



The VOTER

January 2018

League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi

Membership Luncheon Set Thursday, January 18 *Presentation Set on 'Complete Streets'*

Please plan to attend the LWV-CC membership luncheon meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2018, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Del Mar College Center for Economic Development, 3209 S. Staples (Room 117). It's the League's first meeting of the new year, and you are cordially invited!

The program will introduce League members and guests to "Complete Streets," an approach that integrates people and place in the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of a city's transportation networks. Presenting

the program will be League member Elena Buentello and Andrew Dimas, both planners by profession. "Streets are a vital part of livable, attractive communities," Buentello said. "Everyone, regardless of age, ability, income, race, or ethnicity, ought to have safe, comfortable, and convenient access to community destinations and public places—whether walking, driving, bicycling, or taking public transportation. But too many of our streets across the nation, and in Corpus Christi, are designed only for speeding cars or creeping traffic jams."

Buentello will share information on the "Complete Streets" approach, what interest is evident by city leaders, and what concerns surround current policy and planning efforts geared toward accomplishing complete streets.

You can order a sandwich box lunch at \$10 each (sandwich on croissant, pickle, cookie, fruit, and water/soft drink) by calling the League phone at 445-4436 or emailing the League at lwvcorps_christi@gmail.com. Non-eaters are cordially welcomed to attend.

Voter Registration Day Recap

A big thanks to everyone who supported National Voter Registration Day in 2017!

The national sponsors tallied all the figures, and the final numbers reflected the following: 9,631 volunteers from 2,851 partners across the country participated and 124,290 new or updated voter registrations were verified. Both of these numbers far exceeded the national sponsors' original goals of 2,000 partners and 75,000 registrations.

Mark your calendars! The 2018 National Voter Registration Day will fall on Tuesday, September 25.

(Right) VISITING A SENIOR CENTER---As part of the League's activities to identify and assist voters who do not have a voter photo ID, League member Linda Snider visited the Lindale Senior Center and shared information with a local resident.



(See additional stories on the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) grant, page 3.)

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.

Important Announcements

Thursday, Feb. 15, is Date for LWV-CC Candidates Forum

Thursday evening, February 15, has been confirmed for the LWV-CC Candidates Forum for candidates who are opposed on the March 6 Primary ballot. The forum will be held from 6-9 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Corpus Christi City Hall, 1201 Leopard. The public is invited. A dozen or so League volunteers will be needed to accomplish various tasks, including greeting and signing in the candidates in the lobby, distributing index cards for audience-generated questions, helping at the moderators' table, serving as timekeepers, and changing out name cards on the dais. Please save the date and contact Kathryn Oler, VP Voter Services, at kathryn.oler@gmail.com if you can help

Join the Parade on February 10

If riding in the back of a pickup truck, throwing Mardi Gras beads at folks standing along a one-mile stretch of beach on North Padre Island, and helping the League be visible sound like fun, let us know if you will be part of the League's contingent at the Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade scheduled on Saturday, February 10. The parade will roll at 11 a.m. from the corner of Whitecap and Windward on the island. Following the parade, a festival will be held near the Briscoe King Pavilion with food trucks and other activities. There is an opportunity to man a voter registration table during the festival from 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

If you have questions, call Chris Garcia, LWV-CC President, at 991-2784.

"The point of modern propaganda isn't only to misinform or push an agenda. It is to exhaust your critical thinking, to annihilate truth."

Gary Kasparov, Russian Chess Grandmaster

Support Requested for Artificial Intelligence Study

The League of Women Voters-Palo Verdes Peninsula/San Pedro, California, has contacted all local Leagues throughout the nation to support its request asking LWVUS, the National league, to undertake a study on Artificial Intelligence (AI).

"The evidence is clear," the letter stated, "that Artificial Intelligence is going to have an enormous impact on our economy, and we are not prepared." Since a National study usually takes two years, the League statement said, "the time to address this issue

is now so that we have the ability to lobby for laws that will affect us. Social and economic policy must catch up to AI while it still can.

The Palo Verdes Peninsula League issued the following information to accompany its request that a national study on Artificial Intelligence be adopted at the upcoming 2018 National convention:

We need public policies that will be able to control the safety of this powerful technology and a way to tax the labor of this technology, decide the ethical boundaries of this technology, and provide a solution for workers displaced by this technology.

President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers (CEA), reported in past years that 3.1 million jobs will be rendered obsolete or permanently altered as a consequence of artificial intelligence technologies.

AI will, for the foreseeable future, have a significant disruptive impact on jobs.

WELCOME TO
THIS NEW MEMBER:

Eric Holguin, Individual

THANKS TO THIS
RENEWING MEMBER:

Dr. Nancy Vera, Individual

League of Women Voters
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361-445-4436

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How League Helped One Prospective Voter

By Sandra Heatherley

On December 18 Ms. Sylvia Trevino called the LWV phone number for more information regarding the PAVP grant which had been discussed the day before on the Domingo Live TV show.

In our conversation it was determined that Ms. Trevino has a U.S Birth Certificate and an expired driver's license and is registered to vote but lacks one of the seven state-approved forms of photo identification.

Following her phone call, I mailed her the application for a driver's license/personal ID (found on the Texas Secretary of State website) along with the list of approved documents needed to verify identity.

On December 22, Ms. Trevino called to say she had completed the application (without a signature*) and gathered her documentation. We agreed that after the Christmas celebration and the departure of my company, she and I would go together to the Department of Public Safety. Ms. Trevino uses public transportation so we agreed that on December 28, I would drive her to the DPS office.

On December 28, I picked her up at 9 a.m. and we went to the facility off I-37. After a very short wait (it was a cold, gloomy, and drizzly day), we approached the counter with her documents (**).

When presenting her documents, it was apparent that her original birth certificate was old and yellow and deteriorating at the folds and was illegible, which made it unacceptable as proof of identity.

So we left DPS and drove to the Health Department division of Vital Records. I paid \$25 for her new birth certificate and \$2 for a plastic protector.

We returned to the DPS and with the assistance of April and Gloria, DPS employees, secured a new Texas



Ms. Sylvia Trevino

Personal ID for Ms. Trevino for which I paid \$6. Total time invested was 3 hours. Total cost to be paid by the \$500 PAVP grant that LWV-CC received last fall was \$31.

* Ms. Trevino signed her application in the presence of the DPS examiner (Gloria) so it was not necessary to get it notarized ahead of time.

** Original documents presented by Sylvia Trevino included: Birth certificate, Social Security card, marriage license, expired driver's license, utility bill, and voter registration certificate. This combination was deemed "perfect" by the state agency.



PAVP Grant Activities Still in Progress To Help Voters Without Photo ID



On December 17, League member Raul Ramirez was interviewed on the Domingo Live show by KIII-TV host Rudy Trevino about the League's efforts to assist voters who don't have a voter photo ID.

League's message on a flyer distributed at community centers, PROSPERA living communities.

Voting is one of our fundamental rights. If you have been unable to vote because you DO NOT HAVE a state-approved photo I.D., the League of Women Voters may be able to assist you.

Please contact the League at 361-445-4436 and leave your name and telephone number so that someone can contact you. You also can send an email to lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com.

League Will Produce 20-Page Guide for March 6 Primary

The Voter Services Committee, chaired by Kathryn Oler, VP Voter Services, got started in mid-December gathering and confirming names and contact information for the 28 opposed candidates who will be featured in the 20-page Voters Guide for the March 2018 Primary. Unopposed candidates on the March 6 Primary Ballot will not be featured in VOTE 411 or in the printed Voters Guide, but they will be featured, along with the Primary winners, on the November General Election ballot.

A small group of League members met in late December to begin formulating questions for each race. LWV-CC also was consulted by LWV-Austin, which serves several counties that are included in the District 27 congressional race and agreed to use the same questions so as not to confuse the 10 candidates in that race.

Sandra Heatherley took the lead to get the VOTE 411 template (the online Voters Guide created by the national League several years ago) populated with candidate information and the questions for which responses will be requested. Candidates have been invited to enter their responses and a photograph into the file no later than January 22. As soon as the candidates respond, their responses will be downloaded for placement in the printed Voters Guide.

“What’s so special about VOTE 411,” Heatherley said, “is that any interested voter can access the online guide 24/7 and find information about all candidates.” Accessing VOTE 411 is free.

Approximately 7,000 printed guides will be distrib-

The races to be included in the Voters Guide include:

- US Representative, District 27 (10 candidates, 6 GOP, 4 DEM);
- State Board of Education District 2 (2 candidates, DEM);
- 148th District Court Judge (4 candidates, 2 GOP, 2 DEM);
- District Clerk (2 candidates, DEM);
- Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1, Place 3 (3 candidates, DEM)
- Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2, Place 2 (3 candidates, GOP)
- Justice of the Peace Pct. 5, Place 2 (2 candidates, DEM)
- Nueces County Democratic Party Chair (2 candidates)

uted throughout the community at specific locations accessible to the public, including public libraries, City Hall, and the County Courthouse. League members who would like to purchase a bundle of 25 or 50 guides (\$7.50/\$15) for their offices or personal distribution can contact LWV-CC Treasurer Brenda Hamby at bhamby@stx.rr.com

The guides are expected to be available several days before Early Voting begins on Feb. 21.



Member Nick Jimenez listens to Dr. Nancy Vera.

November League Meeting Highlights Public School Issues

A special thank you to Dr. Nancy Vera, president of the Corpus Christi American Federation of Teachers, for presenting remarks at the League’s November 16 luncheon meeting on current educational and public school issues. Dr. Vera talked about the Every Student Succeeds Act and the District of Innovation; shared her concerns about public school funding and student behavior; and answered questions. Dr. Vera was introduced by Program co-VP Maria Jimenez. About 35 League members were present.

Important Election Cycle Dates

Monday, February 5, 2018*-
-Last Day to Register to Vote.
*Actual deadline falls on Sunday but moves to the next business day.

Tuesday, February 20, 2018*--First Day of Early Voting
*First business day after Presidents’ Day.

Friday, February 23, 2018--Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail (Received, not Postmarked)

Friday, March 2, 2018-- Last Day of Early Voting

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 (Election Day)--Last day to Receive Ballot by Mail at 7:00 p.m. if carrier

envelope is not postmarked, OR Wednesday, March 7, 2018 (next business day after Election Day) at 5 p.m. if carrier envelope is postmarked by 7:00 p.m. at the location of the election on Election Day (unless overseas or military voter deadlines apply)

Dr. King celebrations scheduled Sunday, Monday

The Corpus Christi Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is hosting the 32nd annual festivities this coming Sunday and Monday, January 14 and 15, to celebrate the life, lessons, and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The community is invited to participate in three events.

On Sunday, January 14, at 6 p.m. at Brooks AME Worship Center, located at 2101 N. Port Avenue, an Interfaith Prayer Service will be held, with several community leaders participating in the service. The League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi has been invited, and president Chris Davis Garcia will be reading special liturgy at the service.

State Convention Planned by LWV-Texas—April 27-29

In even-numbered years, the League of Women Voters of Texas holds a convention that combines workshops, a social/networking event, and two business plenaries. One of the plenaries will include the election of state officers for 2018-2020 and the adoption of the League's 2018-2020 Program.

League members from across the state are invited to attend and participate in the convention, which will be held at the Inn of the Hills in Kerrville, TX. (Kerrville is located on I-10 northwest of San Antonio.) Convention begins at noon on Friday, April 27, with several afternoon workshops to choose from, and concludes at noon on Sunday, April 29. The registration rate per person and the hotel room rates will be announced soon.

"I hope several LWV-Corpus Christi members can attend," said Chris Davis Garcia, LWV-CC President. "Please check your calendar and make plans now to participate. We can arrange carpooling to Kerrville if needed."

One of the highlights of convention is a silent auction, whose proceeds benefit the state league's advocacy and voter education projects.

On Monday, January 15, from 9-11 a.m., the YWCA will host a Racial Justice Forum at the YWCA, 4601 Corona. The topic "Eliminating Racism: Hate Is Too Great a Burden" will be addressed. The forum is free and open to the public; \$10 donations will be accepted.

The community is invited to three events to celebrate the life, lessons, and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Following the YWCA event, the annual MLK Commemorative March will start at the Nueces County Courthouse, 901 Leopard, at 12 noon, with an opening ceremony in the Central Jury Room. The march will start on the Leopard Street side of the courthouse and will end at the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, 700 S Upper Broadway, where a service will be held. The League plans to have a voter registration table at the church.

For information updates about the MLK March & Celebration, visit the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's Facebook page or the YWCA's Facebook page.

'Get Out the Vote' Needs Help

Voter Registration Chair Ruth Falck reminds all deputized Voter Registrars (whether they are League members or volunteers with other organizations) to look for and identify opportunities (local festival or event, church setting, community meeting, etc.) where they can register new voters between now and February 5, 2018.

Falck and several League members/supporters took shifts to man voter registration tables at Del Mar College East Campus on January 6, Jan. 9, and Jan. 10 during student registration activities in the Harvin Center. Thanks to Ruth, Gloria Montalvo, Kathryn Oler, Chris Garcia, Nick and Maria Jimenez, Brenda Hamby, Marshall Anderson, Patti Jones, and Barbara Craig-Schniepp for registering 112 new voters!

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



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 Corpus Christi, Texas
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 Corpus Christi, TX 78468



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.