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SOLD OUT!
22nd Annual State of the City Dinner and Auction

Dinner, Cash Bar, Live Auction, Silent Auction
Wednesday, February 5, 2014, 6:00 - 9:00 pm
Green Pastures, 6:00 p.m., 811 West Live Oak Street, 78704

The League will honor the fourteen members of the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission with our Making Democracy Work award. The League is recognizing the Commission for setting an example of civil discourse, encouraging civic participation, and creating Texas’ first independently-created political district map. Honorees include:

- Magdalena Blanco, Catherine Cocco, T H Costello, Mariano Diaz-Miranda
- Stefan Haag, Harriet Harrow, William Hewitt, Henry Johnson
- Arthur Lopez, Carmen Llanes Pulido, Ryan Rafols, Anna Saenz
- Maria Solis, and Rachel Truair.

This year our keynote speaker will be Steve Bickerstaff, Professor of Law, University of Texas. He will review how Austin’s recent change to city council districts will affect the level of participation and representation in city governance, as well as decision-making by the city government.

All proceeds from the auctions support the

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.

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 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
League of Women Voters of the Austin Area Education Fund that publishes Voters Guides prior to each election and provides all our educational programming free to the community. Silent and live auctions include these and many other items:

- Bat-watching cruise
- Ben Sargent cartoons from the '70s
- Breakfast with Donna Howard
- Fine jewelry
- Fine perfume
- Framed photos of the Texas Capitol
- Photos of Ann Richards from 1978
- Political memorabilia
- Restaurant gift certificates
- Tickets to theatres, opera, baseball, and museums
- Wine and liquor

~ Eliza May, Chair, Special Events, elizamay@sbcglobal.net
~ Judy Parken, Vice-Chair, japarken@aol.com

**LWVA Calendar**

**Mon., Feb. 3, Last day to register to vote in March Primary.**

**Mon., Feb. 3, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting.** League Office, 1011 W. 31st St. Open to members.

**Wed., Feb. 5, 6:00 pm, State of the City Dinner and Auction.** Green Pastures, B11 West Live Oak Street, 78704. Recognizing the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. Fundraiser for LWVAA Education Fund. **SOLD OUT!**

**Sat., Feb. 8, 10 am - 12 noon, Austin City Government 101, KLRU Studios, UT Campus, 2504 B Whitis Avenue, 78712.** Doors open at 9:30 am. Open to the public.

**Sun., Feb. 16, Voters Guide published for March Primary.** Pull-out section of *Austin American-Statesman*. PDF online at lwvaustin.org.

**Tues., Feb. 18 - Fri., Feb. 21, In-person Early Voting, Primary Election.**

**Fri., Feb. 21, Last day for Receipt of Application for Absentee Ballot for Primary.**

**Sat., Feb. 22, 10 am - 12 noon, Austin City Government 101, KLRU Studios, UT Campus, 2504 B Whitis Avenue, 78712.** Doors open at 9:30 am. Open to the public.

**Sun., Feb. 23, 2:30 - 4:30 pm, Transforming Health Care Delivery in Central Texas.** Trinity United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway, 78751. Open to the public.

**Mon., Mar. 3, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting.** League Office, 1011 W. 31st St. Open to members.

**Tues., Mar. 4, 7 am - 7 pm, Joint Primary Election.**

**Sun., Mar. 9, 3:00 - 5:00 pm, Panel on U. S. Agriculture Policies.** Riverbend Church, Plaza View Room, 4214 N. Capitol of Texas Highway, 78746. Open to the public.

**Mon., Mar. 10, 10:15 am, U. S. Agriculture Study Consensus,** Howson Library, 2500 Exposition, 78703. Open, but only members can speak.

**Tues., Mar. 11, 7:00 pm, U. S. Agriculture Study Consensus, home of Judy Parken, 7917 West Rim Drive, 78731.** Open, but only members can speak.

**Sat., Mar. 29, 9:30 am - 12 noon, Community Conversation in Education, AISD Districts 6 and 7. Location TBA.**

**Fri., Apr. 25 - Sun., Apr. 27, LWVAA hosts the LWVTX Convention in Austin at the DoubleTree Hotel.** All members needed to volunteer a shift. Contact Judy Clack, jbclack@yahoo.com.

**Tues., May 20, 6:00 pm, Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner.** Location TBA.

**June 6 - 10, LWVUS Convention, Dallas, TX.**

**New Austin League Website**

LWVAA is pleased to have a new website look. Please check all the menu items and really explore it at [lwvaustin.org](http://lwvaustin.org).

Click on the headings (and sub-headings) at the top of the page. Scroll down the home page for lots more information.

You’ll find that the Blog will post more details that you’ll want to know. We expect to update it frequently, so please plan to check back at least once a week and tell your friends about it.

~ Anita Privett, VP Community Relations, anita.privett@gmail.com

**Primary Voters Guide**

[tax-deductible]
Sat., June 14, Transition Meeting, Site and time TBA

Back issues of the LWVAA Voter can be found at this link.

Austin City Government 101
Sat., Feb. 8 and Sat., Feb. 2
10 am - 12 noon, doors at 9:30 am
KLRU Studio 6A

Would you like to know more about how the city works? Now that we will be voting in the fall for ten single member district council members and a new mayor, we will have the opportunity to have more influence in city decisions. What decisions will council members be able to make? What does the city manager control? Who makes decisions about the airport, which roads get resurfaced, and the publicly owned electric utility? Does the city council have influence over the local schools?

The Austin League of Women Voters is partnering with KLRU-TV, the Annette Strauss Institute and KUT 90.5 to provide a program about the functions of the City of Austin’s government with the goal in mind of increasing civic engagement and knowledge of the general public and those individuals who may want to become more involved in city government. Our goal is to help usher in an effective new City Council with an informed electorate. There will be two sessions:

On Sat., Feb. 8 Austin City Government 101 - The City Does What?
A panel discussion on the functions of city government, featuring:
   Mark Ott, City Manager; Karen Kennard, City Attorney; Ed van Eenoo, Deputy Chief Financial Officer; Roger Duncan, Former General Manager, Austin Energy; Garner Stoll, Former Imagine Austin Lead Manager; and Ken Mory, City Auditor.

On Feb. 22, 2014 Austin City Government 101 - Speak Out!
A panel and audience discussion on how to effectively communicate with city officials, featuring:
   Nelson Linder, President, Austin Branch NAACP; Honorable Gonzalo Barrientos, Chair, Austin Charter Review Committee; and Susan Morrison, League of Women Voters
Also, in this session, a number of chairpersons of city boards and commissions will explain what they do and how they relate to the Council.

Both sessions will be from 10 a.m. to noon with the doors opening at 9:30 a.m. The sessions are free and open to the public and will be held at the KLRU Studio 6A, UT Campus, 2504-B Whitis Ave., 78712. Map and parking information. Audience members will be able to participate in a Q&A portion with panelists on both days. Joy Diaz and Wells Dunbar from KUT News will moderate these forums.

The Voters Guide for the Primary election on March 4 will be again published and distributed by our generous partner, the Austin American-Statesman. It will be a pullout section in the Sunday, February 16 paper (two days before early voting begins on Tues., Feb. 18). It will feature elections in the five counties included in the Statesman’s distribution areas (Travis, Hays, Williamson, Bastrop, Caldwell).

The LWV-Texas will be covering all the statewide offices and the Austin League will cover all the local elections in the five counties. The political parties covered are all those who hold a primary, the Democratic and Republican Parties. The General election in November will cover all parties who filed for office.

Voters Guide Committee
~ Jaci Collins, jacic@sbcglobal.net
~ Frances McIntyre, mcintyre.frances@gmail.com

League Board
Members Needed

The nominating committee of the Austin League is looking for good, dedicated people to serve as officers and directors on the Board of the Austin LWV. Please think about serving on the Board to help plan and implement the many important activities in which the League is involved. If asked to serve on the Board or on a committee, say “YES! This is your organization! If you are willing to help out in any way, large or small, contact us.

~ Carol Olewin, Co-President, c.olewin@gmail.com
~ Frances McIntyre, Chair, Nominations Committee, mcintyre.frances@gmail.com

League of Women Voters Committee:
~ Frances McIntyre, mcintyre.frances@gmail.com
~ Anita Privett,
"Transforming Health Care Delivery in Central Texas"

Health Care Forum  
Sunday, February 23rd, 2:30 - 4:30 pm  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
4001 Speedway, 78751

Austin and Travis County have a long history of providing health care services to their most vulnerable residents. Safety net services have addressed some of the most intractable health problems among this group. A couple of years ago, in the middle of a recession, the citizens of Travis County voted to tax themselves in order to facilitate the development of a medical school and to improve health care delivery in the community. Today we stand on the brink of a literal transformation in the way we, as a community, work together to make our community as healthy as possible in order to create the conditions that will allow everyone to reach their full potential.

On February 23rd at 2:30pm at Trinity United Methodist Church, 4100 Speedway, the three leaders in charge of this extraordinary transformation will describe the process for effecting this change. Hear them explain the unique contributions of each of their entities to improve the health of our community. Their presentations will be followed by a question and answer session.

- **Trish Young Brown**, CEO of Central Health, will discuss the steps Central Health is taking to improve and expand health care in the community.
- **David Evans**, Executive Director of Austin-Travis County Integral Health Care will discuss improvements to mental health care in the community.
- **Phil Huang**, Medical Director of Austin-Travis County Health Department and Travis County Health Authority, will discuss the role of public health in improving the health of our citizens and driving down health care costs.

Free parking is available in a lot across from the church. The event is free and open to the public.

~ **Mary Cullinane**, Healthcare Study Chair, mculli@sbcglobal.net

**LWVUS Agriculture Study:**  
Reading Assignments and Upcoming Meetings

The LWVUS agriculture study consensus questions are divided into five categories: Economic Health of the Agricultural Sector, Animal Management, Research and Development, Food Safety, and Food Labeling.

The study committee recommends that League members read the following article from the LWVUS web site for a general understanding of the issue of government subsidies, which is a large part of what the first consensus questions deals with. Scroll to the bottom of that article for a printable PDF.

Also the LWVUS website has a Discussion Guide to Consensus Questions which links online readings to each of the questions in each of these five categories. The committee recommends that members become familiar with these questions and skim at least some of the articles in preparation for the panel and consensus meetings. To find any particular article referenced in that Guide, go to this...

**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.

"Like" Our League on Facebook

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

1. Go to facebook.com and login to your existing account or create...
An expert panel presentation to the membership and the public will be on Sunday afternoon, March 9, from 3:00-5:00 in the Plaza View Room at Riverbend Church, 4214 North Capital of Texas Highway, 78746.

Consensus meetings will be held at
- 10:15 a.m. on Mon., Mar. 10, at Howson Library, 2500 Exposition Blvd, 78703
- 7:00 p.m. on Tues., Mar. 11, in the Parken home at 7917 West Rim Drive, 78731

Active members of our League's agriculture study committee are Karen Haschke, Frances McIntyre, Nancy Oellklaus, Dianne Wheeler, and Betty Williamson. To join this committee, contact me.

~ Nancy Oellklaus, VP Program, NancyOellklaus@gmail.com

Volunteers and Delegates Needed:
LWVTX Convention
Austin, April 25 - 27

Make plans to attend the 2014 LWV Texas Convention as a voting delegate or as an Austin volunteer April 25 - 27 at the Austin DoubleTree Hotel. Our League is entitled to send many delegates. Let me know if you'd like to be one to vote on upcoming statewide studies.

Since Austin is hosting the LWV State Convention, we will need lots of people to help with registration, convention floor duty, auction room, and other locations. If you have not already volunteered, contact Judy Clack, jbclack@yahoo.com, to join the list. We will need 40 LWVAA members for 2 - 4-hour shifts. Let Judy know you'll take a shift ... or two! Thank you.

Friday night April 25, the Austin League will be hosting a River Cruise and Dinner on Lady Bird Lake. We have chartered a boat and will serve dinner while taking an evening cruise. This will be a great opportunity to meet League members from across Texas and see the beautiful downtown Austin skyline. You may make your advance reservations at:

Sponsors are still needed to help fund the continental breakfast, coffee breaks and auction room breaks. Our League is responsible for those expenses. To be a sponsor or to help recruit sponsors, contact me. Thank you.

The LWV of Texas has posted a great deal of information regarding the Convention and registration at lwvtexas.org.

~ Carol Olewin, Co-President and Austin Convention Chair, c.olewin@gmail.com

Report from Program Planning Meeting

An enthusiastic group of over 20 League members attended the Program Planning meeting on Sat., Jan. 11. Nancy Oellklaus, Vice President for Program, led participants through a multi-prong exercise to determine topics of interest and concern for future study and action.

The following were recommendations from the group that are being forwarded to the Board and thereafter may end up for consideration by the membership at the Annual Meeting in May.

- Continue working groups in progress: health care/mental health, education, and city government.

- Through the Voter and the Annual Meeting, elicit volunteers for the following working groups: affordable housing, administration of justice, poverty and safety net services in Central Texas, and ending homelessness.

2. Search for “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 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.

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
Designate the chairs of the following working groups to establish a process that ensures cohesion in our current positions: health care/mental health, education, affordable housing, poverty and safety net services, and ending homelessness.

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

Membership

New Members: Three have joined our ranks as new League members: Harriet Harrow, Sylvia Kauffman, and Sydney Mantram. A warm welcome to each of you. Harriet will be one of our honorees this Wednesday as she served on the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. As a member of the Austin League, each of 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, $53 goes to the LWVTX and the LWVUS, and only $7 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: James and Joanna Benton, Judy Clack, Lenora DuBose, Nancy Dittmar and Max Stout, Mindy Gomillion, Bob Gregory, Ruth Koenig, Marjorie Loehlin, Carol Olewin, Donna Pauler, Diane Radin, Gail Rothe and Myron Hess, Gail Sulak, Ann Teich, Jacklyn Williams, Joyce Wilson, and Anne Wynn. 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: Mary Ann Baker, Kata Carbone, Alison Dieter, Mary and Bill Finch, Frances McIntyre, Susan Morrison, Eleanor Sellstrom, Doris Warlick, and Paula Wiesner. 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 to pay your annual dues online by credit card via PayPal while providing all the above information.

Here is the schedule of dues amounts:

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<th></th>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Household</th>
<th>Student</th>
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<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>
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Contact me anytime with your League questions.
~ Judy Parken, Membership Chair, japarken@aol.com, 512-502-0278.

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.

Forward email