Dear League Members and League Supporters,

Thanks to those of you who have already donated to our Love Your League annual fund drive. We appreciate your support. However, we need contributions from the rest of you.

The Austin League relies on donations to cover most of our annual budget. Your financial support enables the Austin League to provide services to you and the community in the form of our many voter services and voter education projects.

LWVAA Education Fund [a 501(c)3] supports our voter services initiatives including Community Conversations on public education in each AISD district, Voters Guides for every election, non-partisan candidates forums, voter registration drives, and public meetings on many topics. All contributions to the Education Fund are tax deductible. Your donation to the LWVAA Education Fund helps cover these costs:

- Voters Guides for libraries and organizations, $1,500 - $3,000/election,
- Vote411, $200/election
- Candidates Forums, $125/each
- Public informational programs, $250/each

LWVAA Fund [a 501(c)4] makes it possible for the League to maintain an office, support our members, and advocate on issues upon which we have reached a position. Contributions to this fund are not tax deductible. Your donation to the LWVAA Fund helps cover the costs of these items:

- Providing an office, $490/month
- Email communication to members and the public, $70/month
- Mailings to members without email, $50/month

Please make a financial donation of $35, $50, $100, or $250 today to either the LWVAA Education Fund or the LWVAA Fund. Indicate whether your donation is for the LWVAA Education Fund or the LWVAA Fund. Contributions can be made by...
mailing a check to:

League of Women Voters of the Austin Area  
1011 West 31st Street  
Austin, TX 78705

Contributions can also be made by credit card by clicking on the DONATE link on our home page (lwvaustin.org) and using PayPal. On the screen where you "Review Your Donation," click on "Add special instructions" to indicate if your donation is for the LWVAA Education Fund or the LWVAA Fund.

Thank you for your generous donation in support of our Love Your League campaign.

~ Carol Olewin, Co-President and Treasurer, colewin@gmail.com

LWVAA Calendar

Mon., Apr. 29 - Tues., May 7, Mon. - Sat., 7:00 am - 7:00 pm; Sun., 12:00 noon - 6:00 pm, Early Voting for General Election.

Mon., May 6, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting, Senior Activity Center, 2874 Shoal Crest Avenue, near N. Lamar and W. 29th Streets. Open to all members.

Sat., May 11, 7:00 am - 7:00 pm, Election Day.

Thurs., May 16, 9:00 pm, "Civic Summit", KLRU-TV and KUT 90.5.

Thurs., May 16, Applicant Review Panel name 60 finalists for Austin's Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission.

Sun., May 19, 3 - 6:00 pm, Annual Meeting of LWVAA, Faith Presbyterian Church, 1314 E. Oltorf, 78704 (near 1-35.) Open to all members.

Sun., May 19, 1:00 pm, KLRU-TV; 7:00 pm, KUT 90.5, "Civic Summit."

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

May 19 Annual Meeting:  
A Time for Decision-Making, Socializing, and Celebrating Successes

Sunday, May 19, 2013, 3:00-6:00 p.m.  
Faith Presbyterian Church  
1314 E. Oltorf (near I-35)
Bring a Snack to Share.

Make plans to attend this year’s Annual Meeting. Join us for snacks and finger foods, camaraderie, and decision-making on the League program, future studies, budget, bylaws, and officers.

As a member of the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area, you should have received your 2013 Annual Meeting Workbook—either by email or snail mail a month before the meeting. The Workbook is updated annually to guide you on local League program, positions, and operations. It also includes an Agenda for the meeting, a Presidents’ Letter, and a Membership Report. Please click on this link, print out the report, and bring your Workbook to the meeting.

This year’s Annual Meeting is dedicated to Frances McIntyre. Come to celebrate Frances and her many years of dedicated service to the LWVAA. For a list of some of the ways Frances has helped our League and our community, see the cover page of the Workbook.

We also will recognize members who have belonged to the League for 50 years or more: Pat Bennett, Mary Blackstock, Sylvia Lester, Phyllis Portnoy, Barbara Ruud, Patricia Taylor, and Veta Winick. In addition, we will recognize the many Leaguers who have served in so many different capacities to make this year one of remarkable achievement.

~ Anne Roussos, Editor, Annual Meeting Workbook, roussos@sbcglobal.net

Healthcare Study Group
Annual Meeting Proposal

At the LWVAA Program Planning meeting on Dec. 8, 2012, one of the committees organized was on the subject of health care. The committee began meeting in February 2013.

Because of the rapid and profound changes taking place in healthcare and healthcare financing, the committee decided to propose to the membership that they review and update LWVAA Positions on Health and Mental Health Services in Austin and Travis County. The proposal will be presented at the 2013 Annual Meeting. If approved by the membership, the committee will proceed with research that may change our local positions on Health and Mental Health Services.

The focus of the study is as follows:

- Describe the current Austin/Travis County health care system.
- Determine the impact of the Affordable Care Act on the health-care-related responsibilities of Austin and Travis County.

LWVAA Voters Guide can be downloaded at these sites: lwvaustin.org vote411.org statesman.com

Hard copies are available on the League’s porch, 1011 W. 31st Street near N. Lamar and at area libraries.

The League thanks to the Austin American-Statesman for publishing the Voters Guide in its April 28 issue and distributing it throughout its multi-county area.

PAVP Grant

LWVAA will be receiving a $200 pass-through Education Fund grant from LWVUS to LWVTX to LWVAA. PAVP supports Public Advocacy for Voter Protection.

This grant will help defray the LWVAA $800 annual cost to use Vote411.

Vote411 doubly serves our area by making it much easier for candidates to upload their information for the Voters Guide as well as to provide specific election information by precinct to voters.
Since this study could go in many different directions, the committee will prioritize the scope as it goes along. Any League member may join our study group. Just send me an email to be included.

~ Mary Cullinane, Interim Chair, mculli@sbcglobal.net

May 16 & 19
Civic Summit

"Why Bother? Austin After 10-1"

KLRU and KUT, in conjunction with the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life at University of Texas at Austin, will broadcast a forum entitled, "Why Bother? Austin after 10-1". Tune in to the "Civic Summit" on either KLRU-TV or KUT 90.5 FM at these times:

- KLRU-TV: Thurs., May 16, 9 pm or Sun., May 19, 1 pm
- KUT 90.5 FM, Thurs., May 16, 9 pm or Sun., May 19, 7 pm

Our League's past president, Frances McIntyre, was one of ten community members chosen to participate. This program takes an in-depth look at how the change to Austin City Council's governing structure will impact voters.

Austin's next City Council Election in November 2014 will have candidates running for ten places, each representing a geographic district of Austin. Experts and community leaders discuss how this change will impact the way we engage as a city and how ten council members will reconcile their differences.

Besides the ten community members, the program highlights the expertise of these panelists: Dr. Kevin Michael Foster, Moderator, Asst. Professor of African & African Diaspora Studies, UT Austin; Sherri Greenberg, Director, Center for Politics & Governance, LBJ School; Ryan Robinson, City Demographer, City of Austin; and Carol Lee, President, Austin Neighborhoods Council.

The Court was presented with the issue of whether, under the "National Voter Registration Act of 1993" (NVRA) or "Motor Voter", states can demand additional requirements to the federal uniform voter registration form. Three lower courts have held that Arizona's law conflicts with the NVRA, and that the federal law preempts the state law. The League of Women Voters of Arizona is a plaintiff in the case and the LWVUS has submitted an amicus brief to the Court.

If the Supreme Court rules against the NVRA, states would be free to pass laws that could restrict voter registration activities and thereby prevent eligible citizens from registering to vote. The case endangers the League’s work of running independent voter registration drives. The NVRA streamlined the numerous state laws that hindered citizen-led registration drives, and a decision against the NVRA would leave the voter registration process vulnerable to new forms
given and one was delivered. There were 30 witness registrations for and against bills.

The LWVTX Legislative Newsletter provides timely reports, published bi-weekly during regular sessions of the Texas Legislature, with information on the League’s lobbying efforts, action alerts, and more. For the current issue, click here.

A new issue will be published early next week. Issues are sent to all members’ email boxes from LWVTX and are entitled Legislative Newsletter.

Note our members’ efforts in the current issue: Stewart Snider, Campaign Finance Reform on page 13; Erica Gammill, Criminal and Juvenile Justice on page 14; and Joyce Robinson, Child Abuse and Neglect on page 15.

Topics covered in each issue include the following:

**LWV-Texas Priority Issues**
- Education, Health Care for Those of Lesser Means & Older Texans, Services for Those with Behavioral Needs, Child Health Care, Reproductive Choice/Women’s Health,
- Water

**Government**
- Election Laws, Campaign Finance Reform, Open Government

**Administration of Justice**
- Capital Punishment, Drug Laws and Policies, Immigration, Criminal and Juvenile Justice

**Social Policy/Human Resources**
- Child Abuse and Neglect, Early Childhood, Homeowners Associations

**Natural Resources**
- Air Quality and Climate Change, Transportation

To review all issues from this legislative session, click here.

~ Judy Clack, Voter Editor, jbclack@yahoo.com

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Observer Corps:

**Travis County Commissioners Court:**

April 2: The Child Protective Services board made an extensive report. While the number of children in Travis County is growing at a faster rate than anywhere in Texas or the US, and the number of children in poverty is growing quickly, the number of child victims of neglect have not grown substantially in Travis County. There is coordination of many service agencies to find permanent placement for most children and to provide continued services to help with education and healthcare after children become 18.
April 2: **Safe Havens** reported that after about four years of planning, they are ready to open doors to provide supervised visitation and safe exchange for broken families in cases that include child abuse among other family issues. Safe Havens is committed to making services accessible, affordable, and a welcoming environment to reduce stigma of using these services. Intake begins April 15. The name of their facility will be **Planet Safe**.

April 2: **Legislative report.** Travis County is tracking 112 bills in the Legislature. A main emphasis was on **water and groundwater district bills.** Concerns from the TCCC and citizens included (1) the use of a non-elected board with some members outside geographic boundaries leading to areas without representation; (2) the need for a publicly elected board representing all ratepayers; and (3) the allowing of expansion without accountability to current ratepayers. Comments and concerns will be sent to Senator Watson and Representative Workman.

April 16: The sharing of cost of increasing lab facilities for **drug and alcohol testing** was discussed at length. The motion passed.

~ Joann Robison, Observer Corps, gatorgunk@gmail.com

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### Membership

I look forward to seeing all members at our **Annual Meeting** on Sunday, May 19 at 3:00 pm at the Faith Presbyterian Church, 1314 E. Oltorf near I-35.

As a member of the Austin League, 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, $52 goes to the LWVTX and the LWVUS, and only $8 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. The entire amount is paid to LWVAA and not to the Education Fund.

**Thank You, Sustaining Members:** Special thanks to this month’s sustaining members: Margaret Drake, Sarah Eckhardt, Mescal Evler, Catherine and Joseph Nall, Barbara Ruud, Barbara Werth, and Dianne Wheeler. 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: Barbara Allen, Heather Becker, Terrell Blodgett, Sonia Colorito, Mary Cullinane, Jo Ann and Edmund Farrell, Kathleen Hackett, Mary Jansen, Ethel Kutac, Mary Anne Rivera, and Gail Rothe and Myron Hess. We depend on your support and appreciate your timely renewals.

**New Membership, Renewal Dues Payment, Address Changes:** Please send 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.

You may renew or join, using PayPal by clicking on the amount that applies to you.

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Contact me anytime with your League questions.

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