



The VOTER

April 2018

League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi

SAVE THE DATE

League's 73rd Annual Meeting Thursday, May 24

Save the date of Thursday, May 24, and plan to attend the League's 73rd Annual Meeting from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Sugarbakers, located at 2766 Santa Fe.

Details about the supper menu, program, and reservations will be shared soon with all League members.

Information regarding business items at Annual Meeting is on Page 5.

Meet League Friends Downtown Thursday, April 19, at Trendy BUS



Barbara Szczerbinska, PhD TAMU-CC

The League of Women Voter's April membership meeting will be an early evening gathering from 5:30-7 p.m. at a trendy downtown venue.

The meeting will feature Dr. Barbara Szczerbinska, professor and astrophysicist at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, speaking about Dark Matter and the Universe and why it should matter to us.

Join us at the BUS (Bar Under the Sun) located at 702 N. Chaparral (intersection of N.Chaparral and Starr) for cocktails, food trucks, and a fascinating conversation! Open to the public, everyone welcome. No RSVPs needed. Casual attire.



LEAGUE PRESENCE AT EQUAL PAY DAY FOR WOMEN LUNCHEON--Ten of the more than 15 League members who attended the YWCA "Equal Pay Day" luncheon on April 10 gather at the League's information table. The League was honored to be a cosponsor for this annual YWCA event. See invitation at right to be at the Tuesday, April 17, City Council meeting for a proclamation.

18 City Boards & Commissions Have Vacancies; Your Service Matters! (See story on Page 3 and consider submitting your application or sharing details with other prospective community leaders.)

JUST A REMINDER:

League members are invited to be present for the "Equal Pay Day for Women" Proclamation at Corpus Christi City Hall on Tuesday, April 17. Plan to arrive in Council Chambers no later than 11:15 a.m. and WEAR RED! Please use the Lipan Street entrance. A group photograph will be taken after the proclamation is read.

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.

Be a Part of History!

April 26 Meeting Will Begin Planning the 'Right To Vote' Centennial

By Sandra Heatherley, VP-Member Services

The goals and proposed activities planned for the 2020 celebration of the centennial of the Women's Right to Vote were printed in the March VOTER.

The first meeting of the steering committee which will lead this effort is scheduled for Thursday, April 26, at 5:30 PM in Room 141 of the Del Mar Center for Economic Development, located at 3405 S. Staples @ Kostoryz.

At this writing, 10 other women's organizations in Corpus Christi are sending a representative to the meeting. As the lead organization in this effort, LWV-CC invites every member of our local League to attend and participate in our first planning session.

This is **not** a commitment to another monthly meeting, just the beginning of an exciting journey toward 2020. I hope you will attend!

LEAGUE CHATTER

Convention-Bound!

Three Board members will represent LWV-CC as voting delegates at the 2018 LWV-Texas Convention, to be held in Kerrville April 27-29.

President Chris Garcia, Treasurer Brenda Hamby, and Vice President of Member Services Sandra Heatherley will travel to Kerrville for the state gathering. On the agenda are workshops, special events, and two business plenary sessions that will include election of state officers for 2018-2020 and adoption of a biennial budget.

League members who want to attend the convention may register at the door, Garcia said.

Convention information can be found on the LWV-Texas website at www.lwvtx.org.

PAVP Grant Report Submitted

LWV-CC met the March 31 deadline to submit its report to LWV-Texas capturing how it utilized the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection grant "to mitigate the results of the Texas voter photo ID laws" and what results were realized.

LWV-Texas complimented the League on its work and said the remaining funds can be used to continue to register and assist high school students (especially those who don't have a driver license) to secure a Texas identification photo ID.

League of Women Voters
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LWV-CC Board, 2017-2018

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Nominating Committee

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Non-Board Members:

Rebecca Huerta, 361-826-3104
Linda Snider, 802-777-2269

The VOTER Newsletter

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THE VOTER is published monthly except June and December. Its purpose is to keep League members informed about activities and programs in which the League is involved. Questions or comments can be directed to any officer or to the League's email at lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com.

Serve Corpus Christi -- Make a Difference!

April 2018 Vacancies

Get involved!

That is the message from City Secretary Rebecca L. Huerta, who is looking to fill vacancies on various boards, commissions, committees, and corporations. Take a look at the list and apply for the ones that interest you. You can make a difference...the city needs you!

The City Secretary's Office is currently seeking applications for the following boards:

- Animal Care Advisory Committee
- Board of Adjustment
- Building Code Board of Appeals
- City Council's Youth Advisory Committee
- Civil Service Board/Commission
- Commission on Children and Youth
- Electrical Advisory Board
- Human Relations Commission
- Landmark Commission
- Leadership Committee for Senior Services
- Library Board
- Mechanical/Plumbing Advisory Board
- Oil and Gas Advisory Committee
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
- Pipeline Review Panel
- Retired and Senior Volunteer Program
Advisory Committee
- Tree Advisory Committee
- Water Resources Advisory Committee

For more information, please go to the City of Corpus Christi's website at <http://serve.cctexas.com>. For assistance, please contact, Boards and Commissions Coordinator Taryn Plummer, at (361) 826-3893 or via e-mail at tarynp@cctexas.com

PLEASE NOTE that several vacancies that are open require individuals within a certain field, either with a degree or technical license. For instance, the Animal Care Advisory Committee has a vacancy that requires a veterinarian. Boards and Commissions Coordinator Taryn Plummer can provide details at 826-3893.

(Note: All individuals considered for an appointment by the City Council to a board, commission, committee, or corporation must have an active application on file in the Office of the City Secretary 7 days prior to the board appointments.)

COMMUNITY INVITATIONS

From Delta Sigma Theta Alumnae, Corpus Christi Chapter

Delta Sigma Theta Alumnae invites the public to a Meet and Greet on Saturday, April 21, from 3-5 p.m. at Oveal Williams Senior Center, 1414 Martin Luther King Drive, to honor Coretta Graham, Nueces County Democratic Chair; Alice Hawkins, Corpus Christi ISD trustee; and Clarendia M. Phillips, PhD, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at TAMU-CC.

From the Island United PAC

The Island United PAC presents Cocktails and Conversations with Candidates on Wednesday, May 2, from 6-8 p.m. at Veranda Restaurant (at Schlitterbahn). The event is open to the public.

Get to know your elected officials and candidates in an informal setting. Ask them questions, thank them for their service, or decide who to vote for. With the Run-Off election on May 22 and the Mid-Term General election on November 6, it is an important time to be an informed voter.

The League of Women Voters will be on hand to register voters. There will be light snacks provided by State Rep. Todd Hunter and music sponsored by County Commissioner Brent Chesney, along with a cash bar, door prizes, music, and a small silent auction.

League member Debbie Noble notes that this event is a service to Island residents, but also a fundraiser so that the PAC can continue to host Forums, endorse city council candidates and ensure that the Island votes and is represented well! Donations will be accepted (but not required) at the door.

Welcome, New Members

Christina Buttler, Individual
(Christina is a staff member at the Coastal Bend
Center for Independent Living)

Johanna Wood-Miller, Individual

March 22 League Meeting Features Former County Commissioner Longoria

What a pleasure to hear former Nueces County Commissioner Betty Jean Longoria share how she embarked on her journey of public service and her thoughts on some of the issues facing the Commissioners Court. Her presentation on March 22 was well received by the 38 League members and guests present. Thanks to Program Vice Presidents Peggy Banales and Maria Jimenez for filling the speaker vacancy when Dr. Isabel Araiza of TAMU-CC had to cancel her visit with us because of a family emergency.



(Above) Members Kathryn Oler, Lisa Cuevas, Jaime Bustos, and Judy Telge listen to the presentation.



Former County Commissioner Betty Jean Longoria



Chris Garcia (l) and Peggy Banales (r) greet Commissioner Longoria



VP Voter Services chair Kathryn Oler (at left) provides information about the League's high school voter registration initiative.



May 22 Run-Off Election Deadlines

April 23: Deadline to register to vote in the May 22 Primary Run-Off
(Registered voters may vote in the Run-Off even if they did not vote in the March Primary)

May 14-18: Early Voting (Check the Nueces County Elections website for list of locations for Early Voting and Vote Centers)

May 22: Primary Run-Off Election --*Be sure to vote!*

Business Items for the League's 73rd Annual Meeting

Nominating Committee Report

(Presented by Anne Stewart, chair; members Linda Snider, Rebecca Huerta, Sandra Heatherley, Brenda Hamby)

The Nominating Committee has completed its work and has nominated the following slate for election to two-year terms (2018-2020) on the LWV-CC Board:

- Rebecca Huerta, Secretary
- Carla Gardiner, Vice President/Program
- Sandra Heatherley, Vice President/Member Services
- Melody Cooper, Director, Media Communications

In addition, Anne Stewart has been nominated to serve a second one-year term as Nominating Committee chair.

Linda Snider and Alex Garcia, Jr. have been nominated to serve one-year terms on the Nominating Committee for 2018-2019.

Continuing on the LWV-CC Board until May, 2019, are five officers who were elected to serve two-year terms beginning in June 2017:

Chris Davis Garcia, President; Brenda Hamby, Treasurer; Kathryn Oler, Vice President/Voter Services; Dr. Tammy Donaldson, At-Large Director; and Debbie Noble, Director/Webmaster and Social Media.

Election of the 2018-2020 officers will be conducted at the Annual Meeting scheduled on Thursday, May 24, from 5-30-7:30 pm at Sugarbakers, located at 2766 Santa Fe.

Program (Study Issues)

Recommendation(s)

Information was not received by the League Board on a possible Program (study issue) for 2018-2019 when this issue of The VOTER was published on April 13. If the suggested scope of the study is received soon, it will be shared with League members for action at the Annual Meeting.



Carla Gardiner
Financial Advisor

802 N Carancahua Suite 1650
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Proposed Budget

2018-2019

(Recommended by Lois Huff, chair; members Brenda Hamby, Maria Jimenez, Alex Garcia, Jr.)

INCOME

# Per Member Dues	\$6,090
Sustainers' Gifts	\$720
Friends of the League	\$120
Monthly Luncheons	\$960
2019 Annual Meeting	\$320
2018-2019 Fundraising	\$3,380
Community Support/Contributions	\$400
Advertising in VOTER	\$400
Silent Auction Proceeds	\$500
Total Income	\$12,890

EXPENSES

## Per Member Dues to National	\$3,248
### Per Member Dues to State	\$2,241
Monthly Luncheons	\$792
2019 Annual Meeting	\$264
2018-2019 Fundraising Event(s)	\$1,820
Community Support/Participation/Outreach	\$400
Voter Services Publications	\$1,840
Voter Registration Events	\$360
Printing VOTER newsletters/Annual Meeting workbooks	\$405
Website Maintenance	\$300
Admin/Postage/Supplies	\$300
PO BOX Rental	\$120
Leadership/Training	\$500
Holiday/Social Event	\$300
Transfer to Savings	\$0
Total Expenses	\$12,890

Notes about PMP = Per Member Payment

(90 individuals @ \$60; 15 household members @ \$30, 8 students @ \$30; Sustainers' gifts, 18 @ \$40; Friends of the League 4 @ \$30)

PMP LWV-Texas assessment: Individual, \$22; second household member, \$11; student, \$12.

PMP LWVUS assessment: Individual, \$32; second household member, \$16; student, \$16.

National LWVUS Touch Points

(The information below was included recently in LWVUS e-mail correspondence and action alerts to LWV members from LWVUS President Chris Carson.)

GUN VIOLENCE

Today, students, parents and concerned Americans are marching in Washington D.C. and other cities across the country to demand that their lives and safety become a priority and that we finally put an end to the epidemic of mass school shootings.

Across the country, the League of Women Voters is marching with them. We're also setting up voter registration tables to ensure those speaking out are heard at the ballot box this year. We are marching for the lives of America's children. We are marching to urge Congress to enact common-sense solutions to the gun violence plaguing our nation.

A recent Quinnipiac poll found that support for background checks is almost universal with 97% of voters in favor of background checks on all gun purchasers. This is the highest level of support ever measured by the independent poll.

Congress should move common-sense legislation forward that supports universal background checks, bans military-style semi-automatic assault weapons and high capacity magazines, and funds research and reporting on gun violence in America. Curbing gun violence is a critical matter of public safety, public health, and public confidence. It is about protecting our children and our communities from the senseless tragedies that plague our society.

US CENSUS

Last week the Secretary of Commerce decided to include a question pertaining to citizenship in the 2020 Census. This decision is bad for the census, bad for our communities, and bad for America.

Stand with the League against this attempt to undermine the purpose of the U.S. Census. The Census occurs once every 10 years, so it is imperative to get the most accurate count. Every community relies on Census data—from apportioning our national representatives to making decisions about public safety and neighborhood resources. A fair and accurate count lets our leaders and businesses make sound investment decisions that keep our communities thriving.

LWVUS believe including a citizenship question on the Census undermines the rights of eligible voters and threatens a process vital to our democracy. The U.S. Constitution mandates an accurate count of all people living in the United States – not all citizens.

For more than 200 years, the Census has collected information about the geographic distribution of our population. Without a complete count of our nation's people, businesses will not have the tools to make sound investment decisions that keep communities thriving. Stand with the League as we fight back against this decision.



LEAGUE PRESENCE AT 17th ANNUAL EARTH DAY/BAY DAY ON APRIL 8

Eight League members braved the cold, windy, and damp weather moving into the Coastal Bend on Saturday, April 7, to man the League's voter registration table at Earth Day-Bay Day. Attendance was high at the annual celebration at Heritage Park, sponsored by the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation and many community partners and exhibitors.

Pictured in top photo are Anne Stewart, Carla Gardiner, and Ruth Falck; bottom photo, Linda and Dean Snider. Other volunteers not pictured included Jim and Teresa Klein and Chris Garcia.



Peggy and Jose M. Duran, M.D.

have been members of the League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi for more than 35 years and will continue to support the right and the need to cast an informed vote.

Be Aware of Those “Straw Man” Tactics!

By Debbie Noble
Director, Website/Social Media

Because the Straw Man is one of the most commonly used logical fallacies in political rhetoric, it is an important one to be able to recognize and refute.

When one party misrepresents, exaggerates, or oversimplifies their opponent’s argument, and then argues against that misrepresentation instead of the actual argument, you are dealing with a Straw Man.

Politicians set up an argument made of straw (easy to knock over and refute) instead of addressing the real issue. When there is an obvious mismatch between the arguments you are listening to, look for the Straw Man!

Examples:

Ted: I am not sure that a complete ban on plastic bags in one area of the City is feasible to enforce or even going to be very effective in decreasing overall pollution rates locally.

Ned: My opponent cares more about big business than a healthy ocean ecosystem or the environment!

Ted: I think we need to look into some ways to cut costs on some programs and see if we can do things more efficiently or reduce redundancies.

Ned: Why do you hate poor people and want to take away all their safety nets?

Ted: We should look into some common sense gun control laws, such as universal background checks and age restrictions.

Ned: You can’t take away our guns! That goes against the constitution and our second amendment right to protect ourselves!

People use Straw Man tactics when they don’t want to have a real discussion, but just want to repeat talking points that demonize their opponent in public or when they want their opponents to have to waste time explaining and responding to the false argument instead of advocating their actual position.

[This article is the first of a series of articles by Debbie Noble highlighting different examples of logical fallacies to watch for. The first article was titled “Be a Smart News Consumer” and appeared in the March 2018 VOTER.]

Voter Registration Activities Keep Volunteers Busy

The League’s Voter Services team continues to be involved visiting high school principals to make arrangements for student voter registration, manning registration tables at the April 6 ArtWalk and the April 7 Earth Day-Bay Day celebration, fielding requests for voter registration, and answering voters’ questions. The deadline of April 23, as the last date to register to vote in the May 22 Run-Off election, is fueling the activity.

The team will be at Richard King High School next week, and Kathryn Oler received word this week that West Oso High School has successfully registered 100% of its seniors who will be 18 years old by May 22.

In addition, voter registration conversations have been accomplished at Tuloso-Midway High School, W. B. Ray High School, and Roy Miller High School.

If you are a deputized Voter Registrar, please make an effort to identify one or two additional voter registration sites (apartment complex near your neighborhood, a senior center, local library, etc.) before the April 23 voter registration deadline. Call Ruth Falck, Voter Registration Chair, if you have questions.



BY THE NUMBERS: LWV-CC VOTER REGISTRATIONS

March 2018--52 total (including “March for Our Lives”)

April 2018 to date (4/12/18)
Earth Day-Bay Day, 18
Tuloso-Midway High School, 15
April Art Walk, 4
TAMU-Corpus Christi, 30





Mark Your Calendar: July 16-20, 2018

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!**

The League has extended an invitation to CBCIL to provide a speaker for the League's July membership meeting.



Four League members met in late March with Toni Padilla, Linda Fallwell-Stover, and Christina Buttler at the Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living (CBCIL) to ask for details about college intern placement at their agency and to receive information about the July 2018 national campaign to make the Disability Vote more influential.



**The League's membership year is June 1-May 31.
Plan to renew your membership for 2018-2019 soon!**

LWV-Corpus Christi Area New Member/Renewal Application

Join now and help engage voters, defend democracy, and promote political responsibility through informed, active participation in government.

Date _____

Type of membership: New _____ Renewal _____

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

Name _____

Household Member's Name _____

Address _____

City and Zip Code _____

Email 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 Monthly Newsletter
- 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.**