September 2012

LWVAA Calendar

Tues., Sept. 4, 6:30 - 9 pm, Board Meeting, Central Market Community Room, N. Lamar.

Tues., Sept. 4, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, or 6:30 pm, Travis County Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training, 5501 Airport Blvd.

Sat. Sept. 9, 10 am - 6 pm, Voter Registration, Mexican-American Independence Day, Travis County Exposition Center.

Mon., Sept. 10, 10 am - 12 noon, Unit Meeting, "Status of Voter ID in Texas," Howson Library, 2500 Exposition.

Thurs., Sept. 13, 11 am - 1 pm, Voter Registration, ACC Riverside Campus, 1020 Grove Blvd.

Sun., Sept. 16, 2 - 4 pm, General Meeting, "How Healthy is Healthcare in Travis County," Trinity United Methodist Church, 4001 Speedway.

Tues., Sept. 18, 6 - 9 pm, Voter Registration, "Constitution Day," Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road.

Tues., Sept. 18, 7 - 9 pm, Unit Meeting, "Status of Voter ID in Texas," 7917 W. Rim Drive, 78731.

Sat., Sept. 22, 10 am - 12 noon, Youth-Organized AISD Candidate Forum, location TBA.

Tues., Sept. 25, 6 - 9 pm, National Voter Registration Day, ACC East View Campus, 3401 Webberville.

Tues., Oct. 2, 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, 6:30 pm, Travis County Volunteer Deputy Registrar Training, 5501 Airport Blvd.

Mon., Oct. 8, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, "High Stakes Testing," UT Club, 2108 Robert Dedman Drive.

Thurs., Oct. 11, Lockhart County Commissioners Candidates Forum, Lockhart High School, Time TBA.

Back issues of the LWVAA Voter can be found at this link.
Healthcare in Travis County

2012-2013 League "Kickoff" Meeting
Sun. Sept. 16, 2 - 4 pm
Trinity United Methodist Church
4001 Speedway (near 40th), Austin

The LWVAA is hosting a public forum about the health issues facing our community. Please join us for the latest and most comprehensive information about the past, present and future of healthcare in Travis County. Refreshments Served! Bring a friend to hear about this important topic and learn more about the League. Panelists will discuss everything from the formation of Central Health, to the role of non-profits and other clinics, to our present tax system, and the request for more funding. Written questions will be answered as time allows.

Mary Ann Roser, moderator, is the Austin American-Statesman health reporter. Ms. Roser worked for newspapers in Kentucky and in Washington, D.C., before moving to Austin. She joined the Statesman staff in 1996 and began covering health and medical issues in 2000. She has the unique ability to translate political and medical information into language the public can understand.

Regina Rogoff, panelist, was Executive Director of the Legal Aid of Central Texas for 20 years and began her career as a Vista lawyer. She is a former Chair of Austin Interfaith and One Voice Central Texas. She became CEO of Peoples Community Clinic in 2003.

Clarke Heidrick, panelist, has been an attorney since 1977 and has served as chair of many local organizations. Also, he was chair of the initial Board of Managers for Central Health and was the force behind the establishment of the Travis County Healthcare District in 2004.

~Nancy Neavel, Chair, nancynea@austin.rr.com

Unit Meeting Speakers:
"Status of Voter Photo ID in Texas"

The decision of the District of Columbia Court in the lawsuit by the Attorney General of Texas about Voter Photo Identification and the Voting Rights Act is due by the end of August. Speakers will address the decision. Unit meetings are open to the public.

Monday, Sept. 10th at 10:00 am at Howson Library, 2500 Exposition (and Bowman Ave.), Austin, 78703. Note new time and return to former location. The speaker is Jeff Archer, Chief Legislative Counsel for the Texas Legislative Council for over 29 years. The Council is a nonpartisan agency which researches and edits the legislation for the Texas Legislature.

Tuesday, Sept. 18th at 7:00 pm, at home of Judy and Ed Parken, 7917 West Rim Dr., 78731, 512-502-0278. The speaker is Ray Martinez, Chief of Staff and Chief Counsel for

Women's Equality Day and Vote411
On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote became law. In the 92 years since, the League of Women Voters has worked tirelessly to educate and mobilize new voters. We remain fiercely committed to that mission.
State Senator, Judith Zaffirini. He has taught Election Law and Policy as an Adjunct Professor at The University of Texas at Austin School of Law.

~Judy Parken, Unit Chair, japarken@aol.com

**The League and Voter Photo ID in Texas**

The voter photo ID requirement passed by the 2011 Texas Legislature needs federal approval to take effect. Texas has sued for approval in the DC district court, and the court ruling was expected in mid- to late August. LWVTX was an intervener in the lawsuit. If the court grants approval, photo ID may be required to vote in person in the November 6 General Election. As of press time, the decision of the District of Columbia Court on Voter Photo ID in Texas had not been announced.

The State League will publish an educational pamphlet to inform people about changes (if any) in voting brought on by the Photo ID bill. Our own Anita Privett has spearheaded this effort. After the court rules, Anita and LWVTX will print a voter education document for distribution. LWVAA Education Fund has contributed to that effort.

What we know now:

- **Voter registration** has not changed, nor will it change at least for this year.
- The pending court decision will only affect **in-person voting** at the poll.
- LWVAA’s website ([lwvaustin.org](http://lwvaustin.org)) will describe any voting procedure changes that go into effect.
- LWVAA will send an email alert to our electronic lists as we know the court’s ruling. (Sign up for our updates at [lwvaustin.org](http://lwvaustin.org))
- LWVAA Unit Meetings on **Sept. 10** and **Sept. 18** will provide the latest information.

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**Co-President's Letter: Stewart Snider**

**Four priorities:** I want to catch you up on what's happened over the summer and some of what's in store for the upcoming year. In early June, we held our annual Transition Meeting, where incoming and outgoing board members meet. This year, as last, all members were invited to discuss the upcoming year’s program. **Health care, water, public education, and voter services** were chosen as our top priorities for this fiscal year, and you’ll see that reflected in much of our upcoming activities.

**City Council Election Methods:** After LWVAA membership approval (at the May Annual Meeting) of our position amendment pertaining to city council election methods, our League Board voted to advocate for changing Austin’s election of council members to what is commonly called the 10-1 geographic district plan. By a people's petition with over 20,000 verified signatures, this plan was placed on the November City Referendum Ballot. It would create ten districts within which a candidate for city council would run. LWVAA supports its passage since it includes a provision that requires redistricting to be done by a group of citizens who have been vetted and have no personal stake in the outcome. This is consistent with the LWVTX position that calls for transparency and public input in the redistricting process. The 10-1 plan was developed by a consensus of interested groups that reached a decision after study and discussion -- much like our own method. The Austin
City Council has its own 8-2-1 plan that they voted to place on the ballot also. This proposal has two fewer districts, but keeps two at-large council places for a total of ten council members. Both 10-1 and 8-2-1 have the mayor continuing to run at-large. The latter plan offers a slightly reduced opportunity for African Americans to elect a candidate of choice. Also, with this plan, council members would control the redistricting process. The League does not support this redistricting process because it gives too much power to elected members to choose their voters. Both council election plans will be on the November ballot. Voters may choose either, neither or both.

**Voters Service:** Our League has recently received numerous requests to help with voter registration efforts and candidates forums. Please read Jacklyn Williams' article below, and if at all possible, contribute some time. This year’s ballot complexity really calls for an extraordinary effort from any group that provides unbiased voter information. As far as I know, there’s only ONE such group.

**Capitol Corps:** After the League’s involvement this fall in many candidate forums and voter registration drives, we’ll still need you to volunteer. Next year’s Texas Legislative Session is almost certainly going to be as critical as was 2011’s since we are still in a budget crisis. I urge you to be part of next year’s Capitol Corps. We can use your help even if you never want to speak to a legislator. Not enough Texans think about legislative issues, and you could help compose written or spoken communication, or just by providing logistical support. A simple willingness to donate time is a great start. Contact me if you want to learn more: s2snider@gmail.com.

**Legislative Reception:** The Austin LWV Board plans to invite all area elected officials to our bi- yearly Legislative Reception that will take place at the Capitol. This includes local officials and state legislators from the surrounding counties. We think this will generate interest and we know it will help if all elected officials know more about each other’s issues. We’ll have more on this in the October *Voter.*

You can make a difference, no matter the level of commitment you choose.

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

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**Co-President's Letter: Carol Olewin**

**Office Remodeling and Moving:** Our Austin League office at 1011 W. 31st Street is being re-modeled by our landlord, Phillips-Merlin Building, and we are looking forward to new office space. Apparently a raccoon got into the attic of the office building and caused a lot of damage to the air conditioning ducts and roof joists, so the landlord has to make major repairs. We will have to vacate the office we have occupied for over 30 years, but the landlord has offered us an office with a WINDOW! Kudos to our landlords, the Phillips, for their generosity and support of the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area!

We will be moving all of our desks, bookshelves, cabinets, tables, files, computer and telephone to a new office on the same hall. We will have a big office cleaning party before and after our move. If you'd like to help us go through our files and decide what can be thrown away and what should be kept, call 451-6710 and leave a message, so we can keep you posted on the times for the office cleaning party.

If you have any personal property in the office or would like to retrieve any memorabilia...
from the office, please do so by October 1, 2012. The office is staffed from 11 am -1 pm on most week days. Call 451-6710 before you come to be sure someone will be there to let you in.

Social Media Intern: Yes, the League of Women Voters is hip! We have joined the social media movement. "Like" us on Facebook or check us out on Twitter. The Austin League has an intern working on Social Media. Brigid Hall, a University of Texas graduate student is a member of our local League and will be running our Social Media program.

To reach out to the under-35 crowd, the League has engaged Brigid as an intern to help us develop our social media program. Informed people are the key to informed voters. Social media is an effective way to reach out to the young and electronically connected. If you'd like to help us develop our social media program, contact Brigid Hall, brigid.hall@lwvaustin.org.

Brigid grew up in Pacific Grove, CA. She graduated with a bachelors in global studies from University of California at Santa Barbara and moved to Santiago, Chile. Although she enjoyed being immersed in a different culture and language, Brigid decided to focus on issues in the U.S. Brigid is now entering her final year in a Master's level social work program at UT Austin. Interested in poverty reduction, Brigid sees civic engagement as a valuable tool to achieve this end.

~ Carol Olewin, Co-President, c.olewin@gmail.com

Fall Voters Service Activities

Voter Registration:
This year we have had numerous requests to participate in voter registration drives. Thanks to all of you who were trained/will be trained September 4 to be Volunteer Deputy Registrars to assist in these efforts. We need more volunteers from our membership, especially any Spanish speakers. Volunteers must have completed the Volunteer Deputy Registrar training. Three are scheduled on Tues., Sept. 4 at 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, or 6:30 pm. Click here for location.

We have been invited by Univision Radio Austin to register voters at the Mexican American Independence Day celebration on Sat., Sept. 9, 10 am - 6 pm, at the Travis County Exposition Center. Approximately 20,000 people will be in attendance. Please volunteer for any period of time that day. Email me (jacklynwilliams9615@gmail.com) if you can help on Sept. 9.

Tues., Sept. 18, 6 - 9 pm, "Constitution Day," Palmer Events Center, Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road. Email Alicia Del Rio to sign up: ava1227@prodigy.net.

Tues., Sept. 25 is LWV National Voter Registration Day, a nationwide, nonpartisan effort to register thousands of voters on one single day. Our main event will be with our ACC Voter Registration Project, 6 - 9 pm, at the East View Campus of Austin Community College. See full details in Susan Morrison’s article. Email Alicia Del Rio to sign up: ava1227@prodigy.net.

Candidate Forums:

The League expresses thanks for the following donations:

Joann Lovelace, Phyllis Portnoy, and Dianne Wheeler in memory of Dr. Mathis Blackstock.

Bob Batlan, in honor of the Bat Mitzvah of Judy Clack.

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.

Randall’s 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.
The Austin League has been asked to moderate and/or organize candidate forums for a wide variety of races in Travis and surrounding counties. We are now considering how many of these we can do. Two have been scheduled to date, with others unconfirmed at press time:

**Sat., Sept. 22,**
Youth-Organized AISD School Board Forum, 10 am - noon, location TBA

**Thurs., Oct. 11,** Lockhart County Commissioners, Lockhart High School Gym, time TBA

We need volunteers to help with this core League activity by doing the following tasks: greet attendees, collect questions, screen written questions, ask questions, moderate forum, or serve as timekeeper. Training will be provided based on the LWV-TX guidelines. Contact me if you can contribute some time to these or other forums: jacklynwilliams9615@gmail.com. Thanks to those of you who have already responded.

**Explaining Lengthy Ballot:**
The Travis County Clerk, Dana DeBeauvoir, has asked the League to serve on a Speaker's Bureau to inform citizens about the November 6 ballot, and encourage them to vote early. Training will be provided. The ballot for November will be approximately 11 pages long! In addition to the national, state and local candidates, it will include candidates for AISD and ACC. There will also be ballot measures from the city (bonds and charter amendments), AISD (possible tax rate issue) and Central Health (tax increase) on the ballot.

The perceived problem is that voters may ignore the down-ballot issues, or just become discouraged by such a long ballot. Our mission will be to inform the public about the importance of the local issues and prepare voters for a longer ballot. Sample ballots will be available after September 21 at www.traviscountyclerk.org. Arrangements will be made with neighborhood groups, non-profits, churches etc. to present information about the ballot to as many people as possible. Please contact me (jacklynwilliams9615@gmail.com) if you are interested in being trained, want sample ballots for other organizations, or need more information.

~J**acklyn C. Williams**, VP Voters Service

**ACC Voter Registration Drives**

The Austin League received a $700 grant from LWVUS Education Fund to conduct voter registration drives at Austin Community College campuses targeting first-time voters and underrepresented youth. **Susan Morrison** authored the grant application and is project leader. Susan says, "Voter registration is a critical step to making sure our voter rolls - and our halls of power - actually reflect the diversity of our communities." The League will be working in coalition with American Association of University Women, Travis County Women Lawyers Association, National Women's Political Caucus Education Foundation, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Austin Alumnae Chapter, and Las Comadres.

Voter registration drives have been scheduled on various ACC campuses on Aug. 28 and 29; Sept. 13, 18, and 25; and may be scheduled Oct. 2, 3. **Volunteers are still needed for Sept. 13, 18, and 25.** Send an email to Alicia Del Rio to sign up: ava1227@prodigy.net. Volunteers must have completed the Volunteer Deputy Registrar training. Three are scheduled on **Tues., Sept. 4** at 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, and 6:30 pm. Click here for location.

**Thurs., Sept. 13,** 11 am - 1 pm, ACC Riverside Campus, 1020 Grove Blvd.

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 LWAAEF'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 LWAAEF.

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.

Charitable
**Does High-Stakes Testing Create a Better Workforce?**

During our "Community Conversation on Public Education" on June 16, many participants expressed concerns about standardized testing and educating students for vocations. This is the focus of a joint meeting of the Austin League of Women Voters and the UT Club League of Business Leaders.

**Monday, October 8**
**11:30 am - 1:00 pm**
**UT Club, 2108 Robert Dedman Drive**
**$25 fee includes lunch and parking.**
**Reservations are required.**
**Email jetta.felder@ourclub.com or call 512-477-5800.**

Moderator: **Nancy Oelklaus**, Vice President for Program, LWVAA; Author of *Excellence in Education: Culture and Leadership in Winning Districts*.

Panelists include:

- **Susan Dawson**, President and Executive Director of the Education Equals Economics (E3) Alliance, a regional collaborative created to increase educational outcomes and lead Central Texas to economic prosperity.
- **Dr. Michael Marder**, Professor of Physics and Co-Director of UTeach (at the University of Texas), who has an innovative method of presenting data that makes it easy to understand how Texas' education system is working.
- **Susan Schultz**, of Texans Advocating for Meaningful Student Assessment (TAMSA), a statewide grass roots organization of concerned parents that supports a more reasoned approach to student testing.
- **Kurt Summers**, president of Austin Generator Service and chair of the education foundation for the National Federation of Independent Business.
- **A Student from Austin High School**, who will speak about how the state's standardized testing system affects students.

~**Nancy Oelklaus**, VP Program, NancyOelklaus@gmail.com

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**Gift to League at All Three Levels!**

By making a gift of cash or securities of $5,000 or more to the League of Women Voters Education Fund Pooled Income Fund, you can receive an immediate income tax deduction for a portion of the gift's value and continue earning a quarterly return on the interest earned for life. You can name your local League, along with the LWVEF, to benefit from the residual funds when you're gone. Contact the LWVUS Development office at 202-263-1355 or plannedgiving@lwv.org.

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**Giving**

**IRA Charitable Distributions**

Persons aged 70½ or older can again enjoy tax savings by making charitable gifts directly from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to the LWV Education Fund. Contact Lauren Frank of LWVUS at 202-263-1355 or lfrank@lwv.org for additional information.

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**University of Texas Unit of LWVAA Formed**
With help from LWVUS, LWVAA, and the University of Texas (UT) administration, the UT Unit of our League (LWVAA) was recently created in an attempt to reach out to young voters. The proximity of the UT campus offers an amazing opportunity to connect with young people, and, as voting trends demonstrate year after year, the 18-24 age group consistently turns out the fewest percentage of voters. (Check out this great infographic, "Who Votes in America," about voter demographics.)

Although the League of Women Voters Austin Area UT Campus Unit (LWVAAUT) is a brand new student group, our blossoming partnerships with community allies and campus-based organizations will ensure a positive impact on the student body. LWVAAUT will be partnering with the Workers Defense Project to conduct a block walk on September 16. We will be walking in Precinct 132 and specifically targeting low turnout voters. In conjunction with the League's plans at Austin Community College (ACC) for the September 25 National Voter Registration Day, we will partner with UT Votes to host registration drives on campus. In addition to these activities, LWVAAUT will be looking for unique and meaningful ways to encourage students to vote on Election Day.

These student-led activities will provide young adults with multiple opportunities to be active civic participants. Together with the regular informative meetings run by the Austin League, we will be empowering UT Austin's students to become educated and engaged voters. If you have any questions about LWVAAUT or would like to get involved, please get in touch with me!

~Brigid Hall, Unit Leader, brigid.hall@lwvaustin.org

Using Social Media to Increase League Impact

The National League of Women Voters has been running a social media campaign titled #growingLWV. Fueling this campaign is the understanding that the League needs to increase its impact and diversify interactions with its members. Our local League has taken note.

I have been working this summer to increase the LWVAA's presence on two social media platforms: Twitter and Facebook. On a weekly basis, information about upcoming events, important dates, and noteworthy news stories are posted on our League's pages. These postings help to inform current members as well as the community at large about what the League is doing. Especially with younger people, an active social media presence can help to get more people civically engaged.

To follow our local League's updates on Twitter and Facebook, here are the steps you need to take:

**TWITTER**

1. Go to [twitter.com](http://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.
3. On the left hand side of the page, under "People" click on our logo.
4. Click on the "follow" button and then you will be subscribed to the LWVAA page and get updates on any of our posts.
1. Go to [facebook.com](http://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." Click on that button.
5. Now you are subscribed to our page and will see our news stories on your Facebook homepage.

I hope to see a bunch of new followers to our Twitter and Facebook pages in the near future! If you have any additional questions, feel free to get in touch with me.

~Brigid Hall, Social Media Intern, brigid.hall@lwvaustin.org

## Community Conversations on Public Education

On June 16, about a hundred people representing business, education, parents, students, elected officials, and community groups gathered to focus on two questions:

1. What do we want for our children and what is our responsibility to them?
2. How might we improve communication between the public and the school board?

Findings were that there is no clear, unified voice for children in the community, no rallying cry around which we are united. Also, communication between the public and the school board needs strengthening to achieve meaningful community involvement.

Following the release of the written report, [Nan Clayton, Frances McIntyre, and Nancy Oelklau](mailto:nancyoelklau@gmail.com) met with the superintendent and some of her staff to review the findings and announce the League's intention to continue the community conversations by having a public "conversation" in each school board member's district throughout 2012-13. We will wait until after the November election to schedule in those districts that will be on the ballot. AISD seems appreciative of the League's efforts and is participating with us.

The point person for District 1 is [Carol Eckelkamp](mailto:), a business participant on June 16. She is making contact with the school board member from District 1, Cheryl Bradley, to clear a date. We're looking for volunteers from each remaining trustee district to clear a date with the trustee, find a site and recruit participants for other conversations. To find your AISD district, look on the back of your voter registration card. We will also need a cadre of trained volunteers to facilitate and record the proceedings of each small group, once we know dates.

If you'd like to volunteer for any of these tasks, contact me.

~Nancy Oelklau, VP Program, [NancyOelklau@gmail.com](mailto:nancyoelklau@gmail.com)

## Travis County Commissioners Court:

### Summer Summary
June 5, 2012, Karen Rankin
Regarding the Formula One race, after hearing public comments on the capacity of the facility, public safety, sanitation, traffic, parking management, and noise level, and hearing of readiness of county departments to meet those parameters, the permit was granted.

June 24, 2012, Joann Robison
Public comments on Community Development Block Grants were heard. Los Lamitas pleaded for running water but were grateful for water in drums being provided. Economic Development Incentives policy was discussed including number of jobs to be promised, hiring of economically disadvantaged workers, using tax rebates rather than abatements to ensure goals are met, and the increased cost to community for more utilities, roads, police and fire protection for new businesses.

July 3, 2012, Karen Rankin
Closing and covering a landfill on 290 East was discussed. A flea market on the property was allowed to stay but must make alterations to minimize the risk of toxins leaching to the surface. The county and the flea market are to share in these costs.

July 31, 2012, Joann Robison
Commissioners Huber and Eckhardt were not present. A public hearing on a proposed raise of 3-1/2% for commissioners was held. The vote was postponed one week until all would be present. [It was passed the following week.]

August 7, 2012, Karen Rankin
Replacing the inadequate and outdated Heman Sweatt Civil and Family Courthouse was discussed. A combination of public and private financing and management was considered. The key sticking point was that the project would not be up for a public vote. It could proceed using financing obtained privately, which would be faster and therefore able to take advantage of the current low interest rates and lower building costs. By subjecting the project to a vote, valuable time would be lost and the voters might reject the item. No decision was made at this session.

~Karen Rankin, karenrankin@austin.rr.com; Joann Robison, gatorgunk@gmail.com

Membership
Welcome, ELEVEN New Members!
We cordially welcome eleven new members to the Austin League: Grace Chimene, Adrienne Clark, Aimee Finney, Ami Hooper, Judy and Hal Jennings, Carrie Jones, Marilyn Scott, Ashley Shew, Polly Street, and Eleanor Davis Thompson. We are delighted you have joined us. As a member of the Austin League, you are also a member of the national (LWVUS) and state (LWVTX) Leagues. See the links below for an abundance of educational information. I want to recognize Ashley Shew who immediately volunteered and is helping with editing, formatting and updating League materials.

Thank You, Sustaining Members
Special thanks to this month’s sustaining members: Grace Chimene, Jaci Collins, Joan and Paul Hilgers, Carrie Jones, Amy Lloyd, Joann Lovelace, Janet Martin, Nancy Oelklaus, Janet Reed, and Otis R. Schmidt. 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: **Heather Becker, Joan Edmonds, Beverly Kimbrough, and Judi and Harvey Nudelman.** We depend on your support and appreciate your timely renewals.

**New Membership, Renewal Dues Payment, Address Changes**
Please send 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 Austin League of Women Voters. Or you may instead [click here](#) to pay your annual dues online while providing all the above information. Of your 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** greatly benefits the Austin League because the extra money stays in Austin and supports our local League’s activities. In either case, the League is grateful for your support!

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

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**League Websites**
There is an ABUNDANCE of excellent information on the three League websites. Do check them out.

[www.lwvaustin.org](http://www.lwvaustin.org)  [www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org)  [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

Any member may contact me with your League questions anytime.
~**Judy Parken,** Membership Chair, [japarken@aol.com](mailto:japarken@aol.com), 512-502-0278.