



The Corpus Christi Area

Voter

March 2013

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

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March 21 meeting at Silverado A&M-CC professor to speak on 'Women in Science'

The League's March luncheon is scheduled for Thursday, March 21, and our guest speaker will highlight Women's History Month. Dr. Suzette Chopin, professor at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, will give a presentation on "Women in Science."

We will be returning to the Silverado Smokehouse for this luncheon; the Silverado is located at 4522 Weber and has accessible entranceways.

League members and guests will meet as usual at 11:30 a.m., and our guest speaker will begin her presentation at 12 noon. Please arrive early to secure your seat and place in the serving line. No RSVP necessary. For menu and pricing, please visit the Silverado Smokehouse website <http://www.corpuschristi-bbq.com/menu.html>.

05.17.13
SAVE THE DATE

Annual Meeting
Citrus Bayfront Bistro
@the Art Center of Corpus Christi

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

When we educate, we are many voices. When we advocate, we are one.

I'm not sure of the origin of this statement but it came to mind as I write about our recent participation in the

Texas League of Women Voters Lobby Days in Austin.

Education and advocacy by the Texas League of Women Voters were highly evident at the Texas Capitol during the Texas League's Lobby Days.

Leagues from across Texas were well represented as we held legislative briefings and visits with our respective local delegations. LWV-CC representatives visited Senator Juan Chuy Hinojosa and Representatives Todd Hunter and Abel Herrera.

Our elected officials made themselves and their staff readily available as we presented our three issue areas on behalf of the Texas League of Women Voters. Sandra Heatherley, Bryan Bode, La Lisa Hernandez and myself were your representatives delivering the LWV message.

Being a member of the League of Women Voters almost guarantees the ability to "get in the door," be received by interested and respectful legislators and staff, and even "get them off the floor."

La Lisa and I, as seasoned political junkies, know the drill, and having two "newbies" in the process added knowledge – note: Sandra and her wealth of knowledge on the water quality issue—as well as fun—note: Bryan. But it was the overall League presence and our unified presentation that made our Lobby Days highly effective.

Our voices joined those of our colleagues in

the LWV-Texas on the issue areas important to the people of Texas and this Legislative session.

The Advocacy Papers we provided to legislators addressed three advocacy positions and the Action needed: Texas Water Crisis – increasing demand but decreasing supply; Public Education in Texas – teetering on the brink?; and Texas Health Care – inadequate state programs are costly to all Texans.

As League members, we have additional opportunities to join others who believe in the issues and solutions that matter to us and our communities.

I return to Austin again this week to join my colleagues in disability, aging, consumer advocacy and health care to participate in a march on the Capitol on Tuesday, March 5, for "My Medicaid Matters," and a legislative briefing with the Center for Public Policy Priorities.

These efforts are advocating to restore and expand Medicaid funding in Texas and will have League members in attendance, as LWV believes we should make use of all available federal funding for Texas health care needs, including the Medicaid expansion allowed under the Affordable Care Act.

This cross-fertilization of effort came through educating ourselves and others—important to effective legislative advocacy.

Opportunities to join effective coalitions often occur at the State level, and recently LWV Texas joined a newly formed organization, the Women's Health Coalition.

We'll have more on this later.

In the meantime, enjoy our great little newsletter this month, get ready to celebrate March as Women's History Month, come to the March monthly meeting on the 21st and remember: "When we educate, we are many voices; when we advocate, we are one."

LWV-CC Education Committee Update

By Coretta Graham

1. Goals/Expectations

The committee will be gathering data/information on the issue of Educational Attainment i.e. looking at system(s) in Coastal Bend and their link to the quality of education for an educated voting population in the Corpus Christi area.

Per 2010 US Census for NUECES COUNTY

High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2007-2011	79.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25+, 2007-2011	20.6%
Per capita money income in the past 12 months (2011 dollars), 2007-2011	\$23,525
Median household income, 2007-2011	\$44,815
Persons below poverty level, percent, 2007-2011	18.8%

2. Rep Herrero Education Coalition Taskforce

Taskforce met March 1 and Feb. 22. The Group is focused on these five (5) priorities: a) Funding, b) Accountability/ Assessment, c) Technology and Safety/Security, d) Career and College Readiness and e) Educator and Support Staff Concerns.

3. Education Bills To Monitor:

Texas Voucher: the Texas Senate Education Committee will hold a hearing on its first voucher bill of the 2013 session. The bill is SB 115 by Sen. Tommy Williams (R-The Woodlands), which would make every student with a disability eligible for a state-funded voucher to attend a private or religious school. Texas AFT and a broad coalition of parent, community, and educator advocates opposes the bill.

HB 5, by state Rep. Jimmie Don Aycocock, R-Killeen, would result in public schools adopting an accountability system with grades of A through F. It would lessen the number of end-of-course exams a student must take from 15 to five and would allow students to count Advanced Placement, ACT or SAT satisfactory performance toward graduation requirements. The bill remains in front of the House Public Education Committee.



Photo by Chris Garcia

The League's February membership meeting focused on educational issues, with pertinent remarks and information furnished by Claudia Jackson of Del Mar College; Debbie Seeger-Lanz of Corpus Christi ISD; and League member Coretta Graham. Jackson identified the top legislative priorities of the college being addressed this spring. Seeger-Lanz gave details on State Rep. Todd Hunter's educational task force, and Graham said the League committee on educational attainment continues to do research.

Violence of suffrage struggle remembered

On March 3, 1913, 5,000 suffragists from across the country gathered in Washington, DC, to demand the right to vote.

Throughout the three-hour parade down Pennsylvania Avenue, marchers faced strong opposition from the crowds. Insults and lit cigarette butts were hurled at them, and marchers were tripped, groped and beaten. The violence was so intense that Army troops were called in to restore order, and 100 marchers were hospitalized.

In the end, the opposition faced by the marchers only helped their cause. Their mistreatment, including their lack of protection by police, led to a public outcry. Ultimately, the march succeeded in reinvigorating the suffrage movement, which had stalled at a national level.

It would be a number of years until the 19th amendment gave women the right to vote, but the 1913 suffrage parade helped pave the way for renewed attention to fight for women's suffrage.

Membership, Leadership, Development Seminar

By Sandra Heatherley

On February 24 I represented our local league at a workshop on Membership, Leadership Development. This is a program established by the LWV-US three years ago to create a network of coaches for state and local leagues.

Forty-one other states participate in the program. In Texas there are 10 participating local leagues with coaches and mentees. On February 24 three additional leagues joined the program; Corpus Christi, Plano-Collin County, and El Paso.

During the sessions on Sunday and Monday morning we were assigned a coach, Ms. Joyce Robinson from the Austin League, and began the MLD process. Joyce and I and Elena Buentello from our league will begin having monthly confer-

ence calls to discuss the progress of our league in its efforts to recruit new members and to develop leaders for succession planning. Even “elite” athletes have coaches and the same is true for vibrant local chapters.

Since Joyce will participate in a monthly conference call with the other 44 coaches across the state, she will have access to ideas and information to share with Elena and me to help us build and grow our chapter.

The sessions preceded the events of Lobby Days and led to some productive ideas for future events for fund-raising and just plain fun. Stay tuned for more about these plans in future issues of the VOTER.

Statewide Caucus and Delegate Session before Lobby Days

By Sandra Heatherley,

Following the MLD session, on Monday, February 25, afternoon we began the statewide conference sessions with speakers who helped inform and prepare us to lobby our congressional representatives on the issues we were promoting:

Education:

- Crisis in funding
- Against the issuance of publicly funded rschool vouchers
- Crisis in end-of-course-testing and accountability.

Water:

- Current drought crisis and projected needs
- Maintain water status as a natural resource
- Fund the Texas Water Development Board plan
- Strengthen water regulation through consolidation of accountability among state agencies

Healthcare:

- Fund the \$4.8 billion that the last legislature did not fund for Medicaid
- Restore the \$62 million that was cut from the state family planning budget and ensure the adequacy of funding and providers for the Women’s Health Program
- Restore cuts to mental health and substance abuse programs

- Make use of all available federal funding for Texas healthcare needs

- Increase funding to the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

Our speakers included two past lieutenant governors, Bill Ratliff and Bill Hobby on Education. Ms. Meredith Miller from the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University did an exceptional job in a short time of informing the group of the issues around Texas water. Ms. Stacey Pogue represented the Center for Public Policy Priorities and spoke on behalf of Women’s Health Care in the state.

During the official meeting of the House of Delegates the assembly voted affirmatively to endorse the changes in the wording of our positions related to: The Death Penalty and Redistricting.

Our evening culminated at the Alumni Center of the University of Texas with a fine dinner and the presentation of the LWV-TX “Making Democracy Work” award to Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas.

In response to the award both Mr. Ken Lambrecht, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas and Ms. Cecilia Boone, Chair of the Planned Parenthood Federations of America shared their thoughts and ideas on how we all can contribute to making democracy work.

(Right) Senator Juan Chuy Hinojosa (fourth from left) poses with Bryan Bode, Mary Ann Kelly, Lisa Hernandez, Sandra Heatherley, and Judy Telge;

Sandra Heatherley (center), MLD coach Joyce Robinson (seated on Sandra's right) and another League member join training participants in Austin prior to Lobby Days.



League flexes strength at Lobby Days

By Bryan Bode
Community Relations VP

In Austin for Lobby Days on Feb. 25-26, a group of local LWV-CC members—Sandra Heatherley, Judy Telge, Lisa Hernandez, and Bryan Bode—had face-to-face meetings with Rep. Todd Hunter, Rep. Abel Herrero, and Sen. Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa.

Thanks to our Coastal Bend delegation and staff for meeting with us WITHOUT appointments, and using our “strength” to pull Representative Hunter off the floor to meet with us!

I am also ecstatic to report that all firmly agree with the League’s position on our three priority issues this session (water, education, and healthcare).

As a non-partisan group, the League of Women Voters has an important role in shaping discussion of important issues at all levels of government.

The League takes positions on a whole host of bills filed every legislative session.

Some might argue that this act is contrary to our message of non-partisanship; however, it actually enhances it. We are one of the few organizations that doesn’t care who files a bill or what party they are from.

The only thing we are concerned with is the betterment of our state and its people. This means that when the League speaks with a unified voice, people everywhere listen. You can view the League’s position on most legislation at http://www.lwvtexas.org/legislative_newsletter.php.

(Right above) State Rep. Todd Hunter shares a smile with Lisa Hernandez and Judy Telge; (right) State Rep. Abel Herrero joins Judy Telge and Bryan Bode for a photo in his office.



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 March 21 Meeting OR mailing it to the League no later than March 15, 2013.

Mail to: LWV-Corpus Christi
(Attn: Program)
PO Box 8276
Corpus Christi, TX 78468

CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS



NELDA MARTINEZ
Mayor

(361) 826-3105 (Ofc)
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Bylaw Committee seeks suggestions for revisions

The Bylaw Committee consisting of Peggy Banales, Lois Huff and Pam Maupin is meeting to review the current Bylaws and to consider needed updates.

Membership suggestions are encouraged.

Please review the Bylaws on our local league website and send your suggestion through e-mail to one of the committee members; a telephone call or personal contact is also welcomed.

The committee needs to receive your suggestions by March 15.. Thanks for your assistance.



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 Farmers Market

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

JOSE MIGUEL DURAN, M.D.
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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
PO Box 8276
Corpus Christi, TX 78468

Election, Budget, Program priorities for Annual Meeting

League business conducted at the Annual Meeting in May focuses on three priorities:

- Election of officers
- Adoption of the annual budget, and
- Adoption of Program

To prepare for the meeting, several activities identified in our Bylaws are under way.

Election of Officers

The Nominating Committee has been identifying members who are interested in assuming leadership roles with LWV-CC.

Officers generally elected in odd-numbered years for two-year terms include President, VP Community Relations, Treasurer, and 2 Directors.

The other officer positions—Secretary, Director, VP Program, and VP Membership Services—are elected in even-numbered years.

Adoption of the Annual Budget

A budget review committee will be established soon to review income and disbursements so that an accurate budget for June 2013-May 2014 can be developed, approved by the membership, and in place when the new fiscal year begins June 1.

The committee is tasked with the responsibility of preparing a proposed budget that members attending the Annual Meeting can review, discuss, and adopt.

Adoption of Program

Program in League lingo is identified as those local or regional issues that might be studied and acted on during the coming year. In February and March of each year, LWV members are invited to suggest topics for Program. The Board will review the topics identified by members and prepare a list of recommended topics for member approval at the Annual Meeting.