



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® AUSTIN AREA

VOTER Newsletter

www.lwvaustin.org

512.451.6710

November 2013

Volume 18 # 4

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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

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

Voters Guides



LWVAA and LWVTX *Voters Guides* are available online at <http://lwvaustin.org/>.

The LWVAA Guide has all local contests and the Austin Affordable Housing bond issue. The LWVTX Guide explains the nine statewide Constitutional Amendments.

Hard copies are available on the porch of the League office, 1011 W. 31st St. near N. Lamar, and may still be available at

all Austin Libraries.

Board Contact List

LWVAA Calendar

Fri., Nov. 1, 7:00 am - 7:00 pm, Early Voting.

Mon., Nov. 4, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting, League Office, 1011 W. 31st St. Open to all members.

Tues., Nov. 5, 7:00 am - 7:00 pm, General Election Day. Vote at any polling place or any Vote Center.

[Stewart Snider](#)

Co-President

512-345-7047

[Carol Olewin](#)

Co-President

512-380-0088

[Nancy Oelklaus](#)

1st VP Program

512-431-4946

[Anita Privett](#)

2nd VP Community

Sat., Dec. 7, morning, New Members Event, TBA

Mon., Dec. 9, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting, League Office, 1011 W. 31st St. Open to all members.

Upcoming Events:

- December 2013, LWVAA Appreciation Social, date TBA.**
- February 5, 2014, State of the City dinner and auction.**
- February 23, 2014, General meeting on Healthcare and Mental Health Services in Travis County.**
- March 9, 2014, General meeting on Agriculture; Unit meetings on the LWVUS Agriculture study, Mar. 10 and 11.**
- April 25 - 27, 2014, LWVAA hosts the LWVTX Convention in Austin.**
- May 2014, Annual Meeting**

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

Voters Service



Get Free Election Identification Certificate:

The Department of Public Safety has been working in the community at various voter registration events to provide a free Election Identification Certificates (EIC) to individuals without an approved form of photo ID. If you know someone who does not have a photo ID approved for voting, here are the last opportunities to get an EIC at any of the three area Department of Public Safety offices:

- Friday, Nov. 1, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Sat., Nov. 2, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, EIC only (no other DPS business)
- Mon., Nov. 4, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

- DPS Austin Northwest, 13730 Research Blvd.
- DPS Austin-Pflugerville, 216 Wells Branch Pkwy.
- DPS Austin South, 6425 South IH 35, # 180

League members registered over 95 citizens at September and October voter registration events. These included National Voter Registration Day, National Night Out, Austin Public Libraries Day, and Travis County's Keep Calm Vote On days. Thanks to all who helped.

Our League had planned to conduct a candidate forum for Texas House District 50, but a date satisfactory to all candidates could not be found. Another project the Voters Service Committee is working on is a series of forums to help prepare candidates to run for the ten new Austin City Council districts.

Join the voters service committee by contacting me at jacklyncw.jcw@gmail.com
~**Jacklyn Williams**, VP Voters Service

Creating Austin District Maps

The Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission is finishing the last stage of the open meetings to take public comment on the Preliminary District Map they have produced. Many citizens, groups, and neighborhood people have given their preferences and thoughts to the Commission over the past month. The Commission

- Relations**
512-467-2674
[Judy Clack](#)
- 3rd VP Organization**
Voter Editor
512-731-0280
[Jacklyn Williams](#)
- 4th VP Voters Service**
773-957-5795
[Peggy Stewart](#)
- Secretary**
512-458-1072
[Carol Olewin](#)
- Treasurer**
512-380-0088
[Judy Parken](#)
- Membership**
512-502-0278
[Jaci Collins](#)
- Member Records**
512-257-9636
[Mescal Evler](#)
- Publicity**
512-517-0088
[Ami Hooper](#)
- Web Master**
512-705-2389
[Eliza May](#)
- Special Events**
512-358-0479

Honors and Memorials

To make a donation in honor of or in memory of a League member, [click here](#) for the form. Then mail with your donation to the LWVAA Office, 1011 W. 31st St., Austin, TX 78705.

Women's Suffrage at Bullock Museum

members are very attentive, take notes and ask questions. They have put in numerous hours listening to public testimony and will consider those comments in the coming month.

Then the CIRC will come up with another map that they think satisfies the Charter Amendment requirements and the Voting Rights Act requirements, considering the neighborhood groupings as well. That map will be made public and there will be two public meetings (one north and one south), at which they will take more comments.



Sometime in December they will decide on a final map that will be the one that will guide the election of 10 district representatives and a mayor elected at large in November 2014. This is, indeed, an exercise in democracy "By the People."

~ **Frances McIntyre**, Past President; Chair, League Redistricting Study Committee, mcintyre.frances@gmail.com

Human Trafficking in Texas



Over fifty persons, area residents and League members, attended a very informative panel discussion on the silent crime of Human Trafficking on Sunday, October 13 at the Faith Presbyterian Church. The three speakers, Servando Esparza, Laure Cook Heffron, and Geoff Barr, kept the audience spellbound with their knowledgeable presentations.

Then on October 14 and 15, thirty League members participated in consensus meetings on Human Trafficking. They considered questions from LWVTX that were focused on the three P's of human trafficking: Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution.

The Human Trafficking Study Group met on Monday, Oct 28 to compile our League's Consensus Report based on comments and feedback recorded at the two unit meetings. After our Board approves this report, it will be submitted to LWVTX where our responses will be compiled with those of Leagues across the state to come up with a statewide position on these issues. After approval at the LWVTX Convention in April, Leagues can begin lobbying on those positions.

The Human Trafficking Study Group is comprised of Judy Clack, Mary Cullinane, Diane Davies, Chantal Eldridge, Frances McIntyre, Judy Moore, Nancy Oelklaus, Judy Parken, and Barbara Werth. Many thanks go to each of them for their work and time.

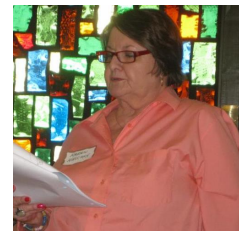
~**Eliza May**, Chair, Human Trafficking, elizamay@sbcglobal.net

Healthcare and Mental Health Study Group

On October 10th, **Christie Garbe**, VP for Planning and Communications at **Central Health** (and League member), presented an overview of Central Health and the Community Care Collaborative. She also explained the intricacies of funding health care services in the community and the many opportunities opening up because of changes in funding and relationships between Central Health, Seton, Austin-Travis County Integral Care, other community providers, and, in the near future, the teaching hospital

The Suffrage Victory Map, ca. March 1919, is now on display at the Bob Bullock State History Museum.

Texas suffragists pushed the state legislature to pass a bill that would grant women voting rights in Texas primary elections. On March 26, 1918, women's primary suffrage was signed into Texas law. The following year, Texas became the ninth state to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting full voting rights to women nationwide. This map shows the voting rights granted to individual states before the Nineteenth Amendment.



~ **Karen Haschke**, Past President; karenhaschke@sbcglobal.net

"Like" Our League on Facebook

It's so easy to follow our League on Facebook. With thanks to member Bridgid Hall for these instructions:

1. Go to facebook.com and login to your existing account or create a new one.
2. Search for "League of Women Voters of the Austin Area" in the search box at the top of the page.

and the medical school.



On October 24th, **Dawn Handley** and **David Evans**, the top two officials of Austin-Travis County Integral Care spoke to the committee about current mental health services in the community, how ATCIC will integrate with Central Health and the Community Care Collaborative, the new programs initiated under the Medicaid 1115 Waiver, gaps and access problems, and other issues.

The meeting with ATCIC enabled the committee to see the improvements and progress in mental health care that have been made since the League researched the topic several years ago. Issues in local mental health care services that still need work and support were also brought to light.

There will be a general meeting on **February 23** when our membership and the public will be able to hear these organizational leaders discuss the extraordinary changes our community health care system is undergoing. **Phil Huang**, from the Travis County Medical Authority, will also be there to round out the presentation with a discussion of public health and health promotion.

If you'd like to join the LWVAA Health Care study group, contact me.

~**Mary Cullinane**, Study Chair, mculli@sbcglobal.net, 512-623-9194

Public Education Study Group



The League's education working group is in the midst of putting up yard signs promoting school attendance as a means of reinforcing the E3Alliance (Education Equals Economics) campaign to improve attendance in Central Texas. After a year of research, E3 has learned that attendance in central Texas, especially among low-income students, is lower than for other metropolitan areas of Texas. The League wants to help change that. In our first community

conversation we learned there is a need for greater unity on behalf of Austin students; hence our decision to support the effort of E3 on behalf of all students. Many thanks to Sabine Foster, Anne Clark, and Delores Block for doing the research that defined where signs were most needed and to Laura Sheridan, Anne Roussos, Carol Olewin, Nan Clayton, Judy Clack, and Delores Block for the legwork in getting the signs distributed.

On October 19 about twenty-five people participated in the League's community conversation about public education in the library at McCallum High School. This was the fifth conversation since June 2012. Eight League volunteers served as facilitators or recorders: Gwen Santiago, Beverly Kimbrough, Frances McIntyre, Anne Roussos, Delores Block, Judy Clack. Carol Olewin, Carol Eckelkamp, and Nancy Oelklaus served as hosts, and Jacklyn Williams as a participant. Questions centered on choices available within Austin Independent School District and how families choose their children's school, as well as what the participants felt AISD priorities should be. Notes are being transcribed now, and findings will be on the League website by November 1. Our AISD representative for these conversations is Linda Medina, who arranges for facilities, childcare, and translation services.



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."

5. Click on that button. Now you are subscribed to our page and will see our news stories on your Facebook homepage.

Randall's Donations

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**.

Compass Bank Donates to LWVAA

Have you opened an account at BBVA Compass Bank in the last 12 months? If so, they will make a **\$50 contribution** to the Austin League of Women Voters. Just email your name (no account numbers) to our treasurer, Carol Olewin, c.olewin@gmail.com.

Compass Bank also pays the League a small percentage for Internet and phone transactions. For information, contact Paul Sicotte at Compass Bank, 512-421-5741.

The League education working group has been working with a spreadsheet that Kendall Pace prepared for AISD Up Close that lists every program available within AISD that parents may choose for their children. The choices are numerous and many are not well publicized. We are continuing to shape this work in a form that can be disseminated throughout the community. Stay tuned for progress on this project.

~Nancy Oelklaus, VP Program, nancyoelklaus@gmail.com

Cruise with the League on April 25



The Austin League will be hosting the Friday, April 25, 2014 evening entertainment for the LWV of Texas State Convention attendees. This is our chance to showcase some of the unique qualities of Austin to out-of-town Leaguers as well as provide an opportunity for our local League members to gather in a social setting.

We will all enjoy a boat cruise and dinner along Lady Bird Lake. Dinner, catered by the Hyatt Regency Austin, will be served, and we'll be treated to beautiful sight seeing opportunities and, hopefully, bat watching, by Capital Cruises.

Put April 25 on your calendar now and plan to help us host Leaguers from across the state as well as enhance friendships with your local League members.

~ Carol Olewin, Co-President, and Local Chair of the LWVTX Convention, c.olewin@gmail.com

Membership



Our members have been active this past month assisting at various voter registration events, attending the Human Trafficking panel and consensus meetings, and participating in our various study committees.

New Member: A warm welcome to our new member, **Tom Coopwood**. As a member of the Austin League, you are 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, \$52 goes to the LWVTX and the LWVUS, and only \$8 is left to support our Austin League. Paying at the sustaining level (\$100) greatly benefits the Austin League because the extra money stays in Austin and supports our local League's activities. The entire amount is paid to LWVAA and not to the Education Fund.

Thank You, Sustaining Members: Special thanks to this month's sustaining members: **Sheryl Cole, Belia Greek-Nichols, Judy and Ed Parken, and Janet Reed**. We are grateful for your additional financial support for our local League's activities.

Thank You, Renewing Members: Many thanks to the following members who also renewed this month: **Ellen Loeb, Carrie Tilton-Jones, and Doris Warlick**. We depend on your support and appreciate your renewals.

New Membership, Renewal Dues Payment, Address Changes: Please mail your

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 LWVAEF'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 LWVAEF.

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

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](#) to pay your annual dues online by credit card via PayPal while providing all the above information.

You may renew or join, using PayPal by clicking on the amount that applies to you.

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

Contact me anytime with your League questions.

~**Judy Parken**, Membership Chair, japarken@aol.com, 512-502-0278.