Calendar

Saturday, December 2, 10:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.  
**LWV-AA Annual Holiday Brunch**  
George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center  
1165 Angelina Street, Austin, TX 78702  
RSVP to brenda@koegler.me or call 512-792-9477

Monday, December 4, 4:00 p.m.  
**LWV-AA Board Meeting**  
League Conference Room  
1609 Shoal Creek Road Ste. 202, Austin, TX 78701  
Members welcome.

**SAVE THE DATE**

Wednesday, March 7, 2018, 6:30 p.m.  
**State of the City Dinner**  
DoubleTree by Hilton  
Details Forthcoming

Cinde Weatherby, President

**Celebrating New Members**

Be sure to join us at the League's Holiday Brunch  
10:30 am - 12:30 pm Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017  
when we annually honor our new members. It is  
in the George Washington Carver Museum &  
Cultural Center, 1165 Angelina St, Austin, TX  
78702. We all look forward to this event that  
allows us to meet casually and get to know one  
another.

We've talked about the explosion of our membership in recent months, and it continues. New members seem to have gravitated to our nonpartisanship and want to know more about what we do and how they can participate. **Charlotte Moore**, one of our newest
members, asked if she could come by and talk with me about that...and video the answers. Find her gift to us allowing a video welcome to all new members here. You will find several other Moore Media Production videos on our YouTube Channel, including some mentioned below. Please subscribe to our YouTube Channel when you watch! And share it, requesting subscriptions from others.

Making it Easier to Take Action

Last month's column ended with an entreaty to get involved as a League volunteer. This month I can call attention to how well we listened to your requests. We rejuvenated our member interest survey and posted it online as the more appropriately named Select Your Action Involvement form.

We also are responding to pleas for easier access to specific volunteer opportunities. That service is under development and should be posted online for your perusal within the week. You'll find the link in the website "Membership" drop-down menu, just below the form mentioned above. Both short-term and long-term opportunities aligned with the major League areas of service are included. You can refresh your understanding of the League by seeing the overview video Charlotte made, or the one about our youth voter outreach.

It's That Time of the Year!

No, I'm not talking about the holidays. And, yes, we just had an election. But, it is time to begin work on the Voters Guide for the March 6, 2018 Primary Election. There are many ways to get involved in putting out the only nonpartisan comprehensive guide to candidates in the region. Like Santa, we'll be making a list and checking it twice, thrice, and more. The list is long: finding out who the candidates are, contacting them, writing compelling questions for them to answer, downloading all that information and making it look readable, translating it, printing it, posting it here there and everywhere, and raising funds to pay for all of that!

That fundraising part includes donations for sure, but also supporting the annual State of the City Dinner (SOC) March 7th (the day after the election!). Just like Voters Guide production, SOC planning is well underway. If you are more a party animal than a Voters Guide producer, the time is here for you to offer to ask for those silent auction items you’d like to bid on, or get together a group of people for a big table of fun. Much more information is already posted about sponsorship opportunities, reservations and the awards nominations that are DUE DEC. 15TH!
Welcoming Back a League Leader

Mary Cullinane joined the Board of Directors as the Program Director November 6, 2017, to fill a vacancy on the Board and to offer support to our 1st VP - Program Leader Masiello who is taking a brief sabbatical. Mary is coordinating the Program efforts, overseeing the robust review of six areas of long established League positions. We are pleased to welcome her back! She retired in August and is graciously volunteering her time to this important effort. She preceded Masiello as Program VP.

Reminder: Don't Forget December 7th at BookPeople!

When we kicked off our League year on the HTU campus, President Colette Pierce Burnette (and new LWV-AA member) recommended reading Ibram X. Kendi’s National Book Award Winner "Stamped from The Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America," in response to a question.

Our new member and video contributor Charlotte Moore graciously made it the DiverseCity Book Club’s December selection and invited us all to participate. Meet us at BookPeople, 6:30-8 pm, Thursday, December 7, 2017. As the invitation reads, bring a dish, a friend, and a mind open to raw and candid discussion. For more details and to indicate attendance check out the Facebook Event. [Hint: If you don't complete all 500+ pages by Dec. 7th, there is a link to detailed book review and description in the event listing.]

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteer Deputy Registrar
If you want to help register citizens to vote, you can become a Volunteer Deputy Registrar (VDR) by just attending a one-hour training! If you were a VDR in the past but haven't attended the training since December 31, 2016, you must renew your certification! You can find the training schedule for both Travis and Williamson Counties on the League calendar at https://lwvaustin.org/calendar/.

Voters Guide Production
In the coming weeks and months, the League will need short-term volunteers to assist with the Voters Guide. Volunteer opportunities include developing candidate questions, reaching out to candidates to respond with answers, laying out and proofing, distributing hard copies, and spreading the word about the Guide's availability online.

Please contact Joyce LeBombard at VP-votersService@lwvaustin.org or 512-585-4090 (call/text) for more information on these volunteer opportunities.
2018 State of the City Dinner and Auction

Please join us for our 26th annual State of the City dinner on March 7, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the DoubleTree by Hilton Austin Hotel. Our speaker is Sally Hernandez, Travis County Sheriff.

It will be a night for food, fun, and fundraising, and for honoring League volunteers, community members, or businesses who have made significant contributions to the LWV-AA, or have supported efforts to increase voter registration and civic engagement. See separate article on the Making the Democracy Work Awards.

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year and we need your help. In addition to attending the dinner, you can help with donations for the silent and live auctions. Also, please consider sponsoring the dinner or asking your contacts for sponsorship.

Silent and Live Auctions  →  Click here to help. Here are some ideas for donations.

- Gift certificates from your favorite restaurant or spas
- Premium tickets to UT sporting events
- Weekend getaway at vacation condo
- Lunch with a community leader, local celebrity, or author
- Wine tasting or cooking class package

Sponsorship  →  Click here to help.

- Making Democracy Work - $5,000
- Advancing Democracy - $2,500
- Celebrating Democracy - $1,000
- Honoring Democracy - $500
- Friend of Democracy** - $250

Get your early bird tickets online until January 15 at $75 for each member, $85 for each non-member. The tickets include dinner, cash bar, live auction, silent auction, and parking.

Click here to purchase your tickets now!

We look forward to seeing you!

Elizabeth Cooper and Angela Koegler, Special Events Co-Chairs

**Sponsor the dinner as a Friend of Democracy and receive two tickets along with special recognition at the event.

Making Democracy Work Awards

Would you like to help us recognize an outstanding member of LWV-AA?

Do you know of a local organization, business or individual who has supported or enhanced the work or mission of the League?
This year, for the first time, we are requesting nominations for the awards given at our annual fundraising dinner. We have also defined for the first time, three award categories:

* **Friend(s) of the League:** An individual or organization that provided a significant amount of time or money to the League of Women Voters Austin Area, positively influencing its ability to achieve its mission; not a League leader (may be a dues paying member).

* **Volunteer(s) of the Year:** A member or specific group of the League of Woman Voters Austin Area, with an emphasis on member(s) of two years or less, that have dedicated a significant amount of time and effort supporting the LWV-AA and its goals. LWV-AA officers and board members are not eligible as individual honorees. Honoree must be an active volunteer and dues paying member.

* **Democracy in Action:** An individual or organization that made a significant impact in advancing or promoting one or more of the LWV-AA's areas of focus or policy positions (registering and educating voters, advocating for voting rights, or one of the many LWV-AA positions; not a League leader (may be a dues paying member).

League members and non-members are eligible to submit nominations. Individuals, companies or organizations may nominate themselves. The event or activity must have occurred between November 1, 2016 and October 31, 2017. Nominations accepted until December 15th.

**Click here to access the nomination form!**

Please contact Mary Jane Burson at maryjaneburson@gmail.com with questions.

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**League Members Busy Reviewing Local Position Statements**
Lea Masiello, VP Programs and Mary Cullinane, Program Director

Position statements support LWV advocacy and provide valuable education and information so members can actively participate in democracy and have a say in public policy. Today, we are in the process of reviewing some of the Austin area position statements - education, transportation, health care, criminal justice, affordable housing, and environmental quality. All committees have met once and the education committee will meet on December 2, after the new member brunch. All the meetings have been lively discussions by a group of passionate and sharp members committed to furthering the goal of an educated electorate.

If meetings aren’t your cup of tea there is another way to contribute to the effort without having to leave home! Research is needed and much of it can be done online. The six committees could really use some help from people willing to explore and investigate resources/information to support their work. Examples - stream Council committee meetings (i.e., Health and Human Services, Housing and Planning, Judicial, Mobility) and briefly report items of interest; research possible speakers and find their contact information; edit documents in Google Docs, etc. Seriously, most of the tasks are brief, easy to do, and don't require battling traffic!

If you would like to get involved in one of these groups please contact Mary Cullinane at mculli@sbcglobal.net and she will connect you to the chair of the committee. Everyone is welcome!
With the big fall push for registering voters behind us, the Register & Vote Committee is planning for the 2018 elections. In November we participated in two events: the Plaza para Todxs at the Mexican American Cultural Center, and the Austin Interfaith Thanksgiving Service hosted by the Austin Muslim Community at Riverbend Church. Thank you JoAnn McKenzie, Mollie Snow, Carol King, Cristal Rodriguez, Paula Traffas, Mariano Di Vincenzo, Debbi Voss, Amenity Applewhite, Frances Gibich, Pamela Craig, David Reynolds, María Milner, and Claire Morel for volunteering to register citizens at these events.

We held our second First Vote! program at Success High School in Round Rock, doing the slide presentation and students activities (voter registration, hands-on experience with a voting machine, using the Voters Guide, and looking up polling places and elected officials' information). We registered 33 students, mostly from Williamson County, which was 73 percent of the students that participated! We are going back to this innovative school in the Spring to do the program again. Thank you Joan Reams, Julie Campbell, Marina Milner, Madeline White, Pamela Craig, and Jessica Archer for doing a terrific job working with the students and school staff at this event!

Four new League members stepped up recently to lead new efforts for us!

* **Carol King** is our new Volunteer Coordinator for the Register & Vote Committee. She is already working closely with JoAnn McKenzie and Mollie Snow, Register & Vote committee co-chairs, and with our Volunteer Deputy Registrars to staff our voter registration events. Thank you, Carol for taking on this important role!

* **Diane Hays** is our new chair of the Naturalization Committee. Diane's committee will determine how we can improve voter registration at the Naturalization Ceremonies in
Austin. Diane has already met with one of the judges involved and attended a ceremony in San Antonio. Diane is off to a great start!

* Beth Schrader is our new chair for the Voter ID project. The project has a grant from the Texas League. Beth’s committee will work with the Go Austin!/Vamos Austin! organization in the communities they serve to identify citizens who have issues getting the proper voter identification and assess how to help them. She has already recruited a friend to join the League to work with her on this project and making plans with Go Austin!/Vamos Austin!. Way to go, Beth!

* Jane Swanson is researching the various youth engagements efforts happening in Texas. She is focusing first within the League itself for opportunities that we may leverage. She has already been in contact with the Texas League and made a plan of how to tackle this project. Great work, Jane!

I invite you to find out more about the many exciting volunteer opportunities we have in Voters Service. If you want to know more, please contact me, Joyce LeBombard, at VP-votersService@lwvaustin.org or 512-585-4090 (call/text).

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**Membership Report and Interest Survey**

Brenda Koegler, Membership Director

Please join us for our **Annual Holiday Brunch** celebrating our new members!

George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center  
1165 Angelina Street, Austin, TX 78702  
December 2, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Please RSVP at brenda@koegler.me

**Welcome New Members!** Hope you have had the chance to attend one of our new member monthly coffees. We hold new member coffees to serve as a mini-orientation to help them get involved as soon as possible. If you have not had a chance to attend one or would like another opportunity to learn more about the League, please let me know. And a special thank you to this month’s Renewing and Sustaining members! We are grateful to Sustaining Members for their additional financial support for our local League.

**Welcome, New Members:** Nora Comstock, Kevin Connolly, Summer Davis, Carol Dochen, Margo George, Andy Goerdel, Debbie Kern, Leah McDaniel, Mattie Scheihing

**Thank You, Sustaining Members:** Angela Bishop-Connolly and Kevin Connolly, Nora Comstock, Carol Dochen, Michelle and Andy Goerdel, Bob Gregory, Cindy Hintikka, Chalda Maloff and Russell Zears, Carol Olewin, Judy and Ed Parken, Leslie Pool, Kathy Rider, Mattie Scheihing

**Thank You, Renewing Members:** Diane Davis, Jan DeVault, Emma Hampton, Judi Nudelman, Darcie Robert, Ann Roussos, Amy Taylor

As a member of the Austin League, each of you is also a member of the national and state leagues. See the links below for an abundance of educational information.

[www.lwvaustin.org](http://www.lwvaustin.org)  [www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org)  [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

**Member Interest Survey:** We very interested in seeing what in particular interests you and why you joined the League. Click on **Select Your Action Involvement** to complete the survey. Please fill it out and hit submit. We will then connect you to the appropriate League leaders.
Need more information? Visit our webpage for more information on new memberships and membership renewals.

Thank you for supporting the League!

Donations: Cynthia Riley, Amy Taylor, Ed and Judy Parken, Frances McIntyre, Jane Peddicord, Bob Gregory, Emma Hampton

YouthCam PSA Program: Carlos Lopez

Randall's Good Neighbor Program gives the Austin League a percentage of sales from members who link the League to their Remarkable Cards. Complete this document and return to any Randall's store. Our account number is 465.

Making a legacy donation to the League of Women Voters Austin Area in your will is the easiest way to offer support of the League's work for years to come. Learn how to leave your legacy and become a member of our League's Legacy Society.

Board of Directors

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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.