dedicated group of women AND men is a model for other Leagues at all levels.

During the past year, as an example, their individual commitment to work at a new initiative with many challenges set a baseline record of accomplishment. A template of action resulted with the VOTE 18 Project and paves the way to sustain an important contribution to our community and region. (see related story) It would not have been possible without your Board volunteers or volunteers from our partner organizations, the \$1,000 PAVP grant from LWV-TX, or the continuing commitment of former Board members to meet all the other League obligations.

Your Board must not be the only worker bees. As LWV-CC members, we all have an obligation to contribute and here are some opportunities:

1. Attend membership meetings. This is where we learn more about the League of Women Voters, hear presentations on issues of importance to an informed public and hopefully, be inspired to work on issues with other members;

2. Join or head a committee or an initiative. Issue areas have been and will continue to be identified for study and to develop LWV positions.

This is how to contribute your interests and skills within the framework of the "League way." A current initiative is the VOTE 18 voter education and registration;

3. Donate money. If time is the issue, then this is a most welcome option to be exercised. After all, as a very wise person once said, "no Money, no Mission."

4. Recruit friends, colleagues, neighbors to join LWV-CC. If they were members at one time and "lapsed," recruit them again. The more members we have, the more we can do and the more benefits accrue to the community with having a local active League of Women Voters chapter.

It is exciting to welcome new members! (Please see related story, page 7) They will meet long-time members rich in knowledge and history that established and sustained the credibility of LWV-CC. New members are encouraged to seek their counsel, as those members seek to mentor others to carry on the good work of the League. On behalf of your Board, thank you for your membership and interest in LWV-CC. Now, let's get to work!

## Meet Our Program VP .....Elena Juarez Buentello

### **Why I joined the League of Women Voters:**

I am quietly reflecting on what membership in the League of Women Voters means to me. I wanted to be part of the choir of a unified, unbiased voice that helps inform and promote active participation in our current politics. Each opportunity to promote the League's principles is breathtaking and magnificent and I am privileged.

The League's rich history, spanning back to 1945,

includes the local League's first president working to obtain voting machines in Nueces County. The League also supported repealing the poll tax and promotion of a Council/Manager form of city government in addition to state and national level issues. As I embark on my journey as a Board member, I stand in awe of my League's history and accomplishments and prepare to go full steam ahead in the upcoming year to continue the League's charge.

# Court rules Affordable Care Act constitutional

## Decision Protects Health Care for Millions of Americans

Washington, DC – “Today’s decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Florida v. HHS* upholding the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was surprising but deeply important. This decision protects the health of millions of Americans,” Elisabeth MacNamara, national League President, said Thursday, June 28.

“The Court recognized health care reform for what it is: a legislative response to complex issues threatening the health and well-being of Americans that was best resolved by the elected branch of government – the Congress. The Court upheld this historic, transformative act of Congress,” added MacNamara.

“Upholding the ACA brings our nation closer to the goal of this law: to provide universal health care for all Americans. There are still threats to these critical reforms and the League will continue its work fighting for progress on many fronts,” MacNamara said.

“Now that the law has been upheld, children will no longer be denied coverage due to pre-existing conditions, young adults can stay on their parents’ health plans as dependents until age 26, Medicare participants will have annual check-ups and mammograms,

and many uninsured Americans will now have health care coverage.”

“Texas leads the nation in those without health-care insurance, particularly children, so Texas has much to gain from implementation of ACA,” said Linda Krefting, President of the League of Women Voters of Texas. “Now that the Supreme Court has upheld the law, we call on the State of Texas to invest in the health of Texans and the future of our State by developing effective health exchanges and expanding Medicaid coverage,” she added.

“The League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi-Area will continue to educate our community on the ACA and its pivotal impact on their lives and work to fully implement the law. Health care for all must be the goal as we expand coverage to millions of Americans and preserve the ACA’s transformational reforms,” said Judy Telge, President, League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi.

“We expressed great hope when the ACA passed Congress in 2010 after decades of struggle. Today, we look to a brighter future, a tomorrow that includes health care coverage for all Americans,” concluded MacNamara.

## Early voting dates for primary election runoffs are July 23–27

Early voting for the primary run-off elections scheduled Tuesday, July 31, will be conducted July 23-27. Don’t forget to vote! Precinct locations and voting sites, as well as the master ballots, are available on the Nueces County website, [www.co.nueces.tx.us](http://www.co.nueces.tx.us).

The Democratic Primary master ballot includes the following:

U.S. Senator: Paul Sadler, Grady Yarbrough

U.S. Representative, District 27: Rose Meza Harrison, Jerry J. Trevino

Member, State Board of Education, District 2: Celeste Zepeda Sanchez, Ruben Cortez, Jr.

Tax Assessor-Collector: John Sendejar, Alex Garcia, Jr.

Constable, Precinct 5: Dionicio “Don” Ysassi, Frank Flores III

In addition, seven county precinct chair positions will be decided.

The Republic Primary master ballot includes the following:

U.S. Senator: David Dewhurst, Ted Cruz

Railroad Commissioner: Warren Chisum, Christi Craddick

Railroad Commissioner, Unexpired Term: Greg Parker, Barry T. Smitherman

Justice, Supreme Court, Place 4: John Devine, David Medina

In addition, two county precinct chair positions will be decided.



# Education is topic at Annual Meeting

Approximately 40 League members and guests attended the 2012 Annual Meeting, held May 19, at the Corpus Christi Country Club.

Highlighting the evening was a conversation entitled “Making the Case for Public Education: A Bipartisan Approach to an Essential Nonpartisan Issue” between State Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa (D) and State Rep. Todd Hunter (R-District 32).

Business items on the agenda included election of officers, approval of the 2012-13 budget, and adoption of two Program topics.

Officers elected to serve with President Judy Telge and Director Frank Pimentel, both to serve the second year of their respective terms, are:

Sandra Heatherley, VP Member Services, two-year term.

Elena Buentello, VP Program, two-year term.

Pam Maupin, Director, two-year term.

Matilda Saenz, Secretary, two-year term.

Bryan Bode, VP Community Relations/Publicity, one-year term.

Maria Jimenez, Treasurer, one-year term; and

Gloria Scott, Director, one-year term.

Two Program topics adopted included: Environmental Sustainability, including clean air, water and land use planning; and Improving Educational Attainment in the Corpus Christi area.

A proposed balanced budget reflecting income and expenditures of \$17,620, was presented by Treasurer Maria Jimenez. Member dues will remain at \$60 for individuals and \$90 for household of two members at same address. Student memberships are \$30.

(Below) Former LWV-CC president and State Board member Chris Garcia monitors the discussion. (Right) President Judy Telge makes a point.



Peggy Banales, Treasurer Maria Jimenez, Director Frank Pimentel, and Vice President Elena Buentello are all intent on the subject at hand.

# Our session marks 2012-2013 Board Retreat



The 2012 Board Retreat was held June 19 at the YWCA, with Chris Davis Garcia, LWV-Texas director and former LWV-CC president, facilitating the discussion. Board members present included Judy Telge, president; Sandra Heatherley, VP Membership Services; Pam Maupin, Director; Elena Buentello, VP Program; Maria Jimenez, Treasurer; and Frank Pimentel, Director. Pat Parr, Voters Service chair, also attended.

Information and discussion during the four-hour session included LWV history; the relationship between the local League and LWV-TX and LWVUS; Program planning; calendaring important meeting dates for 2012-2013; Voters Service activities this Fall; and fund raising.



(Top right) Former Vice President Pam Maupin, a 2013 director (r), shares information with new Vice President for Program Elena Buentello.

# Plan of Action to Address Bacteria in Recreational Areas of Corpus Christi Bayfront

A water quality improvement planning process was initiated by the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Program of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The TMDL of bacteria program is one that assists in restoring the quality of impaired bodies of water. A necessary component of the program is the Implementation Plan, which is developed to mitigate sources of pollution within a water body or watershed and restore it to its designated use(s).

Throughout this project, the City of Corpus Christi, the Nueces River Authority, the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, and all other stakeholders and communities that use and affect these public beaches will be engaged in developing a strategy to improve the water quality.

A Steering committee was elected at the June 14 public meeting held at TAMU-CC. The steering committee members and the category they represent are:

Recreational Users: Luz Lumb of the Surfriider Foundation and Clarence Holmstrom of the Windsurfers Assn.

City of Corpus Christi: Danielle Converse of the Stormwater Dept., Pete Anaya of the Planning and Environmental Dept., Temple Williamson of the Wastewater Dept.

Environmental: Jace Tunnel of the Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program and Peggy Sumner consultant

Tourism: Keith Arnold of the Convention and Visitor Bureau

Business/Industry: Bob Blair of Bay Ltd.

## LWV Corpus Christi Renewal / New Membership Application

*Join now and help in the effort to promote political responsibility through informed, active participation in government.*

Type of membership: New  Renewal

Individual \$60  Student \$30  Household \$90

Name

Household Member's Name

Address

Work Address (optional)

I prefer to receive my mail at: home or work.  
(Please circle your preference above.)

Home phone

Work or Cell phone

Fax number

E-mail Address

**Please return this form to: League of Women Voters  
P. O. Box 8276, Corpus Christi, Texas 78468.  
Membership is from June 1 through May 31.**

Academia: Kelly White of Del Mar College  
Homeowners: Sally Clark Farris of the League of Women Voters (Please see New members, page 7)

Members of the Steering Committee need volunteers to function as a work groups for each category. Interested League members are encourage to volunteer and follow progress at

[cbbf@baysfoundation.org](mailto:cbbf@baysfoundation.org)

**Hunter&Handel** P.C.

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Fax (361) 883-0748



# Welcome and a word about our new members. . .

The following new members joined in the months of May and June:

**Linda Fallwell-Stover:**

Linda is a native Texan who has worked in the transportation industry for 25 years having worked in the oil and gas industry prior to that. She is Customer Services Program Manager at CC-Regional Transportation Authority.

**Sally Clark Farris:**

A native of Corpus Christi, Sally is a retired attorney who worked for both the cities of Corpus Christi and most recently, San Antonio. She was selected to be on the steering committee of the study of bacteria in the water of certain beaches in Corpus Christi Bay. She will chair the "Homeowners" stakeholder group.

**Alex Garcia:**

Alex has served as an at-large member of the

Corpus Christi City Council from 1997-1999. He is employed as a Commercial Lending VP for Value Bank. He was born and raised in Corpus Christi and educated at the University of Houston.

**Coretta Graham:**

Coretta is a practicing attorney in Corpus Christi who won a membership to the League of Women Voters at a function sponsored by one of our community partners, the YWCA. At our annual meeting in May Coretta volunteered to chair our local study (program/issue) related to the educational attainment level of community members in the Coastal Bend.

**Arrena Sue Williams:**

She goes by "Sue" and is a retired naval officer. She is a native Texan and currently works in real estate.

**Rosa Villarreal:**

Rosa attended our annual LWV-CC meeting in May and joined at that time.

## Thanks for renewing

- |                      |                   |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Chris Adler          | Margaret Duran    |
| Peggy Banales        | Christina Garcia  |
| Helen Barron         | Sandra Heatherley |
| Dawn Bissell         | Lois Huff         |
| Bryan Bode           | Maria Jimenez     |
| Elena Buentello      | Nick Jimenez      |
| Robin Carter         | Judy Landress     |
| Lois Chesney         | Chad Magill       |
| Barbara K. Clark     | Nelda Martinez    |
| Nancy Devlin         | Pamela Maupin     |
| Margaret Di Clemente | Morgan Montiel    |
| Phyllis Dingis       | Jackie O'Keeffe   |
| Jose Duran           | Frank Pimentel    |


- |                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Sylvia Ramirez | Kathryn A. Sweeney |
| Matilda Saenz  | Judy Telge         |
| Ann Smith      | Cheryl A. Whited   |
| Lorraine Stehn | Bobbie Wood-Hughes |

**Volunteer to Teach an Adult to Read!**

*Corpus Christi Literacy Council*

**Mary V. Gleason**  
Executive Director

4044 Greenwood Dr.  
Corpus Christi, Texas  
Phone: 361-857-5896  
Fax: 361-857-5898  
E-mail: [gleason@ccliteracy.org](mailto:gleason@ccliteracy.org)  
[www.ccliteracy.org](http://www.ccliteracy.org)



**Bay Area Smart Growth Initiative : BASGI**

*Promoting quality growth & community livability through policy reforms. Diverse community-based group meets 1st and 3rd Fridays each month.*

*Join the basgi yahoo group at [www.groups.yahoo.com](http://www.groups.yahoo.com)  
or contact Jeff Pollack at [intranslation321@gmail.com](mailto:intranslation321@gmail.com).*

**Lena's Business Management & Consultants**

**Lena Deloyce Coleman, Owner**

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**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
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# Member satisfaction survey now available online

By Sandra Heatherley

Members who attended the annual meeting had the opportunity to complete a membership satisfaction survey to help inform and instruct the Board of Directors on how well members are being served by the organization. We have converted the paper questionnaire into an electronic survey which can be found at this link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LNVR6KL>

Please visit the link on the World Wide Web between now and July 31 and express your degree of satisfaction with the past venues, programs, menus, and cost for our monthly meetings. This is our maiden attempt at an electronic survey so don't be shy about giving it a try and watch us improve with experience. Your opinions and ideas are what drives the organization, so please participate.

**The GUARANTY TITLE BUILDING**  
 A CORPUS CHRISTI LANDMARK

- 154,000 sq. ft. Office building
- Classic/Iconic Red Brick Building
- Modern Renovated Office Facilities
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