December Calendar

General Meeting
Local Program Planning and Holiday Party

Sunday, December 12, 2 - 4 pm

At the home of President Frances McIntyre, 6305 Treadwell Blvd. Bring cookies to share (if you like), your ideas for Austin League local programs for 2011-2012, and a copy of LWV-AA's "We Support" publication. Directions:
* From MOPAC, take the 2222/Northland exit east.
* Left at Shoal Creek Blvd. (traffic light)
* Left at the first 4-way stop which is White Rock for 1 block
* Right on Bullard 2 short blocks
* Right on Treadwell Blvd.to 6305 (across from the swings at Gullett Elementary School. House has a metal roof.

Upcoming Board Meetings -- All members are welcome
Mon. Nov. 29, 6:30 pm, at the home of Frances McIntyre, 6305 Treadwell Blvd.
Tues. Jan. 4, 6:30 pm, tentatively at Central Market North

Save The Date!
State of the City Dinner and Auction

Wednesday, January 19, 6:30 p.m., UT Club

Our speaker is AISD Superintendent Meria Carstarphen, who will address the" state" of Austin Independent School District and host a lively Q & A. Our favorite auctioneer and humorist, Mary Gordon Spence, will tickle your funny bone (and sell you "Something.") Ticket prices: Members, $48; Non-members, $55

Reservation deadline: January 14. Your check confirms your reservation. Mail to LWV-AA Office, 1011 W. 31st Street, Austin, TX 78705.

More to come in the January Voter.
President’s Report

- Frances McIntyre

Dear members,

December is your time to have your say. This is when we hold our annual Program Planning meeting. We hope you’ll join us on Sunday, December 12, where we will have holiday refreshments and a good time discussing our future and past opportunity for advocacy in the Austin Area. For a brief summary of our advocacy positions, please refer to the Annual Meeting Workbook from May 2010, which lists all the LWV-AA program positions.

At the planning meeting we will review where we are today and what the League, as an organization, can address publicly. Then, we will let you suggest other areas of local concern that we might want to study in the next year or two. This could be a new study of city, county, school district or the Health Care District issues or a revision of our current positions. What issues have piqued your interest lately from City Council, County Commissioners, School Board or Health Care District? Do we need to review the City Charter? What environmental issue is most pressing? What about budgets and the lack of revenue in the downturn? Are the services for the needy adequate? What about land use policy? You name it — we are a grassroots organization and you determine what we can study and address.

For our League, the process of program planning starts in December at the meeting on Sunday, December 12th (see front page). Your Board takes the suggestions from this meeting, develops them to include a scope, and presents all of the suggestions to the membership in the Annual Meeting Workbook sent out in April. The Board may also make a recommendation.

At the Annual Meeting in May, you will vote on the program or programs you wish to study or review. Your wish is our command! All of our League’s current positions came from studies and give us the authority to advocate. We cannot speak to issues we have not studied. So, please come and participate in League democracy. If you can’t make it, please send in your suggestions by email or mail to the office. These discussions, however, are usually quite exciting and are a learning experience.

Thanks to all who came to the Elected Officials Reception at the beautiful Lt. Governor’s Reception room in the Capitol. It was a popular event which attracted citizens of many persuasions who were able to connect with their representatives.

Happy holidays to everyone. 2011 brings more exciting League activities starting with the popular State of the City Dinner and Auction on January 19th. It is a blast. Hope to see you there.

Observer Corps - Travis County Commissioners Court


Item 21— Budget cuts are expected in the next legislative session. The initial list of Travis County’s legislative priorities is:

1. Oppose unfunded mandates or diversions of county revenues.
2. Oppose restrictions on counties to raise revenues such as appraisal and revenue caps.
3. Oppose budget cuts to, and support additional funding for, health and human services.
4. Support funding for mental and physical health care in county jails.
5. Support allowing counties to purchase conservation easements.
6. Support the authority to regulate signage along scenic roads.
7. Support giving counties the tools to preserve quality of life in unincorporated areas.
8. Support an amendment to reduce the diversion of Fund 6 money to other agencies.

Items 13 & 18— Community input will be sought regarding the plan for 30,000 acres along the Colorado River in eastern Travis Co. Commissioners will coordinate with the City of Austin, LCRA, CAMPO, property owners to develop parkland and preserve green space. - Karen Rankin
Membership
- Judy Parken, Membership (502-0278)

Welcome, New Members
We cordially welcome Deborah Albers, Helen Bland, Jenifer Ahrens Cawley, Judy Leecraft, Barbara M. Myers, Marshall Mitchell, Ana Ortiz de Montellano, Marilee Phillips, Lori Rowlett, and the Melanie Wilkes Family 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.

Thank You, Renewing Members
Kathy Akers, Natalie Balden, Heather Becker, Patricia Bennett, Allison Dieter, Margaret Drake, Bob Gregory, Helen Garman, Nancy Hoffman, Sula Howell, Karen Haschke, Emma Hampton, Rose Lancaster, Chalda Maloof and Russel Zears, Carol Olewin, Eloise Pelletier, Karen Swenson, Virginia Stotts, Kay and Delbert Taebel, Bryson Smith, and Janet Whitehead. We appreciate your support and depend on it to continue functioning.

Honors and Memorials
The Austin League provides the opportunity for donations in honor of, or in memory of, League members. Here are this month’s memorials:
In memory of Mark Barkan (husband of member Maxine Barkan) from Joann Lovelace.
In memory of Melanie Malewitz, from Barbara Hankins, Frances McIntyre, Judy Clack.
In memory of Olene Snider (mother of Voter editor Stewart Snider) from Frances McIntyre, Judy Clack, Carolyn Baker, Jo Reichler.

Melanie Malewitz Memorial
Our dear friend Melanie died Oct. 24 at the age of 85. Her children are planning a memorial gathering for Sunday, December 5 at 1:30 p.m., in the Garden Room of The Summit, where Melanie spent her last years.
Melanie served as VP of Organization; treasurer; unit coordinator; Budget Chair, By-Laws, and Nominating Committees; on the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District as secretary; and member of several study committees.
Melanie worked in Girl Scouts, Planned Parenthood, and UT's Learning Activities for Mature People program. She was an accomplished painter and golfer.
The Summit is located at 1034 Liberty Park Dr., Austin, 78746. Liberty Park Dr. intersects the west access road of MOPAC just south of the Rollingwood exit. Turn right on Liberty Park Dr. immediately after the 50 MPH sign. Take the third right when you see the Summit sign. Then take the first right to the independent living section. Enter the main door, take the elevator down to the ground floor, and take a right to the Garden Room.
If you have questions, feel free to call Anne Roussos at 512-441-3913.

President's Testimony on Redistricting
On November 17, Frances McIntyre testified before members of the Texas Legislature to advocate the League’s position on redistricting, a major task coming up in the next session. Here are some key points from her statement.

Districts:
- Should be apportioned on the basis of equal population
- Should be single member and contiguous
- Should be compact.
- Should coincide with boundaries of local political subdivisions.
- Should not be drawn to dilute the voting strength of minority populations.

The League will continue to advocate for a transparent redistricting process during the 2011 session.
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 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 ___________________________________

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Additional Donation $_____ $_____ $_____

Total $_____ $_____ $_____

☐ I’m an existing member and this is a change to my information.

You can also PayPal dues to 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