

League of Women Voters
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<http://www.lwv-cc.org>

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 Evy Coppola

April luncheon has new time, location

LWV-CC has a new time and venue for this month's luncheon, scheduled for Thursday, April 18. Luncheon will begin at 12 noon. Our speaker is Dr. Jim Klein, Associate Professor of History at Del Mar College, who will present on the mission and advocacy efforts of Citizens United. Presentation will begin at 12:30 p.m. at Dos Comales Café Y Cantina, 227 N. Water Street. Please arrive early to place your orders. The menu selection is available at the following: www.doscomales.com/menus/. We hope to see you there!

Mayor, State President to speak at Banquet

By Judy Telge,
 President



Mayor
 Nelda Martinez

LWV-CC members and guests will be honored with LWV members in leadership positions locally and statewide at our upcoming May Annual Meeting and Banquet. Nelda Martinez, only a few months into her first term as Mayor of Corpus Christi, is our featured speaker who will give us her State of the City through the eyes of a longtime League member and

first Hispanic woman elected Mayor. Linda Krefting, President of LWV-Texas, also in a first year term, will update us on state level activity particularly with regard to the 83rd Legislature.

The Annual Meeting is when the annual budget for the ensuing year is adopted, a new slate of officers and directors for our Board are elected, bylaws are approved, and new and ongoing goals are established by members present. This is also an opportunity to recognize long-time and new members, dedicated committee and issue-area chairs,

(See Annual Meeting, Page 7)

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

President's Message

By Judy Telge



President Judy Telge

The 83rd Texas Legislative Session contains little surprises at this point, with bills filed by both sides of the aisle in both Chambers churning their way through the process (often likened to making sausage in a meat-grinder).

Those legislators and Texas leadership anticipated to dig in their heels along party lines, ideology or political posturing are doing just that, no surprise there.

The tragedy is witnessing what little impact is being made by Texans who are overlooked because they live in the shadow of poverty, are among the unprecedented number of individuals with chronic conditions, many aging into inadequate systems of care and supports to live at home, the increasing number of unemployed and homeless being cut from basic healthcare and employment opportunities, and the continuing ideological ridiculousness over who owns women's bodies or parts thereof.

But there are glimmers of bipartisan common sense and doing the right thing for all Texans, in some of the priority issue areas of the League. For example, WATER: Four bills (HB 4, HB 652, SB 873, SB 198) have League SUPPORT to begin to address the critical issue of water and water quality.

The big news, according to Mary Vogelsson (LWV Dallas) is HB 4, which establishes the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) to allow low-cost financial assistance to regional funding of the State Water Plan water supply strategies. That passed the House and is on the way to the Senate.

The League opposes bad legislation and we have plenty of that, particularly in the area of EDUCATION. LWV-Texas Advocacy recommends contacting your Senator and Representative to express that you OPPOSE SB 2, HB 324, HB

2664 and HB 3319; tell them our public schools are underfunded and allowing an increase in the number of charter schools and privatizing public education will drain needed funds from public schools.

There are more education bills of importance, many of which the League's position at this point is to WATCH. (Reminder: local and area State Reps Todd Hunter and Abel Herrero have taken leadership roles in education legislation and finance with formation of task forces, both of which have LWV-CC members. Peggy Banales and Coretta Graham are on Herrero's and Maria Jimenez and Bryan Bode, on Hunter's.)

Then there's HEALTHCARE, encompassing Medicaid expansion and the Affordable Health Care Act and a Governor stonewalling either coming to Texas.

In a State that's 49th in the Union in expenditures for health and human services and with close to one-quarter of its population uninsured for basic or expanded medical coverage, the stance is counter-intuitive to the majority of the population as well as several other States with Republican governors.

One of the healthcare bills of note is listed by the League as STUDYING, SB 7, which seeks to redesign long-term and acute care services for the disabled and elderly—the most costly services in Medicaid—by instituting quality-based payment systems and expanding Medicaid managed care to all community-based and facility-based settings.

Medicaid providers and consumers alike have a mixed bag of experiences with managed care, already in place in several areas of the State. Texas Health and Human Services Commission (the State Medicaid Agency) is already preparing for implementation, and despite not-clearing the House or the floor for final passage as of this writing, SB 7 seems destined for passage.

(See President's Message, Page 3)

Officer nominees for election announced

The Nominating Committee of Peggy Bañales, Pam Maupin, and Lois Huff recommends these officers, directors, and nominating committee members for election at the Friday, May 17, Annual Meeting:4

Officers:

President: Sandra Heatherley (2-year term through May 2015)

Vice President of Community Relations: Bryan Bode (2-year term through May 2015)

Treasurer: Maria Jimenez (2-year term through May 2015)

Vice President of Member Services: Elena Buentello (1-year term through May 2014)

Vice President of Program: Andrew Dimas (1-year term through May 2014)

Director: Coretta Graham (1-year term through May 2014)

Director: Sally Farris (2-year term through May 2015)

Nominating Committee for 2013-2014:

Nick Jimenez, chair; members Chris Davis Garcia and Nicole Markert.

Officers who are completing their 2-year terms of office in May 2014 and are not up for election:

Secretary: Matilda Saenz

Director: Pam Maupin

President's Message

From Page 2

LWV at the State level presents testimony, submits comments and registers positions regarding bills throughout the Session. To date LWV-TX registered 'for' or 'against' 16 bills, five of which related to gun laws, several that would allow concealed handguns.

Bills are being heard now in committees of both Chambers. It's a full-time job monitoring legislation with rapid developments in a tightly wound process, and that work is being done by minimal staff in Austin and a cadre of dedicated League members throughout Texas.

As a federation (national, state and local levels) the League has the structure and process, with the potential to enlist many members for the work necessary to further our Mission. We know that all politicians are elected locally, and as members of LWV-CC, we must advance our role

in the Texas legislative process beyond the voting booth to the personal contacts with legislators. When individual members speak to our representatives it must be with one voice in solidarity, strengthening positions held by the League of Women Voters at all levels.

I encourage you to continue the good work of LWV by contacting your legislators. It takes only minutes to make that call to say: "Hi, I'm _____, a member of the League of Women Voters – Corpus Christi Area and a constituent. I want Representative/ Senator to know that I support the League position on _____."

That political action demonstrates effective influence by LWV over public policy in the political arena and in government at all levels, a responsibility of all its members to promote, and just as importantly, to protect.

Proposed changes in LWV-CC bylaws announced

The Bylaw Committee of Peggy Banales, Lois Huff, and Pam Maupin has suggested the following changes in the LWV-CC bylaws: Changes are in red underlined online and black underlined in printed copies.

Members will vote on the proposals at the May 17 Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 6: The Treasurer

The treasurer shall collect and receive all monies and shall be the custodian of these funds. The treasurer will also be responsible for posting and providing updates of members' payments to the Membership Chair. The treasurer shall deposit all funds in a bank designated by the Board of Directors and shall disburse them only upon order of the Board. The treasurer shall present written statements at the Board of Directors meetings and present an annual financial report at the Annual Meeting. The treasurer shall be bonded.

Reason for proposed amendment: To align the treasurers' responsibilities with the Membership Chair.

The Treasurer, with the Board's approval, will arrange for an annual financial review to be conducted in June, following the annual meeting. The review will be conducted by League member(s) not serving on the Board who have appropriate financial/accounting experience and are willing to complete the review at no charge to the League. At the discretion of the current Board of Directors, a mid-year financial review, with recommendations and/or concerns, will be submitted in a timely manner to the President to share with the Treasurer and Board members.

Reason for proposed amendment: New paragraph addressing the annual financial review.

ARTICLE VI – FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 2: Dues

The date for renewal of dues for all members is June 1. New members who join between February 1 through May 31 will be paid up for the upcoming fiscal year. When two members reside at the same address in a common household, the annual dues shall equal one and one-half times the determined per-member assessment. This household membership would apply to no more than two members in a common household. Any member who fails to pay dues within **90** days after the date on which they become payable shall be automatically dropped from the membership roll. Reinstatement of membership with voting privileges will apply upon payment of delinquent dues. Article

Reason for proposed amendment: Increase number of days from 30 to 90 before dropping members.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of voting members present and voting at the annual meeting, provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing and delivered personally, electronically or mailed at least one month in advance of the meeting. Amendment effective at Annual Meeting in May.

Reason for proposed amendment: To clarify delivery of written amendments to membership.



This graphic represents nature's hydrologic cycle, which describes the continuous flow of water on, above, or below the earth.

Public Comment Session on beach bacteria due April 22

By Sandra Heatherley
LWV-CC Vice President Member Services

The Implementation Committee that has been charged with reducing the amount and frequency of above-limits bacteria at Cole and Ropes park beaches is having a PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION on April 22 at 6 p.m. at the Del Mar Center for Economic Development (across the street from Ray High School).

Individual citizens are encouraged to attend to hear the scope of the problem and give feedback on the implementation activities that the four work groups are suggesting. The areas designated as "work groups" are

- City Infrastructure
- Education and Outreach
- Science and Technology

•Ordinance and Regulation

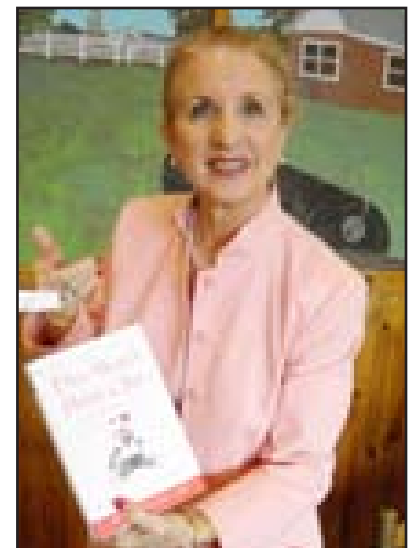
League members are encouraged to attend and to spread the word to any kite boarders, wind-surfers, and recreational swimmers they might know that would be interested in giving their feedback on the ideas developed so far.

This is an opportunity for citizens to make suggestions for the benefit of their community. The Committee must deliver a draft plan to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality by August 15


The Committee is part of the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation Project that is drafting a public implementation plan to reduce bacteria levels at the two parks, thus "Cole and Ropes Parks (CARP) Implementation Plan."

Women's History Month Highlights March Meeting

(Clockwise from top right) Dr. Suzzette Chopin discusses Women in Science at the March meeting. Sylvia Whitworth was the lucky recipient of a book from Dr. Chopin. Andrew Dimas, Brian and Elena Buentello absorbing Dr. Chopin's remarks. Elena Buentello, Suzzette Chopin, Judy Telge at March meeting.



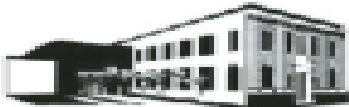
CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS



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Annual Meeting — From Page 1

outgoing board members and the behind-the-scenes members who contribute time, effort and expertise to keep our organization and its various parts running smoothly.

Our venue is another new experience for us at the Citrus Bistro, providing an especially charming ambience at the Art Center building on Shoreline, overlooking the Corpus Christi Bay.

Did I mention raising funds at this event? And having fun?

Well, get ready for a new twist on a traditional fund-raiser in auctioning off a prized commodity at our Annual Event! We're keeping the wraps on this 'till next month but suffice it to say, you'll get a huge bang for every buck you spend on this one!



Corpus Christi

League of Women Voters

Advertising space in the VOTER is available! The cost is \$ 100 for 10 issues during a calendar year.

Send check and your business card or advertising copy to Treasurer Maria Jimenez at the League address.

CORPUS CHRISTI LOCAL FARMERS'

When: Every Saturday (year around)
 Time: 9:00 AM Till Sell Out
 Where: 5800 Everhart Rd.
www.farmersmarketcc.org

*Be a "Localvore."
 Support you local growers/gardeners.*

JOSE MIGUEL DURAN, M.D. Gastroenterology

Doctors Square
 2222 Morgan Ave., Suite 111
 Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Ph (361) 883-6623
 Fax (361) 883-0748

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.*

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
www.ccliteracy.org



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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
PO Box 8276
Corpus Christi, TX 78468

05.17.13
SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting

*Evening program will include
Mayor Nelda Martinez and
LWV-TX President Linda Krefting*

Ticket cost, \$50 per person

(Menu to be announced soon)

Cash bar with selection of wine and beer

*Gathering time at Citrus Bistro: 6 p.m. for socializing/
networking*

Seating for dinner at 6:30 p.m.; adjournment by 9 p.m.