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For a printable version of this month's *Voter*, [click here](#)



January 2011

Volume 15 #6

## January Calendar

Combined Unit Meeting :  
***Dig into Redistricting***  
Monday, January 10, 1:00 - 3:00pm  
Old Quarry Library

Redistricting is coming ... are you ready? Now you can be ... thanks to the League. On **Monday, January 10**, our League is sponsoring a meeting at the **Old Quarry Library**, from **1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**, to discuss the **implications of redistricting** -- what it is, how it's done, why it's done and what it means to us as individuals and as a community.

Our speaker will be **Steve Bickerstaff**, one of Texas' leading experts on this subject. Steve, who is retired from the law firm bearing his name (Bickerstaff, Heath, Delgado & Acosta), is now a member of the adjunct faculty of the University of Texas School of Law. He is also the **author of *Lines in the Sand*, a book about the controversial 2003 congressional redistricting in Texas**, and a co-author of *International Election Principles*, written in 2009. He has taught and lectured in many countries throughout the world.

This meeting will be a **combined meeting of all three of our units**. All League members, as well as the general public, are urged to attend. We have invited some well-known local political reporters to join our League panel of questioners. Bring your questions and bring your friends. This is a topic of critical importance to Austin and to our democracy.

The **Old Quarry Library** is located at **7051 Village Center Drive**, which is **off Far West**, a couple of blocks west of MoPac.

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

**Tues. Jan. 4**, 6:30 pm, Central Market North, Community Room  
**Tues., Feb. 1**, 6:30 pm, Central Market North, Community Room

"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."

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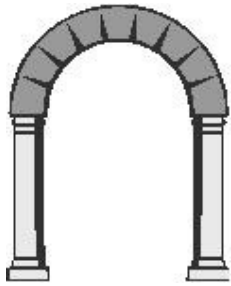
**to get on our list. You do not have to be a member. Important: We will NOT give your email to anyone else**

### In Memory

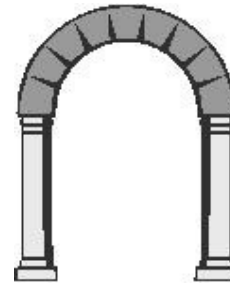
It is with great sadness we announce the recent death of someone in the League family:  
**Dr. Charles C. Holt**

## State of the City

(long-time member) and Professor Emeritus in Economics at UT Austin on Dec. 13.



### 19th Annual State of the City Dinner and Auction



Wed., Jan. 19, 6:30 p.m.,  
University of Texas Club

#### Honors and Memorials

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

Bring your friends and join us at our favorite League event of the year: our annual State of the City dinner. For our 19th Annual State of the City dinner we have invited **AISD Superintendent Meria Carstarphen**, who will discuss present and future plans for the Austin Independent School District.

Our favorite auctioneer and humorist, **Mary Gordon Spence**, will tickle your funny bone and entice you to buy something. Come socialize with your friends and bid for some very interesting items. All proceeds benefit the **League's Education Fund**.

In honor of **Frances McIntyre**, League president, from **Jo Reichler**.

The **University of Texas Club** is located at **2108 E. Robert Dedman Drive, 6th floor, east side of the football stadium**. The event begins with a reception, then we'll have dinner along with a silent auction.

In memory of **Melanie Malewitz**, long-time League member and vice-president, from **Pat Oakes, Anne Roussos, Melissa Jones, Cheryl Hazeltine, Margit Orange, Nan Clayton**.

The ticket price of **\$48 for members and \$55 for non-members includes parking** in the UT garage across the street (see directions below). Guests who join the League that night will be given \$5 off their first year's dues.

**Your payment is your reservation.** Make your reservation by **January 13 by check or online**. Mail your check to LWVAA, 1011 W. 31st St., Austin, TX 78705. Or [click here](#) to buy your ticket(s) online. [Click on the Donate button at the top left corner of the LWVAA homepage. Then click on "Add Special Instructions" to provide reservation details.]

In memory of **Olene Snider**, mother of *Voter* editor **Stewart Snider**, from **Anne Shelby Clark, Lenora DuBose, Carol Olewin, Judy and Ed Parken**.

**Directions:** I-35 to Dean Keeton exit, west on Dean Keeton, left on Red River, right on Littlefield, park in the garage at Dedman & Littlefield Drive. The UT Club entrance (and the UT stadium) is directly across the street (elevators are just to the left after you enter). Bring your parking ticket with you for validation.

We look forward to seeing you, your friends, and your neighbors. Spread the word!

To donate online, [click here](#). Then click on the Donate button at the top left corner of the LWVAA homepage. Next "Add Special Instructions" to provide donation details.]

## Save The Date

General Meeting  
*Energy Issues for Austin*  
Tuesday, February 22nd, 7:00 pm

Energy remains a hot topic! Come to February's General Meeting to hear **Cheryl Mele, Chief Operating Officer of Austin Energy**, discuss current issues facing Austin. Will we as a community be able to keep our energy rates reasonable and move towards using more renewable energy sources? There are many difficult and complicated issues that will be faced by the City

([Click here](#) for form to submit honors and memorials with

Council in 2011. Come to learn and to ask questions. Details and location will be provided in the February *Voter*.

a check to the office.)

## President's Letter

- *Frances McIntyre*

## Contact Us



*Texas Legislative Session, Redistricting, Austin Energy, Healthcare Legislation, Local Program Ideas*

Here we are at the beginning of **2011**. *Happy New Year to you all!*

This "odd" year brings the **Texas Legislature** into regular session from January through May. You can expect to be asked to further the goals of LWV-Texas regarding issues that we have studied and on which we have agreed. I hope you will come to know your representative and senator and

have an ongoing dialogue with them. It does make a difference.

This winter and spring, the Austin League will have programs on redistricting, Austin Energy, health care legislation, legislative updates and other topics of interest. We will have elections of city officials and some school board officials in May and possibly constitutional amendments in November. ... [\(click here to read more\)](#)

### [Frances McIntyre](#)

**President**  
451-1551

[Anne Clark](#)  
**Secretary**  
347-0594

[Terry Green](#)  
**Publications**  
784-4615

[Lisa Harris](#)  
**Voters Service**  
467-2504

## Observer Corps

- *Karen Rankin, Advocacy*

### [Betty Williamson](#)

**Advocacy**  
474-2130

[Judy Parken](#)  
**Membership**  
502-0278

[Jo Reichler](#)  
**Organization**  
479-4003



*Alternative Growth Scenarios for Austin  
Travis County Commissioners Court, Dec. 7, 2010*

Travis County held a lengthy discussion on the City of Austin's "Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan." Five potential alternative growth scenarios are contemplated by Imagine Austin. Although the county officials expressed a preference for growth development on the east side of the I-130 corridor and in specific high density areas, it was agreed that the county has little practical

authority to influence where and how growth occurs in the unincorporated areas.

However, the Citizens Advisory Task Force delegates agreed that the county should recommend working with the city in two areas to achieve a sustainable distribution of growth: (1) Coordination of city and county policies and (2) Collaborative financial agreements among the city, county, and private sector. ... [Click here to read the full report.](#)

### [Stewart Snider](#)

**Voter Editor**  
345-7047

## Membership

- *Judy Parken (502-0278)*

## Randall's Donations

### Thank You, Renewing Members

Many thanks to the following renewing members - Lawrence Abraham, Mary Lee Comer, Dana DeBeauvoir, Larry and Sandra Fox, Dolly Lambdin, Anne Napa, Kathy Rider, Doris Warlick, Dorothy Wasserman, and Doris Wilhite. We do appreciate your support. In fact, we depend on it to keep functioning as an organization.

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.

## New, Renewal Dues Payment, Address Changes

Please send your name, address, phone number, email address, household member (if applicable) along with your dues payment and/or any changes to the LWV-AA Office, 1011 W. 31st, Austin, TX 78705. Checks may be made out to Austin League of Women Voters. Or you may instead [click here](#) to pay your annual dues online while providing all the above information. The League is grateful for your support!

Individual	Household	Student
\$ 60.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 20.00

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

If you do not wish to renew, please email Jaci Collins at [jacic@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jacic@sbcglobal.net), or call her at 257-9636.



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## Recap of the Year

The Austin League of Women Voters had a vibrant 2010. To refresh your memory of what we've done, here are links to 2010 issues of the *Voter*.

- [January 2010](#)
- [February 2010](#)
- [March 2010](#)
- [April 2010](#)
- [May 2010](#)
- [Summer 2010](#)
- [September 2010](#)
- [October 2010](#)
- [November 2010](#)
- [December 2010](#)

Our account number is 465. This is a great way to help the League.

## Compass for your Cause

Open a checking account with BBVA Compass Bank and they will make a \$25 contribution to the Austin League of Women Voters.

This account gives you discounts on multiple bank products and pays the League a small percentage for internet and phone transactions.

For information please contact Paul Sicotte, at Compass Bank, 512-421-5741..

## Automatic Drafts

Automatic drafts can make it easier for you to make donations and membership payments to the League. 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 are 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.

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