



The Corpus Christi Area

Voter

May 2013

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

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Plan To Attend Annual Meeting

Mayor Martinez, LWV-Texas President Krefting To Speak

LWV-CC cordially invites League members and their guests to attend the 68th Annual Meeting on Friday, May 17, 2013, from 6-9 p.m. at Citrus Bistro Café, located in the Art Center at 100 N. Shoreline. Special remarks will be given by Mayor Nelda Martinez (“State of the City Through the Eyes of the League”) and LWV-Texas President Linda Krefting of Lubbock (“LWV-TX Legislative Update”).

Hors d’oeuvres will be served as members gather for conversation and networking at 6 p.m. A variety of red, white, and “inbetween” wines will be available at the cash bar. Dinner will be served at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$50 per person and can be reserved by calling the League’s answering service at 880-6501 no later than May 9. When you call in your reservation, please indicate one of the following meals—Roasted beef tenderloin with Dijon mustard and five peppers; Choice of grilled salmon or shrimp served with pineapple ginger sauce, or a vegetarian plate.

The entrees will be served with a salad of citrus-mixed greens with apple slices, cranberries and sunflower seeds, tossed with champagne vinaigrette; garlic-dill mashed potatoes; seasoned green beans with grated Parmesan cheese; and Italian cake.

At 6:45 p.m., a fun Live Auction Fundraiser will allow bidding for “An Hour With Our Mayor,” with guest auctioneer Nick Jimenez, a League member. Bring your checkbook and get ready to do some serious bidding!

(See related stories about the Annual Meeting on Page 3.)

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

LWV-Texas does a remarkable job of keeping up with bills filed and their progress through the Texas legislative process. Issue Chairs and Capitol Corps members deliver testimony, provide

witness registration for and against bills, add to the research on issues, check facts with current League positions, and keep up with who does what, where and when. Best use of volunteer time and resources is frequently undermined when hearings are called on short notice, which happens way too frequently!

The latest League Legislative Newsletter was published April 19 and I encourage local members to go on the LWV-Texas website to review the content. As reported by Laura Blackburn, Advocacy Vice President, here are a few areas of note:

SJR (Senate Joint Resolution) 1: proposes a constitutional amendment providing for the creation and use of funds in the state treasury to provide financial assistance for certain projects related to economic development and water infrastructure and for the transfer to the funds of money from the economic stabilization fund. What that means is taking money from the Economic Stabilization Fund —better known as the Rainy Day Fund—and putting it into two accounts—one for economic development, primarily transportation infrastructure, and the other for water.

Why a constitutional amendment? The answer seems to relate to the “constitutional spending limit” which will not apply to expenditures explicitly dedicated in the state’s Constitution. Should this pass, the League will be involved in preparations at the local level for another election. Many support the Rainy Day Fund as a source of much needed funds for education and

the high cost of health-related state expenses that continue to plague our state. “Thoughtful amendments” in those areas may be considered by Senator Tommy Williams, Chair of the Senate Finance Committee.

I suspect there is a relationship between the 3.5 billion from the Rainy Day fund for economic development and the cries for help from local jurisdictions in areas of the state undergoing the industry of fracking. The increase in traffic in these areas by trucks hauling their wares is adding insult to streets, roads and bridges—aging infrastructure at best—with no local funding means to address needed repairs and maintenance. The allocation is proposed in the form of loans to political subdivisions, thus avoid looking like a subsidy to offset costs of private industry responsibility. League Priority Issues: Education —again underfunded by \$2.9 billion just to get back to square one, but at least an amendment to the budget bill opposing vouchers by Rep. Abel Herrera passed. Health Care—Medicaid continues to be at the top of the list with no position from our Governor. Good and legislation is proposed for managed care, health care for those of lesser means and older Texans, services for people with behavioral health needs, child health care and reproductive choice/women’s health. Water—s being closely watched in the proposed Constitutional Amendment, along with two competing bills on changing the administrative organization of Texas Water Development board.

Once you review the information provided, the League member listed as the contact person for that issue area is the contact for an update. You are encouraged to contact your representative and senator in support of League positions.

Remember: if your personal opinion differs from that of the League position, you must refrain from voicing an opposing opinion as a League member.

Draft of Budget--LWV-CC

Income

Member Dues - 80 Individuals @ \$60.00	\$4,800
Member Dues - 10 Households @ \$90.00	\$ 900
Member Dues – 4 Students @ \$30.00	\$ 120
Monthly Lunch Meetings	\$ 300
Annual Meeting (\$50 fee x 50 attendees)	\$2,500
Special Event/Fundraising (100 x \$60 ticket)	\$6,000
VOTER Advertising (10 at \$100 ea)	\$1,000
Community Donations (for Voters Service)	\$ 500
Total Income	\$16,120

Expenses

PO Box Rental (annual)	\$ 70
Administrative/Postage/Supplies	\$ 625
Voters Service (Forums, Voters Guides, and Voter Registration)	\$1,500
Printing (Monthly VOTER, Annual Workbook)	\$ 650
Annual Meeting	\$1,900
Student Engagement Project(s)	\$ 500
PMP LWV-TX	\$1,800
PMP LWV-US	\$2,500
Web Site Maintenance	\$ 200
Special Events/Fundraising (\$35 mealx, misc)	\$2,200
Advertising/Publicity	\$ 400
2014 State Convention (4 registrations@\$125 ea)	\$ 500
Carryover May 2014	\$2,200
Return to Savings Account	\$1,075
Total Expenses	\$16,120

In addition to our speakers, the program will include important League business, including adoption of a proposed budget, election of officers and nominating committee, amendments to Bylaws, and adoption of the League’s Program for 2013-2014.

Office nominees are President: Sandra Heatherley (2-year term through May 2015)

Vice President of Community Relations: Bryan Bode (2-year term through May 2015)

Treasurer: Maria Jimenez (2-year term through May 2015)

Vice President of Member Services: Elena Buentello (1-year term through May 2014)

Vice President of Program: Andrew Dimas (1-year term through May 2014)

Director: Coretta Graham (1-year term through May 2014)

Director: Sally Farris (2-year term through May 2015)

Nominating Committee for 2013-2014:

Nick Jimenez, chair; members Chris Davis Garcia and Nicole Markert.

Officers who are completing their 2-year terms of office in May 2014 and are not up for election:

Secretary: Matilda Saenz

Director: Pam Maupin

Each attendee will receive a printed workbook with information to facilitate discussion and voting.

Please plan to attend! The League’s work will be strengthened by your presence and participation at the Annual Meeting.

Program recommendations retained

The LWV-CC Board recommends retaining the two program topics approved last year—environmental sustainability and educational attainment. A new goal addressing contingency planning for rising sea levels will be added to the environmental topic.

(Below) President Judy Telge begins the April meeting as members and guests enjoy their Dos Comales lunch.

Photos by Sandra Heatherley



(Above) Dr. Jim Klein, associate professor of History at Del Mar College, speaks at the League's April luncheon meeting at Dos Comales restaurant on April 18. He also passed out copies of a resolution in support of a solution to Citizens United v. Federal Electoral Commission, the Supreme Court decision that accepted the principle that a corporation is a person with First Amendment rights.

Have you "Asked" anyone today??

Our local League remains strong and vibrant in pursuit of our mission to encourage active and informed participation in government.

Our mission states that we "work to continue understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy." The emphasis here is on the word "work."

This newsletter does not magically appear each month, the Voters Guides are not self-generating, our web page and Facebook presence require more than good intention to remain as effective communication tools.

We have some long-serving members who have worked diligently to advance the goals and mission of our League and we are grateful for their efforts.

Every one of these "worker bees" stands

ready to mentor and guide either new members who want to join in the "work" or longer tenured members who are ready to learn and do something new on behalf of the League. These experienced league members are ready to "ask" for help. Are you ready to say yes?

It is a well-known fact that most people need to be asked to participate rather than proactively joining or jumping into a new experience. Our nominating committee had the grand experience of getting "yes" responses when seeking folks to run for vacancies on our Board of Directors.

I hope all of you members will be as responsive when asked by the Board to serve on a committee or workgroup in the coming year. MOST importantly I ask that all of you will make the "ask" to friends and acquaintances who you believe would enjoy and support the "work" of our League of Women Voters.

Members attend RESTORE meeting

Hearing concerned allocation of funds from BP oil spill penalties

League of Women Voters – Corpus Christi Area members were among the large number of concerned citizens attending the initial regional public meeting on the British Petroleum Deepwater Horizon oil spill of 2011. Held April 10, the hearing was led by Corpus Christi Mayor Nelda Martinez in an open process of public input to aid the City in facilitating a plan to address regional environmental, economic development, and community needs of the Coastal Bend.

The RESTORE (Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States) Act of 2012 dedicates 80 percent of Clean Water Act civil and administrative penalties from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill to the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Funds. Although uncertainty exists around the ultimate amount and timing of funds, \$1 billion in civil penalties is currently available.

In addition to allocation of funds, the RESTORE Act establishes a Gulf Coast Ecosystem

Restoration Council responsible for developing an initial comprehensive plan. Based on public input, the plan will include:

- provisions to incorporate task force strategy
- list of projects or programs authorized prior to enactment of the RESTORE Act, but not yet begun
- description of how funds will be allocated by the Council for the next 10 years
- 3-year project and program priority list based on criteria included in the RESTORE Act.

Overarching goals are to restore and conserve habitat, restore water quality, replenish and protect living coastal and marine resources, enhance community resilience, and restore and revitalize the Gulf economy.

The timeline for the initial comprehensive plan development includes public engagement opportunities in the Gulf states, a draft initial comprehensive plan and 30-day public comment period, with Initial

Comprehensive Plan release in July.

The Mayor's office, in hosting the initial meeting, invited input from the public on long-term outcomes, types of projects for consideration, and future public participation opportunities. Several local environmental groups suggested projects, some under development without funds, such as the Cole And Ropes Park (CARP) initiative. Sandra Heatherley provided information about that project. President Judy Telge spoke to the alignment of the League with good environmental stewardship as represented in several of the local projects and with the goals of the RESTORE Act. LWV-CC members Elena Buentello and Andrew Dimas were involved in the meeting as City Planners.

City of Corpus Christi Planning and Environmental Services is coordinating the City's initiative. Comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. on May 17 to:

SharonL@cctexas.com.
For more information: www.RestoretheGulf.gov

Members work at EarthDay/Bay Day

Our local League had a presence on Saturday, April 13, in Heritage Park at the Earth Day/Bay Day celebration. We registered six new and renewing voters and distributed voter registration cards to more than 20 others who stopped by our table. Judy Telge, Bryan Bode, Sandra Heatherley, and Mary Ann Kelly all answered the call to spend some time at our table and help distribute our membership brochure to those expressing an interest in the League. Despite a very windy day, we managed to stand strong in representing our local chapter.



Bryan Bode at Earth Day/Bay Day in Heritage Park

Cole and Ropes parks public meeting Committee's goal is reducing bacteria in bay

By Sandra Heatherley
LWV-CC Vice President Member
Services

Several Local League members were in attendance on Monday evening, April 22, for the public meeting regarding proposed actions that are designed to reduce the bacterial content of bay waters adjacent to Cole and Ropes parks.

The concern is for the public's health and possible disease when playing in and perhaps ingesting the water.

The meeting was called and conducted by the committee formed because the Texas General Land Office and the EPA's Beach Watch program have deemed the beaches at the two parks as "not supporting" recreational marine beach use 25 percent or more of the time.

The concern is for the public's health and possible gastrointestinal disease when playing in and perhaps ingesting the water.

The committee has identified eight stakeholder groups including business, tourism, recreational users and homeowners and created four workgroups including, city infrastructure, education and outreach, science and technology, and ordinance and regulation.

The purpose of the public meeting was for the workgroups to share the implementation strat-

egies which have been developed as possible means of reducing the bay's bacteria.

The workgroups used large poster displays placed around the room so that the public attendees, about 40 of them, could move from poster to poster to hear the activities that each work group is proposing.

The list of activities is too long to present here and included ideas such as; conducting storm water outflow sampling, evaluating the sources of the bacteria down to the species responsible for the pollution, preventing intentional wastage or dumping, improving sanitary sewer overflow reporting, code updates for residential and business properties.

After hearing each presentation the attendees were given a "public comment" card on which to write new ideas, improve or dispute the ideas presented, and volunteer to participate in the process.

The finale of the meeting was the presentation by Sally Farris, League member and retired environmental attorney, who emphasized the importance of our beaches as "natural treasures" and asked the community to "keep the discussion alive and maybe we can effect change".

The Implementation Committee is currently reviewing the comments for discussion at future committee and workgroup meetings. Those who missed the meeting can view the content of the posters and make comments on line at the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation cbbf@baysfoundation.org.

CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS



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Mayor

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The
GUARANTY TITLE BUILDING
A CORPUS CHRISTI LANDMARK



LANDLORD
RESOURCES
857-8991

- 154-1,000 sq.ft. Offices Available
- Classic Historic Red Brick Building
- Modern Renovated Office Facilities
- Rapid Access to I-3716 Ocean Drive

Corner of Chaparral & Mann-Downtown near the Federal Courthouse

League Lingo:

There are certain terms that are unique to the League of Women Voters- "League Lingo." Some are listed here to help new members and remind all of us.

Concurrence: Agreement by League members with a position on an issue reached by a small group of members or by another League.

Convention: A state or national League meeting held every other year at which delegates elect officers and directors for the biennium, adopt program, make bylaw changes and adopt a budget, usually for one year. Local Leagues send delegates to state convention, local and state Leagues send delegates to national convention.



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 LOCAL 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.*

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



You're Invited

ANNUAL MEETING

for the League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi

Friday, May 17, 2013

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Citrus Bistro Café

100 N Shoreline Boulevard

Hors d'oeuvres served beginning at 6 p.m.
Event Speaker Mayor Nelda Martinez begins at 6:45
Followed by a Live Auction Fundraiser bidding for
"An Hour with Our Mayor"
with guest Auctioneer Nick Jimenez
Dinner served beginning at 7 p.m.

Tickets \$50.00

Please RSVP 361-880-6501 by May 9, 2013
Meal Preference: beef, seafood, or vegetarian