March, 2020

Dear The,
Member renewal notifications will be sent via email from the membership team prior to your expiration date, and will no longer be included in the monthly newsletter.


“How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-ros!”
- Maya Angelou

Letter from the President

I have long considered Maya Angelou a she-ro, and since International Women's Day is on March 8th and March is Women's History Month, I thought this quote from her was very appropriate.

Speaking of she-ros and heroes, please join us at our Celebrating Democracy Dinner and Making Democracy Work® Awards event on March 25th to celebrate some amazing people.

I am very pleased to announce our honorees for the Making Democracy Work® Awards:

- Volunteer of the Year - Michael Keller, LWV-AA Voter Registration & Turnout Chair
- Friend of the League - Matt Flores, Jr., Travis County Voter Registration Training & Outreach
- Democracy in Action - Building Bridges Co-Chairs Flynn Lee, Building Bridges Chairman for Travis County and Nelson Linder, NAACP Austin President.
We have so many great members, volunteers, and collaborators who all work on behalf of our mission that I wish we could recognize everyone personally. What I can do is give mine and the League’s gratitude and thanks to everyone, especially to all the nominees for their outstanding efforts. I truly appreciate all that each of you does.

We are honored to have two remarkable women, community leaders, Virginia Cumberbatch and Alice Mingfei Yi, as our Honorary Co-Chairs. And we are proud to have another two amazing women for our Keynote discussion, Emily Ramshaw and Errin Haines, both from The 19th News.

We sincerely appreciate the generosity of everyone who has made any kind of donation to us for the Voters Guide, especially event Sponsors who are highlighted elsewhere in the newsletter.

The clock is ticking to purchase tickets or become a Sponsor so go to LWVAustin.org today!

The big push for the 2020 Census begins in March when the official Census Bureau mailings will begin. Learn more about the 2020 Census and how LWV-AA is participating below.

In honor of Women’s History Month, you, your family, and friends can get complimentary tickets HERE for the Austin Spurs game March 3rd at 7:30 pm at the H-E-B Cedar Park Center. I’m in a short video talking about the League at halftime.

There is so much happening in March I can’t possibly mention it all here. The newsletter is filled with news and events so I encourage you to take the time to read through it and to participate when and where you can. But don’t forget to check out our website and social media regularly for updates.

With gratitude,
Joyce LeBombard, LWV-AA President
jlebombard@lwvaustin.org  |  512-585-4090

Be a Texas Voter!

Tuesday, March 3rd is election day and your last chance to vote in the primaries! If you haven't already, go to www.vote411.org to review your candidates and make your voting plan.

Remember: you can't take your phone into the voting booth but you can take printed materials. Happy voting!

Are you ready to Amplify our work?

It's almost time for Amplify Austin and we are incredibly excited to be a part of this amazing 24-hour day of giving! Starting at 6 p.m. on March 5th to 6 p.m. on March 6th, we are asking you to support our programs and voter initiatives with a gift to the League of Women Voters Austin Area and to help us meet our $5,000 goal. We believe that sensible, responsible civil discourse and action based on substance rather than partisanship is essential for civic improvement, and we know with your support we can make democracy work!

Look out for our emails and social posts about how you can help #AmplifyVotingATX, or, you can make a donation today in advance. Don't forget to use #LoveTitos when you make a donation to get your gift matched dollar-for-dollar. Thank you, as always, for your support!
Celebrating Democracy Dinner & Making Democracy Work® Awards

HISTORY MAKERS ($5,000)
Alamo Drafthouse Cinema - Tim and Karrie League
Anonymous

DEMOCRACY CHAMPIONS ($2,500)
Joyce LeBombard and Benny Souder
Mari Robinson and Greg Ritzen

TRAILBLAZERS ($1,000)
Heidi Schoenberger-Cobert & Family
Texas Disposal Systems
Austin Firefighters Associates
Capitol Wealth Strategies - Erik Antener & Liz Walton
American Standard Heating and Air Conditioning - Deborah Voss
American Pacific Islanders Public Affairs - Austin Chapter
LWV-AA Events

Our calendar is full of events, volunteer opportunities, and helpful reminders!
Please click HERE for the complete calendar of events.

Here are a few upcoming highlights:

2020 Civic Forecast - 3/3
Jessica Foreman, Advocacy Director, is taking part in a panel discussion about the big topics ahead that will affect Austin - from Project Connect and the Land Development Code to all the local and state elections, and how you can participate and have an impact. Click HERE for more information and to reserve your free spot.

2020 Census Informational Session - 3/5
"Be Counted!: A Census Informational Session" is a joint event with U.S. Census Bureau Specialist, Ms. Maria I. Campos at the Pflugerville Public Library at 6:00 pm. For more info on the free event, click HERE.

Equity & Inclusion Book Club - 3/21
Join our discussion led by Maria Medina Milner, Equity & Inclusion Director about the book White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo lead. We will meet from 12:30-2:30 pm at the Cepeda Branch, Austin Public Library, 651 N Pleasant Valley Rd, Austin, TX.

2020 Census is coming soon!

LWV-AA is part of the Austin & Travis County Complete Count Committee (ATC-CCC) represented by Maria Medina Milner, Director of Equity & Inclusion, and Joyce LeBombard, President. We are active on several committees and are working with Travis County Tax Office & Voter Registration to develop and deliver training for ambassadors. Ambassadors will volunteer at ATC-CCC events and locations to get people to participate in the Census and assist them if needed.

Important Census Dates to know about include:
• March 12 - 20: Households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail.
• March 30 - April 1: The Census Bureau will count people who are experiencing homelessness over these three days.
• April 1: Census Day is observed nationwide. By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. When you respond to the census, you'll tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020.
• April: Census takers will begin visiting college students who live on campus, people living in senior centers, and others who live among large groups of people.
• May - July: Census enumerators will begin visiting homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.

LWVTX/LWVUS News

Save the Dates April 17-19, 2020 for the biennial statewide League of Women Voters Texas convention in Austin, TX!

In 1920, women claimed their right to vote - it was their turn. Women who were granted the right to vote were mostly white, educated, upper-class. African-American, Latina, Indigenous, and Asian women did not gain the right to a recognized and inclusive vote without barriers until decades later. Today, a new, inclusive generation of women has the right to vote. That's why the League of Women Voters Austin Area is proud to be the host for the biennial statewide League of Women Voters Texas Convention.

There will be many critical roles for local League volunteers to play in order to assure a welcoming and smooth running convention, and we will share more details with you soon.

Everyone is invited to attend the convention. Full Registration includes all workshops, Friday Networking Social, Saturday lunch and Plenary. Or you can register for just certain portions of the convention. Registration for the Making Democracy Work® Dinner sold separately.

LWVTX Convention and Dinner Registration is due by April 1 and can be found HERE.

Join LWVUS for the 54th National Convention in June 2020! This Convention will be hosted in Washington, DC, on June 25-28. Please check the Convention section of the League Management Site for information as it is added.
Thank you to all Sustaining and Renewing Members!

As a member of the Austin League, you are also a member of the national and state leagues. See the links below for additional information.

www.lwvaustin.org  www.lwvtexas.org  www.lwv.org

The League of Women Voters Austin Area thanks its generous 2019 Celebrating Democracy sponsors!

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.