



# The VOTER

May 2017

League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi

## Annual Meeting Set Thursday, May 18; Join Us!

League members are cordially invited and encouraged to attend the 72nd Annual Meeting of LWV-CC, which is scheduled Thursday, May 18, at the Del Mar College Center for Economic Development.

The meeting will begin at 11:30 a.m., and a box lunch will be available for purchase. A quorum of at least 1/5 of the membership (about 30 current members) is required to conduct business.

Sandra Heatherley, current VP for Voter Services, will preside in the absence of President Dr. Mary Jane Garza. The agenda for the League's Annual Meeting includes election of officers to serve 2017-2019; adoption of the proposed budget for 2017-2018; and approval of proposed Bylaws amendments. All three action items are featured in this VOTER on Pages 4-6.

Please reserve your box lunch (at \$10 each; guest \$15) if you want one by calling Sandra at 361-876-4321 or sending email to SHeatherle@cs.com.

Please come to the Annual Meeting!

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Thank You for the Past Two Years— LWV-CC Members are Action-Oriented



Dr. Mary Jane Garza

May is the month when Leagues around the country ready themselves for their Annual Meetings. Our Bylaws require that we send notice of the Budget Committee's proposed budget, the Nominating Committee's slate of officers and directors for the next year, the Program Committee's proposed program for next year, and the Bylaws Committee's suggestions on changes to the Bylaws. We do a lot of our work via committees...a true grass-roots organization.

As a true grassroots, democratic organization, we come together on Thursday, May 18, 2017 to decide the League's direction from June 2017 through May 2018. By participating, we are empowered to address our mission statement. We demonstrate the power of our mission statement at every LWV-CC Meeting. Our mission statement has three key verbs: "***Educate, Inform, and Advocate.***"

The League believes that our goal should be to educate voters on how to get the best sources for information to make the best decisions. League members have worked tirelessly this past year to provide a variety of activities, resources, and travel opportunities to enhance our knowledge and influence. So, you may ask, what have we accomplished as the LWV-CC.

LWV-CC members have:

1. Increased membership from June 1, 2017-April 30, 2017 to a record high of **144 members**.
2. Hosted three LWV-CC Forums that had standing room only.
3. Published VOTERS Guides for November 2016 and for May 2017
4. Participated in the on-line VOTE411.

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## LWV MISSION STATEMENT

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan, political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose candidates or parties.

The VOTER May 2017

## FROM THE PRESIDENT... (continued from page 1)

5. Registered over 3,000 new Voter Registrants prior to the November 2016 General Election.
6. Eight members attended Lobby Days in Austin, in January 2017.
7. Members were invited to attend 10 events in support of various organizations at no expense to the budget.
8. Worked in collaboration with Nueces County Clerk Kara Sands and City Secretary Rebecca Huerta in preparation for the November 2016 General Election and the May 2017 Special Election.
9. Spoke in support of VOTE Centers
10. Hosted a variety of monthly programs that addressed state and local issues.
11. Financial picture has improved since May 2016.
12. LWV-CC Executive Board Members have contributed door prizes and contributed/acquired donations of over \$5,000 to assist in publishing VOTE411, Voters Guides, defray monthly members box lunches, host December Holiday Meeting, etc.
13. League participated in a pilot program to “GET OUT the VOTE.” October-November 2016.
14. Published a monthly LWV-CC VOTER that was distributed via email and published limited copies.

Due to LWV-CC Members participation, much has been accomplished. Now, I say “THANK YOU” for allowing me to be your president for the last two years. It has been a privilege along with it being a responsibility.

These past two years have been challenging. Life happens and unexpected circumstances cause executive board members and members not to be able to participate to the degree they had planned. The wonder of our organization is that members step forward and assist.

I thank each member who has contributed ideas, attended luncheons, banquets, participated in Lobby Days in Austin, registered voters, assisted with forums, published the monthly VOTER, Voters Guides, and most important attended our LWV-CC monthly meetings.

None of this would have been possible without the tireless dedication of my LWV-CC Executive Board Team.

Please join me in showing much appreciation and recognition for them —*Sandra Heatherley, Mary K. Fant, Debbie Noble, and Irene Longoria.*

Best wishes and continue to “Educate, Inform, and Advocate.”

-- Dr. Mary Jane Garza

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## Welcome, New Members!

Melody Cooper

## Thanks to These Renewing Members for 2017-2018

Leah Pagan Olivarri  
Robert & Bobbie Wood-Hughes



## Time To Renew Your Membership

The League’s membership year is June 1 through May 31, and you are invited and encouraged to renew your membership in the coming weeks. In fact, if you are planning to attend the Annual Meeting on May 18, you may pay your membership dues then. If you prefer to wait until the date closer to your anniversary renewal date, please complete the renewal form on Page 6 of this VOTER and attach your payment to it before mailing to the League at PO Box 8276, Corpus Christi, TX 78468. You may also pay on-line at [www.lwv-cc.org](http://www.lwv-cc.org).

The League has an all-time high membership of 144 members, and the League’s goal is to maintain and grow that number this coming year.

If you are a new member who joined the League after January 31, 2017, your membership extends to May 31, 2018. However, if you joined between spring 2016 and January 31, 2017, your membership dues are due!

**It’s time to renew your membership!**

# Forum Draws Large Crowd

## LWV-CC holds mayoral candidate forum

The public had an opportunity to meet Corpus Christi's mayoral candidates in person Thursday, April 20, 2017, at a forum hosted at City Hall by the League. Each of the eight candidates for mayor gave an opening statement before answering questions about why they believe they're the right person for the job and how they'd tackle some of the key issues facing the city. "This was a very important election," said Mary Jane Garza, League President. "We needed to make sure that Corpus Christi voters were well informed and encouraged to vote."

A sincere thanks to all the volunteers who helped make the forum successful.



League President Dr. Mary Jane Garza (r) with forum moderators Carla Gardiner, League member, and Terry Mills, NAACP; below, mayoral candidates seated on dais.



Thanks to Debbie Noble and Chris Garcia for taking these photos for use in The Voter



Large crowd is on hand in Council Chambers to meet, hear candidates



Rebecca Huerta, City Secretary, shares information with the audience about the election process



Interested listener takes notes



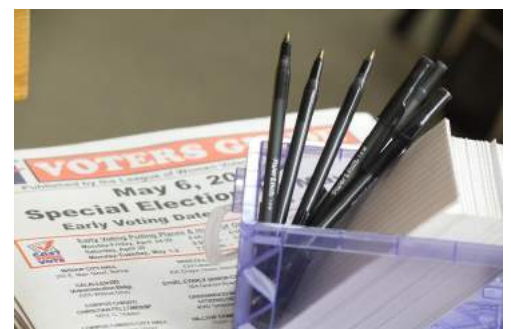
Irene Longoria, Anne Stewart, Brenda Hamby, three of the more than a dozen League helpers who helped at the forum



Kara Sands, Nueces County Clerk, talks about early voting, Vote Centers



Sue Williams and Linda K. Snider are veteran timekeepers



Pens, notecards, and Voters Guides available for the audience

## PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2017-2018

Proposed Budget for 2017-2018 from Budget Committee (Mary K. Fant, chair; Anne Stewart, Maria Jimenez, Chris Garcia, Dr. Mary Jane Garza). At the Annual Meeting, each line item will be fully explained, and questions and discussion will be welcomed. Adoption of a 2017-18 proposed budget will be an action item at the Annual Meeting.

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Per Member Membership	\$7410
Sustainer's gifts	520
Friends of the League	150
Monthly luncheons	2400
2018 Annual Meeting	675
Special Events/Fundraising	6050
Silent Auction proceeds	1000
Advertising in The Voter	600
Community Support	500
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$19,305</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Per Member Dues to State	\$2721
Per Member Dues to National	3952
PO Box Rental	112
Admin/Supplies	300
Voter Services publications	2000
Voter Registration Events	500
Printing	600
2017-2018 Fundraising	4025
Annual Meeting	675
Monthly luncheons	2040
Leadership Training	1000
Holiday Social	400
Transfer to Savings	980
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$19,305</b>

## Report from the 2016-2017 Nominating Committee

The 2016-17 Nominating Committee, chaired by Dr. Matilda Saenz with members Eva Brown, Sandra Heatherley, Mary K. Fant, and Dr. Tammy Donaldson, has submitted the report below to President Dr. Mary Jane Garza in preparation for the 2017 Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 18.

Please note there is a key vacancy on the slate--VP Voter Services. Nominations will be accepted from the floor for VP Voter Services as well as all other positions. The individuals listed below have agreed to serve if elected. Election of officers will be an action item at the Annual Meeting.

**President (two-year term): Chris Davis Garcia**

**VP Program (one-year unexpired term): Maria Jimenez & Peggy Banales, Co-VPs**

**VP Member Services (one-year unexpired term): Sandra Heatherley**

**VP Voter Services (two-year term): Vacant**

(Ruth Falck has agreed to chair Voter Registration activities but does not want the VP position which would also oversee Candidate Forums and Voters Guides)

**Treasurer (two-year term): Brenda Hamby**

**Secretary (one-year unexpired term): Can (John) Alemdar**

**At-Large Director (two-year term): Dr. Tammy Donaldson**

**Director-Media/Communications (one-year unexpired term): Mary K. Fant & Melody Cooper, Co-Directors**

**Director-Webmaster (two-year term): Debbie Noble**

**Nominating Committee Chair, 2017-2018 (one-year term):**

**Anne Stewart; non-Board members Linda K. Snider, Rebecca Huerta**

**NOTE to members on vacant position of VP Voter Services:**

Voter Services is the League's priority because it oversees not only voter registration activities but also plans and helps coordinate Candidate Forums, oversees the printed Voters Guides, and is responsible for the VOTE 411 electronic guide in which candidates input their own responses to the League's questions. If you would like to consider being VP-Voter Services, please call Dr. Matilda Saenz at 214-240-5655 to discuss your interest and ask additional questions on the scope of work involved. On-the-job training is available!

# Proposed Bylaws Amendments

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

## 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 local and state Leagues of their place of joining and of the LWVUS;

## ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

### Section 3: The Vice Presidents

At the Board meeting following the election of officers, the Board of Directors shall designate a vice president who shall, in the absence, death or resignation of the president, possess all the powers to perform all the duties of that office.

In the event this vice president is unable to serve in this capacity, the Board of Directors shall elect one of its elected members to fill this vacancy. The vice presidents shall perform such other duties as the president and the Board shall designate.

The vice presidents shall have responsibilities for the following portfolios:

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

### Section 4: The Elected Directors

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

### Section 6: The Treasurer

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

## ARTICLE V – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Section 3: Vacancies and Removal

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

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

### Section 6: Quorum

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

### Section 7. Indemnification and Limitation of Liability

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



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



**LWV-Corpus Christi 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Household Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to receive mail at home or work *(Please circle your preference)*

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**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](http://www.lwv-cc.org). Membership is from June 1 - May 31.**

**PROPOSED  
 AMENDMENTS  
 TO LEAGUE BYLAWS  
 (Continued from Page 5)**

**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.*

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 on FACEBOOK**

