



The Corpus Christi Area

Voter

February 2013

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

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813-6397 (cell)

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Immediate Past President
Evy Coppola

Feb. 21 membership luncheon set Legislative education update planned

By Elena Buentello
Vice President for Program

LWV-CC members and guests are invited to attend the LWV-CC monthly membership luncheon on Thursday, Feb. 21, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Luciano's Italian Restaurant, 1821 S. Alameda at Six Points. Please plan to attend!

You can choose from a selected lunch menu with prices ranging from \$13-18/plate.

Our presenter is Claudia Jackson, Executive Director of Community and Legislative Relations for Del Mar College. She will give a legislative update and

identify top issues for the college in this legislative session.

We will also hear an update by Debbie Lanz, CCISD Director of Strategic Initiatives, on the Education Task Force formed by Representative Todd Hunter, and Peggy Banales and Coretta Graham will give an update on the Educational Attainment goal set by LWV-CC last year.

Special thanks to our member Andrew Dimas of the City of Corpus Christi, who was our featured January meeting speaker.

Nominating Committee seeks candidates for May vote

LWV members are being considered for nomination to positions on the 2013-2015 Board of the LWV-Corpus Christi Area. Offices open are president, treasurer, VP/Community Relations, and two directors.

If you are a League mem-

ber in good standing and interested in being nominated for a position, please contact Peggy Banales at msbanales@yahoo.com. Members of the Nominating Committee include Lois Huff and Pam Maupin.

The new officers will be elected at the May Annual Meeting.

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

By Judy Telge



President Judy Telge

Advocacy and Education – two of the cornerstones of action by the League of Women Voters – align with my personal and professional beliefs and are essential to systems change, to promoting principles, protecting values and belief in human civil rights.

Recently, as your LWV-CC President, I utilized advocacy when a convergence of issues arose faced by individuals with disabilities, their civil rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and League principles. I took a “stand” by withdrawing my personal financial support underwriting a portion of registration fee of our members at a public event sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce featuring a mayoral address.

It was not the Mayor nor the City, but the event sponsor that would not comply with an accommodation request for individuals who are deaf and hard of hearing.

Although some of our members will not hear our esteemed Mayor’s State of the City, “hearing” at this event was essentially denied when a legitimate request for accommodations submitted two weeks in advance was not granted.

As a result of my “stand” in advocacy, a subsequent meeting with the Office of the Mayor of the City of Corpus Christi made it clear that a lack of education about the A.D.A., the needs of individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing was

Members still able to participate in Feb. 25–26 Lobby Days

There’s still time for League members to participate in LWV-Texas sponsored Lobby Days, especially if they do not need hotel lodging. Registration is \$10 and banquet reservations are \$75 per person. Register online at the LWV-Texas website, www.lwvtx.org.

At least four LWV-CC Board members are planning to travel to Austin for the event, which

at the root of this denial of a request for accommodations.

Our members who would have attended expressed their solidarity, some exclaiming “how could anyone not know about the A.D.A., more than twenty years after its enactment.” Others: “why must it take a federal law to tell people what they should do that is just plain common sense?”

As of this writing, at least three of the deaf individuals originally requesting seats will be attending, and the Chamber of Commerce agreed to pay for the interpreter, as they should have done from the beginning. As a note of historical significance, it was LWV-CC that originally assisted the formation of the State of the City event in Corpus Christi several years ago. Hopefully, this year will mark the full inclusion of people with disabilities – impacted by League advocacy.

Corpus Christi is home to many people with diverse needs and abilities and to truly reach full potential as a community, we must have the full inclusion of all its citizens.

The League of Women Voters is based in the enfranchisement of women as essential to a democratic government which had previously excluded them.

Since the beginnings of the League, its members have been steadfast in taking stands to promote and support the full inclusion of all citizens for informed and active participation in government. Advocacy and education are the means to that end and there are always opportunities to employ both!

gives Leaguers an opportunity to advocate LWV state positions and visit with their legislators.

The two-day activity on Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 25-26, begins with a statewide LWV conference at the Capitol. A Monday evening banquet titled “Making Democracy Work” at the UT alumni center will honor Planned Parenthood of Texas and also Cecilia Boone, national PP Board member from Dallas.

Report on efforts to reduce bacteria in bay at parks

By Sandra Heatherley
LWV-CC Vice President Member Services

In the June 2012 issue of the VOTER there was an article summarizing the structure and the reason for creating a coordinating committee to design actions that our city and citizens can take to help reduce the bacterial content of bay waters in Cole and Ropes parks following a rain event. The stakeholders in this process were identified as:

- Recreational Users
- City of Corpus Christi
- Environmental Activists
- Tourism
- Academia
- Homeowners

Representatives from each of these groups make up the coordinating committee. This committee identified four areas that need to be considered in the development of a plan to achieve bacterial reduction. Those areas were designated as “work groups” and are

- City Infrastructure
- Education and Outreach
- Science and Technology
- Ordinance and Regulation

The public was invited to participate and serve on these four work groups.

Your local league has three members serving on the groups, Lois Huff on City Infrastructure; Sally Farris on Education and Outreach and on Science and Technology; and Sandra Heatherley on Science and Technology.

These groups have been working since November to develop and prioritize activities that might achieve the bacterial reduction being sought.

These prioritized activities will be presented to the coordinating committee on February 12 for possible inclusion in the final implementation plan.

On April 22 the coordinating committee will host a public forum to present the prioritized activities and receive feedback from the public in attendance.

The exact time and location of the April meeting will be printed in the April issue of the VOTER. Interested League members are encouraged to volunteer and follow progress at cbbf@baysfoundation.org.

Note, letter explain LWV opposition to vouchers

The following is a letter to the Caller-Times editor from the LWV-CC President Judy Telge on the subject of school vouchers. It is preceded by a note from LWV-Texas President Linda Krefting clarifying the League's position.

LWV-TX is opposed to vouchers. We raise the issue now because it is an item that the Legislature will be addressing--Lt. Gov. Dewhurst and Senate Education Committee Chair Patrick have made a point of it. Other legislators indicate that it may be among the education measures that pass this session. We would prefer that the issue not be on the table, but we are not the ones raising it—prominent/influential others are raising it, so we are speaking out!

To the Editor:

The League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi believes a state's system of public schools is the measure of its commitment to the education of its future citizens and leaders.

If some public schools in Texas are inadequate and are not serving their students well, then the state is obligated by the Constitution to bring that school up to a higher standard. Funneling tax dollars away from the public schools is not the way to do that. Funneling students out of the public school system is not the way to “support and maintain an efficient system of public free schools,” as the state Constitution requires.

Membership Survey on Program Topics for 2013-2014

League Bylaws call for an annual survey of members on topics of interest that might be the basis of the League's Program for the coming year. Program would encompass concerted study and possible action on one or more areas suggested by members. Last year's (2012-2013) Program topics were

1. Environmental Sustainability
2. Improving Educational Attainment

The Board compiles all suggestions and recommends the Program for adoption at the Annual Meeting in May.

Please take a moment and write down no more than two (2) topics of local/regional interest or concern that you believe will require attention or action by our local governmental agencies and which the League should address as Program. You may continue to list the previous year's Program topics if you believe continued focus is required..

Member Respose

() I would like to suggest the following topic(s) for Program consideration in 2013-2014.

- 1.
- 2.

() I would be interested in chairing a study committee. Please have a Board member call me.

Your Name (optional) _____

Contact Information: Phone _____ Email _____

Please submit this form by clipping it out and bringing it to the Feb. 21 Meeting OR mailing it to the League no later than Feb. 28, 2013.

Mail to: LWV-Corpus Christi
(Attn: Program)
PO Box 8276
Corpus Christi, TX 784

CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS



NELDA MARTINEZ
Mayor

(361) 826-3105 (Ofc)
(361) 883-1403 (Fax)
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P.O. Box 9277
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS, 78469-9277

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A CORPUS CHRISTI LANDMARK

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LANDLORD RESOURCES
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Corner of Chaparral & Mann-Downtown near the Federal Courthouse

We agree that parents should not feel trapped in a school that is failing their child, but there are other ways to give them a choice on how to educate their child without abandoning the public school system. For instance, some school districts allow parents a choice of schools within their districts. Each school competes for students by giving its curriculum a special focus.

We must not give up on our public schools because that is where the vast majority of children are educated.

Sincerely,

Judy Telge
President, LWV-Corpus Christi

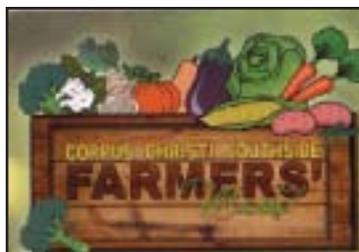


Corpus Christi

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.



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.*

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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Phone (361) 884-8777 Fax (361) 884-1628



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

Corpus Christi Area League of Women Voters Membership Update

By Sandra Heatherley
Vice-President Membership

There are 27 organized local League of Women Voter chapters in the state of Texas. There are 1,823 members of organized local leagues throughout the state plus a group of “members-at-large” who do not reside in a county or city with an organized league. The largest metropolitan areas boast the largest membership with Austin, Dallas, and Houston topping more than 200 members each.

The Tarrant County League located in Fort Worth ranks 4th with 126 members ahead of the San Antonio League which has 100 active members. Our local Corpus Christi Area League is in 6th place with 77 active members followed by the Lubbock League which has 76. Our closest neighbor League in Victoria has a roster of 14 members which is the second smallest chapter; only Brazos County has fewer, 13.

Being the 6th largest local League in the state is certainly an accomplishment; however, we are not growing!! We have actually lost 41 members from our all-time high of 118 (more than San Antonio) at the beginning of 2010 to our current number.

Like most volunteer organizations we have a core of hard-working members who are educated on the social and political positions of the League and willing to contribute to the work of maintaining a viable chapter, and a larger group of members who contribute with their dues payment, attendance at meetings and willingness

to represent the League standards in the community. Our League needs more of both kinds of members; those actively involved and those willing to assist when needed.

Have you “liked” us on Facebook? Do you go to our web page periodically? Have you directed a friend or colleague to either of those sites lately? How about the website for LWV-TX? All of these are jampacked with information relative to current legislation and information regarding the names and addresses of congressional representatives at every level of government, as well as information on the inner workings of the League and how we serve our communities.

These resources are literally at your fingertips using a computer keyboard. Using these resources will increase your knowledge and enthusiasm for participating in the League activities and with that increased enthusiasm you will naturally want to ask your friends and acquaintances who show an interest in influencing and advocating for community needs to join us.

Help us grow our League by refreshing your commitment to our mission and sharing our values, vision and activities with those in your “sphere of influence”. There is untapped talent in our membership and in our greater community which needs to be cultivated and nourished. Start by bringing one non-member to our next meeting or by saying “yes” to serve as an officer or committee member.