June, 2016

Table of Contents

LWVAA Calendar
From the President
Austin Experience: Money in Politics
First Vote: Off to a Good Start
Programs: What to Look for in the Coming Year
Maxine's Musings: Conflicting Philosophies
Membership Report and Interest Survey
Board Contact List
Voter Registration Opportunities
Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training
From the Webmaster
"Like" Our League on Facebook
"Follow" Our League on Twitter
Honors and Memorials
Shop at Randalls and Support LWVAA
Leave a Legacy to Your League

LWVAA Calendar

Thursday June 9, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm Meeting for Voter's Guide Candidate Questions. Cafe Express, 3418 N Lamar Blvd, Austin (members)
OR
Saturday June 11, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm Meeting for Voter's Guide Candidate Questions, LWVAA Conference Room, 1011 W 31st, Austin (members)

Saturday June 25th 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Transition Meeting, Los Altos Village Clubhouse, 1821 Westlake Dr, Austin (board members)

June 16-18, 2016, LWV US Convention, Washington, DC.

Sunday September 18. Fall Annual Kick Off meeting. Location to be determined.

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

From the President

I've added a new exercise to my daily routine to get me ready to lead this revered organization. I encourage each of you to join me, as we prepare to all work together to register voters, inform them, and help them get their vote counted.

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

Cinde Weatherby
President
Lea Masiello
1st VP Program
vacancy
2nd VP Community Relations
Jaci Collins
3rd VP Organization
Jacklyn Williams
4th VP Voters Service
Diane Davis
Secretary
Gwen Santiago
Treasurer
Judy Parken
It's called the Power Pose. Wonder Woman and Superman knew all about it. It's not cartoon power, it's real science, studied and promoted by Harvard professor/researcher Ann Cuddy. Two minutes of "power posing" - standing in a posture of confidence, even when we don't feel confident - can affect testosterone and cortisol levels in the brain, and definitely can result in positive results. Don't just take my word for it, check it out yourself. Cuddy's 21-minute TED Talk (already seen nearly 35 million times) may change your life - or at least prepare you to join the League of Women Voters "Power Team." Check it out here.

I am honored and humbled to take the reins of this organization! Since 1919, when Texas was the first southern state to approve the 19th Amendment, LWV has offered continual service to our community. I revere the wisdom and knowledge of our most active current and past members, and will strive to bring additional members into active involvement while maintaining our high standards, integrity and strong nonpartisanship. Our brand is well-respected and strong and I pledge to protect it!

Our prime directive is VOTER engagement. I am also personally committed to addressing League MEMBER engagement. Of course, that leads to getting two birds with one stone, as more member engagement will equal more voter engagement.

Goals I've set for myself include:

- Strategically using technology and improved processes to foster more member volunteer involvement;
- Empowering Board members with tools and volunteers to execute the many LWV programs underway or planned;
- Furthering our website and social media presence to expand our reach;
- Expanding outlets and methods for sharing our valuable Voters Guides in English and Spanish;
- Continuing to offer online video of our in-person programs to those unable to attend
- Placing a renewed emphasis on communications with our membership and collaboration with those in the communities we serve.

Whether you are a long-time member, someone new to the organization, or a non-joining supporter, we know you are interested in what we do or you wouldn't be reading this. Thank you for your interest and let us know how you wish to engage. We will soon be posting volunteer opportunities - at varying levels of time commitments - on our website. [www.lwvaustin.org] Please contact us and get involved! If you have ideas for actions we should be undertaking, work with other organizations with whom we should collaborate, or have any other suggestions, please send me an email or give me a call. I look forward to hearing from you at cindeweatherby@gmail.com or 512-243-8491.

Thank you for the confidence you have placed in me by putting me in this position. I want to live up to the standards of those heroines who were our early leaders and took on big things and finally succeeded. We will soon begin to prepare to celebrate 100 years of LWV in Austin and Texas, as well as the right of women to vote that led to

http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs137/1102770450271/archive/1124879227752.html
our founding. Our country, our state, and the Austin area needs us today as much as it ever has and this Power Team of ours is going to be up to the tasks!

League News Worth Knowing

National Involvement - Frances McIntyre and I will be delegates to the LWVUS biennial convention in Washington, DC in mid-June. In addition to setting study programs for the coming two years, a new LWVUS President and Board will be elected. We will also be bringing home ideas we learn from staff and League members from around the country in time to be considered at our annual Board transition meeting June 25.

Summertime Teen Fun - If there is a high school student in your life, you can save them from boredom by challenging them to enter the YouthCam Contest. The Travis County contest is designed to promote voter registration and voter turnout at the polls, especially among young voters. It was kicked off March 30 and entries will be accepted until August 21, 2016. The contest theme is "Register. Be Counted. Vote!" and entrants are to use the already developed logo (either the square or horizontal version) in their public service announcement productions. For full contest details go here.

LWV is co-sponsoring the contest with Travis County's Voter Registrar and Elections Offices. We contributed a donation to the monetary prizes. There are also quite a few other sponsors who have offered prizes any teen would welcome. Winners (in both English and Spanish) will be selected by television professionals at KVUE and Univision.

Save the Date! - Take out your calendar today and please reserve the afternoon of Sunday September 18th to join us for the new League Year Kick-off Meeting. The name of the featured speaker and other news will be forthcoming.

~Cinde Weatherby, President
cindewetherby@gmail.com

Austin Experience: Money in Politics

The recent Proposition 1 election proves Austin voters are interested in how this City is governed. The League of Women Voters Austin Area is pleased that so many of you turned out to vote on this important issue! Turnout was higher than in the March 2016 primary election, and quite amazing for May city elections. The defeat of Proposition 1 suggests that many Austin voters take seriously who makes decisions affecting their lives. The 56% "Against" vote indicates support of our elected leaders writing City rules, not moneyed corporations.

While Uber and Lyft have stopped service in Austin, the Mayor is feeling confident that Uber and Lyft will return with some agreed to compromises. They were not willing to talk about compromises before the vote was taken, so that should give the city an advantage in any negotiations. The predominant issue appears to be fingerprinting and other regulations relating to our safety. If you feel strongly about this compromise process, contact your City Council Member and give her or him your opinion.

No doubt this issue has not been put to bed. In addition to Council considering it again, some Texas Legislators are adding it to the list of local issues they wish to

YouthCam, the Public Service Announcement Video Contest, doesn't end until August 21st. This crazy election year gives us a premium chance to capture the attention of young people. Let's don't waste it.

Heads Up! Hordes of new people are moving to the Austin area every day and maybe from someplace where registering and voting are not as daunting a challenge as our Legislature is determined to make it. We need to get them registered, get them informed and get them to the polls in November. It's what we do!

Don't make me come after you! Call me at 512-834-9129 or email jconway12@austin.rr.com and let me know you're on board.

New Members: You've never had a better chance to get your feet wet!

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

Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training

Volunteers needed to become 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. If you haven't been trained since January 1, 2015, for the term January 1, 2015 - December 31, 2016, new training is required.
control. It is disturbing that issues on that list seem to all include ones involving rich corporations with money for political campaign contributions and lobbying forces. The Uber/Lyft Prop 1 experience has been an eye-opening example of how money in politics can be used to influence voters.

The League of Women Voters has worked long and hard to make our government, at all levels, more open and transparent. We care deeply about the issue of campaign finance and corruption. We understand that money in politics is a critical issue for the functioning of our democracy. Voters understand that billionaires and secret organizations don't represent them and that huge sums of money corrupt our political system. We must work to maintain the integrity of our democracy by ensuring our elected officials will be responsive to voters, not to the big money and the secret money from special interests. The stakes are too high and the League will not stand by and let our political system be corrupted.

Our newest specific positions on money in politics, after a two-year study, nationally are:

- Full public financing of Congressional as well as Presidential elections.
- No more Super PACs and spending coordinated or directed by candidates and
- Restrictions on direct donations and bundling by lobbyists.

In addition to the traditional reason for campaign finance regulation - preventing corruption and undue influence in government - the League now supports several other goals, including:

- Enhancing political equality for all citizens.
- Protecting representative democracy from being distorted by big spending in election campaigns.
- Providing voters sufficient information about candidates and campaign issues to make informed choices.
- Ensuring transparency and the public's right to know who is using money to influence elections, and
- Enabling candidates to compete equitably for public office.

We have an important general election in November. There will be much media coverage, particularly about Presidential candidates. But there are other local and statewide candidates whose election impacts our daily lives. It is important that all citizens keep informed of the issues and communicate with their elected officials.

The League of Women Voters Austin Area will produce its regular nonpartisan Voters Guide for the November General Election, giving voters a chance to compare candidates in competitive races. We ask the same questions to each candidate in each race, so you can compare and contrast their answers and become better informed in making your choice. We cover all the competitive races in Travis, Hays, Williamson, Bastrop and Caldwell counties. The Voters Guide will be printed in the Austin American-Statesman the Sunday before early voting in October. It will also be available on the League's website, lwvaustin.org.

Democracy works so much better when all the people participate by voting. Remember the Prop 1 election. Your vote counts.

~Frances McIntyre
Advocacy and Voter's Guide Editor
mcintyre.frances@gmail.com
or 512-451-1551

You may become a VDR or renew eligibility by attending a one-hour training session held the first Tuesday of each month at 10:30 am, 12:30 pm and 6:30 pm. Training is at the Travis County Voter Registrar's office located at 5501 Airport Blvd, [map] Austin, TX 78751. Upcoming dates are Tuesdays, June 7 and July 5.

Bruce Elfant, our Travis County Voter Registrar, is offering extra VDR training the second Saturday of each month from 10:00 - 11:30 am. (usually ends at 11:15 am). The next sessions will be June 11 and July 9 at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, [map] Austin. Space is limited. Sign up at this link.

If you are interested in being a VDR in Williamson Co., they accept the training offered in Travis Co.

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

Web Master Report

We encourage you to "like" or "share" our Facebook posts to help expand the reach of these announcements to all of your friends. See procedure below.

~ Hal Jennings, Webmaster, hal@jenningsweb.us

"Like" Our League on Facebook
First Vote:
Off to a Good Start

Hundreds of high school juniors and seniors are already registered and prepared to vote in the November election as a result of the First Vote program presented to Travis County high schools this spring. The purpose of First Vote is to educate high school juniors and seniors in Travis County about Voter Registration, Voting Rights and Voter Information. The goal is to deliver voter education through assembly, classroom visits and other venues. The First Vote team visited Travis, LBJ, Eastside and Crockett High Schools so far. Visits will continue in the fall.

The presentation covers who can vote, voter registration requirements, voting rights, photo identification requirements, type of elections, what you need to vote, polling locations, disability voting, and ballot language.

Students received resources of places to access the League’s Voter Guide, Vote 411, Travis County Tax Office and the Travis County Clerk’s Election Division websites.

They will have an opportunity to participate in a writing exercise about their experience (information coming later) and can enter the YouthCam Public Service Announcement contest during the summer. This fall, on October 4, 2016, all students, from elementary to high school grade levels will be participating in a city wide Mock Presidential Election. School officials will be given the tools to conduct the voter registration and voting process. They will send their results to a central location.

First Vote will continue to present information to students over the summer at summer school, recreation centers, community centers, churches and camps. Information will be distributed during the Juneteenth Parade on June 18, 2016 at Rosewood Park. Volunteers are needed and may sign up with jacklynwilliams@aol.com or jconway12@austin.rr.com. You do not need to be a Volunteer Deputy Registrar to volunteer.

If you know of any teenage youth groups who would benefit from this voter information, please let us know.

Thank you to our partners at Travis County Voter Registration Division, Communications and Elections Divisions and the VDR’s who have been out in the schools.

~Jacklyn Williams,
4th Vice President, Voters Service
jacklynwilliams@aol.com
Programs:

What to Look for in the Coming Year

The major theme for this year’s programs is Get out the Vote! Therefore, we will choose programs that help us motivate citizens to register and vote in the upcoming elections, that help us connect with other groups that are working in the same direction, and that help us to understand the issues that citizens are thinking about and politicians are talking about during campaigns. Our programs should help us achieve our overall purpose of increasing voter participation. We are especially concerned about participation in the voting process by those in the lower economic groups. We feel it is especially important to reach out to these groups and provide appropriate and effective encouragement to become involved in our democratic process.

We should provide a variety of programs this year, such as morning and evening discussions or unit meetings, general membership meetings, and meetings that support our state and national studies. We need LWV Austin members to help out with program development and implementation, to chair studies, work on program committees, identify, invite and schedule speakers, design publicity, reserve rooms, show up to help set up rooms for the presentations and discussions. Please let me know of your willingness to help out by sending me an email message,
leamasiello@gmail.com

Earlier this year, we conducted a survey of program topics that would be most important to our members, and identified topics to incorporate into unit meetings, general membership meetings, and working discussion groups associated with Ladders of Opportunity and Local Issues:

We hope to examine-

1. how Austin is currently managing its growth, relative to housing, transportation, and employment;
2. major factors that weaken equality in the criminal justice system;
3. how Austin is currently addressing environmental concerns in our use of natural resources, including water, energy, and greenspaces;
4. current strengths and weaknesses of healthcare in Austin;
5. equality in educational opportunities, including libraries and the availability of digital technology to all students.

See you in September!

~Lea Masiello,
1st VP Programs
leamasiello@gmail.com

Maxine's Musings

Conflicting Philosophies

In the light of this presidential campaign with the competing philosophies of strong vs. less government, I was remembering the Federalist Papers of 1787-1798 in which I got a good dosage of those two philosophies in the study of our history in its early years. In the 230 years since founding of the United States, during the argument over
the structure, the form of government would take, there were those who believed in a strong government and those opposed who believed in less government and more states' rights.

This argument is still ongoing, and still heated as it was then. It appears to be regional. Both the South that is or was more rural and the huge ranches of the West are more in favor of individuals in charge of their own lives and property with less interference by government. Most northern states are more in favor of government assisting those in need and regulating many circumstances of our lives. Some say we are overregulated which leads to dependency and others say we are not regulated enough to provide adequate protection. Both have valid points of view.

The strong vs. less government argument is built into our American DNA. According to the Papers, critics of a strong government believed it could be abusive to individual liberty, but on the contrary, the Articles of Confederation did not among other issues, really protect individual liberty or create unity among the states because it had no authority to enforce its laws. Hence we have the overarching federal system with states' rights competing with each other. A degree of tension is healthy, but what could happen if one side takes over the other?

Allen West wrote an article in the *Austin American-Statesman* April 25, 2016 in which he is asking "do we need more government or less"? His is the more conservative view arguing that there are two Americas, in brief, one that "believes in working hard and being rewarded for the fruits of our labor;" while on the other hand, there are those who "believe it is their duty to take from one group and redistribute to another." In a rebuttal, Liz Kennedy's article, says "American government should work for everyone." Her concern is the tipping of power because of huge sums by special interests with secret political spending in elections that can overwhelm other voices. She argues that matching small donors with public funds makes the average American more powerful, an argument also made by the League.

The bottom line: How much is too much and how much is too little? The League has a firm belief in promoting good government. Could the "more or less" factions come together to make democracy work better? Using the theme from the 2004 LWV-TX convention held in Austin, "It's Your Government, Take Charge!", could the League initiate public dialogue on this fundamental issue?

~Maxine Barken
Mbarken@austinrr.com

**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:**
Mara Coleman, Jacquie and Tom Graves, Leslie Hall, Tita Maxwell, Maanasa Nathan and Marisela Salayandia joined our ranks this past month. As a member of the Austin League, each of you is also a member of the national (LWVUS) and state

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.
(LWV-TX) 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, $54 goes to the LWV-TX 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:
Marion Alsup, Dana de Beauvoir, Jaci Collins, Mescal Evler, Leslie Hall, Cheryl Hazeltine, Joan and David Hilgers, Kimberly Levinson, Marisela Salayandia and Barbara Werth. 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:
Shelley Koegler Chapman, Lisa Harris and Bruce Elfant, Joann and Edmund Farrell, Hugh Moore Jr., Mary Ann Rivera, Brigid Shea, Betty Williamson, and Carol Wood.
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></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, Co-Membership Chair,
japarken@aol.com, 512-502-0278.
~Brenda Koegler, Co-Membership Chair,
Brenda@Koegler.me