



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER TUSCALOOSA VOTER

December 2002--February 2003

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(205) 349-6206.**

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Election Day has come and gone---maybe not entirely gone. As of this writing, the governor's race is still up in the air. Again, we extend a special thank you to those who helped with our October forums (which are covered in another article in this Voter.) I was especially impressed with the turnout of the candidates. We had very few refusals, even from those candidates who were unopposed. The Libertarian candidates thanked us profusely for including them in the forums. Debrah Fisher has once again done an outstanding job in orchestrating these efforts. Scarlett Gaddy and her students were invaluable. How wonderful it is to have young people involved (and even interested!). All three of our League moderators conducted the forums with poise, efficiency, and even a little humor now and then.

Concerning this election, I was especially disappointed that the zoning amendment that Tim Parker sponsored for Tuscaloosa County  
*(continued on page 2.)*

## CALENDAR

*December 3, noon*  
Lunch meeting, Univ. Club,  
Speaker: Ms. Leann Faught,  
discussing the Sarbanes Bill  
on ethics in accounting

*December 11, noon*  
Board meeting, Watsons'  
office, 2310 14<sup>th</sup> Street

*January 7, noon*  
Lunch meeting, Barnhill's  
Buffet Restaurant, 15<sup>th</sup> St.,  
banquet room, Speaker: Mr.  
Bill O'Connor, discussing  
"Another Take on Tax  
Reform in Alabama"

*January 15, noon*  
Board meeting, Watsons'  
office, 2310 14<sup>th</sup> Street

*January 16, 5:00 pm*  
Evening Unit meeting, United  
Way Office, Speaker: TBA,  
speaking on Planning and  
Zoning Issues

*February 4—no lunch mtg.*

*February 12, noon*  
Board meeting, Watsons'  
office, 2310 14<sup>th</sup> Street

*February 18, 7:00 am*  
Legislative Breakfast,  
Covenant Presbyterian  
Church, social hall

*February 20, 5:00 pm*  
Evening Unit meeting, United  
Way Office, Speaker: TBA,  
speaking on Planning and  
Zoning Issues

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES, CONT.

was defeated so soundly. Myths about zoning abound just as they do about new constitutions. I also read recently that there were no public forums on this zoning amendment. I wish we had known about this. Ah yes, how we need an observer corps. The zoning situation directly affects our drinking water from Lake Tuscaloosa. The new after-work unit has shown some interest in studying these environmental issues. Perhaps this is something we could investigate for a local study. Please let me know if you are interested in this topic. Once again perhaps we need to be myth breakers.

I also noticed that the City of Tuscaloosa has a new planning director who has experience in comprehensive planning....this could be another opportunity, and perhaps this time we could get in on the ground floor.

Our next big event is the Legislative Breakfast. Anna Singer could certainly use some help with this event. If you are a one-time event person, this is for you. Last year's breakfast was well attended by both legislators and League members. Let's build on that success this year.

We have several new members and several prospects, mostly due to the new after-work unit. Let's keep growing and making new people feel welcome. All members can attend either unit or both units each month since the programs are different. If you would like to receive the email about the after-work unit, please email me so that I can add you to the list.

We regret that Dusti Deaver and Shirley Johnson have resigned from the board. Dusti remains interested in constitutional reform and promises to continue helping us in this uphill but essential effort. Shirley promises to become more active once her work situation permits.

Congratulations go to Hattie Kaufman on her new grandbaby. We are pleased that Fran Snyder's and Ella Prewitt's loved ones continue to improve, and our sympathy to Charlotte and Mike Gattozzi on the death of his sibling.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

*Annette*



## CANDIDATES' FORUMS

What a good group of people we have in the LWV. We had volunteers to help in all areas of the Candidate Forums. LWV Moderators Louise Lewis, Rush Watson, and Al Vreeland ran the forums so effectively and represented the LWV well. Each forum was well organized because of good Team Leaders. The LWV Team Leaders were Martha Rodgers, Charlotte Gattozzi, Ella Prewitt and

Anna Singer. A special thank you to Anna Singer for being at all three forums and for stepping in to help in the last forum since Charlotte was unavailable due to a death in the family. The forums ran smoothly due to the help of our Time Keepers Kay Ellis, Celeste Burnum and Scarlett Gaddy. Thanks to Hattie Kaufman and Annette Dudgeon for providing the needed communications and leadership for our LWV.

I would like to thank the public facilities we used for the Candidate Forums: Rock Quarry Elementary School, Hillcrest High School and McDonald Hughes Community Center.

A special thank you needs to go to Lisa Keyes and the Junior League volunteers who were at all three Candidate Forums. I very much appreciate our LWV members also providing us their time and volunteering to be Greeters as well.

Donald Brown did a good job with our publicity. We had a reporter and a photographer from The Tuscaloosa News at all three Forums and had great coverage in the paper. Our local TV channel 49 also covered all three Candidate Forums with footage on the News broadcast each night.

Providing Candidate Forums for our community is one of the most important and visible services the LWV does. It is very rewarding to be a part of such a great group of people who are so dedicated and willing to volunteer.

Thank you for the opportunity of being Voter Chair.

*Debrah Fisher*



### NEW EVENING UNIT

The first meeting of the after-work unit was held in October. There were 15 people in attendance, many of whom were school teachers who are unable to attend luncheons. We will continue to meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month (except December) at 5 pm at the United Way office. (We have been informed that the UW will be moving their offices in January, but they have invited us to move along with them. We will get out information about where the new offices will be.) This is a no frills hour-long meeting concentrating on local issues.

We finished the concurrence on constitutional reform with much the same results as the luncheon meeting. We approved all three sections with some negative votes on the finance and taxation section because of the wording of the regressive taxation issue.

At our meeting on November 21 we examined several local issues with environmental content and decided that planning and zoning should be the focus of our programs and emphasis beginning in January.

We would love to have you join us or make suggestions on what we should be monitoring and studying. This group is enthusiastic and highly talented (as are all

League members) and for the first time in a long time, I believe that a second unit will become established.

*Annette*

### DUES ARE DUE

NOW IS THE TIME...for all LWV of Greater Tuscaloosa members to be sure their dues are current. Our local League membership year is from September to September. Dues are \$40.00 per person or \$60.00 for two people living in the same household.

A few words of explanation to remind you of the importance to our League that dues be paid in a timely manner. Our local League pays a PMP (per member payment) to both LWVAL and LWVUS. Each year both the State and National League bill us for the members who are on our role in January. If you choose not to renew (and we certainly hope not) but we continue to consider you a member, then we must pay extra PMP to both of these larger groups.

Currently National PMP is \$24.35 single and State PMP is \$12.00 single. The household member's PMP is 50% of that. You can appreciate that is a considerable amount out of our treasury to pay for someone who is carried on our role, but who neglects to renew membership.

If you have not renewed, please do so before Dec. 10, 2002. Checks should be sent to Susanne S. Nasir, 62 Coventry, Tuscaloosa, 35404.

*Susanne Nasir*



### LUNCH MEETING PROGRAMS

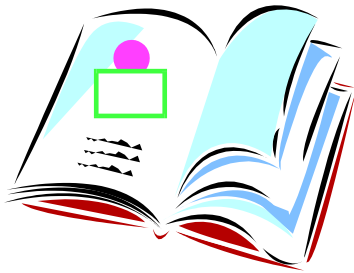
On December 3, our speaker will be Ms. Leann Faught, a CPA with Jamison-Money-Farmer. She has been following developments with the Sarbanes bill in Congress--the effort to define ethical limits for accountancy. While this might sound technical, it of course has a bearing on the recent revelations of corporate malfeasance--Enron and World Com to name two.

On January 7, 2003, our speaker will be Mr. Bill O'Connor, who will talk about new efforts at tax reform in the state. Mr. O'Connor is heading up a new organization with the support of the business community that will be addressing how Alabama can support state services in a more equitable manner.

Because of our Legislative Breakfast in February, there will be no February lunch meeting.

#### IMPORTANT NOTE:

The University Club will be closing for extensive renovation, as of January 2003. While it is closed, our lunch meetings will be held in the Banquet Room of Barnhill's Buffet Restaurant, on 15<sup>th</sup> Street in Tuscaloosa.



## POLITICAL DIRECTORY.

One of our goals this year is the publication of a political directory, providing names and contact information for reaching our local elected officials (now that we finally found out who our Governor is). Anyone who is interested in helping out in this project, please e-mail Hattie Kaufman at [hkaufman@uasystem.ua.edu](mailto:hkaufman@uasystem.ua.edu) or call her at 333-9052 to volunteer. We have talked about this project for some time, but now is the time to bring it to fruition.

The plan is to fund this booklet with money from the LWV Education Fund, since its purpose is to provide unbiased information to the public. The LWV Education Fund is a separate organization, parallel to LWV, but more limited in its activities, so that donations to the Ed Fund qualify as tax-deductible gifts. If you would like to make a donation to help support publication of this political directory and other qualifying activities of LWVGT, please send your check, payable to "LWVAL Ed. Fund for LWVGT," to Susanne Nasir, 62 Coventry, Tuscaloosa, AL 35404.

## CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

The Constitutional Reform Committee met twice during the month of September. Committee members thought it was important to reach out to as many groups as possible by scheduling presentations with churches, civic organizations and clubs.

Fran Snyder, Annette Dudgeon, Dusti Deaver, and Charlotte Gattozzi are active in this endeavor. Madeleine Hill, a committee member who is also Chairperson of the local ACCR chapter, was responsible for scheduling a local ACCR Speaker Training Workshop, which was attended by about 15 people. Dusti was instrumental in developing a letter of support from Covenant Presbyterian Church to send to the Synod. Annette wrote a great letter to the editor which was published prior to the November election. Charlotte agreed to contact the local high schools to inform teachers of educational materials available.

The committee members want to work closely with the local ACCR chapter, which will not meet again until December. We will wait until after that meeting to decide what course to take in the future. If you are interested in working on this committee, call Charlotte at 553-9650.

*Charlotte Gattozzi*



## STATE LEAGUE CONCURRENCE

The state's revised Constitutional Reform positions for LWVAL were adopted at the state board meeting on Saturday, November 16. All eight Leagues in the state strongly concurred with the proposed revisions.

The text adopted is the one that had been proposed for consideration, except for a small rearrangement in the Taxation portion of Finance and Taxation and the addition of a clarifying phrase, "through statutory law rather than constitutional amendment." These minor amendments make no substantive change. They are designed to prevent a possible misunderstanding of League's statements. The amendments may be seen in section IV.B of the Constitutional Reform position statement that accompanies this *Voter*.

Advocacy now begins. On December 9 when the Commission created by Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform meets in Auburn, Charlotte Ward, former state president, will present the LWVAL's complete positions during the public hearing. Before the legislative session in March, every legislator will receive the text. Local Leagues' role will be crucial--to follow-up with phone calls and visits to their representatives in the House and in the Senate.



### **E-MAIL DELIVERY OF VOTER**

If you are now receiving this *Voter* in hard copy by mail and would like not only to help LWVGT save the copying and postage costs but to have the convenience of receiving the *Voter* on your computer, please contact me by sending an e-mail to [hkaufman@uasystem.ua.edu](mailto:hkaufman@uasystem.ua.edu) and let me add your name and e-mail address to our growing electronic distribution list. If you are on this list, you will also be able to get other updates and meeting reminders by e-mail.

*Hattie Kaufman*

### **LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST**

LWVGT's Legislative Breakfast for the 2003 legislative session is scheduled for February 18, at 7:00 am. It will be held in the social hall of Covenant Presbyterian Church. There will be a nominal charge for the breakfast. Please mark your calendars now. Our local elected officials will be invited, and you will have the opportunity to get information about their legislative agendas. Come and wake up your bodies and minds.



### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

We had a very nice turnout at our annual membership reception in September and gained several new members and prospects who have now joined. Our new members are: Virginia Cook, Catherine Davies, Claire Evans, Ella Rosen, and Jane Self. Also, several people have joined as returning members.

We look forward to working with all of you to further League's goals of good government and an informed electorate.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF GREATER TUSCALOOSA  
52 THE HIGHLANDS  
TUSCALOOSA, AL 35404**