November 2016

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LWVAA Calendar

Monday, November 7, 4:00 pm. Board Meeting, League Conference Room, 1011 W. 31st., Austin Members.

Tuesday, November 8, Election Day.

Monday, December 5, 4:00 pm. Board Meeting, League Conference Room, 1011 W. 31st., Austin Members.

Saturday, December 10. New Member Coffee. time/place TBA

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

From the President

Voting reminders

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

Cinde Weatherby
President
Lea Masiello
1st VP Program vacancy
2nd VP Community Relations
Jaci Collins
3rd VP Organization
Jacklyn Williams
4th VP Voters Service
If you read this before Friday November 4, and haven't voted, Early Voting is still open but then the polls go dark from November 5 until the Election Day November 8! No excuses, you need to vote and persuade your family and friends too. Research shows if you ask someone to go vote, they listen and act.

**Know before you vote!**
In Travis County it's simple: go to

**VoteTravis**
1. Put in your name and birthdate, and up pops a list of close-by polling places (including wait time) and an icon to your very own personal ballot!
2. Before heading to the polls, print out your personal ballot to take with you and use the *LWV Austin Voters Guide* to help you decide on the many races. If you still can't decide about an Austin City Council, ACC Board, or the AISD at-large race, listen directly from candidates, in videos of our candidate forums at [www.LWVAustin.org](http://www.LWVAustin.org) - just choose the drop-down menu item under "Voter Info" for "Candidate Forums."

**Need a ride to the polls?**
You have multiple free or low cost opportunities to get a ride. Ride CapMetro free on Election Day. Yellow Cab and some rideshare services are offering free or reduced rides too. Individuals are also volunteering their time. Check out the details [here](http://www.LWVAustin.org) and [here](http://www.LWVAustin.org). Still can't find a ride, give us a call at the LWV Austin office at 512- 451-6710.

**Election Thanksgiving**
I'm guessing most of you will be most grateful and thankful just to have this year's general election over! I wouldn't disagree. But, I've got a long list of other thanks:

- The many League volunteers who spent long hours doing their best to Make Democracy Work
  - Producing the *Voters Guide*
  - Registering a record number of new and updated voters
  - Conducting candidate forums in a civil setting without discord
  - Assisting newly hatched local ad hoc groups who share our goals, such as the Children's Defense Fund/LWV-TX/Las Comadres Voter Navigator Project, TechVotes, GRITO, and Take 5 to Vote
- The LWV-TX Board and staff for developing and expanding GOTV materials and our online presence
- Our amazing Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector/Voter Registrar Bruce Elfant and his dedicated Voter Registration Office for again shattering registration records
- Our wonderful Travis County Clerk Dana DeBeauvoir and her Elections Department who offer the easiest and most convenient poll experience possible and improve poll place information each year
- The AISD staffs who staged an impressive Mock Presidential Election in most of the district's schools working with County and League support
- For the dedicated work of the organizations who lead the fight and work with us directly to make voting available to all Texas citizens and also protection of the ballot box and polling place
  - Texas Civil Rights Project
  - The Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights
  - The Brennan Center for Civil Justice at NYU Law School

**Final Thoughts**

Special thanks to Cindy Weatherby, Hal Jennings and Cindy Schaufenbuel for carrying on what feels like a media blitz during this historic election.

Look for improvements in the VOTER format in January.

~Charlotte Slack
Communications
VP-CommunityRelations@LWVAustin.org
979-255-1680

**Voter Registration Update**

There were 15 Voter Registration events in October with a wrap up of 451 potential voters captured.

So now be sure to VOTE!
No matter the results of this or any election, LWV remains resolute. The more people vote, the more attention they receive from those elected. Every election has winners and losers, but the true winners are those who have the opportunity to vote and register their, hopefully informed, opinions about how they are governed.

Whether you're happy with the election results or want to spit nails, take a listen to some wise advice from someone we all dearly miss - Ms. Molly Ivins. Check out What Would Molly Say?

Happy Thanksgiving!

~ Cinde Weatherby, President
President@LWVAustin.org

Programs Post-Election: Education, Education, Education!

The Role of Education in Voter Participation
Election Day will come and go quickly, and we all hope that we have, in some way, contributed to "getting out the vote." But our work on "getting out the vote" is not finished once the election is over; instead, we will only shift our focus a bit to consider how education is key to people becoming committed to registering and voting in all elections. Our membership has indicated an ongoing interest in topics related to education. Members are also still enthusiastic about the "Ladders of Opportunity" programs which focus on broader socio-economic aspects of life in Austin. These two areas will be combined for an interesting set of discussions in 2017.

"Ladders of Opportunity" programs and Education
We will begin our "ladders of opportunity" programs after the election to learn about ways in which education in Austin is already helping young people develop into community-conscious, voting adults. While we focus on successful educational actions already in place, we will explore what else can be done in Austin to increase educational success. LWV Austin has previously been a leader in studying education, and we will continue this tradition as we consider both the larger picture of education in Austin, such as the overall effectiveness of the AISD, Austin Community College and specific, innovative programs, as well as issues such as the integration of technology into the curriculum at all levels.

Unit Meetings
Our membership indicated in surveys last year that it would be great to have more unit meetings, small-group meetings in homes and libraries (or other public spaces) to discuss topics we care about. Unit meetings have, in the past, included both morning and evening times to help accommodate people's schedules. We have also occasionally had speakers at unit meetings. Unit meetings give us a chance to discuss topics in depth, as well as spend time together in small groups, getting to know each other better.

Possible Topics: We can explore these kinds of questions in unit meetings:

- What is the current graduation rate in the AISD, surrounding school districts and Austin Community College? What factors seem to contribute to higher or lower rates?
• What is the current rate of students going on to higher education of all kinds?
  What are schools doing to help students find the right post-graduation programs?
• How is Austin Community College working with local school districts to help
  students progress to higher education and earn credit while still in high school?
• What are the general weaknesses of area school districts and why are these
  persistent?
• How are area schools meeting the challenges of providing equal access to
  technology for all students?
• What needs to happen to increase students’ access to the technological skills
  they need to succeed in the work force and in higher education?
• Are there gaps in technological skill development due to gender, ethnicity, and
  economics? If so, how can these be addressed and changed?
• How has technology changed the development of students’ communication
  skills?
• What communication skills do employers and institutions of higher education
  expect?
• What support do the schools need from the community in order to maximize
  their success in preparing students for work and/or college?
• How does a student’s socio-economic background affect their ability to
  graduate?
• What support systems do homeless students have in Austin?
• What should current research about the importance of early childhood
  education affect legislative priorities?
• How can education and healthcare be connected for a holistic and
  comprehensive approach to nurturing students?

State of the City Program:
We have a wonderful speaker lined up in March for our State of the City evening,
Susan Dawson, who is an educator, a business leader, and the founder of the E3
Alliance (Education Equals Economics). We will schedule unit meetings prior to the
SOC dinner so that LWV can learn about Ms. Dawson’s work to align educational
initiatives with economics.

Please Volunteer to Help with Programs!
After the election, I will ask once more for volunteers for a committee to plan unit
meetings around the topic of education and success. We will also plan a larger, general
meeting with a panel of speakers around the topics of education and "ladders of
opportunity." Please email me if you are interested in participating in a committee
and/or have ideas for unit-meeting topics, speakers, and a focus for a general meeting.
leamasiello@gmail.com

~Lea Masiello,
1st VP Programs
VP-Programs@LWVAustin.org

Membership Report and Interest Survey
Member Interest Survey:
We had one member coffee for our newest members this past
month. Our annual Holiday Brunch celebrating our new
members of 2016 will be December 10, so please add that to
your calendars. We will be sending out additional information
to you very soon.

Honors, Memorials and Donations
The League received a donation for the Education Fund from
Janice May’s estate. Janice was a government professor at UT. She
was a past president, parliamentarian and member of the
League of Women Voters. She passed away July, 2016.

Sara Groff donated a banner for the League to use at Voter
Registration and other events.

Jo Reichler made a donation to the Voters Guide to honor Bruce
Elfant, staff and volunteers.

Phillip Spertus made a donation to the Voters Guide in honor of Jo
Reichler.

Additional donations were made from Terrell Blodgett, Barbara
Cambron, Dine B. Davis, Leif
Fredin, Kara Hall, Barbara Jones,
Brenda Koegler, Julia Marsden,
Willie Scoggins, Ellen Strong,
Nancy Walker, and Philip White
plus Blue Cross/Blue
Shield, KSV Capital, Inc., and the
National Council of Jewish
Women made donations since
last month to the Education Fund
for the Voters Guide.

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
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 already filled this out, 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: Mollie Snow and Kate Winternitz 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 (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, $54 goes to the LWVTX and the LWVUS, and only $6 is left to support our Austin League. P aying 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 these sustaining members who renewed/joined this past month: Shelly Baumgartner, Barbara Cambron, June Conway, Janet Fredin, Vikki Goodwin, Kara and Donny Hall, Susan Morrison, Mary and David Overton, Otis Rhea Schmidt, Amy Taylor and Janet Whitehead. We are grateful for your additional financial support for our local League.

Thank You, Renewing Members:
Many thanks to Margaret Hester who renewed this past month. 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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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustaining Dues</td>
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<td>$ 150.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular Dues</td>
<td>$ 60.00</td>
<td>$ 90.00</td>
<td>$ 20.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Contact one of us anytime with your League questions.

~ Judy Parken, Co-Membership Chair,  
Membership@LWV LWVAustin.org 512-502-0278.  
~ Brenda Koegler, Co-Membership Chair,  
Membership@LWV LWVAustin.org 817-781-5184.
Click the "Like" button.