



LWW 71st Annual Meeting
of
League Of Women Voters-
Corpus Christi Area
Meeting Workbook for Thursday, May 26, 2016



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Acknowledgments

VOTER Advertising Supporters

Jose Miguel Duran, MD, Gastroenterologist
Farmer's Market
Alex Garcia, KM Premier Real Estate
State Representative Todd Hunter
Kailo CS (Carol Scott, Owner)
Nelda Martinez, Mayor of Corpus Christi

Candidate Forum Participants

Hispanic Women of Texas-Corpus Christi
Leadership Corpus Christi Alumni Association
Corpus Christi Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
YWCA Corpus Christi

2016 Primary Voters Guide Supporters

Port of Corpus Christi
Port Industries
Arenna Sue Williams, Realtor

Special Thanks

- YWCA Corpus Christi for providing office/storage space for the League.
- Del Mar College for providing meeting space for the League's monthly luncheon meetings

Proposed Rules for Annual Meeting

ADMISSION

Admission to the Annual Meeting is open to members and non-members alike. Only members have voting privileges.

QUORUM

One-fifth of the total membership shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi. See Bylaws, Article VII, Section 3.

DEBATE

Only members have the privilege of the floor. Upon being recognized by the Chair, the member shall stand and state her/his name before speaking. No person may speak twice until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity to do so. Debate on program and budget issues will extend as long as time permits; the vote will follow the debate.

CONSIDERATION OF NON-RECOMMENDED ITEMS

Recommendations for Program submitted by voting members two months prior to the Annual Meeting, but not recommended by the Board of Directors, may be considered by the Annual Meeting if (1) the Annual Meeting shall order consideration by majority vote and (2) the Annual Meeting shall adopt the item by a two-thirds vote. See Bylaws, Article IX, Section 4.

VOTING PROCEDURE

A majority of delegates qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election of officers. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. Adoption of budget and recommended program requires a majority vote of members present and voting.

GOVERNING RULES

The rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order, Revised* shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable and are consistent with the Bylaws and the Rules for the Annual Meeting as adopted by the membership.

71st Annual Meeting Agenda

Thursday, May 26, 2016; 5-7 p.m.
Emerald Beach Hotel, Corpus Christi, TX

- 5:00-6:00 pm. Arrival and Registration
- 6:05 p.m. Welcome -- Dr. Mary Jane Garza, LWV-CC President
- Pledge to the US Flag
- 6:10 p.m. Call to Order and Establish Quorum
- A. Adoption of the Minutes of the 70th Annual Meeting, May 2015
 - B. 2015-2016 Treasurer's Report -- Dr. Mary Jane Garza
 - C. Adoption of Proposed Budget for 2016-17 -- Mary Kay Fant, Chair, Budget Committee
 - D. President's Report -- Dr. Mary Jane Garza
 - E. Review of Revised League Positions -- Dr. Mary Jane Garza/Pat G. Parr
 - F. Report of the Nominating Committee
 -- Maria Jimenez, 2015-2016 Nominating Committee Chair
 - G. Election of Officers and Nominating Committee Chair & 2 Non-Board Members
 - H. Administering the Oath of Office
 - I. Recognition of Retiring Board Members
 - J. Announcements
 - K. Adjournment

League of Women Voters Mission Statement

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 candidate or political party.

Annual Meeting Action Items

Nominating Committee Slate

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Maria Jimenez, has submitted the following report for election of officers at the May 26 Annual Meeting:

SECRETARY (2 yr. term, 2016-2018)—Irene Longoria

TREASURER (1 yr. term, 2016-2017)—Mary K. Fant

VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEMBER SERVICES (2 yr. term, 2016-2018)—Coretta Graham

VICE PRESIDENT FOR VOTER SERVICES (1 yr. term, 2016-2017)—Sandra Heatherley

VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROGRAM (2 yr. term, 2016-2018) — Elena Buentello

DIRECTOR, WEBMASTER (1 yr. term, 2016-2017)—Debbie Noble

DIRECTOR, MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS (2 yr. term, 2016-2018)—Elaine Krift

CHAIR, NOMINATING COMMITTEE (1 yr. term), 2016-2017--- _____

Non-Board Members: _____ and _____

Officers who were elected to a two-year term in 2015 and who are continuing in their respective offices through May 2017 include:

PRESIDENT, Mary Jane Garza

AT-LARGE DIRECTOR, Sally Farris

League Bylaws (Article VIII-Nominations and Elections) state that immediately following the presentation of the Nominating Committee report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member, provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured. Elections shall be by ballot. However, if there is only one nominee for each office, the election may be by acclamation. A majority vote shall constitute an election. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

Proposed Bylaws Amendments

(Suggested deletions shown ~~crossed-out~~ and suggested changes shown in **BOLD ITALIC**)

The complete Bylaws document is on pages 12-17)

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be ~~the~~ League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi Area, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWV-CC or as the ~~local~~ League. ~~This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of Texas and of the League of Women Voters of the United States; hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWV-TX and LWVUS.~~ ***The local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVUS, and the League of Women Voters of Texas, hereinafter referred to in the bylaws as LWV-TX.***

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES AND POLICY Section 1: Purposes

The purposes of the ~~LWV-CC~~ **League** are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2: Political Policy

The ~~LWV-CC~~ **League** shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 2: Types of Membership

a. Voting Members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the ~~LWV-CC~~ **League** shall be voting members of local and state Leagues of their place of joining and of the LWVUS;

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 3: The Vice Presidents

At the Board meeting following the election of officers, the Board of Directors shall designate a vice president who shall, in the absence, death or resignation of the president, possess all the powers to perform all the duties of that office. In the event this vice president is unable to serve in this capacity, the Board of Directors shall elect one of its elected members to fill this vacancy. The vice presidents shall perform such other duties as the president and the Board shall designate.

The vice presidents shall have responsibilities for the following portfolios:

- a. Vice president for Member Services
- b. Vice president for ~~Community Relations~~ **Voter Services**
- c. Vice president for **Program** (study and action) ~~program~~

Section 4: The Elected Directors

The elected directors shall be elected by the general membership at each annual general membership meeting and shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. ***The elected directors shall perform such duties as the President and the Board shall designate.***

Section 6: The Treasurer

The treasurer shall collect and receive all monies and shall be the custodian of these funds. The treasurer also will be responsible for posting and providing updates of members' payments to the Membership chair. The treasurer shall deposit all funds in a bank designated by the Board of Directors and shall disburse them only upon order of the Board. The treasurer shall present written statements at the Board of Directors' meetings and present an annual financial report at the Annual Meeting. ~~The treasurer shall be bonded.~~ ***The treasurer may have online checking and savings accounts access with Board oversight. The treasurer is responsible for monitoring online membership applications and payments received.***

~~The Board will arrange for an annual financial review to be conducted in June following the annual meeting.~~

ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 3: Vacancies and Removal

Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors by reason of the resignation, death, or disqualification of an officer or elected member, except the president, may be filled until the next annual meeting through appointment by the president and confirmed by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors. In the event of the vacancy of the president, see Article IV, Section 3, regarding action to be taken. Three absences of a Board member from meetings without a valid reason shall be deemed a resignation.

In executing the duties of their office, Board members are expected to carry out applicable laws and regulations as well as League bylaws, mission, policies, principles, positions, standards, and procedures. Board members who do not shall be counseled. If violations persist, the Board member(s) may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors, with a letter mailed to the Board member(s) detailing the Board's action and reasons for the action.

Section 6: Quorum

A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. Any one or more members of the Board may participate in a special called meeting by means of electronic communication. Participation by such means shall constitute presence at a meeting.

Section 7. Indemnification and Limitation of Liability

The directors and all officers or other appointed representatives of the LWV-CC shall be indemnified and their liability shall be limited to the fullest extent authorized by the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act, Article 1396-22A, Vernon's Annotated Civil Statutes, as it now exists or hereafter may be amended, and by the Charitable Immunity and Liability Act, Chapter 84, of the Civil Practices and Remedies Code.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Section 4. Financial Review Committee

The Board will arrange for a financial review to be conducted annually in June following the annual meeting or upon resignation of the Treasurer. At least two members not serving on the Board will be invited to conduct the review. At the Board's discretion, an audit committee may be appointed, consisting of three members, two of whom shall be board members.

ARTICLE IX – PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM

Section 1: Authorization Principles

The governmental principles adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole constitute the authorization for the adoption of program. The League principles are concepts of government adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole. The principles are the authorization for the adoption of national, state, and local program.

Proposed Budget 2016-17

INCOME

Member Dues - 68 Individuals (Includes Sustainers)	\$4,080
Member Dues - 14 Households	\$1,260
Member Dues – 4 Students	\$ 120
Friends of the League	\$ 240
Sustainers' Gifts	\$ 480
Monthly Lunch Meetings	\$2,700
Annual Meeting	\$ 800
Special Event/Fundraising	\$2,500
VOTER Advertising	\$ 600
Community Support	\$ 500
Miscellaneous	\$ 100
Total Income	\$13,380

EXPENSES

PO Box Rental	\$ 102
Administrative/Postage/Supplies	\$ 625
Voters Service	\$1,500
Printing	\$ 500
Annual Meeting	\$ 800
PMP LWV-TX *	\$2,006
PMP LWV-US *	\$2,912
Website Maintenance	\$ 400
Special Events/Fundraising	\$1,340
Lunch Meetings	\$2,295
Leadership Training	\$ 500
Holiday Meeting	\$ 400
Total Expenses	\$13,380

Recommended by Budget Committee:
Mary K. Fant, Chair

* Notes about PMP = Per Member Payment

LWV-CC current membership dues structure is:
\$60 for individuals; \$90 for two members in same household; and \$30 for students.

PMP LWV-Texas assessment: Individual, \$22; second household member, \$11; student, \$12.

PMP LWVUS assessment: Individual, \$32; second household member, \$16; student, \$16.

LWV-CC Financial Report

May 1, 2015 – April 30, 2016

Frost Bank Checking Account \$ 3,883.64
Balance as of May 1, 2015

<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual Income</u>
Dues Received	\$ 6,479.22
Annual Meeting 2015	\$ 570.00
Lunch Meetings	\$ 2,310.00
Donations Received	\$ 110.00
Fundraising-August 2015	\$14,867.98
The Voter Advertising	\$ 0
Administrative Items	\$ 328.47
Voter Services	\$ 207.00
Total Income	\$24,872.67

Expenses

Voter Services	\$ 756.00
(Candidate Forum, Voters Guide)	
P.O. Box Rental	\$ 92.00
Administrative Items	\$ 669.84
Lunch Meetings	\$ 760.00
Printing	\$ 1,292.88
PMP LWV-TX	\$ 2,568.00
PMP LWVUS	\$ 2,635.63
Website & Online Voter	\$ 400.00
August 2015 Fund Raiser	\$ 9,023.50
LWV-TX State Conference	\$ 0
Annual Meeting, May 2015	\$ 948.90
Annual Retreat, June 2015	\$ 206.35
Total Expenses	\$19,353.10

Checking Account Balance 4/30/16 \$9,403.21

Frost Savings Account

Balance, May 1, 2015	\$1,501.44
Interest Earned16
Balance, April 30, 2016.....	\$1,501.60

LWV-CC Education Fund

Balance, May 1, 2015.....	\$681.73
Balance, April 30, 2016	\$681.73

Minutes of the 70th Annual Meeting of LWV-CC

Saturday, May 23, 2015; 10 a.m.-Noon, Sugarbaker's

In Attendance: Sandra Heatherley, President; Chris Davis Garcia, VP Member Services; Matilda Saenz, Sally Farris and Coretta Graham, Directors; Peggy and Manuel Banales, Diana Barrera, Barbara Clark, Peggy Duran, Ruth Falck, Connie Fanning, Alex Garcia, Mary Jane Garza, Lois Huff, Joyce Jarmon, James and Teresa Klein, Judy Landress, Carol Loeb, Pat Parr, Nan Pillinger, Reuben Saenz, Judy Telge, Marjorie K. Walraven, Bobbie Wood-Hughes; Special LWV-TX guest, Mrs. Ruthann Geer, MLD Coach; guests Laura Jimenez, County Attorney (guest of Diana Barrera) and Debbie Vickery (guest of Mary Jane Garza).

President Heatherley called the 70th Annual Meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. and welcomed everyone. She led the pledge to the US flag and called on Coretta Graham to offer the blessing. Brunch was enjoyed. The Business Meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m., with Sandra Heatherley presiding. A quorum was present. In the absence of the secretary, Chris Garcia volunteered to take the minutes.

Adoption of the Minutes of the 69th Annual Meeting, May 2014—Minutes of the 2014 annual meeting, written by then secretary Matilda Saenz, were printed on pages 12-13 of the workbook. Motion to accept the minutes by Alex Garcia; second by Teresa Klein. **Motion carried.**

2014-2015 Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Treasurer Maria Jimenez, Sandra Heatherley referred members to Page 6 and the Financial Report, May 1, 2014-April 30, 2015.

Adoption of Proposed Budget for 2015-16: Chris Garcia, Chair of the Budget Committee, thanked Sally Farris, Coretta Graham, Maria Jimenez, and Sandra Heatherley for serving. Members were directed to Page 5 of the workbook to review the proposed balanced budget of \$16,350. Details were provided on both income streams and disbursements. Specific highlights included projected income from the August 28 fundraiser currently being planned and disbursements which include the March 2016 Primary voters guide and participation at the LWV-TX convention in March 2015. Discussion followed. Motion by committee, with second by Alex Garcia. **Motion carried.**

Local Chapter Policy Guide: Sandra Heatherley referred members to Pages 7-11 in the workbook. The Policy Guide (also referred to as "Standing Rules") was developed to capture written information and guidelines about procedures and the League's operational expectations. She credited Sally Farris and Coretta Graham for working intently on the document and its topics of Political Action and Activity; Speaking for the League; Committees and Commissions; Candidate and Issue Forums; Coalitions and Collaborative Events; Gifts, Affiliation, Assistance; Publications; Finances; Conflict of Interest; Commitment to Diversity; Local Position Statements and Study Protocols; and Standing and Appointed Committees. Members asked for clarification on several specific paragraphs, with attention directed first to partisan races and Board member involvement.

After considerable discussion, the first two sentences in Policy 1. D. were changed to read: "A Board member will submit a written resignation prior to announcing candidacy for a partisan public office. Appointment as Campaign Manager/Treasurer and paid employment for a political candidate may be allowed." Motion by Coretta Graham, second by Judy Telge. **Motion carried.** Members were invited to read the Policy Statement over the coming weeks and to give feedback to the new Board with suggested tweaks or questions for continued discussion.

Additional discussion followed on how best a League member can participate in community discussion (such as with Corpus Christi Plan 2035) without directly involving or being identified as speaking for the League. Consensus supported the visibility and participation of League members but official statements of support should come only after Study or with

permission of the President and League's official position statements. Sally Farris and Judy Telge encouraged the new Board to consider taking a position on the new Corpus Christi 2035 vision plan.

Adoption of Revised League Positions: Sandra Heatherley noted that the League positions printed on pages 4-5 of the workbook represented current League positions of record and had been reviewed at the March membership meeting. Some minor editing was noted, but only one position, approved several years ago, was recommended as being rejected (II. Local Government. E. Charter Revision—Annexation/Industrial Districts). A new position statement will be crafted after the new Board appoints a study group on Charter Revision. Motion to adopt by Alex Garcia, second by Coretta Graham.

Motion carried.

Report of the Nominating Committee: In the absence of Pamela Maupin, chair of the Nominating Committee, Chris Garcia gave the following report: The following slate of officers for 2015-2017 is presented for approval:

President (2-Yr term)—Dr. Mary Jane Garza

Treasurer (2-Yr term)—Alex Garcia

VP Program (1-Yr term through May 31, 2016)—Judy Landress

VP Community Relations (2-Yr term)—Bobbie Wood-Hughes

Director (2-Yr term)—Sally Farris

Nominating Committee chair (1-Yr term)—Maria Jimenez

Board members continuing service to complete second year of office:

Chris Davis Garcia, VP Member Services

Michele Villarreal-Kuchta, Secretary

Coretta Graham, Director

Dr. Matilda Saenz, Director

With no nominations from the floor, Judy Telge moved to accept the slate by acclamation; second by Peggy Duran. **Motion carried.**

Swearing In of New Officers: Ruthann Geer, MLD Coach and former LWV-TX President, installed the officers. She congratulated them for their commitment to the League and offered brief remarks on the importance of connecting with younger generation and recruiting them. She explained her role as MLD Coach and the value to local Leagues across the state.

Recognition of Retiring Board Members: Sandra Heatherley thanked all who had served on the Board this past year and will present plaques in the near future to two members leaving Board service: Elena Buentello, VP Program, and Maria Jimenez, Treasurer. Chris Garcia presented a certificate and gift to Sandra Heatherley commending her leadership as president, and Matilda Saenz noted that a Proclamation honoring our president had just been signed by the Texas House of Representatives. Dr. Mary Jane Garza said an official thanks will be given at the August 28 celebration.

President's Report—Sandra Heatherley said she had enjoyed serving as president and would remain active in the League and as an ex-officio member of the Board. She referred members to the summary of 2014-15 League activities printed on Page 14 of the workbook.

"I Wish the League Would...": Members were encouraged to complete an index card placed on each table with responses to "I Wish the League Would..." The responses will be captured in a written report to the new Board, which will meet in June to reorganize, set meeting dates, and plan for future activities.

Announcements—Members were invited and encouraged to attend the annual meeting of the YWCA Corpus Christi on Tuesday, May 26, at 6 p.m.

Sandra Heatherley and Coretta Graham provided an update on the August 28, 2015, celebration and fund raiser in recognition of the 95th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. The celebration will be held at the CC Country Club with music, food, and silent auction. Six Trailblazers will be honored: Mayor Nelda Martinez; Suzie Canales, environmental activist; Diana Barrera, former County Clerk of Nueces County; Judy Hawley, Port Commission; Jessica Davila-Burnett, Stripes; and the late Linda Bridges, Texas AFT. Three organizations will be honored for "Making Democracy Work"—The Corpus Christi Caller-Times; YWCA Corpus Christi; and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Corpus Christi Alumnae. League tickets will be \$40 per person; \$80 for public; and \$600 for table sponsors. Some special underwriting is being solicited. League members and other organizations will be receiving invitations to attend.

Chris Garcia shared information and ideas on Silent Auction donations and encouraged every member to donate an item.

The Annual Meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Davis Garcia, VP Member Services

2015-2016 Membership

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Jane R. Bachman
 Patricia M. Eisenhower
 Sally Clark Farris
 Chris Davis Garcia
 Mary Jane Garza
 Coretta Graham
 Sandra Heatherley
 Lois C. Huff
 Maria Jimenez
 Charles Kaffie
 Pat G. Parr
 Judy Telge
 Arenna Sue Williams

INDIVIDUALS/HOUSEHOLDS

Helen Alvarez Amador
 Barbara Baker
 Peggy Banales
 Rolando Barrera
 John & Myriam Bell
 Eva Brown
 Elena Buentello
 Teresa A. Carrillo
 Robin B. Carter-Kennedy &
 John Kennedy
 Brent Chesney
 Barbara J. Clark
 Brenda Crawley

Nancy J. Devlin &
 Margaret J. Di Clemente
 Peggy & Dr. Jose Miguel
 Duran
 Dorothy Ewing
 Ruth Falck
 Linda Fallwell-Stover
 Constance Fanning
 Mary K. Fant
 Margareta M. Fratila
 Annie Galvan
 Alex Garcia, Jr.
 Carla Gardiner
 Demitri Guerrero
 Abel Herrero
 Brenda Hamby
 Todd A. Hunter
 Colleen Johnson
 Martin Johnson
 Inna Klein
 James E. & Teresa Klein
 Elaine Krift
 Judy & Bailey Landress
 Yvette Lara
 Kristina Leal
 Brooks & Genie Lemley
 Irene & Jose Longoria
 John Martinez
 Nelda Martinez

Susana Martinez
 Pamela Maupin
 Colleen McIntyre
 Larry Olivarez Sr. &
 Annie Hewitt
 Greg Perkes
 Mike Pusley
 Augustin & Julianna S.
 Rivera
 Cynthia Rubio
 Matilda & Ruben Saenz
 Donine Schwartz
 Carol & Mark Scott
 Ann E. Smith
 Linda Snider
 Anne Stewart
 Karol Stewart
 Tom Tagliabue
 Kristian Thompson
 Debi Tomberlin
 Jennifer A. Vasey
 Joan Veith
 Debbie Vickery
 Michele Villarreal-Kuchta
 Barbara J. Vollmer
 Marjorie 'Ricky' Walraven
 Gaye A. White
 Sylvia Whitworth
 Kim Wilson

Bobbie Wood-Hughes &
 Charles Hughes
 Gracy Zambrano

LIFE MEMBERS

Pauline Clarke
 Joyce Hope Jarmon
 Nan Pillinger
 Clarice Wallock

FRIENDS OF THE LEAGUE

Chris Adler
 Millie Berios
 Nick Jimenez
 Carol Loeb
 Carolyn Moon
 Dana Stone
 Kathleen Sweeney
 Luci Walker

2015-2016 LWV-CC Highlights

June 2015: Newly elected LWV-CC board met Saturday, June 13, 2015, in a retreat setting at the YWCA to plan topics and dates and candidate forums for the 2015-2016 year. Present were Dr. Mary Jane Garza, President; Sandra Heatherley, Past President; Dr. Matilda Saenz, Director; Coretta Graham, Director; Sally Farris, Director; Maria Jimenez, Past Treasurer and chair of the Nominating Committee; Alex Garcia, Treasurer; Judy Landress, VP for Program; Bobbie Wood-Hughes, VP for Community Relations; and Ruth Falck, Voter Services Committee. In addition, LWV-CC was among seven Leagues attending the LWV-TX Regional Training. Sally Farris, Sandra Heatherley, and Chris Garcia attended the meeting in San Antonio on June 28.

July 2015: The League's July 16 membership meeting was well attended, and a larger room would have accommodated members standing in the hallway. Members heard Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D), Representative Todd Hunter (R), and Representative Abel Herrero (D) speak about the 84th Legislative Session and successes recorded. They agreed that working together as a **TEAM** helped represent our area and get key legislation passed. Topics included windstorm insurance, educational issues, and the need for disclosure and transparency in political donations.

August 2015: The 70th Anniversary of LWV-CC and 95th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment were celebrated on Friday, Aug. 28, 2015, from 6-9 p.m. at the Corpus Christi Country Club. Honorees included Mayor Nelda Martinez; Suzie Canales, Environmental Activist; the late Linda Bridges, Past President/ Texas American Federation of Teachers; Diana Barrera, former County Clerk for Nueces County; Judy Hawley, Chair, Corpus Christi Port Commission; and Jessica Davila-Burnett, Director of Public Relations, Stripes. Organizations honored for "Making Democracy Work" were Corpus Christi YWCA, Corpus Christi Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and The Corpus Christi Caller-Times. Sold-Out Event.

September 2015: Tyner Little and Kara Sands spoke at the Sept. 24, 2015, meeting. Little discussed ADA updates and Sands addressed election preparations for the November Election. Following the meeting, Nuri Rodriguez conducted voter registration deputized training. In addition, on Sept. 22, the League celebrated 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. 274 new voters were registered in September.

October 2015: Dr. Juan Urbano, Jr., Assistant Professor at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, spoke on Oct. 15 at Del Mar College Center for Economic Development, providing an

overview of the seven Constitutional Amendments on the November 2015 ballot. RUTH FALCK was the October Spotlight Member.

November 2015: "Payday & Auto Loans in Texas" consensus meeting on Nov. 19 featured Tom Tagliabue, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, City of Corpus Christi and Chris Garcia, VP Member Services. Members were asked to consider seven questions developed by the LWV-Texas study committee. LWV-CC responses were forwarded to LWV-TX. LOIS HUFF was the November Spotlight Member.

December 2015: LWV-CC Executive Board sponsored an evening to remember on Thursday, Dec. 10. The Holiday Meeting was hosted at the Emerald Beach Hotel. Board members shared their roles and responsibilities and highlights of the year. Past President Sandra Heatherley highlighted the first half of the year and Dr. Mary Jane Garza highlighted the last half of the year. Delicious appetizers, door prizes, and fellowship!

January 2016: It was standing-room-only on Thursday, Jan. 21, as League members and community members attended the monthly meeting to hear about the role of the newly named citizen committee addressing the issue of city street repairs. Speakers included Andy Taubman, Chair; and City Council members Rudy Garza and Chad Magill. January Voter Registration was 763, a record number of registered or renewing voter registrants. SALLY FARRIS was the January Spotlight Member.

February 2016: Two candidate forums were scheduled on Feb. 2 and Feb. 11 at the City Council Chambers. Hispanic Women's Network of Texas, Leadership Corpus Christi Alumni Association, Corpus Christi Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the YWCA Corpus Christi assisted.

March 2016: Texas Secretary of State Carlos H. Cascos was the speaker on March 30. He emphasized the importance of engaging every voter at every single election, especially our youth. Secretary Cascos' visit marked his first visit to an LWV organization. SANDRA HEATHERLEY was the March Spotlight Member.

April 2016: The April 19 LWV-CC monthly meeting focused on planning for the 2016-2017 League year. Committees reviewed budget, bylaws, program, and League positions and discussed the Annual Meeting. CHRIS GARCIA was the April Spotlight Member.

May 2016: May 26 marks the date for the 2016 LWV-CC Annual Meeting at the Emerald Beach Hotel. MARJORIE "RICKY" WALRAVEN was the May Spotlight Member.

LWV-CC Bylaws

++Current Bylaws with suggested deletions shown ~~crossed out~~ and suggested changes shown in BOLD ITALIC. (See also pages 4-6.)

ARTICLE I – NAME

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be ~~the League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi Area, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWV-CC or as the local League. This local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of Texas and of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWV-TX and LWVUS.~~ ***The local League is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States, hereinafter referred to in these bylaws as LWVUS, and the League of Women Voters of Texas, hereinafter referred to in the bylaws as LWV-TX.***

ARTICLE II – PURPOSES AND POLICY

Section 1: Purposes

The purposes of the ~~LWV-CC~~ ***League*** are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2: Political Policy

The ~~LWV-CC~~ ***League*** shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Eligibility

Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Section 2: Types of Membership

a. Voting Members. Citizens at least 18 years of age who join the ~~LWV-CC~~ ***League*** shall be voting members of local and state Leagues of their place of joining and of the LWVUS;

1. Individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League.
2. Those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members at large.
3. Those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from the payment of dues.

b. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1: Election of Officers

The officers of the LWV-CC shall be a president, three vice presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer. There shall be three elected directors. Officers and three directors shall be elected by the general membership at the annual meeting of the general membership and take office June 1st. The president and all other officers and the three elected directors shall be elected for terms of two years as follows:

- a. The president, one vice president, the treasurer, and two directors shall be elected in odd-numbered years.
- b. Two vice presidents, the secretary, and one director shall be elected in even-numbered years.

Section 2: The President

The president shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors and may, in the absence or disability of the treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. The president shall be ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee and shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the president and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

Section 3: The Vice Presidents

At the Board meeting following the election of officers, the Board of Directors shall designate a vice president who shall, in the absence, death or resignation of the president, possess all the powers to perform all the duties of that office. In the event this vice president is unable to serve in this capacity, the Board of Directors shall elect one of its elected members to fill this vacancy. The vice presidents shall perform such other duties as the president and the Board shall designate.

The vice presidents shall have responsibilities for the following portfolios:

- a. Vice president for Member Services
- b. Vice president for ~~Community Relations~~ **Voter Services**
- c. Vice president for **Program** (study and action) program

Section 4: The Elected Directors

The elected directors shall be elected by the general membership at each annual general membership meeting and shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. ***The elected directors shall perform such duties as the president and the Board shall designate.***

Section 5: The Secretary

The secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors, all meetings wherein a vote or consensus of members is called for on issues, and the annual meetings. The Secretary will notify all officers and directors of their election. The secretary shall sign, with the president, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board and shall perform such other functions as may be incidental to the office.

Section 6: The Treasurer

The treasurer shall collect and receive all monies and shall be the custodian of these funds. The treasurer also will be responsible for posting and providing updates of members' payments to the Membership chair. The treasurer shall deposit all funds in a bank designated by the Board of Directors and shall disburse them only upon order of the Board. The treasurer shall present written statements at the Board of Directors' meetings and present an annual financial report at the Annual Meeting. ~~The treasurer shall be bonded.~~ ***The treasurer may have online checking and savings accounts access with Board oversight. The treasurer is responsible for monitoring online membership applications and payments received.***

~~The Board will arrange for an annual financial review to be conducted in June following the annual meeting.~~

ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: Selection, Qualifications and Terms

The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the League, three elected directors, and not more than three directors appointed by the elected members of the Board. All terms of office shall run concurrently

with the fiscal year. The elected directors shall serve a term of two years or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The appointed directors shall serve until the close of the next annual meeting. Vacancies other than the president may be filled by vote of the remaining members of the Board.

Section 2: Qualifications

No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this organization unless that person is a voting member of the League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi.

Section 3: Vacancies and Removal

Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors by reason of the resignation, death, or disqualification of an officer or elected member, except the president, may be filled until the next annual meeting through appointment by the president and confirmed by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors. In the event of the vacancy of the President, see Article IV, Section 3 regarding action to be taken. Three absences of a Board member from meetings without a valid reason shall be deemed a resignation.

In executing the duties of their office, Board members are expected to carry out applicable laws and regulations as well as League bylaws, mission, policies, principles, positions, standards, and procedures. Board members who do not shall be counseled. If violations persist, the Board member(s) may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors, with a letter mailed to the Board member(s) detailing the Board's action and reasons for the action.

Section 4: Powers and Duties

The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the general membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the program as adopted by the national convention, the state convention, and the annual meeting. The Board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

Section 5: Meetings

There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The president may call special meetings of the Board of Directors and shall call a special meeting upon the written request of five members of the Board.

Section 6: Quorum

A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. ***Any one or more members of the Board may participate in a special called meeting by means of electronic communication. Participation by such means shall constitute presence at a meeting.***

Section 7. Indemnification and Limitation of Liability

The directors and all officers or other appointed representatives of the LWV-CC shall be indemnified and their liability shall be limited to the fullest extent authorized by the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act, Article 1396-22A, Vernon's Annotated Civil Statutes, as it now exists or hereafter may be amended, and by the Charitable Immunity and Liability Act, Chapter 84, of the Civil Practices and Remedies Code.

ARTICLE VI – FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 1: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of LWV-CC shall commence on the first day of June.

Section 2: Dues

a. The date for renewal of dues for all members is June 1. New members who join between February 1

through May 31 will be paid up for the upcoming fiscal year. When two members reside at the same address in a common household, the annual dues shall equal one and one-half times the determined per-member assessment. This household membership would apply to no more than two members in a common household. Any member who fails to pay dues within 90 days after the date on which they become payable shall be automatically dropped from the membership roll. Reinstatement of membership with voting privileges will apply upon payment of delinquent dues.

b. The amount of annual dues shall be decided by a majority vote of those members present and voting at the annual meeting. Proposed changes in the amount of the annual dues must be approved by the Board of Directors and submitted to the membership in writing at least one month prior to the annual meeting.

Section 3: Budget

A budget committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least three months prior to the annual meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing year. The budget chair shall submit the budget for the ensuing year, after approval by the Board of Directors, to the annual meeting for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole. The proposed budget upon approval of the Board of Directors shall be sent to all members one month before the annual meeting. The treasurer shall not be eligible to serve as chair of the budget committee.

- a. Changes in the budget in the case of altered conditions may be made provided:
 1. Proposed changes have been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to the general meeting at which the change is to be discussed.
 2. Final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding meeting or via e-mail and telephone vote conducted by the Board secretary.

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Section 1: Membership Meetings

There shall be at least four meetings of the membership each year. Time and place shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2: Annual Meeting

The annual meeting shall be held in May, the exact date to be determined by the Board of Directors. The annual meeting shall:

- a. adopt a local program for the ensuing year.
- b. elect officers, directors and members of the nominating committee.
- c. adopt a balanced budget.
- d. transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Section 3: Quorum

One-fifth of the membership shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the LWV-CC.

Section 4. Financial Review Committee

The Board will arrange for a financial review to be conducted annually in June following the annual meeting or upon resignation of the Treasurer. At least two members not serving on the Board will be invited to conduct the review. At the Board's discretion, an audit committee may be appointed, consisting of three members, two of whom shall be board members.

ARTICLE VIII – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1: Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors. The chairman and two members, who shall not be members of the Board, shall be elected at the annual meeting. Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. The other members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors immediately following the annual meeting. Any vacancy on the Nominating Committee shall be filled by the Board of Directors. Suggestions for nominations for officers and directors may be sent to the committee by any voting member.

Section 2: Report of the Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor

The report of the Nominating Committee of its nominations for officers, directors, and the members of the succeeding nominating committee shall be sent to all members one month before the date of the annual meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the annual meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member, provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Section 3: Elections

Elections shall be by ballot. However, if there is only one (1) nominee for each office, the election may be by acclamation. A majority vote shall constitute an election. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE IX – PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAM

Section 1: Authorization Principles

~~The governmental principles adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole constitute the authorization for the adoption of program.~~ ***The League principles are concepts of government adopted by the national convention and supported by the League as a whole. The principles are the authorization for the adoption of national, state, and local program.***

Section 2: Program

The program of the LWV-CC shall consist of those local governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

Section 3: Program List

The program list shall consist of those local governmental issues the membership shall choose for concerted study and action.

Section 4: Action by the Annual Meeting

The annual meeting shall act upon the program using the following procedure:

- a. The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations sent in by the voting members two months prior to the annual meeting and shall formulate a proposed program.
- b. The proposed program shall be sent to all members one month before the annual meeting.
- c. A majority vote of voting members present and voting at the annual meeting shall be required for adoption of subjects in the proposed program as presented at the annual meeting by the Board of Directors.
- d. Recommendations for program submitted by voting members two months prior to the annual meeting but not recommended by the Board of Directors may be considered by the annual meeting provided that:

1. the annual meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote
2. the annual meeting shall adopt the item by two-thirds vote.
3. the member submitting the program study commits to handle it.

Section 5: Program Changes

Program changes may be made providing the following steps are taken:

- a. Information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to all members at least two weeks prior to the general membership meeting at which the change is to be discussed, and
- b. Final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding meeting.

Section 6: Member Action

Members may act in the name of the LWV-CC only when authorized to do so by the proper Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X – NATIONAL CONVENTION AND STATE CONVENTION

Section 1: National Convention

The Board of Directors, at a meeting before the date on which the names of the delegates must be sent to the national office, shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted the LWV-CC under the provisions of the bylaws of the LWVUS.

Section 2: State Convention

The Board of Directors, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the state office, shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted the LWV-CC under the provisions of the bylaws of LWV-Texas.

ARTICLE XI – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS

These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of voting members present and voting at the annual meeting, provided the amendments were submitted to the membership in writing and delivered personally, electronically or mailed at least one month in advance of the meeting. Amendment(s) will be effective at the Annual Meeting in May.

Amended May 1990; May 1995; May 1997; May 2004; May 2007; May 2013

LWV-CC POLICY GUIDE

The local Board will review the Policy Statement annually. When it is approved by the Board, the Policy Statement will be included in the local Member Handbook.

I. POLITICAL ACTION and ACTIVITY

As an organization, the League of Women Voters does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate for elective office. After careful study and consensus, the League may take action on issues in the public interest. These guidelines are intended to protect the League's nonpartisan status. In this regard, the League enjoys two action arms under Secs. 501(c) 3 and 501(c) 4 of the United States Internal Revenue Service Code. The first is limited to education; the second includes lobbying and influencing policy (political activity). Financial resources for the two action arms are separate.

- A. League members are encouraged to work in the political party of their choice. Members are encouraged to attend local governmental meetings and to participate as private citizens. However, members are expected to keep their League activity and their political activity completely separate and distinct. In both partisan and nonpartisan elections, members may not distribute League materials at the same time as material for a candidate or a party.
- B. The President, Voters Service Director, and *Voters Guide* Editor will avoid *political activities* that may give the appearance of partisanship.
- C. Board members are *encouraged to participate* as volunteers *in political activities* but should first consult the Board if they are in doubt as to whether their activities would affect the community's perception of the League's nonpartisanship.
- D. A Board member will submit a written resignation prior to announcing candidacy for a partisan public office. Appointment as Campaign Manager/Treasurer, or paid employment for a political candidate may be allowed. Resignation from the Board does not mean resignation from the League. A Board member will NOT run for office in a partisan race or accept a partisan appointment.
- E. Members in leadership roles at LWV unit and other public meetings have the responsibility to ensure the nonpartisanship of the meeting and its environment. Discussion of candidates should be avoided at all League meetings except in connection with Voters Service activities. No partisan material should be brought to any League function.
- F. National and state issues upon which the League has taken positions may be identified by reference to official national and state websites sponsored by the League of Women Voters; and issues of local concern upon which the local League has taken a position may be found in the workbook for each annual meeting and on the website. The protocols for creating or modifying a local position are described at item XI below.

II. SPEAKING FOR THE LEAGUE

- A. Only the President or a designated representative may speak for the League. Letters, news releases, speeches, etc., in the name of the League must be approved by the President before release.
- B. *Designated* representatives of the League may not make binding commitments on major matters without the approval of the Board. [See below for Board approval of appointments.]
- C. Members attending public meetings as official League delegates and observers, however, are there as reporters only. They will confine themselves to taking notes, and if they are doubtful about any point, they may ask questions quietly after the meeting is adjourned or ask for clarification at the appropriate juncture of the presentation.
- D. Board members should exercise discretion in aligning themselves publicly with either side of a local non-League, governmental issue. Board members should further exercise discretion in aligning themselves publicly with either side of a state or national non-League governmental issue. The Board should review those cases in which the issue or activities of a Board member may affect the League's standing in the community.

III. COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

The Board will approve all appointments of **League representatives** to public Boards, Committees or Commissions, and to other organizations as presented by the President. When the League member represents the League, the member is bound to support the League's positions on matters associated with the committee or commission.

IV. VOTER GUIDES

- A. The decision to print a Voters Guide is made by the Board and Voter Services Committee. The Voter Service Committee & volunteers should meet and

decide on questions (usually 3 or 4) and word limits for the candidates based on issues of interest at the time.

- B. The Number of guides will be determined by the Board based on available funds. Voter Guides for the Primary and General Elections are produced every two years on even numbered years. Voter Guides for City Elections are every two years on even numbered years. Voter Guides for Special Elections will be determined as needed.
- C. If the local chapter does a project that requires money from the ED Fund, other than the Voter Guides, the project coordinator or the President must get a project request form from LWV-TX. [We understand this form is not a request that requires approval, but does require filing and these forms are available only at certain times near the dates of State Board meetings.]
- D. A list of candidates & their addresses after the filing deadline must be gathered as follows:
 - ü City Elections-contact City Secretary's Office
 - ü Primary Elections-contact all political parties(some file with the Sec of State)
 - ü General Elections-contact county clerk
 - ü School Elections contact each ISD or Del Mar for information

V. CANDIDATE and ISSUE FORUMS

- A. The DECISION TO HOLD OR TO CANCEL A FORUM IS MADE BY THE BOARD AND VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE. These forums will meet provisions of the LWV-Texas Policies and Procedures Section 1.7 (1) and the LWV-Texas Guide to Candidate Forums.
- B. The types of Forums held by the League are (1) Primary & General Elections and City Council-even numbered year, (2) Issues Forum— example: city propositions (the Purpose is to present impartially the pros and cons of the issue), and (3) School Board & Del Mar College elections.
- C. The failure to appear by a representative of a proponent or opposition party to an issue, such as a bond proposition, shall not preclude the forum's commencement. So long as one party to a forum issue appears to participate, it is the local League's policy to conduct the forum. The purpose of this policy is to prevent a single party opponent/proponent from stonewalling public discussion.

D. Similarly, the appearance of a single candidate in a contested race allows that candidate to speak at the forum to advocate for his/her candidacy, even if declared opponent(s) fail to participate.

E. Generally, an uncontested race does not entitle a candidate to address the forum, except for courtesy introductions from the floor.

VI. COALITIONS and COLLABORATIVE EVENTS; GIFTS, AFFILIATION, ASSISTANCE

- A. Although the League favors collaboration with other organizations, joining or withdrawing from a coalition or collaborating on an educational forum or other public event must be approved by the Board and meet the following guidelines: 1) no admission fee should be charged for an educational forum, although donations may be suggested, and 2) when the League commits to sharing expenses using TEF funds, the League liaison must ensure TEF requirements (particularly related to publicity) are met in order to be reimbursable.
- B. The coalition's major issues should mesh (align) with League positions or be issues of League concern, although there need not be a League position on every issue of coalition concern. The *aims of the coalition must be nonpartisan* and must not conflict with League positions.
- C. The major goals of the coalition should be in accord with League program and action priorities.
- D. The coalition's activities should bring added effectiveness to the overall efforts to achieve the League's organizational, advocacy, or educational goals.
- E. The members of the coalition should be organizations with which the League can work effectively. The League should have confidence in the leadership of the coalition and may serve in a leadership capacity.
- F. The League reserves the right to withhold its name from any statement or action taken by a coalition of which it is a member that does not reflect the League's consensus positions. If a coalition or association supports or opposes candidates, the League shall publicly issue a statement disassociating itself from such support or opposition.

G. The Board should exercise discretion in accepting gifts, affiliation, or assistance from any political party, political organization, or political personality. On its face, an organization that is recognized as a charitable 501(c)(3) group that does not engage in political activity is permissible for gift donations, affiliation, and assistance to the local League. Generally, individual gifts are also permissible. However, political 501(c)(4) groups that engage in political activity should have the approval of state or national League of Women Voters leadership to ensure alignment with League of Women Voters positions, goals, and policies. In the absence of a state or national consensus position favoring a particular 501 (c) (4) group goal, the Board ought first consider and vote to find the group's appropriate alignment of political, yet non-partisan, interests to be the same as those of the local League.

H. Outside of a forum setting, the local League's invitation to a candidate, political party representative, or issue advocate to address the League's membership on issues and questions posed by the local League itself does not constitute a favor to the League nor a violation of the League's impartiality and does not constitute partisanship so long as the League presents questions that focus on the issues, while also allowing the speaker to present his or her point of view. By the same token, an invitation to a person to present a talk to the local League, on an issue upon which the League has expressed a counter position, does not violate League policy, provided that the presentation is factual. The purpose of hearing counter points of view is to ensure the League's understanding of issues is current.

VII. PUBLICATIONS

- A. Publications and Handouts. All local League publications and handouts should include our contact information and should be authorized by the Board. When appropriate, the publications should include our nonpartisan statement and a statement that the content does not represent positions of the League of Women Voters.
- B. Reprinting of Publications. *Voters Guides* and other copyrighted League material should contain the statement: "Reprinting in part or in whole is not allowed without the written permission of the League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi." *Voters Guides* should also include the statement: "The opinions of the candidates are their own and do not represent positions of the League of Women Voters."
- C. Publication Times. The *VOTER*, our newsletter, will be published at least nine times per year and sent to members, friends and community leaders, and prospective members and others as needed. The

VOTER and attachments will be sent electronically when possible.

- D. Announcements. With Board approval on a case-by-case basis, the *VOTER* may carry announcements for the activities or fund-raising projects of other organizations if they relate directly to League program and/or mission.
- E. Website. The Executive Committee will make final decisions about content that is published on the LWV-CC site and will determine how long it remains online. The Executive Committee is composed of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice Presidents.
- F. Videos. Videos funded by LWV-CC are the product of LWV-CC and will be managed in accordance with LWV-Texas and LWVUS video policies and procedures.
- G. Advertisement. Ads in LWV publications must comply with nonpartisan mission.

H. Copyright. The League retains all right, title, and interest in all material prepared by League members for League use or distribution under League auspices. All copyrights to such material belong to the League.

VIII. FINANCES

- A. Financial contributions to the League can be accepted without being misconstrued as endorsement of the donor by the League.
- B. All information relating to contributors to the League shall remain confidential upon the request of the contributor.
- C. Annual dues are payable June 1 of each year. If a member has not paid the dues by September 15, the member may be dropped. Sufficient notice through the *VOTER*, a personal telephone call, and a dues statement will be given to all members before dropping. A member can be reinstated upon payment of dues. Members may pay by installments through an agreement with the Treasurer.
- D. Checks will be signed with 2 signatures, i.e., the President, Treasurer, or Assistant Treasurer.

IX. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- A. Members of the local Board shall not receive material compensation, such as salaries or stipends, for services rendered, nor shall they sell professional services or products to the LWV-CC. (In a not-for-profit organization, it is inappropriate for those who govern to receive material compensation for performing the services they have deemed necessary to carry out the mission of the organization.)

- B. In any matter in which a local Board member or a member of her/his family has a financial interest, the Board member shall refrain from participating in the discussion prior to a vote and shall refrain from attempting to influence the outcome of a vote, and shall abstain from voting.

X. COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

Approved at annual meeting May 17, 2013

The League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi (LWV-CC), in both its values and practices, affirms its belief in and commitment to diversity and pluralism.

LWV-CC welcomes any person to participate in any activity of the LWV-CC, regardless of gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or political persuasion.

LWV-CC recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making.

LWV-CC subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that inclusiveness enhances its capability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

LWV-CC affirms its commitment to reflecting diversity in its membership, board, staff, and programs.

XI. LOCAL POSITION STATEMENTS and STUDY PROTOCOLS

- A. The local League may initiate a study, bearing on an issue of local concern, or initiate performance of an existing position statement update, by either a vote of the general membership at any monthly meeting or through action taken by the Board.
- B. An inventory of local studies and existing position statements may be found in the workbook of each annual meeting and on the web site.
- C. Steps for study and position updates include, but may not be limited to, solicitation and selection of volunteers to serve the project; the President's appointment of a working chair to guide the group; periodic reports from the chair by email or personal appearance before the Board to describe progress or findings to date; a final written report and recommendation attested by the work group chair and approved by signature or email agreement among work group members; a minority report, if any, attested by the dissenting members of the study group, if any. The formal report shall be orally presented to the general membership at the first monthly meeting feasible after the report is submitted to the Board. The report will be available for online access.

XII. REGARDING STANDING AND APPOINTED COMMITTEES

In addition to the Nominations Committee and the Budget Committee which are mandated in our by-laws, the Board of Directors is authorized to appoint chairmen and members to the following offices:

- A. **Voter Services:** The Board will appoint a chairman who will then select committee members from among the active and Friends of the League membership. This committee coordinates the activities related to
- voter registration events
 - candidate forums
 - voter guides
- B. **Assistant Treasurer:** This person is authorized access to the bank account in order to monitor electronic banking transactions and communicate those to the treasurer. The Assistant Treasurer may also collect money at events and meetings when the treasurer is absent or under the direction of the treasurer as needed. The Assistant Treasurer therefore will have all the powers of, and be subject to, the restrictions upon the Treasurer.
- C. **Membership Committee:** This committee will be appointed by the VP for Member Services and ratified by the Board to assist the Member Services V.P. as needed. One member of this committee will maintain a membership e-mail group in order to send out the Voter Guides and announcements.
- D. **Social Media Committee:** The chairman of this committee is appointed by the VP for Public Relations and ratified by the board and will coordinate members to accomplish the following:
- Facebook page (page administrator)
 - Google coordinator for phone number and board group e-mails.
 - Web Page (web master)
- E. **Editorial Committee:** This committee is appointed by the board and is responsible for producing the content of the monthly VOTER and assisting in the development of news/public announcements and scripts for candidate forums and public meetings.
- F. **Past President:** By tradition the immediate Past President is an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors for the term of the following president.

Summary of League Positions

The following positions are the result of studies and consensus developed by LWV-CC members over the years. These positions were reviewed in March 2015 and affirmed by members at the May 2015 Annual Meeting.

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 North Beach

The League of Women Voters of Corpus Christi supports a Master Plan for the development of North 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 and accessibility 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 assurances 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 an accessible and transparent public transportation system is vitally necessary to promote economic growth and development, provide access to employment, community services, 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 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.

NOTE: The wording and intentions of the Charter Revision position was rejected by the majority of members present and voting at the March 2015 League meeting and will be stricken from our position statements. The coming year or longer will be used to study this activity and craft a new position statement related to annexation and industrial districts through Charter revision.

F. Emergency Ambulance Services

The League supports a public lifesaving emergency ambulance service.

LWV-CC Presidents

Dr. Mary Jane Garza	2015-	Mary Rhodes*	1983-1985
Sandra Heatherly	2013-2015	Frances Cummings	1982-1983
Judy Telge	2011-2013	Donna Custer*	1981-1982
Evy Coppola *	2009-2011	Chris Dubois	1980-1981
Chris Davis Garcia	2007-2009	Margie Morrill*	1978-1980
Lois Huff	2002-2007	Linda Stubing Heierman	1975-1978
Pat Parr	2001-2002	Bette Harris*	1973-1975
Crystal Lyons and Pat Parr, Co-Presidents	2000-2001	Pauline Clarke	1971-1973
Crystal Lyons	1999-2000	Micheline Hansler	1969-1971
Peggy Duran	1998-1999	Edith Coffey	1967-1969
Gwen Henzi	1997-1998	Eunice Owen*	1965-1967
Donna J. Strong	1996-1997	Mable Liles*	1963-1965
Carol A. Scott	1995-1996	Jo Prashner	1961-1963
Adelaide Marlatt	1994-1995	Jackie Webb*	1959-1961
Pauline Clarke	1993-1994	Evelyn Armstrong Price*	1957-1959
Eunice Owen* and Fay Crider, Co-Presidents	1992-1993	Ruth Gill*	1956-1957
Fay Crider	1991-1992	Kathryn McInnis*	1954-1956
Nan Pillinger	1990-1991	Emma Koepke*	1952-1954
Pat Parr and Nan Pillinger, Co-Presidents	1989-1990	Virginia Hartsell*	1950-1952
Pat Parr	1987-1989	Muriel Allegrett*	1948-1950
Debbie Stine	1986-1987	Reva Gregg	1947-1948
Tami Liddell	1985-1986	Dorothy Greene **	1945-1947

* Deceased

** First President



LWV-CC Board of Directors 2015-2016

Dr. Mary Jane Garza, President
 Sandra Heatherley, Immediate Past President
 Mary Kay Fant, Interim Secretary
 (Vacant), Treasurer
 Chris Davis Garcia, VP Member Services
 Bobbie Wood-Hughes, VP Community Relations
 (Vacant), VP Program
 Sally Farris, Director
 Coretta Graham, Director
 Matilda Saenz, Director
 Maria Jimenez, Chair, Nominating Committee
 Debbie Noble, Webmaster
 Sandra Heatherley, Voter Services
 Ruth Falk, Voter Registration
 Marjorie Walraven, VOTER Editor
 (Chris Garcia, Co-Editor)

