



The Corpus Christi Area

Voter

September 2015

League of Women Voters
PO Box 8276
Corpus Christi, TX 78468-8276
<http://www.lwv-cc.org>
361-445-4436

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Come to the League Luncheon on Thursday, Sept. 24!

The League's "third Thursday" lunch meeting has been rescheduled to Thursday, Sept. 24, and you are cordially invited. The meeting will be held from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Del Mar Center for Economic Development, 3216 S. Staples (at Kostoryz) in Room 108.

The program will include Tyner Little, Governmental Affairs/ PIO of Nueces County, giving a Nueces County ADA Update, and Kara Sands, Nueces County Clerk, sharing Nov. 3, 2015, Election Preparations. In addition, Nuri Rodriguez from the County's Voter Registration office will deputize interested LWV-CC members immediately after the program so that they can register voters.

A sandwich box lunch is available at \$10 each. Please call 445-4436 no later than Sept. 22 with your reservation.

Three Voter Registration Opportunities Confirmed



Three opportunities to register voters are coming up, and volunteers are needed.

On Tuesday, Sept. 22, the League will celebrate National Voter Registration Day by manning tables at three locations---Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, Del Mar College East Campus; and Del Mar College West Campus.

The tables will be staffed from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., and volunteers can work two or three-hour shifts. Please call Sandra Heatherley at 814-9120 or the League number at 445-4436. At least one volunteer at each site must have been deputized and familiar with the registration process and how to answer questions frequently asked about voting requirements. This is an important community service, and your help is needed.

Please see Registration, page 6

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan, 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 any political party or candidate.

President's Message

By Dr. Mary Jane Garza

LWV-CC a Nonpartisan Organization



Dr. Mary Jane Garza

to our reputation and the public's trust in the League?

How are we being proactive in defining the League as nonpartisan?

The LWV organization's roots began during the long struggle to get women the right to vote, and the League has continued the fight to educate both women and men on the issues impacting their communities. Soon after our founding, the decision was made to take positions on issues but to neither support nor oppose any political party or candidate (appointed or elected) for public office. Today, this policy continues to ensure that the League's voice is heard above the tumult of party politics. It can sometimes be difficult for new members and leaders and/or the public to understand our "political but nonpartisan" ethos.

The League's strength is in its work to educate and inform voters in a factual and nonpartisan way. We are community-based and present information on all sides of an issue to help voters decide, rather than taking political positions.

League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi

- Emphasizes the role of the League in educating and informing voters.
- Reiterates that the League is not partisan

"The League shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate."

What does it mean to be nonpartisan?

How do others understand and use the term nonpartisan?

What does it mean

and explains what this means – i.e. "The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate."

- Emphasizes the grassroots, local aspect of the League and that issues the League addresses are based on community needs and priorities.

- Cites the League's long 93-year history and provides information about successes over the years.

- Emphasizes the League's commitment to providing nonpartisan, fact-based information about candidates and issues to help voters make their own decisions.

- Cites the organization's involvement in debates and voter guides. To ensure the credibility of the League as a nonpartisan organization, each League's board of directors is responsible for annually reviewing, adopting and carrying out its own nonpartisan policy and for seeing that both its members and the public understand the League's nonpartisan role.

It is the responsibility of each local League board to formulate and adopt its own nonpartisan policy which conforms to bylaws and to determine the limitations to be placed on board members' activities to maintain the League's nonpartisanship.

Being nonpartisan toward candidates and political parties is critical to the effectiveness of the League's unique voters' service/citizen information work.

This does not mean that the League isn't political. Our nonpartisan stance provides a strong foundation for the work done in support of issues. Action on legislation and ballot proposals is more effective when the public and the legislators know for certain that the League's conclusions are based on merit rather than playing politics.

Please see President, Page 3



Pictured left to right, Maria Jimenez, Nick Jimenez, Ruben Saenz, Matilda Saenz, and Sandra Heatherley, LWV-CC members not pictured Mary Kay Fant, Sally Farris, Ruth Falck and Dr. Mary Jane Garza

Members attend State of the Port Luncheon

LWV-CC members are active participants in community events.

LWV-CC members attended the State of the Port luncheon on August 20, 2015. They listened to Judy Hawley, Port Commission Chair, deliver her last State of the Port address, sharing a message of moving forward and channeling the future for growth.

She shared news of the great successes currently surrounding the region around Port Corpus Christi. The sold out event was hosted by the Corpus Christi Hispanic Chamber of Commerce at the Solomon Ortiz International Center in Corpus Christi. Port Commissioner Hawley told the crowd of over 850 people the state of the port is healthy.

Mrs. Hawley mentioned the need to continue

towards the goal of realizing the ship channel improvement project. The Corpus Christi Ship Channel is currently a deep water channel at 45 feet. However, to accommodate some of the larger vessels the channel project goal of expanding the depth to 52 feet and widening to 530 feet is necessary.

Mrs. Hawley said this expansion is critical for the economy of Texas and the United States. Another big announcement coming from the 2015 State of the Port Address is the renaming of La Quinta Terminal Road.

Former U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison attended the luncheon and was quite surprised by the announcement that the road will now be named in her honor as Kay Bailey Hutchison Road.

President

Page 3

No matter what the League does, there will be times when the LWV is accused of being partisan. If the League has good leadership, plans its actions wisely, and acts within its own policies, there is no need to be upset by charges of partisanship.

LWV-CC Members Remember to:

- Remind – I “The League does NOT support or oppose any political party or candidate.”
- Explain – The difference between League program and voters’ service activities.
- Remember – The League has the option to leverage public opinion.

They say the best defense is a good offense – LWV-CC proactively declares and demonstrates

nonpartisanship. LWV-CC prints fact sheets showing both sides of the concern; holds forums, and most importantly remembers LWV-CC Mission Statement:

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. We never support or oppose any political party or candidate.

Resources:

LWVUS nonpartisan policy - <http://www.lwv.org/files/Nonpartisan%20Policy.pdf>

Voters’ Guide best practices - <http://www.lwv.org/content/voters%E2%80%99-guides-best-practices>

August 28, 2015

Thanks, Signature Sponsor & Table Sponsors

Signature Sponsor:
AEP Texas

Table Sponsors:
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The Corpus Christi Country Club was the perfect setting for the 95th Anniversary of passage of the 19th Amendment and the 70th Anniversary of the LWV-CC. A sold-out event of 200 attendees honored six women and three organizations that "Make Democracy Work."



Above right and clockwise) Event co-chairs Coretta Graham and Sandra Heatherley share Trailblazers' introductions; League members Jennifer Ellis, Pat Parr, and Brenda Hamby work at the silent auction tables; Nan and Barry Pillinger and Jane Bachman visit.

CONGRATULATIONS! LWV-CC Honored Trailblazers (With LWV-CC President Mary Jane Garza, top to bottom, left to right) : Mayor Nelda Martinez, Port Commissioner Judy Hawley, Suzie Canales, Linda Bridges (Nancy Vera accepted posthumous award), Diana Barrera, Jessica Burnett-Davila (Omar Lopez accepted the award). LWV-CC Organizational Honorees: Corpus Christi Caller Times, YWCA-Corpus Christi, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Corpus Christi Alumnae Chapter.



LWV-CC Historic Celebration

LWV-CC celebrated the 95th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment by honoring six women and three organizations that exemplify "MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!" on August 28, 2015 at the Corpus Christi Country Club.

It was a very important evening and the high energy in the room was evident. The energy must continue so greater strides can be made for women's equality.

The League offers sincere thanks to its signature sponsor, AEP-Texas, and to the sixteen Table Sponsors listed on Page 4.

Through their generosity, and the tremendous support of



League members and guests, the League will realize more than \$6,000 to help support its

work and publications during the upcoming election year.

Thanks, Auction Donors

Business:

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Art Museum of South Texas
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‘Women’s Equality Day’

City Proclamation

Standing in front of Corpus Christi City Council members in Council Chambers, LWV-CC members) attended the City Council Meeting on August 25, 2015, at 11:30 a.m. to receive the City’s Proclamation proclaiming August 26, 2015, “Women’s Equality Day.” LWV-CC member Mayor Nelda Martinez is center front. Sandra Heatherley, Past President, worked with the Mayor’s office in drafting the Proclamation. LWV President Mary Jane Garza (third from right (top) Holds the Proclamation. Twenty-one members attended this significant meeting.

Observer Corps will need volunteers

Plans are under way to renew LWV-CC’s Observer Corps. Volunteers are wanted to attend and observe meetings of public agencies, including the City Council, Commissioners Court, RTA Board, Port Commission and School Board.

Please contact Dr. Mary Jane Garza, League president, at 361-537-1313 or at LWVccpresident@gmail.com if you are interested in joining the Observer Corps or learning what Observer Corps members will do.

Registration ——— From Page 1

“The League has been invited to register voters from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. during the showcase.”

The third opportunity is on Saturday, Oct. 24, from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. in Wolfe Recital Hall during the Coastal Bend Social Forum, which is free to the public.

If you are interested in helping, call the League number at 445-4436 or email Mary Jane Garza at LWVccpresident@gmail.com.



Voters Service volunteers Ruth Falck and Sandra Heatherley man the League's table during the September 4 ArtWalk held downtown. About 28 new voters registered to vote. The next ArtWalk is the first Friday in October, and volunteers are needed!

Photo by Debbie Nolen

New Members, Welcome

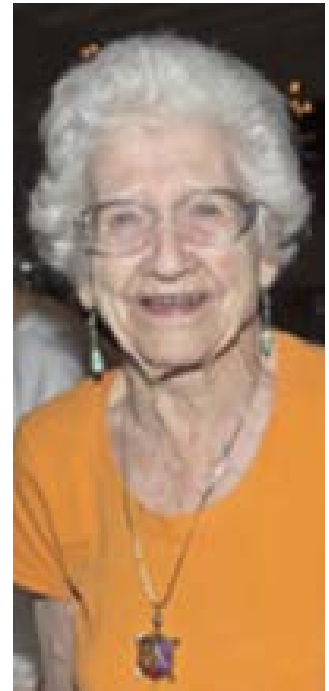
Jessica N. Hansen, Individual
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 Charles Kaffie, Sustaining
 Luci Walker, Friend of the League
 Kristina Leal, Student

Renewing Members, Thank You

Coretta Graham, Individual
 Lois Huff, Individual
 Judy and Bailey Landress, Household

Applause for Joyce Jarmon and Her Service to the League!

Joyce Jarmon, who has celebrated 99 years of making a difference for others, has never missed a LWV-CC meeting since her membership induction. Joyce desires to be an active participant and increase understanding of major public policy through education and advocacy. Joyce is a role model in "Making Democracy work."



Joyce Jarmon

Two Vacancies on the Board

Two current vacancies on the League Board need to be filled: Secretary and Vice President/Program. If you are interested and willing to serve on the Board, please contact President Mary Jane Garza.

JOSE MIGUEL DURAN, M.D. Gastroenterology Screening Colonoscopy

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CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS
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Space is available for advertising in the VOTER—\$100 for 10 issues. Call the League at 445-4436 for details



CORPUS CHRISTI SOUTHSIDE FARMERS'

When: Every Saturday (year round)
 Time: 9:00 AM til Sell Out
 Where: 5800 Everhart Rd.
 www.farmersmarketcc.org

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

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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 Fax 361-826-3103
 www.cctexas.com



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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 ___

Friend of the League \$30 ___ Sustaining \$100 ___

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
Dr. Mary V. Gleason
 Executive Director

4044 Greenwood Dr.
 Corpus Christi, Texas
 Phone: 361-826-7086
 Fax: 361-826-7083
 E-mail: gleason@ccliteracy.org
 www.ccliteracy.org

