Table of Contents

League Calendar
In Memory of Peggy Stewart
The 2015 Workbook Is Coming
League Advocacy in 84th Legislative Session
Online Voter Registration
Discussion Group on Local Issues at the City Level
Get Involved in City
Ladders of Opportunity Work Group
Help! LWAA Position Statements Need Work
State of the City Success!
General Meeting: 84th Legislative Update
Membership Report and Interest Survey
Board Contact List
From the President
From the Webmaster
Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training
Honors and Memorials
"Like" Our League on Facebook
"Follow" Our League on Twitter
Shop at Randalls and Support LWVAA
Open Compass Bank Account and Support LWVAA
Leave a Legacy to Your League

LWVAA Calendar

Mon., April 6, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting, League Office, 1011 W. 31st St. Members.

Tues., April 7 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, or 6:30 pm, Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training, Travis County Voter Registrar's office, 5501 Airport Blvd, Austin.

Sat., April 11, 10:00 - 11:30 am, Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training, First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Austin, 4700 Grove, Austin.

Sat., April 18, 10:00 am to noon, Discussion Group on Local Issues, League of Women Voters, Austin office, 1011 W. 31st Street, 78705

Tues., May 5 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, or 6:30 pm, Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training, Travis County Voter Registrar's office, 5501 Airport Blvd, Austin.

Sat., May 9, 10:00 - 11:30 am, Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training, First Unitarian-Universalist Church of Austin, 4700 Grove, Austin.

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

Board Contact List

Carol Olewin  President
Mary Cullinane  1st VP Program
Cinde Weatherby  2nd VP Community Relations
Jo Reichler  3rd VP Organization
Vacant  Secretary
Gwen Santiago  Treasurer
Judy Parken  Membership
Jaci Collins  Member Records
Frances McIntyre  Advocacy and...
**In Memory of Peggy Stewart**

1935-2015

It is with saddened heart that we announce the passing away of our dearly loved Peggy Stewart. Peggy was Secretary of the Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area.

Her passing was unexpected as she and her husband, Kent, were at the State of the City dinner just 10 days earlier. They were happily enjoying the camaraderie of the evening.

Peggy was a delightful and witty person with whom to spend time. Peggy joined the League in 2010 and engaged in League programs and activities. Not only did she serve as Secretary but she was active in Membership recruitment; and engaged in the State of the City, Fall Kickoff, Annual Membership Meeting, and the General meetings.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Kent and family as they suffer the loss of Peggy. The League of Women Voters of the Austin Area is grateful for the time and energy she gave to us. She will be sadly missed by her League family.

~ Carol Olewin, President, c.olewin@gmail.com

**The 2015 Workbook Is Coming Your Way**

Find out about the workings of the Austin League in the 2015 edition of the *Annual Meeting Workbook*, which will be coming your way by April 19, a month before our *Annual Meeting* on Tuesday, May 19. This year, we will gather at 6:00 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway, Austin.

Most of you will get the 30-plus-page *Workbook* by email. Those who do not have email will get the document in the mail. Please print out the *Annual Meeting Workbook*, make plans to attend the meeting, and bring your *Workbook*. We'll have a fun evening, featuring a potluck dinner, time to socialize, and a unique opportunity for you to have a voice in the way our League operates.

**From the President**

Our March 2015 *State of the City Meeting* was a wonderful success. We had 119 guest attendees and raised $4,995 from both the Live and Silent auction items to help fund our Education outreach programs.

The League's "Making Democracy Work Award" was awarded to the Austin *American-Statesman* for their support in printing and distributing Voters Guides. The Statesman's Editor, Debbie Hiott; Presentation Editor, Scott M Ladd; Assistant Metro Editor, Bridget Grumet; and City Government Editor, Lilly Rockwell were in attendance to receive the award on behalf of the Austin American-Statesman.

Mary Gordon Spence entertained the audience with her crafty wit and raised $1,310 on the Live Auction items.

Austin Mayor Steve Adler was the keynote speaker for the evening. He gave his first impression of being mayor and explained his vision for streamlining the Mayor's office, and the council, and meeting constituent needs.
You'll want to save the Workbook as a handy reference. You'll find the agenda for the May 19 meeting and the president's overview of the year's activities, as well as reports on past and proposed program activities, membership trends, the 2015-2016 budget, proposed bylaws changes, and a proposed slate of officers and board members. In addition, you'll have the LWVAA nonpartisan policy statement, our bylaws, and all our local LWVAA positions.

Each Workbook edition is dedicated to a League member who has supported the LWVAA with an extraordinary commitment of time and devotion. This year's honoree is Judy Clack, our dedicated Voter editor and vice-president of Organization.

~ Anne Roussos roussos@swbell.net

League Advocacy in the 84th Texas Legislative Session

Capitol Corps
The 2015 Capitol Corps (CC) is a shining example of dedicated LWV Austin Area members! This wonderful team of energetic and dedicated volunteers has testified before legislative committees, registered support or opposition to bills in committees, and visited legislators individually on more than 50 bills.

Priority Issues:
The Corps supports the 29 LWV-TX issue areas, with an increased focus on the top four priority issues of:
- Education
- Water
- Voting Rights/Elections
- Reproductive Choice/Women's Health

The top four priority issue areas, and most others, have several CC participants following the issue subject. Grace Chimene, LWV-TX Legislative Director, and the Education and Water CC lead partners, have provided the lion's share of testimony.

Education and Water:
The husband and wife team, Barbara and Chris Frandsen are hard at work at the capitol supporting LWV-TX positions on Education/Public School Finance and Water, respectively. Barbara is a former teacher, who recently retired from teaching educators at St. Edwards University. She is on the education issue team and has provided several testimonies on state funding of public schools and pre-kindergarten. She has also visited authors of bills LWV supports and registered support or opposition reflecting our position on bills. While Barbara is busy working on education, her husband, Chris, supports the LWV-TX position on water issues. They both have spent many very long days monitoring committees, visiting legislators and providing testimony.

Sex Education:
Another new LWVAA member, Jane McFarland, who recently retired from the Texas Medical Licensing Board, waited at least 10 hours at the Capitol to provide testimony on improving sex education in public schools. While waiting to testify, she visited legislators authoring written bills in support of Reproductive Choice/Women's Health in Texas.

Although we will not be publishing a Voters Guide for the May elections, we will be engaged in Voter Registration initiatives. As always, we will continue to host meetings and discussions on topics relating to good government.

Our fiscal year will be wrapping up at the end of May. On May 19, we have our Annual Meeting where we report on this past year and plan for the next year. At this meeting, we will adopt a program for the ensuing year; elect officers and directors, and adopt a budget. We need a quorum of the membership at this meeting, so please plan to come.

Please consider a position as an officer or director. It takes many people with a wide diversity of skills to manage this organization. Consider being an active part of running this organization and volunteer for a committee to learn about the League. If you have served on a committee, consider stepping up to an officer or director position. We need YOU to help us move forward!

Contact Margit Orange, Nominating Committee Chair at 512-345-5349 or Judy Parken at japarken@aol.com if you are interested in serving on the Board.

~ Carol Olewin, President, c.olewin@gmail.com

From the Webmaster

The web site has been updated. We posted on photos from the State of the City. Check them out.
Voting Rights/Elections:  
**Cinde Weatherby** is managing the Capitol Corps volunteers and the schedule for actions requested by the LWV-TX Issue Chairs, but is also the issue chair for Voting Rights/Elections. She has met many times with legislators and other voting experts to promote LWV voting priorities in Texas and provided testimony on voting/election issues. Assisting Cinde with logistical digital support is another new member, **Sara Groff**. While her schedule prevents her from spending time in the Capitol, Sara has been an invaluable contributor in aiding organizationally.

**Guns:**  
Addressing another issue of particular interest to the LWVAA membership based on discussions at our recent Legislative Update event, **Grace Chimene** has taken on representing our views on open carry and campus carry of guns. She has testified against passage of each of those bills in the House and Senate committees at every public hearing opportunity. Her testimony has been quoted in the *Texas Tribune*, and coverage by KVUE Television (with repeats on sister stations in Dallas and El Paso).

**Action Requests**  
LWV-TX is beginning to distribute Action Alerts to the full membership, some individually and others associated with the bi-weekly *Legislative Newsletter*. Please open those emails and consider taking action on those issues most important to you. You will find links to all of the *Legislative Newsletters* and *Action Alerts* on the opening page of the LWV-TX website [here](#). All detailed testimony provided this Session will also be posted shortly, with updates weekly.

~ **Cinde Weatherby**, 2nd VP Community Relations,  
Capitol Corp Coordinator [cindeweatherby@gmail.com](mailto:cindeweatherby@gmail.com)

---

**Online Voter Registration**

The quest for passage of a bill to establish online voter registration (OVR) continues.

As discussed in previous *Voter issues*, proven OVR impacts include it being **more secure, much more cost efficient**, and **more accurate**. Research has also noted no partisan bias in registration or voting trends appearing in the states that have implemented the process, nor any incidences of voter impersonation.

**State Rep. Celia Israel's** HB 76 has emerged as the primary bill to support in the 84th Session. She has been working diligently to engage the support of other Representatives. As of March 28, she had 4 joint-authors (three Republicans and one Democrat) and 50 coauthors. The bill is awaiting a hearing in the House Elections Committee. LWV-TX supports this bill and is leading the request for a hearing as soon as possible.

~ **Cinde Weatherby**, 2nd VP Community Relations,  
Capitol Corp Coordinator [cindeweatherby@gmail.com](mailto:cindeweatherby@gmail.com)

---

**Discussion Group:**  
**Local Issues at the City Level**

The discussion group will meet Saturday, April 18th continuing an ongoing conversation on local issues that the League can

---

**Voter Registration and Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training**

Citizens may get trained and sworn in as Volunteer Deputy Registrars. VDRs help register eligible citizens to vote by distributing, reviewing, and accepting completed voter registration applications. This training must be repeated every two years. Starting January 1, 2015, all current VDRs and those wishing to become VDRs must get trained. Your term will be January 1, 2015 - December 31, 2016.

Citizens interested in becoming a VDR or renewing their eligibility may attend a one-hour training session held the first Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Training is held at the Travis County Voter Registrar's office located at 5501 Airport Blvd, Austin, TX 78751. Upcoming dates are Tues., April 2 and May 5.

**Bruce Elfant**, our Travis County Voter Registrar, is offering extra Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) training the second Saturday of each month from 10:00AM - 11:30 am (usually ends at 11:15). The
address at the city level. We'll meet from 10:00­noon at the League office conference room, 1011 W. 31st Street, Austin.

We welcome others who may be interested to join us. Just let me know so I can put you on the email list.

Frances has lead a group interviewing the Mayor and all Council members, explaining how the League works and discussing the League's priorities, and discussing how we can work together.

The remaining Council interviews for April are now scheduled and we welcome anyone who would like to come along. They are:

- April 6 - Councilwoman Delia Garza (Dist. 2)
- April 7 - Councilwoman Leslie Pool (Dist. 7)
- April 7 - Councilwoman Ann Kitchen (Dist. 5)

~ Frances McIntyre, Advocacy Chair and Voter Guide Editor, mcintyre.frances@gmail.com

Get Involved in the City
Serve on a Board or Commission

The Austin League encourages you to apply to be on a city board or commission. Now is the time!

City Council must make 500 appointments by June 30. Each Council member needs to make 42 appointments and the mayor must appoint 80.

There are many openings for people wanting to serve their community. Once the appointments are made, citizens will receive introductory material on how the commissions work and what their duties might be, including an introduction to Robert’s Rules of Order.

You can find the list of the Boards and Commissions and a description of their mission at:

http://www.austintexas.gov/department/boards-and-commissions

Help the Austin League be informed by being on a city board or commission.

~ Frances McIntyre, Advocacy Chair and Voter Guide Editor, mcintyre.frances@gmail.com

Ladders of Opportunity Work Group

The "Ladders of Opportunity" work group met for the 3rd time on March 28th. The group consensus was to get to work finding programs in the community that were making a real difference helping people advance economically. Research possibilities were discussed and several people will start gathering information to bring back to the group. A date for the next meeting was not set so watch for a blast later.

Volunteers are needed to attend various City Council Committee meetings -especially the ones on economic development, housing, transportation, and human services. They meet once a month on different days for a couple of hours. We need observers at these meetings to gather information that will help us in our assessment next sessions will be April 11 and May 9 at First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, Austin. Space is limited. Sign up at this link.

The League of Women Voters, Austin Area participated in a 2014 election survey which will be published in April.

~ June Conway, Voter Registration Chair. june_cnwy@yahoo.com

Honors and Memorials

Frances McIntyre, Judy Parken, and Anne Roussos made donations in memory of Board Secretary Peggy Stewart to the League of Women Voters, Austin area. (See In Memoriam above.)

Helen Putnam (1922 - 2015) passed away in early March. She spent many years as an active member of the League of Women Voters.

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

"Like" Our League on Facebook

It's so easy to follow our League on Facebook. Thanks to Brigid Hall for these instructions:

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.
of current services and programs. I have the dates and times of these meetings. Please let me know if you can attend one. Thanks!

~ Mary Cullinane, VP Program, Mcculin63@gmail.com

**LWAA Position Statements Need Work**

I believe the LWVAA position statements need to be re-formatted and others updated. **Volunteers wanted to help.** The national organization has an excellent document which can be seen [here](#): The statements are organized in a more logical and accessible way. Through the work of the "economic opportunity/poverty" work group, I have seen that there are position statements at the local, state, and national levels that already cover most issues which are important to the LWVAA. By re-organizing our local statements we can see exactly what we have and what needs to be updated to address issues affecting Austin today. I already have a draft from which to start and I think very few work sessions will be required to do the job. This isn’t a glamorous job, but it is needed. Position statements are the foundation of League advocacy. Contact **Mary Cullinane** for more information.

~ Mary Cullinane, VP Program, Mcculin63@gmail.com

**State of the City Success**

The State of the City Dinner was a fantastic success. For the second time in a row, the event was a sellout affair with guests impressed with the content, speaker and the flow for the evening.

The **Austin American-Statesman** was recognized with the coveted **Making Democracy Work Award** for continuing efforts to inform and educate the public through the publication of the League of Women Voters Austin Area Voters Guides.

Lively and entertaining auctioneer, **Mary Gordon Spence**, entertained the audience with her wit while encouraging bidders to get their checks out on behalf of the League's Education Fund. A great big thank you to live auction contributors who included the long-time League members, **Frances McIntyre** and **Judy Parken**. Gratitude goes to **Judges Jan Breland** and **John Lipscombe** for the donation of the use of their South Padre condo.

Our honored speaker, **Mayor Steve Adler**, provided the League with a report on how his administration is redesigning City Hall functions, while providing information on the creation of a committee structure to vet city business. He provided a description of each City Council Member’s assignments. He will continue to drive for excellence in government and push for public engagement at new levels for the city of Austin.
The success of the auction could not have been possible without the generous contributions of more than 60 donors and the professional leadership of member **Heidi Gibbons**. This year, the auction grossed the largest contributions in history.

The State of City committee is recognized for their steadfast commitment to the important event. The committee met regularly throughout the winter months to ensure that the League had a successful dinner. Members who gave their Saturdays to help with preparations were **Judy Parken**, **Heidi Gibbons**, **Nancy Rowland**, **June Conway**, **Allison Dieter**, and **Davida Bilgrad**. A special thanks to executive committee members **Carol Olewin**, **Hal Jenkins** and **Jaci Collins** who contributed to technical support. A final note of thanks goes to **Judy Clack** who is preparing a move to Pennsylvania. She remained a click away for institutional history and support.

Stay tuned for next year. Happy spring.

~ **Eliza May**, Special Events Chair, **elizamay@sbcglobal.net**

---

**General Meeting, "84th Legislative Update"**

At the LWVAA Legislative Update, Sunday, March 15th, we were fortunate that **Senator Kirk Watson**, **Representatives Celia Israel** and **Elliott Naishat** and **Representative Donna Howard’s** staffer, **Scott Daigle** came to provide updates on the 84th Legislative Session.

The informal presentations were enlightening and conversations between our elected representatives and those attending the meeting was robust and educational on various bills in the State Legislature.

Topics included: transportation, education, election reform, higher education, pre-kindergarten programs, women's health, sex education, redistricting, tax cuts, ethics reform, open carry guns and sanctuary cities.

Legislators also addressed the slow progression of bills this session and the philosophical differences in the political body.

Each legislator encouraged LWV members to communicate with not only our representatives but others, whether we agree or disagree with their legislation. They emphasized the importance for the legislators to hear all sides of an issue.

The League appreciates the time given to our program from our very busy elected officials!

~ **Frances Mcintyre**, Advocacy Chair and **Voter Guide** Editor  
**mcintyre.frances@gmail.com**

---

**Support 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, **Gwen Santiago**,  
**gsantiago@austin.rr.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.

**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 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.

---

**Membership Report and Interest Survey**

**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. A few new members have filled this out already, but most of our members have not. We especially need to hear from all members who have a little time to help us. Thank you for doing this now.

New Members:
Five more individuals have joined our ranks as new League members:
Marion Alsup, Jo Anne Grimshaw, Pam Bixby, Kimberly Levinson and Melanie Walters-Mahoney. A warm welcome to each of you. 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.

New Members:
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 this month’s sustaining members: Nancy Bene, Cecelia Burke, Mary Cullinane, Mindy Gomillion, Karen Hayward, Kimberly Levinson, Gwen Santiago, Paula Weisner and Dianne Wheeler. We are grateful for your additional financial support for our local League.

Thank You, Renewing Members: Many thanks to the following members who also renewed this month: Nancy Bessent, Nancy Busbey, Lisa Harris and Bruce Elfant, Kathleen Hackett, Ethel Kutac, Kathy Rider, Mary Ann Rivera and Joyce Robinson. We depend on your support and appreciate your renewals.

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 amounts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Type</th>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Household</th>
<th>Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustaining Dues</td>
<td>$ 100.00</td>
<td>$ 150.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Dues</td>
<td>$ 60.00</td>
<td>$ 90.00</td>
<td>$ 20.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact me anytime with your League questions.

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