

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: BY ANNE PERMALOFF**

Several articles in this Voter outline the activities of state board committees; so I will only discuss the items I have dealt with largely on my own.

Much of my time recently has been spent dealing with communications and activities related to voter registration and the closing of the licensing stations.

I drafted and sent a letter outlining League concerns to the Governor, Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The letter was developed with the assistance of the national office. It was posted on the League website, and Jean Johnson sent it out as a press release to the Alabama media. National sent it to its major media sources. As a result, I did a live ten minute interview on Charles Showalter's radio talk show on The Union Edge out of Pittsburgh, and a 20 minute interview with a Washington Post reporter. Both involved discussing the problem, how it came about, and the League's positions on voter registration and voting rights.

Immediately after the license station closings, I had phone discussions with Secretary of State Merrill and his elections staff in order to determine that the SOS's office would be continuing its photo ID outreach efforts despite its budget cutbacks. We also discussed how the public was being made aware of these activities. Email and mail communications also were used to outline areas of League concern. For example, Jean Johnson found some conflicting information on the SOS website. Hattie Kaufman and I drafted a letter to Secretary Merrill outlining the conflicting information and few other issues. Thanks to the great work of Jean Johnson, LWVAL.org has detailed voter registration and voter ID information links available. Please let others know this information is there.

Secretary Merrill invited the League to observe the meetings of a new committee he created – the Voter Disenfranchisement and Restoration of Voting Rights Exploratory Committee. Leonette Slay graciously agreed to attend the first meeting when I had a schedule conflict and supplied detailed

*(Continued on page 2)*

**SPECIAL DATES TO  
REMEMBER:**

- **December 1, 2015**  
Giving Day  
<http://www.lwval.org/about/donate/>
- **Bill of Rights Day**  
December 15, 2015
- **February 12, 2016**  
Voter registration deadline
- **February 14, 2016**  
LWV Birthday
- **February 17, 2016**  
Use Your Voice Tour
- **March 1, 2016**  
Primary election

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—CONT'D**

notes of the meeting. The bipartisan committee (composed of legislators from the two Judiciary Committees including Cam Ward who chairs the Senate committee, leaders of rehabilitation organizations, a victims advocate, a Pardons and Parole Board member, and others with special knowledge of the criminal justice system) has two charges: examine how to make restoration of voting rights easier and clearly define moral turpitude which is currently defined in conflicting ways by court decisions, Attorney General opinions and local registrars. The goal is to agree on draft legislation that will get through the legislature. I will observe at the next meeting and keep you posted.

Periodically, Cynthia Sebian-Lander of LWVUS and I have been texting and phoning to exchange information on the status of voter registration in Alabama and the licensing stations. She also asked that I sit in on a conference call with a member of the Elections Administration Commission who outlined the EAC's charge and current activities. EAC commissioners are attempting to reestablish it as an important information and guidance agency and are working on convincing Congress that its work is important, including its efforts to educate election officials on good practice procedures and the problems associated with aging voting machines. It is unlikely that any major action on the machine issues will be taken by any jurisdiction until after the presidential election. You may wish to check out the EAC on line and then write your members of Congress to support its work.

A polling of the state board by email resulted in the LWVAL signing on to a letter from Elisabeth MacNamara to the EPA. The letter requested that the agency expand the comprehensiveness of its 2010 research report on fracking and take certain specific actions to ensure the public is protected from potential negative impacts of the fracking process. It was posted on LWVAL media sites.

At its October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting the state board:

- Elected Gina Finnegan (Mobile) and Kim Bailey (Tuscaloosa) as the board members of the Nominating Committee
- Authorized the Executive Committee to develop recommendations for Council 2016 for discussion and a vote at the January 2016 board meeting
- Authorized the Executive Committee to determine if the LWVAL should contribute to the Suffragist Memorial to be built in Virginia. A later board vote resulted in committing to a sponsorship with part of the money to be raised in a fundraising campaign in early 2016. The first installment has been paid.
- Received a report from Kathy Byrd on Member at Large (MAL) recruitment efforts which she reports on elsewhere in this Voter
- Set six as the minimum number of Members at Large (MALs) needed before the board will consider petitions for MAL Unit status.
- Reviewed Vote411 efforts for 2016. See Barbara Caddell's article for details.

**The next state board meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2016 in Montgomery.**

**LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR**

TO: Governor Bentley  
Speaker Hubbard  
President Pro Tempore Marsh

FROM: Dr. Anne Permaloff, President  
League of Women Voters of Alabama

SUBJECT: Fixing Photo ID

Date: October 6, 2015

The League of Women Voters of Alabama believes the Alabama legislature should pass and the governor sign legislation to suspend voter photo ID at the polls for all of 2016 as the first order of business in the next regular session or even better at a one-day special session this year. Even then, should the drivers licensing centers remain closed, the suspension should continue indefinitely.

The closure of the license stations where the official state IDs and new driver's licenses are made is making access to photo identification more difficult for thousands of Alabama citizens. Seventy five (75) percent of the impacted counties are majority African American. They have high levels of poverty for both whites and African Americans.

Closing these stations impacts voter registration as well for the locales supplied the registration materials to those seeking licenses and state IDs.

While the administration justifies the move as rational cost cutting based on the numbers of licenses issued in these counties, it has failed to consider one key factor in the benefit-cost equation – reputation – and reopens Alabama's past actions in voting rights to national scrutiny.

The Director of Civil Rights for the well-respected Anti-Defamation League wrote the U.S. Attorney General on October 2<sup>nd</sup> to urge the Justice Department to begin an investigation of the state's action, take action to block the photo ID law, and seek federal court action to place the state under preclearance of future voting laws. Other requests of this nature are very likely as are citizen initiated law suits.

If the State of Alabama fails to correct the situation, the U.S. Justice Department and federal courts will.

## UPDATE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF LWVGT BY KIM BAILEY

The LWVGT has spent the past few months working on the “Money in Politics” study. Our own Jill Stokely spoke at our October lunch meeting. Jill shared the “Money in Politics” PowerPoint developed by the LWV and lead a discussion on the topic.

In November Bob McCurley was our lunch meeting speaker. He discussed the history of campaign finance in Alabama to providing some additional background information for our study.

Our December meeting will be devoted to discussing the “Money in Politics” consensus questions developed by the LWV. It will be lead by Hattie Kauffman and Kathy Bryd.

Preparations are also being made for our annual Meet Your Legislators night. This year it will be held on January 19, 2016 at the Bryant Conference Center.



Jill Stokely presenting the “Money in Politics” PowerPoint.



Bob McCurley discussing AL politics and campaign funding.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Beverly Ross, LWV of Montgomery Director**, passed on August 19, 2015 shortly after suffering a stroke. She was 65 years old.

At the time of her death Ms. Ross was also a member of the Montgomery County Board of Education , Dean of Students at Treholm State Community College, and active in many community organizations.

## **OBSERVATIONS OF VOTER DISENFRANCHISEMENT AND RESTORATIONS OF VOTING RIGHTS EXPLORATORY COMMITTEE BY LEONETTE SLAY**

The LWVAL was invited to be an observer of the meetings of the **Voter Disenfranchisement and Restoration of Voting Rights Exploratory Committee** set up by Secretary of State Merrill. The first meeting was held on October 15, 2015. Anne Permaloff asked Leonette Slay to attend for the LWVAL as she could not attend the meeting. This is Leonette's report of the meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of State John Merrill has formed a committee, to meet four times prior to the 2016 legislative session, to craft two pieces of legislation to be introduced in 2016 by bipartisan teams. The legislation is meant to make the definition of "moral turpitude" consistent throughout the state and to make restoration of voting rights easier. The next meeting will be November 18, 2015 at 10 a.m.

The meeting, chaired by John Merrill, is called the "Voter Disenfranchisement and Restoration of Voting Rights Exploratory Committee". Merrill's staff handed out a written agenda and Merrill introduced the members of the committee but did not supply a written list. He did not introduce the few observers, although he had come by and said hello prior to the meeting.

The only observers were me representing LWVAL, Shay Farley of ACLU (and a LWVEA member) and her colleague, Senate minority counsel, the son of a committee member, and Merrill staff people. We could have had other members there as space was not an issue.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:**

Secretary Merrill

Ed Packard—head of the Elections Division

Senator Linda Coleman -- Jefferson County

Senator Cam Ward -- Shelby County

- \* Both serve on the Senate Judiciary Committee which Cam Ward Chairs; both are also on the Constitution, Ethics and Election Committee

Representative David Faulkner -- Jefferson County

Representative Chris England -- Tuscaloosa County (absent from meeting)

- \* Both serve on the House Judiciary Committee

Judge Tim Jolly -- Presiding Judge, Circuit Court, Marshall County

Jeff Williams - Deputy Commissioner for Governmental Relations and Community Corrections and a legislative liaison, Alabama Department of Corrections

Quin Hillyer -- conservative journalist

Rev. Mike Coleman -- Hope Inspired Ministries, Montgomery (job training center for 18-49 year old

*(Continued on page 7)*

## [ FINDING A VOICE IN NORTHWEST ALABAMA BY KATHY BYRD

The League of Women Voters of Alabama is proud of the effectiveness of our voice and our reputation for providing nonpartisan information to voters at election time and providing carefully considered position statements on selected issues. Proud as we are of our accomplishments, our constant goal is to increase our effectiveness in all corners of the state, especially those areas that do not have a local league. The task is not an easy one because people are already so committed and less likely to join organizations than once upon a time. So how can we achieve this goal?

This summer and fall, your State Board has been working to try to develop a League presence in the Florence-Muscle Shoals area, where we had a strong league in the past. Through the enthusiastic efforts of Nancy Muse, a civic and environmentally-minded resident of Florence, Anne Permaloff, Kathy Byrd, and Joyce Lanning spoke to a large group of women who expressed an interest in starting up a local league. Each woman was given a handout about the League itself and how one can become active by becoming a Member-at-Large (MAL) and hopefully an MAL Unit. Three MALs joined that day.

Nancy phoned or emailed each attendee and tried to encourage her to join and even consider helping to form an MAL unit, with promises of support from the State League. A follow-up date was proposed in October, then November. Nancy, who is such a trooper, was unable to get enough attendees to set up a meeting, even though the women stressed they believed in the League and wanted a League presence. Are we discouraged? We feel this process may be more of a challenge than we had wished, but we still have plenty of ideas. First of all, through Nancy, we have connections with the press and media, so we can write articles about Vote411.org before the pri-

mary election, perhaps write an “op ed” or letters to the editor, and get the word out to the public about the benefits of the League. We plan a FaceBook presence as well, alerting the area about events, issues, etc., as they come up. We will always invite interested citizens to join. And in June, we will try again to have a meeting—perhaps on an issue of local interest as well as the presidential election. Hats off to Nancy, who has agreed to be our voice as a Member-at-Large.

The LWVAL wants to extend its voice in other parts of the state—the Wiregrass area of Dothan, Northeastern Alabama, such as Anniston and Gadsden, and the Black Belt Counties. Do you know someone who could join with us as an MAL and help us get our word out—and maybe form an MAL Unit or full-fledged league down the line? We can promise them support. If you know someone, contact Kathy Byrd, LWVAL 1<sup>st</sup> VP, at 205-394-5852 (cell/text) or at [kcbyrd@aol.com](mailto:kcbyrd@aol.com). Help us serve the voters of Alabama!

## [ OBSERVER—CONT'D

chronically unemployed, including those with prison records)

Darlene Hutchinson—Victim's Rights Advocate

Carol Hill—Board of Registrars, Shelby County

Rev. Kenneth Glasgow – Head of The Ordinary People Society (TOPS), a rehabilitation organization for former offenders; Glasgow is a former offender and has aided many in gaining back their voting rights.

Summer Scraggs – Circuit Clerk of Clarke County

Cliff Walker - Pardon and Parole Board member (absent from meeting)

Will Harrell - ACLU regional counsel (lives in New Orleans)

### WORK OF THE COMMITTEE:

Merrill stated that he wanted a bipartisan effort and did not want to reinvent the wheel so the committee would be looking at what "sister states" in the southeast have done. He plans to have four meetings: the current meeting, November, December (to review draft legislation), and January (potentially two for further discussion).

He wants to accomplish two things: make restoration of voting rights easier and clearly define moral turpitude. The consensus emerged that, while the two are linked, it would be better to have two bills. Merrill wants bill sponsors who are from both parties.

The only voters who lose voting rights are those convicted of crimes involving "moral turpitude". Unfortunately there is no comprehensive list of what these are, so 201 registrars around the state figure it out based on court cases and AG opinions. The result is wide inconsistencies and local officials are put in the uncomfortable position of deciding who gets to vote and who does not. Representative Mike Jones sponsored the Definition of Moral Turpitude Act in 2015, which passed the House but the senator who said he would push the bill did not, so it did not pass.

As a side note, Merrill said Senator Ward, as head of AL Law Institute, has directed the ALI staff to look at all the collateral implications of a felony conviction, such as being barred from getting a license for certain jobs and the difficulty getting a driver's license which hinders getting a job.

It appears that the committee's charge will also be to look at current criteria for voting restoration and see if the criteria need to be changed (completion of sentence, court costs paid, restitution to victims made). In Georgia released prisoners get voting rights restored even if still on probation, paying restitution, etc. Judge Jolly questioned the effectiveness of requiring court costs and recommended not requiring it if that prevented a released prisoner from voting and regaining a fundamental right of citizenship. Senator Coleman recommended looking at community service in lieu of paying court costs.

*(Continued on page 8)*

## **OBSERVER—CONT'D**

**INFORMATION NOTE FROM LS:** Prisoners convicted of non-disqualifying felonies can vote, even if incarcerated, but nothing on the request for absentee ballot provides for this reason to be away from home on voting day. While DOC gives released inmates a packet of information on voting rights, DOC prisoners held in local jails are not getting similar packets from sheriffs.

Rev. Glasgow emphasized that voting rights give one the attitude of a citizen—part of the effort to get reintegrated. When he received his voting card, he wore it around his neck for a month. It says "I have worth".

### **Materials going to committee members:**

1. description of the process to get voting rights restored
2. What other states are doing in this area
3. Crimes so heinous that they require a pardon to restore voting rights—list
4. Copy of statute that provides for the certificate of eligibility to vote upon application and validation that criteria have been met

All present received copies of Rep. Jones' bill defining moral turpitude (HB 344) and Article VIII, Sec. 177 of the Alabama Constitution which bars felons convicted of a crime of moral turpitude from voting until rights are restored. Let me know if you want these mailed to you.

Recommend that Anne attend the Nov. 18 meeting and stay in touch with Ed Packard. There was discussion about the need for voter education on who is disqualified from voting and how to get rights restored. LWV could assist in this effort. Merrill also said observers could speak and offer information from other states. I have emailed the LWV in Oregon that was studying this but have not heard anything yet.

### **Use Your Voice Tour 2016**

Voting-rights tour headlined by Patty Griffin and Sara Watkins

February 17, 2016

Opelika Center for Performing Arts

<http://lww.org/press-releases/patty-griffin-sara-watkins-and-anais-mitchell-want-your-use-your-voice>



## **LWVGB: NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY A GREAT SUCCESS BY IDA TYREE HYPHE**

In celebration of National Voter Registration Day 2015, LWVGB held four voter registration events on three Birmingham college campuses. League volunteers registered voters on Sept. 22, 2015, at Jefferson State Community College - Center Point Campus, Lawson State Community College - Birmingham Campus, and Brown Mackie - Birmingham Campus. LWVGB wishes to thank Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Upsilon Eta Omega Chapter for their partnership and volunteer service at the Lawson State event. Thank you especially to AKA Sorority Sister Kristen Heard for her volunteer service and the photographs provided here of the Lawson State registration. Thank you LWVGB member Yvonne Brakefield for photos of the Jeff State registration event and to Leonette Slay for the photo taken at the Brown Mackie registration. And thank you to all League registration volunteers Yvonne Brakefield and Jean Johnson (Jeff State), Nancy Sales (with Kristen Heard) (Lawson State), Margaret "Maggie" Howard and Judith Hand (Brown Mackie - noon shift), and Leonette Slay, Michael O'Donnell, and Jo Taylor (Brown Mackie - evening shift). And finally we wrapped up National Voter Registration week with a spectacular registration drive at Jefferson State Community College Shelby Campus in Hoover on Sept. 24. Thank to all LWVGB volunteers, AKA-UEO volunteers, and college staff who collaborated to make this the most outstanding National Voter Registration celebration ever held in the Greater Birmingham area. The many newly registered voters are the real winners!.



## **HOW MANY VOTERS DID WE REGISTER? BY SCARLETT GADDY**

LWV Greater Tuscaloosa - 130 registrations  
 LWV Baldwin County - 111 registrations  
 LWV East Alabama - 80 registrations  
 LWV :Mobile - 466 registrations  
 LWV Greater Birmingham - 77 registrations

This was a total of 864 new registrations state-wide. Great going everyone! Keep the effort going!

## TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN GOVERNMENT - ALABAMA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION BY JOYCE LANNING

The LWVAL continues to monitor activity at the Alabama Public Service Commission (PSC), which has the job of allowing the regulated utility to make enough money while protecting the customers from overpayment. The PSC's stated mission is: *To ensure a regulatory balance between regulated companies and consumers in order to provide consumers with safe, adequate and reliable services at rates that are equitable and economical.*

Alabama Power customers are fortunate to have safe, adequate and reliable services, - and now even some solar options for large installations - but there are questions about the transparency with which decisions about equitable and economical rates are made at the PSC.

For example, as of September, 2015, Alabama Power has use of \$128.4 million of customers' money from over-collected energy costs, up from \$42 million over-collected at the end of 2013 and \$47 million over-collected at the end of 2014. Each month an energy cost factor is applied to bills to pay for fuel costs, which are a pass-through to customers. There is - in the rate description - a provision to apply a correction factor and to return over collected amounts, but that hasn't been done.

And in July 2015, the PSC discontinued the usual report that showed the accumulated under/over-collections, which projected \$131 million of customer money to be held by the company at the end of 2015. According to PSC staff, the report was removed because it was confusing to customers; there are no plans to make it available in the future. And if the Commission doesn't act in December to change the rate, these energy cost recovery factors are set to double.

Consumers' only option is to watch for the December 1 agenda to see what the PSC has decided to do, without any opportunity to analyze or have any input into their decision.

In contrast, Georgia Power had **under** collected over

\$200 million in July, but requested to lower their fuel cost recovery factors. Unlike Alabama, there will be public hearings, open to customers, conducted by the Georgia PSC on Dec. 1-2, with a final decision expected Dec. 15, 2015.

The annual opportunity to hear from Alabama Power will be December 8. The PSC will have already made its decisions at the December 1 meeting, but customers can listen to the company discuss its environmental compliance and financial plans. There is usually time for a few questions from the audience, but this is an informal event and doesn't have any effect on PSC decisions or the company's plans. All are welcome to attend.

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### Meeting Details: December 8, 2015

**9:30 AM:** Informal meeting of rate CNP environmental compliance for Alabama Power Company

**2:00 PM:** Informal meeting of rate RSE and CNP for Alabama Power Company

**Location:** Carl L. Evans Chief Administrative Law Judge Hearing Complex, RSA Union Building, 100 North Union Street, Room 900, Montgomery, Alabama

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## THE LATEST ON VOTE411 BY BARBARA CADDELL

The Vote411 committee is making slow steady progress. As previously reported, vote411 will provide information about candidates for President, US Senate, Alabama Supreme Court Associate Justice, and Public Service Commission President; in addition, we will explain the ramifications of the 6 state-wide constitutional amendments. I've submitted the draft introduction and questions for Supreme Court Associate Justice, for Public Service Commission President, and US Senate to the board as well as to Jean Johnson for comments. The national league will provide us this information for the Presidential races. Finalizing this information will complete the first part of our task. The reading committee has been examining the constitutional amendments and will present as much nonpartisan information as possible about these amendments so that voters can make an informed decision about them.

Vote411 fever is spreading to some local leagues; buying local access will allow them to provide some information about local races and constitutional amendments that will not be available with the state-wide coverage provided by the state league. The Tuscaloosa League is slated to buy local access and the Mobile League is considering it. These local leagues have been instructed to have their coordinators to write questions, contact candidates, and input the basics. I will talk each coordinator through the process and provide tech support. We'd love to have other leagues join in the fun and participate locally! If your league might be interested, please contact me.

Many thanks go out to the following people: Jean Johnson, Anne Permaloff, Kathy Byrd, Hattie Alexander, Ruth Wright, Joyce Lanning, and ida Tyree-Hyche . Although they have helped, we still need editors and contact persons. If anyone is interested, please contact me at [caddellh@comcast.net](mailto:caddellh@comcast.net) or 251-610-2279.



## SHUR FELLOW UPDATE BY HALEY RICHARDS

Imagine if YOUR League was growing in membership or YOU and YOUR League leaders had training and mentoring before leading! The League of Women Voters is the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country. We earned this mighty reputation through the tireless work of our members. I have the privilege of working with LWV Alabama as the Ruth S. Shur Fellow through the *Membership and Leadership Development* (MLD) program. My role is to work in partnership with LWV Alabama, Local Leagues and LWVUS by providing support, ideas, and guidance through monthly conference calls. The MLD program offers various building blocks for success to grow membership and develop leaders that can be tailored to the needs of Leagues across Alabama. Over the past few months as I have met League Leaders, I am confident that together the League of Women Voters can fulfill our mission with your help. Think about joining MLD in 2016!

## [ VOTER SERVICES REPORT BY SCARLETT GADDY

Since the last meeting Anne Permaloff has written a letter on behalf of the LWVAL requesting the Secretary of State's office suspend the implementation of the Voter Id requirement for the primary elections until all DMV offices have been re-opened. The Governor, in response to pressure from many sides, has ordered the re-opening of the closed offices for one day per month, which is an improvement, but is not sufficient to insure citizens have the opportunity to obtain their identification.

The state has narrowly avoided a lawsuit threatened by the Justice Department for not meeting the requirements of the NVRA or Motor Voter that citizens be allowed to register in multiple state and federal office locations. We have not commented on or taken action on this.

Additionally, we received information about pass-through grants for funding of 2016 Youth Voter Registration projects. As part of this project, LWVEF will award pass-through grants of up to \$1000 to state and local Leagues to undertake voter registration activities in high schools, community colleges and alternative/vocational schools in underrepresented communities. At this time, I have received word of the intention to apply from local Leagues in Mobile, Tuscaloosa, Birmingham, Baldwin Co., and East Alabama. I was assured by LWVUS representative Maggie Bush, that we would not be limited to the \$1000 amount for the state and that each League would be able to compete separately for the funding. The deadline for this grant application is Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>.

The timeline for application and implementation of the program is below:

### **Project Timeline: October 2015-July 2016**

October 2015 – Requests for proposals electronically sent to Leagues.

December 4, 2015 – Completed proposals must be received by Maggie Bush, LWVEF ([mbush@lww.org](mailto:mbush@lww.org)).

December 18, 2015 – Selected Leagues receive award notifications and contracts.

January 2016:

Leagues sign contracts and receive first installments of grant funds

Leagues receive *Empowering* training manual and participate in LWVEF training

Leagues conduct outreach to schools, schedule events, and build volunteer teams

January 2016-June 2016 – Participating Leagues complete voter registration activities. Second grant installments will be provided upon the completion of at least half of planned school registration events.

July 31, 2016 – Participating Leagues submit final report and evaluation to LWVEF and receive final grant installments.

We have been approached by the organizers for a memorial to recognize those who were incarcerated at Occoquan Prison for picketing the White House on behalf of women's suffrage. The Board has agreed to contribute \$500 toward the \$1000 that would be required for Alabama's Leagues to have a plaque of recognition of our support for the memorial placed on the wall of the monument. We will be fundraising the final \$500 from our local Leagues and other individuals and members. We have until sometime in 2017 to make the total donation of \$1000, so it has been discussed that we wait to fundraise for the memorial until after the end of the year, so we don't discourage donations to our Leagues as the end of the year donation time nears.

## **UN WORKING GROUP ON THE ISSUE OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN IN LAW AND POLICY BY HATTIE KAUFFMAN**

A delegation from the UN Working Group on the Issue of Discrimination Against Women in Law and Policy will be visiting Montgomery on December 3 and 4 as part of their official visit to the United States. In addition to their visit to Alabama, they will be in Washington DC, Texas, and Oregon. The Working Group has asked for information about the status of women in four specific areas of interest:

- Economic and Social Life
- Participation in Political and Public Life
- Health and Safety
- Family and Cultural Life.

League of Women Voters of Greater Tuscaloosa has submitted written materials to the Working Group on the topic of political involvement. These materials provided details about women in high elective office throughout the state. Women make up only 16% of those elected to the major state-wide, judicial, legislative, probate, and mayoral offices. The submission also discussed the barriers that the state has placed on access to voting, including requiring photo IDs and the recent closure of rural drivers' license offices.

During the official visit to the state, the Working Group delegation will be meeting with state officials, those who have provided them with their briefing papers, and other stakeholders. Hattie Kaufman, from LWVGT will be among those meeting with this delegation.

The stated goal of their visits is to enable the Working Group to formulate recommendations to support the Government's efforts in eliminating discrimination against women in law and in practice. The Working Group will produce a report that will be presented at the 32<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council in June 2016.

## **VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINES AND OTHER VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION BY SCARLETT GADDY**

### **Voter Registration Deadlines for the Mar. 1st Primary**

According to Ed Packard of the Secretary of State's Elections Division, the voter registration cut off date for the March 1st primaries will be Friday, Feb 12th due to the President's Day holiday. This will be the last day to hand deliver registration forms and mail-in forms should also arrive no later than that date.

### **Voter ID and Youth 18 Voter Registration Drives Combined?**

Mr. Packard was also asked could the Photo Voter ID Mobile Unit be scheduled to coincide with a Youth 18 Voter Registration drive. He indicated, yes, it was possible, with two to three weeks notice to coordinate with the Elections Division staff. They have small staff. A person has to be registered before they can get their photo voter ID, so photo ID and registration at same time and place typically works best at the Registrar's office. When your League is ready to schedule a voter ID/registration drive, call Clay Helms, Supervisor of Registrations, 334-353-7177. Mr. Helms makes the schedule for the Photo Voter ID Mobile Units.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN  
VOTERS OF ALABAMA**

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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.

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**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.