



January 2017

Volume 21 #6

Table of Contents

- [LWVAA Calendar](#)
- [From the President](#)
- [Upcoming League Programs](#)
- [LWV-TX Lobby Days](#)
- [Save the Date! State of the City Dinner and Silent Auction](#)
- [A Program of Possible Interest to our Membership](#)
- [Denial of Public Input and Affordable Housing](#)
- [Membership Report and Interest Survey](#)
- [Board Contact List](#)
- [New Member Holiday Brunch](#)
- [Communications](#)
- ["Like" Our League on Facebook](#)
- ["Follow" Our League on Twitter](#)
- [Honors, Memorials and Donations](#)
- [Shop at Randalls and Support LWVAA](#)
- [Leave a Legacy to Your League](#)

The League shall not support or oppose any political party or candidates. It may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest after significant study and consensus is reached.

The *VOTER* is partially funded by the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area Education Fund.

If you received this email from a friend, [click here](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

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



LWVAA Calendar

Monday, January 2, 4:00 pm. Board Meeting, League Conference Room, 1011 W. 31st., Austin Members.

Tuesday, January 17, 9:00 - 10:00 am. Coffee and Conversation with the Hon. Ora Houston, Austin City Council District 1. Mi Madres Restaurant, back room. 2201 Manor Rd., Austin.

Thursday, January 19, 1:00 pm. Meeting with the Hon. Leslie Pool, Austin City Council District 7, her office at Austin City Hall, 301 W 2nd St., Austin.

Wednesday, January 25, 1:00 - 3:00 pm "Opening the Conversation to Voting Rights". Disability Rights Texas, 2222 Braker Lane. Austin.

Monday, February 6, 4:00 pm. Board Meeting, League Conference Room, 1011 W. 31st., Austin Members.

Tuesday, March 7, 6:00 pm, State of the City Dinner and Auction. DoubleTree

Board Contact List

[Cinde Weatherby](#)

President

[Lea Masiello](#)

1st VP Program

vacancy

2nd VP Community Relations

[Jaci Collins](#)

3rd VP Organization

[Jacklyn Williams](#)

4th VP Voters Service

vacancy

Secretary

[Gwen Santiago](#)

by Hilton Austin Hotel.

Back issues of the LWVAA Voter can be found at [this link](#).

From the President

Happy New Year!!!



Once more we are lucky enough to see another bright shiny calendar -welcome to 2017!

Our League is aging well for an organization of nearly 98 years.

We are blessed by our many new active members who are quickly jumping into involvement and by our experienced League members who are offering their services at just the right time.

As an example, we now have an Audit Committee headed up by our immediate past President **Carol Olewin**. Carol volunteered to establish the committee as she transitioned out of the presidency. Not a particularly sexy topic, but a very important one! In addition to assuring we meet all LWVUS and LWV-TX managerial requirements and financial management, the Committee that also includes Treasurer **Gwen Santiago** and Budget Director **Tom Canby**, is updating our local Policies and Procedures.

Members can be confident we are adhering to our required reporting and financial management. This is especially important in light of some upticks in our cash flow from major bequeaths and increased membership (in-flow) and our increased *Voters Guide* production costs and costs of unplanned efforts to communicate changes in Voter ID requirements (out-flow). We are extremely honored and grateful for the legacy gifts left to us by several members in the past year.

Phenomenal Membership Growth

Treasurer

[Judy Parken](#)

[Brenda Kogler](#)

Membership Co-Chairs

[Frances McIntyre](#)

Advocacy and

Voters Guide Editor

[Charlotte Slack](#)

Communications

[June Conway](#)

Voter Registration

[Donna Pauler](#)

Voter Editor

[Sara Groff](#)

Development

New Member Holiday Brunch

The New Member Holiday Brunch on Saturday, December 10 was a huge success. Membership co-chairs **Judy Parken** and **Brenda Kogler** welcomed 61 attendees, including 30 new members. President, **Cinde Weatherby** encouraged members to get involved during this historic time for our country. Committee chairs described volunteer opportunities, and new members signed up in their areas of interest.

Many thanks to **Harriett Harrow** who hosted us at the Summerwood Clubhouse.



Cinde at Holiday Brunch

Communications

By now, you've surely heard that we have added nearly 100 new members in the past 12 months! It's a real movement-Leagues across the country have seen a major membership increase. Thirty new members participated in our December New Member Holiday Brunch, and immediately joined in efforts to strengthen our democracy. They are leaving behind election frustrations or disappointments and quickly stepping up to assume responsibilities. Immediately after the brunch several began involvement in:

- Conducting the LWV-TX independent redistricting commission study chaired by **Frances McIntyre**, our LWV Austin Director of Advocacy
- Supporting passage of online voter registration in the Texas Legislature kicking off January 10, 2017
- Planning and executing our State of the City Dinner March 7, 2017

Why the League of Women Voters?

The political turbulence of the past year remains. However, new and veteran LWV members steadfastly believe in our nearly 100-year overriding voting rights fight. There are challenges, but LWV Austin and LWV-TX contributed to successes in the past and our band of women and men, aided by new recruits, march with more determination than ever.

In this new year of 2017 we will:

- Increase our e-activism and hold elected leaders accountable for taking action on key voting rights and elections priorities
- Expand our area student voter education
- Continue to register our ever-growing and very mobile citizenry
- Host our local leaders in meaningful voting discussions
- Make our positions clear to the media and general public
- Prepare and undertake increased voter turnout efforts prior to the 2018 statewide elections

Do you see a role for yourself in this list above? If you aren't already involved, you can be! Drop me a note at president@LWVAustin.org or contact any of the leadership listed on the right-hand side of this newsletter. Do not dwell on uncertainties or complaints, YOU can truly be the difference in Making Democracy Work!©

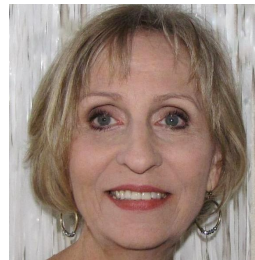


~**Cinde Weatherby**,
President
President@LWVAustin.org

Cinde Weatherby

Upcoming League Programs

Coffee with Councilwoman Ora Houston



Charlotte Slack

At the New Member Holiday Brunch, it was both exciting and heartening to meet so many new members ready to work!

We'll be calling a January meeting for everyone interested in ramping up our communications.

Photographers are particularly needed. If you'd like to be included in communications, or if you have ideas for communications efforts, contact me.

Check the website LWVAustin.org for updates on League activities.

~**Charlotte Slack**
Communications
communications@LWVAustin.org

"Like" Our League on Facebook



It's so easy to follow our League on Facebook.

1. Go to facebook.com and login to your existing account or create a new one.
2. Enter "League of Women Voters of the Austin Area" in the search box at the top of the page.
3. Facebook will show you possible matches to your search terms as you type. Simply click on the box with our logo and title.
4. Once you get to our page, there will be a button that says "Like" and has an image of a "thumbs up."

Austin City Council Member, District 1
January 17, 2017. 9:00 to 10:00 AM.
Mi Madres Restaurant, back room
2201 Manor Rd., Austin. [\[map\]](#)

Members are welcome to attend this meeting, regardless of your own city council district.

Meeting with Councilwoman Leslie Pool

Austin City Council Member, District 7
January 19, 2017, 1:00 pm
Office at City Hall,
301 W 2nd St., Austin [\[map\]](#)

Members are welcome to attend this meeting, regardless of your own city council district.

Round Table Discussion on "Disability Rights and Voting Experience" in the Austin Area

Wednesday, January 25, 2017
1:00 to 3:00 PM
Disability Rights Texas Headquarters
2222 West Braker Lane, Austin [\[map\]](#)

The meeting is open and free to members and the public.

Hosted by **Molly Broadway**, Training and Technical Specialist for Voting Rights, with Disability Rights Texas.

Learn how leaders from disability rights organizations are working to strengthen citizen participation through voting and political involvement. We will discuss problems and solutions, and form a network to ensure that everyone has access to their voting rights. Refreshments and networking time included.

Speakers:

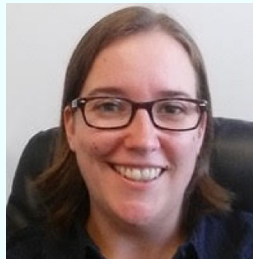
- **Molly Broadway**, Disability Rights Texas, Training and Technical Specialist for Voting Rights <https://www.disabilityrightstx.org>
- Speakers from REV UP (Register, Educate, Vote, Use our Power) the Disability Vote
- **Cassie Champion**, Texas Civil Rights Project
- **Cavan Ó Raghallaigh**, Community advocate/legislative liaison for LGBTQ organizations Texas Two Spirits Society www.texastwospirits.com, Legalize Human www.legalizehuman.org, and Equality Texas www.equalitytexas.org.
- **Celina Moreno**, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund www.maldef.org
- **Cheryl Reese**, Travis County Voter Registration & Ex-Offender/Incarceration community
- **Mary Moran**, Ex-Offender community



Ora Houston



Leslie Pool



Molly Broadway

5. Click on that button.

Now you are subscribed to our page and will see our news stories on your Facebook homepage. You can choose to receive notifications of all our posts, by turning on notifications.

Follow Our League on Twitter



It's so easy to follow our League on Twitter.

1. Go to twitter.com and login to your existing account or create a new one.

2. Search for [@lwvatx](https://twitter.com/lwvatx) in the search box at the top of the page.

3. On the left hand side of the page, under "People" click on our logo.

4. Click on the "follow" button and then you will be subscribed to the LWVAA page and get updates on any of our posts.

Honors, Memorials and Donations

Received a significant donation from the **Alamo Drafthouse** in support of our activities.

Additional donations for the Education Fund include ones from **Carol Ahlgren, Eileen Pectorius, Karen and Bob Rankin and Barbara Yeager.**

Katherine Nelson, Denver CO, in honor of Sherry Priest also of Denver.

Pat LaCombe, member passed away as of May 18, 2016 and named LWV a beneficiary in her will.



Lea Masiello

~Lea Masiello,
1st VP Programs
VP-Programs@LWVAustin.org

Shop at Randalls and Support the League

Randall's Good Neighbor Program gives the Austin League a percentage of sales from members who link the League to their **Remarkable Cards**. Our account number is **465**.

[Click on this link](#) for a document to complete and return to any Randall's store to join the Good Neighbor Program and help our League.

We've noticed an increase in contributions and appreciate your support.

LWV-TX Lobby Days

Register Today for LWV - Texas Lobby Days - January 30 & 31, 2017

At the beginning of each Texas Legislative session, League members from around the state come to Austin to participate in LWV-TX Lobby Days and the Making Democracy Work® Benefit Dinner.

League members spend an afternoon learning about issues and a special evening at dinner hearing insights and honoring those who stepped up their game for democracy. The second day begins with breakfast and preparation for visits with House and Senate members to talk about our priorities.

If you are interested in what happens under the Pink Dome, attendance is a must. You will especially enjoy Lobby Days if you are going to be part of our Austin-based Capitol Corps! Register for Lobby Days today [here](#).



The League's top three 85th Legislative Session priority subject areas are:

- Education
- Voting Rights and Election Laws (including online voter registration)
- Women's Health and Reproductive Choice

It's suggested you begin the first day, Monday, January 30, 2017, by having a convenient lunch in the Capitol Grill amongst paid and unpaid lobbyist and staffers. Registration begins at 12:30 pm close by in E1.026 (that's the Capitol Extension Level 1).

Monday afternoon's agenda includes a welcome by LWV-TX President **Elaine Wiant** and Austin State Representative **Donna Howard**. Special speakers include:

- **Mimi Marziani**, Executive Director of the Texas Civil Rights Project
- A representative of the Women's Healthcare Coalition
- **Jim Nelson**, an attorney speaking on behalf of the Texas Association of School Boards

Leave a Legacy to Your League

Making a legacy donation to the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area Education Fund in your will is among the easiest ways to offer support of the LWVAAEF's work for years to come.

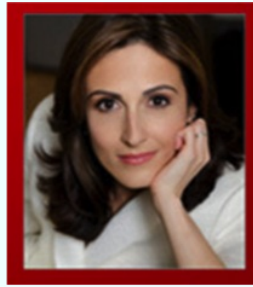
We suggest the following language to include the Austin League Education Fund as a beneficiary of a will or trust: " I give, devise, and bequeath to the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area Education Fund, a charitable organization formed in the State of Texas, with offices at 1011 W. 31st St, Austin, Texas 78705, {the sum of \$____}{____ percentage of my residuary estate}." If you already have a will, you can have your attorney add a codicil to include the LWVAAEF.

After you've added the League, please email the Austin League office, lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org, so we can list you as a member of our League's Legacy Society.

LWV-TX Vice President for Advocacy **Grace Chimene** will lead an afternoon ending session on advocacy and grassroots lobbying, prior to adjournment at 5 pm.

Making Democracy Work Benefit Dinner

Leaguers top off the day with an enriching **Making Democracy Work Benefit Dinner**. This year the dinner is in the historic Austin Club at 110 East 9th Street. It features [Dr. Victoria M. DeFrancesco Soto](#), a Professor at the University of Texas where she was selected as one of the University's Game Changing faculty. She teaches in the Department of Mexican-American and Latino Studies and is a Fellow at the Center for Politics and Governance at the LBJ School of Public Affairs. Dr. DeFrancesco Soto is a well-known political analyst and contributor to MSNBC and NBCNews.com as well as a regular political analyst for Telemundo, among others.



Dr. Victoria M.
DeFrancesco Soto

The event also honors recipients of the LWV-TX Making Democracy Work Awards. It is the state League's major fundraising event of the year. To purchase a ticket or become a sponsor, click [here](#). All League members and League supporters are welcome to attend!

Lobby Days - Day Two - Member Visits

Lobby Days reconvenes at 9 am Tuesday, January 21 in the Capitol Members Lounge - Extension, E2.1002 for a light breakfast and meeting to gather materials and prepare for visits with legislators to discuss League priority issues.

~**Cinde Weatherby**,
President
President@LWVAustin.org

Save the Date! **State of the City and Silent Auction**

March 7, 2017
Doors open at 6:00 pm
DoubleTree by Hilton Austin Hotel

Featured Speaker
Susan Dawson, Founder of the E3 Alliance

Making Democracy Work Awards
Alamo Drafthouse Cinema * Tech Votes * Thundercloud Subs

lwvaustin.org

A Program of Possible Interest

to our Membership

Hosted by Common Ground for Texans

Restoring Civil Discourse after the 2016 Presidential Campaign.

Raw emotions - especially hope, fear and anger - ran higher than ever this past election year. More than that, our standards of civility suffered tremendous damage, as provocative words encouraged hateful views, and conspiracy theories and other fake news stories profoundly altered the political landscape.

Can anything be done to heighten the civility of our political discourse? How do quality of information and the use of language affect this discourse? How can everyday folks distinguish opinion from fact? What do these changes mean for democracy?

Join panelists for a discussion of these and related issues:

Ross Ramsey, executive editor of *The Texas Tribune*,
Roderick P. Hart, Shivers Centennial Chair in Communication and Government at the Moody College of Communication, and
Jonathan Tilove, chief political correspondent for the *Austin American-Statesman*.

When: Saturday, January 7, 2:00 to 4:00 PM

Where: Yarborough Branch Library, hu Austin [[map](#)]



Joanne Richards

Hosted by Common Ground for Texans, a nonpartisan nonprofit based in Austin, Texas.

~**Joanne Richards**
joanne@cg4tx.org
Common Ground for Texans

Denial of Public Input and Affordable Housing



Frances McIntire

*The following testimony offered by **Frances McIntyre**, LWV Austin Adovacy Chair, to the City Council regarding the Grove Development on December 6, 2016.*

Good morning Mayor and Council. I'm **Frances McIntyre** representing the Austin League of Women Voters. I came today to speak to two issues, both relating to The Grove PUD.

The League has been following the public hearings on The Grove and is dismayed at the lack of opportunities for the public to speak on this issue. One public hearing did not start until 10 p.m. and another which was supposed to be a first reading was postponed because of the late hour when the earlier time was taken up by the testimony of the developer's staff. When the first reading was announced, no testimony was allowed and it was identified as Place Holder. Today's hearing is

scheduled for 9 a.m. when much of the public is at work. I'm not sure where the general public becomes aware of last minute changes. The agenda still says The Grove hearing is set for 9 a.m.

Council can and should do better than that. Third reading is yet to come. It should be scheduled at a certain time and at a reasonable hour for testimony to be heard. We would also encourage the full council be in attendance for any votes on this issue.

We are a government of the people and when people are marginalized, our Democracy is not working for them. The Austin League appreciates the time concerns Council has to consider. We also believe it is very important in our world today to make sure our elected officials hear what their constituents are saying. You are our representatives.

The other issue I wish to speak to is affordable housing, particularly in new developments like The Grove, which will more than likely set precedent for future developments. In this huge development, Council should make it known that real affordable housing is a major concern. This development is in the central city, in a residential neighborhood, just the kind of place that could contribute to the most important issue in Austin - housing for those making much less than the median income.

The current commercial properties on the streets near The Grove employ many citizens who might be interested in living at The Grove. For example, service workers who earn just over minimum wage (maybe making \$13 per hour) which comes to \$25,000-\$30,000 a year (before deductions) need housing that they can afford. The average cost of a one bedroom apartment in Austin is \$1000 per month. Their monthly salaries are from \$2000 to \$2500 before deductions. There should be an option for these folks in The Grove. Larger units that would be suitable for a low income family should also have options that they can afford.

The League hopes you will seriously consider these two issues which we believe are in the interest of making Austin livable and viable for all our citizens.

~Frances McIntire

Advocacy and Voters Guide Chair

Advocacy@LWVaustin.org

Membership Report and Interest Survey



Judy Parken

Member Interest Survey:

If you are either a new member or a member who may have a bit of time to volunteer for the League (either regularly or occasionally), please complete this [Member Interest Survey](#). This will help us identify your skills and interests. Many new members have filled this out already, but some of our members have not. We especially need to hear from all members who have a little time to offer. Thank you for [doing this now](#).

New Members:



Brenda Koegler

Laurie Filipelli, Katie Goode, Elizabeth Heard, Dell Hollingsworth and Paul Reffeld, Silvia Maggio, Rebecca Oliver, Gretchen Otto, Lindsey Pappas, Julia Ragsdale, Virgilia Singh and Margaret Treadwell have joined

our ranks this past month. As a member of the Austin League, each of you is also a member of the national (LWVUS) and state (LWVTX) Leagues. See these links for an

abundance of educational information.

www.lwvaustin.org www.lwvtexas.org www.lwv.org

Regular and Sustaining Memberships: Of your \$60 in regular dues, \$54 goes to the LWVTX and the LWVUS, and only \$6 is left to support our Austin League. Paying at the sustaining level greatly benefits the Austin League because the extra money stays in Austin and supports our local League's activities.

Thank You, Sustaining Members:

Special thanks to these sustaining members who renewed/joined this past month:

Delores Block, Gigi Bryant, Anne Clark, Carol Eckelkamp, Katie Goode, Elizabeth Heard, Jane McFarland, Carol Olewin, Gretchen Otto, Lindsey Pappas, Julia Ragsdale, Sonja Suessenbach, Susan Theiss and Laura Yeager who renewed this past month. We are grateful for your additional financial support for our local League.

Thank You, Renewing Members:

Many thanks to **K. F. Carbone, Dorsey Cartwright, Heidi Gibbons and Maria Johnson** who renewed their memberships this past month. We depend on your support and appreciate your renewal.

New Membership, Renewal Dues Payment, Address Changes: Please mail your name, address, phone number, email address, household member (if applicable), along with your dues payment and/or any changes to the LWVAA office, 1011 W. 31st, Austin, TX 78705. Checks may be made out to the LWV of the Austin Area. Choose an amount below. Or you may instead [click here](#) for renewals (or [click here](#) for new memberships) to pay your annual dues online by credit card via PayPal while providing all the above information.

Here is the schedule of dues:

	Individual	Household	Student
Sustaining Dues	\$ 100.00	\$ 150.00	
Regular Dues	\$ 60.00	\$ 90.00	\$ 20.00

Contact one of us anytime with your League questions.

~**Judy Parken**, Co-Membership Chair,
Membership@LWVAustin.org 512-502-0278.

~**Brenda Koegler**, Co-Membership Chair,
Membership@LWVAustin.org 817-781-5184