November 2014

Table of Contents

League Calendar
Coffee and Conversation about Public Education Funding
Holiday Brunch and New Member Recognition
The Spanish Voters Guide: Your Contributions Made It Possible
The Voters Guide: What a Production!
Maxine’s Musings - Lest We Forget: A Review of Rights and Freedoms
LWVUS and LWVTX Presidents Visit
Membership Report: Interest Survey, Brunch
Board Contact List
Webmaster Report: 11,700 Downloads of Voters Guide
Education Committee Report
Accolades
Honors and Memorials
"Like" Our League on Facebook
"Follow" Our League on Twitter
Shop at Randalls and Support LWVAA
Open Compass Bank Account and Support LWVAA
Leave a Legacy to Your League

LWVAA Calendar

Mon., Nov. 3, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting, League Office, 1011 W. 31st St. Members.

Tues., Nov. 4, 7 am - 7 pm, Election Day, Travis and Williamson County residents can vote at any polling place in their county.

Sun., Nov. 16, 2:00 - 4:00 pm, Public Education Funding: Coffee and Conversation, Trinity United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway, 78751. Open to the public.

Mon., Dec. 1, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting, League Office, 1011 W. 31st St. Members.

Sat., Dec. 13, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm, Holiday Brunch and New Member Recognition, Clubhouse, 6527 Valleyside Road, 78731, Open to members and those considering membership.

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

Sunday Afternoon Coffee and Conversation "Public Education Funding" with a Practitioner, Policy Expert, and Politician

Board Contact List

Carol Olewin
President

Mary Cullinane
1st VP Program
Stewart Snider
2nd VP Community Relns
Judy Clack
3rd VP Organization and Voter Editor
Stacey Mather
4th VP Voters Service
Peggy Stewart
Secretary
Gwen Santiago
Treasurer
Judy Parken
Membership
Jaci Collins

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.
The League is hosting a Sunday afternoon coffee and conversation, open to the public, about what’s in store for the future of public education in Texas. Leading the conversation will be **Edna Ramon Butts**, with the Austin Independent School District (the practitioner); **Daniel Casey** of Moak, Casey and Associates (the policy expert); and **Donna Howard**, District 48 Representative of the Texas House of Representatives (the politician). Moderator, freelance journalist **Kimberly Reeves**, will ask questions related to public education and education funding developed by League members. Join the conversation as we explore the issues that drive the delivery of public education in our schools.

**Sunday, November 16**
2:00 - 4:00 pm
Trinity United Methodist Church
4001 Speedway, 78751

**The Public Education Practitioner: Edna Ramon Butts**
Edna Ramon Butts is the Director of Intergovernmental Relations and Policy Oversight in the Austin Independent School District. Prior to joining the Austin ISD staff, Edna served as General Counsel and Senior Policy Advisor for Senator Kirk Watson, monitoring and developing policy in the areas of public and higher education, as well as immigration, housing and jurisprudence. Ms. Butts also served on a number of boards, including Communities in Schools of Central Texas, Any Baby Can, Girl Scouts Lone Star Council, Reading is Fundamental (RIF), YMCA, and the Success by Six Leadership. As the Director of Intergovernmental Relations and Policy Oversight, Edna is instrumental in helping Central Texas’ largest public school district deliver public education to more than 85,000 students.

**The Public Education Expert: Daniel Casey**
Daniel Casey literally wrote the book on public school finance as co-author of *The Basics of Texas Public School Finance*. Dan has participated in a wide range of school finance and consulting activities, from Associate Executive Director for Research and Development and Director of Governmental Relations for the Texas Association of School Boards. Currently, he serves as a senior consultant with the Fast Growth School Association and the Texas School Alliance. He is also recognized as one of the state’s leading experts on school district property taxes, economic development abatements, and freeport exemptions. As a founding partner of Moak, Casey and Associates, Dan is recognized as an expert in Texas school finance and accountability.

**The Public Education Politician: Donna Howard**
Donna Howard has been a member of the Texas House of Representatives serving the people of District 48 since 2006. In the legislature, Donna is a recognized advocate for public education. Outside of the state capital, Donna has served education as a member of the Eanes ISD board, and was certified as a Master School Trustee by the Texas Association of School Boards. She co-founded the parent organization Advocates for Eanes Schools and helped form the Texas Education Crisis Coalition, a grassroots group of parents, business owners and community leaders working together to tackle the public school finance issue. She is currently a board member of the Expanding Horizons Foundation, supporting low-income housing and education.

**The Moderator: Kimberly Reeves**
Kimberly Reeves is a freelance journalist with specialties in government, education, and business. Formerly she worked for the Austin Chamber of Commerce, KXAN, the Quorum Report, the Austin Chronicle, and News 8 Austin as well as some stations in Dallas.

Wow! People are interested in what our League is doing!

In the **first thirteen days** that the **Voters Guide** has been available for download, an average of **890 visitors a day** have come to our website, with the peak day being **Oct. 20** at almost **1,700 visitors**. That contrasts with **160 per day** over the month of September. There have been **11,700 downloads** of the English Voters Guide but only **100 downloads** of the Spanish version.

We posted six news items on our web page (**lwvaustin.org**) and created four new web pages. We also made it easier for people to "like" and "share" our web pages on social media.

Speaking of social media, our **Facebook** presence has taken a significant step up, thanks to a lot of interest in the **Voting App** and our other election-related activities - like the fifteen candidate forums.
Holiday Brunch and New Member Recognition

The League membership is invited to a brunch in honor of our new members and those who are considering joining our League. It is an opportunity to meet our newest members and learn of their interests while we also introduce them to the "What the League Does." It is also a chance to catch up with friends and find out about future League activities. All are invited. Bring friends who want to learn about the League.

Saturday, December 13
10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Clubhouse of the North Hills Club Townhome Association
6527 Valleyside RD, 78731
Between North Hills and Hart Lane, just west of MOPAC

We could use lots of help. If you're willing, call or text Judy Parken at 512-657-4474.

The Spanish Voters Guide: Your Contributions Made It Possible

We thank our League members and friends again for the wonderful financial support provided to allow us to translate each of those 70,996 words of the Voters Guide into Spanish for the first time. As of October 27, we received almost enough in contributions to cover the Spanish translation but we are still short of covering the expenses for the printing of these Guides. To help us cover the printing costs, go to http://lwvaustin.org/donate/ to make a tax deductible contribution. Those contributions will help defray the cost of the 10,000 additional English and Spanish copies of this record-breaking 56-page compendium of candidate and issue information.

We thank again the following individuals and organizations that have already contributed: Austin Monitor, Maxine Barkan, Nancy Bene, Steven and Vicki Blachman, Mary Blackstock, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Texas, Terrell Boldgett, Pamela and Jeffery Brown, Central Texas OB/GYN Association, Judy Clack, June Conway, Mary Cullinane, Amber Elenz, Kristin Fine, Barbara Frandsen, Leif Fredin, Heidi Gibbons, Vikki Goodwin, Loran Gutt, Kara Hall, Patty Jantho, Maria Johnson, Melissa Jones, Julia Kirby, Susan Kleinmann, Regina Lawrence, Ellen Loeb, Rosemary Morris, Catherine Hall, Carol Olevin, Arnold and Margit Orange, Ham and Joanne Richards, Lynda Rife, Sara Robertson, Mary Sue Rose, Anne Roussos, Gwendolyn Santiago, Kay Taebel, Carrie Tilton-Jones, UT Votes, Cinde Weatherly, Dianne Wheeler, and Carol Wood.

In addition to its appearance in the Austin American-Statesman on October 19, LWVAA also distributed 10,000 additional copies in English or Spanish. League members and non-League individuals, active in targeted communities, distributed Guides widely throughout the city. Copies went to traditional venues, such as Travis County Tax Offices, Austin and area libraries, Austin Community College, senior organizations and residential facilities, recreation centers and churches that have previously requested extra copies. Spanish version Guides were also targeted to

and the publication of our Voters Guide. This is helping us reach a younger audience (51% ages 25 to 44), though we are very weak in the 18 to 25 group. From 58 to 490 individuals viewed our Facebook posts on the fifteen candidate forums while 724 viewed the last post about the Voters Guide. We peaked at 6,824 views about The Voting App going live.

We did experience a problem with PayPal this month, so there was about a week where no donations or dues were able to be processed. We suspect that a change in our bank account number caused the problem and don't anticipate a recurrence.

Please let me know if you have any news items or information you want to be posted.

~ Hal Jennings, Webmaster, hal@jenningsweb.us

Our League's Education Committee, in partnership with the Austin Council of Parent Teacher Associations, moderated three AISD school board candidate forums in October: Districts 1 and 4 on October 9, District 6 and 7 on October 14, and At-Large District 9 on October 16. All sixteen candidates vying for a position on the Austin School Board were invited to attend. Each event attracted a number of citizens interested in hearing candidates' positions and priorities. KUT's Kate McGee attended and reported on all three forums.
health clinics and other non-profit organizations, coffee shops, bakeries, restaurants, recreation centers and libraries. Most Guides were distributed by the first day of Early Voting, October 20.

A special thank you to each person playing a part in distribution! Assisting with pickup or delivery were Alicia Kubacak, Amy Kamp, Barbara Werth, Ann Teich, Betty Owens, Courtney Arnold, Dianne Wheeler, Frances McIntyre, Geneva Lenz, Irene Sonnen, Jaci Collins, Jacklyn Williams, Jan Steele, Jan Williams, Jo Reichler, Judy Clack, Judy Parken, Karen Haschke, Marilyn Rogers, Nan Clayton, Sandra Fox, Shelly Baumgartner, Suzy Reid, Terrell Blodgett, Alicia Del Rio, Ruth Koenig, Nancy Neavel, Brigid Hall, Martha Cotera, Mary Cullinane, and Cinde Weatherby. Our new LWVAA member Aileen McMurrer (also full-time staffer for the LWVTX office) fielded requests for our Guide and was helpful in responding to calls from the public for additional copies.

~ Cinde Weatherby, Development Chair, cindeweatherby@gmail.com

The Voters Guide: What a Production!

The Voters Guide was, by far, the largest one ever produced and, for the first time, was also translated into Spanish. 3,000 Spanish Guides were distributed to various places where we thought they would be most useful. (7,000 English Guides were distributed.) With such a large (56 pages) Voters Guide being translated into Spanish, the costs of our Voters Guides exceeded our fundraising goal substantially.

Since the Austin American-Statesman publishes our Guides and each of their subscribers gets a copy, we feel we have reached maximum coverage in the five counties they distribute to (Travis, Williamson, Hays, Bastrop and Caldwell). We covered all of their elections. We will probably not have another Voters Guide that will be that long, since the major contributor to the length was the Austin City Council races, which had 78 candidates. The City Council will have staggered terms from now on so we’ll be electing council members for half of the districts rather than all ten at one time.

It really takes a village (in this case a League village) to produce and distribute these Guides. Here are the folks that deserve a great big hug. First, my right hands: Jaci Collins and Donna Pauler. Then, many, many other Leaguers who helped with research, phone calls, bundling, fundraising, and delivery: Judy Clack, Anne Clark, June Conway, Diane Davis, Brigid Hall, Nancy Neavel, Margit Orange, Jo Reichler, Suzy Reid, Joanne Richards, Anne Roussos, Gwen Santiago, Lupe Sosa, The Office Corps, Cinde Weatherby, Barbara Werth, and Dianne Wheeler.

~ Frances McIntyre, Voters Guide Editor, mcintyre.frances@gmail.com

Maxine's Musings - Lest We Forget: A Review of Rights and Freedoms

I gave a sermon recently at my church about the right of women to vote. Although I have written some of this in my musings before, I thought election time was a good time for a review.

I note that many people commenting on the right to vote say it's our constitutional right. There was no constitutional right to vote in the 1789 Constitution. The only provision was to enable

The Education Committee met on October 19 and quickly shifted its focus to the November 16 General Membership Meeting. The committee has organized an informative and educational opportunity for League members and the public to get a preview of the upcoming legislative session with a focus on public education. See the article above.

If you would like to join this committee, contact me. We'll resume our monthly meetings in January.

~ Laura Sheridan, Chair, Education Committee, lasheridan@sbcglobal.net

Accolades

Brigid Hall and June Conway
Brigid and June spoke at the grand opening of the Women’s Community Center of Central Texas, 1704 San Antonio Street on Oct. 4. They relayed information about the history and mission of the League of Women Voters, our studies, voting and voter registration, student memberships, and "The Voting App."

Nancy Neavel
Nancy touted our English and Spanish Voters Guide on Oct. 1 in a Letter to the Editor in the Austin American-Statesman: "The League of Women Voters-Austin Area will be translating, publishing and printing the Voters Guides in Spanish as well as English. The guides will be available in the American-Statesman and online. After Oct. 19 copies will be available at libraries and other locations."

Judy Jennings
Judy argued that Texas’ Voter ID law obstructs the basic right to vote in a Letter to the Editor in the Austin American-Statesman on Oct. 21: "Voting is a constitutional right, and for those unable to purchase an ID, imposing the requirement on everyone interferes with that right."
the states to elect their representatives to the House of Congress. This meant those who were "free persons," who owned property on which they paid taxes could vote. That, by definition, meant white men. It excluded Indians who were not taxed, the well-known "three-fifths of all other persons" meaning black slaves, and no mention was made of women.

The Constitution's use of the words "people" and "persons" up to the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920 did not mean women, black or white, none of whom were considered citizens in the Constitutional sense. The Bill of Rights also did not include women. Not until 1870 with the passage of the 15th Amendment were some of the injustices alleviated by permitting the "right of citizens to vote regardless of race, color, or condition of servitude." Still, no voting for women.

It all began with Abigail Adams in the 18th century urging Congress and her husband to grant full citizenship to women with the right to vote, to be able to obtain an education, and to own property. The seminal march to equality occurred in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848 with the Seneca Falls Convention organized to discuss the civic and political rights of women. This past July 2014 marked the 166th anniversary of that Convention. Organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, the Seneca Falls Convention was where the women's suffrage movement took root. It was Elizabeth who prepared a Declaration of Sentiments, patterned after the Declaration of Independence. It listed 18 injustices in which males largely controlled females. Among a number of resolutions was this: Resolved: that it is the duty of the women of this country to secure to themselves their scared right to elective franchise. The resolution caused a great deal of controversy among the attendants but was finally passed by a narrow margin.

Thus began the long struggle beginning with Susan B. Anthony who was brave enough to vote in the 1872 presidential election, then considered a criminal act for which she was jailed and fined $100. Most of the women in the 19th century were activists who were jailed, shockingly beaten, and brutally treated. By the 20th century, our own Carrie Chapman Catt believed compromise, as opposed to actions of the previous activists, was the key to victory. Her efforts to visit congressmen, write articles, and give talks finally resulted in the adoption of the 19th Amendment. Her tactics laid the groundwork for the way we in the League of Women Voters today follow her pattern for education and advocacy.

~ Maxine Barkan, Past President, mbarkan@austin.rr.com

LWVUS and LWVTX Presidents Visit Austin

Elisabeth MacNamara, President of LWVUS, and Elaine Wiant, President of LWVTX, visited Austin on October 14-15. Jacklyn Williams, LWVAA member and member of the LWVTX board coordinated their visit and provided these photos.

MacNamara and Wiant met with Travis County elections officials: Bruce Elfant, Travis County Tax Honors and Memorials

To make a donation in honor of or in memory of a League member, click here for the form. Then mail with your donation to the LWVAA Office, 1011 W. 31st St., Austin, TX 78705.

"Like" Our League on Facebook

It's so easy to follow our League on Facebook. Thanks 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.
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 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.
MacNamara and Elfant were interviewed by Paul Brown of "Capital Tonight" on Time Warner Cable News during the October 20 episode. Grace Chimene, LWVAA member and member of the LWVTX board, organized visits with committees of the Legislature at the Capital.

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

### Membership Report: Interest Survey and Brunch

**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.

**Membership Brunch and Party:** Plan to come to our New Member Recognition and Holiday Party on Sat., Dec. 13, 10:30 am. We'll honor our new members, introduce them to the League, enjoy brunch, and socialize with everyone present. See the article above.

**New Members:** Eight more individuals have joined our ranks as new League members: Julia Bradley, Gigi Edwards Bryant, Kasie Joseph, Carolyn Kerr, Lea Masiello, Elizabeth and Ryan Nielsen, and Shannon Sutherland. A warm welcome to each of you. As a member of the Austin League, each of you is 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, $53 goes to the LWVTX and the LWVUS, and only $7 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 15 sustaining members: Maxine Barkan, Shelly Baumgartner, Gigi Edwards Bryant, Judy Clack, Dana DeBeauvoir, Lucy and Gary Gibbs, Vikki and Bob Goodwin, Lea Masiello, Elizabeth and Ryan Nielsen, Judy and Ed Parken, and Peggy Stewart. We are grateful for your additional financial support for our local League.

Have you opened an account at BBVA Compass Bank in the last 12 months? If so, they will make a $50 contribution to the Austin League of Women Voters. Just email your name (no account numbers) to our treasurer, Gwen Santiago, gsantiago@austin.rr.com.

Compass Bank also pays the League a small percentage for Internet and phone transactions. For information, contact Paul Sicotte at Compass Bank, 512-421-5741.

Leave a Legacy to Your League

Making a legacy donation to the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area Education Fund in your
Thank You, Renewing Members: Many thanks to the following nine members who also renewed this month: Shay Blankenship, Adriana Cox, Linda Friedman, Cindy Hintikka, Betsy Singleton, Karen Swenson and Ken Cauthern, Amy Taylor, and Doris Warlick. 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 amounts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Household</th>
<th>Student</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustaining Dues</td>
<td>$ 100.00</td>
<td>$ 150.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Dues</td>
<td>$ 60.00</td>
<td>$ 90.00</td>
<td>$ 20.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact me anytime with your League questions.
~Judy Parken, Membership Chair, japarken@aol.com, 512-502-0278.

will is among the easiest ways to offer support of the LWVAEF'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, a charitable organization formed 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 codicil to include the LWVAAEF.

After you've added the League, please email the Austin League office, lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org, so we can list you as a member of our League's Legacy Society.