



# The VOTER

MAY 2019

League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi

## League Members, Guests Cordially Invited to 74th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 21

The 74th Annual Meeting of LWV-Corpus Christi will be held at Ara's Euro-Fusion Restaurant, located at 6917 S. Staples between Saratoga and Lipes. All League members and their guests are cordially invited to attend.

Gathering time will be 5:45 p.m., with the meal served about 6:10 p.m. Attendees will have four plated dinner choices from which to choose at \$33 per person. A no-host cash bar will be available. The four meal options are highlighted on Page 5, with advance reservations required by Friday noon, May 17. However, League members who want to attend the Annual Meeting but not order a meal are cordially invited to do so.

"The meal will be served first, and the business meeting will begin about 6:45 p.m.," said Chris Garcia, president.

"Your attendance is important as League Bylaws call for a specific percentage of the membership to be present and voting in order for business items to be approved. Please join us!"

Included in the agenda will be approval of the May 2018 Annual Meeting minutes; discussion/adoption of a proposed budget for 2019-2020; reports from Member Services, Voter Services, and Program; report from the 2018-2019 Nominating Committee; and election of officers.

A printed Annual Meeting workbook will be provided to each attendee that highlights the action items to be voted on. The workbook will also include a copy of the League By-laws.

### Special Thanks to Members Who Are Completing Service on the Board

The following Board members are completing their two-year elected terms on the LWV-CC Board of Directors:

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

Ruth Falck is completing two years of service as Voter Registration Chair.

Anne Stewart is completing her term as Nominating Committee chair, and Linda Snider and Alex Garcia, Jr. are completing their one-year elected terms as Nominating Committee members.

In addition, Sylvia Whitworth is completing a one-year appointed term on the Board as Director/Archivist.

Thanks to these Board members for their outstanding service.



SPECIAL GUEST--A special guest at the April 25 meeting was Patricia Wirth (right), a member of the Fairfax, VA, League of Women Voters and CEO of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial which will be dedicated in August 2020. Wirth said the national memorial will be located in NOVA Park's Occoquan Regional Park in Lorton, VA, (approximately 20 miles south of Washington, DC.) part of the historic prison grounds where scores of suffragists were imprisoned in 1917 for picketing the White House demanding the right to vote. Pictured with Mrs. Wirth are League members Chris Garcia and Sue Williams.

### 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



Chris Davis Garcia  
LWV-CC President

Dear League Members and Friends:

It's been a wonderful opportunity for me to serve as President of the League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi for the past two years. The League has been a significant part of my life for the past 15 years or so, and I look forward to staying engaged and helping in whatever ways I can.

Serving with fellow Board members was an honor, and I thank them for their commitment and service.

Many of you know that this current 2-year term is my second as president. I followed Lois Huff, who served as president for five (!) years...serving from 2007-2009. I then accepted a 6-year commitment as a Director on the LWV-Texas board from 2010-2016. That experience was fantastic, and I hope someday that one of our League members will again serve at the state level.

As the newly elected Board members begin their planning for 2019-2020, you are encouraged to remain active in our League. Volunteer to help when projects and activities are announced, remembering that it takes all of us working together to keep the League strong.

Thank you again for supporting the Corpus Christi League.



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

**[lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com)**  
**361-445-4436**

**LWV-CC Board, 2018-2019**

**President**

Chris Davis Garcia  
361-991-2784 (hm); 361-244-4193

**Secretary**

Rebecca Huerta, 361-826-3105;

**Treasurer**

Brenda Hamby, 361-991-1733

**Vice President, Member Services**

Sandra Heatherley, 361-876-4321;

**Vice President, Program**

Annell Neale, 361-771-3026

**Vice President, Voter Services**

Kathryn Oler  
Raul Ramirez, 774-0937

**Director, Website/Social Media**

Debbie Noble, 410-271-1167

**Director, Media/Communications**

Melody Cooper, 361-774-4170

**At-Large Director**

Dr. Tammy Donaldson, 361-739-0462

**Director/Archivist:**

Sylvia Whitworth  
[jimcwhit@hotmail.com](mailto:jimcwhit@hotmail.com); 853-9990

**OFF-BOARD CHAIRS**

**Voter Registration**

Ruth Falck, 361-548-2615

**Nominating Committee**

Anne Stewart, 361-850-0663

**Elected Members:**

Alex Garcia, Jr., 361-510-2001  
Linda Snider, 802-777-2269

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## LWV-CC Committee Recruiting Members To Help Plan *Women's Equality Day* Event

By Lois Huff & Anne Stewart

Did you know that the date of August 26 has merited a presidential proclamation since 1971 when US Representative Bella Abzug championed a bill in the U.S. Congress to designate August 26 as "Women's Equality Day?" The date celebrates the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment giving women the right to vote.

Leagues and other organizations across the nation have marked the date each year with local proclamations, historical programs, and special celebrations remembering the suffrage movement and the women who fought for the right to vote.

Over the years, LWV-CC has annually marked the national observance with either a proclamation or special event.

A small committee was formed recently to discuss and make plans to celebrate the August 2019 observance of *Women's Equality Day*, but additional League members are needed on this planning committee. The next committee meeting is **10 a.m., Wednesday, May 22**, at Half-Priced Books. Your participation would be appreciated!

Please call Lois Huff at 774-1500 or Anne Stewart at 850-0663 to volunteer.

Ideas being discussed by the committee include an educational event or luncheon involving students, League members, and the public that might be paired with a silent auction and perhaps a separate LWV-CC evening fundraiser that would generate support for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2020.

# LOOKING AHEAD TO THE 74th ANNUAL MEETING

## 2019-2020 Proposed Budget

(Teresa Carrillo, Budget Committee chair; Anne Stewart, Maria Jimenez, members; Brenda Hamby, treasurer)

### INCOME

Per Member Dues	\$4,920
Sustainers' Gifts	\$720
Friends of the League	\$120
Monthly Luncheons	\$1,600
2019 Annual Meeting	\$960
2019-2020 Fundraising	\$3,380
Community Support/Contributions	\$400
Advertising in the VOTER	\$400
Silent Auction Proceeds	\$500
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>

### EXPENSES

Per Member Dues to National	\$2,608
Per Member Dues to State	\$1,793
Monthly Luncheons	\$1,320
2019 Annual Meeting	\$704
2019-2020 Fundraising Events(s)	\$1,820
Community Support/Participation/Outreach	\$400
Voter Services Publications	\$1,840
Voter Registration Events	\$600
Printing	\$405
Website Maintenance	\$300
Admin/Postage/Supplies	\$300
PO Box Rental	\$120
Leadership/Training	\$150
Centennial Celebration Event	\$400
Transfer to Savings	\$240
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>

\* Notes about PMP = Per Member Payment

LWV-CC current membership dues structure is:  
\$60 for individuals; \$90 for two members in same household; and \$5 for students.

PMP LWV-Texas Assessment: Individual, \$22; second household member, \$11; Student, \$0  
PMP LWVUS Assessment: Individual, \$32; second household member, \$16; Student, \$0

**ENGAGING VOTERS.  
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.**

## Nominating Committee Report

### 2-YEAR TERM

Co-Presidents: Peggy Banales and Anne Stewart  
Treasurer: Teresa Carrillo  
Vice President, Voter Services: Paula Breighton  
Director, Website/Social Media: Debbie Noble  
Director, At-Large: Brenda Hamby

### 1-YEAR TERM

Vice President, Program: Annell Neale  
(to complete the unexpired term of Carla Gardiner)

### 1-YEAR TERM

Chairman, 2019-2020 Nominating Committee:  
Peggy Duran

Elected members of Nominating Committee:  
Lois Huff and Maria Jimenez

### CONTINUING ON THE BOARD:

The following officers were elected to two-year terms in May 2018 and will continue to serve on the LWV-CC Board through May 2020:

Sandra Heatherley, Vice President, Member Services  
Rebecca Huerta, Secretary  
Melody Cooper, Director, Media Communications

(Nominating Committee: Anne Stewart, chair; members Alex Garcia, Jr., Linda Snider, Sandra Heatherley, Rebecca Huerta.)

**[H] TODDHUNTER**

**Todd A. Hunter  
ATTORNEY AT LAW**

todd@toddhunterlaw.com • www.toddhunterlaw.com  
555 N. Carancahua, Ste. 250, Corpus Christi, TX 78401-0812  
Office: 361.881.8555 | Cell: 361.533.0505

**Law Office of Todd A. Hunter, P.L.L.C.**

# April 25 Meeting Provides "How To" in Protesting Residential Appraisals



Thanks to LWV-CC member Sue Williams, who recently completed five years of service on the Nueces County Appraisal Board, members and guests attending the April 25 meeting got a crash course on protesting their residential appraisal before the May 15 deadline and what documentation to take with them. Williams' humor and expertise kept the small crowd engaged.

## Voter Registration Drives Continue at Local Schools; Moody HS Event on May 17

Thanks to LWV-CC voter registrars Sue Williams and Ruth Falck for speaking to and helping register 64 seniors at West Oso High School on May 2.

Raul Ramirez, who is coordinating the high school initiative this spring, has confirmed an invitation from Moody High School to help register seniors on May 17. If you are available to help, please text Raul at 774-0937.



Several of those attending the April 25 program posed for a group photo. Pictured are Sue Williams, Chris Garcia, Lois Huff, Patricia Wirth, Annell Neale, Lisa Schmidt, Linda Snider, Michelle Brenn, Raul Ramirez, Anne Stewart, and Sylvia Trevino. Special thanks to Carrie Guevara of State Rep. Todd Hunter's office for taking this photo.

## Save These Dates:

Beginning in September 2019 and continuing through 2020, several activities and events will be held in Corpus Christi to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote.

Planning has begun on two Institutes for Public Leadership, to be hosted by the YWCA--one on September 25 for college students, the other on September 28 for women more established in their careers, who might be considering running for public office. The 3-hour sessions would address a variety of topics and presenters.

Saturday, March 7, 2020, has been confirmed for the "Women's March" from the County Courthouse to the Federal Courthouse.

An exhibit highlighting historical information about the League will be displayed March 1-31 at the Nueces County Courthouse.

### MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

**THANK YOU TO THESE RENEWING MEMBERS FOR 2019-2020!**

**Sue Williams, Individual  
Chris Davis Garcia, Sustaining**



**Carla Gardiner**  
Financial Advisor

802 N Carancahua Suite 1650  
Corpus Christi, TX 78401  
361-885-0622

**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



# RESERVATION FORM FOR 74th ANNUAL MEETING OF LWV-CC



YES, I/we want to order a meal for the League's 74th Annual Meeting, which will be held from 5:45 to 7:45 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21, at Ara's Euro-Fusion Restaurant, 6917 S. Staples. I understand the cost per person is \$33 (includes all service charges and gratuity) and that I/we need to make our meal selection(s) no later than noon Friday, May 17.

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

My payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is attached to this form. (Please make check or money order payable to LWV-CC and mail with this form immediately to: (your reservation must be received by noon Friday, May 17.)

LWV-CC  
Attn: Annual Meeting  
PO Box 8276  
Corpus Christi, TX 78468

I have noted below which meal choices are being selected by me and my guest.

**MEAL CHOICES INCLUDE** (all served with Ara's special bread and choice of water, tea, or soft drink)

\_\_\_\_\_ Name 1. Vegetarian: Grilled Romaine Salad, coated with in-house honey balsamic vinaigrette; flash grilled for perfect caramelization, served with grilled mushrooms, bell peppers, Roma tomato medallion, and asparagus; topped with crumbled blue cheese or shaved Parmesan Reggiano; served with cup of Tomato Bisque. \* if desired, diner can add one of the following to the Romaine Salad: please note choice: ( ) 4-oz grilled chicken ( ) 3 shrimp ( ) 4-oz. sliced prime sirloin ( ) salmon

\_\_\_\_\_ Name 2. Sliced Beef Tenderloin, with melted blue cheese and mushroom port cream sauce; roasted baby red potatoes, seasonal vegetable medley, and tossed green salad.

\_\_\_\_\_ Name 3. Panko-Crusted Fried Shrimp, with rice pilaf, seasonal vegetable medley, and tossed green salad.

\_\_\_\_\_ Name 4. Chicken Parmigiana, with side of Penne pasta, vegetable medley, and tossed green salad.

**Dessert selection:** Choice of Crème Brulee or Kahlua Bailey's Mudslide Pie

**YOU MAY RSVP by e-mail no later than noon Friday, May 17, to: [lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com)**  
Please note your name and your guest's name, if applicable, and indicate your meal choice(s) by number (1,2,3, or 4). You may bring your payment (check, money order, or cash) with you the night of the event. (Sorry, we are unable to accept credit card payments.)

**Don't want to order a meal? That's okay!** League members who want to attend the Annual Meeting but not order a meal are cordially invited to do so. Your attendance and participation are important and will be appreciated.

**\*\*\*\*\*Special Donation: If you cannot attend the Annual Meeting this year but are willing to underwrite the cost of one meal (\$33) for one of our TAMU-CC or Del Mar College student members:** please contact LWV-CC President Chris Garcia at 244-4193 or at [garciachris1714@gmail.com](mailto:garciachris1714@gmail.com) to confirm your donation. Your payment can be mailed to the League address noted above.

# When You “Like, Share, and Comment on” the League’s Facebook Page, You Make a Positive Difference

By Debbie Noble  
Director/Website-Social Media

Social media in general and Facebook in particular have been accused of everything from ruining our democracy to connecting us with long lost first loves. Like many tools, it can be used for power of good or the power of evil.

In the case of the League of Women Voters, we want to spread voter, election, and event information to our group and to other prospective interested people in the area.

Because this immense platform has been used to spread so much misinformation and is under such international scrutiny, the company constantly changes the algorithms (set of internal rules used to decide what you see) in an attempt to improve the community experience.

Bear in mind that over 2 billion (yes, with a B) people globally use a Facebook platform (Facebook, Messenger, WhatsApp, or Instagram) every single day.

People smugly and self righteously announce that they have given up or deleted Facebook because it is toxic, full of fake news, partisan politics, and people complaining. I understand that this true for some people.

My personal experience is that Facebook is full of fun things to do in my city and highlights in the lives of people I care about. This is where the algorithm comes in.

Facebook DECIDES what to show you based on what it thinks you want to see and it bases that decision on what you and your friends like, share, and comment on.

If you feel outraged by something (and anger is certainly a strong motivator), you may be tempted to bang your feelings out on your keyboard and triumphantly hit “SEND.”

You may be engaging with opinions or stories that you don’t agree with or like or which just plain make you mad, and your engagement is merely ensuring that you will see more content like that.

Your outraged comments and angry face emojis are what keep the very thing you don’t like scrolling fast and furious onto your feed. Engagement (liking, sharing, and ESPECIALLY

## Facebook.com/ Corpus Christi League of Women Voters

commenting and replying) is everything these days. It ultimately decides what you AND your friends and family see.

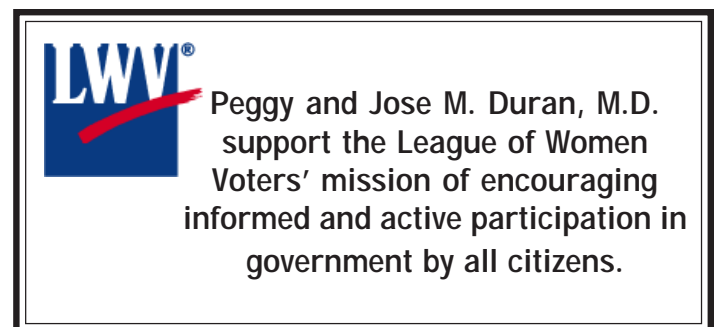
If you constantly comment on stuff that makes you mad, you are going to keep seeing stuff that make you mad!

Facebook is trying to get back to the basics of people (not businesses or organizations) communicating and sharing life’s stories. This can be good (more playful pets and less petty political memes), but it does make it more difficult for information on the League’s Facebook group page to successfully reach anyone.

### What can you do to help?

- 1) Make sure you have “liked” our page (Corpus Christi League of Women Voters).
- 2) Comment on our posts, whether to tell the presenter what a great job they did, mention something that you learned, or ask a question.
- 3) Always press the “Interested” or “Going” buttons on events.
- 4) Share the League posts on your own page and keep commenting!

The more you engage with our content, the more people will see it. And maybe if we all only comment on and share content that makes our world a better place, the world will actually BECOME a better place :)



# LWVTX Had Role in Settling Lawsuit Filed Against Secretary of State's Office

Release date: Friday, April 26, 2019

Austin – The League of Women Voters of Texas and other nonprofit groups and civil rights organizations have reached an agreement with Texas state officials to settle the lawsuit filed after the Secretary of State's office attempted an inaccurate and discriminatory voter purge.

This agreement is a victory for voting rights. It successfully prevents the state of Texas from disenfranchising thousands of eligible voters and intimidating countless more.

"The League regrets that it took a lawsuit to remind our state officials that naturalized citizens have a right to vote and to fully participate in our democracy. We are hopeful that new procedures will prevent naturalized citizens from being treated as second class citizens," said Grace Chimene, president of the League of Women Voters of Texas. "We will continue to work with the Secretary of State, as the chief election officer for Texas, to protect all citizens' right to vote."

The League joined the lawsuit against the Texas Secretary of State's office and several Texas counties after Secretary of State Whitley made unfounded accusations that as many as 95,000 non-citizens had voted in recent Texas elections.

This claim was based on flawed data and created unnecessary suspicion about naturalized citizens. The action was discriminatory and unjustly targeted people of color.

The terms of the settlement have the state rescind its original statement announcing the purge and agree to adopt a new, more confined, voter database maintenance process.

Additionally, it must follow a list of procedures before initiating any program to invalidate the voter registration of any individual based on DPS citizenship data.

The plaintiffs will retain the right to sue again if the state persists with discriminatory actions or operates in a manner that violates protected rights.

There was never a problem of non-citizens registering and voting in Texas — there was a data problem. The League will be monitoring the voter database maintenance process to ensure

The news release featured on this page was issued by the League of Women Voters of Texas, whose office is in Austin. LWVTX President Grace Chimene is quoted in the news release.



the right to vote is guaranteed to all eligible citizens.

"We are thrilled that our fight to protect the right to vote was successful," said Chimene. "The League of Women Voters of Texas believes that this fight is critical to our democracy."

"No citizen should have to fear that their voting rights might be taken away because of where they were born," said Chris Carson, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States. "I'm thankful to the League of Women Voters of Texas and its partners for acting quickly and forcefully to protect the rights of these Texas voters."

## REMINDER: *Your Membership Matters!*

LWV-Corpus Christi was established in 1946 and has been the "go to" organization for nonpartisan Voter Guides and candidate forums for the past 74 years. Your continued support of LWV-CC, through your annual membership dues, ensures that we continue addressing our mission and serving the community. Your local League membership makes you also a member of the Texas League and the National League.

The League's membership year is June 1 through May 31, and since June 1 is just around the corner, you are encouraged to write your renewal check or money order in the coming weeks. Send your membership dues payment plus the renewal form on Page 8 to:

LWV-CC (Attn: Treasurer)  
PO Box 8276  
Corpus Christi, TX 78468

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**REMINDER: *Your Membership Matters!***

The League's membership year is June 1 through May 31.

\*\* May is the month to renew your annual membership in the League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi. Plan now to continue supporting the League in 2019-2020.

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FORM**

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS - CORPUS CHRISTI AREA

PO Box 8276 • Corpus Christi, TX 78468-8276

**LWV-CC membership runs June 1 to May 31** and supports local, state and national LWV actions to Empower Voters and Defend Democracy. We welcome your membership. Please complete this form and return it to the League at the address noted above.

**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 \$5     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.