



The Corpus Christi Area

# Voter July 2013

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

### LWV-CC OFFICERS, 2013-2014

**President - Sandra Heatherley**  
814-9120; sheatherle@cs.com

**Secretary - Matilda Saenz**  
214-240-5655; rsaenz87@sbcglobal.net

**Treasurer - Maria Jimenez**  
888-7560; nick.maria.jimenez@sbcglobal.net

**Vice President, Program -**  
Andrew Dimas, 688-6745  
andrewkdimas@gmail.com

**Vice President, Community Relations**  
Bryan Bode, 877-3791  
slowbode@usa.com

**Vice President, Member Services**  
Elena Buentello, 438-2481  
ep5527@yahoo.com

**Directors:**  
Pam Maupin, 949-8708  
pammaupin@sbcglobal.net

Sally Farris, (310) 313-7028  
s.farris@att.net

Coretta Graham, 815-8346  
lawyergraham@msn.com

**OFF-BOARD CHAIRS**  
**Nominating Committee**  
Nick Jimenez, 888-7560

**Website Editor - Lois Huff**  
774-1500; huffs@the-i.net

**The VOTER Editors**  
Ricky Walraven; 992-8131;  
wilraven26@yahoo.com  
Chris Davis Garcia; 991-2784;  
garciachr47@att.net

**Immediate Past President**  
Judy Telge, 813-6397

## July 18 Membership Meeting To Focus on Redistricting

Please join LWC-CC members and guests on **Thursday, July 18, 2013**, as the League resumes its monthly membership meetings!

The July 18 meeting will be held from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the new Hibachi & Supreme Buffet, located at 5274 S. Staples (corner of South Staples and Williams at the former Golden Corral Restaurant; across from HEB Moore Plaza).

An update on Redistricting and the work of LWV will be presented by Bryan Bode and Sandra Heatherley. Lunch cost is \$10 paid to our treasurer in the meeting room, which is located to the left of the main entry and front desk. Please plan to attend!

### SAVE THE DATE!

## August 23 Celebration Set

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 is sponsoring an event to recognize the occasion and celebrate Women's Equality Day with heavy hors d'oeuvres, a fun program and silent auction 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 the Collegiate High School, coached by Dr. Sonia Noyola, is invited to challenge a team from TAMU-CC coached by Dr. Isabel Araiza. There will be opportunities for audience participation.

Letters for table sponsors have been sent and Barbara Canales, newly appointed Port Commissioner from Nueces County, will be the Honorary Chair for the celebration. There will be a sign-up sheet at the League's July 18 meeting for members who want to help with the Silent Auction.

**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

I SURE HOPE YOU ARE READING THIS!

I hope you are reading this because your recently elected board of directors has been doing some "heavy lifting" since their installation in May and the board retreat in June.

The Board retreat was held June 8, one day following my first opportunity to speak publicly on behalf of our league on June 7. The testimony I gave during the June 7 Texas State Senate Select Committee hearing is printed on Page 3 of this issue.

Goal setting and calendaring were the focus of the Board retreat. Two important goals for this coming year are:

1. Increasing our membership from the current 79 to at least 100, and
2. A fund-raising target for this year of at least \$6,000.

Based on those two goals, the following dates and activities were selected for our members' participation:

**July 18**, General Membership Luncheon; topic Redistricting (see story on Page 1)

**August 23**, A major fund-raising event celebrating Women's Equality Day (see story on Page 3)

**September 19**, General Membership Luncheon; topic: Voter Registration and Deputizing, at Hibachi & Supreme Buffet, 5274 S. Staples @ Williams.

**September 24**, National Voter Registration Day, organized event at TAMU-Corpus Christi.

**October 17**, General membership Dinner Meeting at Sugarbakers, 2766 Santa Fe; topic: Consensus

Meeting on the Texas Human Trafficking Study completed by LWV-Texas.

**November 7**, Evening social "Wine, Women, and Wisdom" at Pam Maupin's house for fun and education on the Observer Corps.

**November 21**, General Membership Luncheon at Hibachi & Supreme Buffet; topic: Water and M&G Resins Project.

**December** (date to be announced), Membership recruitment and fundraiser.

**January 12**, Waffle Breakfast to introduce local candidates whose names will be on the Primary ballots.

**February** (date to be announced), Candidates' Forum

**March** (date to be announced), Primary election

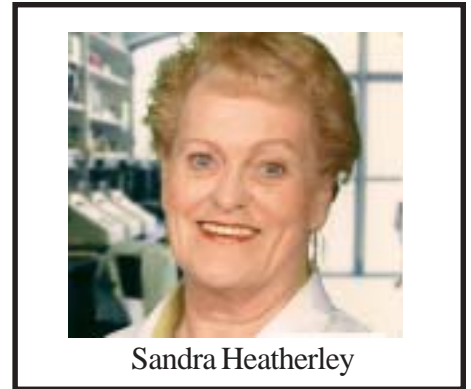
**April 25-27**, LWV-Texas Convention in Austin.

Other ideas generated by the board at their retreat included enabling the treasurer to use on-line banking and members and/or donors to make payments to the League via a secure electronic system.

It was decided to discontinue the services and expense of the answering service and to instead subscribe to a free Google system for receiving calls and messages.

Lois Huff, who graciously acted as the scribe during the retreat, agreed to continue with our web site and Marjorie (Ricky) Walraven and Chris Davis Garcia will remain VOTER editors.

Our immediate past president, Judy Telge, mentioned that she



Sandra Heatherley

and board member Coretta Graham had a small start on designing the initiative "Women Leaders Mentoring Young Leaders" funded by the generous bid received for an hour of the Mayor's time.

In other discussion, it was decided that Sally Farris and Lois Huff will research the LWVUS positions to find out if there is one related to neighborhood and community associations that would enable us to take action locally to revitalize and maintain public listings of these organizations.

It was also decided to have a table promoting the League at future Art Walks.

Our League also will distribute Voters Guides in October for the Constitutional Amendments election on Nov. 5. Obtaining a Voter ID will again be an issue and an educational service we can offer the community.

So, aren't you glad you are reading this? We have some exciting and informative events ahead of this year, and we need every League member to pitch in with their own time and talents and to recruit new members who subscribe to the League's mission. By all means, keep reading!

## WE NEED ITEMS FOR THE AUG. 23 AUCTION!

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 several dozen items on the Auction table, and you can help! Make a list of five or six businesses that you support, including your salon or hair-dresser, 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.

Coretta Graham (815-8346) has copies of the Auction form that you can request. Contact her at: [lawyergraham@msn.com](mailto:lawyergraham@msn.com).

## Bylaws Amended at Annual Meeting

Four amendments that were recommended for consideration at the Annual Meeting were approved. All were "gentle editing" that clarified specific actions or timeline changes.

### ARTICLE IV-Officers

#### Section 6: The Treasurer

The treasurer will also be responsible for posting and providing updates [to the Membership Chair](#) of members' payments.

(Establishes coordination between treasurer and Membership Services VP)

New sentence added at end of Section 6:

[The Board will arrange for an annual financial review to be conducted in June, following the annual meeting.](#)

(Documents in writing what the Board has done for many years)

### ARTICLE VI—FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

#### Section 2: Dues (Next to last sentence in paragraph)

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.

(Extends number of days from 60 to 90 before membership is dropped)

### 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 mailing at least one month in advance of the meeting.

(Clarifies additional ways to notify members of League business, including email)

## Testimony on Redistricting (SB1) Presented

On June 7, President Sandra Heatherley provided testimony to the Senate Select Committee on Redistricting, which scheduled a meeting in Corpus Christi. Vice President Bryan Bode also spoke as an individual. Here is Sandra's testimony:

The League of Women Voters of Texas and Corpus Christi believe the most effective method for drawing boundaries for congressional and state legislative districts would be by a redistricting com-

mission. Otherwise, the legislature should conduct the work of redistricting during a special session called for the sole purpose of redistricting.

For LWV, the important criteria for the Committee to consider in evaluating redistricting plans include the following:

- districts should be apportioned on the basis of equal population and contiguous
- consideration should be given to ensuring that the districts be

compact and district lines coincide with boundaries of local political subdivisions

- districts not be drawn to dilute the voting strength of minority populations, and
- consideration should not be given to retention of incumbents or political party strength.

We are appreciative of the Senate Select Committee hearing in Corpus Christi and the opportunity to share our views.

**(See related story, Page 5)**

# Annual Meeting recap



Judy Telge, LWV-CC President; Mayor Nelda Martinez; Linda Krefting, LWV-TX President

Thirty-eight of our members and guests attended the Annual Meeting on May 17 which felt like an intimate gathering of friends. The new and returning board members listed on page 1 were elected and/or installed by Linda Krefting, President of LWV-TX. Mayor Nelda Martinez delivered a high-energy look at the city from her perspective as a member of LWV-CC. Frank Pimentel and Dr. Gloria Scott were recognized for their service as their terms as board members expired. The Bylaws changes noted elsewhere in this publication were also approved. An hour of the Mayor's time was auctioned by auctioneer superb Nick Jimenez and purchased for \$500 by Coretta Graham and outgoing president Judy Telge. The time and money will be devoted to establishing "Women Leaders Mentoring Young Leaders" as Judy's legacy. In appreciation for the time, work and effort required to be president, Judy was presented with a generous gift certificate at Chicos and a resolution of recognition from State Rep. Abel Herrero which had been proclaimed on the floor of the Texas House of Representatives. Well done, Judy!



# New officers elected!



At the May 17 Annual Meeting, LWV-CC officers for 2013-2014 were elected and installed. Pictured at left are (l-r) Matilda Saenz, Secretary; Sally Farris, Director; Coretta Graham, Director; Elena Buentello, VP Member Services; Bryan Bode, VP Community Relations; Andrew Dimas, VP Program; Maria Jimenez, Treasurer; Sandra Heatherley, President; Pam Maupin, Director; and Nick Jimenez, Nominating Committee chair. Retiring President Judy Telge congratulated the new Board on its diversity.

The Board will meet monthly this summer and fall on the following Mondays: July 22, Aug. 26, Sept. 23, and Oct. 28. League members are invited to attend. Call Sandra Heatherley to confirm Board meeting locations and times.

## League Committees

The following committees have been established to complete the League's work this year, with Board members serving as chairs:

**Membership committee** (Elena Buentello)--responsible for promotion, recruitment, orientation, retention and calling of members

**Study-Action/ Program committee** (Andrew Dimas)--to include membership meetings and

- o Observer Corps
- o Advocacy
- o Study and Action

**Community Relations committee** (Bryan Bode)—responsible for media relations and communication to include

- o Newsletter
- o Web-site
- o Social Media

**Fundraising committee** (Open)--responsible for fund-raising event planning

**Voter Service committee** (Open)--to include

- o Voter Registration events
- o Candidate Forums
- o Voters Guides

## MY VIEW

### Non-Partisan Redistricting

By Bryan Bode, VP-Community Relations

Governor Perry recently signed into law new State House and Senate districts. It is a shame that the Texas State Senate and House chose to proceed with a status quo system where representatives choose their constituents rather than the other way around. It doesn't have to be this way!

LWV-CC President Sandra Heatherley and I recently spoke before the Senate Redistricting Committee. Sandra presented the Senators with a path forward on Redistricting--an independent, nonpartisan committee to draw districts based on communities of interest. This is a system already used in states such as California and has shown great results.

Consider for a moment that of the 53 congressional districts in California, only one measly district flipped partisan control over an entire decade from 2002-2011. Statistically, that means that of the 530 times these seats were contested only .19% of the time did a seat flip parties. In 2012 alone (with independent redistricting in effect), over 18 seats either saw incumbents defeated in primary elections or flipped partisan control.

Today California has a congressional delegation which much better reflects both the partisan and demographic realities of the state. In addition, their delegation represents geographic and socioeconomic communities of interest. Wouldn't it be great if we Texans could say the same about our congressional delegation? We can do much better than the status quo system. The League of Women Voters will continue to fight for a better way forward on redistricting.

# THANKS to these renewing members!

Thank you to these League members who have renewed their membership for 2013-2014 (as of July 7, 2013!

Jane Bachman  
 Barbara Clark  
 Nancy Devlin  
 Margaret J. DiClemente  
 Phyllis Dinges  
 Peggy Duran  
 Jose Duran  
 Sally Clark Farris  
 Anna Flores  
 Christina Garcia  
 Coretta Graham  
 Sandra Heatherley  
 Abel Herrero  
 Lois Huff

Maria Jimenez  
 Nick Jimenez  
 Genie Lemley  
 B. Lemley  
 Nelda Martinez  
 Pam Maupin  
 Pat G. Parr  
 Lorraine S. Stehn  
 Diana Stillman  
 Kathlyn A. Sweeney  
 Sylvia Whitworth  
 Sue Ann Williams  
 Roberta Wood-Hughes

...and welcome to a new member who will join us in 'making democracy work!  
 Karen S. Murray

**REMINDER: Membership dues (\$60 for individual member; \$90 for two in household) cover June 1, 2013 to May 31, 2014. Please renew your membership today by mailing your check or money order to:**  
**LWV-CC (Attn. Treasurer)**  
**PO Box 8275**  
**Corpus Christi, TX 78468**

If you have changed any of your contact information (new email address, new phone number, etc.), please enclose the renewal form printed on the next page.

**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

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.

Daniel Gallegos Jr.  
 Owner

teanytimeetc@yahoo.com  
 teanytimeetc.com

**Tea Anytime Etc.**  
 An Organic Tea House & More

4200 South Alameda Suite C  
 Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Office 361.334.5015  
 Fax 361.334.5015

# Update on Voter ID

By Linda Krefting, President,  
LWV-Texas

The US Supreme Court's June 25 decision on the Voting Rights Act effectively eliminates the requirement for Texas to obtain federal approval prior to implementing the 2011 voter photo ID requirement.

The Texas Secretary of State moved immediately to implement the law, and the Department of Public Safety has started processing applications for the Election Identification Certificate from voters who do not have one of the other acceptable photo IDs.

A challenge to the photo ID under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, which remains in effect, has been filed. Voting rights advocates including LWV-TX are considering what options might be available given the Supreme Court decision.

Clearly there will be important work for Leagues in Texas to make sure voters know what will be required at the polls and how to obtain ID if they don't have one of the photo IDs that can be accepted at the polls.

To make sure all Texas Leagues "speak with one voice" on the photo ID requirement, LWV-TX will develop common language for all Leagues to use—look for it soon.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

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.**

## LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER VALUABLE

Visit the LWV-Texas website at [www.lwvtx.org](http://www.lwvtx.org) and access the final Legislative Newsletter prepared by the Advocacy Team that covered this year's Legislative Session. Bills that passed and bills that didn't pass or never got out of committee are noted. Members of the LWV team each spent many hours following bills, submitting testimony, and conveying the League's positions on dozens of issues.

**The volunteers did an excellent job representing League members all over the state, and we appreciate their commitment.**  
--Chris Garcia  
LWV-TX Director





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

## OUR CONDOLENCES

...To the family and friends of Ruth Gill, who died last month at the age of 89. Ruth was actively involved in the League for several years and served as its 7th president in 1956-57. She was a City Council member during the 1970s and committed to many civic and political activities.

...To the family and friends of Dr. Marta Sotomayor, who died June 24. Marta was a fairly new member of LWV-CC, having been recruited by Judy Telge. She was a board member with Accessible Housing Resources, Inc., a member of the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Committee, and a conscientious election worker for several years. Among her many accomplishments, Marta was recognized as the first Hispanic woman to earn a PhD in Social Work. A memorial service was held here on June 28.

Expressions of sympathy have been sent to both families on behalf of LWV-CC expressing the sense of loss and gratitude for these lovely women who both will be deeply missed.

## Redistricting Update

By Linda Krefting, LWV-TX

The Legislature's 2011 redistricting plans have been under review in two courts; the DC District court denied preclearance and other legal challenges have been under the jurisdiction of the San Antonio court which established interim maps so that the 2012 elections could proceed.

The first 2013 special legislative session adopted the San Antonio court's interim maps as permanent, with a few minor changes to the map for the state House, and Gov. Perry signed the bills adopting those maps into law on June 26.

On Friday June 28, the State of Texas moved for dismissal of remaining challenges in the San Antonio court because the interim maps have been adopted as permanent by the state. Plaintiffs in the case object to dismissal, and what the San Antonio court will do remains to be seen.

What seems clear is that the 2011 redistricting plans drawn by the Legislature are now history. What is not known is whether the interim maps from 2012 with minor legislative changes will become permanent or additional changes will be made by the court.

LWV-Texas will continue to monitor this issue.

### Volunteer to Teach an Adult to Read!

#### *Corpus Christi Literacy Council*

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)

**Mary V. Gleason**  
Executive Director



### Hunter&Handel PC

Todd A. Hunter, Attorney at Law

555 N. Carancahua, Suite 800, Tower H  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78478  
[todd@hunterhandel.com](mailto:todd@hunterhandel.com)

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