May 2018

Calendar

**LWV-AA Board Meeting**
Monday, May 7, 7:00 p.m.
League Conference Room #202
Members welcome.

**LWV-AA Annual Meeting**
Saturday, May 19, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Ascension Lutheran Church
6420 Hart Lane
Austin, TX 78731

It's time to Reconnect, Network, and Enjoy a Saturday morning with Like-Minded Friends! In conjunction with the League's annual business meeting, the Board of Directors provides the entire membership with an Annual Workbook. The Workbook is available to download [here](#).

If you would like a printed version of the Workbook, call the League office at 512.451.6710 or email LWVAustin@LWVAustin.org to request a copy.

The 2017 Annual Meeting minutes are available [here](#).

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
The League's progress and significant contributions of lifetime members.

Votes to be taken during the Annual Meeting include:

- Adoption of local programs
- Adoption of the 2018-19 budget
- Election of officers and directors
- Election of a chair and two members of the nominating committee

The Board encourages you to make time to read the Workbook prior to the meeting and asks that you bring the workbook and your questions/comments to the meeting. You will also be presented with information and opportunities regarding personal involvement in League activities. Fabulous cinnamon rolls, fruit and coffee will be served. Look for the LWV signs and volunteers directing the meeting parking.

Date: Saturday, May 19, 2018
Time: 10:00am-Noon
Location: Ascension Lutheran Church, 6420 Hart Lane, Austin, TX

Please RSVP [HERE](#) for the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Cinde Weatherby, President

**What's Our Next Big Thing?**

Local Leagues across the nation are known for their reliable comprehensive nonpartisan Voters Guides. We do them before each election - asking the same questions to all candidates running for each elected office. You can depend on them! The one now available [online](#) provides information for the smaller Travis and Williamson Counties cities and several school districts for the Saturday May 5th election.

Immediately after the Local Election May 5th, you will find the 2018 Primary Runoff Election Voters Guide covering each of the races voters will decide in the May 22nd election to set the November general election ballot. You can depend on it!

But, we are forever amping up our game! The League's next 'Big Thing' is the Civic Engagement Alliance (CEA). We are working with Travis County's Voter Registration Division to make it convenient for every eligible citizen to register to vote and easily receive election information. We will be offering this service in Williamson County as well.

In this new program, we offer businesses of any size, schools, governmental entities, nonprofits, neighborhood associations and religious institutions a way to make voter registration routine.

It's all about "on demand" support to those joining the CEA. Our aim is to meet the goal of increasing citizen participation in our government. Research shows that communities with strong civic activity have higher employment rates, stronger schools, better physical
The CEA program began as an idea of former Register and Vote Committee co-chair **JoAnn McKenzie** working with Travis County Voter Registration Outreach & Training Coordinator **Matt Flores, Jr.** League Development Director **Melissa Crijns’** professional skills also shaped the program. New League member **Emily Cash** is now leading its official launch and expansion as the first CEA Coordinator.

**How does it work?**

We will provide companies and other organizations with voter registration supplies and offer supply replenishment. Among other things, we'll help plan registration events and support them with our Volunteer Deputy Registrars (VDRs) and also assist in getting employees or others certified as VDRs. We expect participating employers to offer new employees voter registration forms and information in their "new hire" packets.

**Why is this a League priority?**

More than 125 people move into the Austin area each day, and many more move around within the region. These new residents have come from other states where voter registration is normally much more accessible and definitely done differently. Reaching citizens in their work place or through some other organization, on an ongoing basis, should provide a greater response to the need than the random interaction with our VDRs at events.

We are also looking at other ways to target our outreach to citizens in areas with the least level of voting engagement. More on that in the future. Our creative volunteers are working smarter and making a bigger impact than ever before.

All of our initiatives are 100 percent volunteer-driven, and our continually growing membership is eager to take on these tasks. It is my distinct pleasure to have served as President of the League for the past two years. As I leave this position May 31, 2018, I take satisfaction knowing the League is as robust and meaningful as it was 99 years ago when founded by those determined suffragettes.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

We have immediate need for volunteers for the following opportunities. If interested, please contact Joyce LeBombard at VP-votersService@lwvaustin.org or call 512-585-4090.

**First Vote! Presenter, Assistants, and/or VDRs:** Educate and register high school and college students. Be familiar with program presentation materials and make presentations. Lead student activities such as voting machines demonstrations or looking up voting information using an internet device. VDRs - register students!

**Register & Vote Volunteer (R&V) Co-Chair:** Lead the way for all our Voter Registration and Get-Out-The-Vote efforts. Develop and plan our R&V events, working
with R&V Co-Chair Michael Keller and R&V Volunteer Coordinators. Develop and grow our team of Volunteer Deputy Registrars (VDRs) and other volunteers to help ensure we are the best of the best. Develop working relationships with internal and external organizations on events, including Travis County Voter Registration, ADAPT, ACC, etc. Track events to determine effectiveness for future planning needs. Could possibly be board director position (optional).

**Register & Vote Volunteer Coordinators:** Connect VDRs with events. Coordinate with Committee Co-Chairs on event leads (who/what/where/when/whys). Set up events in SignUpGenius software and send to appropriate volunteer lists to recruit Event Leads and VDRs, possibly including other organizations (Travis County Voter Registration, etc.).

**Register & Vote Event Leads:** Own a specific event. Ensure a specific event of your choosing is appropriately staffed, set-up and take-down is handled, and be available in person or by cell during the event for any questions or issues.

**Register & Vote Committee:** Engage citizens to register and to vote! Get involved by responding to a SignupGenius scheduler request and choosing an event time slot! Events may require VDR certification but some may not.

**Special Disability Registration Effort:** Lead effort to increase voter registration of citizens with disabilities. Own relationship with the ADAPT/REV UP Texas organization to assist in their voter registration/GOTV efforts and help with National Disability Voter Registration Week (July 16-20, 2018). Create additional outreach projects such as targeting potential citizens with disabilities using the disabled driver license database of those not yet registered to vote.

**Office Corps:** This is a group of local League members, just like you! Each member of the Office Corps comes to our League office once a month for 3 hours, to handle mail, phone, membership payments and donations. A few times a year, the Office Corps helps with special projects like answering phones during early voting and Election day. We provide full training on all office activities. Schedule changes are easily accommodated. We have openings for the 4th MONDAY and 5th MONDAY of each month starting in May 2018. Please send your contact information to Debbi Voss at davoss50@gmail.com or call 713-826-1580.

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**Voters Service**
Joyce LeBombard, VP Voters Service

**Voters Guide**

The *Voters Guide* for the May 5th Local Elections is available now in both English and Spanish on our website and at VOTE411.org. The *Voters Guide* for the May 22nd Primary Runoff Elections will be available beginning May 6th.

**Register & Vote**

Our big event this month was the National Day of Action Against Gun Violence in Schools on April 20th where we participated in three events:

- **Texas Capitol Walkout:** Michael Keller and Carol King coordinated with students planning this event to provide voter registration for people attending. Informal reports indicate more than 4,000 participated.
McNeil High School: We were asked by students planning their walkout to provide voter registration. Once we had permission to be on school grounds from school administration, we gladly accepted and **Mollie Snow** coordinated this event. Our own **Maria Milner** gave an inspiring speech about the importance and history of voting.

Kealing Middle School: We were invited to participate in a series of panel discussions throughout the day. Students had worked on activities for several weeks to develop questions on a wide range of topics which included gun safety. **Maureen Mercado** developed and handed out information cards on how students could contact their legislators even though they are not old enough to vote. I represented LWV-AA on the panel along with Texas Gun Sense, ACLU, Austin Police Department, and several local and state representatives.

**Michael Keller**, R&V co-Chair, held a training and organizing session for a new effort we are piloting. This effort, currently called Door-to-Door (D2D), does a targeted outreach in extremely low registration or low voter turnout neighborhoods. Nine people participated in the training.

First Vote!

Our efforts to educate and register youths continues. We held two First Vote! programs:

**Travis High School (AISD)** - This was an intensive two days as we did 12 First Vote! presentations for about 180 students. Members of JOLT joined us for some sessions and spoke to the students about their experience being a politically active Latinx and the importance of having their voices heard. We registered 45 students and 19 of them opted-in to receive election reminders.

**Success High School (RRISD)** - We did a First Vote! presentation and registration at this school last fall and they asked us back! As this is an 'Alternative' high school, we worked with the teachers to modify our program to better meet their students' learning needs. We presented to about 60 students and registered 32 with 18 opting-in to receive election reminders.

To learn more about First Vote! click [HERE](#).

**Thank you** to the following League members for their hard work on Voters Service programs: **Katherine Allen, Emily Cash, Anne Clark, Jaci Collins, Janice Cooke, Karen Eikner, Aletha Huston, Rachael Foster, Carol King, Frances McIntyre, JoAnn McKenzie, Maureen Mercado, Ida Miller, Nora Mullarkey Miller, Maria Milner, Becky Mullan, Molly Snow, Gretchen Otto, Donna Pardue, Joan Reames, Paula Traffas** and **Cinde Weatherby**. I also extend my thanks to JOLT members **Tess Ortega, Pili Gyasi**, and **Gabriela Garza** for walking through the registration application and talking with the students about their experience which made it even more impactful. An extra big THANK YOU and WAY TO GO to **Laura McDonough** for taking a leap of faith and being courageous enough to step up to do two presentations after only observing twice.

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**Mobility in the Austin Region: Get Informed and Get Involved**
Lea Masiello, VP Programs and Britin Bostick

**Action:** complete the survey for the [Austin Strategic Mobility Plan](#) to provide input and help develop a new way of getting around this ever-expanding city.

We hosted an excellent mobility panel program which featured a number of experts. The panel members offered insights and information regarding mobility needs and planning underway in the Austin area. This session -- "A New Equation for Transportation and Accessibility: New Ideas, Designs and Systems Equal More Opportunities" -- was April 8, 2018 in the Sustainable Food Center. It featured speakers from the City of Austin's City Council, Transportation and Public Works Departments, and Capital Metro. LWV-AA's Mobility Committee Chair Britin Bostick, who is also LWV-Texas Transportation Issue Chair, introduced and moderated the event.

Details are available in the "Transportation Forum Recap" summary [ HERE](#). This information can assist you in forming your opinions and suggestions leading to our consensus on the mobility position update. Positions determine our advocacy on City and CapMetro policy and funding decisions, as well as public propositions on issuing bonds.

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**Membership Report and Interest Survey**

Brenda Koegler, Membership Director

**Welcome New Members!** Hope you have had the chance to attend one of our new member monthly coffees. We hold new member coffees to serve as a mini-orientation to help you get involved as soon as possible. If you have not had a chance to attend one or would like another opportunity to learn more about the League, please let me know. 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:** Lisa Arronge, Ryann Collier, Delaney Harness, Epiphany Kidwell, Alma Kuttruff, Pete League, Michele Missner, Taylor Phebus, Ricci and Troy Rodriguez, Ruth Rubio, Erica Santiago

**Thank You, Sustaining Members:** Nancy Bene, Nancy Bessent, Terrell Blodgett, Katherine and Tom Canby, Ryann Collier, Karen Hayward, Hal and Judy Jennings, Shelley Koegler, Alma Kuttruff, Kimberly Levinson, JoAnn McKenzie, Michele Missner, Ann Peticolas, Taylor Phebus, Jo Reichler, Martha Rogers, Gail Rothe and Myron Hess, Gwen Santiago, Barbara Werth

**Thank You, Renewing Members:** Kassie Barroquillo, Sara Groff, Lynn League, Tita Maxwell, Joan Owens, Karen Rankin, Diana Spain

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:** We are very interested in seeing what in particular interests you and why you joined the League. Click on [Select Your Action Involvement](#) to complete the survey. Please fill it out and hit submit. We will then connect you to the
In Memorium

Pat Henley, formerly of Austin, passed away in August 2017 at age 86. After living here for more than 30 years, Pat left Austin in 2007 to be closer to family. Previous to leaving Austin, Pat was LWV-AA president from 1995 - 1997 and served in many other League capacities such as co-chair of the Evening Unit and member of the Education Committee. We always enjoyed her spirited and fun personality!

Sylvia B. Lester (August 16, 1915 - March 21, 2018) 102 years

Sylvia Lester, long-time member of LWV-AA, passed away March 21, 2018, in Westminster Manor where she lived from 2001 until her death. Sylvia is remembered as being the first of our members to receive a 50-year membership recognition from the Austin League. She was born in Little Rock, Arkansas. Sylvia completed her BA in English in 1936 at S.M.U. and worked with a publishing company in New York before her marriage. Sylvia and husband, William, moved to Austin in 1942. William retired from U.T. in 1972 as Professor Emeritus. They had two children, Edith and Paul.

Sylvia was active in book clubs, the League of Women Voters, was a legislation proof reader during sessions of the Texas Legislature, volunteered at Breckenridge Hospital, and belonged to a "sewing group" which was more a discussion of public affairs and family than sewing.

Sylvia is remembered as always interested in and concerned for others and was uncritically accepting of all. We were proud to have her as a member.

Thank you for supporting the League!

Memorial/Honorary: In memory of SSG Job M. Regoux. Eric Santiago

Donations: Joan Owens, Kate & Tom Canby, Frances McIntyre, Kristina Trotta, Edna Fuller, Dolly & Larry Abraham

Voters Guide: Kay Taebel

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 in your will is the easiest way to offer support of the League's work for years to come. Learn how to leave your legacy and become a member of our League’s Legacy Society.
Common Ground for Texans Upcoming Meetings

Common Ground for Texans invites everyone to its May meeting, "Criminal Justice Reform: Can We Find Common Ground?"

When: Saturday, May 5, 2:00 - 4:00 PM
Where: Wildflower Unitarian Universalist Church, 1314 E. Oltorf St, Austin, TX 78704
PLEASE NOTE our changed location for this month!


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**Board of Directors**

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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.*