October 2013

Table of Contents

League Calendar
Human Trafficking in Texas: An Overview and a Panel Discussion
Co-President's Letter: Five Updates
Study: Heathcare and Mental Health Services
Community Conversation in Public Education; Missing School Matters
Voters Service: 'Tis the Season
Maxine's Musings: The League's Influence
Observer Corps: Travis County Commissioners Court
Membership Report
Board Contact List
Anne McAfee Scholarship Fund for Student Members
Memorials and Honors
South Evening Unit Retires
Testimony at Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
"Like" Our League on Facebook
Leave a Legacy to Your League

LWVAA Calendar

Mon., Oct. 7, 6:30 pm, Board Meeting. LWVAA Office, 1011 W. 31st St., 78705. Open to all members.

Sun., Oct. 13, 3:00 - 5:00 pm, "Panel on Human Trafficking," Faith Presbyterian Church, 1314 E. Oltorf, 78704 at I-35. Open to the public.

Mon., Oct. 14, 10:15 am, Day Unit Consensus Meeting on Human Trafficking, Howson Library, 2500 Exposition, 78703. Open to all members.

Tues., Oct. 15, 7:00 pm, Evening Unit Consensus Meeting on Human Trafficking, at the home of Judy Parken, 7917 West Rim Dr., 78731. Open to all members.

Sat., Oct. 19, 9:00 am - 12 noon, Community Conversation in Public Education, for AISD District 4, McCallum High School Library, 5600 Sunshine Dr., 78756. League volunteers needed. Open to the public.


Mon., Oct. 21 - Fri., Nov. 1, 7:00 am - 7:00 pm, Early Voting.
Back issues of the LWVAA Voter can be found at this link.

Human Trafficking in Texas:
An Overview and a Panel Discussion

Human trafficking is estimated to be a business worth about $32 billion worldwide, right behind illegal drugs and gunrunning. Traffickers have the means to corrupt and endanger those who might curtail their profits within the community. Profits are high enough to entice individuals to traffic their own relatives and children. Transnational gangs profit from the ability to sell and resell their "inventory." The 2011 U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, in its report "Human Trafficking in Texas", estimated the profit to be between $13,000 and $67,000 per person trafficked and that sex trafficking in the five most populous counties in Texas could generate over $60 million every year.

Texas is a hub for sex trafficking, according to various materials and presentations from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Houston and El Paso are on the DOJ's list of "the most intense human trafficking jurisdictions" in the country. Texas is crossed by the I-10 interstate corridor, it is close to Mexico, and it has a highly diverse population. Despite the intensity of the activity in Texas, it is estimated that less than 1 percent of victims are ever rescued. In 2012, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline recorded 530 calls for help from persons along the IH 35 corridor from Dallas to San Antonio; 150 calls were identified in the Austin area.

The Human Trafficking Study Group is coordinating a panel of distinguished professionals in the field of human trafficking to provide the most current information regarding this global crime that has been identified as a threat to our national security. The panel will focus on the 3Ps of this modern day slavery phenomena: Prevention, Protection and Prosecution.

- **Servando Esparza**, Chief of Staff for Texas State Senator Luticia van de Putte, who will talk about the state and national legislation that relates to human trafficking

- **Laurie Cook Heffron**, Research Program Coordinator at The University of Texas at Austin's Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (IDVSA) in the UT School of Social Work, who will fill us in on the victims of trafficking and their needs

- **Geoff Barr**, Assistant Attorney General for the State of Texas, who will give us information on the prosecution of offenders in human trafficking

Panel on Prevention, Protection, and Prosecution of Human Trafficking
Sun., Oct. 13, 3 - 5:00 pm
Faith Presbyterian Church, 1314 E. Oltorf (78704) at I-35
Open to the public.

Anne McAfee Scholarship Fund

After receiving the devastating news of her passing in July, the LWVAA board expressed a desire to memorialize Anne McAfee, who has been a fixture of Austin...
Prior to attending this panel discussion, please read the LWV-TX Facts and Issues: Human Trafficking in Texas.

Following the panel discussion, unit meetings (for members only) will be held on Oct. 14 and Oct. 15 to arrive at consensus on the issues raised by our cumulative work on Human Trafficking. After statewide consensus is reached, Leagues can begin lobbying on those positions.

Mon., Oct. 14, 10:15 am, Day Unit Consensus Meeting on Human Trafficking, Howson Library, 2500 Exposition, (78703) Open to all members.

Tues., Oct. 15, 7:00 pm, Evening Unit Consensus Meeting on Human Trafficking, at the home of Judy Parken, 7917 West Rim Dr. (78731) Open to all members.

~Eliza May, Chair, Human Trafficking, elizamay@sbcglobal.net

Co-President's Letter: Five Updates

We have quite a few things to catch up on:

1. Affordable Care Act: Are you aware of the new insurance choices you will have starting October 1? At our annual Kickoff Meeting, we heard from health care expert Anne Dunkelberg who brought us up to speed on the myriad choices we have as a result of the Affordable Care Act. You can download a copy of a paper on this topic published by LWV-TX (and written by our own Grace Chimene) here. By the way, the Kickoff attracted over 100 people -- along with most of the Austin TV news channels, KUT, and the Austin American-Statesman. The Statesman published an article about this issue (and the LWVAA) the following day.

2. Have you been disenfranchised? Well, over 700,000 of your fellow Texans were. This is the number of registered voters who have no driver's license and for whom our state legislature made little provision to either educate about or assist with this problem. Be sure to read our two recent emails: Voter Photo ID Requirements (including making sure your photo ID name and voter registration name match) and How to Get a Free Photo ID or EIC (Election Identification Certificate.) Please share this information with every voter you know.

3. Ballot Issues and Voters Guide: Are you aware of the water proposition that will be on the state constitutional amendment ballot in November? It authorizes the state to use the "Rainy Day Fund" to finance water projects. If passed, a new commission appointed by Governor Perry would make project approvals. Proponents, including LWV-TX, embrace this proposal’s call for conservation measures. Be sure to check the League's Voters Guide for more information on this as well as Austin’s affordable housing proposal.

Speaking of the Voters Guide, we found out that the Austin American-Statesman did not budget for a tabloid Guide (supplement) for this election as they have in the past. Instead, AAS will print Voters Guide pages in the Insight section of the paper on the Sunday before early voting, October 20. We understand fiscal realities and appreciate so much the Statesman’s coverage of these issues and generous support of the Voters Guide. As usual, we will post electronic copies of our Voters Guide on our website, lwvaustin.org, no later than October 20.

4. Human Trafficking: As an organization that embraces many concepts around human rights, Leagues all over the state of Texas are participating in the upcoming political activism for decades. We approved the creation of a scholarship fund that will pay for LWV membership dues for new student members. We thought that Anne would like the idea of helping pass the torch from one generation to another. This fund has the blessing of the McAfee family.

Anyone can contribute to it by simply noting "Anne McAfee Scholarship Fund" on their donation check to the Austin League. See the next paragraph for the form and mailing address.

~Stewart Snider, Co-President, s2snider@gmail.com

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.

The League thanks the following for their donations:

- In memory of Rose Lancaster from Mary Landry Blackstock.
- In memory of Anne McAfee from Mary Landry Blackstock.

South Evening
Unit Retires

After many years of
LWV-TX study about human trafficking. You may recall our general meeting some time back on this topic. This wretched practice is widespread in Texas but gets little press coverage. Please plan to attend the General Meeting on Human Trafficking, open to the public, this month on October 13 that will prepare you for participating in the consensus meetings that follow on October 14 and 15.

(5) Rankin and Robison: Finally, a word of thanks to two tireless LWV-AA "reporters" who have been watching and reporting the goings-on at the Travis County Commissioners Court. Karen Rankin and Joann Robison have, for many years, done yeoman's work in telling the rest of us about the issues and decisions made by this fundamental branch of our county government. Karen and Joann will be taking a well-earned rest after their October report. I want to thank them for this important work. I also want to encourage any other member to consider stepping up to fill this void. The League's Observer Corps needs members to attend meetings of AISD School Board, Austin City Council, and Travis County Commissioners Court. Awareness is always at the foundation of advocacy. Let me know if you might be interested in attending one of these on a regular basis.

~ Stewart Snider, Co-President, s2snider@gmail.com, 512-345-7047

Local Study Group: Health and Mental Health Services

The Kick Off in September with Anne Dunkelberg provided a good foundation for everyone to understand the Affordable Care Act, how it works, barriers to implementation, etc. The Health Care Committee will now turn its attention to local issues. The next meeting, on October 10, will feature Christie Garbe, Vice-President of Planning and Communications for Central Health, giving an overview of the organization and information about the Community Care Collaborative.

Then on October 24, the committee will hear from Dawn Handley, Chief Programs Operations Officer and David Evans, Executive Director of Austin Travis County Integral Care (ATCIC). They will talk about the current state of mental health care in Austin, the 1115 Waiver and what it means, how ATCIC will work with Central Health, etc.

The end of our "listening tour" around the local health care community will be updated position statements for our League to support and use in advocacy work. If you'd like to join the LWVAA Health Care study group, contact me.

~ Mary Cullinane, Study Chair, mculli@sbcglobal.net, 512-623-9194

Public Education Study Group: Community Conversation, Missing School Matters

The education committee is juggling two projects: yard signs to promote school attendance and continuing our series of community conversations in public education.

Missing School Matters is a campaign sponsored by the E3 Alliance (Education Equals Economics). The League’s role in

Those who attended the South Unit are urged to attend one of the following units, which generally meet during the second week of the month, as programs are scheduled:
- Day Unit, Monday, 10:15 a.m., Howson Library, 2500 Exposition Blvd.
- Evening Unit, Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., home of Judy Parken, 7917 West Rim Dr.

Attending a unit meeting is especially important because this is when we Leaguers take consensus on local, state, and national topics that we have studied. It is also a time when we build friendships. If transportation is an issue, call a fellow Leaguer or seek assistance at the local LWVAA office, 512-451-6710 or by email to lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org.

~ Anne Roussos,
this campaign is to distribute yard signs encouraging school attendance. **Only $20 buys a yard sign**, so if you would like to contribute, make your check payable to the LWVAA Education Fund and mail it to LWVAA, 1011 W. 31st St., Austin, TX 78705. Your donation is **tax deductible**. The time frame for the campaign will be early November.

The next **Community Conversation** will be **Saturday, October 19**, from 9:30 am - noon in the library at McCallum High School. Our topics will focus on parent choices within AISD and on the public's priorities for our schools. We still need a few facilitators/recorders. If you are willing, email NancyOelklaus@gmail.com.

~Nancy Oelklaus, VP Program, nancyoelklaus@gmail.com

**Voters Service: 'Tis the Season**

Our League members, as well as other community volunteers, who are Volunteer Deputy Registrars have been called upon often in the past few weeks to register prospective voters at many local events. Warm thanks go out to all those VDRs who registered voters at multiple locations for each of the following occasions:

- September 24th, National Voter Registration Day
- October 1, National Night Out
- October 5, Austin Public Library Day
- October 3, 4, 7 and 8, Travis County's KeepCalmVoteOn

With the late implementation of the Texas Voter Photo ID law, there has been a lot of confusion about what is needed at the polls and how to get it. The League and Travis County Elections and Voter Registration Offices have been working to get these messages out. Here are links to the two most comprehensive sites that should answer your questions and those of your family, friends, and neighbors.

**KeepCalmVoteOn**
**GotIDTexas**

As it does prior to every election, the League will publish a **Voters Guide** on October 20. Featured this time are the pros and cons for each of the state constitutional amendments as well as the local affordable housing bond issue. Find the **Voters Guide** in the **Insight** section of the Sun., Oct. 20 **Austin-American Statesman**, on the League’s website (**lwvaustin.org**), on the League's porch (1011 W. 31st St.), and at Austin Libraries. Huge thanks are due to Jaci Collins, Frances McIntyre, Donna Pauier, Lenora DuBose, and the League's office Corps for their work in putting together this **Voters Guide**.

~ Jacklyn Williams, VP Voters Service, jacklynwilliams@aol.com

Editor's Note: League testimony was given by Frances McIntyre at the Sept. 25 meeting of the City of Austin's Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission meeting.

Well Commissioners, you have jumped right into the fiery pit. You are going to be bruised and battered, so put your helmets on.

I want to clarify what the Austin League of women voters expects from an Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

The League is a nonpartisan organization, which means that it does not support candidates or parties for elected office. The League also has educational meetings and, as a truly grassroots organization, studies governmental issues and arrives at opinions through a consensus of the membership.

We have advocated for single member districts for the City of Austin since the ’70s and were thrilled to...
Maxine's Musings: The League's Influence

There is something beyond the League of Women Voters' purpose for education and advocacy on public policy issues and voter education for its members and the general public. It is the underlying influence on the education and training of individual League members beyond the League. I am one such member who has had a long educational experience in the "University of the League of Women Voters" that has shaped a good deal of my non-League life.

Back in the late fifties or early sixties, I was appointed to the board of the League of Women Voters of Texas to participate in a committee that was studying the Texas jury system. My job was to research the current laws related to that issue. Those were the days before Google, Wikipedia, and many other sources of information that one can get without ever leaving home simply by typing in the various topics to be researched, clicking the mouse, and printing a copy on the home printer. As a result, I spent a whole summer in the Harris County Law Library with countless volumes of Vernon's Civil Statutes, which I had never heard of before, doing my due diligence.

During this time, my husband and I decided to drive to Brownsville with our two young children, my husband on business and me to meet with two of the board members responsible for the study who lived in that area. On the way we encountered car trouble, and I was the only one who got to Brownsville on a bus from Raymondville. After handing in my report, which I thought was well-written, I had a stern lesson when my report turned up in the Facts and Issues unlike what I had written! It was my first experience with the rigors of written expression that the League required. It also introduced me to the League practice that anything written had to pass muster by several eyes and after many revisions, may not turn out exactly as you wrote it. This was a good education for me for the future, although in much later years, I could never pass anything without some editing from eagle-eyed Julie Lowenberg!

My League experience prepared me for my recent writing attempts in the Memoirs Writing class I have been taking for four years. I submitted two of my articles to a monthly magazine called Bend of the River published in Maumee, Ohio, a suburb of my native city of Toledo. The editors not only printed them but I even got $20.00 for one of them, and was referred to as a freelance writer! I plan to submit more.

My League education continued when at a tender age I became president of the League of Women Voters of Columbus, Ohio. This was my first experience conducting meetings. Since then, I have presided over League boards, church boards, city commissions, homeowners associations, served as parliamentarian for the League and my church, and am asked for my advice on these matters.

I did not finish college after I graduated from high school, so after I spent all those hours in the law library, I developed an interest in finishing my undergraduate degree and thought of law school after my stint in Vernon's Civil Statutes. I did, indeed, enroll in the University of Houston for my BA, and subsequently at Texas Woman's University for my MA. Although I did not pursue the law, I did have a profession in education. I often say the League propelled me there!

I have used my ten years’ experience as a League leadership trainer in other parts of my life in helping other groups with their organizational problems. And when I insist on accuracy and attention to detail with some of the projects or other activities in organizations in which I volunteer, I tell them it's from my League training that I know support the efforts of Austinites for Geographic Representation (AGR) and to endorse Proposition 3 which contained the Commission you are on. The position that the League has, says that "we support geographic representation for our City Council provided that there are enough equal-sized geographically drawn districts to support minority opportunity districts."

I want to emphasize the importance of minority opportunity districts. The maps that AGR presented to you are the most truly representative that we have seen and that is why we gladly support them. It is your job to prove, every way from Sunday, that the opportunity districts you draw are truly representative. I encourage you to take another look at the AGR maps and start from there.

Another item I want to reiterate is the issue of transparency. As you know from the Statesman articles, there are many people watching you and expecting you to do as you said you would do, which is abide by the Charter Amendment and keep everything available to the public. You have on your agenda today a "possible Executive Session to consult with Legal Council." Executive Sessions are secret, not public. Don't do it. Be open to the public.

You have been so good about hearing all the public comments. That is an admirable policy and one
will make such things work.

I know other League members also have these out-of-League experiences in their own lives. Sometimes, members chafe at the structure of the League and I have too, at times, but in the end, I consider such thoroughness part of my League education. Education at the "University of the League of Women Voters" has served me and many other Leaguers well and opened up avenues of service to our communities. We can be proud of a long lasting legacy that may indeed be a factor in the longevity of our organization.

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

Observer Corps, September:
Travis County Commissioners Court

Editor's note: After many years of covering the TCCC, Karen Rankin and Joann Robison are retiring from this duty. The League thanks them for their devotion to covering local government. See the special accolade by Stewart Snider above.

September sessions of the Commissioners Court were spent almost exclusively on budget issues. The Court heard from several departments and entities that made budget requests. Decisions were made at a later meeting. Budget and tax rates were passed on September 24 by a 3:2 vote with Daugherty and Gomez voting against. Some of the topics presented included the following:

- Purchase of software for use with the county court system: By purchasing this software now, the county will have ownership (along with Tarrant and Dallas counties.) Therefore, some of the cost can be recouped when the software is sold to other counties. This passed, with Commissioner Daugherty voting against.

- New software and positions for the district clerk's records management plan: This new software will enable sensitive personal taxpayer information, such as social security and credit card numbers, to be redacted before records are shared. One of the personnel positions will support that function, and the other will be used to archive old and/or historical information. Some of the cost will come from existing funds.

- Budget and tax rate for Fiscal Year 2014 for the Travis County Healthcare District (Central Health): This presentation covered planned revenue and expenses for county provided and facilitated health care following passage in November, 2012 of the tax increase for funding a new UT medical school. The plan also takes into consideration working with the Affordable Care Act in the future. With a revenue increase of $59 million, the total budget will be $219.8 million, with $210.6 million of that going to health care, the balance being spent on administrative costs. Commissioner Davis stated his concern that not enough detail was included in the presentation and documentation.

- Also discussed were cost-cutting plans for the planned new courthouse building. Planners are looking at the successful, and not-so successful, results of other similar projects around the country to determine what has worked and what measures can reduce the expected costs.

~ Karen Rankin, Observer Corps, karenrankin@austin.rr.com

"Like" Our League on Facebook

It's so easy to follow our League on Facebook. With thanks to member Brigid Hall for these instructions:

1. Go to facebook.com and login to your existing account or create a new one.

2. Search for "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.
Membership

Fall Kickoff on September 15 was a very successful event with Anne Dunkelberg explaining the basics of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). More than a hundred attended including many from the community. The following day the Austin American-Statesman wrote a detailed article about speaker’s presentation. Thanks to all members who helped with this event.

Long-time League member, Mary Lee Comer, wrote this touching note when she recently renewed her League membership: "A while back I took my first daughter to League meetings in her baby chair with a bottle. That was in Peoria, Illinois. She’s now 51 years old! Time flies!" We thank Mary Lee for her decades-long membership.

Seven New Members: A warm welcome to each of this month’s new League members: Grace Elinsway, Gail Glick, Vicki Goodwin, Cindy Hintikka, Nancy Namis, Roye Reeves, and Nancie Walsh.

As a member of the Austin League, you are 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, $52 goes to the LWVTX and the LWVUS, and only $8 is left to support our Austin League. Paying at the sustaining level ($100) greatly benefits the Austin League because the extra money stays in Austin and supports our local League’s activities. The entire amount is paid to LWVAA and not to the Education Fund.

Thank You, Sustaining Members: Special thanks to this month’s sustaining members: Maxine Barkan, Shelly Baumgartner, Anne Shelby Clark, Donna Howard, Beverly Kimbrough, Sheila Milner, Nancy Neavel, Pat Oakes, Janet Reed, Suzy and Bill Reid (household), Barbara Ruud, Peggy Stewart, and Kay Taebel. We are grateful for your additional financial support for our local League’s activities.

Thank You, Renewing Members: Many thanks to the following members who also renewed this month: Barbara Andre, Carole Buckman, Kathy Carvell, Mary Lee Comer, Linda Friedman, Karen Haschke, Patricia La Combe, Judi and Havey Nudelman (household), Margit and Arnold Orange (household), Mary Patrick, Anne Roussos, and Betsy Singleton. 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 to pay your annual dues online by credit card via PayPal while providing all the above information.

You may renew or join, using PayPal by clicking on the amount that applies to you.

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

Donations

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.

Compass Bank Donates to LWVAA

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, Carol Olewin, c.olewin@gmail.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 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
Contact me anytime with your League questions.

~Judy Parken, Membership Chair, japarken@aol.com, 512-502-0278.

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 at lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org so we can list you as a member of our Love-Your-League Legacy Society.