



72nd Annual Meeting

**League of Women Voters--
Corpus Christi Area
Meeting Workbook
May 18, 2017**

**11:30 am-1:00 pm
Del Mar College Center
for Economic Development**

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Acknowledgments

November 2016 General Election Candidates Forums

Moderators Dr. Mary Jane Garza and Carla Gardiner, LWV-CC; Andrea Elizondo, Antonio E. Garcia Arts & Education Center; Carla Boisvenu, Catherine Cox, Shirley Selz, Evelyn De La Paz-Rios, and Dr. Diana Cardenas, AAUW.

November General Election Voters Guides Supporters

Port of Corpus Christi Authority; Port Industries; Debbie Noble; Peggy & Jose Miguel Duran, MD; Arrena Sue Williams

April 2017 Mayoral Candidates Forum

Moderators: Dr. Mary Jane Garza and Carla Gardiner, LWV-CC; Terry Mills, NAACP

March 2017 Joint Resolution on Equal Pay Day

YWCA Corpus Christi, American Association of University Women (AAUW), LWV-CC

Special Thanks

- YWCA Corpus Christi for providing office/storage space for the League.
- Del Mar College Center for Economic Development 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.

72nd Annual Meeting Agenda

**Thursday, May 18, 2017; 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Del Mar College Center for Economic Development, Room 117**

Registration and Lunch

Call To Order & Welcome -- Sandra Heatherley, VP Voter Services/Past President

Pledge of Allegiance

Quorum Established

Designation of Secretary for the 2017 Annual Meeting

Order of Business:

- A. Adoption of the Proposed Rules for the Annual Meeting
- B. Minutes of the 71st Annual Meeting held May 26, 2016
- C. 2016-2017 Treasurer's Report -- Mary K. Fant, Treasurer
- D. Adoption of Proposed Budget for 2017-18 -- Mary Kay Fant, Chair, Budget Committee
- E. Adoption of Amendments to Bylaws -- Chris Davis Garcia, 2016 Bylaws Review Committee
- F. President's Report/Year in Review -- Sandra Heatherley, presenting in Dr. Garza's absence
- G. Summary of League Positions
- H. Report of the 2016-2017 Study Committee
- I. Report of the Nominating Committee -- Dr. Matilda Saenz, 2016-2017 Chair
- J. Election of Officers and Nominating Committee Chair & Members -- Dr. Saenz
- K. Oath of Office
- L. Greetings by the 2017-2019 President
- M. Announcements
- N. 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.

Minutes of the 71st Annual Meeting of LWV-CC

Thursday, May 26, 2016; 5-7 p.m., Emerald Beach Hotel-Beachcomber Room

In Attendance: Dr. Mary Jane Garza, President; Chris Davis Garcia, Vice President for Member Services; Sally Farris, Coretta Graham, and Dr. Matilda Saenz, Directors; Sandra Heatherley, Immediate Past President and Voter Services Chair; Maria Jimenez, Nominating Committee Chair; Debbie Noble, Webmaster; Mary K. Fant, Interim Secretary, Manuel Bañales, Peggy Bañales, Eva Brown, Elena Buentello, Aislynn Campbell, Elida Castillo, Nancy Devlin, Margaret Di Clemente, Dr. Tammy Donaldson, Peggy Duran, Dorothy Ewing, Ruth Falck, Margareta Fratila, Annie Galvan, Alex Garcia, Jr., Annie Hewitt, Rebecca Huerta, James Klein, Teresa Klein, Irene Longoria, Jose Longoria, Silvia Martinez, Shelby O'Brien, Larry Olivarez, Leah Pagan Olivarri, Pat Parr, Gregory Perkes, Nan Pillinger, Mike Pusley, Ruben Saenz, Dr. Gloria Scott, Anne Stewart, Karol Stewart, Tom Tagliabue, Jennifer Vasey, Joan Veith, Nancy Vera, Gracy Zambrano.

Members and guests began arriving after 5 p.m. to enjoy refreshments and networking. Voting members were given pink and green voting cards to use during official voting on business items. A copy of the Annual Meeting Workbook was given to each voting member.

Welcome: Mary Jane Garza called the 71st Annual Meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. and welcomed everyone. She read the mission statement of the League; recognized and thanked Debbie Tomberlin and Gracy Zambrano of the hotel staff; and called on Nueces County Commissioner Mike Pusley to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. The Business Meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. A quorum was present. President Garza presided and followed the meeting agenda printed on page 3 of the workbook. She invited Sandra Heatherley, immediate past president, to present the first business item.

Adoption of the Minutes of the 70th Annual Meeting, May 2015: Minutes of the 2015 annual meeting, written by Chris Garcia in the absence of the Secretary, were printed on pages 8-10 of the workbook. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Coretta Graham, with Joan Veith seconding the motion. **Motion carried.**

2015-2016 Treasurer's Report: President Garza referred everyone to Page 7 in the workbook to review the LWV-CC Financial Report, May 1, 2015, through April 30, 2016. She noted the report was not an action item but rather for information only. The starting balance as of May 1, 2015, was \$3,883.64 and income was \$24,872.67, with \$14,867.98 tied directly to funds raised during the August 2015 Historic Celebration. Expenses totaled \$19,353.10, but she noted that the Lunch Meetings expense total of \$760 did not reflect the March 30 lunch bill (speaker was Secretary of State Cascos) which was not invoiced by the Del Mar College catering office until after April 30 and thus was not included. The checking account balance as of 4/30/16 was \$9,403.21. Other League assets noted were \$1,501.60 in the Frost Bank savings account and \$681.73 in the LWV-Texas Education Fund.

Adoption of Proposed Budget for 2016-2017: President Garza called on Mary K. Fant, Budget Committee Chair, to present the proposed balanced budget for the coming year as printed on page 7 of the workbook. Mrs. Fant noted the budget was balanced with \$13,380 in both income and expenses and that it included all financial activity line items. Peggy Duran moved adoption of the proposed budget and Nan Pillinger seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President's Report: President Garza referenced page 11 in the workbook as her president's report summarizing the League's previous year's monthly activities. She highlighted some specific events that she was proud of, including the large crowd of 92 in attendance to hear Secretary of State Cascos; the legislative update featuring Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa and State Representatives Abel Herrero and Todd Hunter; and the outstanding voter registration efforts during the year, spearheaded by member Ruth Falck, working cooperatively with Sandra Heatherley, Voter Services Chair. President Garza commended Ruth's suggestion to register prospective voters during the local high school graduation ceremonies and said the League would look into the possible activity.

Recognition of Current Board Members: The president asked current board members to stand for recognition. Those introduced and contributions highlighted: Sandra Heatherley, Immediate Past President and Voter Services Chair; Chris Davis Garcia, VP Member Services and co-editor of The Voter; Sally Farris, Director; and Debbie Noble, Webmaster.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Maria Jimenez was called to the podium to give the Nominating Committee report. The following slate of officers for 2015-2017 was presented for approval:

Secretary, 2 year term, 2016-2018—Irene Longoria

Jim Klein moved to close nominations, seconded by Nancy Devlin. Motion carried.

Treasurer, 1 year term, 2016-2017—Mary K. Fant

Alex Garcia moved to close nominations, seconded by Mike Pusley. Motion carried.

Vice President for Member Services, 2 year term, 2016-2018—Vacant

Silvia Martinez volunteered. Nancy Devlin moved to add Silvia Martinez to slate of officers, seconded by Matilda Saenz. Motion carried. Teresa Klein moved to close nominations, seconded by Alex Garcia. Motion carried.

Vice President for Voter Services, 1 year term, 2016-2017—Sandra Heatherley

Peggy Duran moved to close nominations, seconded by Peggy Bañales. Motion carried.

Vice President for Program, 2 year term, 2016-2018—Elena Buentello

Peggy Duran moved to close nominations, seconded by Alex Garcia. Motion carried.

Director, Webmaster, 1 year term, 2016-2017—Debbie Noble

Leah Olivarri moved to close nominations, seconded by Peggy Bañales. Motion carried.

Director, Media Communications, 2 year term, 2016-2018—Elaine Krift

Teresa Klein moved to close nominations, seconded by Alex Garcia. Motion carried.

Chair of the Nominating Committee, 1 year term, 2016-2017—Vacant

Dr. Matilda Saenz accepted nomination by Chris Garcia who moved to add Dr. Saenz to slate of officers, seconded by Alex Garcia. Nancy Devlin moved to close the nominations, seconded by Alex Garcia. Motion carried.

Discussion followed on the two non-Board members due for election at the annual meeting. Four League members volunteered to serve or be considered—Jen Vasey, Annie Hewitt, Eva Brown, and Tammy Donaldson. Chris Garcia raised a point of order, suggesting that two of the four individuals volunteer to serve on the Nominating Committee as non-Board members and the other two be considered by the incoming Board as appointed directors. She also noted that the League Bylaws call for the incoming Board to appoint two Board members to complete the 5-member Nominating Committee. Jen Vasey and Annie Hewitt said they would serve on the Nominating Committee as non-Board members. Nancy Devlin moved to accept Jen Vasey and Annie Hewitt, seconded by Alex Garcia. Motion carried.

Continuing Board Positions: The workbook report on page 4 noted that two Board members will continue to serve on the Board, completing their second year of office: President-Mary Jane Garza and At-Large Director-Sally Farris

Administering the Oath of Office: Judge Jose Longoria was invited to administer the oath of office to the newly elected officers. An oath was also administered to the board of directors and an oath was administered to the membership. Chris Garcia was invited to the front to help present a long-stemmed yellow rose to each new officer. President Garza said that what LWV has stood for and championed for is signified by the yellow rose. The oaths of office were provided by LWV-TX state president Elaine Wiant who also sent her best wishes.

Review of Revised League Positions: League member and former president Pat Parr was invited to the podium to spotlight League Positions appearing on pages 22-23 of the workbook. She stated positions were developed over many years after League research and study of each issue. There are some issues that will need to be addressed but these will be handled by the new board.

Dr. Garza thanked and recognized all past presidents.

Recognition of State Board Member: President Garza read a proclamation from the League of Women Voters of Texas President Elaine Wiant, commending League member Chris Davis Garcia for her outstanding service with

distinction of serving 6 years on the state board, first as Director and then as Board Secretary and State Convention Chair. Mrs. Garcia was invited to the podium to receive the proclamation. She thanked the League for nominating her to the state board in late 2009 and said she enjoyed serving for the past six years. She said she hoped that Corpus Christi and South Texas would once again be represented on the LWV-TX state board in the future and challenged LWV-CC to identify someone who might want to serve in the future.

Announcements

President Garza announced that she would schedule a June retreat to bring the newly elected members together to plan the coming year. The goal would be to have a year-at-a-glance from August 2016 – May 2017 for the membership. Sandra Heatherley announced Art Walk would take place the first Friday in June. A voter's registration table will be set up and volunteers are needed to man the table.

Coretta Graham announced her thanks to the board for her time serving on the board and said it was very educational. She also suggested the League continue to work toward diversifying the League's membership.

Dr. Garza expressed her thanks and appreciation to Coretta Graham and Alex Garcia for their time and service on the board.

Peggy Duran announced that this is the time in the meeting for anyone to bring up any Program item that the membership specifically wants to study during the upcoming year. Sally Farris stated she would like to coordinate and chair a study or exploration into our potable water safety with regard to both bacteria and lead.

Mike Pusley announced the FAA has approved a permit for construction of an additional wind farm. He said this will have a direct impact on the growth of the community and whether Naval Air Station-Corpus Christi survives. He thinks this goes along with the annexation of industrial districts issue (page 23 in workbook) and stated annexation is one way this can be stopped.

Dr. Gloria Scott announced she would volunteer to coordinate a study of what is happening with the Hillcrest area based on the Harbor Bridge proposed routes and the major destruction of the north side and also the relationship of that to the refineries and literally tearing down the Hillcrest area.

Door prize tickets were drawn and door prizes were distributed.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:24 p.m. by Alex Garcia, second by Larry Olivarez. Motion carried.

Respectfully prepared by Mary K. Fant, Interim Secretary,
with assistance by Chris Davis Garcia

Officers and Chairs Who Served during 2016-2017

President, Dr. Mary Jane Garza
Secretary, Irene Longoria
Treasurer, Mary K. Fant
VP Voters Service, Sandra Heatherley
Voter Registration, Ruth Falck
Director/Website, Debbie Noble
Director/At Large, Sally Farris
VP Program, Elena Buentello (resigned mid-term)
VP Member Services (vacant)
Director/Media-Communications, Elaine Krift (resigned mid-term)
The VOTER Editor, Marjorie K. "Ricky" Walraven
Co-Editor, Chris Davis Garcia

This year's theme was "GET OUT THE VOTE!"

Proposed Budget for 2017-2018

INCOME Amount

Per Member Membership	\$7,410
Sustainer's gifts	520
Friends of the League	150
Monthly Luncheons	2,400
2018 Annual Meeting	675
Special Events/Fundraising	6,050
Silent Auction proceeds	1,000
Advertising in The Voter	600
Community Support	500

TOTAL INCOME **\$19,305**

EXPENSES Amount

Per Member Dues to State (114 x \$22; 13 x \$11; 4 x \$12)	\$2,699
Per Member Dues to National (114 x \$32; 13 x \$16; 4 x \$16)	3,920
PO Box Rental	112
Admin/Supplies	300
Voter Services publications	2,000
Voter Registration Events	500
Printing	600
2017-2018 Fundraising Event(s)	4,025
Annual Meeting	675
Monthly luncheons	2,040
Leadership Training	1,000
Holiday Social	400
Transfer to Savings	1,034

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$19,305**

* Notes about PMP = Per Member Payment

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.

The Proposed Budget for 2017-2018 is presented by the Budget Committee composed of Mary K. Fant, chair; Anne Stewart, Maria Jimenez, Chris Garcia, and Dr. Mary Jane Garza.

LWV-CC Financial Report

May 1, 2016 – April 30, 2017

FROST BUSINESS CHECKING

Balance as of May 1, 2016 **\$9,403.21**

INCOME

Member Dues	\$6,237.21
Friends of the League	0.00
Sustainers' Gifts	514.20
Monthly Lunch Meetings	649.50
2016 Annual Meeting	90.00
PAVP Grant from LWV-TX	500.00
Voters Guides Purchases	268.00
Community/Member Support	246.75

TOTAL INCOME **\$8,505.66**

EXPENSES

PO Box Rental (annual)	102.00
Administrative/Postage/Supplies	89.31
Voter Services (Voters Guides)	1,040.00
Printing (copies of The VOTER)	157.50
Annual Meeting Program Booklets	150.00
PMP LWV-TX (72 x \$22, 13 x \$11, 2 x \$12)	1,751.00
PMP LWV-US (72 x \$32, 13 x \$16, 2 x \$16)	2,544.00
Web Site Maintenance	200.00
Special Events/Fundraising	0.00
Monthly Lunch Meetings	1,317.45
Leadership Training (Lobby Days)	558.90
Holiday Meeting	0.00
Miscellaneous	200.00

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$8,110.16**

Balance April 30, 2017 **\$9,798.71**

FROST BUSINESS SAVINGS

Balance May 1, 2016 **\$1,501.60**

Income - IOD Interest **0.16**

Expenses **0.00**

Balance April 30, 2017 **\$1,501.76**

LWV-CC EDUCATION FUND

Balance May 1, 2016 **\$656.73**

Income **300.00**

Expenses **0.00**

Balance April 30, 2017 **\$956.73**

Proposed Amendments to LWV-CC Bylaws

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

Several of the changes are mandated or suggested rewording by LWVUS. The complete Bylaws document with these proposed amendments is on pages 13-17.

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. ***Persons at least 16 years*** of age who join the ~~LWV-CC~~ ***League*** shall be voting members of the 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.~~

(Continuation of Proposed Amendments to Bylaws:

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.***

President's Report: 2016-2017 Year in Review

June 2016: The Board of Directors held a Saturday "retreat" at the Del Mar Center for Economic Development to plan topics and dates for upcoming meetings and forums. The Board selected "Get Out The Vote!" as the theme for the upcoming year.

July 2016: There was no general membership meeting in July. LWV-CC President Dr. Mary Jane Garza gave testimony at a public forum supporting the request by Nueces County Commissioners and Clerk for the establishment of Vote Centers throughout the county in future elections. Several other members attended and also spoke.

August 2016: The Board of Directors commissioned a committee to study and assess the risk of lead contamination in the Corpus Christi municipal water supply with Sally Farris as the chairman of the committee. At the League's monthly meeting, the Nueces County Clerk and the chairs of both the Republican and Democratic parties in Nueces County shared the progress toward and impact of having Vote Centers throughout the county. Nuri Rodriguez, County Voter Registrar, also deputized several members to register voters for the coming election. Our League honored the newly named City Manager, Ms. Margie Rose, as the highlight of the anniversary of the Women's Equality Day on August 26, 2016.

September 2016: Our monthly meeting featured City Council Member Colleen McIntyre who presented an overview of the city's operating budget and a lively Q&A session with League members. National Voter Registration Day was observed by our members working at four separate locations on September 27 to register 274 Texas voters.

October 2016: Two candidate forums on October 13 and 20 were produced by our League to showcase the 68 candidates seeking victory in the November General Election. In addition, the 28-page Voters Guide was produced (about 7,000 copies) and distributed throughout the City and Nueces County by member volunteers. The electronic version of the Voters Guide, VOTE411, was published online. The League also purchased several hundred statewide Voters Guides, produced by LWV-TX in both English and Spanish, to distribute. At the October 27 monthly meeting, presentations regarding the bond proposals for Corpus Christi ISD and Del Mar College were made. To top off this very busy month, League members participated in a telephone bank outreach program, underwritten by a special grant from LWV-Texas, by calling 6,000 Nueces County registered voters and reminding them to vote in early voting or on election day.

November 2016: A month to recoup and regroup and to celebrate the 54% voter turnout for the general election of November 8, 2016. Our theme for the year was achieved!

December 2016: The League took time during the holidays to review the accomplishments of the past 6 months as we gathered at the Emerald Beach Hotel. Representative Todd Hunter also attended and gave the League an update on the legislative activities of the 85th Texas legislature.

January 2017: League members and guests gathered Thursday, January 19, for a luncheon program to hear remarks titled "Opportunities and Challenges" from Dr. Kelly Quintanilla, Interim President of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Since all deputized voter registrars terms of office end in December of even numbered years, Ms. Nuri Rodriguez followed Dr. Quintanilla by deputizing or re-deputizing 21 League members. On January 30 and 31, our President and 6 League members attended Lobby Days at the state capital. We met with our state Senator and Representatives to advocate for the League's positions on Education, Redistricting, and Women's Health.

February 2017: Our membership divided into five planning groups during the February meeting to set priorities and goals in the coming year in the areas of Membership, Finance, Voter Services, Issues, and "I Wish The League Would." The results of each group were published in the March VOTER and will be a part of the agenda for the newly elected officers for 2017-2018.

March 2017: This was the League's first year to participate in the "Barefoot Mardi Gras" Parade on North Padre Island. We were only successful in registering 5 voters (too many Winter Texans attending the parade) but we did succeed in increasing the visibility of the League in our community. President of the League of Women Voters of Texas, Elaine Wiant, spoke at our March Luncheon. As she concludes her second term as state president, she congratulated LWV-CC on its many achievements over the past several years and encouraged us to keep doing "more of the same."

April 2017: Special Mayoral election activities consumed League members in the month of April! We produced and distributed 7,000 Voters Guides to familiarize the community with the eight candidates seeking election. We also conducted a Candidates Forum for the general public which allowed citizens to ask questions of and hear responses from the same eight candidates.

Report on Study in Progress: “Potential for Lead Contamination in Our Communities’ Drinking Water”

By Sally Farris, Study Group Coordinator

Last summer, the Corpus Christi League of Women Voters’ board authorized a committee to study **“Potential for Lead Contamination in Our Communities’ Drinking Water.”**

The committee continues to complete tasks necessary to a final, detailed report. The group’s work has been facilitated by numerous open records (public information) requests to the City of Corpus Christi, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), City of Corpus Christi-Nueces County Health District (commonly referred to as the City Health Department and City-County Health Department), Regional Health District, and Texas Department of State Health Services, as well as review of Corpus Christi City Council presentations and study of current literature and agency reports including those of the World Health Organization.

Many thanks to Ruth Falck for her hospitality and providing meeting space to Teresa Carrillo, Tammy Donaldson, Mary Jane Garza, Sandra Heatherley, Lois Huff, Jim Klein, Teresa Klein, Leah Olivarri, and Sally Farris, the group members.

Recommendation. In the meantime, the study group reached consensus on at least one recommendation to the communities of interest that comprise our immediate geographical area generally defined by Nueces County.

That recommendation is: **Individuals, and especially families with children, ought to use the most effective and efficient filter system they can afford to avoid lead contamination in the drinking water drawn from home faucets.**

Background. Why did the local League undertake this study?

First, last year many of us were thinking about the Flint, Michigan, lead poisoning crisis that arose out of failed regulatory efforts, a tragic scandal that eventually culminated in criminal charges against officials and consultants.

Scientific researchers and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) charged that thousands of public drinking water systems had violated the Lead and Copper Rule in recent years, and continued to do so by under reporting and “gaming the system.”

Regulatory failure was seized upon by both critics

of regulation and proponents of upgraded standards as proof of a broken regulatory scheme.

These national concerns coincided with the City of Corpus Christi’s troubled water history that included highly publicized infrastructure failures and reported deterioration, as well as bacteria alarms.

Corrections to our system were projected to require decades of expensive effort for repair and replacement, an overwhelming community burden that, in concert with TCEQ water boil notices, deprived citizens of water service. Those stresses had practical impacts, contributing to political dislocation in the mayoral election that followed.

In the midst of this uncertainty about the integrity of our local drinking water system, new research findings were announced that no level or amount of lead is safe for human consumption, and any detectable measure in a child may be irreversibly harmful.

So, to examine our communities’ risk, our study commenced by reviewing recent history of the City of Corpus Christi’s water system problems and responses to those problems.

While the League’s study focused on lead, the local government’s responses to bacteria events is some measure of the City’s level of educated concern, credibility, and transparency in dealing with a critical health safety problem arising out of contaminated drinking water.

Threshold Questions:

- (1) Do we have lead poison reports for the Corpus Christi area? I.e., what’s the epidemiology?
- (2) Do we have a drinking water system that could contribute to responsibility for such reports?
- (3) Are there alternate sources for lead poisoning, aside from water?
- (4) If we are at risk, what can we do to protect ourselves and our loved ones?

A preliminary report is almost complete, absent citations and supporting documents. The committee will review the draft shortly. We look forward to a formal presentation to the LWV-CC Board at a future date.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Article IV-Officers, Section 1. Election of Officers reads as follows:

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.*

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Dr. Matilda Saenz, has submitted the following slate for election:

TWO-YEAR TERMS:

PRESIDENT (2-yr. term, 2017-2019) -- Chris Davis Garcia

TREASURER (2 yr. term, 2017-2019) — Brenda Hamby

VICE PRESIDENT, VOTER SERVICES (2 yr. term, 2017-2019) — Vacant
Ruth Falck--Voter Registration Chair

AT-LARGE DIRECTOR (2 yr. term, 2017-2019) -- Dr. Tammy Donaldson

DIRECTOR, WEBMASTER (2 yr. term 2017-2019) -- Debbie Noble

ONE-YEAR TERMS:

SECRETARY (1-yr term, 2017-2018) -- Can (John) Alemdar

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, PROGRAM (1 yr. term, 2017-2018) — Maria Jimenez and Peggy Banales

VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBER SERVICES (1 yr. term, 2017-2018)-- Sandra Heatherley

CO-DIRECTORS, MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS (1 yr. term, 2017-2018) — Mary K. Fant and Melody Cooper

CHAIR, NOMINATING COMMITTEE (1 yr. term), 2017-2018 -- Anne Stewart

Non-Board Members (as per Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 1) both 1-yr terms: Rebecca Huerta and Linda K. Snider.
(Two additional Nominating Committee members will be appointed from the Board this summer.)

Nominations from the Floor

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 or co-nominees for each office, the election may be by acclamation. A majority vote shall constitute an election. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

LWV-CC Bylaws

**++Current Bylaws with suggested deletions shown ~~crossed-out~~ and suggested changes shown in BOLD ITALIC.
(See Proposed Amendments on Pages 8-9)**

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.** ***Persons at least 16 years of age who join the LWV-CC League shall be voting members of the 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 Presidents Who Have Served

Dr. Mary Jane Garza	2015-2017	Tami Liddell	1985-1986
Sandra Heatherly	2013-2015	Mary Rhodes*	1983-1985
Judy Telge	2011-2013	Frances Cummings	1982-1983
Evy Coppola *	2009-2011	Donna Custer*	1981-1982
Chris Davis Garcia	2007-2009	Chris Dubois	1980-1981
Lois Huff	2002-2007	Margie Morrill*	1978-1980
Pat Parr	2001-2002	Linda Stubing Heierman	1975-1978
Crystal Lyons and Pat Parr, <i>Co-Presidents</i>	2000-2001	Bette Harris*	1973-1975
Crystal Lyons	1999-2000	Pauline Clarke	1971-1973
Peggy Duran	1998-1999	Michelene Hansler	1969-1971
Gwen Henzi	1997-1998	Edith Coffey	1967-1969
Donna J. Strong	1996-1997	Eunice Owen*	1965-1967
Carol A. Scott	1995-1996	Mable Liles*	1963-1965
Adelaide Marlatt	1994-1995	Jo Prashner	1961-1963
Pauline Clarke	1993-1994	Jackie Webb*	1959-1961
Eunice Owen* and Fay Crider, <i>Co-Presidents</i>	1992-1993	Evelyn Armstrong Price*	1957-1959
Fay Crider	1991-1992	Ruth Gill*	1956-1957
Nan Pillinger	1990-1991	Kathryn McInnis*	1954-1956
Pat Parr and Nan Pillinger, <i>Co-Presidents</i>	1989-1990	Emma Koepke*	1952-1954
Pat Parr	1987-1989	Virginia Hartsell*	1950-1952
Debbie Stine	1986-1987	Muriel Allegrett*	1948-1950
		Reva Gregg	1947-1948
		Dorothy Greene **	1945-1947

* Deceased

** First President

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:
 - . City Elections-contact City Secretary's Office
 - . Primary Elections-contact all political parties (some file with the Sec of State)
 - . General Elections-contact County Clerk
 - . School Elections contact each ISD or Del Mar for information

V. CANDIDATE and ISSUE FORUMS

- A. The DECISION TO HOLD OR CANCEL A FORUM IS MADE BY THE BOARD AND VOTER SERVICES 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 both the May 2015 and May 2016 Annual Meetings.

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 *(Subject To Review)*

F. Emergency Ambulance Services

The League supports a public lifesaving emergency ambulance service.

2016-2017 Membership List

Jeanne Adams	Sally Farris	Elaine Krift	Cynthia Rubio
Can Alemdar	Gabby Flores	Judy Landress	Lucy Rubio
Jane Bachman	Margareta Fratila	Yvette Lara	Matilda Saenz
Burton Bagby-Grose	Annie Galvan	Genie Lemley	Ruben Saenz
Barbara Baker	Chris Davis Garcia	Brooks Lemley	Kara Sands
Manuel Banales	Alex Garcia, Jr.	Tami Longino	Marisa Scalon
Peggy Banales	Carla Gardiner	Irene Longoria	Ron Schiller
Rolando Barrera	Mary Jane Garza	Jose Longoria	Donine Schwartz
John Bell	Melinda Garza	Chad Magill	Carol Scott
Myriam Bell	Natalie Garza	Christina Marquez	Mark Scott
Joe Benavides	Rose Mary Garza	Briana Martinez	Gloria Scott
Rebecca Brackett	Rudy Garza	Nelda Martinez	Kimberley Seger
Janice Bray	Coretta Graham	Silvia Martinez	Diana Sepulveda
Eva Brown	Demetri Guerrero	Susana Martinez	Ann Smith
Elena Buentello	Brenda Hamby	Patricia Mathews	T. Frank Smith IV
Janis Byrne	Agnes Hamilton	Colleen McIntyre	Linda K. Snider
Aislynn Campbell	Sandra Heatherley	Michael Miglini	Sandra Sterba-Boatwright
Teresa Carrillo	Wendy Herman	Tiffany Montemayor	Anne Stewart
Elida Castillo	Katherine Hewett	Lynn Mutz	Karol Stewart
Julie Chancler	Annie Hewitt	Debbie Noble	Diana Stillman
Brent Chesney	Rosie Hicks	Shelby O'Brien	Emily Suggs
Barbara Clark	Roland Hicks	Kathryn Oler	Tom Tagliabue
Pauline Clarke	Joe Hilliard	Larry Olivarez	Judy Telge
Melody Cooper	Melissa Hofstetter	Leah Pagan Olivarri	Debbie Tomberlin
Brenda Crawley	Rebecca Huerta	Pat Parr	Jennifer A. Vasey
Elissa Cuevas	Lois Huff	Greg Perkes	Joan Veith
Janet Cunningham	Michael Hunter	Nan Pillinger	Nancy Vera
Nancy Devlin	Todd Hunter	Mike Pusley	Debbie Vickery
Margaret Di Clemente	Joyce Jarmon	Kelly Quintanilla	Clarice Wallock
Tammy Donaldson	Maria Jimenez	Raul Ramirez	Marjorie Walraven
Peggy Duran	Nick Jimenez	Sylvia Ramirez	Gaye White
Dr. Jose Miguel Duran	Colleen Johnson	Sally Reigle	Sylvia Whitworth
Dorothy Ewing	Martin Johnson	Julianna Rivera	Arrena Sue Williams
Ruth Falck	Inna Klein	Augie Rivera	Kim Wilson
Connie Fanning	James Klein	Victoria Rogers	Chuck Hughes
Mary K. Fant	Teresa Klein	Brent Rourk	Bobbie Wood-Hughes
			Gracy Zambrano



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