



**League of Women Voters®  
Austin Area**

**Voter**

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Frances McIntyre, President	451-1551	mcintyre.frances@gmail.com
Anita Privett, Programs	467-2674	anita.privett@gmail.com
Betty Williamson, Advocacy	474-2130	bettybettybetty@austin.rr.com
Judy Parken, Membership	502-0278	japarken@aol.com
Susan Morrison, Membership	451-9808	susan_morrison@lawyer.com
Margaret Drake, Publications	292-1732	j-m-drake@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.

**State of the City Dinner and Auction**

We hope you will join us at the Austin League's 18th **Annual State of the City** dinner. We have invited our new Mayor, Lee Leffingwell, to be our speaker. He will give his perspective on the current state of our city and the prospects for the future. Bring your friends and neighbors. It is always a lot of fun with a good dinner, lots of Q & A, and time to visit with friends.

The tickets are \$47 for members and \$52 for nonmembers. (A small increase from last year because our costs have increased.) Please RSVP by check or PayPal by February 12th; PayPal to lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org or send your check to LWVAA, 1011 W. 31st St., Austin TX 78705. Please note: your check is your reservation. Parking (in the garage across the street) is included with your ticket.

**Location:** UT Club, 2108 E. Robert Dedman Drive, 6th floor

**Date/Time:** February 17, 2010 at 6:30pm

**Ticket Price:** Members - \$47.00; Non-members - \$52.00

**Speaker:** Mayor Lee Leffingwell

**Auction MC:** Mary Gordon Spence

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**Calendar for February**

<b>Wed. Feb. 17, 6:30pm</b>	<b>State of the City</b>	2108 E. Robert Dedman Dr., 6th floor
<b>Mon. Feb. 8, noon</b>	<b>Central Unit</b>	Old Quarry Library, 7051 Village Cnter Dr.
<b>Tue. Feb. 9, 7pm</b>	<b>North Unit</b>	Judy Parken's, 7917 West Rim
<b>Wed. Feb. 10, 7pm</b>	<b>South Unit</b>	So. Austin Sr Activity Ctr, 3911 Manchaca
<b>Fri. Feb. 26, 11am</b>	<b>Mailout Social</b>	League Office, 1011 W. 31st

## President's Report

One of our favorite activities is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 2010. You are invited to the **Austin League's State of the City Dinner and Auction** which will feature our new Mayor, Lee Leffingwell. I'm sure you will enjoy getting to know him in his new role as Mayor. He will give us a view of just how the city is doing. We will have our always-entertaining auction, raffle (tickets available at the event) and door prizes. Mary Gordon Spence will be back again this year as auctioneer, along with her brand of spicy commentary. You won't want to miss this evening of fun, so send in your check for your reservation. Details are on the front page of this Voter.

Our Voters Guide for the March 2nd Primary is now being prepared. We will be proofing and distributing it in early February. Please let us know (call the office at 451-6710) if you are available to help us produce our most important publication. We need your help even if you can spare only a couple of hours.

Thanks to all those who participated in the Program Planning for LWV-Texas and LWV-US in January. Results of those meetings have been forwarded to the State and National Leagues to be combined with input from other Leagues. The Boards of LWV-TX and LWV-US will compile the data and decide whether to recommend one or more of the programs for study. At the state

and national conventions, members will decide whether to undertake a new study. Make your plans to come to the State Convention, which is the weekend of April 24-25 in nearby San Marcos. We will need delegates to push for Austin's priorities. The National Convention will be held in Atlanta June 11-15. I will have more information on these events next month.

Plan to come to one of the Unit Meetings this month. This will be your opportunity to participate in planning for the future of Austin. Through the auspices of the Comprehensive Plan Citizen Advisory Task Force, you will be writing down your hopes and plans for what Austin should look like 30 years from now. The Task Force is compiling as much input as possible from individuals at this beginning stage of the two-year effort to develop a plan for Austin's future.

Kudos go to Anita Privett, VP Programs, and Karen Hayward for putting together such a wonderful educational program on the Census activities. This follows in the League's tradition of presenting programs to help people and organizations easily access important information.

**Don't forget to make your reservation for the State of the City Dinner.** *See you there!*

- Frances

### Randall's Donations

Randall's Good Neighbor Program gives the Austin League a percentage of sales from members who have the League linked to their Randall's "Remarkable" cards. Our account number is 465. This is a great way to help the League.

### Honors & Memorials

The Austin League provides the opportunity for donations in honor of, or in memory of, League members. Any member may participate.

### Thank You, Mary Sue

Mary Sue Neilson, our Webmaster and Voters Guide editor, recently resigned from her duties at the Austin League.

We thank her for her years of hard work. We know she will still be around, but we will miss working closely with her.

You have our deepest gratitude, Mary Sue!

## Meetings in February

### General Meeting

**Wednesday, Feb. 17th, 7pm.** 2108 E. Robert Dedman Dr., 6th floor  
LWVAA's Annual State of the City Dinner and Auction. (See p. 1.)

### Unit Meetings

(Note: the February Unit Meetings differ slightly from one another.)

**Monday, Feb. 8th, noon. Central Unit** - Old Quarry Library, 7051 Village Center  
This meeting will provide an exciting opportunity for League members to participate in planning the future of Austin. Frances McIntyre will present an overview of the **Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan (IACP)**. President McIntyre has been appointed to the citizen Task Force which is advising the City Council on the citizens' view of how Austin should develop over the next 30 years. This Task Force will set up hundreds of large and small community meetings over the next two years to collect citizen input, which will help create a frame for the management of change. This Unit Meeting is one such event, and provides a venue for you to have a say about the future of your city. All League members are encouraged to attend. The City needs your input.

**Tuesday, Feb. 9th, 7 pm. North Unit** - Judy Parken's, 7917 West Rim Drive.  
We will hear from McCall Johnson, a Clean Energy Advocate for Environment Texas, about their priorities for legislation. They are part of a coalition which supports the Austin Energy Plan. This will provide background info for our own local studies of Air Pollution and Austin Energy. If time permits we gather input for the **IACP**.

**Wednesday, Feb. 10th, 7 pm. South Unit** - S. Austin Sr Activity Ctr, 3911 Manchaca  
We will get an update from Nan Clayton and Anne Roussos about the State Board of Education and their activities. (see P. 4) This unit will also gather input for the **IACP**.

### Friday, Feb. 26, 11:00 am. Mailout Social

Meet at the Austin League office at 1011 W. 31st Street. We'll fold and stamp the March Voter and catch up with each other. RSVP to Jo Reichler at 479-4003.

### Welcome, New Members

We cordially welcome Robert Leonard and Corina Scoggins 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. If you have any questions about the League, please give us a call.

### Thank You, Renewing Members

Alison Dieter, Jocelyn Doherty, Mary & Bill Finch, Anne McAfee, Erika Mittag, Mavis Pape, Anita Privett, Marie Richards,

Patrice Schexnader, and Paula Weisner. We appreciate your prompt membership renewal.

If you made a tax-deductible contribution to the League, we thank you for your much-needed support, but this is not the same as paying membership dues. When renewing, please specify that your \$60 is for membership. Checks may be made out to Austin League of Women Voters. Call me if you have questions.

- Judy Parken, 502-0278

## **LWVTX Takes Action on SBOE Issues**

The League of Women Voters of Texas presented testimony at a January 13 public hearing of the State Board of Education. Nan Clayton, LWVTX Education chair, and Anne Roussos co-chaired the recent state study on testing and accountability and wrote the testimony in the column below.

In summary, the League urges SBOE members to follow recommendations of the experts who have been appointed to prepare the drafts. We ask them to avoid recommendations that would rewrite history. Finally,

we ask for a rigorous curriculum and to coordinate with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The SBOE did not finish the draft curriculum at the January meeting. The process will continue in March. At the appropriate time, LWVTX plans to send members an Action Alert, which will provide information on the board's changes and will suggest how members may comment on the final draft, which is expected in May.

- Anne Roussos

## **Testimony to the State Board of Education, Social Studies Curriculum, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills**

The League of Women Voters of Texas appreciates this opportunity to provide input on the latest revisions to the K-12 social studies curriculum in Texas.

The students of Texas public schools are depending on you to provide them with the academic preparation they need for the workforce, postsecondary education and indeed, lifelong learning. Texas students compete with students from across our nation and from other countries in the world for admission to colleges and universities, and they must be well prepared for that competition, as well.

The League of Women Voters of Texas has concerns about the process the SBOE has been following to revise the curriculum. It devalues the input from recognized experts in the education field and handicaps the future of Texas students.

In recent years, the SBOE has been enacting curriculum revisions based on personal ideological beliefs. These beliefs become embedded in the state's standardized curriculum and tests and are further transmitted into textbooks that also are used in other states. Thus, the distortion spreads. The strife that has characterized the SBOE revision process has tainted the

credibility of the SBOE.

Recent initiatives by certain board members to rewrite history diminish the integrity of the drafts crafted by the appointed writing teams. Their input and recommendations *should be* regarded highly because these team members have a working knowledge of their subject matter and what students need to know to excel on qualifying exams.

In addition, the board's curriculum decisions should be closely coordinated with the goals of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to match the public school curriculum with what is being taught in college. Achieving a more rigorous curriculum through enhanced cooperation with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board would reduce the need for duplicative and expensive remedial courses at the postsecondary level.

Our state's diverse student population deserves to have a rigorous curriculum that is based on widely accepted educational standards and practices. The League of Women Voters of Texas urges you to work together to achieve this goal. Thank you for your time and effort on this issue.

## \$\$ Automatic Transfer \$\$

The Austin League wants to make it easier for you to make donations and membership payments. Our bank provides automatic bank drafts whereby you can make monthly or quarterly payments to the League. There is no cost to the member, but there is a monthly minimum cost for the League. If you would be interested in setting up an automatic bank transfer from your account to the League account, let one of the Board of Directors know. If we get 10 or more people interested in the automatic bank draft, we can set up the service.

In the meantime, the Austin League can accept automatic "bill payments" directly from you. Talk to your banker about setting up automatic "bill pay" for monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual payments.

- Carol Olewin, Treasurer

## Speakers Bureau Update

Thanks to President Frances McIntyre for filling two recent speaking engagements for the League:

On Wednesday, November 25, she spoke about the League, its mission and its functions, to the Austin Optimist Club at the request of Hugh Moore, one of our new League members. Thanks, Hugh, for helping us spread the word about the good work the League does.

On Monday, December 14, at the request of the International Hospitality Council of Austin, she spoke to 4 visitors and 2 translators from South Korea who were very interested and asked many questions. The International Hospitality Council works with the U.S. State Department to deliver educational and cultural programs to visiting international leaders.

Thanks for your good work, Frances.

- Carolyn Baker, Speakers Bureau Coordinator

## Volunteering at the LWV-AA Office

The LWV-AA has no paid staff, so all of our work is done by volunteers like you. Volunteers staff the office from 11 am to 2 pm Monday through Friday on a once-a-month basis. We are still in need of volunteers for a few shifts:

- 1st Monday of the month
- 2nd Monday
- 5th Monday (when applicable)
- 2nd Wednesday

Office volunteer duties include:

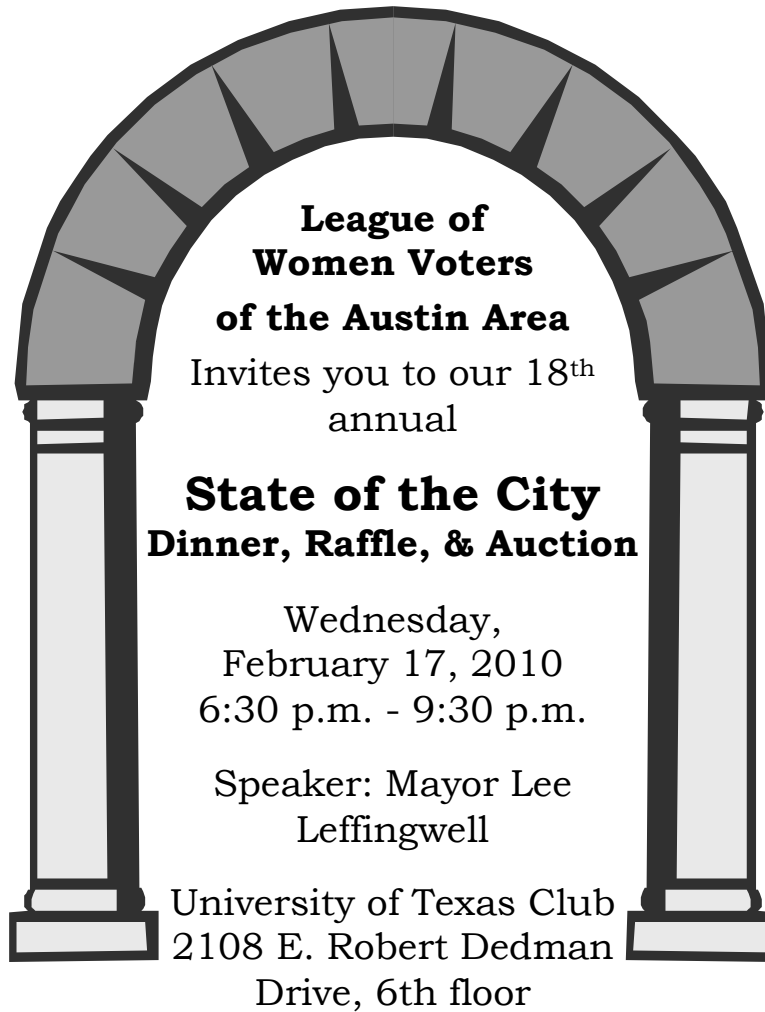
- Answering the phone and/or any messages
- Handling incoming mail
- Clerical tasks (instructions are provided).

We conduct a short personal training session for those new to the job.

Also, for all you current volunteers, we have a special one-time need: we would like to staff the office for the entire day on Tuesday, March 2 (Primary election day) as a service to voters. We already have a volunteer from 9 or 9:30 to 11 and from 11-2 but still need someone from 2-4 or 5. If you can help with this or can take one of the open days above, please contact Phyllis Portnoy at 280-7730 or Jo Reichler at 479-4003.

Thanks to all our fantastic office volunteer staff – we'd love to have a few more of you join us!!

- Jo Reichler, Office Manager



Tickets are \$47 for League members and \$52 for non-members. RSVP with check by February 12<sup>th</sup> to LWVAA, 1011 W. 31st Street, Austin, TX 78705

Or PayPal to [lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org](mailto:lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org)  
Questions, call 512-451-6710

Directions: I-35 to Dean Keeton exit, head west, left on Red River, right on Littlefield, park in garage at Dedman. UT Club is across the street in the stadium.

# State of the City Donation Form

## Auction & Raffle

The State of the City event on Wednesday, February 17th, 2010 includes a raffle and auction. Your League is asking you for donated auction items such as trips, event tickets, hotel rooms, and gift baskets. We're also asking for raffle items such as gift certificates from restaurants, florists, hairdressers, fitness centers, as well as services such as cleaning, landscape, or home repair. Auction items worth over \$100 and raffle items worth over \$40 are appreciated.

Ask the businesses you patronize for a certificate donation. To thank them, we'll put their name, service, and location in the Voter.

Call Alison Dieter or Yvonne Khouri if you can help with a donation or by staffing the event.

Please list your donations below:

**Item Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Est. Value: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Item Description:**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Item Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Est. Value: \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Item Description:**  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Best Time to Contact You:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name of merchant (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**Please fax this sheet to our office by February 6th: fax # 512-451-6710**

Or email as attachment to lwvaustin@lwvaustin.com.

**Contact:** Alison Dieter at 331-5124, popmomdieter@aol.com or  
 Yvonne Khouri at 444-8144, yvonnekhouri@yahoo.com

**Or mail it to:** League of Women Voters of the Austin Area  
 1011 W. 31st Street, Austin, TX 78705

**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