



The VOTER

August 2017

League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi



PORTCORPUSCHRISTI®

August 17 League meeting

Learn about the Port of Corpus Christi Authority!

You are cordially invited to attend the League’s membership luncheon program on Thursday, August 17, from 11:30 a.m.- 1 p.m. at the Del Mar College Center for Economic Development, located at 3209 S. Staples.

Barbara Canales, secretary of the Port Commission, and

John LaRue, executive director of the Port, will share an update on Port activities, both current and future; provide some interesting and important facts; and answer our questions.

You can order your sandwich box lunch (at \$10 per member/\$12 for guests) by calling the League’s phone at 445-4436 or by responding to the Constant Contact message you received last week. If you don’t want to order lunch but just attend, also let us know.



Barbara Canales
Commissioner



John LaRue
Executive Director

Meet at City Hall For Proclamation

Save the date of Tuesday, Aug. 22, and plan to join fellow League members at Corpus Christi City Hall, 1201 Leopard Street, at 11:15 a.m for the reading of a proclamation honoring the League and the 97th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment

We’ll pose for a photograph at the front of Council Chambers, located on the first floor, and have an opportunity to greet City Council members.

Special thanks to League member Rebecca Huerta for her assistance in preparing the proclamation. Hope you can join us!

LWV-CC To Apply for Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Grant

The LWV-CC Board, noting it wants the League to be “part of the solution” to the Texas voter photo ID law, will submit an application for a grant offered through the LWV-Texas Education Fund. The grant, which would provide from \$200-\$500 in pass-through funds from the LWVUS Public Advocacy for Voter Protection

(PAVP) project, is intended for the following activity: **Mitigate the impact of Texas voter photo ID laws**

The project involves the following components:

- partnering with organizations such as local community centers, businesses, and services that serve communities of color, individuals with low

incomes, and young people.

- working with these organization to identify voters who lack proper documentations and to help them obtain that documentation.
- assisting voters who need help obtaining photo ID by distributing information, providing transporta-

See Grant, page 6

LWV 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 political party or candidate.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear League members and friends:

Your Board met from 4-6 p.m. on Tuesday, August 1, at the Ben McDonald (formerly called Greenwood) Public Library meeting room and had a full agenda of business. The Board will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of each month at the library, and you are always invited to attend.



Chris Davis Garcia
LWV-CC President

In mid-July, six members of the Board traveled to Canyon Lake to attend a regional training hosted by LWV-Comal County. We were among about 50 League members from various cities around the state to hear what's being accomplished at the state level and to ask questions.

We also picked up details of a new candidate forum format (like "speed dating" but with candidates answering questions by prospective voters seated at tables!) and had a chance to toot our own horn, too, about what LWV-CC is doing. This month is especially important to the League. August 26 marks the anniversary of "Women's Equality Day" and the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

This year marks the 97th anniversary and gives us pause to remember the suffragette movement and the women who led the fight for voting rights. Many of those women died before seeing the historic 1920 vote, but they are remembered for their commitment.

I have a copy of a speech prepared by the LWVUS a few years ago that I would like to share with any of you who enjoy reading a riveting and inspirational historical narrative. I'll bring copies to the August 17 League meeting!

As always, thank you for your participation in the League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi.



WELCOME TO THESE NEW MEMBERS!

Mary Sherwood, Sustaining Member
Christen Stockman and Wes Burkett, Household
Regi Bright, Individual
Connie Contreras, Student
Barbara Craig-Schniepp, Friend of the League

THANKS TO THESE RENEWING MEMBERS!

Myriam and John Bell, Household
Carla Gardiner, Sustaining Member
Rolando Barrera, Individual
Raul Ramirez, Individual
Kim Seger, Individual
Sandy Sterba-Boatwright, Individual
Sylvia Whitworth, Individual

SAVE THE DATE:
Sept. 26, 2017
National Voter
Registration Day



Every year, millions of Americans find themselves unable to vote because they miss a registration deadline, don't update their registration, or aren't sure how to register. National Voter Registration Day wants to make sure everyone has the opportunity to vote.

On Tuesday September 26, 2017, volunteers and organizations from all over the country -- including local units of the League of Women Voters--will "hit the streets" in a single day of coordinated field, technology and media efforts. National Voter Registration Day seeks to create broad awareness of voter registration opportunities to reach tens of thousands of voters who may not register otherwise.

LWV-CC is in the process of identifying several voter registration sites and will have volunteers and deputized voter registrars at the locations to not only register new voters 18 years of age and older but also help voters complete paperwork showing changes in contact information or last name or address. The more volunteers we have, the more locations we can support. Save the date and plan to help!



BOARD MEMBERS ATTEND TRAINING-Six board members attended regional training hosted by LWV-Texas July 15 in Kerrville. Participants included Chris Garcia, Melody Cooper, Sandra Heatherley, Can Alemdar, Brenda Hamby, and Peggy Banales.

Appraisal Board Seeking New Members

The Appraisal Review Board (ARB) of Nueces County is looking for new members to serve during the 2018-2019 period. The purpose of the ARB is to help resolve disputes between the Nueces County Appraisal District (NCAD) and property owners. The ARB does not work for, or report to, NCAD or the taxing entities of Nueces County.

To assure their impartiality during these protest hearings (primarily dealing with real and personal property values), the members of the ARB are actually selected and appointed by a local administrative district judge. Members must be prepared to work at least 60 days during the calendar year. The most critical period (full-time hearings, Monday through Friday) is between mid-May through mid-July. The ARB then meets at least one or two days per month throughout the remainder of the year.

Texas Property Tax Code Specific Qualifications: Must have been a resident of Nueces County for the past 2 years; must pass a background check; cannot be related to a member of the NCAD Board of Directors, an employee of the NCAD, or the ARB; and must not be delinquent in personal or real property tax. (Note: the ARB checks to see if the applicant has or has ever had a Doing Business As (DBA) designation and if they have/have not paid taxes on that DBA.)

To enhance your resume it MAY help if your application can show that you: Have a smart phone; have the ability to send/receive files on a personal computer or smart phone; have self-employed business experience; deal well with people and confrontational experiences, etc.

Call the Taxpayer Liaison Officer for Nueces County (Mr. Robert Maupin) for additional information at: [361-881-9978](tel:361-881-9978) (ex. 4159) for more information regarding qualifications.

League of Women Voters
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<http://www.lwv-cc.org>
361-445-4436

LWV-CC Board, 2017-2018

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The VOTER Newsletter
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Looking Ahead to September Monthly Luncheon

Mark your calendar for Thursday, Sept. 21, and plan to attend the membership luncheon program! The time? 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. The place? The Del Mar College Center for Economic Development, located at 3209 S. Staples (at intersection of Kostoryz & S. Staples.)

Program Co-VP Peggy Banales has invited State Representatives Abel Herrero and Todd Hunter and State

Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa to provide a “Legislative Update” on the Texas Legislature’s regular session that concluded May 31 and the special session which is still in progress. They have indicated they will attend.

Write down a question or two that you would like to ask. Be watching for more details.

Downtown Area Development Plan Presented to Public

Several League members were among those attending the July 24 Community Open House to provide citizen feedback on the updated draft document of the Downtown Area Development Plan. The City’s Planning Department staff was on hand to answer questions and provide additional information.

The plan and survey are available on the Planning Department’s website at www.cctexas/currentplanning.

The Downtown Area Development Plan process began in conjunction with the City’s Comprehensive Plan, Plan CC, update. The plan was nearly completed in 2015 and then put on hold so that Plan CC could go through the adoption process. Plan CC was adopted in the fall of 2016.

City staff, the Downtown Area Development Plan Advisory Committee, and the consultant have prepared an update to the Downtown Area Development Plan from the 2015 plan, reflecting current conditions and available information.

Citizens have an opportunity to review the Draft Downtown Area Development Plan online and also complete a brief survey by August 15 to provide their feedback. Other appendices available online are real estate market analysis documents, the 2011 North Beach Development Plan, and the 2017 North Beach Redevelopment Initiative

Paper copies of the draft of the Downtown Area Development Plan and Survey are available at City Hall outside the Planning & ESI Offices on the first floor across



Thanks to the City of Corpus Christi for providing these photos to LWV -CC for The VOTER



from the cashier’s windows. Additional information is available by calling Senior City Planner Keren Costanzo at 826-3573.

Follow us on Facebook at

**Corpus Christi League of Women Voters
@Lwvcc**

And now on

Twitter!@lwvcctx



Carla Gardiner
Financial Advisor

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361-885-0622

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

24 Receive Training As Deputy Voter Registrars

The League's July 20 membership meeting featured Nuri Rodriguez, Nueces County Voter Registration Supervisor. She trained about 24 League members (some were new, while others had missed the spring training) and other interested residents as Deputy Voter Registrars.



(Above) Nuri Rodriguez conducts training for League members and the public on how to register voters. All who participated received their deputy number



and a packet of materials to initiate or participate in voter registration activities in Nueces County. (At left) New LWV-CC Treasurer Brenda Hamby reviewed the League's current financial report.

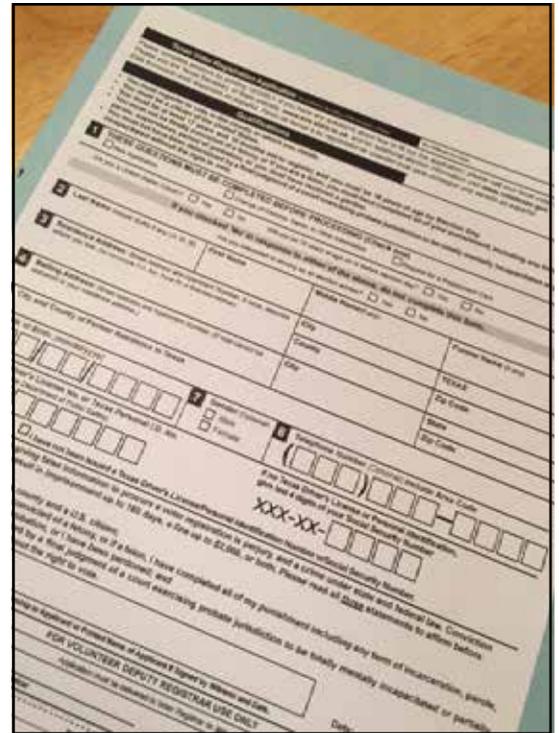
Other business conducted at the meeting included a financial report given by new treasurer Brenda Hamby. . . .

They each received a specific deputy number which they will place on all voter registrations they collect and can register voters through December 31, 2018, before retraining is required. The League has more than 15 others who already have been trained.

Thank you to all those who participated in the July 20 training, which included a Power Point presentation and several questions which Nuri expertly handled. She

said future trainings for community members will be scheduled at her office at the Courthouse.

Other business conducted at the meeting included a financial report given by new treasurer Brenda Hamby; announcements by Sandra Heatherley (Member Services) and Kathryn Oler (Voter Services); and a request to the Board by member Peggy Duran to consider support of a national campaign called "We're Still In," seeking signatures of Mayors, City and State Leaders, Businesses, Colleges/Universities, and others in support of the Paris Accord. She noted that LWVUS has a position on climate change.



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TODD HUNTER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 32

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Seven Constitutional Amendments on Ballot

When the 85th regular session of the Texas State Legislature ended on May 29, 2017, seven constitutional amendments were referred for placement on the November 7, 2017, ballot. Legislative records show 156 constitutional amendments were proposed but only about 4.5% were accepted.

The amendments, if approved by a majority of Texas voters, will become a part of the Texas State Constitution. The issues on the 2017 ballot include housing, banking, gambling, state executive officials, and taxes. The Texas Secretary of State's office will randomly assign each resolution a ballot number ahead of the election.

Below is a summary of the seven Constitutional Amendments that will appear on the November 2017 ballot.

House Joint Resolution 21

What will be on the ballot: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the Legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of part of the market value of the residence homestead of a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse of a partially disabled veteran if the residence homestead was donated to the disabled veteran by a charitable organization for less than the market value of the residence homestead and harmonizing certain related provisions of the Texas Constitution."

House Joint Resolution 37

What will be on the ballot: "The constitutional amendment relating to legislative authority to permit credit unions and other financial institutions to award prizes by lot to promote savings."

House Joint Resolution 100

What will be on the ballot: "The constitutional amendment on professional sports teams' charitable foundations conducting charitable raffles."

Senate Joint Resolution 1

What will be on the ballot: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the Legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the residence

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2017, Uniform Election
Tuesday, Oct. 10, Last Day To Register
Monday, Oct. 23, Early Voting begins
Friday, Nov. 3, Early Voting ends

Both the Texas Secretary of State's website, www.votetexas.gov, and the Nueces County website, www.co.nueces.tx.us, have indicated they will be posting information soon regarding the November 7, 2017, Uniform Election.

homestead of the surviving spouse of a first responder who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty."

Senate Joint Resolution 6

What will be on the ballot: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the Legislature to require a court to provide notice to the attorney general of a challenge to the constitutionality of a state statute and authorizing the Legislature to prescribe a waiting period before the court may enter a judgment holding the statute unconstitutional."

Senate Joint Resolution 34

What will be on the ballot: "The constitutional amendment limiting the service of certain officeholders appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate after the expiration of the person's term of office."

Senate Joint Resolution 60

What will be on the ballot: "The constitutional amendment to establish a lower amount for expenses that can be charged to a borrower and removing certain financing expense limitations for a home equity loan, establishing certain authorized lenders to make a home equity loan, changing certain options for the refinancing for home equity loans, changing the threshold for an advance of a home equity line of credit, and allowing home equity loans on agricultural homesteads."

Grant

From Page 1

tion, and when necessary, paying fees associated with obtaining a photo ID.

The LWV-CC board will submit a 2-3-page proposal for the project consistent with PAVP objectives. Intended coalition partners and outcomes will be identified. Proposals should be received by LWV-TEF no later than noon, September 11, 2017. Local Leagues will receive

notification of grant decisions no later than September 22, 2017. The final project report is due March 31, 2018.

League members who are active in other organizations or know of prospective coalition partners who have a similar interest in mitigating the impact of Texas voter photo ID laws are asked to contact League President Chris Garcia immediately at lwwpresident@lww-cc.org.

The Good News and Bad News About Fake News

By Debbie Noble, Director/Website-Social Media

The good news is that the ubiquitous Internet makes so much information so readily available at the click of a key. The bad news is also that the ubiquitous internet makes so much information so readily available at the click of a key.

Incredibly useful information like directions, movie times, restaurant menu options, and how to fix your washing machine can all be easily found with internet access on our phones. But we pay for that with headlines such as “Obama Bans National Anthem at Sporting Events” and “Pope Francis Endorses Donald Trump”

Gone are the days when one would peruse the local paper headlines over coffee in the morning and then watch a favorite and trusted anchorman on TV for 30 minutes before dinner at night.

We are bombarded by 24 hour cable channels and seemingly endless internet new reporting. News is no longer “Just the facts, Ma’am.” It is panel discussions and expert opinions on every aspect of everything that happens, will happen, could happen, or should have happened - all to fill air time and promote clicks. “Breaking News” chyrons (the electronic headlines racing across the bottom of your TV screen) have reached “boy crying wolf” “insignificance.

Added to this over abundance of information is the propagation of propaganda and Fake News. Fake news is the release through print, TV, radio, on-line, or social media of fabricated or false stories deliberately meant to mislead consumers for political or financial gain. Fake news is NOT simply news that you don’t like, don’t believe, or wish was not true. Bad news is not necessarily fake news.

The deliberate use of fake news is dangerous because its misinformation can cause the public to make important voting, purchasing, or investing decisions based on false assumptions and expectations. It can also erode the public trust of all sources of news and information, which makes it difficult for true journalism to report anything of value.

Incorrect news is also not necessarily fake news. A journalist who reports a story in good faith is not reporting fake news. True journalists correct or retract errors in reporting - there was no intent to mislead. In fact, they themselves may have been misled.

Information that is thought to be true at the time but later found to be incorrect is not fake news. Good journalists should not report on something one person

said off the record. They almost always require two or more trusted (by them, although possibly anonymous to us) sources before release.

Op eds or opinion editorials are often found in newspapers and magazines, and even on television news programs. They are not fake news. They are someone’s opinion, whether you agree with them or not.

We must now be responsible consumers of news. All of us. We must pick our news sources the same way we would pick a lawyer or a banker or a car repairman or a doctor. Just because someone says something on TV, writes it on the internet or publishes it in a newspaper or magazine does not make it true. If a headline looks too good to be true or verifies all your preconceived ideas, it probably isn’t true.

Now that it is the consumer’s responsibility to distinguish between opinions, factual stories, fake news, and misinformation, here are a few pointers:

1. Look for people or sources with actual backgrounds in journalism. Do not follow people just because they seem to have an audience. Anyone can start a blog, a website, self-publish a book, or appear on TV.

2. Look for other trusted sources to corroborate. Google facts and numbers and people to help confirm stories. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Don’t be fooled by news that you want to be true.

3. When people are quoted, look at the actual source, email, speech, press release or transcript to see the quote in context. Much of fake news is created by taking comments out of context and making them seem like something they are not. Our own Texas governor gleefully tweeted that “Hillary hates everyday Americans!” from a leaked email. (It turns out they were discussing specific wording for campaign slogans when read in context.)

4. You can help prevent the spread of fake news by not blindly sharing articles on social media or through email. Just because someone you know (and presumably trust) has posted an article on Facebook does not mean that the article is true. I have talked to many people who share stories without even reading them because the headline confirmed their bias. Headlines are often written to induce you to click further, where you may even find out that the story itself refutes the headline. Don’t be tricked into clicking. Those enticing headlines are meant to generate advertising revenue, not to inform the general public. Don’t share unless you are sure.

For more information:

<http://www.politifact.com/punditfact/article/2017/apr/20/politifacts-guide-fake-news-websites-and-what-they/>

Look What's Keeping the League Busy This Fall!

As always, your League has “hit the deck running” with a variety of mission-related activities to be addressed in the months ahead. Give a quick read to the following and let League officers know how you would like to be involved.

High School Voter Registration Campaign

You may already know that qualified students in Texas high schools have a variety of options to register to vote, including through their high school principal. Texas law has a unique provision that requires high school principals, or their designees, to serve as a voter registrar. But LWV-TX and organizations at the state level who monitor the requirement have found that some principals are either not aware of the requirement to offer voter registration or haven't been able, for whatever reason, to make the time and commitment to do so. LWV-CC wants to help!

LWV-Corpus Christi began focusing on high school student voter registration more than a year ago, with League President Mary Jane Garza and Voter Registration Chair Ruth Falck establishing contact with school superintendents through the Education Service Center. Some success was achieved...and even last week, Ruth received a last-minute call from the Robstown ISD to handle voter

registration for employees, which she cheerfully did!

This year, LWV-CC is again committed to reach out to high school principals throughout Nueces County and let them know that the League would like to partner with them to make voter registration a reality. And there's more! Our Voter Services team would like to go a step further---offer to speak to various high school classes to stress the importance of voting.

Students may register if they are a U.S. citizen and have reached the age of 17 years and 10 months. To vote in an election, a Texan must be 18 years old by Election Day. In addition to students, school employees can also be registered by their principals or their designees.

The Office of the Texas Secretary of State is responsible for mailing information to high school principals and school district superintendents reminding them of the obligation and providing instructions. Principals with questions about their obligation to serve as a registrar can call 1-800-252-VOTE for details.

The League plans to provide information at an upcoming Corpus Christi ISD school board meeting to remind school officials that LWV-CC is available and eager to assist high school principals in meeting their obligation to register high school students.



League member Carla Gardiner helps a prospective voter complete an application at the League's table at the August 4 ArtWalk at La Retama Park downtown. Carla was joined by Chris Garcia for the first shift from 5-7 p.m. Ruth Falck and Dr. Jim Klein worked the 7-9 p.m. shift.

On-Going Presence at ArtWalk— First Friday of the Month

For over two years, LWV-CC has manned a voter registration table at ArtWalk, an event held downtown at La Retama Park (Peoples and Mesquite Streets) on the first Friday of the month from 5-9 p.m..

The free event is sponsored by the Downtown Management District, with several dozen art vendors and community organizations gathered in a two-block area to sell their wares or visit with attendees. Add some really special entertainment (local bands, belly dancers or other dance groups, and more) and tasty food sold by various local food trucks, and you've got a memorable evening.

Your League volunteers are friendly, passionate about the League, and eager to visit with the folks who pass by our table. With the question “are you registered to vote?,” volunteers spring into action with friendly banter and an invitation to sit down and fill out the simple application. Our deputized voter registrars review the application, then make a promise to the applicant to turn in the application in person at the Nueces County Court House.

It's a fun evening, and you are invited to sign up to help! Upcoming ArtWalks are scheduled Friday, Sept. 1; Friday, Oct. 6; and Friday, Nov. 3. There's plenty of parking, but if you are wary about the aspect of driving downtown and securing a parking place, give Ruth Falck or others on our Voter Services team a call. Carpooling might be a great option!

HATS OFF TO OUR VOTER SERVICES TEAM

Through August 8, LWV-CC has registered 60 voters! That's the word from Ruth Falck, League member and Voter Registration chair, who keeps track of the numbers.

Here's a recap of recent activity:

Robstown ISD, 13 (faculty); August 4 ArtWalk, 8; and Del Mar College Harvin Center, 39 (new students enrolling for the Fall semester)

Events coming up which will increase the August total include the Saturday, August 12, CCPD Safety First community fair at the American Bank Center, and the Saturday, August 19, health fair at Miller High School, coordinated by Lead First, a local foundation dedicated to helping at-risk youngsters.

If you are a recently deputized Voter Registrar and want

to assist the League with its voter registration efforts, give Ruth a call at 548-2615 and add your name to her "I want to help" list. She often gets last-minute requests to conduct voter registration and could use your help.

Don't forget...if you have been registering voters in other venues not associated with the League, please let Ruth know your total of voters registered so we can record those numbers.

Tuesday, Oct. 10, is the deadline for voters to be registered in order to vote in the November 7 election which will include constitutional amendments (see story on Page 6.

Thanks to these volunteers who have committed time and energy this month: Carla Gardiner, Chris Garcia, Ruth Falck, Dr. Jim Klein, Margareta Fratila, Peggy Duran, Can Alemdar, Joan Veith, and Anna.

LWV-Texas Accepting Nominations for 2018-2020 Board

The Nominating Committee of LWV-Texas, elected at the 2016 state convention in Houston, is soliciting nominations from interested League members across the state who want to be considered for a two-year term of service on the state board.

State board positions include president, several vice presidents with varying portfolios, secretary, treasurer, and directors. Representation from around the state is a goal of the Nominating Committee, chaired by Ruthann Geer, a former state president.

"Serving on the state board is a terrific experience," said LWV-CC President Chris Garcia, who served for

six years from 2010-2016 in various leadership roles. "I learned so much about the League and how state activities are accomplished and enjoyed working with the other 12 members. Also it was the first time in many years that South Texas was represented on the Board."

The board meets four times a year in Austin to address key business items focused on the League's mission, but Board members do complete most of their assigned responsibilities through committee work handled by email or phone calls."

The nomination form below should be completed and returned to LWV-Texas at 1212 Guadalupe St., #107, Austin, TX 78701-1800.

Nominee Recommendation Form

Date _____

I would like to nominate myself or the following person for a position on the 2018-2020 LWV-TEXAS Board of Directors.

(Self-nominations are welcomed.)

First and Last Name: _____

Local League: _____

Contact Information _____

Mailing Address _____
(include city and zip code)

Home Telephone (include area code)

_____ Work Telephone _____

E-mail Address _____

League offices held and/or committees chaired:

Special skills/interests:

Other comments supporting the nomination:
(If more space needed, please attach separate sheet)



The League of Women Voters
 Corpus Christi, Texas
 PO Box 8276
 Corpus Christi, TX 78468

It's Time to Renew Your Membership in the League!



LWV-Corpus Christi Area New Member/Renewal Application

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

Date _____

Type of membership: New _____ Renewal _____

- Sustaining Member, \$100
- Individual Member, \$60
- Household Member, \$90 (2 individuals at same address)
- Student Member (age 16 and older), \$30
- Friend of the League, \$30 (non-voting)

Name _____

Household Member's Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City and Zip Code _____

E-Mail Address _____

Home Phone _____

Cell Phone _____

LWV-CC depends on member interest and participation to help meet the League's mission. Please mark one or more areas of interest:

- Voter Services/Voter Registration
- Investigating Issues
- Organizing Candidate/Issue Forums
- Membership Development
- Communicating with Media
- Observing Meetings of Governmental Entities (Observer Corps)
- Advocating for Issues
- Advertising in The VOTER
- Facilitating Community Dialogues
- Participating in "Lobby Days" in Austin during legislative session
- Networking

Please return this form with your payment (check or money order) to:
 League of Women Voters-CC
 PO Box 8276
 Corpus Christi, TX 78468

or
 you can pay your dues online at the League's website: www.lwv-cc.org.
 Membership is from June 1 - May 31.