

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Barbara Murray

While we still have a couple of items on our plates, the primary focus of my President’s Message will be on the Annual Meeting, the final event of the League fiscal year, which ends May 31.

Annual Meeting – Saturday, May 25, 9:30 – noon

I hope you can join us for our 54th Annual Meeting! We will be celebrating another very successful League year while also looking toward the future with new ideas and challenges. It is with a little bit of trepidation that we chose the **Saturday of the Memorial Day weekend** for our meeting. We did it mainly because that is the date our fabulous speaker is available. (More on him later.) However, the more I thought, the more I realized that what better way to kick off a weekend where we **honor the memory of those who died for democracy and our freedoms**, including the right to vote, than by celebrating the work of the League as we strive to “Make Democracy Work.”

League member Susan Braymer has again graciously offered to host the meeting at her lovely home in Bay Oaks. League members will **meet at 9:30 for a delicious catered brunch. We will then take care of business** (elect officers,

approve a budget, vote on recommended bylaws amendments, re-adopt our program, and set priorities).

I am very excited to announce that our **speaker will be Bruce Elfant, Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector and Voter Registrar.**

Mr. Elfant is passionate about voter registration and has initiated several innovative voter registration efforts in Travis County. Travis County has the distinction of having the highest voter registration rate of any Texas urban county. Mr. Elfant is an **innovative thinker and a true friend of the League.** I hope you will be able to join us at the Annual Meeting as we learn not only about voter registration but also about voting rights and voter suppression.

Highlights

May 25 Annual Meeting Details



El Lago Candidates Forum



Welcome to Our Newest Member *Kendra Mahoney* And Welcome Back to

Kathleen Beeler



Voter Registration Plans



Advocacy Tips



Election & LWV Calendar

You will be receiving your invitation to the Annual Meeting and the Annual Meeting Workbook via email by April 25 with all the details.

Last Call for Nominations

If you would like to become more involved in the League, [Nancy Wallace, Nominations Chair](#), would like to hear from you. The LWV-Bay Area Board of Directors is always looking for fresh faces with new ideas to serve on the board. We meet 4 times a year, usually on Saturdays for breakfast, with emails in-between to plan, direct, and prioritize the goals and activities of the League. It is a wonderful way to foster friendships while challenging yourself and serving the community. If this sounds like something you would like to do or if you would like more information, please contact Nancy at 281-532-3633 or at nancyhwallace@aol.com. A slate of candidates will be listed in the Annual Meeting Workbook and presented for a vote at the Annual Meeting.

Voters Service

Our final scheduled voters service activities take place this month. On Monday, April 15, we will be [hosting a candidates forum for the city of El Lago](#). I am very proud that our League can provide this important service to our communities. Thanks go out to the League members who have volunteered their time to work at this event. Our last high school [voter registration drive will take place at Clear Horizons High School](#) on April 23. Please refer to Judith Oppenheim's report in this VOTER for details of the high school voter registration project. Judith, our very dedicated and passionate voter registration chair, is also planning a new project for the summer. She will be working with a professional videographer to make a video to show the various web resources voters can use to become informed and knowledgeable voters – that is, “power”

voters. She is looking for interested League volunteers who share her vision.

Last Discussion Meeting

We held our last discussion meeting of the year on March 23 with [a review of the LWV-Texas legislative priorities](#). The well attended meeting proved to be very informative on very timely topics with the legislature in session. See article by Diane Sheridan, Program Chair. I want to take this opportunity to comment on the quality of our discussion meetings. A new member remarked that attending one of our meetings is like attending a college seminar. We are so very fortunate to have Diane as our Program Chair. With her background as a professional facilitator, she is able to present information on almost any League topic using League and other resources. She has also involved other League members in presenting material. Thank you, Diane!

We envision a democracy where every person has the desire, the right, the knowledge, and the confidence to participate.



LWV-BA HIGH SCHOOL VOTER REGISTRATION CAMPAIGN

Judith Oppenheim

LWV-BA is sponsoring voter registration drives in area high schools. A memorandum of agreement with Clear Creek ISD allows us to conduct two drives a year in each of its 7 high schools. This report and the table that follows summarize our efforts, which are only possible due to the many members who assist! According to our most recent tabulation of voter registration applications, the team has signed up a total of 81 new voters. Including mail-ins, this number could be as high as 105.

This week's Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar (VDVR) update is divided into three sections: Weekly Results, Lessons Learned, and Coming Attractions. With the deadline for voter registration applications occurring last week, we are winding down our first year with CCISD seniors. The next two months will include some festival opportunities, reporting out, and developing resources for improving our effectiveness in advance of the 2020 Elections.

Weekly Results

April 2 was our first drive at Friendswood High School (FHS). Our table was located in the main hallway opposite the cafeteria during the lunch period of the day, which lasted from 11:20am to 2pm. During this time, students passed by our table on their way from/to class to/from the cafeteria building. We were able to register 5 Galveston and 2 Harris County new voters. Five of the students did not know their social security number and were given mail-in applications. In response to my thank you note, Administrator Newsom asked whether LWV could do a drive during FHS registration in August. This date has been added to the table on the next page. Anyone wishing to sign up may reply to this e-mail, and I will put you down for a shift.

Lessons Learned

- Just as at Clear Creek High School, parking was a problem at FHS. Since our drive coincided with college recruiting personnel on campus, there were not enough visitor parking spots, and I had to leave my car in a teacher-assigned space.
- Students need to be told in advance not only the time and location of the drive but also to have either their driver license or social security number with them.
- The main hallway was hard to cover with just two volunteers based on the best practice of going up to students individually while they are at lunch tables with friends. For the next drive, we will ask whether we are allowed to roam the lunch room with our VDVR materials.

Coming Attractions

- I have contacted organizers of Cinco de Mayo and the Greek Festival about staffing a voter registration table at their event. To date, these have not come through.
- We will be expanding our high school senior coverage to Dickinson High School.
- I will be working with a video production professional on a video to demonstrate online resources that voters need to check: voter registration information, photo ID requirements, polling place requirements (e.g. hours, locations), sample ballots, and how to find out what candidates stand for. Anyone interested in helping out may contact me by email: judopp@aol.com.

Voter Registration Drive Report - April 6, 2019

School	LWV Liaison	Date	Other LWV Volunteers	Harris County	Galveston County	Mail-in applications	Total
Clear Brook	Bonnie Boyd	2/27	Kunzinger, Austin	6	0	2	
Clear Lake	Judith Blanchard	3/4	Braymer	6	0	0	
Clear Falls	Jane Webb	3/5	Creamer	5	5	4	
Clear View	Jo McGinnis	3/20	Talbert	3	3	1	
Clear Creek	Cari Greene	3/20	Oppenheim	5	12	4	
Clear Springs	Virginia Kennedy	3/27	Gentry, Patten	3	17	3	
Clear Lake	Judith Blanchard	4/1	Braymer	9	0	5	
Friendswood	Judith Oppenheim	4/2	Patten	2	5	5	
Clear Horizons	Barbara Murray	4/23	Austin				
Friendswood	Judith Oppenheim	8/5	Volunteers Needed 3 Shifts: 9-11am; 11am-1pm; 1-3pm				
Totals				39	42	24	105

**VISIT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE BAY AREA'S WEBSITE**

www.lwv-bayarea.org

Want to contact your election officials?

You'll find them in our *Bay Area Guide to Elected Officials* at

<http://www.lwv-bayarea.org/CitizensGuide.pdf>

ADVOCATING EFFECTIVELY

Diane Sheridan, Program Chair

The 86th Texas Legislature adjourns *sine die* on May 27, so opportunities to advocate for the League of Women Voters legislative priorities will grow in the coming weeks. At the last LWV-BA discussion meeting, we reviewed the state League priorities as well as resources on the LWV-Texas website about how to advocate. We also pondered which advocacy methods are the most effective.

Sign up for **LWV-Texas Action Alerts on the LWV-Texas website**

<https://my.lwv.org/texas>

Scroll down and look on the left for “Sign Up Here for Action Alerts.”

On the left side menu on the LWV homepage, click on **Advocacy and Issues**.

Read about **LWV-Texas Legislative Priorities**, the status of relevant legislation, and the need for action on the 3 priorities:

[Voting Rights/Election Laws](#)

[Women’s Health](#)

[Public Education](#)

From *Advocacy and Issues*, click on **How to Advocate**. From here you can find lists of elected officials and how to find yours. Check out the State of Texas online resources. Learn how to search for bills and sign up for ones you want to track. Some excellent videos by Texas Impact describe how to advocate effectively. Most effective, according to the legislators interviewed, is testifying at a hearing on a bill. Next comes visiting your legislators, calling them, then writing them.

Googling “how effective is **social media** in lobbying my legislator” I found several articles recognizing that social media has changed the world of grassroots advocacy and is now an effective component of a lobbying campaign. But some say it is easy for legislators to ignore and doesn’t show that you live in their district.

From the How to Advocate page, click on **Faithful Advocacy: Telling Your Story at the Capitol**. These videos not only describe how to testify, visit and call your legislator, they also let you [see](#) sign-in kiosks, hearing rooms, people testifying, etc.

Hearings let you give info to legislators and explain “from the heart” how a bill will impact you. **Calls and visits** need to respect how busy legislative offices are. A 2-3 minute call gives you time to say that you live in the legislator’s district, what the issue is and how it will affect you, whether you support or oppose a specific bill by number, where it is in the legislative process, and ask how the legislator plans to vote before you thank them for their service if not their support. The same information is important in letters and emails.

ELECTION AND LEAGUE CALENDAR

April

- 15 El Lago Candidates Forum
- 22 First day of early voting by personal appearance
- 23 Last day for *application* to vote by mail to be received
- 30 Last day of early voting by personal appearance

May

- 4 Local elections
- 4 Last day for *ballot by mail* to be received (by 7:00 p.m.) unless late-arriving deadline applies
- 25 Annual meeting 9:30 – noon at home of Susan Braymer. Business meeting followed by speaker Bruce Elfant, Travis County Voter Registrar

October

- 7 Last day to register to vote in time for November 5 elections
- 19 Luncheon in San Antonio at the St. Anthony Hotel on the day and at the place where LWV-Texas was founded 100 years ago. Plan now to help celebrate! Details to come later.
- 21 First day of early voting by personal appearance
- 23 Last day for *application* to vote by mail to be received

November

- 1 Last day of early voting by personal appearance
- 5 Local elections; e.g. City of Houston. Possible Texas Constitutional Amendment Election
- 54 Last day for *ballot by mail* to be received (by 7:00 p.m.) unless late-arriving deadline applies

LWV-BAY AREA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2018-2019

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WHERE TO FIND THE LEAGUE

www.lvv.org - www.lwvtexas.org - www.lvv-bayarea.org

LWV-Texas may be found at:

www.facebook.com/LWVTX/

@LWVTexas

<https://www.youtube.com>