



# League of Women Voters® Austin Area

# Voter

November 2010 Volume 15 #4

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"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.

## November Calendar

### Unit Meetings combined this month!!!

Instead of meeting separately, all 3 Units are **combining** this month for a special meeting to review and analyze the results of the November 2 General Election. Our speaker will be W. Gardner Selby of the *Austin American-Statesman* who is the Editor of Politifact Texas.

The meeting will be held at 12:00 noon on Monday, November 8 at the Howson Branch Library, 2500 Exposition Blvd. Bring your questions for discussion and bring your friends.

For more information: Carolyn Baker - Central Unit, 249-7012; Judy Parken - North Unit, 502-0278; Phyllis Portnoy - South Unit, 280-7730

### The League's Biennial Legislative Reception

Mark your calendars for our big event of the Fall season. This year it will be held on **Tuesday, November 16** from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the State Capitol in the Lt. Governor's Reception Room.

This festive event, always fun and informative, gives us a special opportunity to meet and visit with our own legislators. Hors d'oeuvres, wine and refreshments will be served. Invite your friends, neighbors and business associates to come.

There is no charge to attend, but we hope you will help defray the cost by sending a donation (suggested amount: \$25) to the League office, 1011 W. 31st. St., Austin, TX 78705 by October 31. (Please note: we are NOT permitted to collect money at the Capitol.)

Free parking is available in Capitol Visitor garage on 12th Street between Trinity and San Jacinto. The Capitol is one block west. Take the elevator up to the second floor. The Lt. Governor's Reception Room is on the right as you get off the elevator.

See you there!

***Election Day is November 2nd.***

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### Determination + education + voting = success

Recently Jocelyn Doherty and Judy Parken spoke at Capitol Idea, a group that funds tuition for low-income students. They mentioned our 90th anniversary and the importance of the LWV Voters Guides.

ACC Board Member Guadalupe Sosa was also a speaker. She emphasized the importance of education, and of VOTING.

After dropping out of high school and having five children, she went to work, earned her GED, went to college and is now an elected Board Member of ACC.

## President's Report

- Frances McIntyre



### Dear members,

Here we are in November already! We work so hard to provide nonpartisan information for our citizens so that they will be informed voters. After all that effort, we need

them to VOTE!!!!

You can help get out the vote by calling your friends and neighbors with a gentle reminder. Not everyone takes their civic duty as seriously as we. You'd be surprised how much a call and some encouragement will help.

The Austin League volunteers this year have put in many, many hours producing the SBOE candidate forum and the Voters Guide for this general election. These are invaluable tools that not all cities have the privilege of receiving. Austin is lucky to have us.

The list of volunteers is too long to mention in this column, but I want to thank the leaders of these efforts. Anne Roussos led the tumultuous way through the SBOE candidate forum broadcast on KLRU, and Lenora DuBose, our Voters Guide Editor, championed the 24-page Voters Guide which, in addition to the candidate responses, included the City Bond Proposition and sample ballots with special

elections in all of Travis County. Donna Pauler deserves a special thank-you for lending us her competent computer skills for the production of the Voters Guide in print as well as on our web site. We continue to have a host of members who help with the many aspects of making this League (in my opinion) the best in the nation.

November also brings the opportunity for you and your friends to meet your representatives in the Texas Legislature. This year, in addition to the Travis County delegation, we are inviting the Senators and Representatives from Hays and Williamson Counties. The setting is the historic Lt. Governor's Reception Room at the Capitol, and there is adequate parking in the 12th Street garage just east of the Capitol. Refreshments will be served. This is your opportunity to talk directly with your representative about the issues in which you are most interested. such as redistricting, county planning authority, budget concerns, sunset reviews of agencies including Capital Metro and TCEQ. The public is invited. We are not charging for this event, but there is a cost and we would be most appreciative if you can make a tax-deductible contribution to the Austin LWV Education Fund to help cover the costs. This is a fun event and I hope to see you there.

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

### Honors and Memorials

The Austin League provides the opportunity for donations in honor or in memory of League members. This month, Karen Haschke donated in memory of Mary Sue Neilson and Yvonne Khouri's brother. Frances McIntyre and Jo Reichler donated in memory of Dick Neavel.

### "Good Neighbor" Program

...gives the Austin League a percentage of sales when they use Randall's "Remarkable" cards. Go to the Customer Service desk and tell them to designate the League as your choice. Our number is 465.

## Membership

- Judy Parken, Membership (502-0278)

### Welcome, New Members

We cordially welcome Stephanie Alelyunas, Sue Caldwell, Rosemary Morris, and Peggy Stewart 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

Carolyn Baker, Shelly Baumgartner, Anne Clark, Mary Jansen, Maria Johnson, Frances McIntyre, Judy and Ed Parken, Lynda Rife, Bill and Susan Reid, Gail and Tim Sulak, Amy Taylor and Alice Van Zant.

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.

### Thank You, Voters Guide “Elves”

Many thanks to members who helped to mail out the Voters Guides - Allison Dieter, Dorothy Wasserman, Jan Williams, Judy Clack and Judy Parken. Many other members also helped to distribute them all over Austin. Let the office (451-6710) know if you would like to help next time.

### Jan Albers Recovering

Earlier this month, former Austin member Jan Albers (now a member-at-large) suffered a stroke. She is back home now and recovering. The family is hopeful of a full, or near full, recovery. Send cards to: 4857 CR208, Lampasas, TX 76550

### Dick Neavel

Longstanding Austin member Nancy Neavel informed us that her husband, Dick, passed away on October 18 after a 15-month battle with cancer. Our heartfelt condolences go out to Nancy. Send cards to:

## Letters-to-the-Editor

We want to acknowledge some member letters published by the *Statesman*.

Kathy Carvell, Allison Dieter, Erika Mittag, Nancy Neavel and Pat Oakes wrote persuasive letters that had mostly to do with the League’s non-partisan credentials and the idea that candidates for office owe it to voters to participate in public information forums.

If you have written an LTE recently and it has been published, please call Stewart at 345-7047 and you’ll be acknowledged in an upcoming *Voter*.

Members, LTE’s are a great way to add to the civil side of public discourse. Let’s share our wisdom with the rest of Austin!

## Legislative Activity

The next Legislative Session promises to be a busy one. Redistricting, budget, and education issues will be dominant, and we also expect significant activity on voting rights, immigration reform, and campaign finance.

While the Capitol Corps will be providing most of the lobbying effort, we want to keep all Austin members informed of what’s happening at the Capitol, and encourage you to step up if you see something that stirs you. For instance, your presence at the Legislative Reception (see p. 1) will add to our lobbying strength.

Before long, LWV-TX will be sending a letter to all the Texas state legislators, telling them about our priorities for the year and sending them a copy of our “We Support” statement.

Call the office (451-6710) with any questions.

**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