

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Barbara Murray

Happy Holidays to everyone! We usually don’t publish a VOTER in December, but because we have events scheduled in January, we felt it was incumbent on us to get the word out!

Immigration Discussion Meeting Continues

I am very excited that we will continue our **focus on immigration** at our next discussion meeting scheduled for **Saturday, January 26**. Please refer to the article in this VOTER for more details. I look forward to seeing you there especially since I was not able to attend the first discussion meeting.

Legislative Interviews

Now that the election is behind us, LWV-Texas is asking us to call some of our elected state representatives and **set up a 30-minute appointment for a legislative interview**. The purpose of the interview is to introduce ourselves to them, find out their views, but NOT to lobby any of our positions. The League has detailed instructions on how to conduct the interview and how to report the results. The **deadline for reporting is January 11**. We are responsible for the Texas state representatives for **districts 23, Mayes Middleton, and 24, Greg Bonnen**. If you are

interested please contact me – lwvtxba@gmail.com. I apologize for the late notice!

Guide to Elected Officials

One of our main activities in January/February will be updating the **Bay Area Guide to Elected Officials**. (<http://lwv-bayarea.org/CitizensGuide.pdf>) With the results of the November election, there will be some new faces representing us at the state, local, and national levels of government. I thank each of you who volunteered to check that the names,

SAVE THE DATE!

Immigration Discussion Continues on Jan. 26
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
at home of
Diane Sheridan

❖
Legislative Interviews

❖
VDVR Recertification Opportunities

❖
Welcome to Our Newest Member:
Adrienne Bell

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

phone numbers, etc. on our publication are up to date. I look forward to receiving your reports in January. Once the publication has been revised and printed (probably in February), Louise Peck will be calling on you to help distribute the pamphlets to area libraries and city halls.

Voter Registration Activities - 2018

As the year draws to a close I think it is a great time to reflect on what we have accomplished in voter registration:

- **Total voters registered: 241**
 - 168 high school students
 - 70 college students
 - 3 other
- **Number of LWV-BA volunteers: 22**
- **Number of voter registration events: 18**
- Quoting Judith Oppenheim, our voter registration chair, this is her favorite success story:

“Twenty-two LWV-BA members took time out of their busy schedules to become Certified Deputy-Voter Registrars for both Harris and Galveston Counties. This long list gave us the numbers and the flexibility to host 10 Voter Registration Events (3 at the last minute) during the Fall 2018. Such a turnout represents a Vote of Confidence for our Registration program - and I consider myself so grateful for the support.”

VDVR Training and Recertification Opportunities

Since our Volunteer Deputy Voter Registrar (VDVR) certificates all expire on December 31st, we have scheduled a couple of events so that we can get recertified or be trained as a new VDVRs:

Training Session for Harris County

- Tuesday, January 29, 2019 – 4:00-5:00
- Freeman Library

The training will be conducted by the Office of Ann Harris Bennett and according to their website: ***Participants must arrive on time and attend the training in its entirety.* Please RSVP on the Harris County Tax Office website

(<https://www.hctax.net/Voter/Deputy>) to receive your certificate of appointment immediately after the training.

Galveston County Recertification:

Plans are underway for a **President’s Day potluck get-together** to recertify as a group. Details will be available in January.

Lobby Days

Mark your calendars for **February 4 & 5**, as League members from around the state **gather in Austin for Lobby Days**. It is a chance to meet and lobby state legislators, participate in workshops, and attend the “Defending Democracy” dinner. We may have money to help underwrite some of the cost. Let me know if you are interested in attending.



JANUARY MEETING TO CONTINUE FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION

Saturday, January 26, 2019

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

at the home of Diane Sheridan

1107 Live Oak Lane, Kirby Woods, Taylor Lake Village

“Immigration is the international movement of people into a destination country of which they are not natives or where they do not possess citizenship in order to settle or reside there ... or to take up employment.”

At our Saturday, January 26 meeting, LWV-BA will look once again at immigration issues in an effort to become better informed and thus better prepared to advocate for League positions and our personal beliefs. November’s presentations on federal agencies with roles in the immigration system generated additional questions/topics to address on January 26. Presentations by members will draw from the list below. **If you are willing to research and make a short presentation on one or more of these questions (no more than 5-6 minutes each), please contact Diane Sheridan, Program Chair, at dbsfacilitator@gmail.com or 281-326-5253. Numbers 4-9 are available ☺**

1. How does the temporary visa and seasonal worker visa program work?
2. Who follows up when a visa expires to be sure the visa holder leaves the country? A green card?
3. What are the types of temporary protected status? How does that system work?
4. Under what circumstances, if any, may a private citizen ask to see someone’s green card or ask your immigration status?
5. When in the hiring process may an employer ask for, or should you offer, papers that prove you are in the US legally?
6. Why is Customs and Border Protection the second largest revenue-collecting agency? What do they collect? Does the money go into the general revenue fund or is it designated for the agency in some way?
7. What are the differences between the enforcement powers of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and those of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Do they overlap, or are they sequential? When in the sequence might you go or be sent to an Immigration Court?
8. What is the status of the proposed Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act and of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program? Are changes expected?

9. Would you be willing to look for a simple description or chart that shows how the pieces of the immigration system fit together? So far, we find anecdotal information about things that went wrong, but we would like to find a chart that helps us understand how the system is meant to work.



**SIGN UP TO BE A VOLUNTEER DEPUTY VOTER REGISTRAR – OR
RENEW YOUR CERTIFICATION**

It expires December 31!

If you would like to register voters or learn how to become a volunteer deputy voter registrar, contact LWV-BA Voter Registration Chair, Judith Oppenheim at 915-471-9405 or judopp@aol.com. Certification as registrars expires at the end of December. Harris County recertification training is scheduled for January 29. Judith will be planning a Galveston County recertification in February.



ELECTION AND LEAGUE CALENDAR

January 2019

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Jan. 8 | 86 th Texas Legislature convenes. Adjourns <i>sine die</i> on May 27. |
| Jan. 26 | 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. – LWV Discussion Meeting on Immigration. At the home of Diane Sheridan |
| Jan. 29 | 4:00 – 5:00 – Harris County VDVR Training, Freeman Library |



Looking Forward...

Our Mission Statement

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Our Vision Statement

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

Our Value Statement

The League believes in the power of women to create a more perfect democracy.

LWV-BAY AREA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2018-2019

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WHERE TO FIND THE LEAGUE

www.lwv.org - www.lwvtexas.org - www.lwv-bayarea.org

LWV-Texas may be found at:

www.facebook.com/LWVTX/

@LWVTexas

<https://www.youtube.com>

VISIT THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA 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>