



The Corpus Christi Area

Voter

JUNE 2014
SPECIAL ISSUE

League of Women Voters
PO Box 8276
Corpus Christi, TX 78468-8276
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Please note: Summer break!
No luncheon meeting planned in June

New Officers for 2014-15 Elected at Annual Meeting

About 30 members attended the League's Annual Meeting on May 17 at Sugarbaker's Restaurant and conducted important business, including the election of officers.

Joining the Board are Elena Buentello, Vice President/Program; Chris Davis Garcia, Vice President/Member Services; Sally Farris, Matilda Saenz, and Coretta Graham, Directors; and Pam Maupin, Nominating Committee chair.

They will serve with the following officers who will be completing the second year of their elected two-year term: Sandra Heatherley, President; Maria Jimenez, Treasurer; and Bryan Bode, Vice President/Community Relations.

The printed workbook used at the meeting included a listing of the year's highlights. See Page 2 for that information prepared by Sandra Heatherley, president. On Page 3 of this special issue is a summary of Business items approved as well as a special call to help fill a vacancy on the Board--Secretary.

Annual membership renewal (June 1, 2014-May 31, 2015) is highlighted on Page 4.

The monthly VOTER will resume in July.

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

Highlights of 2013-2014

- The Board retreat for the newly elected officers was held June 8, 2013, one day following the first opportunity to speak publicly on behalf of LWV-CC during the June 7 Texas State Senate Select Committee hearing on redistricting held in Corpus Christi. Goal setting and calendaring were the focus of the Board retreat. Two important goals for the new year were increasing membership from the current 79 to at least 100 and a fund-raising target of at least \$6,000.

- The Women's Equality Day event in August was the "kick off" for our year. We had a mock "Challenge" game with teams representing LWV-CC and Government students at TAMU-CC. The League team lost by the narrow margin of 2 points to the student team, thereby earning the students a free year's student membership in the League. Funds raised by the celebration and very successful silent auction went to fund the printing of Voters Guides prior to the November and March general elections. Also in August, the LWV-CC cosponsored an Institute for Public Leadership with the YWCA and AAUW which featured information to assist women running for public office and advice from those who have served.

- We had two successful voter registration events in September. The first was on September 6 during the first Friday Art Walk, thanks to volunteers Andrew Dimas, Sally Farris, and Stacey Barrera. The second was at TAMU-CC on National Voter Registration Day

when we joined more than 200 other local leagues across the country in registering new voters. Volunteers for that event included Pat Parr, Pam Maupin, Ruth Falck, Bryan Bode, Hannah Chipman, Lois Huff, Bailey Landress, and Barbara Vollmer. Thanks to everyone for their time and energy!

- Our October membership meeting centered around a presentation by Council member David Loeb regarding the Destination Bayfront proposition which appeared on the November ballot and was defeated. Only 11% of registered voters turned out to vote.

- At the LWV-TX 2012 state convention, Human Trafficking was selected for statewide study by all the local leagues in Texas. Our LWV-CC had presentations by Blue Nation, and many members attended the summit on Human Trafficking sponsored by State Rep. Todd Hunter. At the League's November membership meeting, we reviewed and reached consensus on questions developed by the LWV-TX study group. This consensus process has led to position statements enabling local leagues to advocate, agitate, and educate using the agreed upon position statement.

- Once each year, our League reviews past position statements, (Program) in order to determine if the position needs to be reviewed and updated. The outcome of that session in January was a continued consensus on the issues relating to



Sandra Heatherley

Natural Resources and Local Government and a need to re-study the Bayfront Master Plan and the Public Transportation System in the coming year.

- Thanks to all the members and participants who contributed to the success of the February 10 Candidates Forum at City Hall. We had co-moderators from **Delta Sigma Theta** and **Leadership Corpus Christi Alumni** and a large, expressive audience in attendance. The forum was broadcast live and then aired four more times during the month of February on public access stations, and is now on YouTube. The Primary election Voters Guide for Nueces County was printed and distributed February 13-17 to all local libraries, County Courthouse, and city halls within the county. In addition we ordered and distributed the LWV-Texas Voters Guide, which featured candidates running in opposed statewide races. Chris Garcia and Sandra Heatherley were coached through their first attempt at entering all Voter Guide responses from candidates into the VOTE411.org database.

- President Heatherley met with US Congressman Blake Farenthold (R-District 27) on March 18 in Corpus Christi to discuss the LWVUS national position on the Voting Rights Amendment. Ms. Heatherley represented those

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Business Items Approved at Annual Meeting

Here's a quick summary of the business agenda items approved at the 2014 Annual Meeting. More details will be provided at the July 2014 luncheon meeting and in the July VOTER.

1. Proposed budget for 2014-15
2. Election of officers (see story on page 1)
3. Establishment of two new membership categories:
"Friend of the League"--\$30, with non-voting status, and
"Sustaining Member"--\$100, with full voting privileges

4. Program recommendations
5. Minutes of the May 2013 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting workbook will be posted on the League's website.

Highlights of 2013-2014

(Continued from Page 2)

Leagues in the Congressman's district since he serves on the Judicial Committee which is currently considering the bill. A letter written by Elizabeth McNamara, President of LWVUS and sent to all Congressmen on January 23 supporting H.R. 3899, was the basis for the discussion. The meeting was cordial and Mr. Farenthold agreed to review the letter again. Also in March Mr. Gus Gonzalez, assistant city manager for utilities and department head for the water department, exceeded our expectations in his presentation about the "Water Management Strategies for Corpus Christi."

- In April, we co-sponsored a breakfast event on April 8 at the YWCA which highlighted Equal Pay Day. On April 12, several members volunteered to assist with the voter registration table at Earth Day/Bay Day in Heritage Park. On April 24 LWV-CC cosponsored a public forum with the *Move to Amend* Coalition by hosting speaker David

Cobb who gave an informative presentation and call to action at Del Mar College with 70 folks in attendance. At the end of April, three LWV-CC delegates attended the 2014 LWV-TX State Convention where we were recognized for increasing membership and active community participation with other organizations in the area. Former LWV-CC president Chris Garcia was elected to a third two-year term on the state board and will serve as Secretary.

- May isn't even over and we have already registered six new voters at the May 2 Art Walk and met to help plan a June "sit in" at City Hall to promote the Move to Amend initiative with the City Council. Some of our members also have volunteered to help at the National LWVUS Convention being held in early June in Dallas.

All these accomplishments bring us to the 69th annual meeting of LWV-CC!

Board Vacancy Announced



The Nominating Committee was unable to confirm a nominee for the two-year position of **Secretary** of the League. The Secretary is responsible for attending and taking written minutes at all monthly Board meetings, transmitting the minutes electronically to all Board members for review, recording attendance of officers at Board meetings, and handling correspondence as needed, as directed by the President.

If you would like to learn more about this position or if you would like to nominate yourself to serve as Secretary, please contact President Sandra Heatherley at **445-4436**.

Special thanks to Dr. Matilda Saenz for serving as League Secretary for more than two years!

Can You Help Man Table at June 5 ArtWalk?

The League will continue to man a table at the monthly Art Walk downtown on the first Friday of each month. Our goal is voter registration and League membership recruitment. Can you help man the table on Friday, June 5? Hours are 5:30-9:30 p.m., and it's a fun evening. Requires no advanced training! Call President Sandra Heatherley at 445-4436 if you can help on June 5.



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

It's time to renew your membership!

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

LWV-Corpus Christi Area Renewal/New Membership Application

Join now and help to promote political responsibility through informed, active participation in government.

Membership is from June 1, 2014, to May 31, 2015

Type of membership: New _____ Renewal _____

Individual \$60___ Student \$30___ Household \$90 (2 individuals residing at same address)

New Category: Sustaining Member \$100 _____
 (full membership for one individual, plus financial gift to the League)

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 _____

ONE WAY TO HELP SUPPORT THE LEAGUE...

is to purchase business-card size advertising space in the **VOTER** to promote your name or business or simply promote the League. The cost to advertise is \$100 for 10 issues of The VOTER during a calendar year. Send check and business card or advertising copy to the League's Treasurer Maria Jimenez at the League address noted on this page.