



THE VOTER

MARCH 2017

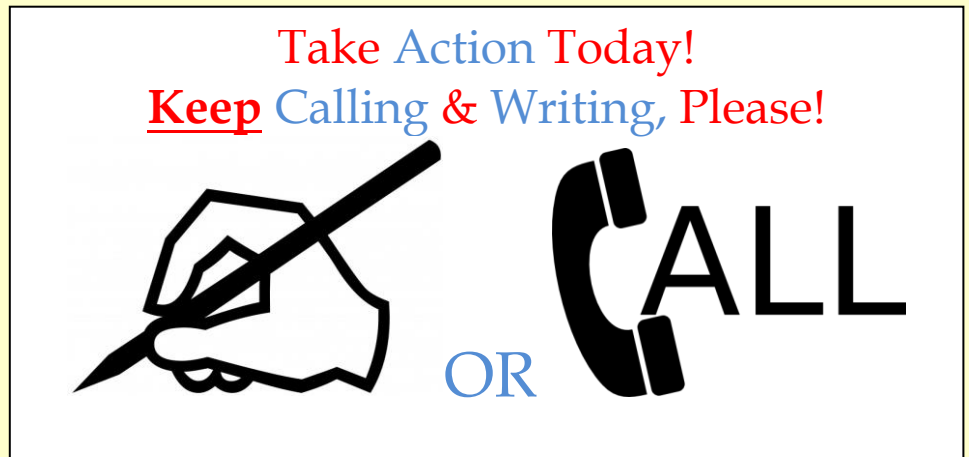
News from the League of Women Voters – Hill Country

LWVHillCountryTexas.org

MISSION: 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.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

League Members and Friends,



Capitol Action

League members, you should be receiving emails from LWV – Texas at least weekly asking you to make contact with legislators. If you are not, please email presidentlwvhc@gmail.com and we will make certain to forward them to you. These contacts take time, but they are important! While the following quotes are a repeat from the last “The Voter” they are important to remember.

“Non-profit and non-partisan does not mean non-participatory” and “We forget we are the leaders we have been looking for”.

Acting on League Studies

Human Trafficking - The League of Women Voters of Texas is opposed to all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. LWV-Hill Country is a member of The Hill Country Alliance Against Trafficking which is working to educate the public about trafficking and is working to eliminate the existence of human trafficking in the Hill Country of Texas. **Not In Our Backyard**, a seminar to address the past, present and future realities of Human Trafficking in the Hill Country is being offered on **Thursday, March 30, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m., River Room, Schreiner University Cailloux Campus Activity Center**. Please plan to attend as you will find the speaker, Chuck Paul, to be very informative. The event is free and open to the public. You can also see the latest updates on proposed legislation on Trafficking at http://lwtexas.org/human_trafficking.html.

Pay Day and Auto Title Loans – was the topic at the general membership meeting on March 17. Pastor Jeff Anderson from SERV Kerrville spoke about Freedom Loans, “*Nonprofit aims to help low-income residents break cycles of debt*”. If you or someone you know is struggling with a payday loan, has enough income to pay off a new low-interest loan and will commit weekly for meetings with a personal freedom guide to learn budgeting skills, please contact Freedom Loans by emailing info@FreedomLoans.org or texting 830-928-3575. Current updates on proposed legislation can be found at http://lwtexas.org/Pay_Day_Loans.html

Upcoming Elections

The city of Kerrville is having an election for city council members. In addition to sending questions to the candidates for publication on Vote411.org, LWV-Hill Country will be supporting the Chamber of Commerce Candidate's Forum planned for **April 12, 6:00 p.m, Schreiner University Callioux Activity Center.**

Fredericksburg Independent School District will be holding an election for Board of Trustees on May 6, 2017. Questions have been sent to the candidates and responses will be published on Vote411.org.

Many other area elections have been cancelled due to lack of candidates. Please thank your local elected officials for their willingness to serve their community.

Welcome New Member

Last month we welcomed new members Carlton Burton, Judy Ferguson, Susan Junker, Carol Parks, Karen Persely, and Sally Sheehy. This month we are pleased to welcome Hilary Mosty. She plans to be an active supporter of the mission of LWV. We are grateful for so many in the hill country who understand and support the mission of the League. If you know of others interested in joining, please invite them to a meeting or event, ask them to join, and direct them to our membership chair, Bunny Bond.

We Remember

Leahanna Young died on March 27, 2017. Quoting another LWV member, we remember "our dear friend, sister, treasured mentor, beloved sage" for her positive energy and smile. Leahanna was a member of our Leadership Team and was the primary facilitator for the 2016 Women's Equality Day event. She found our dynamic speaker, Susan Junker. Of course, there are many more things that could be said about Leahanna because she truly made a difference. You will be notified when we receive information about her memorial service.

Mark Your Calendars

March 30, 2017, Human Trafficking Seminar, 4:30 p.m. Schreiner University Callioux Activity Center,

April 14, 2017, Planning Meeting for LWV-TX Convention 2018, 9:00 a.m. Kerrville Chamber of Commerce Conference Room (all LWV members welcome)

April 24, 2017, LWV-HC Leadership Team Meeting, 9:00 a.m. 112 Homer Dr., Kerrville (all LWV members welcome)

May 12, 2017, LWV Hill Country Annual membership meeting, 12 noon, Bella Cera, Kerrville

April 26-30, 2018, LWV Texas convention in Kerrville

Respectfully,

Janice Zitelman

President LWV – Hill Country

JOIN US - League Membership

Be a member of the League; we invite you to join us! A membership application is on our website or you may contact Bunny Bond, Membership Chair at 830-377-9940. Our League annual dues are \$60 for an individual or \$85 for two in a household, and \$30 for student membership. Our dues are prorated from January. Include your name(s), address, email address, and phone number. Make your check to LWV-Hill Country; mail to LWV-HC, PO Box 290303, Kerrville, TX 78029-0303. Join the League and help make democracy work.

STAY CONNECTED

Visit our website: LWVHillCountryTexas.org (Soon to be updated)

Like our Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-Hill-Country-Texas/339618902798405>. The LWV-Hill Country welcomes your questions! Post to this Facebook page or submit questions via e-mail to PresidentLWVHC@gmail.com.

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS is a local, state, and national nonpartisan organization.

The LWV-Texas position on the issue of human trafficking in Texas: The League of Women Voters of Texas is opposed to all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern-day slavery and support measures to prevent the use of force, fraud or coercion to exploit a person for sexual or labor purposes, to prosecute traffickers and to protect victims. **Go to <http://lwvtxedu.org> for the free, four-hour TEA continuing credit course on issues of human trafficking. Teachers, take note of this!** This is the online course for which we received the state award.

Our latest League State Study in Texas is Payday and Title Loans. Focus: Explore the current regulations on payday and auto-title lenders in Texas and the accessibility and impact of these loans in the community. Scope: Define a payday loan, an auto-title loan, and the typical borrower. Research the history of the payday/auto-title industry in Texas over the past decade and describe the impact of regulations on the industry. Determine the current demand for loans in Texas and the economic impact of these loans on communities. Determine the typical interest rate charged and the usual length of time that it takes to pay loans. LWV-Texas now has a position on payday and title loans from which to advocate for legislative reforms.

Our national League, LWVUS, www.lwvus.org, is actively working to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Go to this website and see the range of issues from voter rights, voter turnout, reforming money in politics, and defending the environment.

OUR LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-HILL COUNTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM

President/Spokesperson: Janice Zitelman, presidentlwvhc@gmail.com

Treasurer: Bonnie Powers

Membership: Bunny Bond

Voters Service: Maggie Marsh-Nation

Webmaster: Debby Berry

Member-at-large: Marie Miller, Keren Persely

PLEASE CONSIDER:

Helping fund our State League, LWV-TX.

Do you purchase from Amazon? Please donate 0.5% of your purchase to LWV-Texas.

Instructions can be found on our web site, www.lwvtexas.org. Scroll down - it's way down there.

Or - just save these instructions:

On your Amazon account:

Search out Amazon Smile; select League of Women Voters of Texas Education Fund as your charity

Thereafter, for your purchase to count for the donation, log into <http://smile.amazon.com>

The program will send you an email to install buttons into your browser to make this step easier.

Questions? Email lwvtexas@lwvtexas.org. Thank you for your donation!

