



The Corpus Christi Area

Voter

January 2014

League of Women Voters
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<http://www.lwv-cc.org>
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First Meeting of New Year is Thursday, January 16

The first meeting of the new year for the League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi is scheduled for **Thursday, January 16**, at 11:30 a.m. at the Hibachi Grill located at the corner of Staples and Williams. Please plan to attend...and bring a prospective member!

Once each year, our League reviews past position statements ("program") in order to determine if the position needs to be reviewed and updated. The current positions that have been adopted by LWV-CC over the years were printed in the November VOTER and are reprinted in this publication on Page 5.

These positions enable your leadership to speak for or against proposed statutes or ordinances under consideration by the Corpus Christi City Council or the Nueces County Commissioners.

Our January meeting will be devoted to the review of these current positions, and each member's opinion and feedback are important to our on-going relevance in the community. Please review the current positions and come prepared to give your opinion on maintaining, amending, or abandoning them.

The cost for lunch is \$12 per person which includes access to the full buffet and includes the gratuity.

Members who prefer not to eat are welcome to attend and participate. Guests are always welcomed!

LEAGUE MISSION STATEMENT

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. The League does not support or oppose candidates or political parties.

President's Message

Voter Service Opportunities

2013 is in the rear-view mirror but it will take a while for all of us to write the date without having to erase and revise it to 2014.

We ended the year by considering the consensus questions related to the Human Trafficking study prepared by the LWV-TX and submitting our areas of agreement for final consideration at the 2014 state convention to be held in April.

One member of our Board of Directors, Elena Buentello, Vice President for Membership Services, resigned due to family and work obligations. Thank you, Elena, for serving on the Board!

Her term will be completed by Ruth Falck, who was appointed by the Board to serve until the election at the annual meeting. There is more about Ruth later in this edition. Welcome, Ruth!

The best news for the end of 2013 is that we are in the black and ready to meet the financial challenges of the 2014 Primary elections with another in-depth and informative Voters Guide and Candidates Forum.

Even as we are preparing for an active election year, we will use our first general meeting on Thursday, January 16, to review the positions that our local league has taken over the years in the areas of local government and natural resources to determine if those positions continue to have

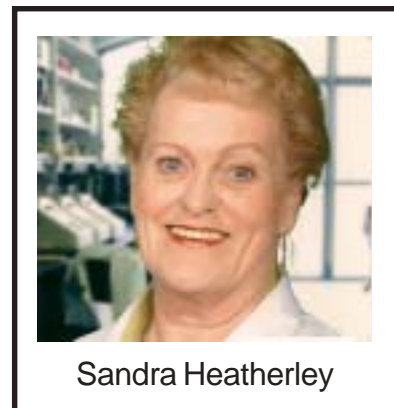
our support. I hope you will attend and participate.

Our plan for the primary election activities is to print a Voters Guide and deliver it throughout the community by February 15.

Candidates in contested races will have an opportunity to respond to questions formulated by LWV-CC in the Voters Guide and at a Candidates Forum scheduled for Monday, February 10 from 6-9 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

Our community partners in presenting the Candidates Forum are the alumnae of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority and Leadership Corpus Christi.

We will be calling on our members to assist with the



distribution of the Voters Guides and with the production of the Candidates Forum. In addition to the Voters Guide we will also post candidate information to the VOTE 411 website and to our own LWV-CC.org website.

Of course, the March 4 primary election is the lead-up for a general election in November.

There will be many opportunities for you to contribute your time and energy to our LWV-CC efforts at informing citizens of the issues and candidates.



Board Vacancy Announced

Andrew Dimas, who has ably served on the Board this past year as Program VP, has notified the Board that he must resign his position. Thank you, Andrew, for serving. The Board would like to fill Andrew's unexpired term as soon as possible. If you are willing to accept a Board appointment to serve as Program VP, help plan monthly meetings, and attend monthly Board meetings, please call Sandra Heatherley, LWV President, at 445-4436, immediately.

Be watching for details:

LWV-CC will post candidate responses from the Voters Guide on VOTE 411, a web-based program offered by LWV-Texas and LWVUS to enhance voter awareness and provide additional visibility for candidates with opposition in the March Primaries.



CONSENSUS MEETING

LWV-CC members met at the regular November luncheon meeting to consider the Human Trafficking study consensus questions posed by the LWV-Texas study committee and to forward our League's areas of agreement. Thanks to everyone who participated.

League Participates in Strategic Planning for Del Mar College

By Sandra Heatherley

On December 6, 2013, the Strategic Planning Committee for Del Mar College invited leaders in the community to attend a 2-hour breakfast session in order to advise the committee as it prepares to devise a new five-year-plan for the institution.

As President of LWV-CC, I was honored to attend and participate. There were approximately 100 people in attendance with each assigned to a round table. There were seven questions proposed to the group with five minutes for discussion at each table and 5 minutes for reporting by each table to the entire room.

Each table was facilitated by a member of the Del Mar College faculty and member of the Strategic Planning Committee.

Following is a list of the questions posed and a partial list of some of the responses, all of which were recorded for consideration by the Strategic Planning committee:

- 1) The College of the future will provide...?
 - Education as you need it, where you need it and when you need it.
 - Career planning to match community needs
 - Leadership training
- 2) Del Mar College is really good at...?
 - Diverse community orientation
 - Meeting community needs
 - Responding quickly to changes in workforce needs
 - Removing excuses not to attend college.
- 3) Del Mar College needs to change or improve...?
 - Increase continuity between high school and college
 - How student success is defined
 - Flexibility of programs and service
 - Parking and campus navigation
- 4) How will the workforce of the future be different?
 - Will require leadership skills
 - Will need technical skills
 - Will require increased social and problem solving skills
- 5) The most important challenges of the future for Del Mar College are....?
 - Providing a workforce for industry
 - Maintaining leadership in the community
 - Teaching students personal responsibility
- 6) The biggest challenges for Del Mar college are...?
 - Funding and parking
 - Legislators' understanding of the mission of community colleges
 - Competing with other community colleges, particularly with on-line courses
 - Encouraging attendance by male students
- 7) What can Del Mar do to meet these challenges?
 - Hire a lobbyist
 - Assign a Del Mar liaison representative to each school district

December Social Recruits Two New Members

On Dec. 20, the League held its annual recruitment holiday social at Dos Comales Restaurant. It was a wonderful evening with good food and fellowship. Two individuals joined the League, and we would like to welcome Barbara Vollmer and Donelda Sluyter, both of Corpus Christi.



Donelda Sluyter, Alex Garcia, Lois Huff



Ruth Falck, new Membership Services VP, and Sandra Heatherley



Theresa Klein and Sandra Heatherley

Meet the League's new VP for Member Services:

Ruth Falck, who has graciously accepted an invitation to join the LWV-CC Board as Member Services VIP, is fairly new to our area. She moved to Corpus Christi from Wisconsin after retiring from her position as superintendent of several school districts in that state. She wanted to be closer to her daughter who has lived here for many years.

In addition to the League of Women Voters, Ruth also has become active with the Clean Economy Coalition and is interested in environmental issues. She is especially happy to have no snow to shovel this winter.

Ruth will complete the term recently vacated by Elena Buentello. Thank you again, Elena, for your service, and thank you, Ruth, for assuming this important Board position.

Daniel Gallegos Jr.
Owner

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League Positions on Natural Resources, Local Government To Be Considered on Jan. 16

The following positions are the result of studies and consensus developed by LWV-CC members over the years:

I. Natural Resources

A. Tourism and Conventions

Recognizing the value of tourism and conventions as major industries of the area, the League supports measures to promote the development of good quality facilities for tourists and for conventions, while preserving our unique natural assets.

B. Adequate Park and Recreation Facilities

The League supports the National Recreation and Parks Association standard of one acre of park land per 100 people as an ultimate goal for Corpus Christi. Recognizing that this goal is not immediately obtainable, the League supports programs which work toward the standard.

C. Protection of Sand Dunes on the Barrier Islands and Open Beaches

Because the barrier islands sand dunes provide a vital natural system of protection for the inland areas along the Gulf Coast, and since these areas contain a significant portion of our state's human, natural, and recreational resources, the League believes it is the responsibility of government at all levels to take the necessary steps for the stabilization and preservation of the sand dunes.

D. Development of Corpus Christi Beach

The League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi supports a Master Plan for the development of Corpus Christi Beach.

E. Bayfront Master Development Plan

The League recognizes the value of tourism and conventions as major industries necessary for diversification of the economy of our area. We further consider the bayfront area to be our most unique asset and, therefore, feel it should be developed in a manner that will provide quality facilities for the benefit of the total community. Because this asset—the Bayfront—is nonrenewable, we feel there is a vital need for procedures to assure a balance between development and protection of this valuable resource. Creation of any Bayfront Master Development Plan must include provisions for public facilities such as beaches, parks, and marina areas, provide consideration of environmental protection and exhibit fiscal responsibility.

II. Local Government

A. Council/Manager Form of Government

The League supports the Council-Manager form of government because it provides the city with continuity, responsibility, accountability, and expertise.

B. Public Transportation System

The League of Women Voters believes a public transportation system is vitally necessary to promote economic growth and development, provide access to employment opportunities, and enhance the quality of life for all citizens.

C. Method of Electing Corpus Christi ISD Trustees

The League supports a modified single-member electoral system. The school district would be divided into four single-member districts. Four trustees would reside in and be elected by voters from each of these four single-member districts. The other three trustees would be elected at large by all qualified voters in the district. [*This is the system in current use.*]

D. Method of Electing City Council

The League of Women Voters believes that no electoral system automatically guarantees a more representative or responsive governing body. In November of 1981, the membership reached consensus supporting the expansion of the council to nine members with a modified single-member electoral system. The plan adopted was the plan supported by the League.

E. Charter Revision – Annexation/Industrial Districts

The League believes in the authority of the City of Corpus Christi to annex additional geographic territory to protect its economic base. Specifically, the League supports authority to annex, without voter approval, additional territory adjacent to the city limits; annexation of all developed areas adjacent to the city limits, including commercial and industrial development; and creation of an industrial district on a limited basis in the immediate port area only.

F. Emergency Ambulance Services

The League supports a public lifesaving emergency ambulance service.

LWV-TX 2014 Convention in Austin Beckons!

Every two years in April of even-numbered years, LWV-Texas convenes a state convention to which delegates and League members from across the state are invited. Complete information and the registration form is on the state website at www.lwvtx.org.

The 2014 Convention will be held **Friday-Sunday, April 25-27, 2014**, in Austin at The DoubleTree by Hilton at 6505 Interstate 35 North.

The board has lined up LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara as the Saturday luncheon speaker, and if she arrives in time, she'll take part in the President's Workshop on Friday afternoon.

Just as impressive, our banquet Saturday night will celebrate the Hobby family and one of our early LWV-TX Presidents, Oveta Culp Hobby, who went on to achieve a series of "national firsts." The Honorable Bill Hobby, who most notably served as Lieutenant Governor in Texas from 1972 to 1990, will share highlights of his political career and of the mother who inspired him to go into public service.

Outstanding Friday afternoon workshops, great keynote speakers, a special Friday night social event planned by LWV-Austin, and two business plenary sessions will ensure a terrific convention.

Reserve your hotel lodging now and visit the LWV-TX website to download all the important information.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Reserve your room by calling The DoubleTree hotel reservation desk at 512-454-3737 or the toll free number, 800-347-0330. Please refer to the

group name of **League of Women Voters of Texas 2014 Convention** to receive the group room rate of \$119 for 1-2 people or \$139 for 3-4 people per night (plus state sales and occupancy taxes), and all group special concessions. Parking is free.

Our Local Host League, Austin Area, will provide free continental breakfasts both Saturday and Sunday mornings. All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card, first night deposit.

Reservations must be cancelled by 4 p.m., 24 hours before the day of arrival, or the first night of the stay will be charged. The group rate is only available through April 4, 2014, so make hotel reservations now!

Early-bird registration is \$125 (\$10 more if after April 15). Optional events with meals include the Saturday luncheon at \$30 per person and the Saturday evening banquet with individual seats at \$75.

Special Friday Night Outing--Dinner Cruise

LWV-Austin Area invites convention delegates and friends to enjoy the ultimate Austin experience. On Friday evening, April 25, you'll have transportation from the hotel to the spot where you'll board the Night Hawk for a delightful dinner cruise (with cash bar) on Lady Bird Lake (formerly Town Lake). You'll enjoy a two-hour sightseeing cruise, viewing wonderful vistas of the capital city. From the boat you will see Zilker Park, and you might also see some wildlife—swans, and if the time is right, a few/swarm/flying arc of the city's famous bats. The cost of the cruise, dinner, and transportation to and from the cruise is \$65. Register at the LWV-Austin Area website: <http://www.lwvaustin.org/>.

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THANKS to these renewing members!

Mark and Carol Scott
Robin Carter
Alex Garcia
Brent Chesney
Rene Haas and David Perry
Patricia Eisenhauer
Albert and Elia Gutierrez
Helen Barron

Welcome to These New Members!

Barbara Vollmer * Donelda Sluyter

IN MEMORIAM

Our condolences to Marjorie "Ricky" Walraven, our VOTER editor, on the death of her husband of 63 years, Bill Walraven. Bill was a well-known reporter and columnist for the CC Caller-Times for 37 years. A memorial gift to the League in loving memory of Bill and in honor of Ricky's dedication to the League has been received from Chris Garcia.

Voters Guide, Candidates Forum Planned

A 16-page Voters Guide, to be published by the League and distributed before early voting begins Feb. 18 for the March 4 Primary elections, will feature five Nueces County races with opposed candidates: 105th District Court Judge, 148th District Court Judge, County

Commissioner Precinct 4, County Court at Law Judge No. 5, and Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1, Place 3.

The candidates in these races also will be invited to participate in the Candidates Forum from 6-9 p.m. Monday

evening, Feb. 10, in Council Chambers at 1201 Leopard.

Volunteers will be needed at the forum, so please give LWV president Sandra Heatherley a call if you can help greet candidates or assist with retrieving questions from the audience.

Questions to be used in the Voters Guide and forum were determined last weekend.



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**CORPUS CHRISTI OUTSIDE
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(year around)
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League of Women Voters
--Corpus Christi Area
PO Box 8276
Corpus Christi, TX 78468

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 your 2013-2014
 membership, please
 do it today!

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

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 WORK!**

If you have changed your contact
 information (email, phone, cell, home
 address), please send us the
 renewal form with your current
 contact information!

**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 _____

Membership is from June 1 through May 31.

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
www.ccliteracy.org

Mary V. Gleason
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