

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

by NACA



January 19, 2017 NACA Meeting

Please join us at the first meeting for the year on **January 19, 2017 at 7:00 PM at the North Austin Community Center/YMCA, 1000 W. Rundberg.**

At our January meeting, we will elect the neighborhood association officers for the 2017 year. Please see the association bylaws for information regarding officer responsibilities at <http://www.naca-austin.org/about/bylaws/>. It's not too late to nominate yourself or a fellow neighborhood association member.

Austin City Code will present on tools available for reporting and tracking cases presented to Code. Also, The NXNA Garden Tour planners will be coming to the meeting to promote the event, and to request participants in the 2017 NXNA Garden Tour.

19 de Enero 2017, Reunión de NACA

Por favor, acompáñenos a la primera reunión de el año, el 19 de Enero del 2017 a las 7:00 PM en North Austin Community Center/YMCA, 1000 W. Rundberg.

En nuestra reunión de el mes de Enero, elegiremos a los oficiales de la asociación de vecinos para el año 2017. Por favor vea los reglamentos de la asociación, para así familiarizarse con las responsabilidades de los oficiales, en nuestra página web: <http://www.naca-austin.org/about/bylaws/>. Todavía no es tarde, si desea nominarse como oficial, o si quisiera ver a algún vecino miembro de la asociación nominado como oficial.

El Código de la ciudad de Austin presentará herramientas que están disponibles para reportar y seguir casos presentados a el Código. También las personas responsables de planear el Tour de jardines NXNA, vendrán a la reunión para promover el evento y para solicitar participantes para el tour de Jardines NXNA en el 2017.

NORTH AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION (NACA)

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ANC Representative

Domenic Schiera 512-573-6620

**PO Box 180803
Austin, TX 78718
www.naca-austin.org**

NEXT MEETING

Date 01/19

Time 7:00 pm

Place....N. Austin Community Center
(YMCA) on 1000 W. Rundberg

IN THIS ISSUE

January 19, 2017 NACA Meeting.....1

President's Letter.....2

NACA to Vote on Letter to Oppose Bill 4....2

Free Tax Preparation and Filing.....3

Reflections of the Chair of NACA.....3

Another Bridge Completed.....4

New District Representative4

President's Letter

By Randy Teich - NACA President

Happy New Year! Your North Austin Civic Association is extremely fortunate to have a number of dedicated and energetic volunteers whose mission is to enhance the collective living conditions of our neighborhood. Projects of note in 2016 include our painted bridge project that combined the talents of NACA members, school children, UT volunteers and many others who spent time on our behalf creating our unique look within the Austin landscape. Kudos to everyone who worked countless hours to develop this idea and shepherd it through the city departments for approval and then recruit adopters for all of the bridges. Brian and Gena Almon and Caro Dubois have led this effort at various times over the last couple of years and many others have assisted.

Our membership committee had another successful year of promoting NACA, adding T-shirts, additional yard signs and NACA pencils to the efforts toward improving our visibility within the neighborhood. Carol Pazera has chaired this effort over the last couple of years and Carol and her team members have made a big difference in strengthening our membership both in numbers and diversity during this time.

My primary goal for NACA in 2017 is to improve on the diversity of our participants. This will include seeking new ways to engage with residents in the area who currently don't attend our meetings. This will hopefully include Spanish speaking meetings along with reaching out to renters in our neighborhood. These efforts will have their challenges, but our army of energetic, creative leaders are up to the work. Looking forward to seeing each of you again in 2017!

NACA to Vote on Letter to Oppose Senate Bill 4

By Brian R. La Cour

At the January 2017 meeting, NACA members will be voting on approval of a letter I presented to the membership at the November 2016 meeting regarding opposition to Texas Senate Bill 4. The exact wording of the bill and the proposed letter can be found on the NACA website at <http://www.naca-austin.org/2016/11/member-action-needed-vote-to-oppose-senate-bill-4/>. I would encourage all members to participate in this important vote. The purpose of this article is to give some background on the bill and discuss some questions raised during the November meeting.

Senate Bill 4 (SB 4, 85th Legislative Session) is intended to eliminate so-called "sanctuary cities" within Texas. Sponsored by state Sen. Charles Perry (R-Lubbock), the bill was filed shortly after the presidential election and was, perhaps, encouraged by the president-elect's promise to cancel all federal funding to sanctuary cities. Currently, sanctuary cities are only disqualified from receiving grants from the Department of Justice. By some estimates, there are now around 300 "sanctuary cities" around the country. Although Austin is generally regarded as one of them, it has no formal policies to identify it as such. The City Council has, in the past, adopted measures to establish Austin as a place "friendly" to immigrants, but these measures are merely symbolic and have no actual enforcement power. Mayor Steve Adler and Council Member Greg Casar have both strongly advocated for protecting undocumented immigrants, but they will be under pressure by state legislators to limit this protection.

Under former police chief Art Acevedo, Austin Police Department protocol has generally been that officers cannot *arrest* someone for their immigration status, but that does not prevent them from *asking* about their status. They usually don't, and the rationale is twofold: First, immigration enforcement is seen as a federal responsibility, not a local one. Second, keeping APD "immigration neutral" helps to maintain trust and cooperation with the local immigrant population – immigrants who are afraid of being deported are less likely to reach out to APD for help. This can impact the safety of *everyone*, not just the immigrant population. Obviously, this will be an important issue for the next police chief. NACA's stand on this issue could help decide who this is and what policies they will adopt.

Although city policy is important, the real rubber meets the road at the county level. Individuals who are held in county jails may be subject to so-called "detainer requests" from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to hold them until federal officials can investigate their immigration status. The American Civil Liberties

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If you have News or Event Information contact Eleanor Langsdorf

Union (ACLU) has argued that ICE's use of detainers to imprison people without due process has raised "serious constitutional concerns" and may even violate the Fourth Amendment. As the name suggests, compliance with these requests is *optional*, as confirmed by a 2014 ruling in federal appeals court. So, it is important to understand that non-compliance is a choice and not an act of civil disobedience. (This was another question raised at the November meeting.) By contrast, formal ICE warrants are *not* optional, but they are more difficult to secure and execute. Incoming Travis County sheriff Sally Hernandez ran on a campaign of diverging from the current practice of cooperating with ICE on detainer requests, although her policy on this is not yet final and may well depend on pressure from both the state and national level. The stance that NACA takes on this issue may well influence her policy decisions.

Passage of SB 4 could drastically change current local policy and practice. A key provision of the bill would make detainer requests mandatory and, thus, non-compliance an act of civil disobedience. It would also restrict municipalities from prohibiting or even discouraging officers from inquiring about immigration status during a lawful stop. Furthermore, the immigration status of the individual, if determined, *must* be recorded in the person's case file. More details, and the full text of SB 4, can be found through the website link given above.

A final question that was raised during the November meeting was whether NACA, in its status as a neighborhood association, can even *take* a stand on this political issue. The answer is a resounding *yes!* NACA is a formally designated 501(c)(4) tax-exempt organization, much like AARP or NRA. We are actually constrained by the IRS only to limit our spending on politics to less than 50% and are even allowed to endorse individual candidates! In fact, we spend nothing on politics and have generally adopted a policy of endorsing issues but not individuals. This makes us more like a 501(c)(3) charity organization, such as the SPCA or Red Cross. (Maybe we should change our designation...) I consider it not only permissible but our *responsibility* as a civic association to take stands on issues, such as this one, that are of importance to our neighborhood.

I hope to see you all in January.

Free Tax Preparation and Filing

By Eleanor Langsdorf

Foundation Communities is again offering free tax preparation and filing service for individuals and families making up to \$55,000. Services are offered at several locations in Austin and one in Round Rock. Information

about locations, hours and what to bring can be found by calling 2-1-1 or at www.CommunityTaxCenters.org.

The locations convenient to the NACA area are the Community Financial Center-North at 5900 Airport (former Wells Fargo bank building across from old Highland Mall) and the Asian American Resource Center at 8401 Cameron Rd. Schedules are posted on the website.

Service is available by appointment (visit website to schedule an appointment), as walk-in or by drop off of documents. Taxpayers can also file personal taxes online for free through myfreetaxes.com. Deadline for filing taxes for the 2016 filing year is April, 18, 2017.

Reflections of the Chair of NACA Membership Committee

By Carol Pazera

As I step down as chair of the NACA Membership Committee after serving for 2 years, I want to thank the committee members for all their hard work to get the word out about NACA, attract new members, and engage current members. The committee formed when NACA membership was on the decline. NACA had decided, for financial reasons, to stop the practice of volunteers delivering newsletters monthly to everyone in the neighborhood. We needed a new, sustainable way to reach people. Through our membership drives, delivering a flier to every doorstep once a year, with the help of many volunteers, we were able to increase membership to a level it had not reached in years, if ever. We increased NACA's visibility with our fabulous t-shirts and outreach at local schools. For instance, we presented at PTA meetings, and attended parent meetings and principal breakfasts. We distributed many membership fliers at Lanier's homecoming parade, and met and chatted with neighbors at the Family Fun Fest. We promoted participation in National Night Out after surveying members about the activities in which they most wanted NACA to engage. We printed and distributed signs to advertise NACA meetings and sent newsletters to people who had just moved to the neighborhood. And let's not forget the 1,000 pencils with NACA's website on it that we need to distribute!

We accomplished a lot, and yet there is so much more that can be done. I believe we can improve our use of social media. We can make and implement a plan to attract business members. We can discover more ways to connect to people, to reach out. I believe we will depend on each other more in the coming years, and if NACA includes and engages as many people as possible, it will strengthen the effectiveness of our advocacy. I wish the

new membership committee chair the best of luck. I know you'll do a great job!

Another bridge completed!

By Caro Dubois

Please take time to go look at the little bridge on Kramer Lane (near Blossom Bell Dr.). The North Austin Creatives adopted that bridge and executed the design in two painting days. It's very colorful and fun - a nice cleanup job. Thanks so much to Claire Simmons, Lisa Bussett, Clarissa Cochran and Lisa Onland for painting the bridge



New District Representative

By Eleanor Langsdorf

Recently Officer Patrick Stewart was assigned as the DR for the NACA area. Frank Wilson, who was DR for several years, has been promoted and is now working in a different position. Officer Stewart can be reached at Patrick.Stewart@austintexas.gov. Officer Stewart states that the best way to reach him is by using email. His phone number is not finalized but he will provide that when it is working.



NACA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Enclosed are my dues for calendar year 20__

Regular Membership (\$15)

Silver Membership (\$25)

Gold Membership (\$50 or more)

I would like to volunteer for NACA.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Pay online at naca-austin.org
or mail this form & check to:

NACA Treasurer
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