

League of Women Voters of Houston

101st ANNUAL MEETING

2021 Report to the Membership and Workbook



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF HOUSTON

lwwhouston.org

Empowering voters. Defending democracy.

League of Women Voters of Houston is a nonpartisan organization that believes in the power of every person to create a more perfect democracy. Together, we support the desire, right and knowledge for all to participate and be heard.



101ST ANNUAL MEETING

League of Women Voters of Houston

Thursday: May 27, 2021

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

To ensure the comfort and good health of our members and guests, this Annual Meeting will be conducted entirely via the Zoom electronic platform.

Part I. Organization

- Order of Business
- Minutes of the Previous Annual Meeting (May 18, 2020)
- Proposed Rules for the Annual Meeting

Part II. Reports Presented for Information

- Report of the President
- Reports on Special Projects
- Report of the Treasurer
- Reports of the Vice Presidents and Their Committees

Part III. Reports Presented for Deliberation and Determination

- Report of the Budget Committee, Fiscal Year 2021-2022
- Report of the Committee on Local Studies and Advocacy, 2021-2022
- A Special Resolution Ratifying the Dissolution of Our Heritage 501(c)(4) Incorporated Entity
- Report of the Nominating Committee

A quorum of 31 members will enable us to conduct business at this Annual Meeting.

Order of Business

Call to Order MaryJane Mudd

Organization MaryJane Mudd

Appointment of Parliamentarian
Appointment of Timekeeper
Appointment of Committee to Approve Minutes
Adoption of Order of Business
Adoption of Rules

About our Organization MaryJane Mudd

The Year in Review: Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy

Treasurer's Report Katie Shumway

Report of the Budget Committee Katie Shumway

Adoption of the Budget, 2021-2022

Report of the Committee on Local Studies and Advocacy Zak Miller

Adoption of Program, 2021-2022

A Special Resolution Ratifying the Dissolution of
Our Heritage 501(c)(4) Incorporated Entity MaryJane Mudd

Report on the Rising Stars Program MaryJane Mudd

Report of the Nominating Committee Liza Alonzo

Election of Officers and Directors

Awards and Appreciations Jeff Reichman

Report of the Awards Committee

Announcements MaryJane Mudd

Adjourn MaryJane Mudd

Minutes of the 100th Annual Meeting

May 18, 2020 6:00 pm

Appointments/Announcements

President MaryJane Mudd made the following appointments and announcements—

- Parliamentarian and Timekeeper: Linda Cohn
- Committee to Approve Minutes: Renee Cross & Courtenay Siegfried
- Adoption of Order of Business: Agenda
- Adoption of Rules—
 - Follow agenda
 - Questions: admit in Q&A box by members only
 - Three matters by majority vote: 1) Study & Advocacy; 2) Board Slate; 3) Budget

Attendance

Parliamentarian Linda Cohn confirmed a quorum was present.

Call to Order

President MaryJane Mudd called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Agenda

Organization

Liza Alonzo Was appointed Parliamentarian.

Year in Review

MaryJane Mudd advised that the full Annual Report can be found on the website; proceeded to present a high-level overview—

- Voting Services were led by Annie Benifield; included 31K eligible voters in 2019; 16 naturalization ceremonies; 23,889 voters registered within minutes of taking citizenship oath (85% rate of response); 228 VDVRs at high schools, colleges, and across the city.
- The Voters Guide remained a priority under the leadership of Jackie Alfred; focused on nonpartisan engagement in print, electronic, and interactive forms for 2019 in four languages (English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese); partnered with libraries, schools, universities, and neighborhood organizations for distribution; and built a personal ballot on Vote 411 from our webpage.
- Conversations with Candidates continued to serve as a platform for nonpartisan discussions with candidates and on issues under the direction and production of Gene Preuss; 40+ programs; co-hosting and interviewing by LWV Rising Stars, board members, and members.
- Civic engagement events and initiatives, including Fall 2019 Mayoral Forum, phone banks (led by Reda Hicks and Annie Benifield) in partnership with KPRC. The 2019 phone

banks engaged 80 volunteers with 800 calls taken. The March 2020 primary phone bank engaged 65 volunteers with 700 calls taken.

- Events, including Loop Unite Group and Women's Equality Day (led by Michelle Levey) with Nancy Sims and other speakers, allowed for nonpartisan discussions on various issues. The Centennial celebration (led by Tiko Hausman) had to be postponed. How to handle Repast is currently under consideration.
- Meaningful conversations were facilitated about the value proposition for members (led by Courtenay Siegfried and volunteers) and Fair Maps (by Phillip Yates).
- Rising Stars (led by Michelle Shabani) raised \$1K in ticket sales through the Christmas event.
- Marketing efforts were refreshed and supported by Aimee Woodall & The Black Sheep Agency with 100+ hours donated.

Treasurer's Report

Zak Miller informed attendees that a single 501c(3) has been pursued in an effort to save money, time, and energy. There is a June 15th decision on combining both entities; Zak shared that the League had solicited a proposal for services from Frost Bank, but the pandemic has delayed further action (at this time). He recognized significant support from individuals, including: 1) the late Mr. Pat Cunningham provided \$17K as a foundation for an endowment fund; 2) Bert & Joan Golding gift of \$23K to help produce voter guides; 3) The Black Sheep Agency in-kind contribution of Marketing/Communications services worth \$100K.

Zak advised that the League will need to take a conservative approach to finances and hang on to as much principle as possible, in light of pandemic effects. Introduced Katie Campbell Shumway, who will be filling the role of Treasurer.

Budget Committee Report/Adoption

Katie Campbell Shumway provided an overview of the League's state of finances. The League will be exploring new avenues for funding as well as considering ways to manage and conserve remaining funds. Reported total assets (as of April 30, 2020): \$31,710 in LWV-Houston 501c(4); \$96,494 in LWV-Houston Ed Fund 501c(3). Katie advised that a complete profit/loss statement is available in the Annual Report Workbook on the League website.

Katie reported on the Budget Committee's April 16th discussion. The impacts of COVID-19 include no Repast (net negative of \$37K); Voter Guides for 2019 City Elections (over budget by \$10k); Voters Guides for 2020 Primary Elections (under budget by \$23K). She shared that most expenses were kept close to budget; noted investment in marketing materials and higher expenses for naturalization ceremonies due to volume, but highlighted that contributions exceeded the budget in both the Education Fund and the Houston Area account.

Katie's 2020-2021 Budget Analysis: No large-scale events are planned; a smaller fundraising campaign is planned for Women's Equality Day (Rising Stars); the budget committee will reconvene in August/September to reassess and every quarter to analyze budget and make sure we are on track; restrict expenses where necessary; and the 2020 Primary Election Voters Guide

will be mimicked for the Presidential Voter Guide in digital form and printed copies for members (English only unless additional funding secured).

Education Fund

- Overhead/WED/Repast:
FY19-20 Actual \$2,312; FY20-21 Budget \$4,752 – assuming a very small Repast
- Rising Stars/Voter Guides/Voter Reg/Website/Study Advocacy:
FY19-20 Actual \$41,858; FY20-21 Budget \$9,700 – negative number is not especially concerning, since these categories don't bring in a lot of money
- Total Operations:
FY19-20 Actual \$39,681; FY20-21 Budget \$14,452 (fair in the state of the economy; we have cash in the bank for this variance; any opportunity to bolster up voter guides will happen)—assumes minimal fundraising due to COVID-19. Cash balances can handle this net loss with comfortable margins. The Treasurer will continue to evaluate cash throughout the year.

Houston Area

- Membership/Overhead:
FY19-20 Actual \$3,261; FY20-21 Budget \$4,319—The State/US dues were higher than budgeted last year. Those funds could be reduced/credited and create a more positive variance.

MaryJane made a motion to adopt; no objections; adopted 6:33 pm.

Budget Committee Report/Adoption

Phillip Yates provided a high-level overview of Study & Advocacy. He noted 2019 work on Texas Redistricting in partnership with the LWV-TX, The Civil Rights Project, and the Urban League; working with Harris County to advocate for resources and will continue prioritizing Census 2020. Phillip also offered the following committee recommendations as 20-21 priorities for Study & Advocacy: 1) Safe and accessible 2020 election season amid COVID-19; 2) 87th Texas Legislature—League members have opportunity to participate in Legislative Interviews (November 2020-February 2021); 3) LWV-Houston Lobby Day (February 2021); 4) Census 2020; 5) Texas Redistricting; 6) Ranked Choice Voting; and 7) Updating existing local position.

MaryJane made a motion to adopt; no objections; adopted 6:37 pm.

Forward View: Marketing

Aimee Woodall provided an overview of marketing efforts in 19-20 and forecast for 20-21 prioritization on visibility and awareness. Noted momentum in civic spaces have grown significantly. Marketing efforts have focused on staying true to roots but continuing to evolve. The League's brand needs to meet the intersection of digital connectivity and the rise of activism. She underscored the longstanding absence of a marketing strategy with consistent cadence of communication and shared that the League is now committed to more frequent communication.

Research indicated the community is hungry for more engagement opportunities. Primary and secondary research concluded that a visual rebrand should take the League back to its roots and history with a focus on how people have traditionally engaged with the League and democracy. Aimee shared visuals that showcased design concepts for signs, people, diversity of voices, a lot of spirit; looks and feels like League's purpose and speaks to its past and future. Moving forward, the League brand will have flexibility for storytelling, event promotion and overall mission driven approach communications.

Debuted rebrand last year; seeing it come alive (in 2020) consistently on three social media platforms: 1) FB (largest); Instagram (visual story); Twitter (ongoing conversation/subject matter that is trending and connecting people to engagement). All have the framework to educate, recruit and call to action people to participate in democratic process. The website was refreshed and it will be a landing page for resources. There will be an increase in emails and content to increase awareness and engagement to reach new audiences, and there will be new collateral/swag to increase visibility.

Aimee concluded by noting that Black Sheep has spent time in 2019 operationalizing their work for the future. She celebrated the Volunteer Communications Team and efforts including 22 volunteers and a full-time fellow from Rice University (which all will turn into a machine that will drive powerful engagement); 1.4M impressions; and 75K+ engagements on social media. Calls to Action: 1) Share volunteer information; 2) Follow the League on social media platforms.

Forward View: Volunteer Engagement

Liza Alonzo shared the Volunteer Engagement Committee's charge and acknowledged committee members. Committee inventoried, forecasted and recommended structure for volunteers and roles for volunteers. In Nov. 2019, the committee created 20 new position descriptions and defined and redefined at-large director positions for clarity, purpose and scope of impact. Liza is scheduling a meet-and-greet for new members to take place (possibly virtually) in July. What is to come—ongoing orientation for new members, onboarding/meet-and-greet process for new leadership; establish a way for people to plug in; publish a volunteer interest survey on the League website to collect and disseminate within the organization to maximize volunteer interest.

2020-2021 Board Slate/Adoption

MaryJane noted that the Board of Directors includes the names on the slide and those with unexpired terms with bios included in the Annual Report. She acknowledged the Nominating Committee—

- Chair—Franny Oxford
- Committee Members—Aimee Bertrand, Renee Cross, Courtenay Siegfried, Nancy Sims

MaryJane announced Board Slate (terms of service to commence on June 1, 2020 and end on May 31, 2022)—

- Treasurer—Katie Campbell
- VP for Membership Affairs—Mika Rao
- VP for Study & Advocacy—Zak Miller

- Director at Large—Liza Alonzo
- Director at Large—Jeff Reichman
- Director at Large—Michelle Carnahan
- Director at Large—Phillip Yates
- Nominating Committee Chair—Rocio Rubio
- Nominating Committee Member—Victoria Ann Cordova
- Nominating Committee Member—Jenni Rebecca Stephenson

MaryJane made a motion to adopt the board slate (unless there were nominations from the floor). There were no nominations from the floor and the slate was adopted at 6:55 pm.

MaryJane introduced the entire Board of Directors for 2020-2021—

- President—Mary Jane Mudd
- Secretary—Graci Garces
- Treasurer—Katie Campbell
- VP of Membership Affairs—Mika Rao
- VP of Voter Services—Annie Benifield
- VP of Marketing—Aimee Woodall
- VP of Study & Advocacy—Zak Miller
- VP of Fund Development—Michelle Levi McDaniel
- Directors at Large—Liza Alonzo, Amber Burton, Michelle Carnahan, Renee Cross, Nancy Kral, Claudia Ortega Hogue, Jeff Reichman, Tiko Reynolds-Hausman, Michelle Shabani-Ritchel, Courtenay Siegfried, Phillip Yates

MaryJane advised the League that there are a couple of other Director at Large positions that will be filled at a later time.

Awards and Appreciation

Jeff announced award recipients—

- Outstanding Achievements Awards
 - To the Black Sheep team for leading marketing efforts and rebranding—
 - Katie Laird—new brand strategy
 - Bill Ferenc—designed the brand
 - Niliza Ali—primary recruiter of Volunteer Committee
 - Franny Oxford—for providing needed continuity for our nominations committee—provided guidance and insight on how to develop a group of leaders to continue leading/serving
 - Gene Preuss—for organizing, supervising and moderating two outstanding series of candidate conversations (municipal elections, November 2019 and primary elections, March 2020) on HMSTV, and for producing, promoting and moderating an outstanding series of public affairs roundtable discussions on HMSTV—excellent reputation for a lot of things including conversations based on fact instead of political rhetoric

- MaryJane Mudd—for providing successful overall leadership of the organization—leading a very complex organization; accelerated the organization with focus on volunteers
- Sam Keeper Award for Excellence in Voter Services—jointly presented to Nancy Kral and John Byrd for excellence in organizing voter registration campaigns and volunteer services
- Helen Hunter Award—presented to Liza Alonzo for her steadfast commitment to League principles and our mission, expressed through her leadership in managing the Voters Guide, voter registration programs, recruitment of talent and membership, Repast support and committee work, and (most recently) refreshed, more vigorous and more effective organizations approaches
- Fifty Year Members—Madeleine Appel
- In Memoriam—Ann Herbage, Ralph Frankowski, and Ron Titus

Concluding Remarks

Mary Jane thanked the League for the award and congratulated all award recipients; thanked everyone for joining; encouraged everyone to follow the League on social media platforms and become members of the League (for those who are not already); asked for motion to adjourn.

Motion to Adjourn—Linda Cohn; 2nd—Zak Miller

MaryJane adjourned the meeting at 7:06 pm.

Proposed Rules for the Annual Meeting

Structure

Admission to the Annual Meeting is open to voting members and guests. Only members may have the privilege of the floor and vote.

Quorum

Thirty-one members must be present to conduct business at this meeting. This number represents the required eight percent of active members as of January 31, 2021.

Debate

Only members have the privilege of the floor. No person may speak twice until all who wish to speak have had an opportunity to do so. Speakers shall identify themselves. Each speaker shall be limited to one minute, plus the time required to complete a sentence.

Closing Debate

A motion to halt debate is stated as "I move the previous question." This motion, which must be seconded, is not debatable and must be put to an immediate vote. A two-thirds vote is necessary to adopt this motion. If adopted, debate is immediately ended and the motion under debate is voted upon.

Voting Procedures

A majority of those present and qualified to vote shall constitute an election of officers. Nominations for officers may be made from the floor by any voting member at the appropriate time.

Bylaws

Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting.

Annual dues

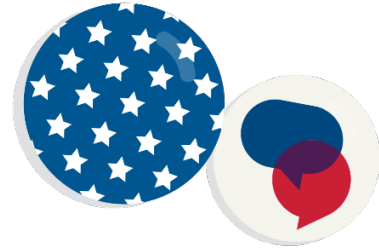
Any change to annual dues is determined by a three-fifths vote of those present and voting.

Budget

Adoption of the budget requires a majority vote.

Governing Rules

The Rules contained in "Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised" shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable and not inconsistent with the Bylaws.



REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

MaryJane Mudd

It is my honor to present the 2020–2021 Annual Report of the League of Women Voters of Houston. Something strikes me as I prepare this letter: How can I possibly convey in words the sheer dedication of members and volunteers who made our mission of empowering voters and defending democracy a reality this year alongside a raging pandemic and contentious election?

Is it possible, for example, to adequately describe what makes someone stand in the blazing sun in front of a church for four to eight hours registering voters? How a person might feel when he, along with 100 other League members, delivers voter registration boxes to over 90 post offices – only to be turned away by half of them? (That story has a positive ending. Keep reading.) Why a graphic designer stays up late to create, pro bono, yet another invitation to a LWV-Houston Get Out the Vote or Centennial online event? In truth, it's impossible to describe the type of perseverance that equates to work that is nothing short of amazing. Still, I'll give it a try.

The past year was one of firsts for our League. It was the first time we reinforced our strategic initiatives by developing and filling roles like Vice President of Development, Vice President of Strategic Partnerships and Director of Communications. The For All salon series was launched, making top-notch subject matter experts available to discuss critical topics like voter rights and redistricting. We created an onboarding presentation that successfully informed and energized new members and our Rising Stars cohort was the largest in the program's history.

Never taking their eyes off the ball that brought the League into existence 100 years ago, the Voter Services team ensured voters were well-informed and represented. Examples include the creation of a QR code for touchless voter registration, hosting more than 40 voter registration events and registering over 1,000 eligible voters on National Voter Registration Day, giving multiple Get Out the Vote presentations and media interviews, creating and distributing 15,000 book marks with essential voting information and most of all, developing the nonpartisan Voters Guide for which the League has come to be known—not in just one language but English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese. Thousands of hard copies were distributed and we received more than 80,000 Voters Guide page views plus Vote.411 hits leading up to the November 2020 Elections. The Guides were also referenced on Election Day at our phone bank in partnership with KPRC and Telemundo, where more than 60 League volunteers provided assistance to over 900 callers in multiple languages.

Speaking of 100 years, the LWV-Houston Centennial team pulled out all the stops for our celebration of the 19th Amendment by launching a Suffrage book and film club with the University of Houston and Public Library, participating in Houston Women March On and partnering with the Houston Heritage Society for a monthly speaker series connected to their special exhibit “Houston Women March On: Celebrating 100 Years of the Right to Vote.”

Our Study and Advocacy Committee met virtually every other week to advance the items laid out at the 2019 Annual Meeting, including the U.S. Census, redistricting and election security. As the year progressed and we entered the summer, the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis reignited our national struggles for racial equality and justice, and the Committee began to think through the best ways to be involved and contribute to this ongoing fight against racism and systemic oppression.

This brings me to something that resonated many times over the past year: The role the League plays in ensuring everyone’s voice can be heard. When our volunteers were turned away from U.S. post offices while trying to place boxes of voter registration forms out for the public, they didn’t give up. They went to media and worked with local legislators to reverse those unfair decisions, resulting in a letter from the United States Postal Service stating that the registration boxes could be placed in public at every post office. As summer turned to fall, federal, state and local elections were imperiled by disinformation and voter suppression measures including in Harris County. We supported, and continue to support, litigation and other means for halting and reversing these devastating efforts to undermine our voting rights and our very system of democratic governance.

Like I said, these are merely highlights, and highlights cannot adequately represent what goes into supporting a steady democracy. I hope you will read this Annual Report with the enthusiasm and interest of those who do this work, and if you are one of them, I thank you with absolute sincerity. I am humbled by the people I’ve met during my past two years as LWV-Houston President and moved to do even more to empower voters and defend democracy as Immediate Past President. I hope if you are not already a member of the League that you will join us. Onward!

Best regards,

MaryJane Mudd

Reports on Special Projects

Rising Stars Program

Chairs: Renee Cross, Lou Weaver

The 2020-2021 Rising Stars cohort is the largest in the program's history with 27 participants reflecting the diversity and energy of Houston. Recruitment appeals were made through the LWV's social media and shared by members and former Rising Stars, on the LWV website and in newsletters, and via personal contact from the co-directors and members. With a pandemic and one of the most consequential elections in U.S. history underway, the following individuals stepped up to serve our community in October 2020.

Official List 2020/2021 Rising Stars

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Neha Agrawal | Kimberly Giden | Zachary McKenzie | Charlotte Roberts |
| Niliza Ali | Mariah Grayson | Daniel Meza | James Spears |
| Taylor Brione Ballard | Norman Harris | Timoteo Modrow | Andrea Suarez |
| Elizabeth Bille | Shari Hunt | Amber Murray | Katherine Summerlin |
| Katherine Culbert | Ilhaam "Illy" Jaffer | Irene Nunez | Naomi Williams |
| Frances Castaneda Dyess | Stephani-Nicole Leota | Julia Ossemi-Seied | Lourdes Zavaleta |
| Dylan Forbis | Valerie Luna-Pena | Tonya Richardson | |

Due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, the Rising Stars meet virtually once a month as a group with the co-directors to discuss ideas and progress on their projects. Their projects focus on voter education and registration targeting formerly incarcerated citizens, the housing-insecure population and underserved neighborhoods as well as research on flood mitigation and the environment in the Houston region. They are also producing a Government 101 document explaining the functions of government at the federal, state and local levels to encourage people to engage with the appropriate officials with about their policy concerns. In addition to the monthly meetings, the Rising Stars routinely work together via Slack. Their final deliverables will be shared with the public through the LWV's social media and website and printed materials.

Even the pandemic has not prevented the Rising Stars from having fun. They have had virtual happy hours with guests such as Harris County Election Administrator Isabel Longoria (a former Rising Star!) to discuss voting and Rice University professor Jim Blackburn to talk about

environmental issues. Thanks to Rising Star Katherine Culbert, they recently participated in a tour of the Greens Bayou Wetlands hosted by the Harris County Flood Control District to learn how wetlands mitigation banks streamline the construction of flood damage reduction projects. With an eye on the future, Rising Star Tonya Richardson has developed an alumni survey to document previous class projects and to get input on the structure and activities for future classes. The survey will be conducted in May as recruitment begins for the next Rising Stars cohort. Applications will be due on July 1, with the new cohort starting in August.

Centennial Programming

Celebrating a Century of the League

Chair: Tiko Reynolds-Hausman

2020 marked our Centennial for the League of Women Voters of Houston. For 100 years, we have stood strong with our community, growing into the vital force we are today: pushing democracy forward by increasing political participation and empowering millions of voters with unbiased information and support.

In partnership with other Houston civic-minded organizations, we celebrated 100 years of the League and the 19th Amendment.

- We launched a Suffrage book and film club with the University of Houston and Houston Public Library to dig deep into contemporary and classic selections. Our selections included women of color, who unfortunately have not always been recognized for their efforts with the Suffragist movement.
- We participated in the “Houston Women March On” event to bring awareness to the latest voter suppression efforts.
- We partnered with the Houston Heritage Society for a monthly speaker series. Connected to their new exhibit, “Houston Women March On: Celebrating 100 Years of the Right to Vote,” local experts shared the compelling history of female enfranchisement.

HMS-TV Telecasts

Chair: Gene Preuss

Public Affairs, Public Access Program, 2020-2021

Programming was curtailed as a result of the COVID pandemic that caused Houston MediaSource to close their studios. As a result, we were forced to use reruns while we transitioned to Zoom interviews. The rapid developments forced a halt of Conversations with the Candidates.

We were still able to produce several of the Public Affairs, Public Access show during 2020-21.

January 2020

100th Anniversary Of The Ratification Of The 19th Amendment And Women's History. Guests were historian Rachel Gunter of Collin College in Plano, TX, and Angela Boswell, Dean of Arts & Sciences, Henderson State University in Arkansas and author of Women in Texas History.

February 2020

The show was a rerun due to a scheduling conflict with the Houston MediaSource personnel.

March 2020

2020 Harris County Primary Elections. A review of the primary election results for the area, state, and nation with political scientists William V. Flores and David Branham.

April 2020

The show was a rerun due to a COVID studio closure.

May 2020

The show was a rerun due to a COVID studio closure.

June 2020

The show was a rerun due to a COVID studio closure.

July 2020

The show was a rerun due to a COVID studio closure.

August 2020

Police Reform & Black Lives Matter. An overview of the history of police and race relations with Texas State University Professor of History Dwight Watson and Black Lives Matter Houston organizer Brandon Mack.

September 2020

2020 Election Issues. A review of the upcoming election issues facing voters around the area, state, and nation, with political scientists William V. Flores of the University of Houston-Downtown and Ashleen Menchaca Bagnulo at Texas State University.

October 2020

The show was a rerun due to a COVID studio closure and scheduling conflicts.

November 2020

LWV Houston Election Activities & Rising Stars Program. A discussion of the events and activities held by the Houston League of Women Voters with President MaryJane Mudd and

Annie Benifield, Vice President for Voter Services. Zach Miller, Vice President for Study and Advocacy, discussed the LWV Houston leadership program, Rising Stars.

December 2020

The show was a rerun due to a COVID studio closure and scheduling conflicts.

January 2021

Discussing the Events at the US Capitol. A review of the riots at the US Capitol in January 2021, with political scientists Ann Collins of McKendree University in Lebanon, IL, and Ashleen Menchaca Bagnulo at Texas State University in San Marcos, TX.

February 2021

African American History Month. A discussion about the importance of African American history with Don Caleb, II, an educator, historian, and parent. Miguel Ceasar, Acting Manager of the Houston Public Library's Gregory School, talks about the resources available at the Gregory School archives.

March 2021

Winter Storm Uri and the Energy Question in Houston. Amy Peck, Houston City Council Member for District A, discusses the effect of the winter storm on Northwest Houston. Mannti Cummins, the director of Energía Veleta, discusses wind power in Texas, and Gavin Dillingham with the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC) discusses the future of energy resources.

April 2021

Property Taxes and the Houston Police Chief. Elizabeth Doss, Assistant Chief Deputy of Operations with the Harris County Tax Assessor-Collector's office, and excerpts from an October 2019 interview with Troy Finner, Executive Assistant Chief for Houston Police, who later became chief.

Conversations with Candidates, 2020

Harris County Primary Elections 2020

1. Wednesday, February 12

6:30 – 7:30 Harris County Commissioner Pct. 3 – Democratic Candidates

Moderator: Tim Lankford

Candidates: Michael Moore, Morris Overstreet, Diana Martinez Alexander

8 – 8:30 Harris County Commissioner Pct. 3 – Republican Candidates

Moderator: MaryJane Mudd

Candidate: Tom Ramsey

2. Wednesday, February 19

6:30 – 7:30 Harris County Sheriff, County Attorney & Tax Assessor – Republican Candidates.

Moderator: Gene Preuss

Candidates: Paul Day & Chris Daniel

8 – 8:30 Harris County Sheriff – Democratic Candidates

Moderator: Gene Preuss

Candidate: Ed Gonzalez

3. Wednesday, February 26

6:30 – 7:30 Harris County Attorney & Tax Assessor -Democratic Candidates

Moderator: Gene Preuss

Candidates: Christian Dashaun Menefee and Ben Rose

8 – 8:30 Harris County Commissioner Pct. 1 – Democratic Candidates

Moderator: Jessica Wiggins

Candidate: Rodney Ellis



REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Katie Campbell Shumway

Finance Committee: Tanya Pal, Carol Shattuck, Zak Miller, MaryJane Mudd, Sharon Cunningham, Michelle Levi

June of 2020 was met with apprehension and financial uncertainty, but with a historic election upon the League, the membership and Board of Directors exceeded fundraising goals with the guidance of the newly appointed VP of Development. Boasting 100% Board financial participation, the winter fund-raising push raised over \$20,000 for the Voters Guide and over \$35,000 for operations and other mission-focused needs. The Voter Services team, including the Voters Guide Committee, was also able to secure important grants underwriting the Spanish and Chinese translations. These efforts ensured a robust Voters Guide accessible to many Houstonians in their native language.

With consideration of COVID-19 restrictions on gatherings, the League was able to provide informative virtual programming with very little expense. These efforts led to a sound cash standing that provides a stable foundation for the coming fiscal year. League of Women Voters of Houston and the Houston Education Fund (hereafter the League) remain in good financial standing.



REPORT OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE

Tanya Pal, Chair

The Finance Committee reviewed and discussed the proposed FY21-22 budget for the League of Women Voters of Houston on April 19, 2021. After development recommendations proposed by Ms. Shattuck (VP of Development), the Finance Committee approved the budget for recommendation to the League's Board of Directors.

On April 26, 2021, Ms. Campbell (Treasurer) presented the FY21-22 to the Board of Directors for discussion and approval. Highlights of this discussion include requests for funds related to voter services and registration, targeted marketing efforts, and flat expenses related to operations. The Board also discussed investing in a new website to meet the needs of members, volunteers, and board members. This expense will be revisited in January of 2022 to ensure proper funding is available for the expense scheduled for March of 2022, but the Board agreed on the importance of the investment. The Voters Guide will have funds available to translate and print the November and March guides in four languages.

After review, the Board of Directors voted to approve and recommend the FY21-22 Budget for the League of Women Voters of Houston. This motion was approved and seconded unanimously. As a final step we now ask that the membership ratify this budget.

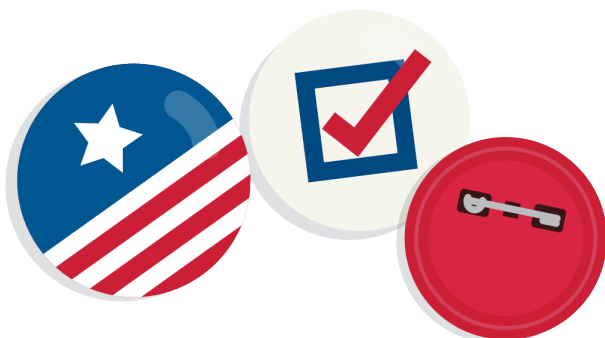
| FUNDRAISING | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|----------|-----------|
| | WED | Repast | Membership | General | | Overhead | Endowment |
| | (Fundraising) | (Fundraising) | (Fundraising) | (Fundraising) | Total Fundraising | | |
| | Budget | Budget | Budget | Budget | Budget | Budget | Budget |
| Income | | | | | | | |
| Contributions | 0 | 0 | 0 | 75,000 | 75,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Event Income | 1,000 | 15,000 | 0 | 0 | 16,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Earned Income | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Membership Dues | 0 | 0 | 26,925 | 0 | 26,925 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Income | 1,000 | 15,000 | 26,925 | 75,000 | 117,925 | 0 | 0 |
| Cost of Goods Sold | | | | | | | |
| Less LWV-T PMP | 0 | 0 | 6,380 | 0 | 6,380 | 0 | 0 |
| Less LWV-US PMP | 0 | 0 | 9,280 | 0 | 9,280 | 0 | 0 |
| Total COGS | 0 | 0 | 15,660 | 0 | 15,660 | 0 | 0 |
| Gross Profit | 1,000 | 15,000 | 11,265 | 75,000 | 102,265 | 0 | 0 |
| Expense | | | | | | | |
| IRS Penalty | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Association Management | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 26,400 | 0 |
| CC processing fees | 100 | 750 | 840 | 3,750 | 5,440 | 0 | 0 |
| Coalitions/Organizations | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Convention/Council | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Event Entertainment | 0 | 500 | 0 | 0 | 500 | 0 | 0 |
| Fees/Licenses | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 800 | 0 |
| Food/Beverage | 160 | 2,500 | 0 | 0 | 2,660 | 500 | 0 |
| Insurance | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,500 | 0 |
| Marketing/Advertising | 0 | 0 | 2,500 | 0 | 2,500 | 1,380 | 0 |
| Office Supplies | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,200 | 0 |
| Postage/Delivery | 0 | 0 | 450 | 160 | 610 | 250 | 0 |
| Printing/Copying | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 100 | 0 | 0 |
| Professional Services | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4,800 | 0 |
| Storage | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,440 | 0 |
| Telephone/Internet | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1,260 | 0 |
| Mileage | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Venues | 125 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 125 | 0 | 0 |
| Website | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Expense | 385 | 3,750 | 3,790 | 4,010 | 11,935 | 39,530 | 0 |
| Net Income | 615 | 11,250 | 7,475 | 70,990 | 90,330 | -39,530 | 0 |



REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR MARKETING

Aimee Woodall

There has never been a greater need for strong communication about elections, the democratic process and civic engagement, and the League of Women Voters Houston is Harris County's most critical resource for nonpartisan information. Since the November 2020 election, the Marketing Committee has been in active recruiting mode with the intention of building out more robust resources to help our community navigate elections, better understand the democratic process and increase civic engagement. We're proud to announce that [Alan Bernstein](#) has joined the Board and the Marketing Communications Committee as Director of Communications. As we continue to build the team, we're actively seeking seasoned writers and digital experts to contribute nonpartisan content to LWV Houston's digital channels in both long- and short-form. If you have creative talent and strong writing abilities and are interested in joining our committee, please reach out through the website. To stress the importance of League communications in our community, we want to recognize our website as an important tool in supporting voters during election season and throughout the year. In 2020, nearly 59,000 visitors engaged with the site, seeking civic engagement and League knowledge. We received over 80,000 Voters Guide content page-views, with visitors spending over 4 minutes a session empowering themselves with must-know voter information before they headed to the polls. Our community depends on us for timely, accurate, unbiased information during the most critical democratic moments—and we can do more for our community with your help. Follow the League's social channels for real-time updates on membership activities, elections, volunteer opportunities and other timely information!



REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT OF FUND DEVELOPMENT

Carol Shattuck

The position of VP of Fund Development was created to ensure that the League could identify new ways of connecting with our current and prospective donors to continue to meet the financial needs of our organization. I began my role as VP for Fund Development in October 2020. A Fund Development Committee was created which met four times to help develop a strategy and initial plan for donor engagement. The first step that taken by the committee was to ask for every member of the Board of Directors to make a financial gift to the organization, thus making a statement about their commitment to the inspiring work of the LWV of Houston. Next, an end of year update was written and sent to the entire mailing list of the League of Women Voters with a video of MaryJane Mudd, attached to the email, asking for their financial support. At the same time individual letters were mailed to long-term donors of the LWV of Houston, thanking them for their past support, inviting them to continue to support the League which resulted in a major increase in year-end and January contributions.

This coming year, in addition to maintaining efforts launched in the prior year, the Fund Development Committee will be working to expand business engagement with the LWV of Houston by reaching out to business leaders (especially those with women leaders) to tell them about the LWV of Houston, share how the LWV of Houston is a resource to their companies on civic education and to ask for their financial support. Lastly, the Committee will complete efforts to consolidate the League's dual IRS certifications into one (501(c)(3) organization that will continue to provide donors with the ability to take a tax deduction for their contribution and streamline the administrative requirements of the organization.

Thank you to the Fund Development committee members Mary Davis, Taylor First, Roshni Patel, and Christina Stone.



REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR MEMBERSHIP AFFAIRS

Mika Rao Kalapatapu

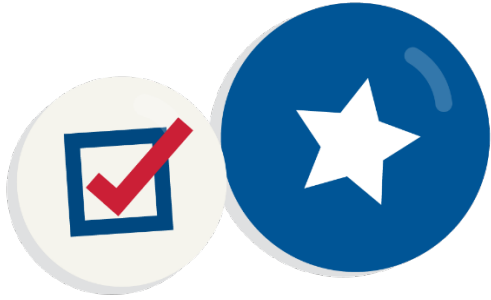
Membership Committee: Liza Alonzo, Renee Cross, Rocio Rubio (currently on leave), Courtenay Siegfried, Lou Weaver

As 2020 began, the membership committee was determined to keep the forward momentum started in 2019 on increasing membership and connecting members to volunteer opportunities. With this in mind, early in 2021, Board Trustee Liza Alonzo convened a subset of the committee to build out the organizational chart. For the first part of the year, the membership team met on a monthly basis to discuss open roles and ensure the board was continually defining new needs for the nominating committee to connect new members with opportunities.

Thanks in large part to the huge uptick in media coverage of the League's voter registration efforts, the League's membership saw a great increase in members. As of April 6, 2021 the League listed 420 members.

Due to constraints during the pandemic, we were unable to schedule face-to-face member orientation and community-building membership gatherings during the course of 2020. However, to provide LWV-Houston members with opportunities to engage in our democracy and thoughtful discourse, the Membership Committee developed a plan to launch a quarterly discussion series in 2021. The "For All" series focuses on a mission-related topic, like critical civic engagement and voter protection efforts, and is open to all members. The first event, "Voting Rights For All," was held virtually in March 2021 and attracted more than 60 attendees. A second event focused on redistricting and advocates deep in the fight for fair maps and accessible democracy took place at the end of April, 2021.

In addition, we are eager to connect with those who joined the League in the past year and ensure they understand our mission and how to connect with volunteer opportunities. This May we launched a virtual new member orientation, and this is something we intend to offer on a regular basis.



REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Claudia Ortega Hogue

Efforts coordinated by:

- VP of Strategic Partnerships, Claudia Ortega Hogue
- Speaker's Bureau Chair, Victoria Cordova
- Phone Bank/Debates/Forums Chair, Reda Hicks
- Tiko Reynolds-Hausman, Community Engagement & Education Director

Community Speaking Engagements / Speaker's Bureau Chair:

- Community Organizations:
 - Harris County Public Library
 - Cheniere
 - Univision
 - Girl Scout Troops
 - St. Peter United Church of Christ
 - SABIC
 - South Main Alliance
 - Lakes of Parkway Women's Group
 - Eastwood Civic Association
 - Young Men's Service League
 - Bay Area Unitarian Universalist Church
 - Heritage Society
 - Lone Star College-Kingwood
 - Houston Grand Opera
 - Southwest Management District
 - Big Brothers Big Sisters
 - UT School of Public Health
 - University of Houston-Downtown

- Reminders:
 - Speaker Request Form is now live on the LWV Houston's website! [Click here](#).
 - [Sign up to be a League ambassador](#)! The LWV Houston is continuing to add folks to our rolodex.
 - Speaker Checklist:
 - If you booked a community presentation or speaking engagement on your own, please share details with the Strategic Partners Team for tracking purposes.
 - Check our speaker request spreadsheet to make sure your engagement is on our radar [here](#).
 - If you put together a presentation for the engagement, send it to the Strategic Partners Team to add to our presentation collection.
 - If you received a testimony or thank you note from the organization, send it to the Strategic Partners Team.
- Note: The Strategic Partnerships team connected with Jordan Smith working with MMA Fighter, Jessica Aguilar and Elaine Bromka Co-Author/Performer of the Off-Broadway Solo Show Team for Three: Lady Bird, Pat & Betty. The goal was to find opportunities to raise awareness on local Voter Engagement efforts.

Spanish Language Media Interviews

- Univision 45 Houston—
 - Community Affairs Show "Contigo en la Comunidad" - La Importancia del Voto del La Mujer Latina en las próximas elecciones de Noviembre": <https://www.univision.com/local/houston-kxln/la-importancia-del-voto-de-la-mujer-latina-en-las-proximas-elecciones-de-noviembre-video-1>
 - Virtual Town Hall - Foro Virtual Registro de Votantes, Votacion por Correo, y la Necesidad de Trabajadores Electorales" <https://fb.watch/1OMMP9a2GD/>
 - Virtual Town Hall - Voto por Correo, Votacion Anticipada y Dia de la Eleccion" - <https://www.facebook.com/noticias45houston/videos/1063739857380139/>
- El Dia De La Mujer Latina - <https://www.instagram.com/tv/CHBJtmVlPHi/?igshid=s0hiunxd1tan>
- Telemundo Election Day - Live News

Election Day Phone Bank in Partnership with KPRC, Telemundo and NRG

- Fielded English Calls – 579
- Fielded Spanish Calls – 366
 - Total of 945 Calls – from across the Greater Houston Region (13 hrs)
- Recruited 60 Volunteers



REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR LOCAL STUDIES AND ADVOCACY

Zak Miller

2020 was a year of enormous challenges: The pandemic, the intensification of the struggle for civil rights, a highly contentious presidential election and transition, in addition to the more mundane issues of everyday life. In short, it was the kind of year that the League of Women Voters is made to confront. The Study & Advocacy Committee is pleased to share the following highlights from a year unlike any other.

Beginning with the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic, the Study and Advocacy Committee met virtually every other week to advance the items laid out at the 2019 Annual Meeting. These included a focus on the U.S. Census, Redistricting, and Election Security. As the year progressed and we entered the Summer, the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis reignited our national struggles for racial equality and justice, and the Study and Advocacy Committee began to think through the best ways to be involved and contribute to the fight against racism and systemic oppression. While the pandemic continued to rage through the summer and into the fall, our Federal, State, and Local Elections were imperiled by an organized dis-information campaign and extensive voter suppression measures. We supported (and continue to support) litigation and other means for halting and reversing these devastating efforts to undermine our voting rights and our very system of democratic governance.

Just as a faint light began to appear in the form of vaccines against the virus, the most shocking attack on our democracy in living memory occurred when a mob stormed the Capitol in an attempt to overturn the results of the 2020 election. In the wake of that failed attempt, a slew of bitter, ugly, suppressive election laws have been proposed in states across the country – including Texas - to curtail ballot access. The League of Women Voters grew out of the fight to extend voting rights to women 100 years ago, so it is a fitting extension of that work to now fight to protect those hard-won rights. The Houston Chapter's Study & Advocacy Committee has been proud to help in these efforts.

As Harris County election officials began to prepare for the first election during a massive public health emergency, the League was proud to stand with voters across the region and signed on to lawsuits challenging efforts to block voting access by prohibiting drive-up voting, eliminating most early ballot drop-off locations, and a score of other anti-voter tactics. The suits succeeded and Harris County

conducted one of the most secure, accurate, and fair elections ever held. Even under the extraordinary circumstances imposed by the pandemic, Houston area voters cast their ballots in the highest percentages recorded in recent memory.

For the U.S. Census, Study and Advocacy shared information across platforms to encourage people to participate in the national head count. Making the point that an accurate count would provide federal financial support and greater political representation to the region, we joined the local coalitions helping promote the Census.

We were also excited to support the LWV Texas efforts on Redistricting and the Census and are particularly proud of our effort to reach out to all members of the Houston area state legislative delegation. This yielded several excellent discussions with our representatives. We also participated in the LWV's Virtual Lobby Day at the Capital and have continued to share critical information and up-dates with membership about the pending issues before the 87th Texas Legislature.

Our work on the Census led directly into the current legislative session where redistricting is being debated. Most pertinent to our local chapter is the way in which jurisdictional lines can cut through neighborhoods, and even buildings like homes and apartment complexes. Committee Member Ron Drees took the lead in preparing a written statement on the issue that was submitted as testimony on the issue.

We also continued to support the issues of Ranked Choice Voting, Election Security, and Environmental Justice through information sharing, and participation in ongoing meetings, dialogues, and other action.

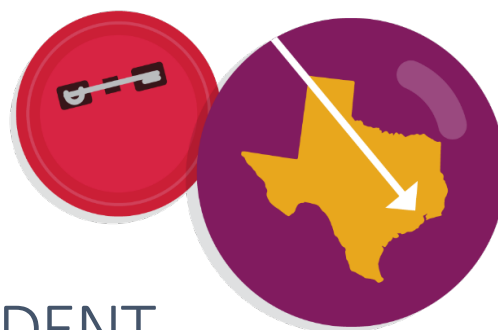
Working together with other Committees and outstanding League members we also supported the design and launch of *For All*, a regular salon style conversation to help bring about an exchange of ideas on topics such as race, redistricting, and other critically important issues.

Local Programming Study & Advocacy.

Ratification Resolution Proposed by Zachary W. Miller Vice President on behalf of the Committee: We propose no new local formal studies for the 2021-2022 League Year.

We propose to continue our work opposing partisan, racial gerrymandering, while maintaining careful attention to redistricting as it plays out in Harris County and promoting a transparent and accountable redistricting process.

Additionally, the Study and Advocacy Committee recommends the following elements for special focus during the 2021-2022 League year: Support efforts surrounding racial and social justice by focusing on the need for greater voter access, voter registration, and elections participation.



REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR VOTER SERVICES

Annie Johnson Benifield

Naturalization Ceremonies

Large Naturalization Ceremonies conducted by federal judges were suspended after the February 2020 ceremony.

In June 2020, US Citizenship and Immigration Services began holding small, administrative naturalizations in their offices. Voter Services had congratulatory notes printed with LWV information that are stapled to highlighted Voter Registration Applications and delivered regularly to USCIS offices. They have been naturalizing 2,000-2,400 new citizens per month.

Since June 2020, LWV - Houston has delivered 15,400 applications with notes, 2,000 more were scheduled for approximately May 1, and another 2,000 by the end of May. When USCIS resumes in person, with federal judges conducting naturalizations, we plan to be ready to shift back to supporting voter registration at the ceremonies as we have in the past.

Adopt a Post Office Initiative

In mid-summer 2020, Voter Services launched the Adopt-a-Post Office project. With the help of the team, boxes for Voter Registration Applications were constructed and assembled.

Over 100 volunteers offered to help, and 91 post offices - most in Harris County - were set up with volunteers and boxes of materials.

After a setback by a U. S. Postal Service prohibition, [with the help of Houston Congress members, the program restarted with additional boxes.](#) We continue to have issues with some post offices being reluctant to participate, and we will continue to keep trying to get more post offices to participate.

Voter Services has committed to keep post offices supplied with Voter Registration Applications.

By April 2021, 47 post offices had been identified as important sites, and volunteers had agreed to staff 41 of them. Recruiting and supplying volunteers continues long-term.

METRO Partnership

We continued our campaign that placed LWV election information on every bus, light rail and park-and-ride station.

Register to Vote Boxes

Not only in post offices, but over 150 Register to Vote boxes were placed in a variety of locations throughout the Houston area.

A varied group of restaurants, coffee shops, hardware stores, bike shops, and some grocery stores displayed our boxes and helped distribute voter registration and voter information materials.

We had a setback with some of the larger grocery store chains and plan to try again to see if they are willing to participate in the future.

QR Code

To encourage “hands-free” registration during the pandemic, Voter Services developed a QR Code for getting voter registration forms to voters.

People scanned the code, filled out an online form which was available in English, Spanish, Chinese or Vietnamese, and a voter registration card was mailed via USPS.

243 voter registration cards were mailed prior to the October registration deadline.

The QR code is still operational, and LWV-H intends to offer this for the next election cycle.

Voters Guides

Once again, Voter Services provided the non-partisan Voters Guide.

- 166 candidates were contacted by LWV/Houston. This does not include candidates contacted by LWV/TX or LWV/US.
- 154 candidates responded. 100% of Democrats, Green, Independent, Write-in candidates responded. The 12 non-responding candidates were Republicans or Libertarians.
- 12,500 copies of a 44-page publication were printed and distributed.
- The Harris County Public Library and [the Houston Public Library](#) continue to be important partners in distributing the voter guides. Patrons were asked if they wanted a voter guide when they picked up books curbside and they were also able to phone their local branch and request one for pick up.
- Other community partners assisting in this initiative included OCA Greater Houston, Houston in Action, Houston Chinese Alliance, Institute for Civic Education in Vietnam. Local area LWV leagues and LWV-Texas participated.
- The Voters Guides were also available on the LWV/Houston Website and VOTE411. Voter Guides were available online in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese.

National Voter Registration Day

The pandemic made it difficult to register voters face-to-face for National Voter Registration Day, September 23, but we managed to sponsor a large voter registration event, following protocols of masks, gloves, social distancing, and wet wipes for all.

We partnered with Harris County Public Library, KPRC Channel 2, and Goodwill Industries.

We hosted over 40 locations in the Houston area, and with the assistance of hundreds of volunteers, we distributed voter registration cards, QR code scans, and voter information. While it is impossible for us to know exactly how many were registered that day, we know it was well over 1000 people.

GOTV—Get Out The Vote

As election day approached, Voter Services made sure that our partners could help GOTV. We made sure we had plenty of bookmarks for whoever wanted one.

The bookmarks gave information on registering, where to vote, ID requirements, early voting, and much more.

We partnered with Bonding Against Adversity at a Houston Food Bank event where over 3000 bookmarks were placed in boxes of food.

In total, over 15,000 bookmarks were distributed to various post offices, stores, apartment complexes, restaurants, and individuals.

Partners and Presentations

Voter Services worked with a broad variety of partners. Besides the partners previously mentioned in this presentation, this is a partial list of some of our other partners:

Girl Scouts, City of Houston, Westbury Baptist Church, St. Arnold's Brewery, Black Lives Matter, University of Houston, Harris County, Rice University, Lone Star College, Aldine ISD, Humble ISD, and many more.

Voter Services also provided over 20 presentations to a variety of groups [including broadcast media](#) and gave [numerous interviews](#) regarding voter registration and voting in general. We even gave a presentation to a group of high school students in Brazil who had many questions regarding the American elections. An interview with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation can be viewed [here](#).

Communication and Conclusions

We had a busy, productive, and fun year. We now have over 700 names of volunteers in our data base. Harris County provides new VDVRs with our contact information for voter registration opportunities. Voter Services feels that it is in significant part to our efforts that we have seen LWV-Houston membership increase this year. We have sent regular emails, communicating with volunteers and have done our best to make sure all felt welcome. We increased touch points for people to register to vote and Voter Services is proud of our efforts. We look forward to continuing to increase voter opportunities in the LWV-Houston service area.



REPORT OF THE AWARDS COMMITTEE

Chair: Jeff Reichman

It is a pleasure and privilege to honor the outstanding service of our League members. These awards cover the true diversity of activities and interests of our local league, from refreshing our public image to retooling our internal processes that make our League function. You'll recognize some familiar names and faces on the awards roster this year, but you'll also meet some newer League members who are making important contributions. In keeping with tradition, 2021 recipients will be revealed at the Annual Meeting.

Outstanding Achievement Awards are presented for notable accomplishment, recognizing individuals who, over the course of the League Year, have shepherded a significant program or project to great success. The number of Outstanding Achievement Awards is not limited but the Awards Committee takes great care to maintain the highest standards. These recognitions must remain a distinctive and meaningful honor.

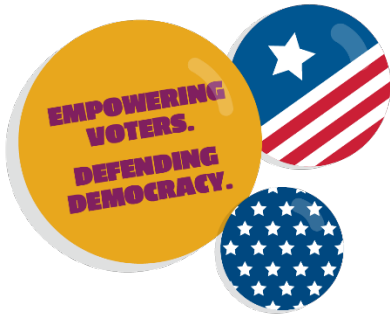
The Helen Hunter Award was established in 1995 to honor Helen Hunter, LWV-Houston president from 1982-1985, and to recognize and encourage exemplary leadership. The award is not presented every year, but rather only when the Awards Committee is able to identify a candidate of exceeding merit. The citation celebrates an individual who, *over the course of League membership, has epitomized the exemplary spirit of Helen Hunter in furthering the mission of the League of Woman Voters in a cordial, steady and effective way; who has brought great credit to the League of Women Voters of Houston; and who has thereby brought great benefit to the community we serve.*

The Awards Committee is pleased to recall this honor roll of Helen Hunter Award recipients:

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1995 Claudia Kemondo | 2005 Barb Swartz | 2013 Jacqueline Alfred |
| 1996 Melba Drake | 2006 Gwen Essinger | 2015 Tom Berg |
| 1997 Margaret Kolodzie | 2008 Judy Hollinger | 2016 Novelle Doherty |
| 1998 Mary Gillete | 2009 Millie Whittington | 2017 Laura Blackburn |
| 2002 Bette John | 2010 Linda Cohn | 2018 Ann Herbage |
| 2003 Alice May Berthelsen | 2011 Sharon Cunningham | 2019 Annie Benifield |
| 2004 Jan Wilbur | 2012 Nancy Parra | 2020 Liza Alonzo |

The Sam Keeper Award for Excellence in Voter Services was established by Board resolution in 2015 in honor of *Sam, The Voter Man*, our beloved Voter Registration chair.

Beni Gutierrez and **Mary Titus** shared the inaugural Sam Keeper Award in 2016 in recognition of their fine work in registering newly naturalized Americans. In 2017 the Sam Keeper Award was shared by **Judy Viebig, Pam Gaskin, Reda Hicks** and **Claudia Ortega Hogue**. In 2018 the Sam Keeper Award was presented to **Jackie Alfred**, honoring her accomplishments as *Voters Guide* chair. In 2019 the Sammie was presented to **Isabel Longoria** in recognition of her extraordinary work in expanding the reach of our mighty *Voters Guide*. The award for 2020 went to **Nancy Kral** and **John Byrd** for their innovative work in organizing voter registration services.



REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair: Liza Alonzo

Committee: Claudia Ortega Hogue, Courtenay Siegfried, Victoria Ann Cordova, Jenni Rebecca Stephenson

Election of Officers and Directors

A Resolution to approve a slate of candidates as officers and directors
proposed by Liza Alonzo, Chair
on behalf of the Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee is pleased to present this slate of candidates for election as officers and directors of the League of Women Voters of Houston:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| President: | Linda Cohn |
| Secretary: | Graci Garces |
| VP, Voter Services: | Annie Benifield |
| VP, Marketing: | Aimee Woodall |
| Director at Large: | Renee Cross |
| Director at Large: | Amber Burton Alfred |
| Director at Large: | Tiko Reynolds-Hausman |
| Director at Large: | Courtenay Siegfried |

The Nominations Committee is pleased to present this slate of candidates for election as members of the Nominations Committee for 2021:

Chair: Franny Oxford

Member: Phillip Yates

Member: Liza Alonzo

League Governance 2021-2022

The Nominations Committee wishes to affirm the League's duty to promote civic engagement and therefore seeks to build League governance that will effectively support this mission.

In response to the ever-changing Houston landscape, and especially in response to matters made crucial during this year of pandemic disruptions, we propose the following organizational framework (see page 35) for the LWV-Houston Board of Trustees. Any relevant bylaws amendments will be set out by the Board and presented to the membership for ratification during the 2021-2022 League year.

In keeping with present bylaws, candidates designated in boldface type will be presented to the membership for election at the Annual Meeting, 27 May 2021.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------------|--|
| President | Linda Cohn | 2021-2023 | *resignation anticipated, 6-1-22, to be succeeded by Annie Benifield |
| Secretary | Graci Garces | 2021-2023 | |
| Treasurer | Katie Campbell Shumway | 2020-2022 | |
| | | | |
| Vice President: Membership Affairs | Mika Rao | 2020-2022 | |
| Vice President: Voter Services | Annie Benifield | 2021-2023 | *resignation anticipated on assumption of the presidency, 6-1-22 |
| Vice President: Study and Advocacy | Zak Miller | 2020-2022 | |
| Vice President: Marketing | Aimee Woodall | 2021-2023 | |
| Vice President: Development | Carol Shattuck | 2021-2022 | *appointment by incoming Board anticipated |
| | | | |
| Director at Large | Liza Alonzo | 2020-2022 | |
| Director at Large | Jeff Reichman | 2020-2022 | |
| Director at Large | Michelle Carnahan | 2020-2022 | |
| Director at Large | Phillip Yates | 2020-2022 | |
| Director at Large | Renee Cross | 2021-2023 | |
| Director at Large | Amber Burton | 2021-2023 | |
| Director at Large | Tiko Reynolds-Hausman | 2021-2023 | |
| Director at Large | Courtenay Siegfried | 2021-2023 | |
| Director at Large with Special Remit | Claudia Ortega-Hogue, Strategic partnerships | 2021-2022 | *appointment by incoming Board anticipated |
| Director at Large with Special Remit | Alan Bernstein, Communications | 2021-2022 | *appointment by incoming Board anticipated |
| Director at Large with Special Remit | MaryJane Mudd, Immediate past president | 2021-2022 | *appointment by incoming Board anticipated |
| Director at Large with Special Remit | Nancy Kral, Voter registration services | 2021-2022 | *appointment by incoming Board anticipated |
| Director at Large | Carla Brailey | 2021-2022 | *appointment by incoming Board anticipated |
| Director at Large | Michelle Levi McDaniel | 2021-2022 | *appointment by incoming Board anticipated |
| Director at Large | | 2021-2022 | *appointment by incoming Board as desired |
| Director at Large | | 2021-2022 | *appointment by incoming Board as desired |

