



The Corpus Christi Area

# Voter

August 2013

League of Women Voters  
PO Box 8276  
Corpus Christi, TX 78468-8276  
<http://www.lwv-cc.org>  
361-445-4436

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## August 23 Evening Event Scheduled at CC Country Club

August 26 is the 93<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution giving women the right to vote.

On **Friday, August 23, 2013**, the Corpus Christi Area League of Women Voters will recognize the occasion and celebrate Women's Equality Day with heavy hors d'oeuvres, a fun program, and a silent auction. The event will be held from 6-9 p.m. at the Corpus Christi Country Club.

This will be a celebration of women's right to vote, and will feature a "Challenge" competition similar to the popular program on PBS. A team from CCISD's Collegiate High School, coached by Dr. Sonia Noyola, has been invited to challenge a team from TAMU-CC coached by Dr. Isabel Araiza. There will be opportunities for audience participation.

Barbara Canales, newly appointed Port Commissioner representing Nueces County, will serve as Honorary Chair for the event.

### SPONSORSHIPS AND TICKETS

Table sponsorships are available at \$600 (8 seats per table) and individual tickets are \$80. Please reserve your seat in advance by calling 445-4436 by Aug. 19. A delicious array of heavy hors d'oeuvres will be placed at food stations around the room.

### SILENT AUCTION CONTRIBUTIONS

Every League member is encouraged to furnish at last one item for the Silent Auction. Big or small, every contribution of merchandise or gift certificates is appreciated. Please read story on page 3 and contact Chris Davis Garcia at [garciachr47@att.net](mailto:garciachr47@att.net) or 991-2784 if you have items to donate.

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.

# President's Message

## UP FOR THE CHALLENGE??

LWVUS has issued a challenge to EVERY Local League for 2013:

- Host at least 5 voter registration events (including National Voter Registration Day)
- Host at least 1 candidate forum/debate
- Pursue an on-line Voters Guide
- Meet with local election officials to discuss improvements and plans for next years elections
- Identify key media contacts and communicate monthly
- Conduct get-out-the-vote with registrants volunteers, and online networks
- Take advantage of LWVUS and state training, materials. Etc.

So how are we prepared to meet this challenge? In last month's message, I reviewed the activities set forth by the board of directors for the remained of 2013. Our first priority is fund-raising.

### **AUG. 23 CELEBRATION**

Without sufficient resources we cannot begin to meet this challenge and increase voter participation in Corpus Christi. So, instead of the monthly membership luncheon we are celebrating on Aug. 23 Women's Equality Day and the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment with our own "Challenge Game." The event will be held at the Corpus Christi Country Club.

Several of you have responded to the e-mail request for Silent Auction items and those who attended the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting took the opportunity to sign up for various tasks related to producing the evening celebration. Thanks to all!

So for now we have a laser focus on getting and pleasing sponsors for our tables and creating a setting that will be educational and fun.

### **SEPT. 19 MEETING**

On September 19<sup>th</sup> at our luncheon meeting, everyone in attendance will have the opportunity to become or renew as deputized voter registrars in preparation for the September 24<sup>th</sup> National Voter Registration Day. This will give us a great start at meeting two of the Local League challenges.

At our July Board meeting your directors decided to postpone the consensus meeting on the Human Trafficking Study in Texas which was originally scheduled for Oct. 17.

### **FALL PROGRAMS**

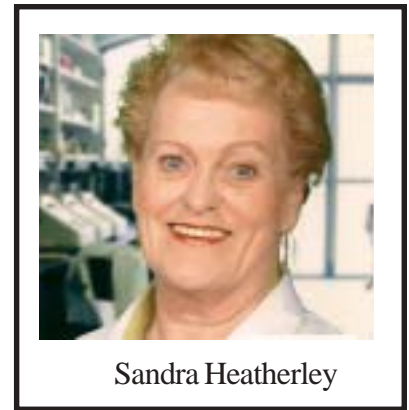
Instead, we will use October to produce a public Voter's Forum regarding the pros and cons of the Destination Bayfront development funding. Please say "yes" when called upon to help.

There is more about the status of the Human Trafficking Study in this issue and our consensus will occur during the November meeting.

Earlier this month, the "Facts and Issues" publication with the consensus questions were to be e-mailed to all LWV-TX members with e-mail, and "snail" mailed to members without.

### **VOTE411**

Pursuit of the on-line Voters' Guide using the Leagues' VOTE411.org web application will certainly be a challenge for the coming year. Have you visited the



Sandra Heatherley

VOTE411 site? It is the future for our valued Voters Guide and will take some adjustment on the part of our local voters as well as our league members to become fully utilized.

An election focused on constitutional amendments and bond issues rather than candidates may be the perfect instance to begin promoting and using VOTE411.org. Stay tuned.

Getting out the vote for the November 5<sup>th</sup> election will be a huge challenge and our role will in large part be dependent on key media contacts. The fact that the election will center on issues and amendments usually leads to a low turnout. Let's work to reverse that trend!

Using our August meeting time as a celebration and fundraiser, and using October as a public forum for the November ballot means that we will have member lunch or dinner meetings only every-other month this year.

There will be less face-to-face time and more committee and small group work happening in the background.

I believe we are up for the challenge and hope you will join in that belief. Our league has met past challenges that led to improvements and advancements for our Corpus Christi and we can continue that tradition.

# League Will Register Voters on Sept. 24

Did you realize that in 2008, 6 million Americans did not vote because they did not know how to register or they missed their state's voter registration deadline, according to the US Census. Organizations and individuals across the country--including LWV-CC--want to make sure no American is left out for the upcoming elections.

Our League will observe **National Voter Registration Day** on Tuesday, Sept. 24, with voter registration activities at TAMU-CC. If you have other locations you are thinking about for voter registration drives AND are willing to man at table, contact the League at 445-4436.



## ITEMS NEEDED TO MAKE AUG. 23 AUCTION SHINE!

The Aug. 23 celebration (see story on Page 1) will feature a Silent Auction, with proceeds benefitting the League's Voter Services efforts. We need a total of 60-65 items on the Auction tables, and you can help!

Make a list of businesses where you shop, including your salon or favorite stylist, favorite restaurant, the boutique where you love to shop, your auto supply store, florist or garden center, your book store...then make a call or stop by to visit with the manager about what they could donate--gift card or merchandise.

Auction chair Chris Davis Garcia has copies of the Auction donation form that you can use. Contact her at: [garciachr47@att.net](mailto:garciachr47@att.net)



Several Board members gathered at Sandra Heatherley's home on July 31 to discuss details and planning for the August 23 celebration. Pictured (l-r) are Maria Jimenez, Nick Jimenez, Sally Farris, Chris Garcia, Pam Maupin, Lois Huff, and Sandra. Not pictured is Coretta Graham who also was present.

## Looking Ahead

- Ten constitutional amendments will be on the Nov. 5 general election ballot. The amendments will be presented in the September VOTER, and a Voters Guide noting both pros and cons on each amendment will be produced by LWV-TX and made available on our League's website by early October. The Nueces County ballot is expected to have additional items. Early Voting is Oct. 21-Nov. 1.

- The deadline to register to vote for the Nov. 5 election is Monday, Oct. 7, according to the District Clerk's office (888-0580). The Nueces County website is a good source of election information--[www.co.nueces.texas](http://www.co.nueces.texas)



**Check out the  
LWV-TX 2013  
Summer Raffle at  
[www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org).  
Two great items  
are offered--a  
Froggy Fun Quilt  
and a Weekend at  
a Llano Home.**

# July 18 Meeting Held at New Venue

By Sandra Heatherley, President

The League's luncheon meeting on July 18 was held at the new Hibachi Grill and Supreme Buffet, and our room was easy to find. The attendance was greater than usual for a July meeting but still small compared to our total number of members. We were able to have a presentation and interaction without disturbing others or being disturbed by them. The only comments I heard from the members attending was that there are "too many choices" on the buffet. Otherwise everyone liked the location and accessibility! Treasurer Maria Jimenez noted that we did not break even on our expenses when the gratuity was added, so our future luncheon cost will be raised from \$10 to \$12 to cover gratuity. Be sure you take advantage of all those food choices at future lunch meetings at the Hibachi Grill.



Three former presidents--Chris Davis Garcia, Lois Huff, and Eva Coppola--pose with current president Sandra Heatherley. Coppola has relocated to the St. Louis, MO, area to be closer to family members.



Sandra Heatherley and Bryan Bode speak about redistricting challenges.



## Volunteers Needed for Outdoor Friday, Sept. 6, ArtWalk

ArtWalk is an downtown, outdoor weekend event with merchants, vendors, food, music, and arts! ArtWalk is a Corpus Christi 1st event, sponsored by the Downtown Management District. **Come out to ArtWalk!**

LWV-CC will man a table on Friday evening, Sept. 6, to enhance League visibility and register new voters.

Volunteers are needed for the following:

- Table set up: anytime between 1-5 pm
- 1-2 hour shifts from 5-9 pm
- Table take down 9 pm

Exact location of the League table will be shared as the date approaches, said Elena Buentello. Please contact Elena at [elenabuentello@gmail.com](mailto:elenabuentello@gmail.com) and let her know if you can volunteer time to help on Sept. 6.

## Our sincere condolences to:

Jane Bachman, longtime League member, whose husband Frank (also a long-time member) died in early August.

# Child Poverty Still on the Rise

(The article below, written by LWV-Texas earlier this summer, was made available to local Leagues throughout the state to use as a letter to the editor to local newspapers.)

According to the 2013 *KIDS COUNT* Data Book released in June, child poverty has risen. Texas children are still making educational and health gains, despite the challenges that come with poverty.

Child poverty is estimated at 27% with over 1.2 million in extreme poverty. The study makes the case that early childhood interventions, like pre-K, can make a difference in children's success in school.

*KIDS COUNT* found that 59 percent of Texas 3- and 4-year-olds are not enrolled in preschool. Texas ranks 42nd overall considering all 16 indicators of child well-being.

Declining indicators of particular concern are:

- 30% of children now reside with parents lacking secure employment;
- Low-birth weight baby numbers continue to be 8 per cent; and
- 35% of Texas children live in single-parent families.

It is well documented that the early years of a child's development set the stage for the child's future success in school and in life.

Texas families need greater access to pre-K early childhood programs. This Legislative session earmarked \$40 million specifically for supplemental pre-K, that amount down from the 2009 level of nearly \$300 million. Communities thrive when children and families prosper.

The well-being of children in our state depends not just on preparing their minds for the future, but also on maintaining the health of their bodies. Texas ranks 38th in overall child health.

While the report shows reductions in the number of uninsured children in the state, more than a million do not have health coverage. Often those children go without the preventative and acute care they need. Texas must and can do better.



President Sandra Heatherley (c) visits with LWV-San Antonio League members Phyllis Yochem and xxxxxx at the July 13 regional training workshop held in Kerrville. LWV-CC was among eight Leagues represented at the workshop; Sandra gave a brief presentation on membership and Board diversity.

## LWV-TX Leadership Training Held in Kerrville

Kerrville was the setting for one of three "traveling" summer training seminars sponsored by LWV-TX. Held on July 13, it turned out to be three hours packed with information about the work of the League and sharing among league members from Corpus Christi, San Antonio, Austin, Comal County, and Tarrant County.

The Human Trafficking "Facts and Issues" publication and the proposed consensus questions to be considered this Fall were previewed and will be available to all LWV-TX members on August 1.

The folks from Austin shared their success as participants in influencing Travis County's elected officials to adopt an independent commission for redistricting.

Other presenters included Laura Blackburn, state chair for Advocacy; Meg Stewart of LWV-Kerrville; and Pat Cheong of LWV-Tarrant County. Sandra Heatherley shared information about our effort to reflect diversity on our Board.

Chris Garcia, LWV-TX board member serving on Service to Local Leagues (SLL) was the co-facilitator for the meeting.

# Human Trafficking Study "Facts and Issues" Available for Leaguers' Review

By Andrew Dimas, VP Program

Consensus is being requested on a study approved at LWV-TX Convention 2012 after being recommended by the LWV-Houston Area and six other local Leagues, including LWV-CC.

LWV-Houston Area had completed a study on human trafficking, defined as exploiting persons through force, fraud, or

coercion, for the purposes of sex, labor or other involuntary acts. Other local Leagues were also studying this issue.

Texas is part of a national and international problem, and human trafficking is an issue that all Leagues need to understand.

If consensus results in a position, LWV-TX can act with one voice as we advocate on state laws pertaining to this issue.

The focus was to study the issue of human trafficking in Texas to understand state and local policies as well as the public's role in abating human trafficking.

The scope of the study was based on the following topic points:

1. Understand the nature and definition of human trafficking.
2. Consider its extent in Texas.
3. Explore how to reduce its



**LWV-CC has scheduled discussion and consideration of consensus questions at its membership meeting on Thursday, Nov. 21, 2013.**

Members are encouraged to visit the LWV-TX website at [www.lwvtx.org](http://www.lwvtx.org) and download a copy of the 12-page "Facts and Issues" publication and the consensus questions. Reviewing the information before the November meeting is encouraged!

occurrence, including considering state and local laws and their enforcement, and

4. Assess the components of social services for victims to rescue and restore their lives.

Daniel Gallegos Jr.  
Owner

teanytimeetc@yahoo.com  
teanytimeetc.com



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Fax 361.334.5015



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*Be a "Localvore."  
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growers/gardeners.*

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 LWV Treasurer Maria Jimenez at the League address noted on Page 8 of this publication.

# Information on New Texas Voter ID

AUSTIN, TX – Texas Secretary of State John Steen announced that photo identification will now be required when voting in Texas elections.

His announcement follows a decision in June by the U.S. Supreme Court that cleared the way for photo ID requirements in Texas, originally passed by the Texas Legislature in 2011, to take effect.

“My office is committed to making sure Texans have all the information they need to vote, including what forms of identification they need now that photo ID requirements are in effect,” said Secretary Steen.

A voter will be required to show one of the following forms of photo identification at the polling location before the voter will be permitted to cast a vote:

- Texas driver license issued by the Texas Dept. of Public Safety (DPS)
- Texas Election Identification Certificate issued by DPS
- Texas personal identification card issued by DPS
- Texas concealed handgun license issued by DPS
- United States military identification card containing the person’s photograph



- United States citizenship certificate containing the person’s photograph
- United States passport

With the exception of the U.S. citizenship certificate, the identification must be current or have expired no more than 60 days before being presented at the polling place.

Election identification certificates are now available only for voters who do not already have a required form of photo identification. There is no fee for the certificate.

Information on how to obtain an election identification certificate can be found at [www.dps.texas.gov](http://www.dps.texas.gov). You may also contact DPS by telephone at (512) 424-2600.

To review frequently asked questions and answers, visit [www.votetexas.gov](http://www.votetexas.gov).

## League Partnering with YWCA To Present Institute for Public Leadership on August 17

You may have noticed the ads in the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times* asking, “Do you think you could do better than your elected officials?”

This is a lead-in question to advertise the Saturday, August 17, day-long Institute for Public Leadership being presented at the YWCA.

Women considering running for office and others who might want to assist in a campaign will find the institute extremely helpful.

LWV-CC has joined with other non-partisan groups in Corpus Christi to partner with the YWCA

in presenting this event. Speakers include women who have run for office, held office, managed election campaigns, and/or are currently in an elected position.

Coretta Graham and Sandra Heatherley, LWV-CC Board members, are on the program, along with other past and current League members touching on subjects from campaign financing to advocacy.

The cost to attend is \$60 which includes the workshop, lunch, and a wine and cheese mixer at closing. Call the YWCA at 361-857-5661, ext. 17, to reserve one of the limited seats.

# WELCOME BACK to the League!

Brent Chesney

Mary Jane Garza

**Welcome,  
New Member!**

Dana Stone



(Above) New member (r) Karen S. Murray is greeted by President Sandra Heatherley; (below) Director Pam Maupin welcomes new member Dana Stone; welcome sign for luncheons

# THANKS to these renewing members!

Bryan Bode

Elena Buentello

Jason Buentello

Lois B. Chesney

Andrew Dimas

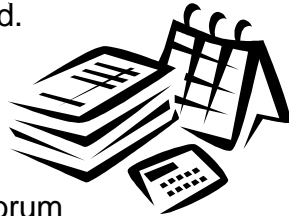
Judy Landress

Sylvia Ramirez



## LWV-CC Luncheon Schedule

These LWV-CC luncheon meetings will all be held at the Hibachi Grill and Supreme Buffet, located at the corner of S. Staples and Williams, beginning at 11:30 a.m. on the dates noted; \$12 per person payable to the League for a comprehensive buffet/all you can eat and gratuity. Guests are cordially invited.



Thursday, Sept. 19: Legislative Update and Voter Registration Deputization

Thursday, Oct. 17: Destination Bayfront public forum

Thursday, Nov. 21: Human Trafficking Study Consensus Meeting

Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014: M&G Resins; Water





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Mayor

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(361) 883-1400 (Fax)  
Email: nelda@neldamartinez.com

P.O. Box 9277  
Corpus Christi, Texas, 78409-9277



# Proclamation for Women's Equality Day

Carrie Chapman Catt founded the League of Women Voters in 1920 during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The convention was held just six months before the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote after a 72-year struggle. The League was then, and is now, a nonpartisan organization.

WHEREAS, from the beginning the League of Women Voters has been an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that citizens should play a critical role in advocacy; and the goal of the League of Women Voters is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide; and the League believes in respect for individuals, the value of diversity, and the empowerment of the grassroots; and

WHEREAS, the League of Women Voters acts with trust, integrity, and professionalism, operates in an open and effective manner to meet the needs of those we serve, both members and the public, takes the initiative in seeking diversity in membership, and acknowledges our heritage as we seek our path to the future; and

WHEREAS, for 67 years, the League of Women Voters—Corpus Christi, Texas has built citizen participation in the democratic process by engaging communities and

**Join us at City Council Chambers at 1201 Leopard at 11:15 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 20, for Mayor's Proclamation!**

promoting positive solutions to public policy issues through education and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, the League of Women Voters—Corpus Christi is a nonpartisan political membership organization whose actions on key community issues are based upon study and member agreement to achieve solutions at all government levels.

**NOW, therefore, pursuant to the powers vested in me as Mayor of the City of Corpus Christi, I do hereby proclaim, August 26, 2013, as**

**"WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY IN HONOR OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CORPUS CHRISTI"**

in Corpus Christi, Texas, and call upon all citizens to observe this anniversary with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that honor women's history with their extraordinary contributions and accomplishments.

## League Observes Mayor's Town Hall Meeting

By Matilda Saenz, Secretary

Mayor Nelda Martinez held a Town Hall meeting, with a standing-room-only crowd on July 31 at the Dr. Antonio E. Garcia Arts Center to address the audience of homeowners, business owners, and interested community members and ask them to share concerns about the Agnes and Laredo streets' neighborhood.

She mentioned that earlier that afternoon, she and some of her staff members conducted neighborhood "block walking" to visit with

residents and to survey the area in a "boots on the ground" style.

Several of Mayor Martinez's staff members were in attendance at the meeting: police officers, environmental workers, planners, and others. In addition, Councilman at Large David Loeb and Councilman for District 1 Kelley Allen were in attendance.

Several business owners spoke and reminisced about their businesses which often had been handed down from generation to generation and had been in the West side area for many years.

Some spoke passionately about their concerns regarding issues such as vandalism, trash, plastic bag problems, homelessness, and animal control.

The Mayor emphasized the need for neighborhood pride and also the need to report violations to the city. She indicated plans to meet with the group again in 6 to 9 months to check on progress made in regard to issues raised by the westside area residents and business owners.

### **JOSE MIGUEL DURAN, M.D. Gastroenterology**

Doctors Square  
2222 Morgan Ave., Suite 111  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78406

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



**League of Women Voters**  
**--Corpus Christi Area**  
**PO Box 8276**  
**Corpus Christi, TX 78468**

Please return this form with your payment (check or money order) to:

League of Women Voters-CC  
 (Attn: Treasurer)  
 PO Box 8276  
 Corpus Christi, TX 78468

**Membership is from June 1 through May 31.**

**MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!**

If you have changed any of your contact information (new email address, new phone number, etc.), please send us the renewal form with the correct contact information!

**LWV-Corpus Christi Area  
 Renewal/New Membership Application**

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

Type of membership: New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$60\_\_\_\_ Student \$30\_\_\_\_ Household \$90 (2 individuals residing at same address)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Household Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to receive League correspondence ( ) by email ( ) by mail

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work or Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax number \_\_\_\_\_

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

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 Fax: 361-857-5898  
 E-mail: gleason@ccliteracy.org  
 www.ccliteracy.org

**Mary V. Gleason**  
 Executive Director



**Hunter&Handel PC**

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