



# The VOTER

February 2018

League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi



**PRESENTATION TO CBCIL**--Kathryn Oler, Vice President for Voter Services, visits with members of the Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living (CBCIL) advocacy group. The January 26 presentation included information about League goals and activities, plus details about the League's efforts to assist voters who do not have a voter photo ID. Oler said the information shared by the advocacy group outlined the difficulties that those with special needs encounter and highlighted how accessibility and communications issues could be addressed successfully.

## Candidates Forum Draws 23 Participants

Twenty-three candidates who are opposed in six races on the March 6 Democratic and Republican Primary ballots participated in the LWV-CC Candidates Forum on February 15.

The Forum was held from 6-9:30 p.m. at Corpus Christi City Hall Council Chambers, with a near capacity crowd in attendance. Candidate groupings include U.S. Representative, District 27 (7 candidates); State Board of Education, District 2 (2 candidates); Chief Justice, 13<sup>th</sup> Court of Appeals (2 candidates); 148<sup>th</sup> District Court (4 candidates); District Clerk (2 candidates); and Justices of the Peace, Precincts 1, 2, and 5 (6 candidates).

Serving as moderators were Kathryn Oler, VP/Voter Services; Carla Gardiner, LWV-CC member; and Chris Davis Garcia, LWV-CC president. Deanna Heavilin of Leadership Corpus Christi had planned to help but was unable to because of illness.

(See Candidates Forum on Page 3)

## Thursday, Feb. 22, Planning Meeting Set

Planning for the future benefits every organization and is especially helpful for the League of Women Voters-Corpus Christi as it prepares for the League's 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting in May.

League members are encouraged to attend a planning meeting on Thursday, February 22, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Room 117 at the Del Mar College Center for Economic Development, 3205 S. Staples at Kostoryz. Those present will choose one of the following discussion groups (Finance/Budget, Program, Fundraising, and High School Voter

Registration Initiative) to participate in directed conversation and then provide a quick overview to everyone attending.

League members and guests who want to order a sandwich box lunch at \$10 each can call the League at 445-4436 to leave a message (please speak slowly and distinctly) or send an email to [lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com](mailto:lwvcorpuschristi@gmail.com).

Reservations are needed no later than Tuesday noon, February 20. Members who do not want to order lunch are cordially invited to participate and can choose not to eat or can bring their own snacks.

### 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 President

Dear Members:

By the time this February VOTER was assembled, there was only this small space left for my message! But not to worry! Highlighting the many activities keeping League members engaged these past two months is more important than any words I might pen.

I know you share my pride in the League's continuing presence and the effort expended to reach as many voters as we could before the early February voter registration deadline. Thanks to all of you for your continuing support and your participation. Hope to see you on Feb. 22.

**League of Women Voters**  
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<http://www.lwv-cc.org>

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**The VOTER Newsletter**

Marjorie Walraven, 361-992-8031  
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## REGISTERING VOTERS AT DEL MAR COLLEGE

Voter Registration Chair Ruth Falck assists Del Mar College student Amber Kilsby with her voter registration application. (See more details on Page 5 about the League's voter registration efforts in 2018.)



## January 18 Meeting: "Complete Streets"



Special thanks to Andrew Dimas and Elena Buentello, both professional planners and advocates for "Complete Streets," who spoke to League members and guests on January 18. At left, Dimas visits with Eva Brown; (below), presenters Dimas and Buentello; members Anne Stewart and Sandra Heatherley smile for the camera.





# Candidates Forum (Continued from Page 1)



Several volunteers were present to assist, including Pat Parr and Lois Huff at the question review table; Linda Snider and Sue Williams, timekeeping and dais signage; Brenda Hamby and Sylvia Whitworth, registration desk; and Peggy Duran, Peggy Banales, and Eva Brown as greeters (along with several others who arrived throughout the evening).

Special thanks to nine Leadership Corpus Christi Class 46 members--Michael York, Becky Meyer, Courtney Schroeder, Hilary Davis, Rachel Benavides, Vicki Reeves, Mickey Kramer, Amalia Ferguson, and Jodi Goings--who also greeted folks at the door, handed out Voters Guides, and helped distribute index cards to the audience for written questions.

Following the Forum, several candidates commended the League on the event and for providing them a venue to speak to voters.



## MARK THESE CALENDAR DATES:

- Thursday, Feb. 22--Planning Meeting (see story on Page 1)
- March Meeting-- to be announced
- Thursday, April 19--Evening Meeting (see story on Page 5)
- May --73rd Annual Meeting (details to be announced)

## Key Dates Leading to March 6 Primary

- Early Voting: Tuesday, February 20 through March 2
- Deadline To Request Mail-In Ballot: February 23
- Election Day: Tuesday, March 6
- Deadline for Receipt of Mail-In-Ballot: March 7



### Visit [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)

This online voters guide, used throughout the nation, is a terrific resource for voters. Special thanks to Kathryn Oler and Sandra Heatherley who worked with candidates to get their responses uploaded and spent many hours getting the online voters guide ready to "go live."

### Welcome to These New Members:

- Lisa Oliver, Individual
- Dr. Jimie Owsley, Individual

### Thanks to These Renewing Members

- Libby Averyt & Charles Kaffie, Household
- Diana Barrera, Individual

# Board Approves Intent To Transfer League Records to TAMU-CC Special Collections

During the League’s 73-year history, its Board materials, monthly VOTER newsletters, copies of Voters Guides, scrapbooks, and other historical materials stored in boxes have been moved numerous times—from members’ garages to temporary storage to donated spaces in office buildings, most recently at the YWCA. But it’s time now to find a permanent home.

“The YWCA staff has alerted the League that it needs to reclaim the storage space occupied by League boxes and file cabinets for the past 2½ years,” League President Chris Garcia said. “We thank the YWCA for its support, and we recognize it is time to decide how and where to store the League’s important records.”



LWV-CC Board members Linda Snider (l) and Brenda Hamby empty file cabinets

At the LWV-CC Board meeting held February 5, Board members heard a report and approved a recommendation to transfer the League’s historical documents and records to the Special Collections Department at the Mary and Jeff Bell Library at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

League Treasurer Brenda Hamby and Garcia met with Ann Hodges, Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist, recently to discuss the transfer and to tour the Collections Department at the university.

They were especially pleased that the Collections Department wants the League’s historical records for its archives.

Hamby and Garcia presented their recommendation at the February Board meeting.

“The League has a rich history and has preserved its records that chronicle how the League has met its mission and goals over the years as a nonpartisan, political organization,” Garcia said. “Moreover, its involvement in our community is captured in records that show how the organization has been involved



Holding two of the more than 15 scrapbooks from the League’s early years are Chris Garcia and Kathryn Oler.

in developing public policies, focused on important community issues like public transportation and Bayfront development, and dedicated to voter registration efforts that have resulted in thousands of residents becoming actively engaged in making democracy work.”

Board members agreed it is the right time to permanently preserve League records while also making them accessible to the community, students and researchers, and others who study women’s history and civic engagement.

Before transferring the League’s records and scrapbooks to TAMU-CC in the coming weeks, Board members and other volunteers will take photographs and prepare a written narrative regarding what specific materials will be stored at the university.

**REQUEST FOR ACTION:**  
 If any League members, past or present, have League materials, old copies of programs or VOTER newsletters, or other memorabilia they want to contribute, the Board would like to know! Please contact President Chris Garcia at [garciachr1714@gmail.com](mailto:garciachr1714@gmail.com) and let her know what you have so that arrangements can be made to receive the items and include them in the materials to be shared with the TAMU-CC Collections Department.



**Carla Gardiner**  
 Financial Advisor  
 802 N Carancahua Suite 1650  
 Corpus Christi, TX 78401  
 361-885-0622

**Edward Jones**  
 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING



# VOTER REGISTRATION ACTIVITIES

Voter Registration Chair Ruth Falck will go to any location--college campus, bingo hall, high school cafeteria, office building--to sign up voters. And thanks to her tenacious spirit, along with other equally passionate voter registrars from the League and other community groups, the League signed up over 400 new voters in January. Thanks to everyone who made time during the month to participate in LWV-CC voter registration activities.



## LEAGUE CHATTER

### LOOKING AHEAD:

Save Thursday, April 19, 2018, from 5:30-7 p.m. and plan to attend the League's monthly meeting. It will be held downtown at The BUS, a newly renovated space that formally was the Continental Trailways and Greyhound Bus station. Co-Program VP Peggy Banales has confirmed Dr. Barbara Szczerbinska, TAMU-CC professor and astrophysicist, will speak. Other community groups will be invited to attend.

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

With the five new or renewing members identified on Page 3 of The VOTER, the League membership has climbed to 107, according to Sandra Heatherley, VP for Member Services. League members are reminded to invite others to join the League. A membership application is on Page 10 of this publication.

### SPECIAL HONORS TO VEITH

A belated congratulations to LWV-CC member Joan Veith who was honored by Corpus Christi City Council as "Dedicated Public Servant" on her 86th birthday on July 27, 2017.

## You Are Invited To Attend LWV-TX Convention April 27-29 in Kerrville

Every two years, LWV-Texas holds a convention to elect officers for the coming two-year term, approve a two-year budget, conduct leadership training, consider business items coming before the assembly, and host a "Making Democracy Work" banquet to raise funds for state programs that benefit all leagues. LWV-CC President Chris Garcia will lead the local delegation and any member who wants to register is welcomed to attend.

The 2018 convention will be in Kerrville at "Inn of the Hills," and a block of rooms has been reserved.

Room rates are \$112 (plus standard occupancy taxes) for either a single accommodation with a King bed or a double room with two Queen beds.

Convention registration will be \$125 per person until mid-April when registration will increase to \$150.

Convention begins at 12 noon on Friday, April 27, and concludes about noon on Sunday, April 29. About 140 League members from across the state typically attend the convention.

Please visit the LWV-Texas website at [www.lwvtx.org](http://www.lwvtx.org) to access information about the 2018 Convention.

A special "Making Democracy Work" banquet with a keynote speaker will be held on Saturday evening, April 28. More details about the speaker and the banquet cost will be available soon.

## State President To Attend March 6 Board Meeting

LWV-TX President Elaine Wiant of Dallas plans to attend the LWV-CC Board Meeting on March 6.

The meeting will be held at 4 p.m. at the Ben McDonald Public Library at Greenwood & Horne Road. All League members are invited.



Wiant

The purpose of Wiant's visit is to provide details on consolidating the League's 501(c) 3 and 501(c) 4 functions. The business item will be discussed and debated at the April 2018 State Convention.

# News from LWVUS

## LWVUS Identifies Legislative Priorities

BY LWVUS President Chris Carson

The national board convened in Washington, DC, recently to set forth critical plans for Election 2018, get ready for national Convention and set our legislative priorities for the coming year. Our national legislative priority will be to continue to focus on core Campaign for Making Democracy Work™ (MDW) issues with special emphasis on protecting voting rights.

That said, LWVUS recognizes that the next year will be full of the unexpected. As other important topics come up—including the Dream Act and immigration reform, climate change and health care defense—LWVUS will respond and alert Leagues how they can support those efforts.

We are pleased to announce the board has appointed LWVUS Chief Operating Officer, Anisa Tootla, as our Interim CEO.

Anisa provides more than 20 years of non-profit management on top of her nearly four years of executive leadership overseeing the operations of LWVUS and LWVEF. Aided by our dedicated national staff, Anisa will continue to lead the League in our mission impact work and transformation journey while we proceed with the executive search process.

To assist in that search process, the board has selected Sterling Martin Associates, a national firm that specializes in finding talented executives for associations and nonprofit organizations. We hope to have a new CEO in place by the time the National Convention is held in June in Chicago.



LWV-CC Past President Pat G. Parr, who served in 1987-89 and 2001-2002, plus as co-president with Nan Pillinger in 1989-90, took time at a recent meeting to review the League's monthly newsletter. The newsletter is published 10 times during the year (except June and December) and is transmitted electronically each month to all members. Please let the League know if you have a new email address so that the VOTER and other correspondence will reach you! If you would like to place a business card advertisement, call Treasurer Brenda Hamby for details.

## LWV-District of Columbia Promotes Statehood for Residential/Commercial Areas of Washington, D.C.

Local leagues across the nation have received a letter, poster, Q&A fact sheet, and detailed information from the League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia on its quest to petition Congress for statehood for the residential and commercial parts of Washington, D.C.

“The League has promoted self-determination and full representation in Congress for the people of Washington, D. C., since 1938,” writes Linda Beebe, President. “The almost 700,000 people who live in

DC (more residents than the states of Vermont and Wyoming) have no voting representation in the House and no Senators, pay the highest federal taxes per capita in the nation, and Congress governs their local laws and local budget.”

In the League's position papers, it is noted that District residents are required to fulfill all the obligations of US citizenship--paying taxes, voting, and serving on juries and in the military. Yet for over 200 years, D.C. residents have been denied a voice in

national government and sovereignty over state and local affairs.

Statehood could be achieved, Beebe writes, through the normal legislative process of the House and Senate passing legislation with a simple, majority vote and the President signing it into law.

The League's “Statehood Toolkit: Fixing the Hole in Our Democracy” includes a PowerPoint presentation that could be used for a local school or community program.

FMI: Chris Garcia, 991-2784



# Mardi Gras Parade Provides Fun Venue To Promote Voting

Saturday, February 10, started out with dreary and foggy weather but that didn't diminish the spirits of 11 League members and supporters who participated in the Barefoot Mardi Gras Parade, sponsored by the Padre Island Business Association.

Linda Snider and her husband Dean provided their truck, and League members and supporters Sandra Heatherley, Debbie Noble, Kathryn Oler, Anmar Al Badri, Chris Garcia, and Carla Gardiner and her husband David comprised the parade participants.

Sue Williams provided many of the decorations and helped plan the truck design, but had to miss the actual parade due to illness.

League member Melody Cooper had a difficult time finding the League contingent before the parade got under way, so she lent her support to a local candidate's float.



Above top left and clockwise: Carla Gardiner and Linda Snider get the red, white, and blue beads ready to throw; the League group poses for photos; Kathryn Oler interacts with the friendly crowd on the beach; Anmar Al Badri waves a flag and sign Garcia sports patriotic head gear and shirt. (The photos.)

## Voters Guides Available at 26 Locations

Thanks to League members who took time out of their work and personal schedules, 7,000 local Voters Guides for the March Primary have been delivered to more than 25 locations.

Applause for Tami Longino, Amber Rinard, Eva Brown, Brenda Hamby, Pat Parr, Sandra Heatherley, Ruth Falck, Can Alemdar, Peggy Banales, Elissa Cuevas, Chris Garcia, Rebecca Huerta, and Linda Snider.

Distribution points included Corpus Christi City Hall, Robstown City Hall, Port Aransas City Hall, Nueces County Courthouse, La Retama Library, Owen Hopkins Library, Ben McDonald Library;

Also Janet Harte Library, William Neyland Library, Clotilde Garcia Library, Keach Library in Robstown, Port Aransas Library, Nueces County Democratic and Republican headquarters, Half Priced Books, Town and Country Restaurant, YWCA, Coffee Joes, The Mirador, Hi-Ho Restaurant, Universal Unitarian Church, Del Mar College Library, Texas A&M Library, and Schlitterbahn Pavilion.

Copies were also available at the February 15 Candidates Forum at City Hall.

The 20-page guide has been posted on the League's website for online reading or downloading.



LWV-CC Treasurer Brenda Hamby took this selfie with bundles of voter guides she picked up from the Caller-Times loading dock earlier this week.

The statewide Voters Guides, published by LWV-TX in English and Spanish, just arrived on February 16 and will be delivered to local libraries in the next few days.

## Heatherley Presents Program in Alice

The Alice chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Chi Lambda Phi teachers' fraternity held a joint meeting in the Alice High School library on February 13. Both groups were interested in learning about the League of Women Voters, and Sandra Heatherley responded to their request.

She prepared a Powerpoint presentation explaining the activities and the mission of the League. She was well received and extended a permanent invitation to attend future LWV-CC monthly meetings.

Thank you, Sandra, for making this presentation.

## Austin Women's March Draws Big Crowd

Hundreds of Texans participated in the Women's March in Austin recently, including LWV-CC member Elissa Cuevas. She traveled to the state capitol with friends and said it was an enjoyable activity. State League members were among the participants.

Cuevas said the large group marched down Cesar Chavez Blvd. from Austin City Hall and then down Congress to the Capitol. Themes included women's rights on reproductive freedom and equal pay.



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## Interested in Serving on the LWV-CC Board?

Members serving on the LWV-CC Board are elected for two-year terms--with about half the Board having staggered terms to ensure strong continuity.

With the Annual Meeting coming up in May, February is the key month when the Nominating Committee meets and begins its work.

Board positions that were elected last year to two-year terms which do not end until May 2019 are President, Treasurer, Vice President/Voter Services, At-Large Director, and Director for Website/Social Media.

Board positions that are completing one-year terms in May include Secretary; Co-Vice Presidents/Program; Vice President, Member Services; and Co-Directors, Media Communications.

League members who are interested in serving on the Board or who would like more information on what each position does, are invited to contact Anne Stewart, chair of the Nominating Committee, before Thursday, March 1.

Stewart's contact information is telephone 850-0663 and email address, emlean@gmail.com.

Four others serving with Stewart on the Nominating Committee this year are Rebecca Huerta and Linda Snider, both elected at last year's Annual Meeting, and Sandra Heatherley and Brenda Hamby, who were appointed by the Board, as per the League's Bylaws.



# LEAGUE \* LINGO

**ACTION:** Expression of League positions to governmental officials by the president or her/his authorized representative.

**ACTION ALERT** Request from state or national League to take action at a specific time in support of a League position.

**ANNUAL MEETING** Local year-end business meeting to elect officers and directors, vote on bylaws changes and adopt a budget and program of work for the next year.

**CONCURRENCE** Agreement of League members with position reached by a small group or another League.

**CONSENSUS** Collective opinion of League members on a particular subject. Also, process used to arrive at positions on issues.

**CONVENTION** State and national League meetings held biennially. Delegates adopt program, elect officers, adopt a budget for the coming year, and act on proposed bylaws changes.

**EDUCATION FUND** The tax-deductible arm of the LWV (501c3). Education funds may be established at all three levels of League. Education monies may not be used for position support activities (action.)

**HONORARY LIFE MEMBER** A person who has been a member for 50 years or more. Life members are excused from dues payment and their Leagues pay no per member payment (PMP) for them.

**NATIONAL** Short for League of Women Voters of the United States

**NON-PARTISANSHIP** League policy of never supporting or opposing any candidate or political party.

**PMP** Acronym for Per Member Payment, which is the amount of money paid to the state and national on behalf of each member. The amount of the PMP is determined

**LEAGUE LINGO**--Otherwise known as "do you understand what I'm saying?" As in: (HYPOTHETICALLY) "When we go to **convention**, there'll be a **program action alert** on our health care **position** that **National** expects us to take **action** on immediately and a new **concurrence** on gun control. Plus, we'll be asked to raise the **PMP** and increase our **voter service**." If you familiarize yourself with these terms used by the League, you **WILL** be able to say "yes!" when someone says, "Do you understand what I'm saying?"

by delegates to state and national Conventions and is assessed based on the membership count as of January.

**POSITION** League's point of view, arrived at through member study and consensus (or concurrence.)

**PRINCIPLES** Governmental standards and policies supported by the League by which all proposed or adopted local, state or national issues are measured.

**PROGRAM** Selected governmental issues chosen by the membership at local, state and national levels for study and action.

**STUDY** The process (one-two years normally) of research and educating members on an issue prior to consensus taking and arrival at a formal position.

**VOTER** Newsletter for members and other subscribers, published by local, state and national Leagues.

**VOTER'S GUIDES** Nonpartisan publications giving candidates' qualifications and positions on selected issues.

**VOTER SERVICES** Activities to help citizens be politically effective and to encourage their participation in the political process.

**VOTING MEMBERS** All League members who are U.S. citizens and at least 16 years old.

## Downtown ArtWalk Schedule for March, April, and May 2018

Kathryn Oler, VP/Voter Services, announced recently that the League now has a permanent location for registering voters at the "First Friday" Downtown ArtWalk. The new location will be on the first floor of the Nueces Lofts.

The League needs deputized voter registrar volunteers (plus other volunteers assisting) to man the registration table on Friday, March 2; Friday April 6; and Friday, May 4.

If you can participate on any of these dates, please contact Kathryn at [kathryn.oler@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.oler@gmail.com).

ArtWalk is a venue that draws dozens of artisans, musicians, and community organizations hoping to make folks aware of who they are and what they do. It had been staged at La Retama Park for the past several years, but the Downtown Management District (Marina Arts Department) now designates varied locations throughout downtown. ArtWalk has become a very popular activity!

Our continued participation this spring will give the League a headstart in registering voters and promoting their involvement in the mid-term general election in November.



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

Engaging Voters. Defending Democracy.



## 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](http://www.lwv-cc.org).**  
 Membership is from June 1 - May 31.