



The Corpus Christi Area

Voter

February 2014

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
(vacant)

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

Vice President, Member Services
Ruth Falck, 548-2615
falckruth@yahoo.com

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

Sally Farris, (210) 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; 992-8031;
wilraven26@yahoo.com

Chris Davis Garcia; 991-2784;
cdg1714@att.net

Immediate Past President
Judy Telge, 813-6397

Candidates for Commissioners Court to address League at February meeting

Our February 20 meeting will feature the candidates for County Commissioner, Precinct 4. Those candidates for the Republican Party who are running in the March 4 primary race are Norm Baker, Brent Chesney, and Joe McComb

Since none of them can participate in our public Candidate Forum scheduled for Monday, February 10, they have all graciously agreed to come to our monthly membership meeting and answer questions from those present.

Our meetings are open to the public as well as members. For those wishing to eat from the great selection at the buffet of the Hibachi Grill, the cost is \$12. The Hibachi Grill is located at the corner of Staples Street and Williams Drive. Arrival is 11:30 a.m., with a chance to select your lunch and network with friends prior to the program, which begins at noon and ends at 1 p.m.

County Precinct 4 runs from rural Chapman Ranch to the suburban south side of Corpus Christi, including Flour Bluff, Padre Island and 21 miles of beaches along the Gulf of Mexico from Port Aransas to Aransas Pass to Red Fish Bay.

The Nueces County Commissioner for Precinct 4 serves with other members of the Nueces County Commissioners Court. The duties and authority on the Commissioners Court relate to financial management of the county's \$192-million budget, regulatory matters, property acquisition, buildings, public Health and welfare, law enforcement, public works, and many other areas of county affairs.

Please plan to attend and bring a friend and your questions and also plan to attend the Candidates Forum at 6 p.m., Monday evening, February 10, at City Hall Council Chambers and greet candidates for the primary election.

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 Sandra Heatherley



Sandra Heatherley

2014 is an election year. Time to roll up our sleeves and get to work! In fact several members have already done so in developing the questions for candidates to answer for the primary election

Voters Guide. The Voters Guide prepared by LWV-TX has been posted to our website in both English and Spanish and can be read online or printed. In addition we have ordered several hundred of the State Voter Guides for limited distribution around town.

The Voter Guide produced by the local Corpus Christi league is currently at the printer and should be ready for distribution by mid-February just in time for early voting which begins February 18. It will also be available at our website for reading and printing.

This year we will be posting all the candidate's responses at www.VOTE411.org, which

Reserve your lodging for LWV-TX convention

There are lots of good reasons to attend the LWV-Texas convention set in Austin on April 25-27—networking and fellowship, excellent workshops on important topics like communications, president's role, voters service how-to's, and more...plus a great opportunity to visit with the national president, Elisabeth MacNamara.

Visit the LWV-Texas website today at www.lwvtx.org and register or download all the information posted. You can call The DoubleTree hotel direct at 512-454-3737 to make your reservations.

is sponsored by LWVUS as part of our plan to eventually cease printing a Voters Guide for each election in favor of the electronic version. We will be calling on members to help distribute our Guides when printing is finished.

Our next task is to host the February 10 candidate forum, which will feature candidates in local contested races. Our partners in this endeavor are the Delta Sigma Theta sorority alumnae and the alumni of Leadership Corpus Christi.

After the March 4 primary election and prior to the Fall general election, which will include the Corpus Christi City Council, we will be turning our attention to the business of our local League. As the fourth largest chapter in Texas, we will be eligible for several delegates to the LWV-TX state meeting in April in Austin. Attendance at the state convention is an excellent way to grasp the scope of the mission and the work of the League.

There is more about the state meeting in this issue. Our LWV-CC budget and nominating committees will be meeting in February and March so that the results of their deliberations can be printed in our April VOTER. There was discussion at our last board of directors' meeting related to the format and venue for the annual meeting held each May.

We are considering a less formal day-time session geared to attracting more voting members. Stay tuned for further updates on the annual meeting.

JOSE MIGUEL DURAN, M.D.
Gastroenterology
Screening Colonoscopy

Doctors Square
2222 Morgan Ave., Suite 111
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Ph (361) 883-6623
Fax (361) 883-0748

LVWUS commissions Agriculture Update

The Agriculture Update, commissioned by LVWUS, will focus narrowly on: 1) current technology issues in agriculture including genetically modified organisms (GMOs), herbicides, pesticides, agriculture water pollution, aquifer depletion, antibiotics in livestock, and accurate food labeling; and 2) current agriculture finance issues including consolidation in agriculture industries, crop subsidies and the federal agricultural regulatory process.

Between February 1. and April 1, 2014, state and local Leagues may form study committees, examine study materials, and schedule public meetings. Consensus meetings will follow, with League responses sent electronically to the national office by April 4, 2014. Consensus results and/or a new position statement will be announced at the National Convention in June, scheduled to be held in Dallas, Texas.

Suggested Readings

The Committee has identified three specific background documents that provide a broad and relatively neutral overview of the complex set of issues addressed by U.S. agricultural policy and three websites that provide similar types of information, but from the website sponsor's point of view. The Committee would like to point out that "although we have done our best to identify 'neutral' background resources, each of the documents and websites is presenting information that is consistent with the mission of the authors and/or sponsoring organization, so League members must be willing to read widely to get a balanced understanding of the agricultural policy challenges facing the U.S. in particular and the world in general."

Visit the LVWUS website to download the list of suggested readings.



Wesley Reed, Candidate for US House of Representatives, District 27, speaks to LVW members and guests at the January 16 League meeting at the Hibachi Grill.

Guide to be distributed before Early Voting

On Feb. 13 and 14, the League will distribute 7,000 copies of the 16-page March 4 Primary Voters Guide to several public locations, including City Halls in Corpus Christi, Robstown, and Port Aransas; public libraries throughout Corpus Christi; the Nueces County courthouse; and Del Mar College and TAMU-CC libraries.

Individual copies will be available at the League's Feb. 20 luncheon meeting, and League members who want to take one bundle of 50 copies to a favorite business or professional office are invited to call Chris Garcia at 991-2784 to reserve a bundle which they can pick up.

The League says "thanks" to AEP for purchasing 300 copies of the Voters Guide to distribute to its employees.



Nelda Martinez
MAYOR
NeldaM@cctexas.com
KristinaL@cctexas.com

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

1201 Leopard St., 78401
P.O. Box 9277
Corpus Christi, Texas 78469-9277
Phone 361-826-3100
Fax 361-826-3103
www.cctexas.com

LWVUS approves 'good' recommendations issued by Presidential Commission on Election Administration

Washington, D.C. – The Presidential Commission on Election Administration (PCEA) recently released its report to President Obama outlining how to improve the administration of America's elections. LWVUS had submitted testimony to PCEA in September 2013 that urged the Commission to consider a five-point reform agenda as part of its recommendations.

"Our initial reaction is that there are many good recommendations in the PCEA report and others that we will need to look at more closely to examine the real impact on American voters," said Elisabeth MacNamara, President of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. "For example, the recommendation for all states to provide for in-person early voting is an important and very positive step.

"We are pleased to see that the bipartisan Commission was able to roll up their sleeves and get to work on some of the endemic troubles plaguing our nation's polling places," added MacNamara. "PCEA's prescription for what to do about lack of resources, inadequate compliance with federal laws, the need for professionalization of the election workforce, and creating a benchmark of no one waiting to vote longer than 30 minutes, are badly needed fixes for election administrators and voters."

The key PCEA recommendations include the following:

- Modernization of the registration process through continued expansion of online voter registration and expanded state collaboration in improving the accuracy of voter lists
- Measures to improve access to the polls through multiple opportunities to vote before the traditional Election Day and the selection of suitable, well-equipped polling place facilities, such as schools
- State-of-the-art techniques to assure efficient management of polling places, including

tools the Commission is publicizing and recommending for the efficient allocation of polling place resources, and

- Reforms of the standard-setting and certification process for new voting technology to address soon-to-be antiquated voting machines and to encourage innovation and the adoption of widely available off-the-shelf technologies

"The Commission's report was right to recommend that our nation's elections professionals should regularly partner with experts in the field of emerging technology," said MacNamara. "A great example of this is the Commission's recommendation endorsing Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) transmissions of voter information to elections officials. The League believes electronic transmission should be extended to social service agencies that register voters as well. By adopting such electronic practices, officials can eliminate costly and time consuming steps in election administration, reduce errors and increase the ease and convenience of the elections process for both their workers and for voters.

"While the League is enthusiastic about online voter registration, the accessibility of these systems continues to be a major concern," noted MacNamara. "The League's testimony urged the Commission to recommend online voter registration systems designed for all eligible citizens. But a weakness of the report is the endorsement of online registration systems that many eligible voters can't use," MacNamara said. "Of the systems in the Commission's report, voters must have a driver's license or a non-driver's ID in order to register to vote online. This limitation is unnecessary, will substantially reduce the effectiveness of online registration and also raises concerns about the discriminatory effect," added MacNamara.

"We look forward to working with the Commission to implement the best of these recommendations and improve how elections are run across this nation," concluded MacNamara.

League positions on Natural Resources, Local Government

Twenty-four active members and guests attended our January 16, 2014, meeting to discuss and ratify or change our current position statements related to Local Government and Natural Resources. Those position statements were printed in the last two issues of our monthly VOTER. Here are the results of our facilitated discussion.

- I. Natural Resources
 - A. Tourism and Conventions
General agreement of LWV-CC present
 - B. Adequate Park and Recreation Facilities
General agreement of LWV-CC present with the recognition that the 1- acre park per 100 people is not immediately attainable
 - C. Protection of Sand Dunes on Barrier Islands and Open Beaches
General agreement of LWV-CC present
 - D. Development of Corpus Christi Beach
General agreement of LWV-CC present
 - E. Bayfront Master Development Plan
A group of LWV-CC will begin to study the city's current Bayfront Master Development Plan. Elena Buentello agreed to take the lead on this study with Judy Telge and Chris Garcia also agreeing to work with her.

- II. Local Government
 - A. Council/Manager Form of Government
General agreement by LWV-CC present
 - B. Public Transportation System
A group of LWV-CC will look at this topic in more depth, especially with regard to public accountability. Judy Telge agreed to take the lead on this study, and Sally Farris also volunteered to assist. (A member who joined at this meeting 1/16/14 was also added.)
 - C. Method of Electing Corpus Christi ISD Trustees
General agreement by LWV-CC present
 - D. Method of Electing City Council
General agreement by LWV-CC present
 - E. Charter Revision—Annexation/Industrial District
General agreement by LWV-CC present. It was recommended that we have a future membership meeting with a speaker to clarify the current annexation policy.
 - F. Emergency Ambulance Services
Discussion that perhaps the current services need to be expanded; further discussion seemed to be warranted for this area. No group formed yet for this topic.

Quality, Affordable Office Space

- Suites available from 150-5000 sq. ft.
- Complimentary Internet
- Free Parking
- Centrally Located

Landlord Resources

921 N. Chaparral, Ste. 100
Corpus Christi, TX 78401

(361) 857-8991

www.landlord-resources.com

MIKE SHAW TOYOTA

Alex Garcia, Jr.
Direct Marketing Manager

Cell Phone: (361) 510-2001 • Fax: (361) 866-3292
E-Mail: alexg@mikeshawtoyota.net

"YOUR SOUTH TEXAS TOYOTA SUPERSTORE"

3232 IH 69 Access Rd. MikeShawToyota.com
Corpus Christi, Texas 78380 (361) 241-3277



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

**New Members,
 Welcome**

Linda Snider
 Gaye White




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.**



Carol A. Scott, APR
 Fellow PRSA
cascott@kailocs.com

Debbie W. Dunham
dwdunham@kailocs.com

555 N. Carancahua St., Ste 830
 Corpus Christi, TX 78401
 361.884.8890
KailoCS.com

Partners for strategic
 communications and public
 relations solutions



TODD HUNTER
 STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 32

CAPITOL OFFICE: P.O. Box 2910
 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910

PHONE: (512) 463-0672
 FAX: (512) 463-2101

TODD.HUNTER@HOUSE.STATE.TX.US

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

