

THE ALABAMA VOTER

Published Quarterly by the League of Women Voters of Alabama

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PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPHS

The 2011 LWVAL Convention will be held in Mobile on Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1, at the new Hampton Inn downtown. Those arriving on Friday night are invited to a progressive dinner in the historic district nearby (See specifics below).

After the plenary session on Saturday morning, our luncheon speaker will be Dr. Samantha (Mandy) Joye, who will speak on the situation in the Gulf. Dr. Joye, a biological oceanographer at the University of Georgia, led the biological assessments of damage caused by the oil spill. The LWVAL board decided that environmental issues are so important that we will devote the afternoon to presentations/workshops on the environmental situation in Alabama. Our LWVAL Natural Resources Chair, Joyce Lanning, is working on this activity, and more specific information will be forthcoming.

The banquet will be informal but informative and tasty. We will drive over part of the causeway to the Oyster House for our banquet and evening speaker. Those who wish may sign up to take a boat tour of the bay while learning about the situation therein. The boat will depart from the Oyster House. It will be a fundraiser, costing \$50 per person, with only 23 reservations available (because of the size of the boat.) This will occur at the same time as the cocktail party at the Oyster House, with a no-host bar. Dinner will be followed by a presentation from James Sumner, Chair of the Ethics Commission, on the changes made during the 2010 special session and anything that has transpired to date in the 2011 legislative session. We are interested in what we still need to work on in this important area.

We will have the morning plenary session at the Hampton on Sunday. The Hampton Inn, which often provides the facilities for the LWVUS, and other state and local leagues, will provide breakfast. The rooms have either two queen or one king size bed, so leagues who want to save money can bunk up to four in a room without having to sleep on top of each other.

In this *VOTER*, you will also find reports from the Nominating committee, budget, program, etc. as well as registration forms.

Imagine how beautiful it will be in Mobile at that time of the year! We look forward to seeing as many as possible of you there!!!

In League, Kathy

SOUTH ALABAMA LEAGUES HOST 2011 STATE CONVENTION

The League of Women Voters Mobile and Baldwin County are pleased to host the State Convention on April 29th, 30th, and May 1st, 2011. We will begin the weekend with a progressive dinner in Mobile's historic midtown neighborhood, gathering for hors d'oeuvres at the home of Barbara and Hank Caddell, 1321 Dauphin St., at 5:30 pm. Those unable to join us at 5:30 can meet up with us for soup and salad at the home of Martha and Bob Collier, 1551 Dauphin St., at 7 pm, or for dessert at the home of Mary McGinnis and Roy Allgauer, 114 Macy Place, at 8:30pm.

The meetings on Saturday and Sunday will be held at the Hampton Inn, 62 South Royal St. in downtown Mobile where league members are invited to stay for a reduced group rate of \$109 per night. Reservations must be made by March 30th.

All are invited to a Saturday night banquet at the Original Oyster House on the causeway, from 7-9 pm. This will be preceded by a fundraising delta cruise from 6-7 pm (boarding at 5:45pm). Join us for wine and cheese and a guided tour of the lower delta on the pontoon boat "Pelican" with Captain Mike Dorie. Space is limited so sign up early!

Those unable to join the cruise are invited to a no-host cocktail hour overlooking Mobile Bay and the Mobile/Tensaw delta from 6-7pm at the Original Oyster House.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to beautiful and historic Lower Alabama!

Mary McGinnis

President, League of Women Voters of Mobile

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FOLLOW THE ACTION *LWVAL's Legislative Report*

The 2010 Legislative Session began on March 1st and with it, the LWVAL's Legislative Report which appears on the League web page (www.lwval.org). The report is updated weekly. It contains information on the bills that the Advocacy Committee (Anne Permaloff, Chair, Mary Lynn Bates, Becky Sylvester, and Ruth Wright with Co-presidents Kathy Byrd and Charlotte Ward ex officio members) is following and evaluating in relation to the legislative priorities set by the State Board.

Legislative Report information includes: bill number, sponsor(s), bill summary, League action (support, oppose, or monitoring) and justification for the action (based on LWVAL program positions), and the bill's current legislative status. The report generally contains more information about a bill than you will find in news coverage.

Jean Johnson who handles the League web site places the information into an easy to follow format. For example, this year Jean added a green "thumbs up" icon to indicate League support for a bill. A red "thumbs down" icon indicates opposition. Material is presented in sections representing the three priority levels for League action.

The Legislative Report also contains Action Alerts as needed as well as information on special advocacy actions take. The latter may include such items as letters to the editor or letters to key officials.



REFORM POSSIBILITIES

Nancy Ekberg, ACCR

As you all know, we have been holding Listening Sessions from Headland in Henry County, to Huntsville in Madison County and spots in between. We have listened to what you and others have said about legislation that will provide constitutional reform. The message came out loud and clear that people want more than one choice in the type of legislation we urge our legislative sponsors to offer to fellow legislators and to the voters.

Some wanted to stay with the Resolution for a constitutional convention that we have urged for the past few years.

Consequently, our sponsor in the House, former Speaker Pro Tem Demetrius Newton, has filed House Joint Resolution 34. HJR34 will now go to the House Rules Committee headed by Rep. Galliher.

In the Senate, Senator Roger Bedford has filed a similar Resolution, SJR 27. That Resolution will go to the Senate Rules Committee under the leadership of Senator Scott Beason.

Some also wanted to give the legislators who said they would rather support an article by article approach, a chance to do so.

Consequently, Representative Mike Hill has filed a constitutional amendment to allow for limited home rule to allow counties to govern their own residents. This is HB 181. His bill is in the House County and Municipal Government committee under the leadership of Rep. Steve McMillan

In addition, Senator Jabo Waggoner will file a similar constitutional amendment for limited home rule in the Senate. And as soon as that bill has a number, it will be listed on the LWVAL website.

In addition, Senator Arthur Orr has sponsored SB 112, a constitutional amendment that would eliminate the racist language from the Constitution. It is now in the Senate Rules Committee.

Finally, Rep. Paul DeMarco has sponsored HB 20, a constitutional amendment which will modernize the banking Article and eliminate outdated sections of the Article. His bill made it through Committee and is now in the House Rules Committee.

DeMarco has also sponsored HB 21, a constitutional amendment which will update the corporate Articles. It addresses corporations in Alabama and is in the Transportation, Utilities and Infrastructure Committee.

And some of you were also in favor of asking the Governor to support those options as well as a Commission, similar to the one sponsored by Governor Brewer in 1971 or the one sponsored by Governor Riley in 2002. We plan to meet with Governor Bentley to see about his support. I will let you know his answer.

We think this year will bring us success, especially since many new legislators came in office asking for reform.

But you are the key to any success because it is your conversations with your legislators that encourage them to make the right decisions. Find your legislator at www.legislature.state.al.us and tell him or her to support all of these pieces of legislation.



LWVAL Proposed Budget 2011 – 2013

Income			2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
	LL PMP @ \$10		3040.00	3190.00	2855.00 ¹	2855.00 ¹
	MAL PMP @ \$40		123.00	158.00	220.00 ²	220.00 ²
	Publications					
	Meetings					
		Workshops	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		State Conv./Council	1000.00	1200.00	1000.00	1200.00
	Miscellaneous					
		Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Other	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
		Smith Barney Dividends	500.00	500.00	25.00 ³	25.00 ³
	From Ed Fund - 15%		390.00	414.00	417.00	432.00
	From Reserves		1209.00	3235.00	2827.00	2012.00
	General Contributions		300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
Total Income			6587.00	9022.00	7669.00	7069.00
Expenditures						
	Program/Advocacy					
		New	150.00	150.00	150.00	150.00
		Support	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
		Lobbying	600.00	600.00		
		Subtotal	800.00	800.00	200.00	200.00
	Field Service					
		Membership Services	75.00	75.00	100.00	100.00
		Workshops	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		State Conv./Council	1300.00	1600.00	1300.00	1600.00
		State Directory	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		State Board Reports	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Alabama VOTER				
		Printing	1100.00	1100.00	1100.00	1100.00
		Mailing	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
		Subtotal	2675.00	2975.00	2700.00	3000.00
	Community Relations					
		Public Relations	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00

Expenditures			2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
	IntraLeague					
		MAL PMP	123.00	158.00	220.00 ²	220.00 ²
		Delegates State	250.00	350.00	250.00	350.00
		Delegates National	500.00	2500.00	2000.00 ⁴	1000.00 ⁴
		Subtotal	873.00	3008.00	2470.00	1570.00
	Finance					
		Direct Mail	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
		Administration	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Subtotal	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
	Administration					
		President	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
		Board Tools	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
		Board Meeting Expenses	500.00	500.00	500.00 ⁵	500.00 ⁵
		Committees	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
		Subtotal	675.00	675.00	675.00	675.00
	Operations					
		Telephone	900.00	900.00	960.00	960.00
		Postage	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
		Internet Services	264.00	264.00	264.00	264.00
		Supplies	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
		Copying	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
		Bank/Audit	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
		Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		Miscellaneous	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
		Subtotal	1464.00	1464.00	1524.00	1524.00
		Total Expenditures	6587.00	9022.00	7669.00	7069.00

- 1) Based on 285 billable members
- 2) Based on 5 MALs in 2010-11; 5 in 2009-10 (One MAL pays ½ rate); PMP rate increase @\$40.00
- 3) Decreased to reflect actual interest accrued in 2010-11
- 4) Based on 2 delegates; a portion of Convention 2013 costs incurred in 2011-12 fiscal year
- 5) Based on 2 conference calls and 2 face-to-face meetings/year



REPORT OF THE LWVAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Slate of Officers, Directors and Nominating Committee for 2011-13

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Submitted March 14, 2011

LWVAL Nominating Committee

Yvonne M. Brakefield, Chair, Barbara Cooper-South, Hattie Kaufman, Jeanine Normand, Ruth L. Wright

Nominations may be made from the floor at the first plenary session of the convention on Saturday morning for vacancies or as alternative choices to those presented by the nominating committee. The nominator should first get permission from the person she wishes to nominate.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair, (Vacant)

Ginnie Bennett, East Alabama
vbenn@aol.com

Karen Threlkeld
Birmingham
karenthrelkeld@yahoo.com



LWVAL EF PROPOSED BUDDGET 2011-2013

Income		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
A. Contributions		500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00
B. Publications					
	1. Facts and Issues	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2. Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C. Miscellaneous					
	1. Interest	10.00	160.00	10.00	10.00
	2. From Reserves	605.00	479.00	639.00	654.00
Total Income		1115.00	1139.00	1149.00	1164.00
Expenditures					
A. Citizen Education		300.00	300.00	300.00	300.00
B. Publications					
	1. Facts and Issues	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
	2. Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
C. Voters Service		200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
D. MAL PMP (1/4)		30.00	39.00	55.00 ¹	55.00 ¹
E. Board Dels - State (15%)		38.00	53.00	38.00 ²	53.00 ²
F. Administration (reimb. AL 15%)		102.00	102.00	102.00 ³	102.00 ³
G. Operations (reimb. AL 15%)		220.00	220.00	229.00 ⁴	229.00 ⁴
H. Finance		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
I. Miscellaneous		25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00
J. To Reserves					
Total Expenditures		1115.00	1139.00	1149.00	1164.00

- 1) .25 x 220
- 2) .15 x \$250; .15 x \$350
- 3) .15 x \$675
- 4) .15 x 1524

BYLAWS: No bylaws changes are recommended by the board this year.

REGISTRATION FORM STATE CONVENTION 2011

The League of Women Voters of Alabama 2011 State Convention Mobile, Alabama Saturday, April 30-Sunday, May 1, 2011

Name _____ Address _____

Local League _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Local League Delegate _____ State League Delegate _____ Guest _____ Member _____

FULL REGISTRATION (SAT & SUN) {Includes Saturday Lunch & Dinner} \$65.00 _____

ONE-DAY REGISTRATION {Sat - Including Lunch And Dinner}..... \$60.00 _____

ONE DAY REGISTRATION {Sat Or Sun - Without Meals} \$15.00 _____

SATURDAY LUNCH ONLY \$15.00 _____

SATURDAY BANQUET ONLY \$35.00 _____

LATE FEE (AFTER April 25th) ADD \$5.00 \$ 5.00 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

_____ I would like to reserve a place on the boat cruise (\$50 to be paid at the boat)

134 Norwood Avenue
Auburn, AL 36830

THE LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS
OF ALABAMA

