



League of Women Voters®

Austin Area

VOTER

May 2009

Volume 13, #10 1011 W. 31st Street Austin TX 78705 Office Phone and Fax
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The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

LWVAA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 13 - 6 p.m.

Our League of Women Voters of the Austin Area Annual Meeting will be Wednesday, May 13th. As usual, we'll start with a bring-a-dish supper before the meeting. If you make it for supper but can't contribute a dish, please donate \$5. Call Frances McIntyre at 451-1551, if you have any bring-a-dish questions or can help with the meeting setup.

You should have received your copy of the Workbook in the mail. We will be voting on our League's board members, our recommended program topics for this next year, and our budget. **Bring** your copy of the Workbook to the meeting for reference for the list of the proposed Board members, the Program topics, and the League budget.

The meeting will be held in the Colorado Room in Cambridge Tower, 1801 Lavaca, thanks to Terrell Blodgett. The Munch, Mix, & Mingle will be from 6 - 7 p.m. The meeting portion will start promptly at 7 p.m.

Checkout Our New Website, New Logo!

Have you seen our new web site? The name is the same, lwvaustin.org, but the site has been revamped to make it easier to find the information you're looking for. Thanks to Board members Sarah Tober and Mary Sue Neilson, we have a much more attractive and easy to navigate site. Clint Zehner designed this great site and we are grateful for his expertise. Kudos to them all.

We've also replaced our LWVAA capitol dome logo with the national LWV logo. You can see the new logo on the top of this page and on the new website. Thanks to Sarah Tober for making this happen.

Membership Directory

Our 2009 Membership Directory is now available. If you would like a copy, hard-copy or via email, just let us know. Call the office at 451-6710 and leave your name and contact information and we'll send you the Directory, via email or the mail, as you request.

Calendar

Mon. Apr. 27 - Early Voting

Tues. May 5 Mayor, City Council, School Boards, ...

Mon. May 4 Board Meeting

6:30 p.m. Central Market North Community Room

May 9 Election

Mayor, City Council, School Boards, ...

Mon. May 11 Day Unit Meeting

Noon Redistricting and Legislative Update
Howson Library, 2500 Exposition

Tues. May Evening North Unit Meeting

Canceled in lieu of Annual Meeting

Wed. May Evening South Unit Meeting

7:00 p.m. Canceled in lieu of Annual Meeting

Wed. May 13 LWVAA Annual Meeting

6 p.m. Cambridge Tower, Colorado Room
1801 Lavaca

Sat. May 16 New/Old Board Meeting

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Frances McIntyre's home
6305 Treadwell Blvd

Member News

A hearty congratulations to Laurie Vanhose and her beloved, on their nuptials held April 11th!

Welcome New Members!

**Charlotte Bell, Stefanie Cavanaugh,
Marsha Fatino, Beverly Kimbrough,
Reggie Nisbett, Tim Ramirez, and
Andrea Wayne**

Thank you to our renewing members: Nancy Busbey, Kathleen Hamilton, Karen & Warren Hayward, Pat Jackson, Clark Jobe, Ethel Kutac, Paula Littles, Sydelle Popinsky, Mary Ellen Roche, Edward Silha, Barbara Werth, and Jan Williams.

President's Report

I hope you can come to the only "business meeting" the League has during the year. It is our Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 13th. It is the time we talk about the Austin League and how it operates. Since our membership is our guiding light, I encourage you to help us debate and decide our budget, our program for advocacy, any new issues to study, and, to elect officers for the Board of Directors. The meeting details are on the front page of this Voter. You should have received the Annual Meeting Workbook in the mail, which details our agenda. Keep this publication for reference for the rest of the League year, since it has our program positions, bylaws, and budget.

We are trying, as are all levels of the League of Women Voters, to go as "green" as possible which will save us some money. Please email lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org or Jaci Collins, *Voter* Editor, at jacic@sbcglobal.net, if you want to receive your *Voter* newsletter by email. We will also have copies of the Membership Directory at League meetings, or you can request a Membership Directory by calling or emailing the office.

Remember, our Board meetings are always open to members. If you are interested in being on the Board, or just curious about how we operate, we invite you to pay us a visit. You will see what a great group we have and how we bounce ideas around and still make decisions. You can see the League Board Meeting schedule in the Calendar listed on page 1.

You will receive one more *Voter* this summer with a wrap-up of the Annual Meeting. We will begin again in September with our fall Kickoff event. The Board will take a short R&R this summer, but there is much planning ahead.

We owe a special thanks to Mary Sue Neilson, our Voters Service VP, and Laurie Vanhose, Voters Guide editor, for their work on the May Voters Guide, which is the publication that most identifies the League and is so well received by the public as a reliable, nonpartisan, and significant guide to our city elections. The Voters Guide is mailed to every member as soon as it is printed, but we have no guarantee when the Post Office will deliver it. You can always access it on our web site www.lwvaustin.org. Mary Sue also worked with the City of Austin Ethics Review Commission to set up a candidates' forum which was broadcast on Channel 6 and moderated by the League.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON MAY 9TH and bring your friends and neighbors.

-- Regards, Frances

Like to Meet New People?

Would you enjoy helping LWVAA Membership by talking with or emailing new members? If so, contact Susan Morrison at 451-9808, susan_morrison@lawyer.com.

If you could help occasionally, two (2) hours a month or more, that would be helpful. You'll enjoy doing it.

Thirteen Leaguers Tour Affordable Housing

Talk to many social service directors and you will probably end up talking about housing, or the lack thereof. There is **crisis housing** (for the homeless, victims of domestic violence, disaster victims); **supportive housing** (clients with the need for case management for the mentally ill and treatment for addiction); and **subsidized housing** (for working families who simply cannot afford current levels of owning or renting housing.)

Thirteen Leaguers were privileged to tour housing in scattered 'squares' which were subsidized by Austin's Department of Neighborhood Housing and Community Development. Margaret Shaw, Department Director, led the tour. This has served as a catalyst for revitalization in many neighborhoods, where many private developers and home owners have followed with untold investments in improvements.

A great example of the City investing in affordable housing and, at the same time, providing a valuable community service is SafePlace, a model community program for meeting the needs of victims of domestic violence. SafePlace Director, Julia Spann, toured the group through their facilities. They also operate nearby houses for those transitioning out of the crisis intervention shelter.

Austin's affordable housing programs are a great asset to the community and need continuing community support and expansion.

Thanks to Maria Johnson for arranging this tour.

Update On Speakers Bureau

Another call came in to the League last week for a speaker on the role of women in the voting process and the importance of voting (two of our favorite topics). Our trusty Maxine Barkan stepped up to the plate and hit another ringer with her popular speech entitled "Perseverance, Persistence, and Passion", which is the story of how women finally obtained the right to vote. The appreciative group was the local chapter of the American Business Women's Association; the event was their monthly meeting held on April 21 at the Radisson Hotel. We tip our hats once again to the mighty Maxine!

League Day Unit Meeting

Chair: Carolyn Baker, 249-7012
 Location: Howson Library, 2500 Exposition Blvd.
 Date: Monday, May 11, noon
 Topic – Redistricting and Legislative Update

League Evening *NORTH* Unit Meeting

Canceled in lieu of the Annual Meeting

League Evening *SOUTH* Unit Meeting

Canceled in lieu of the Annual Meeting

The League may take action on governmental measures and policies in the public interest. It shall not support or oppose any political party or candidates. This *VOTER* is partially funded by the League of Women Voters of Austin Education Fund.

May Unit Meetings

The Day Unit Meeting will have a Redistricting and Legislative Update by knowledgeable League members. Due to the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, May 13, the Evening Units will be canceled.

Tuesday Night Unit Meetings

In June, we will be evaluating/brainstorming the new Tuesday Night Evening Unit and work on a questionnaire to survey members. Would you like to be part of this? Contact Judy Parken, 502-0278.

Capitol Corps Update

LWVAA continues to deliver testimony in support of, or in opposition to, numerous pending bills at our State Capitol. Before testifying, we have studied the issues and, over the years, have developed a state position on a wide range of issues including air pollution, benefits for disabled, health insurance for children, support for a housing (affordable) trust fund, voter photo ID, reducing repeat teen pregnancies, and many more. Details can be viewed on the state website, www.lwvtexas.org.

Recently I submitted testimony in support of SB 592 sponsored by Senator Leticia Van de Putte, in support of legislation to decrease *repeat* teen pregnancies by providing access to birth control information to minors, age 16 and over, who are already mothers. Currently parental consent is generally required for these teens. Other organizations in support of this bill include the Texas Medical Association, People's Community Clinic, and more. We advocate as volunteers and are working with other organizations, who have a much larger, paid staff!

May will be the last month the Texas Legislature is in session, unless a special session is called.

-- Judy Parken, Coordinator of Capitol Corps

In Honor Of ...

When you make a donation to LWVAA in honor of someone, or as a memorial, we'll print your tribute in the *Voter* and on our website. Call our office at 451-6710 to ask for more information. You can also call or email our president, Frances McIntyre at 451-1551 or mcintyre.frances@gmail.com.

Link Your Randalls Card to LWVAA

If you shop at Randalls, you can link your Randalls Remarkable Card to the Randalls Good Neighbor Program to benefit the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area. The next time you're at Randalls, pick up a Remarkable Card application at the courtesy booth to fill out and link your card to our account, #465. Randalls will pay us a percentage of your account total, so be sure to use your card every time you shop. By using your card, you will also be eligible for exclusive discounts, giveaways, enter-to-wins, direct mail rewards and Airmiles.

Take this *Voter* with you to the store as your reminder of the League of Women Voters of the Austin Area Good Neighbor Program account number to fill in on your Remarkable card application!

Observer Corps Update

Travis County Commissioners Court
 Karen Rankin, Observer Meeting 4/14/09

Item 24 sparked a lengthy discussion regarding the possibility of Travis County nominating Golfsmith as a Texas Enterprise Project. Currently, Travis County does not participate in this state program, although the city of Austin and other Texas cities and counties do. There is no cost to the county, and it was pointed out that the money available through this program will go elsewhere if Travis County does not participate. The concern expressed primarily by Commissioner Davis, but echoed by the rest of the Commissioners Court, is that the racial make-up of Golfsmith's employees does not reflect the make-up of the Enterprise Zone in which the Golfsmith corporate headquarters is located. Golfsmith was asked to present further information on this and other topics for more consideration before the Court makes a decision on whether to support this project.

Item 20 concerned matters before the Texas Legislature. In particular, three House bills, 1029, 1271, and 3983, all by Rep. Eddie Rodriguez, relate to affordable housing in Travis County. The possible effects of development and gentrification on long-time East Side residents were discussed as it relates to these bills. Some refinements to the bills were recommended.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE AUSTIN AREA**

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Austin, TX 78705
(512) 451-6710

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION

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Are your dues due? →

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

Please fill out the form below and send with your dues renewal and/or any changes in your information to the LWV-AA Office, 1011 W. 31st, Austin, TX 78705. **The League is grateful for your support!** If you do not wish to renew, please email **Mary Sue Neilson, Member Records**, at marysue22@gmail.com or call 491-6353, as soon as possible. This will save time and expense in sending follow-up reminders. Thank you for your cooperation.

For new and renewing members and for address changes: * Not for Women Only *****

Name _____; _____
Name of household member (if applicable)

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone (H) _____ (W) _____ (Fax) _____

Email _____ I'd like to receive the *Voter* newsletter via email.

Dues	Individual \$ 58.00	Household \$ 90.00	Student \$ 20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>I'm an existing member and this is a change to my information.</i>
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Additional Donation	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	MAIL TO LWV-AA OFFICE: 1011 W. 31st, Austin, TX 78705
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Total	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	
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(How your individual dues are allocated: National \$27.15; State \$22.80; **Local \$8.05**; Total \$58.00)

You can also PayPal your dues to lwvaustin@lwvaustin.org!