May Calendar


Mon. May 2, Early Voting Starts, 7 am - 7 pm

Tues. May 3, Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Central Market North, Community Room

Mon. May 9, Combined Unit Meeting, "Money in Politics", 1-3 pm, Old Quarry Library, 7051 Village Center Drive, off Far West, west of MOPAC

Sat. May 14, Election Day, 7 am - 7 pm


Combined May Unit Meeting

$$$ Money in Politics $$$
Mon. May 9, 1-3 pm, Old Quarry Library
7051 Village Center Dr. (west of MOPAC at Far West)

Find out who is spending the most on state and national elections, and who are the biggest lobbying interests. Our panel discussion of leading "good government" organizations in Austin will describe the current state of this old problem, and the group as a whole will discuss how we all can work most effectively together on the things we can change.

The program will be moderated by our own Stewart Snider, LWV-AA Voter Editor. Panelists include:

- Andy Wilson from Public Citizen
- Craig McDonald from Texans for Public Justice
- Diane Owens from The Coffee Party

Questions: Carolyn Baker, cbaker1@earthlink.net or 249-7012; or Stewart Snider, s2snider@gmail.com or 345-7047.
LWV-AA Annual Meeting
Dedicated to 60-Year Member, Maxine Barkan

Wed., May 18, 6:00 p.m.
Trinity United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway (Hyde Park)
Please bring a dish to share. Food dishes preferred but, you may donate $5.00.

This year’s Annual Meeting is dedicated to Maxine Barkan, who has served both the state and local Leagues in many capacities. She has mentored and inspired League members for 60 years--six of them as president of our League. Maxine served as first Vice President of Advocacy for LWV-TX and state program chair for Campaign Finance Reform and Judicial Selection.

We will also salute out-going President Frances McIntyre, who leaves that position after serving a total of 10 years over the last 40 years as either co-president or president.

Come to the Annual Meeting to:
• Sample culinary delights.
• Celebrate the year’s many and varied accomplishments.
• Honor Maxine Barkan and Frances McIntyre
• Make your voice heard on our local program, budget, officers, and bylaws.

Check out the 2011 Annual Meeting Workbook for details about the proposed League local program and local positions previously adopted. See pages 15 - 24 for LWVAA positions in Education, Austin City Government, Travis County Government, Library, Transportation, Health, Mental Health Services, Environmental Quality, Administration of Justice, and Affordable Housing. Spend a little time looking through the Workbook. Which areas of focus strike a chord in you? The Annual Meeting gives every member a platform in which to shape next year’s League.

You received a copy of the 2011 Annual Meeting Workbook by e-mail or mail if you don’t use email. Please bring the 2011 Workbook with you.

This will be Frances McIntyre’s last meeting in her current term as President. Let’s give her a big send off with a huge turnout -- she very much deserves it for her years of service to the League. We hope to see you there.

~Anne Roussos and Stewart Snider

Membership News

Judy Parken (502-0278)

Welcome, New Members!
We cordially welcome Maria Person and Traci Stone to the Austin League. We are delighted you have joined us. In doing so you are also a member of the national (LWVUS) and state (LWVTX) leagues.

We hope to see you and ALL new members who have joined this year at our Annual Meeting on May 18th at 6 pm.

Thank You, Renewing Members
Many thanks to those who recently renewed - Nancy Bene, Terrell Blodgett, Nancy Busbey, Julie Byers and Lee Leffingwell, Mescal Evler, Verna Grice, Karen Hayward, Betty Hixson, Catherine and Joseph Nall, Jr., Betty Owen, Sonia Santana, Martha Schumacher, Diane Wheeler, Carol Whitcraft-Fredericks, and Jan Williams. We truly depend on your support and appreciate your timely renewals.
The merry month of May is upon us and the League year is winding down (not stopping, just resting). The Annual Meeting is your best chance to influence future policy and the budget of the Austin League. Come to Trinity Methodist Church on Speedway, Wednesday, May 18th to help us be at our best as a truly grassroots organization. One of our missions is to promote participation in the political process, and that extends to your participation at the Annual Meeting. We thrive on your ideas and your participation. The Annual Meeting Workbook (thanks to Anne Roussos for a terrific job) is a publication that you should bring with you, but also save and/or bookmark because it will answer many of your questions throughout the year.

Last month we had a very informative general meeting on Austin’s water sources and conservation. Thanks to Karen Haschke for her continued work on this subject. She has been active in the water study for many years and can answer almost any question you have. We will be continuing the LWV-Texas study next year and you can expect more programs and information about this very timely and always controversial subject.

We also had updates on legislation that LWV-Texas is actively pursuing from our members who are working closely with Anita Privett as the advocacy chair for the State League. It is so very important for the League to have a voice at the State Legislature and we do, thanks to our members who volunteer to help. Kudos to Nan Clayton, Anita Privett, Karen Rankin, Suzy Reid, and Stewart Snider who spoke to the Monday Unit meeting.

The South Unit meeting had an entertaining and very informative meeting with Judge Jon Wisser who talked about the court system in Travis County and the State of Texas. Thanks to Phyllis Portnoy and Anne Roussos for arranging that meeting.

Year after year, we continue to have meaningful activities that promote good government and encourage more people to pay attention to the issues of the day. Their engagement makes our democracy work better. All of this is possible only with your help and your financial support. Thanks for making it possible.

I want to thank you again for allowing me to preside over the Austin League. I can’t think of a more satisfying job. I am really looking forward to the next year under Stewart Snider’s lead. He will be the first male president the Austin League has had, although other Leagues in Texas and some other states have already broken that barrier. I am eager for you to get to know Stewart, a delightful young man who is passionate about good government, and who has been an active and loyal member of the Austin League for a good while. He is articulate, patient, diplomatic and has a great sense of humor. Stewart will have an excellent Board of Directors to work with and a lot of volunteers, like you and me, to carry out the ambitious agenda for the Austin League.

Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting.

~Frances
Randall’s Good Neighbor Program gives the Austin League a percentage of sales from members who link the League to their Randall’s “Remarkable” cards. Our account number is 465.

Persons aged 70½ or older can make charitable gifts directly from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to the LWV Education Fund. Contact Lauren Frank of LWVUS at 202-263-1355 for additional information.
**Phonathon:**

$7,000 Down; $4,000 to Go

Letters for the LWV-AA Phonathon were sent to all members and long-time League friends at the end of February. A BIG THANKS to all of you have responded with your generous support of the League! To date we have raised $6,961. However, we still have a long way to achieving this year’s goal of $11,000. (In 2009 and 2010 we raised $10,370 and $8,526 respectively.)

To help us close the $4,000 gap, please consider making your contribution now. Or make an additional donation, if you’ve already contributed. The money raised through this annual event supports the League in our mission of providing community-wide education projects to keep voters informed and to take action on public policy issues. See the listing below.

Your financial support is critical, so please, please, please support your League by making your contribution now.

**Mail your donation to LWVAA, 1011 W. 31st, Austin, TX 78705. Enclose a note saying whether your donation is for the LWVAA Education Fund (tax deductible) or the LWVAA General Fund (not tax deductible.)**

Thank you,

**Ann Stalnaker,**

Phonathon Chair

**Your Donation:**

- Provides nonpartisan information about candidates before elections (Voters Guides)
- Provides logistical support for studies that get at the core of important public policy problems. (Study Groups)
- Informs members and the public on all sides of the issues our members have chosen to pursue. (General and Unit Meetings, the Website and the monthly Voter newsletter)
- Fuels action on public policy issues that are under consideration by government agencies. (Advocacy)

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**Observer Corps: Travis County Commissioners Court**

*Karen Rankin (506-8549)*

Two issues related to the Travis County budget were discussed at the April 12 meeting of the TCCC.

Intragovernmental Relations Coordinator, Deece Eckstein, updated the commissioners on the progress of legislation in which the county has an interest. Of particular concern are the bills which will allow streams of revenue to be diverted from county use to other purposes in the state budget. An example of this is the juror pay supplement which the state adds to the amount a county pays a juror for service.

Several agenda items addressed the county building project underway at 700 Lavaca. Commissioners approved the expenditure of an additional $1,775,000 beyond the original $8,800,000 already allocated. The additional funds will be used for a food service area and architectural and engineering fees.

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**Honors and Memorials**

The Austin League provides the opportunity for donations in honor of, or in memory of, League members.

Mail your donation to LWV-AA Office, 1011 W. 31st St., Austin, TX 78705. State for whom the donation is being made and the address to which the designee or family may be notified. State whether your donation is for the LWVAA Education Fund (tax deductible) or the LWVAA General Fund (not tax deductible.)
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE AUSTIN AREA
1011 West 31st Street
Austin, TX 78705
(512) 451-6710

Are your dues paid?

ATTENTION MEMBERS: Please fill out the form below and send with your dues renewal and/or any changes to the LWV-AA Office, 1011 W. 31st, Austin, TX 78705. The League is grateful for your support! If you do not wish to renew, please notify Jaci Collins, Member Records, at jacic@sbcglobal.net or at 257-9636.

For new and renewing members and for address changes:
*** Not for Women Only ***

Name _____________________________________________; _____________________________________
Name of household member (if applicable)
Address ___________________________________ City __________________________ Zip __________
Phone (H) ______________________ (W)________________________ (Cell) ______________________
Email ___________________________________

Individual $60.00 $90.00 $20.00
Household
Student
Additional Donation $______ $______ $______
Total $______ $______ $______

___I’m an existing member and this is a change to my information.

Dues allocation:
National $29.15; State $22.80; Local $8.05; Total $60.00)
MAIL TO LWV-AA OFFICE: 1011 W. 31st, Austin, TX 78705

You can also use PayPal to pay your dues at lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org