



**League of Women Voters®  
Austin Area**

**Voter**

December 2010    Volume 15 #5

Frances McIntyre, President	451-1551	mcintyre.frances@gmail.com
Anne Clark, Secretary	347-0594	anneshelbyclark@yahoo.com
Terry Green, Publications	784-4615	tmmgreen@hotmail.com
Lisa Harris, Voters Service	467-2504	ljharrisus@yahoo.com
Judy Parken, Membership	502-0278	japarken@aol.com
Betty Williamson, Advocacy	474-2130	bettybettybetty@austin.rr.com
Stewart Snider, Voter Editor	345-7047	s2snider@gmail.com

www.lwvaustin.org  
512.451.6710

"The League may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest. It shall not support or oppose any political party or candidates." The VOTER is partially funded by the League of Women Voters of Austin Education Fund.

**December Calendar**

**General Meeting**

**Local Program Planning and Holiday Party**

Sunday, December 12, 2 - 4 pm

At the home of President Frances McIntyre, 6305 Treadwell Blvd. Bring cookies to share (if you like), your ideas for Austin League local programs for 2011-2012, and a copy of LWV-AA's "We Support" publication. Directions:

- \* From MOPAC, take the 2222/Northland exit east.
- \* Left at Shoal Creek Blvd. (traffic light)
- \* Left at the first 4-way stop which is White Rock for 1 block
- \* Right on Bullard 2 short blocks
- \* Right on Treadwell Blvd. to 6305 (across from the swings at Gullett Elementary School. House has a metal roof.

**Upcoming Board Meetings -- All members are welcome**

Mon. Nov. 29, 6:30 pm, at the home of Frances McIntyre, 6305 Treadwell Blvd.

Tues. Jan. 4, 6:30 pm, tentatively at Central Market North

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**Save The Date!**

**State of the City Dinner and Auction**

**Wednesday, January 19, 6:30 p.m., UT Club**

Our speaker is AISD Superintendent Meria Carstarphen, who will address the "state" of Austin Independent School District and host a lively Q & A. Our favorite auctioneer and humorist, Mary Gordon Spence, will tickle your funny bone (and sell you "Something.") Ticket prices: Members, \$48; Non-members, \$55

Reservation deadline: January 14. Your check confirms your reservation. Mail to LWV-AA Office, 1011 W. 31st Street, Austin, TX 78705.

More to come in the January *Voter*.

## President's Report

- Frances McIntyre



### Dear members,

December is your time to have your say. This is when we hold our annual Program Planning meeting. We hope you'll join us on Sunday, December 12, where we will have holiday refreshments and a good time discussing our future and past

opportunity for advocacy in the Austin Area. For a brief summary of our advocacy positions, please refer to the Annual Meeting Workbook from May 2010, which lists all the LWV-AA program positions.

At the planning meeting we will review where we are today and what the League, as an organization, can address publicly. Then, we will let you suggest other areas of local concern that we might want to study in the next year or two. This could be a new study of city, county, school district or the Health Care District issues or a revision of our current positions. What issues have piqued your interest lately from City Council, County Commissioners, School Board or Health Care District? Do we need to review the City Charter? What environmental issue is most pressing? What about budgets and the lack of revenue in the downturn? Are the services for the needy adequate? What about land use policy? You name it — we are a grassroots organization and

you determine what we can study and address.

For our League, the process of program planning starts in December at the meeting on Sunday, December 12th (see front page). Your Board takes the suggestions from this meeting, develops them to include a scope, and presents all of the suggestions to the membership in the Annual Meeting Workbook sent out in April. The Board may also make a recommendation.

At the Annual Meeting in May, you will vote on the program or programs you wish to study or review. Your wish is our command! All of our League's current positions came from studies and give us the authority to advocate. We cannot speak to issues we have not studied. So, please come and participate in League democracy. If you can't make it, please send in your suggestions by email or mail to the office. These discussions, however, are usually quite exciting and are a learning experience.

Thanks to all who came to the Elected Officials Reception at the beautiful Lt. Governor's Reception room in the Capitol. It was a popular event which attracted citizens of many persuasions who were able to connect with their representatives.

Happy holidays to everyone. 2011 brings more exciting League activities starting with the popular State of the City Dinner and Auction on January 19th. It is a blast. Hope to see you there.

## Observer Corps - Travis County Commissioners Court

November 16, 2010.

Item 21— Budget cuts are expected in the next legislative session. The initial list of Travis County's legislative priorities is:

1. Oppose unfunded mandates or diversions of county revenues.
2. Oppose restrictions on counties to raise revenues such as appraisal and revenue caps.
3. Oppose budget cuts to, and support additional funding for, health and human services.
4. Support funding for mental and physical health care in county jails.
5. Support allowing counties to purchase conservation easements.
6. Support the authority to regulate signage along scenic roads.
7. Support giving counties the tools to preserve quality of life in unincorporated areas.
8. Support an amendment to reduce the diversion of Fund 6 money to other agencies.

Items 13 & 18— Community input will be sought regarding the plan for 30,000 acres along the Colorado River in eastern Travis Co. Commissioners will coordinate with the City of Austin, LCRA, CAMPO, property owners to develop parkland and preserve green space. - *Karen Rankin*

## Membership

- *Judy Parken, Membership (502-0278)*

### Welcome, New Members

We cordially welcome Deborah Albers, Helen Bland, Jenifer Ahrens Cawley, Judy Leecraft, Barbara M. Myers, Marshall Mitchell, Ana Ortiz de Montellano, Marilee Phillips, Lori Rowlett, and the Melanie Wilkes Family to the Austin League. We are delighted you have joined us. Your membership includes the national (LWVUS), state (LWVTX) and local (Austin) Leagues. We study and advocate issues at all three levels.

### Thank You, Renewing Members

Kathy Akers, Natalie Balden, Heather Becker, Patricia Bennett, Allison Dieter, Margaret Drake, Bob Gregory, Helen Garman, Nancy Hoffman, Sula Howell, Karen Haschke, Emma Hampton, Rose Lancaster, Chalda Maloof and Russel Zears, Carol Olewin, Eloise Pelletier, Karen Swenson, Virginia Stotts, Kay and Delbert Taebel, Bryson Smith, and Janet Whitehead. We appreciate your support and depend on it to continue functioning.

## Honors and Memorials

The Austin League provides the opportunity for donations in honor of, or in memory of, League members. Here are this month's memorials:  
 In memory of **Mark Barkan** (husband of member **Maxine Barkan**) from **Joann Lovelace**.  
 In memory of **Melanie Malewitz**, from **Barbara Hankins, Frances McIntyre, Judy Clack**.  
 In memory of **Olene Snider** (mother of *Voter* editor **Stewart Snider**) from **Frances McIntyre, Judy Clack, Carolyn Baker, Jo Reichler**.

## Melanie Malewitz Memorial

Our dear friend Melanie died Oct. 24 at the age of 85. Her children are planning a memorial gathering for **Sunday, December 5 at 1:30 p.m.**, in the **Garden Room of The Summit**, where Melanie spent her last years.

Melanie served as VP of Organization; treasurer; unit coordinator; Budget Chair, By-Laws, and Nominating Committees; on the Barton Springs/ Edwards Aquifer Conservation District as secretary; and member of several study committees.

Melanie worked in Girl Scouts, Planned Parenthood, and UT's Learning Activities for

Mature People program. She was an accomplished painter and golfer.

**The Summit** is located at **1034 Liberty Park Dr., Austin, 78746**. Liberty Park Dr. intersects the west access road of MOPAC just south of the Rollingwood exit. Turn right on Liberty Park Dr. immediately after the 50 MPH sign. Take the third right when you see the Summit sign. Then take the first right to the independent living section. Enter the main door, take the elevator down to the ground floor, and take a right to the Garden Room.

If you have questions, feel free to call Anne Roussos at 512-441-3913.

## President's Testimony on Redistricting

On November 17, Frances McIntyre testified before members of the Texas Legislature to advocate the League's position on redistricting, a major task coming up in the next session. Here are some key points from her statement.

Districts:

- Should be apportioned on the basis of equal population

- Should be single member and contiguous
- Should be compact.
- Should coincide with boundaries of local political subdivisions.
- Should not be drawn to dilute the voting strength of minority populations.

The League will continue to advocate for a transparent redistricting process during the 2011 session.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF THE AUSTIN AREA**  
1011 West 31st Street  
Austin, TX 78705

Are your dues paid?

**ATTENTION MEMBERS:** Please fill out the form below and send with your dues renewal and/or any changes to the LWV-AA Office, 1011 W. 31st, Austin, TX 78705. **The League is grateful for your support!** If you do not wish to renew, please notify **Jaci Collins, Member Records**, at [jacic@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jacic@sbcglobal.net) or at 257-9636. This will save time and expense in sending follow-up reminders. Thank you .

**For new and renewing members and for address changes:**

**\*\*\* Not for Women Only \*\*\***

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_

Name of household member (if applicable)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

	<b>Individual</b>	<b>Household</b>	<b>Student</b>
<b>Dues</b>	\$ 60.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 20.00
<b>Additional Donation</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

I'm an existing member and this is a change to my information.  
You can also PayPal dues to [lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org](mailto:lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org)

(Dues allocation: National \$29.15; State \$22.80; **Local \$8.05**; Total \$60.00)

MAIL TO LWV-AA OFFICE: 1011 W. 31st, Austin, TX 78705