



July 2016

# The VOTER

## League of Women Voters–Corpus Christi

### LWV-CC Programs:

#### What to Look for in the 2016-2017 Year?

*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging informed and active participation in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose candidates or political parties.*

The major theme for this year's programs is "Get out the Vote! Programs that help us motivate citizens to register and vote in the upcoming elections. Programs that provide information and help us connect with other groups with similar interests. Programs that help us understand the issues that citizens and politicians are discussing. Below is a tentative schedule of the proposed programs that have been discussed. As LWV-CC Programs and speakers are finalized, calendar will be revised

### League of Women Voters-CC

#### Tentative Monthly Meetings—Third Thursday of the Month

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Speaker/s</b>
Thurs., Aug. 18, 2016 11:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Del Mar College Center for Economic Development	Voter Centers -Engaging All Registered Voters  Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training	Kara Sands, Nueces County Clerk Mike Bergsma, Republican Party Chair Jennifer Ellis, Democratic Party Chair Nori Rodrigues-Voter Registrar Office
Thurs., Sept. 15, 2016	Del Mar College Center for Economic Development	Corpus Christi City Budget Process	Council Member Colleen McIntyre
Thurs., Oct. 13 & Thurs., Oct. 20, 2016	Corpus Christi City Hall	Candidates Forums	Candidates
Thurs., Nov. 17, 2016	Del Mar College Center for Economic Development	Planning for the 85 <sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Jan. 10-May 29, 2017	Senator "Chuy" Hinojosa Rep. Abel Herrero Rep Todd Hunter
Thurs., Dec. 15, 2016	Emerald Beach Hotel	Holiday Meeting	Review of 2016 LWV-CC & Invited Speaker LWV National President
Thurs., Jan. 19, 2017	Del Mar College Center for Economic Development	Cheniere Dredging	Will Nichols, Manager-Government & Public Affairs Corpus Christi Facility
Thurs., Feb. 16, 2017	Austin, Texas	Lobby Days	Membership travels to Austin
Thurs., March 23, 2017	Del Mar College Center for Economic Development	LWV-CC Planning Committee Meeting	LWV-CC Committee Chairs & LWV-CC Members
Thurs., April 20, 2017	Del Mar College Center for Economic Development	Future of Corpus Christi	Panel Presentation
Thurs., May 18, 2017	Emerald Beach Hotel	2016-2017 LWV-CC Annual Meeting	LWV-TX State President

# President's Message

By Dr. Mary Jane Garza



Dr. Mary Jane Garza

As we come to the end of a successful year, the LWV-CC Executive Board is aware that we are gearing up for the coming year. First, let's take a moment to say thank you to those LWV-CC members who have made this such a productive and fun year – not without its

challenges but leaving us all with a well-earned sense of accomplishment and pride.

To the outgoing board – **THANK YOU!** Chris Garcia, Bobbie Wood-Hughes, Maria Jimenez, and Coretta Graham, to say that we will miss you is such an understatement!

We know that your contribution to the League will continue, however, and we look forward to new working relationships with you. To those members of the League who have worked so hard this year, **Thank You** and let us continue to work. This will be a very important year. 2016 is a General Election YEAR!

Register, register, register **VOTERS** and let us encourage every single registered **VOTER to VOTE!** **Our National, State, and Local Goal: Get the VOTE Out! At the May 26, 2016, Annual Meeting we celebrated the number of VOTERS LWV-CC registered, definitely a record number. Thank you, Ruth Falck and Sandra Heatherley.**

At the Annual Meeting we also honored Chris Garcia, vice president for membership, for her service to the LWV-TX. A recognition of her service not only to LWV-TX. but to our local LEAGUE. Chris Garcia is a LWV-CC Legacy Member. . . Servant Leadership is demonstrated continually. Her dedicated service is what makes LWV-CC one of the top four LEAGUES in the state of TEXAS.

I revere the wisdom and knowledge of our most active current and past members, and we strive to bring additional members into active involvement while maintaining our high standards, integrity and strong nonpartisanship. Our brand is well respected and

strong. Our prime directive is VOTER engagement. I am also personally committed to addressing League MEMBER engagement.

## **Goals I've set for myself include:**

Strategically using technology and improved processes to foster more member volunteer involvement  
**-Constant Contact Updates;**

Furthering our website and social media presence to expand our reach;

Expanding outlets and methods for sharing our valuable Voters Guides;

Placing a renewed emphasis on communications with our membership and collaboration with those in the communities we serve.;

Expanding our collaboration with other organizations;

Increasing Voter Participation to exceed 40% in Nueces County for the General Election.

Whether you are a longtime member, someone new to the organization, or a non-joining supporter, we know you are interested in what we do or you wouldn't be reading this. Thank you for your interest and let us know how you wish to engage. We **NEED YOU!** In discussion with one of our long-time members, she stated, *"Our League members do not seem to volunteer for Voter Registration or committee assignments."*

Her statement made me think, **"What do we need to do to further engage our membership?"** Saying we need you are just words. How do we emphasize the importance of your participation. You may ask, how do I assist?"

It takes every member to accomplish our ambitious goals. Whether you pay your dues, volunteer occasionally, serve on a committee or chair a committee or study group – you **"Make Democracy Work in the Nueces County Area!**

Please contact us and get involved! If you have ideas for actions we should be undertaking, work with other organizations with whom we should collaborate, or have any other suggestions, please send me an email or give me a call. I look forward to hearing from you at [drmaryjanegarza@gmail.com](mailto:drmaryjanegarza@gmail.com) or 361-537-1313. I want to live up to the standards of those heroines who were our early leaders and took on big things and succeeded. Another year, to continue to **"MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK!"** Join the effort, **YOU and I MAKE THE DIFFERENCE!"**

# Membership goal set at 120

LWV-CC set a high standard for 2016 -2017 LWV-CC Membership: 120 LWV-CC Members. The LWV-CC Membership Committee developed a marketing plan to achieve the 120 goal for LWV-CC 2016-2017. This was accomplished during the April CC monthly

meeting. The goal of 120 LWV-CC renewed or new members to be accomplished by December 2016. As of July 4, 2016, LWV-CC has 87 active members. Letters thanking members that renewed were to be mailed on July 1, and renewal notices mailed

on June 30. LWV-CC 2016-2017 Active Members are listed below. Can we reach the 120 LWV-CC Goal? Yes, without a doubt. Making Democracy Work is a TEAM EFFORT – Let us continue to build our TEAM!

## Membership Update as of July 4, 2016 -----New Members\* and Renewals

Jane R. Bachman	Sandra Heatherley	Jennifer Reagan *
Peggy Banales	Annie Hewitt	Sally Reigle *
J. Manuel Banales	Joe Hilliard*	Victoria Munt
Mary Lou Barrera	Melissa Hofstetter	Rogers *
Rolando Barrera	Rebecca Huerta	Brent Rourk *
Eva Brown	Lois Huff	Cynthia Rubio
Elena Buentello	Todd Hunter	Ruben Saenz
Aislynn Campbell *	Michael Hunter *	Matilda Saenz
Teresa Carillo	Joyce Jarmon	Donine Schwartz
Elida Castillo *	Martin Johnson	T. Frank Smith, IV
Barbara Clark	Teresa Klein	Linda Snider
Pauline Clarke	James Klein	Karol Stewart
Brenda Crawley	Elaine Krift	Diana Stillman
Nancy Devlin	Yvette Lara	Tom Tagliabue
Margaret Di Clemente	Brooks Lemley	Debi Tomberlin
Tammy Donaldson	Genie Lemley	Jennifer A. Vasey
Margaret Peggy	Irene Longoria	Joan Veith
Duran	Jose Longoria	Nancy Vera *
Jose M. Duran	Nelda Martinez	Helen Vargas *
Dorothy Ewing	Silvia Martinez	Debbie Vickery
Ruth Falck	Susana Martinez	Clarice Wallock
Mary Kay Oliveria	Tiffany Montemayor	Gaye White
Fant	Debbie Noble	Arenna Sue Williams
Sally Farris	Shelby O'Brien	Kim Wilson
Margareta Fratila	Larry Olivarez, Sr.	Gracy Zambrano
Annie Galvan	Lisa Oliver *	Maria Zuniga *
Chris Davis Garcia	Leah Pagan Olivarri	
Alex Garcia, Jr.	Pat G. Parr	<b>SPECIAL THANKS</b>
Mary Jane Garza	Greg Perkes	A donation to the LWV-
Coretta Graham	Nan Pillinger	CC Ed Fund from life
Demetri Guerrero	Mike Pusley	member Nan Pill-
Brenda Hamby	Sylvia Ramirez	inger

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Save the Date! Take out your calendar today and reserve Thursday, August 18, 2016, to join us for the August LWV-CC Monthly Meeting, Del Mar College Center for Economic Development – 11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. Immediately following the meeting Voter Deputy Registrar Training has been scheduled.

No meeting is scheduled in July.

## Commissioners consider Election Day ‘Vote Centers’



The League of Women Voter’s of Corpus Christi was well represented at the Nueces County public meeting on June 27 to discuss the possibility of applying to the Secretary of State to be part of the Texas County Wide Polling Place Program. (Above) Nick and Maria Jimenez are pictured.

Nueces County Commissioners were scheduled to consider the implementation of VOTER Centers for the November 8, 2016, General Election on Wednesday, July 13. A formal request to the Secretary of State will be made via an application process once the County Commissioners agree to move forward with the application process. The application is due on August 15. Kara Sands, Nueces County Clerk, has begun preparing the application process. A public hearing was held on Monday, June 27, at 7 p.m. to introduce the concept and obtain public opinion.

Election Day “Vote Centers” are an alternative to the traditional, neighborhood-based precinct system. They allow voters to cast their ballots at any polling place in the jurisdiction, regardless of their residential address. Colorado was the first state to implement Voter Centers and they continue the process.

Colorado’s slogan, “With Vote Centers, there is no wrong place to vote!” Election Day vote centers were first tried in 2003; now, less than a decade later, many states are embracing the concept. In the world of election policy, that’s lightning-fast acceptance. Why are they suddenly so popular? Because they offer these advantages: “Convenience, Convenience, Convenience,” supporters say.

Scott Doyle, county clerk in Larimer County, Colo., came up with the idea and the term. The inspiration came in 2000, when legally registered voters in his jurisdiction were barred by police at the courthouse door from voting after 7 p.m. These voters had first showed up at the wrong precinct and were directed to the courthouse as a last recourse. But they couldn’t make it through the door on time. Doyle thought, “There’s got to be a better way.”

**See ‘Vote Centers,’ page 5**

## 'Vote Centers'

From Page 4

The better way was to allow registered voters in the county to vote at any designated vote center, not just their precinct's location.

Eleven states now either permit jurisdictions to replace precincts with vote centers, or have authorized vote center pilot projects in selected jurisdictions. Lubbock, Texas piloted the concept in 2005. There are advantages as well as disadvantages:

### **Possible advantages:**

**Voter convenience** – Citizens can vote near home, near work or school, or anywhere that is convenient.

**Turnout** – Because of convenience, turnout may increase.

### **Possible drawbacks:**

**Tradition** – The civic experience of voting with neighbors at a local school, church, or other polling place is changed.

**Voter education** – Vote centers can cause confusion if the switch isn't well publicized and explained to the public.

**Equipment** – Vote centers must be able to produce the appropriate ballot for each voter; this requires either touchscreen machines that can be reset for each voter or "print-on-demand" equipment.

**Technology** – Jurisdictions must first convert to the use of "electronic poll books"; when a voter casts a ballot in one location, it is recorded at all locations via networked computers.



(Above left) LWV-CC President Mary Jane Garza speaks. (Left) Members Ruth Falck and Sandra Heatherley attend the public hearing.

## Volunteers are needed to continue Voter Registration

Volunteers are needed to become Volunteer Deputy Registrars (VDR). VDRs help register eligible citizens to vote by distributing, reviewing, and accepting completed voter registration applications. This training must be repeated every two years. LWV-CC will be scheduling Nuri Rodriguez to conduct the training immediately after the monthly meeting on August 18 at Del Mar College Center for Economic Development. Training takes approximately 30 to 45 minutes. Room 118 at Del Mar College-Center for Economic Development is currently the assigned room for the meeting.



Ruth Falck helps a TAMU-CC student register to vote.

## Members register voters, answer questions at Texas A&M-CC

June 2016 was a busy month for the LWV-CC members as they actively continued seeking out new sites to conduct voter registration. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Freshmen Orientation over a four-day period yielded 75 new registered voters.

The following LWV-CC members participat-

ed in the four-day registration period: Sandra Heatherley, Ruth Falck, Debbie Noble, Nancy Devlin and Margaret Di Clemente.

Sandra Heatherley stated, "It was a worthwhile registration process and we were able to answer many questions concerning the forthcoming November Election.

In addition we gave

out a countless number of registration cards, which can be used by the students when their dorm assignments are made."

Texas A & M University-Corpus Christi is looking to start a LWV-CC Youth Group Chapter. LWV-CC officers will be attending a youth group meeting scheduled for early August.

Applause for Mary Kay Oliveria Fant, the 2016-2017 LWV-CC treasurer. Mary Kay has been a member since 2015.



Mary Kay Oliveria Fant

As a new member, Mary Kay was asked to be the interim secretary and she accepted. She registered members for the monthly luncheons, answered voice mails, proofread constant contact announcements, obtained door prizes, prepared sign-in sheets and prepared financial reports when the LWV-CC treasurer resigned. When

called upon to serve, she nods, smiles and dives into the work that needs to be accomplished.



**JUNE ART WALK**—Seventeen voters were registered at the June Art Walk, an event held downtown on the first Friday of each month. On hand to represent the League were several volunteers, including Diana Stillman and Sandra Heatherley (pictured above). See the calendar below for upcoming Art Walks, and contact Sandra or Ruth Falck if you can assist. (Special thanks to photographer Debbie Noble for documenting League activities.)

## LWV-CC Voter Services Calendar for 2016

### July:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Art Walk
- 23<sup>rd</sup> First Day to file for a place on the General election Ballot
- 29<sup>th</sup> Begin correspondence with candidates on behalf of the Voters Guide and Candidate Forum

### August: Develop questions for candidates for the Voters Guide (VOTE411)

- 5<sup>th</sup> Art Walk
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Last day to file for a place on the General election Ballot
- 26<sup>th</sup> Last Day to file a Declaration of Write-in candidacy
- 26<sup>th</sup> (Also 96<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women's Equality)

### September: Complete VOTE411 and Voters Guide

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Art Walk
- 27<sup>th</sup> National Voter Registration Day

### October:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Publish Voters Guide and VOTE411
- 6<sup>th</sup> Distribute Voters Guide

## Members: Be sure to use Facebook

By Debbie Noble

In order to Inform Voters, part of our League mission, we need to reach them. And that means intelligent use of social media and the internet. We have a LWV-CC Facebook page that you should make sure you have "liked" if you are a Facebook user. In order to help us help voters, we need you to

- 1) Invite people to "like" our page. We are up to 412, but more is always better! Go to our page. Look for and select the option "Invite friends to like this page". Scroll down your list of friends, pressing the invite button next to each person you want to invite.
- 2) Invite people to events posted on our page. We post information about our educational lunch meetings and other community events. Select the event on our page. Press the Invite (envelope) button. Choose "Share Event in a Post" to simply share the event on your page for all your friends to see. To be even more proactive, choose "Choose Friends" and then check off all the people you want to invite to this particular event. You can even tell if someone has already been invited! Once you are done selecting people, press the "Invite" option at the top of the page.
- 3) Share information and events from our page to yours. That is how we multiply our reach - people who are friends with you, but not us, will also get to see our information. Select the "Share" option under any post on our page. Select "Write Post," and then write a brief personal message if you want (like "check this out!"). When you are done, press "Post."

## 2016 Annual Meeting

On Thursday, May 26, the LWV-CC Annual Meeting took place at Emerald Beach Laguna Room. Approximately 56 members were in attendance as well as invited guests. A budget was approved, programs for study were suggested, and officers were elected. 2015-2016 LWV-CC events were celebrated and special recognition of LWV-CC members who have gone the extra mile time and time again. The LWV-TX recognized



Chris Garcia with a special resolution that was read and presented toward the end of the celebration. Members and guests enjoyed won-

derful appetizers, liquid refreshments, and thirteen door prizes culminated the evenings celebration.

## LWV-TX Voter and Election Resources

**L**[wvtexas.turbovote.org](http://lwvtexas.turbovote.org) is paid for by LWV-TX to provide voting and election reminders to Texas Voters! Sign up your community today! Voters will also receive information about the nonpartisan LWV-TX Voter Guide. Be aware that if Texans use any online voter registration websites, they need to print, sign, and mail in the form to complete the registration.

[League of Women Voters of Texas Voters Guide](#) will be available by early voting. If you live in a community with a local League, you should encourage your voters to review the Local League Voters Guide. The Voters Guide provides essential nonpartisan candidate information.

[League of Women Voters of Texas; Be a Texas Voter Toolbox for Community Organizations](#) is an excellent voter engagement resource! The Toolbox provides detailed information for all types of community organizations in Texas to promote nonpartisan voter education and registration material.

[LWVTexas.org Voter and Election Information](#) section of the website provides voter education information including...vote rID, registration, mail-in ballot etc.

[VOTE411.org](#) provides voters with the same nonpartisan Voter Guide candidate information and an opportunity to create a personalized ballot.

[League of Women Voters of Texas; Vote It Counts](#)

power point presentation discusses voter turnout in your county (or counties) compared to Texas and the nation, the impact of low voter turnout, and why an individual's vote counts.

It includes important dates for the November election and voter information websites (state, county, and League). [Contact your Local League](#) for a presentation or feel free to use the power point for your community organization. Please don't make any changes to the power point presentation or use it for partisan activities.

### Software update planned

**O**ur software for VOTE411.org will be updated in October 2016 with information regarding the fall Elections. The data will be uploaded and available prior to the elections. To access your personal ballot information you may log in and enter your address. Select View All and you will be able to view the information on candidates and propositions.

\*\*\*\*\*

We will provide information regarding local elections as it becomes available.



# Meet State and National Presidents

## Texas president in 2nd term term



Elaine Wiant

Elaine Wiant is serving her second term as LWV-Texas president. She returned to the Texas board in 2014 after serving as LWV-TX treasurer (1997-2003), and director (2003 - 2006). She was on the LWVUS Board from 2006 -2012, serving four years as secretary/treasurer. She served

for 12 years on the LWVUS Budget Committee (2004 -2016), including two years as the Budget Chair (2012-2014).

In her professional life, Wiant is Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, a Certified Fraud Examiner, and a licensed private investigator. She provides financial investigations in complex litigation cases after allegations of fraud and mismanagement.

## Take Action: Repair the Voting Rights Act

By Chris Carson 06/24/2016 (LWVUS President)

The three-year anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision to gut key provisions of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) has just passed. We've had three years of bad laws that make voting harder in states all across the country. But there is a solution. Tell Congress to repair and modernize the Voting Rights Act TODAY!

The Voting Rights Advancement Act was introduced to address the voting discrimination unleashed in the wake of the Shelby County v. Holder decision. Yet the legislation is being held up on both sides of Congress. It is an unfortunate fact that discrimination in voting against racial, ethnic and language minorities continues in America. This should be unacceptable in the greatest democracy in the world.

Without congressional action to repair the VRA, 2016 will mark the first presidential election in 50 years without its full protections.

Throughout the 2016 primaries we saw voters face a variety of obstacles, from reduced polling places, to long lines, to removal of registered voters from the rolls, and these challengers are just a canary in the coalmine for what's to come in November without the VRA's protections.

It's time we all call on our Senators and Representatives to take action and end voting discrimination in this country.

## Chris Carson heads LWVUS



Chris Carson

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) held its 52nd biennial national convention in Washington, DC from June 16-19, 2016. Chris Carson of Burbank, California was elected unanimously by the more than 700 delegates gathered at the Marriott Wardman Park. Carson,

elected to serve a two-year term, will be the national organization's 19<sup>th</sup> president.

In her acceptance speech, Carson thanked members for entrusting her with the leadership of this 96-year-old organization. "It's an honor and a privilege to stand here today, thank you for choosing me to be your president. A League member since 1983, Carson served as the government director of the California League from 2005-2009 and was first elected to a two-year term on the League's national Board in 2014. Carson has led the League's redistricting reform task force for the past four years and has been the organization's national advocacy chair since 2014. She succeeds Elizabeth MacNamara.

DON'T FORGET TO VOT

GET REMINDERS!

LWVTEXAS.TURBOVOTE.ORG



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
**CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS**  
 PO Box 8276  
 Corpus Christi, TX 78468



Visit Our  
 Facebook Page

**If you haven't renewed your membership, please do so! Use the application below.**

**LWV Corpus Christi  
 Renewal / New Membership  
 Application**

*Join now and help in the effort to promote  
 political responsibility through informed,  
 active participation in government.*

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Type of membership:

New _____	Renewal _____
Individual \$60 _____	Student \$30 _____
Household \$90 _____	Sustaining \$100 _____
Friend of the League \$30 _____	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Household Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Work or Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fax number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this form to:  
 League of Women Voters  
 P. O. Box 8276, Corpus Christi, Texas 78468.**

**OR you can pay your dues online at the  
 League's website: [www.lwv-cc.org](http://www.lwv-cc.org)**

**Membership is from June 1 through May 31.**