May 2016

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LWVAA Calendar

Mon., May 2, 6:30 pm. Board Meeting, League Conference Room, 1011 W 31st., Austin, Members.

Monday, April 25 - Tuesday, May 3rd. Early Voting Local Election

Saturday, May 7. Local Election.

Monday, May 16 - Friday, May 20 Early Voting Primary Runoff

Tues., May 17 6:00 pm. Annual Membership Meeting, Trinity United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway, Austin.

Tuesday, May 24. Primary Runoff Election

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

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

From the President

Annual Membership Meeting -
Tuesday, May 17, 2016, 6:00 pm.

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

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
Trinity United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway

Make plans to attend the Annual Membership meeting. Members will adopt a local program for the ensuing year, elect officers and directors, elect a nominating committee chair; adopt a budget and transact such other business as may properly come before the membership. You must be a current member in good standing to vote. Here is the link to the workbook:


**Farewell Address**

This is the end of my term as President of the LWV Austin Area. I enjoyed serving on the Board of Directors with a great group of people and being President of a wonderful group of volunteers. I will not be leaving the League, but will be moving on to the LWV Texas Board as a Director.

I started my service on the LWV Austin Board of Directors as Treasurer in 2007, then served as Co-President with Stewart Snider and finally as President from 2014-2016. Serving as President was a professional development and growing experience for me and I learned a lot about the League and about managing a large volunteer organization.

This is a prestigious organization and it has been a personal privilege to serve as your President.

**Obituary-Barbara Ruud-President LWV Austin 1959-61**

Barbara Ruud died of pneumonia at her Westminster apartment in Austin on April 7, 2016. She was born on April 25, 1921. She was 94 years old.

Barbara had an idyllic childhood in small town Mankato, Minnesota. Her doting father, C. O. Dailey, was one of the town's lawyers. Unfortunately, her father died before Barbara graduated from high school. An Irish immigrant, her father had wanted to take Barbara to Europe. He left money in his will for that European trip. After Barbara graduated from high school, one of Barbara's older sisters and her husband took Barbara to Europe in the summer of 1938, the last full summer before the war.

Barbara entered Macalester College in St Paul, Minnesota in 1938, making lifelong friends. She began the University of Minnesota’s combined undergraduate-law program in 1940. On her first day at the University of Minnesota, she met southern Minnesota farmboy and brilliant student Millard H Ruud, who was to be her husband for 54 years. They married in Mankato on August 28, 1943 in the first big Mankato wedding since the Depression. Captain Millard Ruud was already in the US Army. He deployed to the European front in the winter of 1943. Barbara stayed behind in Minneapolis, anxiously awaiting war news. She got her law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1943. In 1944, Barbara became the first woman claims adjuster for State Farm's Insurance.

After the war, the newlyweds moved first to Lawrence, Kansas and then to Austin. Dean Page Keeton recruited Millard Ruud to teach at the University of Texas Law School in 1948. He would teach there for almost 50 years. Barbara had three sons in the 1950s, keeping her busy. But, not too busy as to keep up with her civic organizations. She worked to abolish the Texas poll tax. She was on the Texas Bar Association's administrative law committee. She became president of the Austin League of Women Voters. Active in PEO, she was president of Chapter BQ.

With her boys growing up, Barbara started working more in the 1960s and 1970s. She...
was legal counsel to Governors Preston Smith and Dolph Briscoe at the Capitol. She was assistant attorney for Attorney Generals Mark White and Jim Mattox. Not only did she have her own considerable legal skills, whenever there was a particular problem bothering the governors or the attorney generals, Barbara had the entire University of Texas Law School faculty to call upon as informal advisors. Question about federal courts or constitutional law? Call Professor Charles Alan Wright, the national expert on those subjects.

From 1973-1981 and again from 1983-1988, Professor Millard Ruud was executive director of the Association of American Law Schools in Washington, D.C. Barbara worked as chief legal counsel for local congressman J. J. "Jake" Pickle with a fun-loving bunch who liked to call their workplace the "Pickle Factory" and themselves as the "Pickle Packers." These years in Washington with their apartment in Georgetown were very happy times. They had cocktail parties at their apartment for visiting law school deans, then walked down to Georgetown for dinner.

When they returned to Austin in 1988, Barbara kept active in all her civic organizations. She and her husband traveled the world, able to go wherever and whenever they wanted. Millard Ruud died on February 10, 1997. Barbara stayed in the house they built in 1952, where they raised their boys, until September 2011, when she moved to Westminster, for many more happy years.

Survivors include her sons, Stephen, Christopher (Dian) and Michael Ruud, all of the Austin area; grandson Andrew Ruud (Chloe Kweon) of Seattle, great-grandchildren Ina and Ian Ruud of Seattle; grandchildren Olivia Freeman (Derek Del Porto) of Nashville; and Cecilia Fierro of Oakland; and members of the Ruud, Mason, and Walchuk families throughout the United States.

A private family burial service was held at the Texas State Cemetery. The funeral service was held at the Austin University United Methodist Church, April 16, 2016. In lieu of flowers, donations in Barbara’s name were requested to University United Methodist Church, 2904 Guadalupe St., Austin, TX 78705 at the mailing address above, or uumc.org/give; or the League of Women Voters of Austin, 1011 W 31st, Suite 510, Austin, TX 78705.

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

LWVAA Takes Position on Prop 1

The League of Women Voters of the Austin Area announced its position on Proposition 1, the ride-hailing ballot measure on April 22. We joined with the advocacy group Our City, Our Safety, Our Choice in opposition to Proposition 1. We urge our members and the public to vote "AGAINST" the proposition for the following reasons.

The League of Women Voters of the Austin Area believes that in a democracy, citizens are best served by electing representatives of their choice to their city, county and school districts. These representatives are public servants who are responsible to their constituents. The League also believes that democracies work best when citizens participate in the political process, like voting in every election. The election coming up on May 7th, addresses a very important issue for Austin. Early voting began April 25 and runs through May 3. You will decide which set of laws should govern the Transportation Network Companies, like Uber and Lyft and other ride-hailing companies.

The Austin League has studied this issue, compared the ordinances (laws) that are in
effect now from our city government and the ordinance (law) proposed by the TNC. We hosted a forum and attended numerous forums and debates. We have come to the conclusion that the City rules which are now in effect are the best alternative to govern the TNC operations.

The ballot language; however, is confusing. "Shall the City Code be amended to repeal City Ordinance ...." If the city law is repealed, it will be replaced by another law. So, if you vote "FOR" Proposition 1, you want the new law (written by TNCs like Uber and Lyft). If you vote "AGAINST," you do not want the new law, but prefer that the current City law stay in effect.

The current City law says that TNC drivers must be fingerprinted by 2017. It also says the TNC cars must have an emblem identifying their company and drivers must obey the rules about letting passengers off in a traffic lane or bus lane and other stipulations that serve public safety. These do not seem like onerous rules for the TNCs to follow, yet Uber/Lyft have spent over $2 million in a campaign to repeal the city law and put in place a law that has very few rules and gives them free-reign to proceed with business as they see fit. Frankly, it is a little suspicious that they will not accept the fingerprinting regulation when all the law enforcement organizations recommend it as the safest way to vet the drivers. Fingerprinting is a very commonplace procedure for a myriad of occupations, like realtors, engineers, social services workers, and many others.

The current law that our city council passed after a year of deliberations addresses safety measures for our citizens regarding TNCs operations in Austin. They have never asked any TNC to leave Austin and, indeed, spent time trying to work with them, but the TNCs were not interested in compromise.

A significant difference between a multi-billion dollar corporation writing our city laws and our city council writing laws is the lack of transparency and open communications. We can talk, send emails, and testify directly to our elected representatives. Try calling or emailing Uber/Lyft corporate management to express your opinion and see if it makes a difference.

The League of Women Voters of the Austin Area encourages you to vote "AGAINST" Proposition 1 to keep the logical city rules in place for the current and future Transportation Network Companies.

Voter Registration Director
june_cnwy@yahoo.com

Web Master
On April 6 our website experienced a significant and extended outage, which was not rectified until the evening of April 7. I won't bore you with the technical details of the outage, but the reason it took so long to fix was that we didn't know that our service provider's backup/restore program was broken. When that finally became clear, we were able to restore from an alternative backup file that we make every week. I apologize for the outage and will endeavor to avoid such problems in the future.

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,
ahal@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.
For those who would like to read the Voter’s Guide with pro/con statements on Prop 1, as well as the candidates for other local elections, go to this link.

~Frances McIntyre
Advocacy and Voter’s Guide Editor
or 512-451-1551

General Meeting
US Constitutional Amendments

On Sunday, April 24, we held a program on the process for proposing and ratifying constitutional amendments. This was a program recommended by the LWVUS to help local leagues understand the implications of current proposals for developing amendments, for taking a position on ratifications, and for understanding the recently adopted LWVUS Position: Considerations for Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals.

I heard many positive comments from the audience after the program about how we become informed about the realities, the history, the complexities, the implications, and the possibilities of the constitutional process. We are very grateful to our speakers, Tim Mahoney, a LWVAA member, Lou McCreary, a local attorney and mediator active with the current grassroots movement Democracy Awakening, and Dr. Lawrence Sager from the UT School of Law. Professor Sager kept us all totally enthralled with constitutional law, history, realities, and more. Lou’s and Tim’s presentations augmented our understanding and especially helped contextualize our immediate situation. Their discussion on implications for overturning Citizens United illuminated the interconnections among the historical, political, economic, and of course, legal elements which Professor Sager explained while reviewing the language of Article Five, which states how constitutional conventions can be proposed and ratified.

This program helps us understand how to speak with more clarity and authority whenever people make vague or negative comments about the constitution, and maintain a positive approach to the discussion.

Hal Jennings video-

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 then you will be subscribed to the LWVAA page and get updates on any of our posts.

Honors and Memorials

The following individuals made donations in memory of Barbara Ruud. See President’s letter about Barbara’s long involvement in the community and LWV Austin Area.

- Sandy Dochen
- Nancy & Greg Glasscock
- Suzanne Huff
- Leon & Elaine Lebowitz
- Vivian Masson

Sandy Dochen
Nancy & Greg Glasscock
Suzanne Huff
Leon & Elaine Lebowitz
Vivian Masson
recorded the presentation and discussion and posted it on our website. If you missed the program, or want to review it, you can watch it online now! We are excited to start recording and posting our programs so that we can further spread information to help voters.

Link to the LWV Position Adopted: Considerations for Evaluating Constitutional Amendment Proposals is here:

Link to the recording of the program: YouTube (https://youtu.be/xGvzdBSfDJk) and accessible via our website is here. It is an hour and 55 minutes long.

Tim Mahoney identified some recommended reading on the subject:

1. Corruption in America; From Benjamin Franklin’s Snuff Box to Citizens United; by Zephyr Teachout, Harvard University Press. 2014.
2. The Crash of 2016; The Plot to Destroy America-And What We Can Do to Stop It; by Thom Hartmann, Twelve, Hachette Group, 2013.
3. The Populist Moment; A Short History of the Agrarian Revolt in America; by Lawrence Goodwyn, Oxford University Press, 1978.

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

LWVAA in the Community

It is always a pleasure to represent the League and spread the word of our dedication to voter engagement. In the past month there were two great opportunities provided by LWV Austin member Joanne Richards.

Joanne spearheads the local Common Ground for Texans group that hosted a panel discussion April 2, 2016, aptly titled "(Dis) Engagement in Texas: What's the Deal?" I enjoyed sharing the dais with Laura Guerra-Cardus, MD, of the Children's Defense Fund; Yannis Banks of the NAACP; and Dr. Jim Henson of Texas Politics Project and UT/Texas Tribune polling fame. The full house crowd at the Yarborough Library engaged in a lively discussion with panel members. One outstanding outcome for LWV Austin was a new member, Saundra Ragona, who is already engaged in our First Vote program for newly registered high school students.

Joanne is also active in the Democracy Awakening movement, that featured a march and sit-in April 16-18 in Washington DC. There was to be an event on the Texas Capitol grounds April 17, but because of bad weather it has been rescheduled for May 1. However, Joanne's related "Teach-In" went on as scheduled April 16 on the UT Campus. It was an honor for me to participate on the same panel with the esteemed Dr. James K. Galbraith, the Lloyd M. Bentsen Jr. Chair in Government/Business Relations and Professor of Government at the LBJ School; Gary Breaux, who is involved in promoting the call for a Constitutional Convention to amend the US Constitution to deal with campaign finance; and Huey Rey Fischer, who recently ran for House District 49 "on a shoestring." The crowd may have been small, but the talk was inspiring and

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 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
LWV Austin Proposition 1 Forum
The Austin League also represented itself very well in hosting a model public forum on the City of Austin’s Proposition 1 which deals with regulation of Transportation Network Companies (Uber, Lyft, GetMe). Organizer Frances McIntyre kept the forum even-handed, with two individuals representing each position on the Proposition. I was pleased to be one of the two questioners in such a civil debate of the issue.

This Forum was the first opportunity for the League to provide membership and the public a chance to watch the session even if they were unable to attend. This recording may be viewed on our website [here](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs137/1102770450271/archive/1124566204928.html). We plan to incorporate video recordings of our major events. We quickly got a chance to similarly record the very enlightening program on April 24 on the US Constitutional amendment process. It too is available for viewing on our website. Kudos to our amazing VP-Programs Lea Masiello and Webmaster/Filmmaker Hal Jennings for making that possible!

Voting and Graduation
In April, it was inspiring to engage with some university seniors finishing studies and preparing to launch into their civic lives. I had the privilege to speak with two young women committed to voter engagement, who chose to highlight League of Women Voter activities. Best wishes to UT student Brigette Reyes and St. Edwards University student Elaine Kieffer as they finish their major efforts. Following our discussion, Ms. Reyes is planning a voter registration event on the UT campus in coordination with UT Votes. She also volunteered her skills to the League by creating a poster for the Travis County-LWV Austin YouthCam Contest for high school students creating public service announcements incorporating the theme of "get registered-be informed-vote."

The Alamo Drafthouse and Tim League, who not only offered the theaters’ high volume lobby areas for voter registration and made generous donations to our LWV Education Fund, are also actively involved in supporting the YouthCam Contest. They are sharing their contacts and relationships with the Austin area high school film programs to promote the contest as well as providing super prizes to winners. See information [here](http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs137/1102770450271/archive/1124566204928.html); Look for contest winners in September! A big thank you to Tim League and his entire friendly and helpful staff!!!

Developments in Development
Speaking of donations, we have received $1,245 towards production of our Voters Guides this year through our online request for assistance. With few races and propositions on the ballot, we opted to produce an online version for the May 7 Local Election, but it is available in both English and Spanish. It is also designed for ease of printing from the website to be taken to the polls if needed. The November Voters Guide will be printed and of typical size for the General Election. Escalating printing and translation costs require an emphasis on fundraising and we will be engaging in more efforts in the fall. All ideas and suggestions are welcome. I am happy to report that while the Development Director position was vacant this League year, we have a...
Director coming on Board for 2016-17 and a number of expert members to assist!

~Cinde Weatherby, 2nd VP Community Relations
cindeweatherby@gmail.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:
Carol Ahlgren, Elizabeth Cooper, Rustin Dudley-student, Angela Koegler, and Martha Rogers 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 (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: Nancy Bene (correction from last month to be Sustaining), Mary Cullinane, Karen Hayward, Julie and Jodie Moore, Gwen and Joe Santiago. 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: Nancy Busbey, Toye Goodson-Collins, Carol Eckelcamp, Clark Jobe (corrected name spelling from last month), Anne Peticolas and Jan Williams.

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:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Household</th>
<th>Student</th>
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<td>$150.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Dues</td>
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<td>$90.00</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Contact me anytime with your League questions.
~Judy Parken, Membership Chair, japarken@aol.com, 512-502-0278.