



The VOTER

August 2016

League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi

Come to the August 18 Monthly Meeting!

SPEAKERS

You are invited!



Michael Bergsma
Republican County Chair



Kara Sands
Nueces County Clerk

Date: Thursday, August 18, 2016

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Place: Del Mar College Center for Economic Development
3209 S.Staples Street (corner of Kostoryz & S. Staples)
Room 118

Topic: Voter Centers

**RSVP by August 15 if you would like a \$10 Box Lunch.
Call 361-445-4436 to make your reservation.**



Jennifer Ellis
Democratic County
Chair



Nuri Rodriguez
Nueces County
Voter Registration

Voter Registrar Training Set

August 2016

Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) Training Opportunity

The first opportunity for Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) training will be Thursday, **August 18 at 1:30 pm** at Del Mar College Economic Development Center, Room 118. Nuri Rodriguez, Voter Registration Office at Nueces County, will conduct the training.

VDRs are those awesome superheroes who give you those voter registration forms and help people register to vote. With a presidential election coming up in November, it will be more important than ever to make sure as many citizens are registered as possible!

Please join us to be trained to be a volunteer deputy registrar. Just bring yourself and a friend, and we'll take care of the rest! This entire event will last about 30 minutes, so you'll be in and out. Help us get out the vote this fall.

Contact Sandra Heatherley at sheatherle@cs.com for further information.

Thanks for helping us **MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK!**



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.

President's Message



Dr. Mary Jane Garza
LWV-CC President

August—Educating and Empowering the VOTER-CELEBRATIONS!

The LWV-CC is gearing up for several important months and significant activities. Celebrations, recognitions, study groups, forums, and our very important and informative monthly meetings.

Executive Board monthly meetings focus on remembering our mission statement and asking, “How do we enhance our service to our membership?” Reminding ourselves to educate, inform, and advocate. Celebrating our history and the significance of the “**Right to Vote!**” in the United States. ***So is this not worth celebrating!***

This past July 4th, our nation celebrated the official anniversary of when the 13 colonies declared independence from Britain in 1776. It marked the 240th year of America’s independence--an historic day to remember and value its importance. ***So is this not worth celebrating!***

On August 26, our nation celebrates the ***Women’s Equality Day*** for the 96th time. In four years, we will celebrate the centennial of this historic day recognizing the ratification of the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote and to full citizenship for the very first time. LWV-CC will celebrate this important historical date on August 25. ***Watch for details this coming week.***

Many fearless dedicated men and women suffered jail time, physical assaults by the police and spectators (at demonstrations), and insults during this struggle that lasted over seven decades. It was in 1971 that Congress by resolution designated this day as “***Women’s Equality Day***,” due to the efforts of Congresswoman Bella Abzug (D-NY). This designation recognized the many sacrifices made by these courageous women and men to achieve this ratification. ***So is this not worth celebrating!***

The League of Women Voters founded by Carrie Chapman Catt, President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1920, during its convention that was held six months before the ratification; who stated that the vote was the “***emblem of equality***” for all citizens, men and women. ***So is this not worth celebrating!***

This year, in the state of Texas, we have the opportunity to change history in 2016 General Election in voter participation. 24/7 Wall St. reviewed average voter turnout rates over the past four presidential election cycles in every state. Voter participation ranged from approximately three-quarters of eligible Minnesota residents, the highest nationwide, to half of potential voters in Hawaii, the lowest voter turnout rate in the country.

So where did Texas rank, “***An average of just about 55% of the Texas electorate managed to make it to the polls in the last four presidential contests. Voter turnout was even lower in the Lone Star State in the midterm elections. Participation bottomed out in November 2014, when only 34.6% of the state electorate made it to the polls.***”*

The new voter ID guidance will increase voter participation in the state of Texas, and the Voter Center will increase voter participation in Nueces County. The August 18 League meeting will provide attendees an overview of the application process and the proposed Voter Center locations. ***So is this not worth celebrating!***

Voter Registration opportunities are increasing weekly, and Ruth Falck and Sandra Heatherley are registering new Voters daily. Candidates Forums have been scheduled for October and VOTE411 is being prepared. ***So is this not worth celebrating!***

The LWV-CC, in addition to preparing for the 2016 General Election, is also working on a very important study entitled, “***Study Looks at Potential for Lead in Our Communities’ Drinking Water.***” Sally Clark Farris, committee coordinator, has an important article in this issue. The committee’s goal is to report to our membership and public that our water is lead free due to our city’s reliable and fail safe system, and if not recommending educating the public. ***So is this not worth celebrating!***

Join us at the August 18 meeting. If you have not had an opportunity to renew or join LWV-CC, join us in “Making Democracy Work” and join us in the celebrating! Join LWV-CC <http://www.lwv-cc.org/JoinRenewOnline.html>

* <http://247wallst.com/special-report/2016/02/04/voter-turnout-in-each-state/>

National and State League News



Chris Carson
LWVUS President

Details About National Convention Actions

If you are interested in learning more about what transpired at the LWVUS Convention this past June, here are some links. At the LWVUS Convention, delegates:

- Adopted the national program for 2016-2018, Campaign for Making Democracy Work, as proposed <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/proposed-2016-2018-lwvus-program>
- Adopted two bylaws amendments that removed the citizenship requirement for League membership and reduced the age requirement to 16 years old.
- Adopted the proposed LWVUS budget <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/proposed-2016-2018-lwvus-and-lwvef-budgets>
- Elected a new president and board of directors. <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/nominations-2016-2018>
- Approved six resolutions: two on gun safety, one on statehood for the District of Columbia, and three on climate change. <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/2016ResolutionsReport>
- Adopted New LWVUS Position on Behavioral Health, by concurrence with LWV Colorado. This new position is consistent with the LWVC position. <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/notice-intent-lwvus-board-propose-concurrence-behavioral-health>

Visit the LWV National website <http://lwv.org/>

LWV-TX Response to Voter ID Development

By Elaine Wiant

I am very excited to report that the Attorney General's Office and the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals have moved at lightning speed to come up with an acceptable solution on new voter ID guidance for Texans. Federal District Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos is expected to sign the agreed order with new procedures for the November 2016 election. We applaud the decision of the Attorney General of Texas to agree to these very sensible procedures.

On July 20, the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans ruled that the Texas voter photo ID law violates the Voting Rights Act because of its racially discriminatory effects. At that time, the Fifth Circuit suggested an option to permit voter registration cards as an acceptable ID for voting be included in the new guidance. The League of Women Voters of Texas supported this remedy.

We are very pleased that the proposed procedures include allowing those on the

voter rolls who don't have one of the accepted photo IDs to use one of the following:

- a voter registration certificate,
- a birth certificate,
- a current utility bill,
- a bank statement,
- a government check,
- a paycheck, or
- "any other government document that displays the voter's name and address."

The voter will also need to sign a "reasonable impediment declaration," but will then be permitted to vote using a regular ballot.

It is also very important to note that:

- Election officials can't question you about using one of the other types of ID.
- Poll watchers may never question any voter about voter ID issues!
- The address on your ID does not have to match your voter registration address!

Another victory for Texas voters!



Elaine Wiant
LWV-TX President

"LWV-TX has updated the Voter ID page on its website and will update other LWV voting materials soon. League presidents also will receive additional information on the new voter ID procedures."

New Local League Study Looks at Potential for Lead in Our Communities' Drinking Water

By Sally Clark Farris
Study Committee Coordinator

The LWV-CC has commissioned a study group, charged to explore potential for lead contamination in our communities' drinking water supply. With 100 % participation, the group met for the first time on July 25, 2016, an expeditious two weeks after appointment.

Lead is a useful, but toxic metal. During its 3,000 year history, lead has proven to be flexible, resistant to corrosion, almost limitless in its applications, and in the case of European roofs, endurable for 200-300 years.

In Flint, Michigan, neglected lead service pipes poisoned the city's children. Conventional wisdom within the water supply industry now holds that Flint is indeed the canary in a coal mine, and Flint is typical of yet unmanifested problems for other cities across the country. The local league wondered if Corpus Christi could be one of those "other" cities.

The Flint experience demonstrated regulatory, political, and industry failures at all levels of responsibility. Flint's citizenry trusted favorable regulatory reports, to its detriment.

The Flint story struck a particular cord with the local league on account of the City of Corpus Christi's recent failures to protect our system from bacteria risks. Being without safe water compromised hygiene, closed businesses, and enraged residents.

The school district paid \$15,000 for bottled products.

The committee begins its study with testing reports pertaining to samples taken at residence taps in Corpus Christi. These City generated samples have consistently resulted in reports that the metal is within legal limits and health guidelines.

On its face, that is a good beginning. Yet, critics within industry and EPA are warning that conventional testing procedures fall short and that action levels for lead are unrealistic. Action levels ought to be lower.

Even an otherwise indifferent Congress became alarmed when it discovered lead in drinking water piped to some legislators' offices.

As a result, Congress is calling for actionable levels of lead in tap water to be lowered from 15 to 10 parts per billion. While a low level of lead is *legal* for drinking water, no amount of lead is considered actually safe in either drinking water or in the blood of a child.

Yet, legal and health guidelines do not require action until certain thresholds are crossed.

By July 25th, the study committee had accomplished introductions, received its first 10 assignments, made several partial reports, and circulated a complete report written by Lois Huff on replacement line programs in Boston, MS; Lansing, MI; and Madison, WS.

Immediate inquiries will eventually conclude whether or not Corpus Christi still has lead service lines in use. Lead risks are supposed to persist in fittings and plumbing fixtures.

The committee's hope is to be able to report to the community that we have a reliable and failsafe system in place to keep our drinking water lead free.

If we cannot make that finding, the committee may be able to make recommendations for a community education program to protect our most vulnerable populations of infants, children, and pregnant women.

VOTER REGISTRAR
800-687-8646 / 972-547-1990
2010 REDBUD BLVD., SUITE 102
MCKINNEY, TX 75069
www.collincountytx.gov

Secretary of State's Office
Elections Division
1-800-352-VOTE (8683)

2016 - 2017 Sample

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE
(Certificado de Registro Electoral)
COLLIN COUNTY (condado de Collin)

CONGRESS (Congreso)	STATE SEN (Sen. Estado)	STATE REP (Rep. Estado)	COM	JP
CITY (Ciudad)	CITY DIST (Ciudad dist.)	ISD (Escuela)	ISD DIST (Escuela dist.)	SBOE

Valid in this party Primary
(Válido en esta primaria)

Name and Permanent Residence Address
(Nombre y dirección residencial permanente)

Voter, John Q.
1234 Street
City Name, Tx 75024

Name and Mailing Address (Nombre y dirección de correo)

John Q. Voter
1234 Street
City Name, Tx 75024

X

VOTER MUST PERSONALLY SIGN REGISTRATION RECEIPT UPON RECEIPT, IF ABLE.
(El Votante debe firmar esta tarjeta personalmente al momento de recibirla, si es capaz.)

All voters in Nueces County and throughout Texas who are registered to vote in the November election will have a blue Voter Registration Certificate.

LWV-CC Gets Ready for Election Season

While the candidate names appearing on the Nov. 8 ballot are set from the County perspective, others individuals seeking election to local schools boards, the Corpus Christi City Council, and the Del Mar College Board of Regents have a filing deadline approaching later this month.



Once the filing date is met, the League's Voter Services team will correspond with all candidates to invite them to the October candidate forums and to seek their answers to specific questions posed by the League to each candidate group. The answers will be published in VOTE 411 and the Voters Guide. Here are some important dates to remember:

**The Next Uniform Election Date
is Thursday, November 8, 2016**

**Last Day to Register to Vote
Tuesday, October 11, 2016**

**First Day of Early Voting
Monday, October 24, 2016**

**Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail
Friday, October 28, 2016**

**Last Day of Early Voting
Friday, November 4, 2016**

LWV-CC Shines



Joyce Jarmon

Joyce Hope Jarmon is celebrating her 100th birthday this month. She is a LWV-CC lifetime member and has been actively involved in League activities since the early 1950s. Her sharp mind and wit have endeared her to her fellow League members.



LWV-CC congratulates Joyce for her contributions to the League as well as to our community.



National Membership Changes

LWVUS has announced two Membership changes effective for all Leagues. The changes are reflected in Bylaws amendments adopted at the LWVUS Convention this past summer:

- one that removes the citizenship requirement and
- one that reduces the age requirement from 18 years old to 16 years old.

These changes are required to be reflected in the bylaws of all local Leagues immediately.



LWV-CC EXECUTIVE BOARD---Thank you to the League's Executive Board for providing leadership. The officers meet monthly to plan and help coordinate meetings, activities, and projects. Pictured attending the July Board meeting are (l-r) Dr. Mary Jane Garza, Irene Longoria, Sandra Heatherley, Ruth Falck, Mary Kay Fant, Sally Farris, and Elena Buentello. Not pictured is Debbie Noble who snapped this photo!

League of Women Voters
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**Save the Date: Tuesday,
 Sept. 27, 2016**
National Voter Registration Day
nationalvoterregistrationday.org

NUECES COUNTY SITES
Del Mar College
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
Coastal Compass
(other sites will be added)

Plan to volunteer to help register new voters!
Your support is sincerely appreciated.

A Bacteria Reduction Plan for Bay Water

By Sally Farris, Community Member

In June, the long awaited CARP (Cole and Ropes Parks) plan to help reduce bacteria in bay water next to Cole and Ropes Parks began circulation to gather support from civic organizations.

Our League of Women Voters responded, providing a favorable letter to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Two members of LWV-CC serve on the Plan committee, as homeowner representatives, already devoting four years of effort to make the Plan a reality. The problem is seen in two phantom- like plumes that appear in the waters at Cole and Ropes Parks after a heavy rain. But, that's just the visual part of the problem.

Background. Beginning in April, 2012, TCEQ sponsored a series of public meetings to address elevated levels of bacteria in bay waters receiving storm water from outfalls at Cole and Ropes Parks. These problem segments include the beach areas at the parks. And, the segments had been designated by the US Environmental Protection Agency to join other polluted waters on the national 303(d) impaired waters list, bodies unfit for recreational use in violation of the federal Clean Water Act.

Community Response. In June 2012, attendees at the third public meeting elected permanent stakeholder participants. These elected members collaborated in work groups, studying alternatives and sources, to devise a bacteria reduction Plan. Sally Farris was elected to fill the homeowners' slot, and she in turn chose Sandra Heatherley to serve as her first alternate. Sally has a background in environmental law; Sandra, in microbiology. The group dubbed themselves CARP, in honor of Cole and Ropes Parks, then signed a written agreement pledging their continued work and plan review into the future in additional five (5) year increments. The current Plan was finalized in March, 2016.

Action. The first action urged by the Plan is to "source track," a process for classifying the DNA of the problem bacteria. What we know about high levels of enterococcus, the indicator organism, is that it ordinarily comes from many sources, including domestic animals, wildlife, and humans. Where enterococcus is high, pathogens tend to be present. The CARP is finding money for more testing to pinpoint the exact identity of the bacteria to reveal its source, i.e., the human or animal that produces it. We need to know exactly where the bacteria comes from so we don't waste money on ineffective solutions. There's strong suspicion that bacteria elevations are high on account of leakage from the sewer system.

Council Consideration. The Plan was to be discussed at a Corpus Christi City Council meeting on Tuesday, August 9.

If you have an interest in safe recreational bay water, please let Sally and Sandra know and follow this issue closely.



WELCOME, New Members

Rebecca Brackett
Janice Bray
Natalie Garza

WELCOME, Renewing Members

Rose Garza
Augie and Julianna Rivera,
Household
Maria and Nick Jimenez,
Household
Colleen Johnson
Ann Smith
Anne Stewart
Judy Telge

*** 93 members to date
4 Lifetime Members
9 Sustaining Members
11 Households (22 Members)
57 (Primary Members)
1 Student



2016 LWV-CC Membership Directory

LWV-CC will publish a 2016-2017 Membership Directory. The directory will be distributed at the League's December 2016 Holiday Celebration Meeting.

LEAGUE CALENDAR

AUGUST

Wednesday, August 17, 2016 9AM, 2nd Floor, County Courthouse,
LWV-CC Proclamation, Nueces County Commissioners Court
Tuesday, August 23--11:30 AM, Corpus Christi City Council Chambers,
LWV-CC Proclamation

SEPTEMBER

Thursday, Sept. 15 - Monthly Meeting/Luncheon; Del Mar College Center for
Economic Development, 11:30 a.m. (see story on Page 1)
Tuesday, Sept. 27 - National Voter Registration Day (see story on Page 6)

OCTOBER

Thursday, Oct.13, and Thursday, Oct.20, Candidate Forums planned at City
Hall; evening sessions.

LWV-TX VIDEOS

LWV-TX and local chapters are making videos and sharing for our members' use. The first two videos are for League members and the third is a one-minute introduction to the League.



1. [Three Things YOU Can Do on Facebook!](#) features LWV-TX board member Amber Briggie from Denton explaining how you can use your Facebook page to Make Democracy Work in Texas!
2. [GOTV Action Program](#) features Grace Chimene of LWV-Austin Area with information on the Be A Texas Voter program and the resources available to Get Out the Vote in Texas this fall!
3. [League of Women Voters of Texas](#) is a video you will want to share with your friends and colleagues and use for a quick introduction to the League when you make presentations.

You can see all of these and the LWV-TX voter education videos on our [YouTube page](#). Please share these far and wide and use them for your LWV community presentations. People love these videos!

You can watch the LWV-TX Social Media webinar by clicking on the link below.

<https://meet69445548.adobeconnect.com/p6tp8zlis48/>



AUGUST ART WALK--At the August 5 Art Walk, League members manned a voter registration table. (Above) Jessica Sachanowicz completes a voter registration form. Upcoming Art Walks are set on the first Friday evening of each month, sponsored by the Downtown Management District. If you can help man the League's table, save these dates: September 2, October 7, November 4, and December 2. Call Ruth Falck or Sandra Heatherley to volunteer for a shift.

Voter Registration at the City's Mandela Day Celebration



Ruth Falck, Sandra Heatherley

VOTER SERVICES UPDATE

By Sandra Heatherley

In June and July, LWV-CC registered 260 voters at various venues such as the student orientation at TAMU-CC and Del Mar College as well as Art Walk and the Nelson Mandela Day celebration. Thanks to the efforts of our volunteer voter registrars including Peggy Duran, Debbie Noble, Sylvia Whitworth, Mary Jane Garza, Ruth Falck, Diana Stillman, and Irene Longoria, with assists from our friends in Delta Sigma Theta.

As National Voter Registration Day on September 27 approaches, we will need even more deputy registrars to assist. If you are interested in becoming deputized, please stay a few minutes after our Aug. 18 membership meeting and attend Nuri Rodriguez's session for deputy registrars! Together we can help Make Democracy Work!

2017 Lobby Days Announced by LWV-TX

At the summer meeting of the League of Women Voters of Texas, the State Board identified the dates of Monday and Tuesday, January 30-31, for 2017 Lobby Days.

League members throughout Texas are invited to join the Board in Austin to learn about legislative priorities, visit with Senate and House members serving their respective areas, and attend a special Monday evening event titled "Making Democracy Work."

Lobby Days usually draws about 60 League members who make their own appointments with their legislators. Advocacy position papers are provided and special speakers are invited to address League members on Monday afternoon so that meaningful conversation can be accomplished while Leaguers are at the state capitol Tuesday morning.

Once a hotel is selected by the State Board, local Leagues will be invited to make reservations for lodging if needed. Be watching for additional information this fall.

LWV-CC



PLEASE JOIN US AT THESE PRESENTATIONS!

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY IS OFFICIALLY FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

Nueces Commissioners Court

Wednesday, August 17, 2016: 9AM, 2nd Floor, Nueces County Courthouse

Corpus Christi City Council

Tuesday, August 23, 2016: 11:30 AM - Council Chambers



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



**DON'T DELAY, RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP
TODAY!**

The LWV-CC membership team will be mailing out membership renewal letters this month. When you receive yours, please return it at your earliest convenience. It's easy to join the LWV-CC...do it now! You will be glad you did. Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels: National, State, and Corpus Christi area. For more information, call the League at (361) 445-4436.

On-line <http://www.lwv-cc.org/JoinRenewOnline.html>

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.*

Work Address (Optional) _____

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

Date _____

Home Phone _____

Type of membership: New _____ Renewal _____

Work or Cell Phone _____

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

Fax Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

Name _____

**Please return this form with your payment
(check or money order) to:**

Household Member's Name _____

**League of Women Voters-CC
PO Box 8276 * Corpus Christi, TX 78468**

Mailing Address _____

Membership is from June 1 - May 31.

City and Zip Code _____