



**League of Women Voters®  
Austin Area**

# Voter

May 2011      Volume 15 #10

Frances McIntyre, President..... 451-1551	Carol Olewin, Treasurer ..... 380-0088
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Lisa Harris, VP Voters Service ..... 467-2504	Stewart Snider, <i>Voter</i> Editor..... 345-7047
Anne Clark, Secretary..... 347-0594	Lenora DuBose, <i>Voters Guide</i> Ed ... 292-8201

"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.

## May Calendar

**Sun. May 1**, LWV-AA *Voters Guide* appears in *Austin American-Statesman*. Get your copy.

**Mon. May 2**, Early Voting Starts, 7 am - 7 pm

**Tues. May 3**, Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Central Market North, Community Room

**Mon. May 9**, Combined Unit Meeting, "Money in Politics", 1-3 pm, Old Quarry Library, 7051 Village Center Drive, off Far West, west of MOPAC

**Sat. May 14**, Election Day, 7 am - 7 pm

**Wed. May 18**, LWV-AA Annual Meeting, 6 pm, Trinity United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway, Hyde Park. Bring a dish to share for dinner. Celebrate contributions of Maxine Barkan and Frances McIntyre.

## Combined May Unit Meeting

### \$\$\$ Money in Politics \$\$\$

**Mon. May 9, 1-3 pm, Old Quarry Library  
7051 Village Center Dr. (west of MOPAC at Far West)**

Find out who is spending the most on state and national elections, and who are the biggest lobbying interests. Our panel discussion of leading "good government" organizations in Austin will describe the current state of this old problem, and the group as a whole will discuss how we all can work most effectively together on the things we can change.

The program will be moderated by our own **Stewart Snider**, LWV-AA *Voter* Editor. Panelists include:

- Andy Wilson from Public Citizen**
- Craig McDonald from Texans for Public Justice**
- Diane Owens from The Coffee Party**

**Questions:** Carolyn Baker, [cbaker1@earthlink.net](mailto:cbaker1@earthlink.net) or 249-7012; or Stewart Snider, [s2snider@gmail.com](mailto:s2snider@gmail.com) or 345-7047.

## LWV-AA Annual Meeting Dedicated to 60-Year Member, Maxine Barkan

**Wed., May 18, 6:00 p.m.**

**Trinity United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway (Hyde Park)**

**Please bring a dish to share. Food dishes preferred but, you may donate \$5.00.**

This year's Annual Meeting is **dedicated** to **Maxine Barkan**, who has served both the state and local Leagues in many capacities. She has mentored and inspired League members for **60 years**--six of them as president of our League. Maxine served as first Vice President of Advocacy for LWV-TX and state program chair for Campaign Finance Reform and Judicial Selection.

We will also **salute** out-going President **Frances McIntyre**, who leaves that position after serving a total of **10 years** over the last 40 years as either co-president or president.

Come to the Annual Meeting to:

- Sample culinary delights.
- Celebrate the year's many and varied accomplishments.
- Honor Maxine Barkan and Frances McIntyre
- Make your voice heard on our local program, budget, officers, and bylaws.

Check out the *2011 Annual Meeting Workbook* for details about the proposed League local program and local positions previously adopted. See pages 15 - 24 for LWVAA positions in Education, Austin City Government, Travis County Government, Library, Transportation, Health, Mental Health Services, Environmental Quality, Administration of Justice, and Affordable Housing. Spend a little time looking through the *Workbook*. Which areas of focus strike a chord in you? The Annual Meeting gives every member a platform in which to shape next year's League.

You received a copy of the *2011 Annual Meeting Workbook* by e-mail or mail if you don't use email. Please bring the 2011 *Workbook* with you.

This will be **Frances McIntyre's** last meeting in her current term as President. Let's give her a big send off with a huge turnout -- she very much deserves it for her years of service to the League. We hope to see you there.

~**Anne Roussos and Stewart Snider**

## Membership News

*Judy Parken (502-0278)*

### Welcome, New Members!

We cordially welcome **Maria Person** and **Traci Stone** to the Austin League. We are delighted you have joined us. In doing so you are also a member of the national (LWVUS) and state (LWVTX) leagues.

We hope to see you and ALL new members who have joined this year at our **Annual Meeting on May 18th at 6 pm.**

### Thank You, Renewing Members

Many thanks to those who recently renewed - Nancy Bene, Terrell Blodgett, Nancy Busbey, Julie Byers and Lee Leffingwell, Mescal Evler, Verna Grice, Karen Hayward, Betty Hixson, Catherine and Joseph Nall, Jr., Betty Owen, Sonia Santana, Martha Schumacher, Diane Wheeler, Carol Whitcraft-Fredericks, and Jan Williams. We truly depend on your support and appreciate your timely renewals.

## President's (Last) Letter

-Frances McIntyre



### Annual Meeting

The merry month of May is upon us and the League year is winding down (not stopping, just resting). The Annual Meeting is your best chance to influence future policy and the budget of the Austin League. Come to **Trinity**

**Methodist Church** on Speedway, **Wednesday, May 18th** to help us be at our best as a truly grassroots organization. One of our missions is to promote participation in the political process, and that extends to your participation at the Annual Meeting. We thrive on your ideas and your participation. The **Annual Meeting Workbook** (thanks to **Anne Roussos** for a terrific job) is a publication that you should bring with you, but also save and/or bookmark because it will answer many of your questions throughout the year.

### Austin's Water Resources

Last month we had a very informative general meeting on Austin's water sources and conservation. Thanks to **Karen Haschke** for her continued work on this subject. She has been active in the water study for many years and can answer almost any question you have. We will be continuing the LWV-Texas study next year and you can expect more programs and information about this very timely and always controversial subject.

### Legislative Update

We also had updates on legislation that **LWV-Texas** is actively pursuing from our members who are working closely with **Anita Privett** as the advocacy chair for the State League. It is so very important for the League to have a voice at the State Legislature and we do, thanks to our members who volunteer to help. Kudos to **Nan Clayton, Anita Privett, Karen Rankin, Suzy Reid, and Stewart Snider** who spoke to the Monday Unit meeting.

### Court System

The South Unit meeting had an entertaining and very informative meeting with **Judge Jon Wisser** who talked about the court system in Travis County and the State of Texas. Thanks to **Phyllis Portnoy** and **Anne Roussos** for arranging that meeting.

### Promoting Good Government

Year after year, we continue to have meaningful activities that promote good government and encourage more people to pay attention to the issues of the day. Their engagement makes our democracy work better. All of this is possible only with your help and your financial support. Thanks for making it possible.

### President to President

I want to thank you again for allowing me to preside over the Austin League. I can't think of a more satisfying job. I am really looking forward to the next year under **Stewart Snider's** lead. He will be the first male president the Austin League has had, although other Leagues in Texas and some other states have already broken that barrier. I am eager for you to get to know Stewart, a delightful young man who is passionate about good government, and who has been an active and loyal member of the Austin League for a good while. He is articulate, patient, diplomatic and has a great sense of humor. Stewart will have an excellent Board of Directors to work with and a lot of volunteers, like you and me, to carry out the ambitious agenda for the Austin League.

Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting.

~Frances

## Maxine's Musings

-Maxine Barkan, 231-8523



### Some Things Never Change

Well, almost never. Not being a believer in absolutes I should never say never. Perhaps consistent would be a better word. Since I have been a League

member about fifty years, I am always amazed at how consistent we have been over the years during my time and certainly before that. Think about it. We haven't changed our modus operandi for over 90 years! Some might call us Neanderthals, but if so, why are we still here?

Early on, League members had to fight to be recognized as more than housewives and child-rearers. **Jane Y. McCallum**, when she was a lobbyist for women suffrage, tells the funny story of her encounter with a Texas legislator. He chided her for meddling in men's affairs, said that she ought to get married (she was), that she should be having children (she had five), said she ought to be home taking care of them (they were in school), then she ought to be home darning their socks.

Jane was a founder of the **Texas League of Women Voters** when women won the right to vote in Texas in 1919. She declined to be the president in favor of Minnie Fisher Cunningham. **Janet G. Humphrey** compiled Jane's writings and diaries in her book, *A Texas Suffragist*. Janet spoke about Jane and her legacy in an LWVAA meeting in 1988. I have referred to her book many times in talks and board training. Our foremothers, such as Jane, were very impressive, daring to upset the apple cart, per-

sistent, insistent, not taking "no" for an answer until the goal was reached. They taught us to be firm in our convictions, to be organized, to stick to our guns in adversity, and to be sure we have done our homework. We are still the same now. We are assertive and ready to defend our positions no matter how long it takes. In our own discussions, we may differ with each other, but at the end, we accept the consensus of the group.

Actually, we have made some changes from the early days with time and circumstances. I remember when men could not be members but could be nonvoting associates with a payment of token dues. This became an anachronism as women and men became more equal partners. Ironically, an unintended consequence of our work to empower women to be well-educated, able to seek professional status and other employable opportunities has caused membership in organizations like the League to decline over the years. Women with full time jobs and families at home no longer have the time or perhaps even the inclination to become active on a regular basis.

A few years ago, LWVUS developed a program to examine the future of the League. Discussion groups were held in regions all over the country. In one I attended, the cumbersome way we operate was suggested as a reason we don't attract younger women and men and perhaps needs to be reviewed. Everyone agreed, but in the end, we are not willing to lower our standards. Some things, indeed, rarely change!

~Maxine

### Randall's Donations

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

### IRA Charitable Distributions

Persons aged 70½ or older can make charitable gifts directly from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to the LWV Education Fund. Contact Lauren Frank of LWVUS at 202-263-1355 for additional information.

## Phonathon:

### \$7,000 Down; \$4,000 to Go

Letters for the LWV-AA Phonathon were sent to all members and long-time League friends at the end of February. A BIG THANKS to all of you have responded with your generous support of the League! To date we have raised \$6,961. However, we still have a long way to achieving this year's goal of \$11,000. (In 2009 and 2010 we raised \$10,370 and \$8,526 respectively.)

To help us close the \$4,000 gap, please consider making your contribution now. Or make an additional donation, if you've already contributed. The money raised through this annual event supports the League in our mission of providing community-wide education projects to keep voters informed and to take action on public policy issues. See the listing below.

Your financial support is critical, so **please, please, please** support your League by making your contribution now.

**Mail your donation to LWVAA**, 1011 W. 31st, Austin, TX 78705. Enclose a note saying whether your donation is for the LWVAA Education Fund (tax deductible) or the LWVAA General Fund (not tax deductible.)

Thank you,

**Ann Stalnaker,**

Phonathon Chair

#### Your Donation:

- Provides nonpartisan information about candidates before elections (Voters Guides)
- Provides logistical support for studies that get at the core of important public policy problems. (Study Groups)
- Informs members and the public on all sides of the issues our members have chosen to pursue. (General and Unit Meetings, the Website and the monthly Voter newsletter)
- Fuels action on public policy issues that are under consideration by government agencies. (Advocacy).

## Honors and Memorials

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

Mail your donation to LWV-AA Office, 1011 W. 31st St., Austin, TX 78705. State for whom the donation is being made and the address to which the designee or family may be notified. State whether your donation is for the LWVAA Education Fund (tax deductible) or the LWVAA General Fund (not tax deductible.)

## Observer Corps: Travis County Commissioners Court

*Karen Rankin (506-8549)*



Two issues related to the Travis County budget were discussed at the **April 12** meeting of the TCCC.

Intragovernmental Relations Coordinator, Deece Eckstein,

updated the commissioners on the progress of legislation in which the county has an interest. Of particular concern are the bills which will allow streams of revenue to be diverted from county use to other purposes in the state budget. An example of this is the juror pay supplement which the state adds to the amount a county pays a juror for service.

Several agenda items addressed the county building project underway at 700 Lavaca. Commissioners approved the expenditure of an additional \$1,775,000 beyond the original \$8,800,000 already allocated. The additional funds will be used for a food service area and architectural and engineering fees.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF THE AUSTIN AREA**  
1011 West 31st Street  
Austin, TX 78705  
(512) 451-6710

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.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I'm an existing member and this is a change to my information.

	<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>	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

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

You can also use PayPal to pay your dues at  
[lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org](mailto:lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org)