March 2016

LWVAA Calendar
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LWVAA Calendar

Tues., March 1, 7:00 am - 7:00 pm. Joint Primary Election Day.

Mon., March 7, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting, League Conference Room, 1011 W 31st, Austin. Members.

Wed., March 9, 5:30 pm State of the County Dinner and Auction, DoubleTree Hotel, 6505 N IH 35, Austin.

Fri., March 11 - Sun., March 13, LWV Texas Convention, Houston.

Sat., March 19, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Local Issues Group Meeting League Office, 1011 W 31st, Austin.

Mon., April 4, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting, League Conference Room, 1011 W 31st, Austin. Members.

Sat., April 17, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, Local Issues Group Meeting League Office, 1011 W 31st, Austin.

Mon., March 22, Special Event "Use Your Voice" concert, A Voter Engagement

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
Join Our Mailing List
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
Lea Masiello
1st VP Program
Cinde Weatherby
2nd VP Community Relations
Jaci Collins
3rd VP Organization
Jacklyn Williams
4th VP Voters Service
Diane Davis
Secretary
Gwen Santiago
Treasurer
Judy Parken
Membership
Lea Masiello
From the President

Be a Texas Voter.  
Election Day Tuesday, March 1, 2016.  
In Texas, you do not have to register with one of the political parties to vote in the primary, but once you have voted in the Primary, you can't shift parties if there is a run-off election. In a Primary election, you choose which party's primary you want to vote in, but you cannot vote in both party's Primary. This does not register you as a member of any party, but you are identified as voting in that party's Primary election.

In the March Primary, you will be voting on candidates for the U.S. President, US Representatives, Texas Representatives, County Commissioners, County Clerk, District Clerk, Criminal District Court Judges, Civil District Court Judges, County Treasurers, County Attorneys', District Attorneys', Sheriffs, County Courts At Law, County Tax Assessors, County Constables, and Justices of the Peace. For more information on the candidates, see the League of Women Voters' Guide at [http://lwvaustin.org](http://lwvaustin.org) or enter your address at [http://www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org) and see a list of the candidates running in your district. Don’t sit out this election. We need you to vote, regardless of any party affiliation.

LWV Texas Convention in Houston, TX. Friday-Sunday, March 11-13, 2016. Delegates needed for the LWV Texas Convention. The 2016 Convention will be held in Houston at the Westin Houston, Memorial City, located at 945 Gessner Road, Houston, Texas 77024. If you’d like to be a delegate, contact Carol Olewin at c.olewin@gmail.com. You must be current on your membership and have an interest in the LWV to qualify as a delegate.

Memorial - Helen Putman. The Austin League fondly remembers past member and longtime supporter, Helen Putman. Helen passed away last year and bequeathed a $1000 to the LWV Austin Education Fund in remembrance of her love for civic engagement.

Texas Water Development Board - Karen Haschke has been confirmed as the League of Women Voters representative to the Region K Public Representative position on the Texas Water Development Board. She will be working on the next 5 years’ state water plan. Dianne Wheeler is the alternate representative.

Officer and Directors Election for 2016/2017. The Nominating Committee is currently looking for hard working and civic minded individuals to serve on the Board of Directors, term June 2016-May 2017. For more information about positions that are open, contact Margit Orange, Nominating Committee Chair, 512-345-5349.

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

State of the County Dinner

Like spring time, the State of the County Dinner is fast approaching, Wednesday, March 9th. Our event will open with a silent auction and reception at 5:30 p.m.
We secured an impressive list of sponsors for this year’s annual fundraising dinner, including the Celebrating Democracy Sponsorship, Perry Lorenz.

Other sponsors include Honoring the State of the County: Velva Price, Travis County District Clerk; John P. Donisi, Attorney at Law; Julia Marsden, Gorrondana & Associates, Inc.; and Texas Disposal Systems.

We are grateful to our sponsors for their support of our annual fundraiser and the activities of the Austin League. The Hon. Sarah Eckhardt, County Judge will be the keynote speaker. In addition, six women Mayors, whose municipal jurisdictions are in the county of Travis, will be honored with our Making Democracy Work Award.

**Tickets are on sale now:**
- Members $65.00;
- Non-members $75.00.
Tables are available for $750.
Don't miss out and don't delay in getting your tickets now.
Purchase your tickets on line: LWVAustin.org. You may purchase your tickets by mailing your payment to LWVAA, 1011 W. 31st, Tx. 78705.

*Wednesday, March 9th*
- 5:30 pm - Reception, silent auction, cash bar
- 6:45 pm - Buffet dinner, program, live auction

**DoubleTree Hotel, 6505 N IH 35 [map]**
Parking is included with the purchase of a ticket.

Live and silent auctions will delight our attendees.

~Eliza May SOC Planning Committee Chair
elizamay@sbcglobal.net

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"Use Your Voice"
Concert March 22

The League of Women Voters US Education Fund and the LWVAA have teamed up with the "Use Your Voice" concert tour featuring Patty Griffin, Sara Watkins, and Anais Mitchell, on March 22 at Bass Performance Hall. These artists are working with Leagues around the country, touring through 39 cities, to promote voter registration and participation, AND giving us LWVAA a $500 grant to continue our work in educating voters and increasing voter participation. They are committed to encouraging voters, through the power of our voices, to build stronger communities. Patty Griffin commented, "I am hoping with this tour to bang the drum about our democracy, about our communities, and even about our neighbors down the street."

We will have VDRs at the concert to help everyone get election information, register, find candidate information, and get involved in our League’s work to engage voters.

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Well, podnahs, our Alamo Drafthouse round-up corralled 188 voter registrations and updates, which is a pretty good-sized herd. We covered some acreage: South Lamar on January 17th, Slaughter Lane on January 29th, Lakeline on January 30th and South Lamar again on February 13th and 14th.

A bunch of wranglers rode this drive: Jaci Collins, Alison Dieter, Lea Masiello, Julie Moore, Cinde Weatherby, Jacklyn Williams, Sara Groff, Joanne Grimshaw, Cindy Hintikka, Brenda Koegler, Donna Pauer, Cindy Schaufenbuel, Jeanie Stanley and Elias Huerta (a newly-minted VDR and student at ACC). Many of these cowpokes have other irons in the fire, but still gave their time to brand some new registered voters. IT'S WHAT WE DO! The folks, who see us in action, tell us how much they appreciate it. (And I promise to get off this cowboy kick as of now.)

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

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**Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training**

Volunteers needed to become Volunteer Deputy Registrars. VDRs help register eligible citizens to vote by distributing, reviewing, and
**How You Can Help**
Buy a ticket to the concert and enjoy the music! For more information:

http://www.box-officetickets.com/TX/Austin/Bass-Concert-Hall-Tickets

Help spread the word about this wonderful concert on Facebook and Twitter. On Twitter, use the #UseYourVoiceOut hashtag to help promote this event and the cause. Join the conversation about music and community development on Facebook with your own unique posts.

**Patty Griffin:** A singer and songwriter whose literate, impressionistic storytelling and richly evocative melodies have made her one of the best-respected artists in the contemporary folk community, Patty Griffin was born in Old Town, Maine on March 16, 1964. Her 2007 album "Children Running Through" was named the year's best album by the Americana Music Association. In 2010 Griffin and her friend and collaborator Buddy Miller recorded "Downtown Church", which won a Grammy for Best Traditional Gospel Album.

**Sara Watkins:** Sara Ullrika Watkins (born June 8, 1981) is an American singer-songwriter and fiddler. Watkins debuted in 1989 as fiddler and founding member of the progressive bluegrass group Nickel Creek along with her brother Sean and mandolinist Chris Thile. In addition to singing and fiddling, Watkins also plays the ukulele and the guitar, and also played percussion while touring with The Decemberists. With Nickel Creek, Watkins released five studio albums, one compilation album and seven singles. During the band’s seven-year hiatus, Watkins released two solo albums, "Sara Watkins" and "Sun Midnight Sun" on Nonesuch Records.

**Anais Mitchell:** Among her recorded works are five full-length albums, including 2010's sensationaly-reviewed "Hadestown" - a folk opera based on the Orpheus myth- and 2012's "Young Man in America", which was described by the UK's Independent as 'an epic tale of American becoming' and for which she received a BBC Radio Two Folk Award nomination for Best Original Song. Her 2013 release, "Child Ballads", a collaboration with Jefferson Hamer, is a collection of traditional Celtic and British Isles ballads. It won a 2014 BBC Radio Two Folk Award for Best Traditional Song, as well as finding itself on many 'best of' lists in international publications.

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

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**Invisible in Austin**

**We Celebrate Our Community Friends**

There should be a special day in March to celebrate all our community partners! The list and efforts continue to grow each day. It includes achievements in television, motion pictures, musical entertainment and tireless volunteers. As most awards show winners typically say, at the risk of leaving someone out, let's name a few and also offer thanks to all those who participated in voter engagement during the past month.

**Invisible in Austin Authors' Panel**

Four of the authors of the book Invisible in Austin: Life and Labor in an American City, (edited by Javier Auyero) discussed the stories of the individuals they interviewed for
Starting with motion pictures...
The Alamo Drafthouse is a powerhouse supporter of voter engagement and our League. Tim and Karrie League, co-founders of the rapidly expanding Alamo Drafthouse group, invited us to register voters on numerous occasions. Not only did we register record numbers each time, but the Alamo also provided donations to our Education Fund. Special kudos to Voter Registration Director June Conway and her group of dependable Volunteer Deputy Registrars. In another truly massive effort, Travis County’s Cheryl Reese coordinated VDRs in each of the Alamo’s Austin theaters from 12 pm noon to 12 pm midnight on February 1, the last day to register to vote in the March 1 Joint Primary. Thank you to the many involved!

Moving on to television...
Following the path paved by LWV AA members Bruce Elfant, Travis County Voter Registrar; Dana DeBeauvoir, Travis County Clerk; and KSL Perkes, Travis County Tax Office Public Information Officer, we contacted the general managers of each of the local television stations. They responded to our direct requests for posting links on their websites to our Voters Guide. The general manager of Univision, also requested copies of the Spanish VG for distribution at their 10-12 local community events each week during the voting time period. A big thank you each television manager and their respective staffs for broadening our distribution of the Voters Guide and calling attention to voter engagement! Special thanks to KSL and Leadership Austin’s Judy Maggio.

In other television news - we’ve been on the small screen from a small urban setting to the world-wide scene. Cinde Weatherby appeared on “Perspectives,” on the PBS Station KNCT in Killeen (serving the Waco, Killeen, and Temple area), speaking on the history of voting in Texas and preparing for the upcoming elections. On the world stage, CCTV (China Central TV) is producing a program on voting with an emphasis on women voters. Frances McIntyre’s interview will be included. She was also interviewed by our local FOX 7 Austin TV for a daily news story on the importance of voting. We played a minor supporting role in the Univision live phone bank promoting voting and letting callers ask questions related to voting. The League’s friend Norma Comstock of Las Comadres coordinates a group of Spanish speaking VDRs and was a valuable participant.

Some meaningful entertainment...
The League of Women Voters of the US is collaborating with singers Patty Griffin, Sara Watkins, and Anais Mitchell in a 38-city "Use Your Voice" tour to call attention to voter engagement. The tour kicked off February 12 and runs through early April. It will be stopping in Austin March 22 at Bass Performance Hall. We will be there to register voters, share voter materials, and arrange to follow-up with concertgoers to remind them of future voting deadlines. More information about the concert is posted above in this Voter. To buy your ticket, go to http://texasperformingarts.org/season/patty-griffin-sara-watkins-anais-mitchell-bass-concert-hall-2016.

And, a little poetry...
While registering voters at the South Lamar Alamo on Valentine's Day, we shared the lobby with the folks from Typewriter Rodeo. They write poems on the spot using vintage typewriters. Leaguers commissioned something about voting and received two wonderful responses. Here is the shorter one. Go to our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/lwvaustinarea/ to see the longer one. Please become a League Facebook "friend" and share as many of our postings as you can with your friends. You are a big part of spreading our messages! And, then your friends can share with their friends...and on and on. "Liking" a posting is a nice thing to do, but to get the information to a wider audience it must be "shared."

This discussion is the first in a series we have planned on income inequality in Austin, “Ladders of Opportunity.” More information about programs for next year will be available in future newsletters. Read the book! It is available at Book People as well as through Amazon. All proceeds from book sales go to The Workers Defense Project in Austin. For more information about the book, go to www.othersideofaustin.com

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

Web Master Report

We encourage you to "like" or "share" our Facebook posts to help
"Sing Out"
To have a voice,
To get to speak,
To resist silence,
To participate...

This is our gift,
our privilege,
our, yes,
responsibility.

We can choose to walk blindly,
choose to stumble clumsily,
carelessly along the path
created by those who DO
choose to speak, but
choice is the soul
democracy, and
your powerful voice
speaking into the
chorus of us -
it’s life-giving
breath.

~Cinde Weatherby, 2nd VP Community Relations
cindeweatherby@gmail.com

Diversity

The League has a long history of trying to diversify its
membership. So far, from my empirical observation, we are
still largely white American-European women. Our first effort
to diversify our membership was to invite men to be Associate
Members with no voting privileges noted in local League By-
laws defining membership. As far as I can remember, this
came sometime after I joined the League in Toledo, Ohio in
1949 or 1950. Men were finally accepted as full voting

Meanwhile, in an effort to increase the numbers of men in the League, in at least two
and maybe more LWVUS conventions I attended, there were vigorous floor debates
on changing the name of the League to such as "League of Voters" or "League of
Women and Men Voters" and other versions to entice men to join a heretofore
women’s organization. The arguments against change remind me of the current
debates about throwing out anything related to the Confederacy. Arguments against
those changes are that we would be throwing out history that actually happened
and is part of our country’s historic background. That was the same argument about
changing the name of the League. We would be negating our historic background
when women for at least two centuries were fighting men for our civil rights! Even
progressive Woodrow Wilson had to be coerced into agreeing to women’s suffrage!
In any case, the name remains the same.

I was on the LWVTX State Board when the next phase of diversity emerged. On the
board was a long time League member from Dallas who was black, and the other a
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

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 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.

Follow Our League
on Twitter

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

1. Go to twitter.com and login to your
existing account or create a new one.

2. Search for lwvatx in the search
box at the top of the page.

3. On the left hand side of the page,
under "People" click on our logo.

4. Click on the “follow” button and
Hispanic woman from Seguin both of whom were working toward racial and ethnic diversity in the League. Meantime, LWVUS was putting together a program on racial and ethnic diversity for use by local Leagues. A number of workshops were held and one locally devised questionnaire created some hostility. I remember we were to answer several questions suggesting we white women in the League were racially prejudiced. True or not, it did not bring the desired outcome from the participants and the questionnaire was later scrapped with many apologies. I do remember the LWVUS kit was difficult to implement and didn’t survive.

When I was on the state board, our secretary was a man who was a member of the Tarrant County League. We were so pleased and he fit in very well, except we had to have roommates when the board met and he didn’t! Viva la difference! More men have joined the League over time. In the LWVAA directory, I counted an approximate 29 men who are members.

From my observation true diversity that would include racial, ethnic, generational, gender, and those with different political views is still somewhat illusive. Most League members are college educated professionals. That may be intimidating for the average citizen. Many of those with similar views to ours we would like to join the League have their own organizations.

Bottom line: perhaps it would be well to work with diverse organizations on common issues rather than expecting (hoping?) they will become members. Our public meetings often draw people outside the League. And don’t forget the service provided by our Voters Guide. It is widely read and highly regarded among diverse people.

~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:
New members Britin Bostwick, Birgitta Brandenstein, Jen Hamilton Hernandez, Dr. Marti Kennedy, Kathryn Mettelka, Jackie Sartor, and Ruth Yanoff 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 (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, $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:

Honors and Memorials

Helen Putman passed away last year and bequeathed a $1000 to the LWVA Education Fund in remembrance of Helen’s love for civic engagement.

Donations are continuing to be accepted 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.

Shop at Randalls and Support the League

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.

Click on this link for a document to complete and return to any Randall’s store to join the Good Neighbor Program and help our League.

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 LWVAAEF’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
Shay Blankenship, Anne Clark, Carol Whitcraft Fredericks, Winifred Hoagland, Louise Hasty, Dr. Marti Kennedy, Jeannie Stanley, and Ruth Yanoff. 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: Heather Becker, Nancy Bene, Mary and Bill Finch, Heidi Gibbons, Kathleen Hackett, Yvonne Khouri, Ethel Kutac, Jo Reichler, and Edward Silha.

**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](mailto:membership@lwvaustin.org) (or [click here](mailto:membership@lwvaustin.org) 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:**

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Household</th>
<th>Student</th>
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<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>
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Contact me anytime with your League questions.

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