



The VOTER

January 2017

League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi

League of Women Voters
PO Box 8276
Corpus Christi, TX 78468-8276
<http://www.lwv-cc.org>; 361-445-4436

LWV-CC Officers, 2016-2017
President - Dr. Mary Jane Garza,
Ed.D-President, 361-537-1313
drmaryjanegarza@gmail.com

Sylvia Martinez - Vice President
for Member Services, 361-549-6343
txchica37@yahoo.com

Sandra Heatherley - Vice President
for Voter Services; 361-876-4321
sheatherle@cs.com

Elena Buentello-Vice President
for Program, 361-438-2481
elenabuentello@gmail.com

Irene Longoria - Secretary
361-549-6343
irene.longoria29@gmail.com

Mary K. Fant - Treasurer

Debbie Noble - Webmaster Director
410-271-1167, debleenoble@gmail.com

Elaine Krift - Media
Communications Director
361-698-1247, elaine.krift@gmail.com

Sally Farris - At-Large Director
210-313-7028, s.farris@att.net

OFF-BOARD CHAIRS
Matilda Saenz - Nominating Committee
214-240-5655; drmdsaenz@gmail.com

Marjorie Walraven-VOTER Editor
361-992-8031; wilraven26@yahoo.com
Co-Editor: Chris Garcia, 361-991-2784
garciachr1714@gmail.com

January 19 LWV Meeting Set Interim TAMU-CC President To Speak

League members and guests will gather Thursday, January 19, at 11:20 a.m. for a luncheon program to hear remarks titled "Opportunities and Challenges" from Dr. Kelly Quintanilla, Interim President of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Dr. Quintanilla will speak from noon to 12:30 p.m.

The meeting will be in Room 118 at the Del Mar College Center for Economic Development at 3209 S. Staples (at Kostoryz).

Lunch will be complimentary for current League members; please call 445-4436 before Monday noon, Jan. 16.

Lunch for guests is \$10 each but advance reservations are needed.



Dr. Kelly Quintanilla
Interim President, TAMU-CC

If you plan to attend but do not desire lunch, your RSVP is also needed to confirm an attendance count.

Dec. 15 Holiday Meeting Well-Attended



LWV-CC President Dr. Mary Jane Garza poses with State Rep. Todd Hunter at the Dec. 16 holiday meeting. About 45 members attended. Rep. Hunter spoke about the legislative session. See more photos on Page 3.

LWV MISSION STATEMENT

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

The VOTER January 2017

President's Message

By Dr. Mary Jane Garza



Dr. Mary Jane Garza
LWV-CC President

Consider Ways You Can Contribute!

Happy New Year, everyone! We welcome your participation in the League of Women Voters of the Corpus Christi Area.

Whether you are a long-time or recent member, or just exploring the League to see what it's about, I am glad you are reading this VOTER.

There are a wide variety of ways you can contribute to Making Democracy Work. Take a look at just a few noted below. If something interests you, give me a call at 361-537-1313 or send an email to drmaryjanegarza@gmail.com. What excites you?

- ✓ Help new citizens register
- ✓ Register voters at various events throughout the year.
- ✓ Welcome new members – contact new members and get acquainted
- ✓ Facebook: www.facebook.com/LWVCC/
- ✓ Twitter, posters, and more.
- ✓ Celebrate our mission of Making Democracy Work (MDW) – become part of the teams that plan and execute our monthly meetings
- ✓ Media communication
- ✓ Call members to attend monthly meetings and special events
- ✓ Write articles for the Voter
- ✓ Attend meetings of the Corpus Christi City Council
Nueces County Commissioners Court, RTA, etc.

LWV-CC has reserved four (4) hotel rooms so our members can attend Lobby Days scheduled for January 30-31 in Austin, Texas.

The League's three Priority Issues for the 85th legislative session are: (1) Education, (2) Voting Rights and Election

laws (Online Voter Registration) and (3) Women's Health and Reproductive Choice.

Think about joining the LWV-CC delegation at Lobby Days. An email with details will be forwarded to League members soon by the LWV-CC Executive Board.

Much has been accomplished throughout the history of the League, and the next six months will have exciting and informative meetings. LWV-CC remembers and celebrates past successes, ensures that established goals for the present are executed, and plans for the future with member participation and input and leadership from the executive board.

Help keep our organization strong – put your name in for consideration as an officer on the LWV-CC Board of Directors. Election of officers will be held in May at the Annual Meeting, and our leadership team will guide the League from 2017-2019. We are seeking members that are ready to lead the organization to greater heights. Spreading the League's mission of education and citizenship can be rewarding and fun.

I look forward to seeing you often, making LWV-CC even more influential and valuable.



LWV-CC 2016-2017
MEMBERS
LWV-CC Members are the
KEY to 2016 Success!

THANK YOU!

December Meeting Combines Business, Holiday Cheer

On December 15, LWV-CC held its annual holiday meeting to celebrate our successes for the year and listen to a legislative update from State Representative Todd Hunter. We appreciated the Emerald Beach Hotel, which was able to provide a delicious meal even during the citywide water ban. Rep. Hunter described House priorities for the upcoming legislative year such as Education, Mental Health, Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking, and Windstorm. Several door prizes were claimed by those present, and President Mary Jane Garza highlighted League successes for 2016.



(Above and clockwise) League members at the Emerald Beach Hotel; Brenda Crawley with President Mary Jane Garza; T. Frank Smith, Dottie Ewing, and Brenda Hamby; Brooks and Genie Lemley.

STATE & NATIONAL EVENTS

- Jan. 10: 2017 Legislative Session began in Austin.
- Jan. 20: Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C.
- Jan. 21: D.C. Women's March on Washington; Information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2169332969958991/>
- Jan. 21: Women's March on Austin, for Texans who cannot go to Washington, noon-3 p.m.; Information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1822494244699112/>
(See Page 7 for LWVUS statement of participation)
- Jan. 30-31: LWV-TX Lobby Days in Austin; *Making Democracy Work Dinner* on Jan. 30 will be held at the Austin Club in Austin. (See stories, Pages 4 and 6)

**YOUR
MEMBERSHIP
MATTERS**

FORGET SOMETHING?

Last call to renew your
LWV-CC Membership for 2017!
You now have a few ways to renew
and pay. Visit our website
[http://www.lwv-cc.org/
JoinRenewOnline.html](http://www.lwv-cc.org/JoinRenewOnline.html)



Texas Lawmakers Return to Austin for 85TH Legislative Session

Join LWV for Lobby Days—January 30-31, 2017

The League’s three priority issues for the 85th Legislative Session are:

- 1) Education;
 - 2. Voting Rights and Election Laws (including online voter registration), and
 - 3) Women’s Health and Reproductive Choice.
- Think about joining the LWV-CC delegation at Lobby Days in Austin, scheduled Jan. 30-31.

You can register for Lobby Days (at \$10 per person) by visiting the LWV-TX website at www.lwvtx.org. Information is also available on the website about the Making Democracy Work benefit dinner planned on Monday evening, Jan. 30. Tickets can be reserved at \$110 each.

Go to page 6 to see a summary of the Lobby Days agenda.

Remember the movie with the line, “They’re BA-ACK.” People were watchful, cautious and ready for action for the unknown. The 85th Legislature has many challenges, and the decisions that are made while the legislature is in session for the next 140 days determine the future of our state and its residents for the next two years.

The session will be colored by Comptroller Glenn Hegar’s announcement Monday that funds to develop the next two-year budget reflect a 2.7 percent decrease from the previous session. The revenue shortfall, due to a prolonged downturn in oil prices, will force lawmakers to make some tough decisions.

Senate Bill 6 — the so-called “bathroom bill” that would require Texans to use the bathroom that matches their “biological sex,” is already causing much discussion and has been the focus since it was filed on January 5.

Legislative priorities have been voiced by Governor Abbot, Lt. Governor Dan Patrick, and House Speaker Joe Straus; however, they share some common causes. Among them is fixing the state’s troubled child welfare system. All three want to improve education in Texas, though Straus has urged more of a focus on public school funding, while Patrick has been emphatic about the need for private school choice.

We, as LWV members, must remain vigilant during the legislative session. We must be informed as to how specific bills will affect our daily lives and most important how the decisions that are made during the 140 legislative days will improve the quality of life for Texans.

The LWV-CC Executive Board on Monday, January 10, voted unanimously to reserve four (4) rooms at La Quinta Hotel in Austin so our LWV-CC members could participate in Lobby Days scheduled by LWV-TX on January 30-31, 2017. The LWV-CC budget will pay for four double rooms so LWV-CC can have representation. ARE YOU INTERESTED in attending? Are you ready to continue our mission to inform, educate, and advocate in “Making Democracy Work?”

Email me at drmaryjanegarza@gmail.com.

Attention: LWV-CC Members

Lobby Days Participation

Place: Austin, Texas

Date: Monday-Tuesday, January 30-31, 2017

Hotel: La Quinta-Austin Capitol Area

LWV-CC will pay for four double rooms for one night’s lodging on Jan. 30.

All other expenses—transportation, registration fee-\$10, etc. will be the delegate’s responsibility. Room includes free breakfast and wi-fi.

Interested email: drmaryjanegarza@gmail.com

JOIN the LWV-CC Delegation to Lobby Days!

LWV-TX Hotel Reservations:

LWV-TX has reserved a block of rooms at the La Quinta for League members across the state to use if they need lodging. Ph: 512-476-1166. Rooms are blocked under the name League of Women Voters of Texas, Confirmation No: 09071693. Rates are as follows: Sunday, Jan. 29, \$125; Monday & Tuesday, Jan. 30 & 31, \$162 each night. Call to confirm whether rooms are still available.



LWV-CC Webmaster Director Debbie Noble snapped this photograph of the Corpus Christi City Council shortly after their swearing-in ceremony at City Hall. Pictured (l-r) are US District Judge Janis G. Jack, who administered the oath of office; Michael Hunter, Lucy Rubio, Ben Molina, Carolyn Vaughan, Mayor Dan McQueen, Joe McComb, Paulette Guajardo, Greg Smith, and Rudy Garza.



Joan Veith addresses Council during public comment.

Corpus Christi City Council Takes Office

(Thanks to Debbie Noble for photos)

Telephone Numbers for Elected Officials

(Compiled by Debbie Noble, Webmaster Director)

The 85th Texas Legislative Session has begun. Follow it all, as it happens, with the Texas Tribune: apps.texastribune.org

Feel strongly about an issue? Here is how to contact your state representatives:

STATE OFFICIALS:

Representative Todd Hunter-District 32
[512-463-0672](tel:512-463-0672)

Representative Abel Herrero-District 34
[512-463-0462](tel:512-463-0462)

Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa
[512-463-0120](tel:512-463-0120)



TEXANS IN CONGRESS

Our new president gets sworn in on January 20. Feel strongly about a Federal issue? Here is who to contact:

Senator John Cornyn
[202-224-2934](tel:202-224-2934)

Senator Ted Cruz
[202-224-5922](tel:202-224-5922)

Congressman Blake Farenthold
[202-225-7742](tel:202-225-7742)



More LOBBY DAYS Information, Agenda

LWV-TX cordially invites League members from across the state to participate in Lobby Days, always scheduled at the beginning of each Texas Legislative session. More than 75 members from across the state will be attending. Registration is \$10 per person.

Lobby Days includes the Making Democracy Work® (MDW) Benefit Dinner which will be held on Monday evening, January 30, at the Austin Club.

The keynote banquet speaker is Dr. Victoria DeFrancesco Soto, a noted political scientist and analyst. She will discuss changes and trends in voting patterns in Texas.

At the dinner, LWV-TX will also recognize and honor stellar community organizations who strive to Make Democracy Work® in Texas. Banquet tickets are \$110 each for LWV members and can be reserved online at the LWV-Texas website, www.lwvtx.org.

LOBBY DAYS SCHEDULE

Monday, Jan. 30--Leaguers will register at 12:30 p.m. in E1.025 (Capitol Extension Level 1), then eat lunch close by in the Capitol Grill.

Attendees will spend Monday afternoon learning about issues facing the Legislature. Speakers include Mimi Marziani, Executive Director of the Texas Civil Rights Project; a representative from the Women's Healthcare Coalition; and Jim Nelson, an attorney speaking on behalf of the Texas Association of School Boards. The session will end about 5 p.m. The MDW benefit dinner is scheduled at 6:30 p.m. at the Austin Club, downtown.

Tuesday, Jan. 31-- The day begins at 9 a.m. in the Capitol Members Lounge (E2.1002) with breakfast fare and remarks to help Leaguers prepare for visits with their House and Senate members to talk about the League's priorities. Leaguers will head home Tuesday afternoon.

Let's Get Deputized!



Nuri Rodriguez, Nueces County Voter Registration Supervisor, conducted a session a few months ago.

From the Voters Service Team:

ATTENTION, ALL DEPUTIZED VOTER REGISTRARS (and those wanting to be Deputy Registrars for future voter registration activities)

Since all of our commissions expired on December 31, 2016, it's time to get re-deputized! For our convenience, Ms. Nuri Rodriguez, Nueces County Voter Registration Supervisor, has agreed to attend our League meeting on Thursday, Jan. 19, and will begin the short training about 12:30 p.m., immediately after the League meeting is adjourned. Those who become deputized will hold their position until December 31, 2018.

If your schedule allows, please stay for the training...knowing you will be among the first of our members to help provide the important community service of voter registration in 2017 and 2018. Be watching for future notices of opportunities to become a deputy Voter Registrar.

Nominating Committee To Begin Its Work Soon

The nine members serving on the LWV-CC Executive Board are elected for two-year terms--with about half the Board having staggered terms so that the Board does not “turn over” completely each year. The League has been blessed over the years to have outstanding members serve in leadership positions.

With the Annual Meeting planned in May, this is the time of year when the Nominating Committee begins its work.

A handful of Board positions are being completed in May 2017, and new leaders will be elected to serve two-year terms, beginning June 1, 2017, through May 31, 2019.

If you are a current League member and interested in serving on the Board, please contact Dr. Matilda Saenz, this year’s Nominating Committee chair, at her email address: drmdsaenz@gmail.com.

Please Consider These Other Opportunities To Serve the League

If you don’t want to serve as an officer this year, but would consider another leadership role as a chairman or committee member, please consider the following:

- ✓ Help in registering voters and producing the respected Voters Guide, or
- ✓ Monitor City Council or Commissioners Court meetings, or
- ✓ Participate in a pro/con study of an important governmental issue, or
- ✓ Make policy decisions about the direction of the organization, or
- ✓ Work with strong, smart, informed folks who care about our community?

There’s a place for you in League work!

Talk to President Dr. Mary Jane Garza about how you would like to serve the League.

THANK YOU

A special THANK YOU to LWV-CC member Joyce Jarmon for her \$100 contribution to our Education Fund. Joyce, your generosity is sincerely appreciated.

LWVUS Participation in D.C. Women’s March

By Chris Carson, LWVUS President

Friends,

Since the inception of the 2017 [Women’s March on Washington](#), the League has monitored the developments and plans for the event scheduled on January 21 in Washington, D.C.. Over the past few weeks, organizers have obtained permits and security, disclosed additional information about the organizers and partner organizations, and shaped the grassroots demonstration as a diverse and inclusive event.

For these reasons, the LWVUS Board of Directors voted unanimously last week for the League to participate officially in the DC March.

It was important for us to take the time to confirm that this peaceful protest is in line with the League’s principles. We know this event will bring together many organizations with a variety of priorities and messages for the incoming administration, not all of which we will agree with. **But as women and defenders of our democracy, there is more that unites us than divides us.**

This is an opportunity for the League to make our voice heard on our priorities. We march for voting rights. We march to reform money in politics. We march for health care. We march for the environment. These are our core issues, and we want to ensure they are front and center.

For League members who are planning to travel to Washington D.C. for the event, this means we will coordinate a meeting location in DC and plan to march as one unit. Please bring any League signs and buttons you may have. LWVUS will supply additional League signage when we gather.

This decision also pertains to state and local Leagues interested in participating in sister marches. **The board strongly recommends that any state or local League check their liability with local march organizers to make sure your League is covered by insurance.**

When I think about our heritage, I am proud that the League will participate in this historic day, which will bring Americans together in the spirit of democracy. We are Making Democracy Work!



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



**Visit the LWVCC
Facebook page!**

**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 _____

**OR you can pay your dues online at the League's
website: www.lwv-cc.org**

City and Zip Code _____

Membership is from June 1 - May 31.