

League of Women Voters
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Thursday, Jan. 17, luncheon to highlight topic of Sustainable Mobility Planning

This month's luncheon meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 17, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. at the Silverado Smokehouse, located at 4522 Weber Road (in small strip center at Gollilhar and Weber).

The meeting will include a presentation on the city's mobility planning projects relating to sustainability. Our

presenter will be Andrew Dimas, City Planner and League member. Lunch is barbecue, buffet style with prices starting at \$9/plate and dependent on menu selection.

Attendees can pay by cash or debit card directly to the cashier; guests should plan to leave an appropriate tip in the meeting room. We hope to see you there.



Jeff Pollack, HDR Engineering, intrigued LWV-CC members at the November luncheon with information about a new conservation and stewardship of resources grant award to the City of Corpus Christi. Jeff is the consultant with the City project and is also Facilitator of the Bay Area Smart Growth Initiative.

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

2012 is over, ending national apprehension over a presidential election year, partisan posturing at all levels of government, a Congress defined by stalemate rather than statesmanship, and the country teetering on a so-called fiscal cliff. Maybe all the hype actually helped because judging by the voter turnout throughout the country in November elections, despite efforts in many states to qualify or quell voting, voter participation did not decline.

Reflections:

The year 2012 was busy and productive with these challenges and what the League at all levels has in common fighting attempts to limit voting rights, including voter ID laws and inequitable redistricting. We petitioned the Environmental Protection Agency to make our air cleaner and reaffirm our stand against pollution, stood up for open and accountable government, and worked to make our organization stronger from the grassroots up.

LWV-CC accomplishments in 2012 have some very proud moments, the most notable being our VOTE 18 Project. Co-chaired by Sandra Heatherley and Peggy Banales, VOTE 18 resulted in the registration of approximately 800 high school students in Nueces County residing in voter precincts with historically low voter turnout and students at Del Mar College and Texas A&M University.

This voter registration and education initiative, funded with a competitive grant award from the National LWV, involved community partners in a truly nonpartisan effort and countless hours of volunteer effort. The ongoing initiatives of LWV

hard at work keeping democracy alive was in the form of dedicated members who organized and provided two superlative candidate forums and published two Voter Guides in the May and November elections.

Not incidentally local League members fielded several questions from voters and provided information about the first-time combined General Election.

For 2013, I challenge members of LWV-CC to renew commitment to the mission and good work of the League of Women Voters and build on its successes. Renewing memberships is an important part of growing our ranks at the grassroots level.

Sadly, we lost one stalwart supporter of the League, member Carlos Truan, former Dean of the Texas Senate, in his passing in 2012. But, we gained new and younger members that will provide new energy and initiative in 2013 and beyond. (Final count on new and renewing members for 2012 will be provided in the February Voter.)

LWV-CC Board is open to member suggestions for creative ways to attract and build as well as retain members. The Board Nomination Committee is meeting this month and if you have interest in serving, please contact Peggy Banales or Pat Parr, as there will be Board opening opportunities.

And, together, let's resolve to continue enabling the electorate to be heard by engaging citizens to access elected officials with their concerns and to advocate for open and responsive government. To quote Elizabeth MacNamara, LWV president, "if the League doesn't keep up the fight, who will?"

Happy New Year!

Plan seeks to reduce bacteria levels at Cole, Ropes parks

League member Lois Huff is participating in the Cole and Ropes Parks Bacteria Reduction Implementation Plan (CARP) Ordinance & Regulation Workgroup.

From www.baysfoundation.org, "Data from

the Texas Beach Watch Program <<http://texas-beachwatch.com/>> show bacteria concentrations were higher than the criteria for protecting contact recreation activities, such as swimming or wind-

League's Lobby Day designed to make democracy work in Texas

State president calls for representatives

With the 83rd Texas Legislature set to begin January 8, the state board is focused on advocacy and Lobby Days/Statewide Conference and Making Democracy Work Dinner in Austin February 25-26.

All members are encouraged to attend, and all local Leagues are encouraged to make sure their League is represented! I like all LWV events, but this is my favorite -- updates on positions and priorities, advocacy in action, and honoring those who make democracy work in Texas. And, of course, the great company of Leaguers!

The basic schedule for the two days is below. The state board will finalize the last details during our January 11-13 board meeting, and additional information will be provided in mid-January. To conduct Statewide Conference business, a majority of local Leagues and MAL Units must be represented, so we will be following up individually with each League and MAL.

I hope to see you in Austin February 25-26!

As always, thanks for all you do for LWV and for Texas!

Linda Krefting, President

Join LWV-TX and LWV members from across Texas to:

- Learn about LWV-TX legislative priorities from outstanding speakers including former Lt. Governors Bill Hobby & Bill Ratliff on education, the Center for Public Policy Priorities' Anne Dunkelberg on health care & Texas State's Andrew Sansom on water.

- Consider changes to LWV-TX positions on redistricting & capital punishment.

- Honor Planned Parenthood for protecting privacy of reproductive choice & access to health care.

- Lobby your senator & representative on LWV-TX priorities.

- Get to know the LWV-TX advocacy team & network with Leaguers from across the state.

Monday, February 25:

- 10:30-11:30 a.m.: Open house at the state office, 1212 Guadalupe St. #107

- 12:30-5 p.m.: Registration, Lobby Days/Statewide Conference at the Capitol (\$10 materials cost)

- Making Democracy Work Dinner, 6:30 p.m. at the UT Etter-Harbin Alumni Center

- o Honorees: Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas and Cecilia Boone (Dallas), national chair of Planned Parenthood Federation of America

- o \$75 for League members and guests or \$100 for non-member

- o Deadline for reservations is February 14.

Tuesday, February 26:

- 8:30-10 a.m.: LWV priorities, talking points, tips on lobbying at the Capitol

- 10 a.m.: Visits with Senators and Representatives (advance appointments recommended)

Host Hotel: La Quinta Inn Austin Capitol, 300 East 11th Street, 1-512-476-1166

<http://www.lq.com/lq/properties/propertyProfile.do?propId=907>

\$112.50 for 1 to 4/room; breakfast included; valet parking only (\$12.99/night)

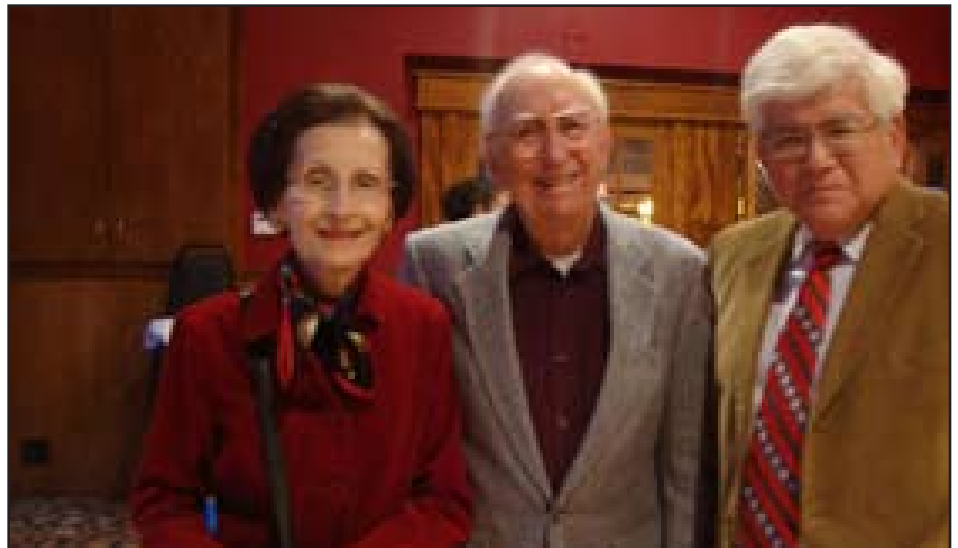
Make reservations directly with the hotel by Monday, Feb. 4; indicate you are with the League of Women Voters. Phone: 512-476-1166 or e-mail: lq0907dos1@laquinta.com

Bryan Bode has volunteered to help coordinate members' trips to Austin. Contact: slowbode@usa.com or 361-877-3791

Bacteria ————— From page 2
surfing, at Cole Park and Ropes Park beaches in Corpus Christi, TX. The goal of this project is to reduce bacteria levels at these beaches." This Coordination Committee plans to have a public meeting mid-April 2013 to share proposed implementation strategies. If you want to know more about this project, please contact the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation at 361-882-3439.



(Clockwise from top left) Peter Jason and Elena Buentello; Past President Evy Coppola and President Judy Telge; Council member Chad Magill greets Roger Lanress ; Rudy and Melinda Garza with Bryan Bode; Pam Maupin, Judy Telge, and Jason Buentello with Regina Blye, State Independent Living Council visiting from Austin; Genie and Brooks Lemly and Nick Jimenez; Matilde Saenz welcomes new member Marta Sotomayor; and Carolyn Moon and Gloria Scott enjoy refreshments.





Holiday Greetings at Dos Comales

The place was Dos Comales in downtown Corpus Christi and the event was the League of Women Voters – Corpus Christi “Holiday Greetings and Salutations!”

Nearly fifty members and guests mingled throughout the evening in a new venue on Thursday, Dec. 13, for the LWV. During the event, new and returning elected officials were made to feel welcome and invited to join the ranks of LWV. They included newly elected City Council members Chad Magill and Rudy Garza, and re-elected Judge Nanette Hassett and County Commissioner Oscar Ortiz.

Three new members joining that evening were Marta Sotomayor, Phyllis Secraw and Vanessa Garcia, which brought the number of members in attendance to 24 or, approximately fifty percent of the turn-out. Noted also were several new faces in the crowd who were primarily young women interested in getting involved in their community through the League.



Many thanks to Elena Buentello, programs vice president, Bryan Bode, community relations vice president, and Pam Maupin, director, for organizing and executing a successful event!



LWV teams interview two local legislators

Meetings described as 'open,' informative'

LWV-Corpus Christi participated in the LWV-Texas Legislative Interviews in December prior to the start of the 83rd Legislative Session. This initiative involves personal interviews at the local Legislators' offices by League members regarding four questions formulated by the LWV-Texas. Responses to the questions are sent to the State office to share with the League's advocacy team and issue chairs. Personal interviews were held with State Representatives Abel Herrero and Todd Hunter.

The questions were: 1) priorities for the 83rd Legislative Session; 2) best way to fund education; 3) whether Texas should accept federal dollars for Medicaid expansion; and 4) how to protect and increase water resources for Texas.

Representative Abel Herrero, who returned to the District 34 seat, was interviewed by the LWV team of Peggy Banales, Pat Parr, and Matilda Saenz. Representative Todd Hunter was interviewed by Bryan Bode, Coretta Graham, and Judy Telge.

Reports from the interview teams were that

both legislators were open and informative; each committing to working with League of Women Voters on shared issue areas of importance.

Members invited to MLK event

The Corpus Christi Alumnae chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has issued an invitation to a celebration of Martin Luther King Holiday Monday, Jan. 21, at 12 noon.

Participants will meet at the Nueces County Courthouse and parade to the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, at 700 S. Upper Broadway.

Chief of Police Floyd Simpson will make opening remarks, and the Honorable Mayor Nelda Martinez will be guest speaker.



FARMERS'

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

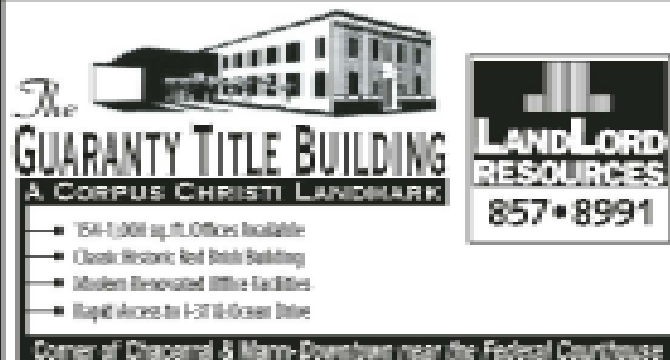
*Be a "Localvore."
 Support you local growers/gardeners.*



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.




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Film shows effects of hydraulic fracturing

From the Texas Drought Project

The much-awaited Matt Damon film, "Promised Land," was released on Dec. 28. It tells the story of a small town which is caught up in the economic frenzy and environmental storm that is hydraulic fracturing.

Supporters of the Texas Drought Project are organizing groups to attend screenings—because this is a must-see for Texans!

Hydraulic fracturing in Texas permanently removed at least 25 billion gallons of water from the hydrological cycle in 2011 alone. We say "at least" because industry figures are used to calculate these numbers--we don't have enough documenting of water use in Texas to know how much they've left out.

Every day, another individual contacts this organization, or Texas Oil and Gas Accountability Project, or a group like the Sierra Club, to ask what can be done to help them with gas flaring, or water contamination, or family illness—all due to fracking. This film makes clear that the media hype about this new "gold rush" is only one side of the story.

If the film sparks questions in your mind, or prompts water-cooler conversation at your office, remember, you can host a coffee/tea at your home, or a discussion at your place of worship or civic group--or have the movie "Gasland," a documentary that the Texas Drought Project recommends viewing, shown at any of those—simply by contacting Alyssa Burgin at alyssa@texasdroughtproject.org.

We'll come prepared with handouts showing data on health effects, agricultural consequences and water shortages and contamination. We hope your interest will be piqued by this film.

Welcome, New members:

Vanessa Garcia
Phyllis Secraw
Marta Sotomayor

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

LWV-CC to submit letter with education focus to the Caller-Times

The League of Women Voters of the 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.

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-CC