



# The VOTER

May 2018

## League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi

### Let's Gather for the League's 73rd Annual Meeting on May 24

Save Thursday, May 24, and plan to attend the League's 73rd Annual Meeting from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Sugarbakers Bistro & Bakery, located at 2766 Santa Fe. A summary of business items on the Annual Meeting agenda appears at right in the box, and a printed workbook with details will be distributed at the meeting.

A cash bar will be available with a large selection of wine and beer at \$5 and \$3, respectively. The meal will be plated and served, with the following three options available: Baked Stuffed Chicken, Lasagna, and Pasta Alfredo. The meal choices are detailed in the reservation form on Page 5 which you can complete and return. Please bring a guest or two with you!

Please note that League members who do not want to order a meal are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting.

"I hope you will be able to attend this important meeting," said LWV-CC President Chris Davis Garcia.

#### ANNUAL MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS:

Election & Installation of 2018-2020 Officers

Adoption of 2018-2019 Budget

Special Recognition of Retiring Board Members & Guests

Review of Accomplishments



It looked like a pep rally but the event was a successful voter registration presentation held in mid-April at Richard King High School. Several members of the League's Voter Services team were present to encourage and help register graduating seniors.

### Upcoming May 22 Primary Run-Off, June 30 Special Election Are Important

Don't get confused with two elections on the horizon! Plan to vote in both, and urge family, friends, and work colleagues to do the same. The May 22 Primary Run-Off Election will be held Tuesday, May 22, and the Special Election called by Governor Abbott (to select the candidate to finish US Rep. Blake Farenthold's term) will summon voters to the polls on Saturday, June 30.

#### MAY 22 RUN-OFF

The May 22 run-off election includes Democrats Raul (Roy) Barrera and Eric Holguin and Republicans Bech Bruun and Michael Cloud. The two winners of the run-off will be on the November 6 General Election.

Other races in Nueces County also will be on the run-off ballot. LWV-CC is not printing a Voters Guide for the run-off election, but information about the candidates can be found at VOTE 411, the League's online Voters Guide.

The Nueces County Elections website has all pertinent information, sample ballot, Early Voting sites, and Vote Center locations. Early voting for the May 22 election will be held from 7 am-7 pm this week (May 14-18) at the following sites: Nueces County Courthouse, Bishop Community Center, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center, Ethel Eyerly Senior Center, Greenwood Senior Center, Hilltop Community Center, Johnny Calderon Building (Robstown), Magee Elementary--Star Annex, Schlitterbahn, The Valencia, and Veterans Memorial High School.

(Story continues on Page 8)

#### 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

Dear League Members:

Elsewhere in this VOTER, you'll read reflections from League officers Sandra Heatherley and Brenda Hamby about attending the LWV-Texas state convention April 27-29. Many of you have had opportunities to attend state and national conventions of organizations near and dear to your heart, so you know how valuable it is to be involved in networking with



Chris Davis Garcia

fellow members, to be challenged to try new ideas, to hear keynoters and be inspired, and to learn things you didn't know about your organization.

For me, having served on the State Board of LWV-Texas from 2010-2016, being at the 2018 convention meant renewing friendships, sitting down with League presidents from across the state to share information and brainstorm, and meeting face-to-face the new Board members whose resumes I had studied as part of my service on the Nominating Committee.

A special treat for me was meeting and talking with at least 20 young women in the 25-40 age range who are enthusiastic about the League's mission and eager to successfully lead their local Leagues.

All three of your Board members elected to cover their own registration expenses and food, lodging, and travel costs...and we were delighted to do so.

In sharing with other convention delegates what LWV-CC has accomplished, I was especially proud to highlight the partnership between the League and TAMU-Corpus Christi in donating our historical materials for its archives; the new opportunity to provide intern experience for a Texas A&M University-Kingsville student this coming school year (see story on Page 4); and our continued success and dedication to voter registration and regular membership meetings. I want you to know that LWV-CC is held in high esteem not only by the state board but by local Leagues around the state.

On the local front, I'll be participating this Saturday in "Leadership Day," an annual event for young women sponsored by the Corpus Christi Black Chamber of Commerce. I'll sit on a panel with other local women executives and community leaders and share thoughts on empowerment, leadership, and setting goals.

Thanks to all of you for your continuing support of the Corpus Christi League. I hope to see many of you at the May 24 Annual Meeting!

## Save the Date: Thursday, July 19, LWV-CC Membership Meeting

LWV-CC will be among several community partners supporting the observance of National Disability Voter Registration Week July 16-20. Be watching for details released by The Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living (CBCIL) as it makes plans to celebrate a national campaign called **REV UP-- Register! Educate! Vote! Use your Power!**

CBCIL will provide the presenters for the League's July membership program on Thursday, July 19, 2018. Time and location will be announced.

Please Note: The League will not hold a membership meeting in June nor publish The VOTER. The LWV-CC Board, however, will participate in a half-day retreat in June (date to be announced) to begin planning 2018-2019 activities.

League of Women Voters  
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78468-8276  
<http://www.lwv-cc.org>

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#### The VOTER Newsletter

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# Reflections on the 2018 LWV-Texas Convention

By Brenda Hamby, Treasurer

As both a new League Treasurer and State Convention attendee, I thoroughly enjoyed our weekend trip to Kerrville and I met some incredibly engaging and inspiring women and men in the process.

I had preselected four 'financially pertinent' workshops from the twelve topics that were scheduled for the afternoon of our first day in Kerrville, and from my perspective all four were packed with helpful information.

At the 1 PM session for 'Being the Treasurer,' I heard details about various topics: three useful financial documents to download from the LWVTX website (Money Matters Made Easier, Handbook for Local League TEF Projects, and Transmittal Form for Tax Deductible Donations); the distinctions between 501(c)(4) social welfare organizations such as our current local League and 501(c)(3) charities such as our current tax-deductible Education Fund (managed for us by LWVTX); plus the all-important October 15 deadline for our IRS 990-N (e-Postcard) filing.

I also learned that local Leagues can use the LWVTX 501(c)(3) umbrella to purchase League-related software from Tech Soup at reduced prices, and the League's preferred accounting packages are Quicken and MS Money...although I personally appreciate the flexibility of the Excel workbooks inherited from our previous Treasurer Mary K. Fant!

Another equally relevant workshop for me was the 3:15 PM session for '501(c)(3) – Why & How' where Tom Carson (coincidentally married to LWVUS President Chris Carson) shared his knowledge about various state Leagues and their conversion experiences.

The first process was started in Wisconsin in 2009 and didn't receive IRS approval until 2011, followed later by Minnesota, Oregon, Utah, Colorado



(L-r) Sandra Heatherley, Chris Garcia, and Brenda Hamby are seated and ready for the April 28 Plenary session at the LWV-Texas biennial convention in Kerrville. They were among 100 delegates from around the state in attendance.

By Sandra Heatherley, VP Member Services

As a delegate from LWV-CC to the state convention April 27-29, I was able to ride with Brenda Hamby and Chris Garcia to the meeting location in Kerrville, Texas (where there is no humidity!).

The workshop sessions I attended involved VOTE411, the Voters Guide, and fund raising. In one, the attendees shared copies of their League's Voters Guides, so I was able to bring some copies back to Kathryn Oler, our VP for Voter Services. There was a lengthy discussion about whether leagues would ever discontinue the printed version of the Guide. All agreed it is the most tangible and identifiable of our efforts to assist voters. In the long run, it will most likely be an economic decision. In the fund raising session, there were many great ideas shared on "how to" ask for money and even better, ideas on "what to" fund with the donations. I wouldn't be surprised if you see billboards and bus "wraps" in 2020 to call attention to our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

and Indiana with most of those conversions receiving approval in about three months.

According to Tom, LWVTX filed 12-04-17 with another League, although neither had received IRS approval as of late April. At our March 6 meeting, LWV-CC Board members received a 5-page document describing the multi-step process for us to become a member of the state League's new group exemption, if/when they receive approval.

I also attended two other Friday sessions, one at 2 PM for 'Bylaws & Nonprofit Policies' with our President Chris Garcia and another at 4:15 PM for 'Fundraising: Planning & Coordinating' with our VP Member

Services Sandra Heatherley.

All weekend long, I was inspired by the passion and planning for the League's vision of Flowing to Our Centennial 1919-2019 and beyond, especially during the plenary sessions all day Saturday and again Sunday morning.

I'm waiting for the convention survey to arrive so I can provide my feedback for what I wish the League would do: "I trust the League will 'walk the talk' regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion in our membership and our leadership."

My experience at this state convention definitely motivated me to some day attend the LWVUS National Convention.

# League's Historical Files Delivered to TAMU-CC!

LWV-CC has successfully transferred 15 boxes of League materials, including scrapbooks dating to the 1940s, to the Special Collections Department/Archives at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

The materials were received by Ann Hodges, xxxxxx, and xxxxxx, title, on April 25. Special thanks to several League members who helped review and sort materials over the past 10 weeks or so, and kudos to Brenda Hamby, who served as coordinator of the effort.

Hodges has ordered more than \$1,100 worth of special acid-free storage boxes and other containers in which the materials will be stored. "I want to invite fellow League members to join me in making a personal donation in any amount to the Collections Department to underwrite the storage materials," League President Chris Davis Garcia said. "If you are interested, please contact me."

## League Agrees To Host TAMUK Student Intern

The League has accepted an invitation from Texas A&M University-Kingsville's Social Work Program (Mariah Boone, coordinator) to be one of the first community organizations to host a Master's degree student intern for a Field Practicum during 2018-2019. Ruth Falck will serve as the task advisor if a student accepts the internship.

In describing the Program, the League noted that the intern would coordinate and participate in voter registration efforts leading up to the November 2018 General Election and work with the Voter Services team on the Candidates Forum and the Voters Guide.

The intern would also focus on impediments to voting for disenfranchised groups including communities of color, Hispanics, senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and discharged ex-offenders. More details will be announced prior to the student's practicum.



(Above) Sylvia Whitworth, Brenda Hamby, and Lois Huff pose with 15 boxes of League materials, scrapbooks, and documents from 1945 through 2010. (At right), Peggy Bañales and Hamby are



pictured in the Collections Department after the April 25 delivery.

## Welcome, New Member

Iris P. Williams, Individual  
(president of Corpus Christi Alumnae Chapter of  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.)

## Thanks to These Renewing Members for 2018-2019:

Jane Bachman, Sustaining  
Chris Davis Garcia, Sustaining  
Brenda Hamby, Sustaining  
Kathryn Oler, Individual  
Sylvia Whitworth, Individual  
Barbara Craig-Schniepp, Friend of the League



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**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

## MEAL RESERVATION FORM FOR 73rd ANNUAL MEETING OF LWV-CC (See story on Page 1)

YES, I/we want to order a meal for the League's 73rd Annual Meeting, which will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 24, 2018, at Sugarbakers' Bistro and Bakery, located at 2766 Santa Fe. I understand the cost per person is \$30 (inclusive of gratuity) and that I/we need to designate which meal we want.

My payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is attached to this form. *(Please make check or money order payable to LWV-CC.)*

Please select one meal choice by writing your name/guest name on the line:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Baked Stuffed 5-oz Chicken Breast, with spinach and mushrooms, green salad, roasted red potatoes, vegetable medley, roll, beverage (tea, water, coffee, soft drink), dessert.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mamma's Lasagna, green salad, garlic bread, beverage, dessert.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Pasta Alfredo with broccoli and mushrooms, green salad, roll, beverage, dessert.

Meal reservations are due no later than 12 noon Tuesday, May 22, by calling or texting Chris Garcia at 361-244-4193 or emailing your first and last name and meal choice to: [lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com)  
Your payment plus this form can be mailed in advance to the League at PO Box 8276, CC TX 78468, or presented at the door on the night of the event. [Please note that if you make an advance reservation and do not attend, you may be expected to honor your reservation by remitting payment if the meal guarantee is not met.](#)

**Don't want to eat??** League members who want to attend the Annual Meeting but not order a meal are cordially invited to do so. Your attendance is important as League Bylaws call for 1/5 of the membership (28 voting members) to be present in order for business items to be approved.

## LWVUS Guidance Regarding 2018 Omnibus Grant Funding for Election Security Issues

The 2018 Omnibus bill allotted \$380 million in grants to be distributed to all states across the country for "improving election security in the states."

In the wake of reported foreign interference in the 2016 elections, this funding will be critical to updating election systems across the country for the 2018 midterm elections and beyond.

The grants are managed by the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and are awarded in accordance with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Each state is guaranteed to receive at least \$3 million dollars in funding.

A detailed breakdown of allotted funding can be found on the EAC website. Award letters will be sent to states in the spring of 2018. States have

until September 30, 2023 to request funding and have it deposited in their accounts.

The EAC recommends that states use the grants in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of HAVA. Those activities may include:

1. Replace voting equipment that only records a voter's intent electronically with equipment that utilizes a voter verified paper record;

2. Implement a post-election audit system that provides a high level of confidence in the accuracy of the final vote tally;

3. Upgrade election related computer systems to address cyber vulnerabilities identified through Department of Homeland Security, or

similar scans or assessments of, existing election systems;

4. Facilitate cybersecurity training for the state chief election official's office and local election officials;

5. Implement established cybersecurity best practices for election systems; and

6. Fund other activities that will improve the security of elections for Federal office.

### What Leagues can do in their states

Leagues should work with election officials to ensure that states are using the money they are granted wisely and effectively.

Leagues should work in coalition with election administration and security issue partners to establish a broad base of support for supported measures.



## MEMBERSHIP FORM 2018-2019

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - CORPUS CHRISTI AREA

PO Box 8276 • Corpus Christi, TX 78468-8276

**LWV-CC membership runs June 1, 2018, through May 31, 2019**, and supports local, state and national LWV actions to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy. We encourage your membership activation **before the August 29, 2018, deadline**. Simply complete this form and include current contact details so we can inform you about important happenings in the area. We have engaging plans for 2018-2019 that include monthly membership luncheons, happy hour meetings, and downtown events, plus preparations for a remarkable 2020 celebration and fundraiser to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution!

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Select Member type and remit payment or visit: <http://www.lwv-cc-org/JoinRenewOnline.html>**

- Individual \$60     Household (2 people, same address) \$90     Sustaining Member \$100
- Student \$30     Friend of the League \$30 (without voting privileges)

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_

**I prefer to attend: Luncheon Meetings \_\_\_\_\_ Dinner Meetings \_\_\_\_\_**

**I'm interested in volunteering my help with one or more of the following activities:**

- Register Voters     Prepare/Distribute Voters Guides     Organize Candidate/Issue Forums
- Advocate for Issues     Investigate Issues/Conduct Studies     Network/Facilitate Community Dialogues
- Budget/Fundraising Committee     Media/Communications Committee     Membership Committee
- Governance/Bylaws Committee     Observer Corps (monitor local government meetings)
- Special/Community Projects     Attend Austin "Lobby Days" during legislative session
- Train/Serve as Nueces County Volunteer Deputy Registrar     Advertise in Monthly VOTER Newsletter \*

**\* Note: Business card ads in the monthly VOTER newsletter are affordably priced at \$100 for 10 issues.**

# BUS + Dr. Barbara Szczerbinska Equals Terrific Evening Meeting

“What is dark matter and why is it important” were questions posed by TAMU-CC astrophysicist Barbara Szczerbinska at the evening gathering of about 40 League members and friends on April 19 at The BUS.

Articulate and engaging, “Dr. Barbara” spoke almost an hour and kept everyone focused on the universe, current research under way in the US and abroad, and what scientists are learning in their effort to identify dark matter. The downtown BUS venue occupies what once was the Greyhound/Trailways bus station. Also on hand was local artist Dominic Olivares who demonstrated his style and had artwork available for purchase.



*Special thanks to League member Debbie Noble for never being without her camera at League events and community activities.*



THE VOTER is published monthly except June and December. Its purpose is to keep League members and interested supporters informed about activities and programs in which the League is involved. Questions or comments can be directed to any LWV-CC officer or to the League's email at: [lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com). Would you like to advertise your company? Let us know.



Continued from Page 1...

## UPCOMING ELECTIONS

### JUNE 30 SPECIAL ELECTION

The June 30 election, called by Governor Abbott to fill the 27th Congressional District vacancy created by the resignation of US Rep. Blake Farenthold, has nine candidates on the ballot. The person elected will serve only until early January 2019. If a run-off election is required, it would be scheduled possibly in September.

Candidates on the June 30 Special Election ballot include the four candidates who are currently in the May 22 run-off for the November election: Democrats Raul “Roy” Barrera and Eric Holguin and Republicans Bech Bruun and Michael Cloud.

The other five candidates who filed for the June 30 Special Election are Democrat Mike Westergren of Corpus Christi, Republican Marty Perez, M.D., of Corpus Christi, Independent Judith Cutright of Corpus Christi, Libertarian Daniel Tinus of Bay City, and Independent Christopher Suprun of Dallas.

LWV-Corpus Christi is preparing questions for the Special Election candidates to answer for posting on VOTE 411, the League’s online Voters Guide.

Early voting for the June 30 Special Election will be June 13-26. The deadline to register to vote in the special election is 30 days ahead of election day.

## SPOTLIGHT ON VOTER REGISTRATION

**FOR APRIL 2018**  
**96 voters registered by LWV-CC**

As this publication went to press, the League was planning to host a voter registration table at a Wellness Fair from 4-6 p.m. in the gymnasium of Veterans Memorial High School. Thanks to Kathryn Oler, Peggy Bañales, Pat Parr, and Peggy Duran for serving as voter registrars. In other news, the Voter Services team (chaired by Oler) will take a break from the First Friday ArtWalk activity in June, July, and August. If questions, contact Oler at [kathryn.oler@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.oler@gmail.com).



Organizations represented at the 100th anniversary planning meeting included the YWCA, Delta Sigma Theta, American Association of University Women, LWV-CC, and Executive Women International. A second meeting will be held in late August.

## Progress Report Shared on 100th Anniversary Celebration

By Sandra Heatherley

The Steering committee tasked with planning and executing the activities for the celebration of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment met for the first time on April 26, 2018.

There were a dozen folks in attendance--half from our local league membership and half from our partner organizations, American Association of University Women, Executive Women International, YWCA, and Delta Sigma Theta Alumnae. Several of our members represented more than one group.

Lois Huff, LWV-CC past president (2002-2007) provided an excellent and well-researched history of how women (finally) got the right to vote in Texas, the United States, and across the globe.

There was a lively discussion regarding the activities and their timing during 2020 which will be shared in future VOTERS.

Those present representing other organizations will return to their board of directors to determine if they will continue on the steering committee and get guidance on which, if any, activities their group will lead or assist with.

The second meeting of the steering committee is planned for late August and will result in a more defined strategy for our celebration.



# What's the Status of ERA Ratification?

By Chris Davis Garcia

League member Linda Snider posed a question recently: "What's the status of the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment?" Some quick research provided information that might be of interest.

A document titled "The Equal Rights Amendment: Frequently Asked Questions," written in May 2017 by Roberta W. Francis, ERA Education Consultant with the Alice Paul Institute, provides excellent background information and the current status of the Equal Rights Amendment.

There is also a 17-minute educational documentary--"The Equal Rights Amendment: Unfinished Business for the Constitution"--available at [www.equalrightsamendment.org](http://www.equalrightsamendment.org).

The complete text of the Equal Rights Amendment read, when it finally passed both the Senate and the House of Representatives on March 22, 1972, (by the required 2/3 majority):

Section 1: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

Section 2: The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3: This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.

The amendment then was sent to the states for ratification. An original seven-year deadline was later extended by Congress to June 30, 1982.

When this deadline expired, only 35 of the necessary 38 states (the constitutionally-required three-fourths) had ratified the ERA. It is therefore not yet a part of the U.S. Constitution.

The Equal Rights Amendment has been reintroduced in every session of Congress since 1982.

A bill to remove the ERA's ratification deadline *ex post facto* and make it part of the Constitution when three more states ratify was introduced as S. J. Res. 5.

Beginning in the 113th Congress (2014-2015), the text of the ERA ratification bill introduced in the House of Representatives differed slightly from both the traditional wording and its Senate companion bill. It read:

Section 1: **Women shall have equal rights in the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction.** Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Section 2: **Congress and the several States** shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3: (remained the same)

Advocates say adding the word "women" to the wording was crucial.

Women's groups throughout the years have focused on trying to restart the conversation.

At least 10 state legislatures, backed by the ERA Coalition and smaller state groups like the Virginia-based Women Matter, have introduced bills to ratify the ERA in the years since it was first approved.

Advocates focused on the so-called "three-state strategy": if they can get three more states to pass the amendment, they're hoping Congress will recognize the ratifications that occurred after 1982 as valid and let it pass.

**In a significant breakthrough, on March 22, 2017, 45 years to the day after Congress passed the amendment and sent it to the states for ratification, Nevada became the 36th state to ratify the ERA.**

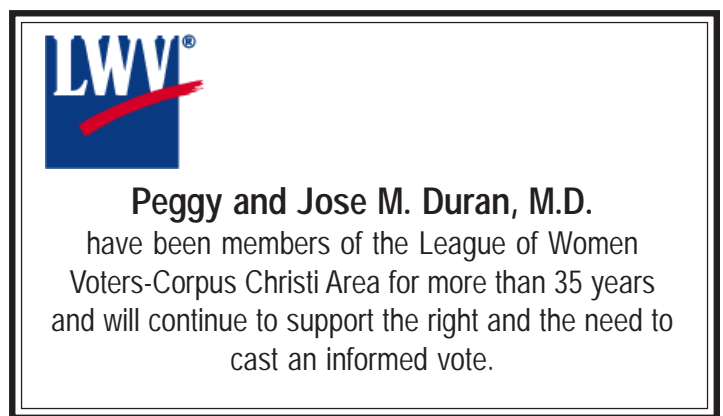
In 2017, ERA bills were introduced in the legislatures of Arizona, Florida, Illinois, North Carolina, Utah, and Virginia.

**Another breakthrough occurred on April 12, 2018, when the Illinois Senate voted to ratify the ERA.**

Over the years, advocates of the amendment say they have had to more or less start from scratch each time a bill for ratification gets introduced.

Part of the reason? Most people don't know the U.S. Constitution doesn't already include protections for women.

Roberta W. Francis says "To actual or potential offenders who would try to write, enforce, or adjudicate laws inequitably, the ERA would send a strong preemptive message: the U. S. Constitution has zero tolerance for sex discrimination under the law."





# Membership Renewals Are Under Way

Your continuing support of the League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi, through your individual, student, or household membership dues, is sincerely appreciated. A renewal form on Page 6 can be completed and mailed to the League in the coming weeks.



## LEAGUE & COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



League members Sandra Heatherley and Melody Cooper (right) were among community members attending the May 3 Meet and Greet Candidates' gathering at Schlitterbahn, hosted by the Island PAC. LWV-CC was on hand to register voters.



League members Kathryn Oler (l) and Peggy Bañales represented the League on Saturday morning, May 5, at Sunrise Mall during the Driscoll Health Plan's "Mothers Day Resources Day" community fair.

(At right) LWV-CC officer and past president Sandra Heatherley poses with four Grade 5 girls at Windsor Park after her presentation on gender equality. The girls had researched the topic and invited Heatherley to speak.



A yard sign with the message "Your Vote Matters" was a popular item for sale at the State Convention by LWV-Hill Country (formerly Kerrville). A wonderful message (right) was used in a Power Point during convention.