



The Corpus Christi Area

Voter

JANUARY 2015

League of Women Voters
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Judy Telge, 813-6397

January 15 Meeting To Focus on Regional Transportation Authority

Let's start the new year off with an informative program on the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) scheduled Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Del Mar College Center for Economic Development at 3216 S. Staples (at Kostoryz).

Speakers will be Vangie Chapa, chair of the RTA Board, and Scott Neeley, CEO of the RTA. They will discuss the goals and priorities of the RTA and have an interactive discussion with the audience.

If you would like to order a sandwich box lunch, prepared by the DMC Catering Dept., please contact Program chair Elena Buentello at 438-2481 or elenabuentello@gmail.com to reserve a box lunch. The cost is \$10. For those who want to attend but not eat, that's fine. You may bring your own brown bag or snack if you like.

See more calendar information on Page 3.

Vacancy on the Board of Directors

Bryan Bode, the League's Vice President for Public Relations for the past four years, has accepted a position as Bank Examiner with the Federal Reserve Bank, Office of the Comptroller of Currency. Congratulations and best wishes to Bryan!

Bryan will leave for the Little Rock, Arkansas, office soon where he will have 6 months of training before being based in Tyler, TX, but doing lots of traveling with the agency.

Bryan contributed a voice for youth and fiscal responsibility on our LWV-CC Board of Directors, and we will miss him. He also assisted with managing our Facebook page and helping publicize League events as well as establishing credit card payment for meeting lunches and membership dues.

With Bryan's relocation, the Board has a vacancy. If you are interested in serving the remainder of his term (until May 2015) as VP Community Relations, please contact Sandra Heatherley.



Bryan Bode helped man the Candidate Forum sign-in table in October.

President's Message

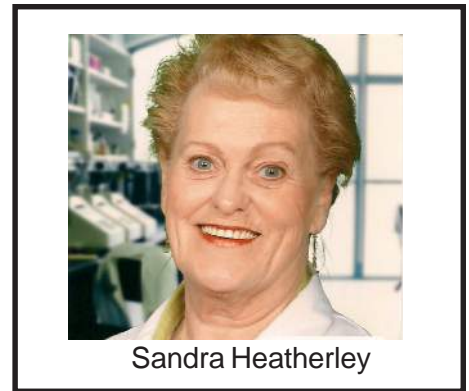
2014 is history and before we leap into the activities of this New Year, please take a few minutes to appreciate some of our LWV-CC accomplishments in 2014.

- 1) We produced a 16-page Voters Guide and a Candidates' forum last February for the primary state and county elections.
- 2) I represented the LWV in a conversation with our congressional representative, Blake Farenthold, regarding the League's position on the Voting Rights Amendment.
- 3) We voted to establish a new membership category, Friend of the League, and hosted a successful membership tea in September.
- 4) We participated in the September 24 Voters Registration Day and registered 46 new voters that day and more than 150 new and renewing voters at our monthly Art Walk events.
- 5) We hosted two public forums to acquaint and update our local citizens on the Move to Amend initiative related to campaign finance reform, one in April and another in November.

- 6) I addressed the Corpus Christi City Council on behalf of the League and requested that they consider an agenda item and vote to endorse the Move to Amend initiative.
- 7) We produced a 32-page Voters Guide and co-sponsored two candidate forums in October in advance of the November General election and the first joint election for the Corpus Christi City Council to be held concurrent with a November General election.
- 8) Finally, we took some time at our Holiday Gathering in December to relax and enjoy the company of fellow members.

It was a typically busy election year and now we have the opportunity to re-group and prepare for the opening of the 84th session of the Texas legislature and scrutinize our local positions in the areas of transportation, water management, and the Plan CC 2035 progress.

Our January meeting will feature Vangie Chapa, Chair of the Regional Transportation Authority Board of Directors, who will bring us up-to-



date on the priorities and goals of the RTA.

February 23 and 24th are designated as "Lobby Days" for LWV-TX and will present an opportunity for representatives of our LWV-CC to educate our congressional representatives on the priority issues we have identified for legislation.

These are:

- * On-line voter registration and other voter friendly measures
- * Funding for high quality public education
- * Funding for and access to health care, including family planning services
- * Responsible water planning and improved environmental protection.

So, a new year begins with new opportunities for LWV-CC to act as a positive force to encourage active and informed participation in our government and increase understanding of major public policy issues.

CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS



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Mayor

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www.ccliteracy.org



THANKS to these new and renewing members!

NEW MEMBERS

Jennifer D. Ellis

RENEWING MEMBER

Ruth Falck

February-May 2015 Calendar for LWV-CC

Thursday, February 19:

Luncheon meeting, Del Mar Center for Economic Development, "Progress on Plan CC 2035."

Thursday, March 19:

Luncheon meeting, Del Mar Center for Economic Development, "Review of LWV-CC Positions on Areas of of Local Government" and "Women's History Month."

Thursday, April 16:

Evening meeting and public forum at Del Mar Center for Economic Development, "Update on the Progress of State Water Initiative for Texas (SWIFT)."

May 2015--Annual Meeting to be announced
Work to be accomplished before the Annual Meeting includes Nomination Committee and Program decisions.

In MEMORIAM

Evy Coppola, a former member of LWV-CC who served as president from 2009-2011, passed away on Dec. 27. She leaves a legacy of building community support for the League and putting into action outstanding fundraising skills which benefitted the League greatly. The League's first celebration in 2007 of Women's Equality Day and passage of the 19th Amendment spotlighted her enthusiasm and leadership.

Evy, 74, a local businesswoman while she lived here, had relocated to the St. Louis, MO, area about two years ago to live closer to her only daughter and granddaughter.

THANKS TO THESE SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Maria Jimenez
Jane R. Bachman
Sally Clark Farris
Pat M. Eisenhower
Lois Huff
Judy Telge
Pat G. Parr
Coretta Graham
Sandra Heatherley

Sustaining Members have invested \$100 in the League's work and are sincerely appreciated.

MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK!

Be looking for opportunities this
Spring to host voter registration events
and promote civic involvement.



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Register Now for Feb. 23-24 Lobby Days

League Members To Convene at State Capitol

If you want to focus on advocacy, network with other League members from across the state, and practice your lobbying skills, join Sandra Heatherley, Chris Davis Garcia, and others from LWV-CC who are planning to participate in LWV-Texas Lobby Days, a two-day event scheduled Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 23-24, in Austin.

Lobby Days begins at noon, Monday, Feb. 23, with Leaguers gathering at the State Capitol to receive information about League priorities and hear from outstanding speakers.

A special banquet will be held Monday evening, Feb. 23, at the UT Alumni Center, with Tuesday morning, Feb. 24, devoted to visiting state legislators to share the League's priorities for the 84th Legislative Session. Members will head back to their homes on Tuesday afternoon.

Please visit the LWV-TX website at www.lwvtx.org to register (\$10 registration fee and optional banquet reservation).

If you need to reserve a room (\$139, plus tax)



at La Quinta Inn Austin Capitol, located at 300 East 11th Street, within walking distance of the Capitol, just call and make your reservation no later than Sunday evening, Feb. 8.

Call the Group Reservations Department at 1-866-527-1498 and identify yourself as a member of LWV-TX (confirmation number **09071417**.)

If other League members will share your room, please provide the hotel with their names. Hotel amenities include free Internet access and free Bright Side Breakfast featuring waffles, hot and cold cereals, pastries, juice, milk, and coffee. Only Valet parking is available at the hotel, at \$12.99 per night.



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November Meeting Focuses on "Move To Amend"

Special thanks to Dr. Jim Klein, Colin Sykes, and Judy Telge for participating in the panel at the public forum on Nov. 18 that focused on the "Move To Amend" initiative. Approximately 20 attended and participated in the discussion.

"Move To Amend" is a grassroots movement to encourage Congress to offer a constitutional amendment to overturn the Supreme Court ruling in *Citizens United v. FEC* that established "personhood" for corporations. Both LWV-Texas and LWVUS are pushing for financial reforms in campaign spending.



(L-r) Judy Telge, immediate past president of LWV-CC; Colin Sykes, community member; and Dr. Jim Klein of Del Mar College, served on the panel.



Judy Telge makes a point during the discussion.

FUND RAISING EVENT BEING DISCUSSED

Board members Sandra Heatherley, Coretta Graham, and Sally Farris met before Christmas to initiate discussion on a special League event in August 2015 that would celebrate Women's Equality Day and perhaps shine the spotlight on community leaders and feature a Silent Auction.

Be watching for more information on this special event, which Coretta will chair.

LWV-Corpus Christi Area 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)

Sustaining Member \$100 _____ (includes the \$60 membership)

Friend of the League \$30 _____ (non-voting)

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 _____

Please 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
Membership is from June 1 through May 31.

What's on LWVUS Plate in 2015?

By LWVUS Staff

As 2015 approaches, the League is considering the role that it can play on many of its priority issues.

We see plenty of opportunity at different levels of government for good things to happen on League issues.

Federally, it's not just Congress that will be taking action on the issues we care about; as we saw this year, decisions will also be made by the President and agencies of the federal government.

Here is a sample of some of the important work for the League in 2015.

Environmental Defense:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently proposed regulations restricting ozone and methane gases. In addition, the agency will finalize two regulations limiting the amount of carbon pollution from new and existing power plants next June as part of its Clean Power Plan. The League was part of an effort that collected over 8 million comments to the EPA on these regulations throughout 2014. The League will continue to be involved in the finalization of the regulations, the implementation process at the state level and in defending the regulations in the face of opposition in Congress.

Voting and Elections:

In Congress, there is work to push passage of legislation that restores the Voting Rights Act (VRA).

A new VRA will ensure that every American citizen, regardless of race or language, has equal access to the vote.

The League will continue to push back against bad legislation at the state level that would prevent voters from having access to the polls.

The League is also interested in seeing the U.S. Senate fill the vacancies on the Election Assistance Commission (EAC). Currently, the EAC has no commissioners and filling the two Republican and two Democratic seats open would restore working order to the EAC. The EAC is vital to ensuring that the right to vote for all eligible Americans is not compromised and that our elections are run efficiently and fairly.

Healthcare:

The League was a strong supporter of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) when it was passed in 2010, and we must continue to fight back in Congress and in the courts against efforts to repeal this important law. At the state and local level, Leagues across the

country have continued to educate the public about open enrollment.

Money in Politics:

The DISCLOSE Act, which would ensure that voters know the identity of donors who have been secretly financing campaign expenditures in federal elections, is a key League issue in the 114th Congress. We must also closely monitor other legislation that defines co-ordination between candidates and outside spending groups, including Super PACs, in order to limit the big money flowing into our elections.

Outside of action by Congress the League is working to persuade the Federal Election Commission (FEC) to set a stricter definition of disclosure and define coordination between candidates and outside spending groups.

We will also continue to provide comments to the IRS as they redraft a proposal that defines election activities of 501(c) organizations.

It is clear there will be no shortage of work for the League throughout 2015!

Many good things can happen, but it is also clear that there will be defense to be played.

The League will be very active at the federal, state and local levels to influence public policy and encourage participation in government on these key issues and many others.

December Social



About 20 League members and guests met at the Cactus & Vine for the December social gathering on December 8. Pictured are (left and counterclockwise) James and Teresa Klein; President Sandra Heatherley and member Bobbie Wood-Hughes; new member Jennifer Ellis chatting with past president Lois Huff; and Linda Snider, Chris Davis Garcia, and Peggy Duran.



LWV-CC Continues To Participate in MLD Initiative

In July 2012, LWV-Texas joined the Membership & Leadership Development (MLD) partnership with LWVUS and 39 other state Leagues.

LWVUS staff and national trainers trained LWV-Texas' first group of selected coaches and local leagues, including LWV-Corpus Christi.

The goal of MLD is to increase overall membership in the League and increase leadership development.

Our coach is Ruthann Geer, a veteran League member and former state president. She schedules a monthly conference call with each of her assigned

local Leagues (Corpus Christi and San Marcos) and participates in a monthly coaches' call with Lineah Davey, the LWVUS Shur Fellow and Texas liaison, and her teammate, Amy Hjersted, a young national coach.

LWV-CC President Sandra Heatherley has welcomed participation and looks forward to the monthly calls.

"The information and support that Ruthann offers is invaluable," Sandra said. "She's a good friend and valuable resource, and we are able to share our concerns and ideas in recruiting

new members and developing continuing leadership in the years ahead."

In addition, LWVUS emails monthly "guidances" for local coaches to discuss with their assigned local Leagues. Topics vary but have included using social media, building community partnerships, strengthening Board leadership, and more.

In late fall 2014, LWVUS had graduate students survey coaches and state liaisons nationwide to assess the success of the initiative and identify next steps. Results will be released soon.



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--Corpus Christi Area
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LWV 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.



Business-card advertising space in the VOTER is available and helps the League defray costs related to The VOTER!
The cost is \$100 for 10 issues during a calendar year. Send check and your business card or advertising copy to LWV Treasurer Maria Jimenez at the League address noted above.
Your support is sincerely appreciated!