



# The VOTER

MARCH 2019

League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi



Robert Paulison, Executive Director  
Port Industries of Corpus Christi

## March 21, League Meeting Will Focus on Port Industries

Robert Paulison, Executive Director of the Port Industries of Corpus Christi (PICC), will speak to League members and guests Thursday, March 21, about what and who PICC is and will share the results of the organization's biennial community survey. Paulison is a retired Coast Guard Sector Commander and serves as Captain of the Port.

League members and guests can order a sandwich or green salad box lunch at \$10 each by calling 445-4436 or by leaving an email message at [lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com). Reservations are needed no later than Tuesday noon, March 19.

## 2019 Equal Pay Day Proclamation on March 19

League members are cordially invited to be present at City Hall Council Chambers, 1201 Leopard, before 11:15 a.m. Tuesday, March 17, for the reading of a proclamation celebrating the national observance of Equal Pay Day.

The YWCA requested the proclamation and urges everyone to wear red and to participate in the group photograph. Co-sponsoring with the YWCA are AAUW, EWI, and LWV-CC.

The proclamation will note the annual Equal Pay Day luncheon event scheduled on Tuesday, April 2, at First United Methodist Church, Corpus Christi, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Luncheon tickets will be \$5 for women and \$6.05 for men and can be ordered in advance at [www.ywcacc.org](http://www.ywcacc.org).



If questions, please email [ywcacc@ywcacc.org](mailto:ywcacc@ywcacc.org).

Highlighting the April 2 event will be a panel discussion including District Judge Inna Klein, Amy Villarreal of Workforce Solutions, and Dr. Amy Aldridge Sanford of TAMU-CC.



**PARADE PRESENCE**--League members Sandra Heatherley (l) and Annell Neale display their banner and signage as the Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade gets under way on North Padre Island. . See additional photos from the March 2 event on Page 5.

### Looking Ahead:

**The LWV-CC Voter Services Committee needs voter registrars on April 5 and April 6, plus helpers at high school voter drives. See story on Page 4.**

### 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.

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# President's Message



Chris Davis Garcia  
LWV-CC President

Dear League Members and Friends:

LWVTX advocacy efforts continue non-stop in Austin as Issue Chairs who reside across the state are involved in tracking and monitoring legislative bills being filed by lawmakers. As they identify bills of interest or concern to the League, they write and deliver testimony (via the League's Capitol Corps volunteers) to be presented at legislative committee meetings.

Their work is outstanding and is accomplished on behalf of the more than 30 Local Leagues in Texas.

Throughout the past several weeks, Action Alerts have been generated by email from LWV-TX, asking League members across the state to respond to various bills being filed. If you are not following those Action Alerts, I encourage you to do so by visiting the state website at [www.lwvtx.org](http://www.lwvtx.org).

This week, for instance, League members were asked to support the following bills in the area of domestic violence by sending emails to members of the House and Senate Business and Commerce Committees:

H.B. 1663 and H.B. 1912 provide a mechanism for tenants to leave leases if proper documentation can be provided to prove that they are victims of domestic violence.

SB 269 creates a felony criminal punishment for offenders who use coerced debt to harm their victims and also gives victims special rights under the federal Fair Credit Reporting Act.

Since the Legislative session began, Action Alerts have been sent on behalf of the following topics--Climate Change, Modernize Texas Elections, Redistricting Reform, Children's Health, Local Control, Public Education, Women's Health, and Medicaid.

If you are communicating with our local elected legislators on bills and issues of importance to YOU that may or may not be on the LWVTX 2019 priority list, please accept my thanks.

## DONATIONS RECEIVED

*\* A gift to the League in memory of Carolyn Moon, a former League member, longtime community and political advocate, and voter registrar, from Chris Davis Garcia.*

*\* A gift to the League in honor of Marjorie "Ricky" Walraven's outstanding involvement and support of the League over the past 15 years as a voter registrar and as VOTER editor, also from Chris. Marjorie is relocating to Dallas to live closer to her daughter and will be deeply missed.*



Peggy and Jose M. Duran, M.D.  
support the League of Women Voters'  
mission of encouraging informed  
and active participation in  
government by all citizens.

## League of Women Voters

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Corpus Christi, TX

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361-445-4436

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

### President

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### Director/Archivist: Sylvia Whitworth

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### OFF-BOARD CHAIRS

#### Voter Registration

Ruth Falck, 361-548-2615

[falckruth@yahoo.com](mailto:falckruth@yahoo.com)

#### Nominating Committee

Anne Stewart, 361-850-0663

[emlean@gmail.com](mailto:emlean@gmail.com)

#### Elected Members:

Alex Garcia, Jr., 361-510-2001

Linda Snider, 802-777-2269

#### The VOTER Newsletter

Chris Davis Garcia, 361-244-4193

# February Meeting

About 22 League members attended the February 21 meeting to receive updates on League activities and participate in two brainstorming activities focused on identifying meeting topics of interest for the 2019-2020 year and generating a list of prospective funding sponsors (both companies and individuals) for upcoming League projects. Thanks to everyone who attended.

A special farewell was given to Marjorie “Ricky” Walraven (pictured below) who will soon be relocating to the Dallas area. She is a retired Mary Carroll High School journalism teacher.



(Above) Raul Ramirez and Kathryn Oler, Voter Services Committee; (below) Sandra Heatherley, Annell Neal, Lois Huff, Paula Breighton; Linda Snider, Sylvia Whitworth, Anne Stewart, Kathryn Oler, Maria Jimenez.



Marjorie Walraven



## In League ...

Thanks to the LWV-CC Nominating Committee, chaired by Anne Stewart, which has been working diligently over the past several weeks to complete a slate of officers to be elected at the LWV-CC 74th Annual Meeting to be held in May.

Thanks to Teresa Carrillo, Anne Stewart, and Maria Jimenez for volunteering to serve with Treasurer Brenda Hamby on the Budget Committee. They will recommend a proposed budget for 2019-2020 and help oversee the annual financial report to be printed in the Annual Meeting work-book.

### SAVE THE DATE!

**Thursday, April 25** (time and location to be announced) --League member Sue Williams, who recently concluded a five-year term as chair of the Nueces County Appraisal Board, will speak on the process and timeline to protest residential property valuations. Write down your questions and be ready to get answers.

## Voter Registration Activities Planned

Voter registrars and volunteers are needed for upcoming League activities--

- \* **Friday, April 5**, First Friday ArtWalk, to be held downtown from about 5:30-9 p.m. at Artesian Park (across from the Caller-Times building), and
- \* **Saturday, April 6**, 20th anniversary celebration of Earth Day-Bay Day at Heritage Park, sponsored by the Coastal Bend Bays Foundation. Family fun for all ages from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Free admission. Reach out immediately to Raul Ramirez at 774-0937 to sign up for a work shift between 10 a.m.-5 p.m..

Also, planning is under way by the Voter Services Committee to secure voter registration dates and activities at local high schools to encourage high school seniors to register to vote. As soon as those dates and activities are confirmed, information will be shared with the League’s deputized voter registrars and other interested volunteers.

# Members Meet To Hear Study Report, Review Recommendations

On March 7, a group of 17 League members met at a special called meeting to hear remarks by Sally Farris, chair of a study committee that began work in late summer 2016 to address the topic, *Potential for Lead Contamination in Our Communities' Drinking Water*.

Accompanying Sally was Ron Schiller, a water quality specialist and certified industrial hygienist. A retired US Air Force officer, Col. Schiller is also a Bio-Environmental engineer and served on the study committee.

Special thanks to those who attended, asked questions, and provided comments and suggestions on how best to address the study committee's recommendations.

Those recommendations include continuing to minimize lead contamination in municipal and regional water supplies; recognizing that infants, children, and pregnant mothers are especially at risk and encouraging household water filters; and encouraging better record-keeping of lead poisoning cases by public health officials.

Several governmental and community organizations were tentatively identified as having key roles in minimizing lead contamination. Determining the League's action plans with a timeline is in progress.

A copy of the 50-page overview and study report is available in PDF format. Please contact the League at [lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com).



STUDY REPORT--Brenda Hamby, Sally Farris, Col. Ron Schiller, Sandra Heatherley, and Judy Telge visit at the March 7 called meeting held at the Ben F. McDonald Public Library.

Those present included Linda Snider, Brenda Hamby, Dr. Jim Klein, Dr. Teresa Klein, Ruth Falck, Judy Telge, Sandra Heatherly, Mary Sherwood, Ron George, Gloria Montalvo, Jim and Sylvia Whitworth, Colleen Johnson, Chris Garcia, Raul Ramirez, and Frank and Sue Byrne.

Other members had expressed their interest in learning more about the study report but were unable to attend.



New League member Sharron Hines, attending her first membership meeting on February 21, is greeted by League President Chris Garcia. Welcome, Sharron!

**[H] TODDHUNTER**

**Todd A. Hunter  
ATTORNEY AT LAW**

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

**ENGAGING VOTERS.  
DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.**

# Fighting Voter Suppression

(From LWVUS)

## Why it matters

Voting rights are under attack. In recent years, politicians in dozens of states have erected intentional barriers to our right to vote, including forcing discriminatory voter ID and proof-of-citizenship restrictions on eligible voters, reducing polling place hours in communities of color, cutting early voting opportunities and illegally purging voters from the rolls.

## What we're doing

The League is at the forefront of the most important federal and state voting rights cases around the country. LWVUS actively opposes discriminatory voter photo ID laws, fights against attacks voter registration process and hold lawmakers accountable when they try to institute last-minute Election Day barriers. We work year-round to combat voter suppression through advocacy, grassroots organizing, legal action, and public education. Our efforts have resulted in the protection of voting rights and ballot access for millions of Americans.



## 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.



## LWV-CC Presence at Barefoot Parade



Thanks to Raul Ramirez, Annell Neale, Sandra Heatherley, Anmar Albadri, Chris Garcia, and Debbie Noble, LWV-CC enjoyed having a presence in the



**Carla Gardiner**  
Financial Advisor

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**Edward Jones**  
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

7th annual Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade staged March 2 on North Padre Island. Annell, Sandra, Anmar, and Chris walked the one-mile parade route on the beach, throwing red, white, and blue beads and visiting with parade-goers while Raul set up a voter registration table at the festival site. Special thanks to Debbie Noble, Webmaster and Social Media director, for supporting the League's participation.

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**PLEASE SHARE THIS MEMBERSHIP FORM WITH A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE....OR A STUDENT ATTENDING ONE OF OUR LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS OR COLLEGES. NEW MEMBERS WHO JOIN THIS SPRING WILL NOT NEED TO RENEW UNTIL MAY 31, 2020.**

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## **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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.**