



Calendar



Tuesday, May 2, **Last day for Early Voting.**

Monday, May 1, 4:00 pm, **Board Meeting**, League Conference Room, 1011 W. 31st Street, Austin, [[map](#)]. Members welcome.

Saturday, May 6. **General and Special Election** (Local).

Wednesday, May 17, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, **Unit Meeting, North** with Tina Hester from *Jane's Due Process*. Judy Parken's house 7917 West Rim Drive, Austin. [[map](#)] RSVP [here](#).

Saturday, May 20, 12:00 - 3:00 pm, **Annual Meeting**, Trinity United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway, Austin. [[map](#)] RSVPs requested by May 15 [here](#).

Wednesday, May 24, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm, **Luncheon Meeting. Foundation Communities, After School Support Services.** Sierra Vista Learning Center, 4320 S Congress Ave, Austin. [[map](#)] RSVP [here](#).

Sunday, June 4, 1:30 - 3:30 pm, **General Meeting. CodeNEXT and Affordable Housing.** The Sustainable Food Center, 2921 E. 17th St. Bldg. C, Austin. [[map](#)]

Date TBA, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, **Unit Meeting, south** with Tina Hester from *Jane's Due Process*. Circle C HOA Community Room, 7817 LaCrosse Ave, Austin. [[map](#)]

Thursday June 22, 7:00 - 9:00 pm, **General Meeting, Fighting for the Protection of the Edward's Aquifer.** The Sustainable Food Center, 2921 E. 17th St. Bldg. C, Austin. [[map](#)]

Join Us for the Annual Meeting

Join us to hear about next year and our past year successes. It will be a great time to "see where you fit in" with an overview of the program and committees forming to evaluate our advocacy and work. We strongly encourage all members to attend this important meeting! Guests are welcome.

Noon to 2:00 pm, Saturday, May 20th
Trinity United Methodist Church 4001 Speedway

Lunch will be provided for \$10 per person from Thundercloud Subs (One of our *Making Democracy Work Award* winners) with dessert and beverages included. **To RSVP** and

pay the \$10 lunch fee, go to: [Annual Meeting RSVP & Payment](#). RSVPs appreciated by May 15.

The **Annual Workbook** provides important information for both new and long-serving members about:

1. Issues to be voted upon during the Annual Meeting, and
2. The League's structure, history, recent and current finances, recent and current programs, the League's progress and significant contributions of lifetime members.

Please bring the annual workbook to the meeting. It may be downloaded [here](#): <http://lwvaustin.org/publications/2017WorkbookH.pdf>

Action Alert

Frances McIntyre, Advocacy Director

CodeNEXT Proposed Maps are ready for your review and comment.

NOW is the time to learn about the particular land use codes for your neighborhood, and it's easy.

Meetings are being held in each district during April/ May/June. At these meetings, you will hear an overview of the whole process and particulars for your district. There are big maps and competent staff to answer your questions.

You can compare existing and proposed zoning districts side-by-side. There is also a zoning map guide which is a very helpful tool in understanding what the new proposed zoning districts mean and how the proposed zoning categories compare to the current zoning.

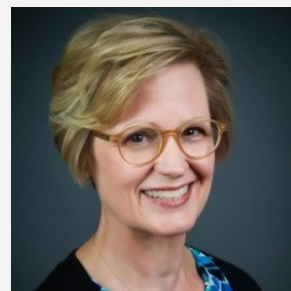
Check www.lwvaustin.org or <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/codenext> for time and place of your district meeting. Help shape the future land use codes for your neighborhood.



Time to Celebrate!

Cinde Weatherby, President

It is truly celebration time at LWV-Austin Area! That is something we sometimes forget as we go about our serious work. But, please take time today to join me in doing that. There may be uncertainties on the world stage or our own Texas Legislature, but that has created opportunities for us that far outweigh the challenges.



Let Us Count the Ways

A New Home - During the first two weeks of May, LWV-AA transitions from its office of more than 30 years into a new sublease at Leadership Austin's offices, 1609 Shoal Creek Blvd., Suite 202. Our dedicated members are examining documents that have amassed in that time and preparing them for proper archiving in the Austin History

Center. Over the years the office came to look a little bit like that elderly great aunt's house where they lived for many years. The new home will be sleek and organized.



Active Membership Base - The major increase in our membership results in a new energetic League volunteer force of both existing and new members. We have more volunteers doing more on all fronts. We are benefitting from fresh approaches and renewal of efforts that lay dormant for lack of volunteers. On May 20th at our Annual Meeting we will be able to also celebrate those who have served the League mission from the 1950s to today. How many organizations can say that? Our treasured leaders bring alive the history of

our nation and state to new members across the age spectrum. Many of our new members also bring with them the advances and technology to promote and expand our mission more broadly than before, giving us the best of the past and the present.

Terrific Supporters & Businesses Working for Democracy - Our efforts intersect with many organizations in Austin we should all celebrate. They support the same mission in varying ways. For those not conversant in LWV's mission: *The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

We never support or oppose any candidate for office, nor political party. Our goal is an informed electorate. In Texas, to be part of an electorate you have to register to vote and we celebrate others that play a major role in that, such as our local Voter Registrars in each of the counties and our Elections offices. We work routinely with Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector/Voter Registrar **Bruce Elfant's** office, an exemplary group seeking and achieving excellence - including the distinction of having the highest percentage of registered voters in the state. The same is true of Travis County Clerk **Dana DeBeauvoir's** Elections Department that takes advantage of every possible opportunity under the Election Code to make it easy to vote. That is reflected in Travis County having the highest voter turnout percentage in Texas. The League's membership is rapidly growing in Williamson County and our relationship with WilCo's Elections Administrator **Christopher Davis** and his staff is advancing as well.

I want to especially celebrate the three entities we recognized with our **Making Democracy Work® Award** in March. If these three businesses can do these extraordinary things, it is quite likely you know of others who can too.

Thundercloud Subs - They've raised more than \$3 million for Caritas in their annual Turkey Trot each Thanksgiving, but they've also been voter registration supporters since the 1980s. They encourage their employees to register and vote, and also open all of their sub shops in the area to voter registration on the last day you can register before elections. Thundercloud has been an Austin staple since 1975 when it was co-founded by Andy Cotton and John Meddaugh - who are still active in it today. Two of the other



leaders, Mike Haggerty who became part of that family in 1977, and Patty Shughrue who joined in 1979, helped us celebrate their civic action. Patty explained that voting was a great tradition in her family and they celebrated turning 18 with voter registration. She began the tradition of encouraging voting in the company by getting voter registration cards and handing them out

to employees in the 1980s. Sometime in the 1990s, she began the partnership with the Travis County Tax Office to bring voter registration tables to the sub shops.

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema - During 2016, Tim League, co-founder of the "Coolest Movie Theater in the World" according to Wired.com, opened the doors to all of the Alamo cinemas for voter registration multiple times. Inspired to give LWV-Austin volunteer registrars a presence in the theaters by his mother's League involvement in the 1970s, League not only provided a unique and productive place for registering voters but made significant donations to LWV-AA. He also personally filmed a short public service announcement to be shown prior to films calling attention to the need to register to vote. Following the model established at ThunderCloud, on the last day of registration prior to the election, each of the theaters hosted registration tables from opening to midnight. LWV-AA and other volunteers arranged by Travis County's Voter Registrar outreach program staffed the effort.



TechVotes-- The newest organization receiving the Making Democracy Work award is TechVotes. It's a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization run by volunteers from Austin's tech community with the mission of activating the Austin Tech community to vote. Erin Defosse, a long-time Austin technology leader and currently Chief Product officer for Aceable, founded TechVotes in September 2016. Defosse was inspired to start TechVotes after recognizing the same principles guiding Aceable's mission could be used to educate young tech workers on how to register to vote, learn about the issues, and



ultimately create a culture of civic engagement within their own organizations. We were able to share our League voter educational resources such as our guides about the new voter ID rules and the *Voters Guide*, to help TechVotes work with Austin's technology companies and their employees to increase

participation in elections, through voter registration and get out the vote activities.

Perhaps your business concern or nonprofit wishes to challenge one of these three award winners before the 2018 voter registration deadline! Let us hear from you with those ideas.

Celebrate Those Who Inspired You - Think back to how you first became aware of the need to be civically involved and vote. Was it your mother (like Tim League) or father? During the months of May and June, that include Mother's and Father's Day, we are requesting you honor and celebrate them by making a donation to LWV-AA in their name. Contributions will go towards voter education projects, like the *Voters Guide* and its translation, our First Vote Program in the high schools, or our special educational information about Voter ID requirements.

We'd love to hear your story of who inspired you. After you hit the "donation" button, or set up a recurring donation with your bank, take time to email me a sentence or two (or more) about who you honor. Send it to president@lwvaustin.org, so we can feature it on our Facebook page (if you wish). Once you have done that, please celebrate yourself for contributing to a more informed and active electorate!

Programs for May and June-Wowzer!

Lea Masiello, VP Programs

Yes! There are four programs coming this spring, so before you check into your summer

mode, put these dates on your calendar. Watch for updated email blasts with the most current information on locations, times, and speakers. I am very excited about these upcoming programs that are going to be incredibly interesting and controversial.



From this point forward, programs will be designed to help us review and update current Austin LWV Positions in six areas: education, transportation, healthcare, environmental quality, criminal justice, and affordable housing. Please volunteer to participate in a committee to review positions in these areas. Contact me, for more information and to offer to help, at leamasiello@gmail.com

I will appreciate RSVPs for all programs, but it is not necessary to do so. Please join us for some very interesting discussions. Contributions for refreshments are always welcome!

May 17: Unit meeting, North 7:00 - 9:00 pm, with Tina Hester from **Jane's Due Process** (janedueprocess.org), for a discussion on teen pregnancy and legal rights in Texas at Judy Parken's house. A quote on their webpage is profound. From Audre Lord, "I have come to believe that caring for myself is not self-indulgent. Caring for myself is an act of survival."

Judy Parken's house, 7917 West Rim Drive, Austin.

RSVP to Judy at japarken@aol.com

Date in June to be determined: Unit meeting, South, Circle C HOA Community Room, LaCrosse Ave, Tina Hester from **Jane's Due Process**.

May 24: Lunch Meeting: 11:30 - 12:30 Luncheon (provided by Foundation Communities) and discussion on the successes of **After School Support Services** provided by Foundation Communities for ALL students in the neighborhood of their communities. We will hear about how their after school enrichment support programs are attended by over 60% of the neighborhood elementary school students. I have been amazed at the successes to come out of their programs, and I am especially impressed with how they care for the WHOLE child, providing tutoring, exercise, nutritional information, enrichment activities, and even dinner!

Sierra Vista Learning Center, 4320 S Congress Ave, Austin.

RSVP to Julia.Aguilar@foundcom.org or 512-610-7975 so they know how many to expect for lunch.

June 4: General Meeting, 1:30-3:30, CodeNEXT and Affordable Housing. We will hear from specialists in this area to help us understand how CodeNEXT maps are going to affect the development of more affordable housing in Austin.

The Sustainable Food Center, 2921 E. 17th St., Bldg C, Austin.

512-236-0074. sustainablefoodcenter.org **RSVP** to me at leamasiello@gmail.com.

June 22:

General Meeting, 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Fighting for the Protection of the Edwards Aquifer.

The director of TESPAs (Trinity Edwards Springs Protection Association) (tespatexas.org) Jim Blackburn, will discuss his research, legal pursuits, and action alerts to help keep water flowing through central Texas. See the report *Protecting Water in the Texas Hill Country*, by Jim Blackburn and much more information at this link: <http://tespatexas.org/documents-and-videos>

The Sustainable Food Center, 2921 E. 17th St., Bldg C, Austin.

512-236-0074. sustainablefoodcenter.org **RSVP** to me at leamasiello@gmail.com.

Voters Service Vice-President Retiring

Jacklyn Williams, past VP Voters Service

Please join me in welcoming **Joyce LeBombard** and **JoAnn McKenzie** our new board members taking on the responsibility for the **Voters Service Committee** to replace **June Conway** and me, **Jacklyn Williams**.



We have reorganized the larger committee into six sub committees. They are, *Voters Guide*, Candidate Forums, Voter Registration, First Vote, Voter Education and "Get Out The Vote" (GOTV). We have begun the transition and have appointed committee chairs. We are excited about our new leadership and all of the new committee members. And of course, we welcome all who want to share their gifts and talents to the cause. We are using this season to plan and strengthen our programs and activities.

Don't forget to renew your Deputy Voter Registrar certificate.

Voters Service

Joyce LeBombard, new VP Voters Service

First let me start by thanking **Jacklyn** and **June** for all of their support to **JoAnn McKenzie** and myself during this transition, and for all of their great work for Voters Service in the past. I am looking forward to their continued help and support as they mentor me and JoAnn in our new roles. I will do my best to live up to the standards they have set.



I am very excited and eager to get started. We've already had a couple of transition meetings, and I have met some of the committee chairs, but not all yet. I have either met or talked with a few organization partners, such as the Travis County Tax Office. The short-term plan is to continue with transition discussions, meet with the remaining committee chairs as soon as possible, and schedule a planning session or two to set our goals and priorities for the year.

I look forward to working with our President, the board members, the Voters Service Committee Chair members, all our partners, and all of you to make this a successful year!

Voters Registration Chair Retiring

June Conway, past Director of Voter Registration

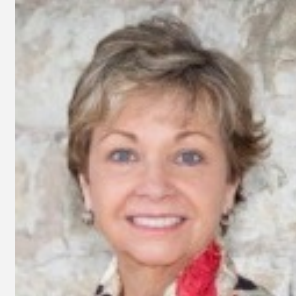
My term as Director of Voter Registration has been a real trip! We made great strides ramping up voter registration efforts, connecting with other organizations devoted to VR, and gaining outstanding support within the community. Travis County's level of voter registration and voter turnout is a standout in the entire nation. It couldn't have happened without you members who contributed to our success. You are my heroes.



Our new Voter Registration Director, **JoAnn McKenzie**, is fired up and ready to roll. We have some solid committees formed to take citizen participation from registration to education to voting. We have a host of new LWV members who have declared their interest in Voters Service still lurking in the shadows. They'll be calling on you to step up to the plate. So don't quit now! No "wait'll next year". Every young, senior, new, ho-hum citizen in Travis County needs to be inspired and no one can do it better than the League of Women Voters. It's what we do!

Voter Registration

JoAnn McKenzie, new Voter Registration Director



Travis County - For League members who are interested in volunteering to become Volunteer Deputy Registrars (VDRs), the following link provides forms and an overview of the qualifications, duties, and training schedule to become a VDR for Travis County. Training classes are offered, at no charge, the 1st Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Travis County Voter Registrar's office is located at 5501 Airport Blvd, Austin, TX 78751. Classes are 45 minutes-1 hour and you can pick up voter registration materials and forms at the end of the class.

<https://tax-office.traviscountytexas.gov/voters/volunteers> [map] In addition, VDR training will be available from 10:00 to 11:30 am, May 20 at First Unitarian Universalist Church at 4700 Grover. [map] **Sign up [here](#)** for that training session.

Williamson County -In Williamson County you may take their VDR training or, if you are certified to be a Travis County VDR, you may present your Travis County certification at the Williams County Voter Registration office, fill out and sign the requisite paperwork, and no training is required. Williamson County training classes are offered the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.. There will be NO classes on any Election Day or during Early Voting. Class size is limited so you must contact the Williamson County office (512-943-1630) to reserve a seat no later than 12:00 p.m. on the day you wish to attend training. The Williamson County Elections Department is located 301 SE Inner Loop, Suite 104, Georgetown, TX 78626 [map].

<https://www.wilco.org/Departments/Elections/Voter-Registration/Volunteer-Deputy-Registrar>

The deadline has passed for voter registration for the Saturday, May 6 Joint General and Special Election.

Reminder: VDRs certified 2015-16 ended December, 2016. In order to continue as VDRs renewal is required.

Conversations with Council Members

Lea Masiello, VP Programs

We continued to meet with City Council Members as their busy schedules permitted. We will keep setting up meetings with local legislators as they are available, so watch for more news on these opportunities to chat with the people who are working for us at City Hall and the Capitol.



At the end of this round of conversations, I would summarize our interactions with these key points:

- Our City Council Members are dedicated, hard-working, and thoroughly committed to improving the lives of the Austin Area. They focus on their districts, of course, but all demonstrate a vision that goes beyond caring for only their district.
- City Council Members are supportive of CodeNEXT. They feel that it may not be perfect, but it offers an excellent start toward charting how we develop, organized, and use neighborhoods for the common good. That said, there is going to be plenty of room for input, commentary, critiques, and recommendations. Get involved! Go to meetings in your district.
- City Council Members are very aware of the absolute dire need to provide more affordable housing in Austin.
- City Council Members have great respect for the Austin LWV and greatly appreciate our work. They also were so happy to meet with us and talk about those matters that they are working on, rather than hearing from us about what we want from them.
- **What you can do:** They really want our input, ideas, contributions to their newsletters and blogs. Write short pieces for the council member in your district. Tell him or her about the League, what we do, how we can help citizens become more informed and more participatory in our democracy.

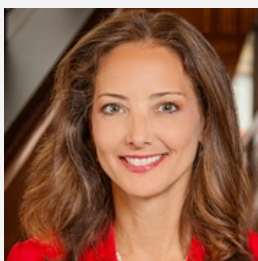


Ann Kitchen

We met with **Council Member Ann Kitchen** from District 5 on March 28. CM Kitchen's concerns are with the city plan for seniors and how to create an age-friendly Austin. She noted that CodeNEXT is the first major effort to implement the dreams of Imagine Austin. She mentioned that we need to take care of flooding, infrastructure, parks, libraries, and housing bonds that help us get to our goals for a livable Austin.

We spent time understanding the use of metrics to help track the ways in which expenses are aligned with outcomes. For example, we all want to improve mobility through Austin and in particular, safety in transportation, so we can track safety as a measurement to help visualize what is really happening as people move around the city. She feels that the League can help communities understand the maps that have been recently published. We all need to be thinking about how CodeNEXT will affect our neighborhoods, the people we work with, and the quality of life that can change with development. For example, we should pay attention to how parks will continue to exist, or be developed, in our neighborhoods.

We also spent some time discussing the hiring of a new city manager, which is a complicated process that is going to take time. Ms. Kitchen pointed out that because the City Council is elected to represent the public, the Council must make the decision about this hiring, and that the public needs to trust a new city manager who should be someone with experience in both the public and private sectors.



Kathy Tovo

We met with **Mayor Pro Tem Kathy Tovo** from District 9 on March 30. MPT Tovo indicated that affordable housing is still her number one priority especially on the issue of homelessness. She advised that the largest percentage of homeless in the city is in District 9, especially the West campus area. The City was successful in a targeted program for homeless veterans, had federal assistance, and partnered with the Apartment Association. ECHO has been working with homeless youth especially after the murder on the UT campus. The Public Health Department handles the issue of homelessness for the City and works with outside

providers. MPT Tovo helped HOST (Homelessness Outreach Street Team) get set up with the Austin Police Department, EMS and social workers in the downtown area working with women, children and youth. The results have been significant, but HOST was a pilot program which is not funded. MPT Tovo noted that some homeless people have medical and behavioral problems and are not able to hold a job. She was frustrated in getting funding for a childcare contract for the Women and Children's Center but ultimately got the money. Some homeless are employed but cannot afford a home.

Her second priority is CodeNEXT. One of the changes involves land use approval which had been done by a board or council and will now be done by an administration. The time period from start to finish for a project is shortened by provisions of CodeNEXT but there is less public participation. She indicated that many neighborhoods do not have plans. The League advised that we would like to be a key part of communications including neighborhood meetings and distribution of some type of "primer" for the Code.

MPT Tovo is working on getting hotel and motel tax revenue assigned into other City interests besides funding an Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau. She would like to see a portion of this revenue allocated to Oakwood cemetery upkeep, park repairs and other city needs.

Her budget priority is to increase Health Human Services funding.

We asked her take on local control issues with the state legislature at play. She said this would impact fair chance hiring, short term rental control, Uber-type operations, plastic bags, status of sanctuary city and especially the tax caps on property taxes. The Texas Municipal League is lobbying on behalf of several cities on the discussion of local control.

FYI: The "Motor Voter" Case

Frances McIntyre, Advocacy Director and *Voters Guide* Chair

The League of Women Voters believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed.

The Texas Civil Rights Projects reported on Monday, April 3, 2017, the following information about a victory for voting rights.



Federal judge denies state's motion to dismiss in "motor voter" case. The opinion rejects every argument made by the state.

Chief Judge Orlando Garcia of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas denied the state's motion to dismiss *Stringer v. Pablos*, TCRP's "motor voter" case.

This decision provides critical validation of the arguments advanced by the plaintiffs - disenfranchised Texas voters - who challenge voter registration processes at the Department of Public Safety under the National Voter Registration Act, or NVRA, and the U.S. Constitution.

One by one, Judge Garcia considered the state's arguments for dismissal and rejected them. Judge Garcia found the state's current procedures "inconsistent with the plain language of the NVRA," refusing to adopt "circular and self-defeating" interpretations of the NVRA offered by the defendants. Instead, the Judge expressly found that the NVRA

applies to the thousands of online transactions Texans initiated through DPS every day.

This ruling means that the Secretary of State should be registering and updating voter registrations for all of these individuals as a matter of course unless they opt out. Moreover, any alleged interest in avoiding the upfront expense in creating a modern system cannot justify "the burden imposed on voters" under the Equal Protection Clause.

From the beginning, TCRP has argued that "motor voter" failures have excluded countless eligible voters from the Texas electorate. The judge acknowledged the systemic nature of the state's actions, noting that the plaintiffs had "produced evidence that thousands of Texans submitted complaints to the state that related in some way to DPS's processing of voter registration information through its website."

Judge Garcia's decision comes on the heels of **sanctions imposed against Texas** on February 17th for causing undue delay and for repeatedly, and without justification, ignoring court orders to provide the necessary documents to move forward with the case.

"Today's opinion is a resounding victory for the countless Texas voters who have been disenfranchised by the state's failure to adhere with federal law. With this decision, we are hopeful that we can resolve the case before the 2018 election so that every eligible voter can cast a ballot that counts."

Why do I support the League of Women Voters?

Sara Groff, Development Director

I was inspired by my grandmother to join the League of Women Voters. My grandmother was active in voting rights in the 1950's and 1960's in South Texas. Among other things, she worked at the polls, drove people to vote, and was a League member. She drilled into our heads that our vote was our voice. When I felt tiny, powerless and fed up I knew I needed to join an organization that shared my views on voting. The work the League does with the *Voters Guide* and youth education and outreach are vital to giving people a voice.



I continue to support the League because of the example my father set for me. He has been active in his community longer than I have been alive and through him I saw first-hand what dedication to and belief in a stable organization can do for one's community. There are not many organizations more stable than the League of Women Voters.

In the month of May and June as mothers and fathers are honored, we ask you to honor those in your life that have inspired you to join and be active in League [by making a donation to honor those people.](#)

Your donations will go directly to improving and furthering the production of our *Voters Guide* and to help support our youth outreach/education program. You can make a one-time or set up monthly donations.

Make that one-time donation honoring someone in your life who has inspired you by

visiting the following link <http://lwvaustin.org/donate/>.

Consider monthly donations to the League. Those dollars allow the League to better plan future endeavors. If you are interested in making monthly contributions, please email development@lwvaustin.org to make arrangements.

Member Profile: Maxine Barkan

by Laurie Filipelli

Maxine Barkan has been a member of the League of Women Voters for over 67 years, having served as president of the League of Women Voters of Columbus, Ohio, and President of the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area for six years, later as chair of the Nominating and Bylaws committees.



She was the first Advocacy Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Texas, was chair of the Political Campaign Process study Issue Chair of Campaign Finance Reform and Judicial Selection. In Austin, she was on the City of Austin Arts Commission for 15 years serving as Vice Chair and Chair, six years on the board the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau, serving on the Executive Committee, then as Interim Chair. She served four terms as President of the Board of Trustees for the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin. She is President of the Hampton Park Home Owners' Association.



Among her awards: one of Ten Top Women of Columbus, Ohio, 1953, for community service as President of the League of Women Voters, given the first President's Award at a LWV-TX Convention, honored by the 2010 LWV-TX Convention celebrating her 90th birthday with the 90th birthday of the LWVUS, and honored in the 2010 LWVAA Annual Meeting for her service to the League. Other awards: the Peacemaker Award for Culture from the Dispute Resolution Center, Distinguished Service Award by the City of Austin for her work as an Arts Commissioner, recognition for her leadership with the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau. She said, "The League was a great educator for me and opened the doors to

many opportunities of service".

Maxine has been writing her memoirs for the past four years, five of which have been published as a freelance writer for a magazine called *Bend of the River*.

Maxine Barkan is a retired Registered Educational Diagnostician from Cypress-Fairbanks ISD in Houston. She earned a BA in Psychology from University of Houston and an MA in Education from Texas Woman's University. She and her husband moved to Austin from Houston 33 years ago to be near their daughter and son-in-law.

Giving to the League

Honors, Memorials and Donations

Cecelia Burke and **Charles Voss** made donations to the education fund this past month. All donations are greatly appreciated. Thanks!

Randall's Good Neighbor Program gives the Austin League a percentage of sales from members who link the League to their Remarkable Cards. Complete this [document](#) and return to any Randall's store. Our account number is 465.

Making a legacy donation to the League of Women Voters Austin Area Education Fund (LWVAAEF) in your will is then easiest way to offer support of the LWVAAEF's work for years to come. Learn how to leave your legacy and become a member of our League's Legacy Society on our [webpage](#).

Common Ground Event of Possible Interest

Joanne Richards

Event sponsor:

Common Ground for Texans

Name of event: Balancing Power Between the Feds, State, and Local: Where Do We Belong?

Date/time: Sat. May 6, 2-4 pm

Location: Yarborough Branch Library, 2200 Hancock Drive, Austin TX

Description:

Texas doesn't like to be told what to do by Congress, yet Texas is willing to exert its power over counties and cities. Where do residents of our state fit in this power struggle?

Panel participants:

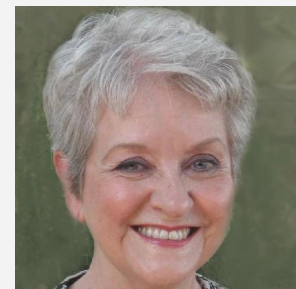
- Hon. Gina Hinojosa - State Representative
- Hon. Leslie Pool - Austin City Council
- Reggie James - Director of Lone Star Chapter, Sierra Club
- Sanford Levinson - UT School of Law

Thanks for supporting our events.

Membership Report and Interest Survey

Brenda Koegler and Judy Parken, Co-Directors Membership

Welcome New Members! And a special thank you to this month's Renewing and Sustaining members! We are grateful to Sustaining Members for their additional financial support for our local League.



Welcome, New Members:

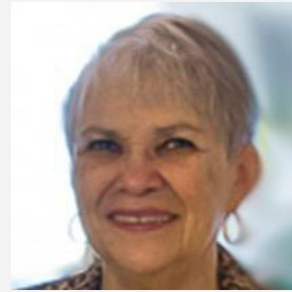
Mary Beth Foster and Maureen Mercado

Thank You, Sustaining Members:

Nancy Bene, Terrell Blodgett, Cecelia Burke, Elizabeth Cooper, Karen Hayward, Lynn (Susanne) League, Joan Owens, Mary Patrick, Martha Rogers, Gwen and Joseph Santiago, Linda Stanley, and Barbara Werth

Thank You, Renewing Members:

Britin Bostick, Nancy Busbey, Linda Friedman, Alicia and Marshall Jones, Marti Kennedy, Angela Koegler, Penelope Koo, Eliza May, Jo Reichler, Janice Williams, and Carol Wood.



As a member of the Austin League, each of you is also a member of the national and state leagues. See the links below for an abundance of educational information.

www.lwvaustin.org

www.lwvtexas.org

www.lwv.org

Member Interest Survey: If you have time to volunteer for the League (either regularly or occasionally), please complete this [Member Interest Survey](#). This information will help us identify your skills and interests, and help us connect you to League leaders.

Need more information? Visit our webpage for more information on [new memberships](#) and [membership renewals](#).

Board of Directors

[Cinde Weatherby](#)

President

[Lea Masiello](#)

VP Programs

Vacant

VP Community Relations

[Jaci Collins](#)

VP Organization

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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.

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