



The Voter



League of Women
Voters
of Alabama

December, 2016

President's Message by Anne Permaloff

Thank you all for the tremendous job you did registering and assisting voters during 2016 elections. And, thanks to coordinator Barbara Caddell who along with Jean Johnson and Hattie Kaufman produced a truly useful and easy to understand VOTE411.org statewide election guide covering candidates and the 14 constitutional amendments. Response to these efforts has been totally positive.

National president Chris Carson indicates that during 2016 elections over 4 million people visited VOTE411 for a total of more than 6 million visits.

On behalf of the state board and membership I welcome the new Greater Shoals MAL unit. Kathy Byrd worked with the group for the past year and will continue to be its advisor. Great work Kathy!

This Voter contains two articles on how members throughout the state as well as local leagues and MAL units may have input into important decision-making. One article describes four LWVAL awards and their history. You may make nominations for three of the four awards. They are awarded at state convention. This year the convention is in Mobile, April 29-30.

The second article deals with League program, bylaws, and nominations for 2017-2019. A large part of convention action deals with setting program, possible changes with bylaws, and selecting a new state board. The Members Section of the state webpage www.lwval.org holds PDF versions of the current program and bylaws which you might wish to review.

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League of Women Voters of Alabama

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Save the Date!

**2017 State Convention
April 29-30
Mobile, AL**

See inside for program & award information

JANUARY 25, 2017 DEADLINE**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2017-2019 CONVENTION ACTIONS
INVITED FROM MEMBERS, MAL UNITS AND LOCAL LEAGUES****Program Suggestions**

Program recommendations typically include the following -- new study topics with consensus goal; changes in existing program; topics to adopt by concurrence based on actions of other leagues. State Board will review all submissions and determine which, if any, it will recommend for adoption at state convention.

Send suggestions and questions to: Anne Permaloff at graftonpermaloff@charter.net

Bylaws Change Suggestions

Typical suggestions include addition of new material; corrections in wording and/or grammar; clarification language; etc. State Board will review all submissions and determine which, if any, it will recommend for adoption at state convention.

Send suggestions and questions to: Kathy Byrd at kcbyrd@aol.com OR Ann Moss at ann.h.moss@gmail.com

Suggestion for Nominations

Nominations will be made by the Nominating Committee for the following positions – President; 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents; Secretary; Treasurer; and six (6) Directors. The committee will also nominate three (3) league members to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2017-2019. (Those willing to serve on the board are also welcome to send in this information.)

Send suggestions and questions to: Leonette Slay, Nominating Committee Chair at lwslay@cs.com or 205-823-7315.



LWVAL AWARDS: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FROM MEMBERS, LOCAL LEAGUES, AND MAL UNITS

The League of Women Voters of Alabama has three awards which are awarded at state convention based on the vote of the state board and one with fixed criteria for its awarding.

2017 LWVAL Transparency in Government Award

In 2015 the League of Women Voters of Alabama (LWVAL) created the Transparency in Government Award to recognize efforts to bring greater transparency to governmental decision-making in Alabama at any political level. Nominations for the award may be submitted by any individual or organization in Alabama including any local league, MAL unit, or member. This biennial award will be presented at the 2017 State Convention in Mobile, August 29-30, 2017.

LWVAL believes that transparency in government is one of the major mechanisms for making government accountable to the people. It aids in creating an open and inclusive government and enhancing public trust in government officials and their decisions.

Those nominated may include local and state political leaders (elected or appointed), citizens, and members of nonprofit organizations who have championed transparency in government.

The **deadline for submissions is January 25, 2017**. A nomination form will be posted on the state website www.lwval.org

Gina Finnegan (ginaofinnegan@gmail.com) will coordinate the process. The state board makes the final selection.



Joyce Woodward Memorial and Jane Katz Public Service Awards

The Joyce Woodward Memorial Award and Jane Katz Public Service Award are named in honor of two league members who gave outstanding, long-term service to league. The history of these awards and the service of the honored members are given below.

Any local league, MAL unit or individual LWVAL member may submit nominations for the Woodward and Katz Awards. Winners are selected at the discretion of the state board.

Joyce Woodward Memorial Award

The Joyce Woodworth Memorial Award is presented to an individual or a League for outstanding work in League program. Program is the set of LWVAL positions that have been established through consensus or concurrence. LWVAL advocacy efforts are based upon program.

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Call for nominations—cont'd

The LWVAL Board established the Joyce Woodworth Award in 2002 in memory of Joyce's long-term service to the League at the state and local levels and to recognize her outstanding work in the area of Program. During 20 years of League leadership, Joyce edited the state VOTER and chaired the State Budget and State Finance and Taxation committees. From 1980 – 1991, she authored a series of Facts and Issues publications for LWVAL, including the Tennessee Valley Authority in Alabama (1980); Ethics in Government: Facts and Issues (1988); Alabama's Money: Government Finance and Taxation (1988) and Alabama's Money: The State Budget Process (1991). Joyce served as vice president, secretary and president (the position she held at the time of her death) of the Shoals League. Her service in the League, on the state and local level, is strong testimony of her enduring commitment to the mission and work of the League.

Nominations should include the name and league membership of the person or local league/MAL unit submitting the nomination, the nominee's name and league membership as well as a description of the league work of the individual and why it merits recognition.

Jane Katz Public Service Award


The LWVAL Board established the Jane Katz Public Service Award in 2005 to recognize an individual or organization whose work strengthens democracy.

The award is named for Jane Katz whose advocacy work as the LWVAL Legislative Chair is legend in the League and the Legislature. Appointed to the new position of Legislative Chair in 1964, Jane led the League's advocacy efforts in the 1960's – 1970's for the support of constitutional reform, education, equalization of property taxes, consumer protection law, reform of election law amendment, and environmental issues. She originated and published the Capitol Newsletter that featured the League's priority legislation. She also originated and published the Voting Record of legislators at the end of the sessions. She was known for reminding us to "... congratulate ourselves on our victories, console each other on our defeats and persevere."

Jane was inducted into the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame in 2002. Her biography on the AWHF website describes her as "a woman of vision and courage" and "an incisive critic of government" with "the ability to make complex, controversial, sensitive political issues understandable to average people". Jane Katz's work as an advocate for good government and her history of promoting informed citizen participation in government is an inspiration to the League to make democracy work better.

Nominations should include the name and league membership of the person or local league/MAL unit submitting the nomination, the name of the individual or organization nominated as well as a description of their work on behalf of strengthening democracy and why it merits recognition.

Nomination deadline for both awards: January 25. Send nominations to Anne Permaloff
(graftonpermaloff@charter.net)



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Call for nominations—cont'd

Phyllis Rea Membership Award

The Phyllis Rea Membership Award is given to the local league with the highest percentage membership growth over the previous two years based on the official national PMP count of local league members.

The LWVAL Board established this award in 1983 to honor Phyllis Rea's constant and inspirational commitment to the League. Joining in 1957, Phyllis was one of the founding members of the Auburn (now East Alabama) League. She served as LWVAL Voter Editor, 1968-1972, and as LWVAL President, 1972-1979. Beginning in 1972, and with LWVUS permission, LWVAL sponsored litigants in a federal lawsuit to defend voter rights. As League president, Rea testified in several voter rights lawsuits across Alabama. Along with Leaguers Jane Katz and Olivia Harrison, Phyllis wrote and secured passage of seven election law bills.

In 1973, she led the League effort to advocate for the reformed Judicial Article of the Alabama Constitution, work that brought high praise of its author Judge Howell Heflin. Phyllis led the League campaign for other constitutional reform efforts including home rule and a just tax system. She fostered publication of voter education materials and factual publications on such subjects as environmental management practices. Phyllis Rea was committed to good government and the informed and active participation of Alabama citizens.

Statement on Women's March - Chris Carson, LWV President (Nov 22, 2016)

The LWVUS Board of Directors met this past weekend and discussed whether the League should participate officially in the planned Women's March on Washington, January 21, 2017. The board considered feedback from the State Presidents call, the State Presidents/ED listserv, and the State Executive Director calls to inform its decision. We also considered information about the March available online. After a thoughtful discussion weighing the pros and cons, the board decided that LWVUS is not planning to officially participate in the Women's March.

We believe in the freedom of assembly as a cornerstone of our open democracy. We support political activism and encourage people across the United States to let their voices be heard. If League members wish to attend this event, we do not discourage it. We kindly request that League members do not wear League buttons or carry League signs in this march. We will monitor the organization of this event and if additional information emerges before January 21 that indicates it will be a non-partisan diverse, and inclusive event, the LWVUS may reconsider its decision.

www.lwval.org



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LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

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ABOUT THE LEAGUE

The League of Women Voters is a citizens' organization that has fought since 1920 to improve our government and engage all citizens in the decisions that impact their lives. We operate at national, state, and local levels through more than 800 state and local Leagues, in all 50 states as well as DC, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong.

League of Women Voters Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

League of Women Voters Education Fund Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters Education Fund works to encourage the active and informed participation of citizens in government to increase understanding of major public policy issues.