

The Voter



The League of Women Voters

February 2017

2017 State Convention

**April 29-30
Downtown Hampton Inn
Mobile, AL**

See inside for schedule, registration form and more information

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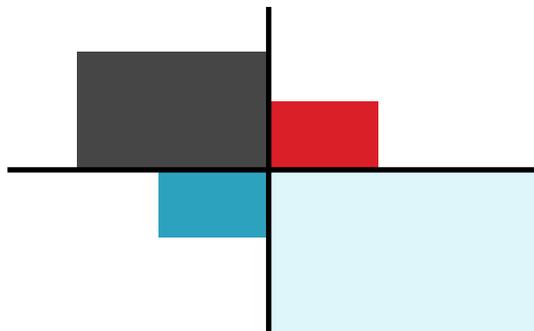
More information is available online at convention2017.lwval.org

The League of Woman Voters

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Alabama League of Women Voters State Convention Preliminary Schedule

Friday, April 28

6:00 - 9:00 PM Welcome social event hosted by Mobile Chapter of LWV

Saturday, April 29 - First Day of Convention

8:30 - 10:00 Registration and Breakfast Buffet

10:00 - 12:00 First Business Sessions

Establishment of a quorum

LWVAL -- Welcome and Introductions
Adoption of Convention Rules
Proposed Bylaws Changes
Proposed 2017-2019 Budget
Proposed 2017-2019 Program
Nominations for 2017-2019
Other Business

LWVAL Education Fund
Proposed 2017-2019 Budget
Nominations for 2017-2019
Other Business

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch and Group Task

1:00 - 2:30 First Afternoon Session -- Program and Advocacy Linkages
Lead by Hattie Kaufman and Anne Permaloff, LWVAL Advocacy Committee

2:30 - 3:00 Break

3:00 - 4:30 Second Afternoon Session -- Local League Advocacy Preparation and Action
Lead by David Stout, Special Projects Organizer, Arise Citizens' Policy Project

4:30 Announcements followed by adjournment for the day.

6:30 - 8:00 Transparency Award Celebration and Reception -- 1927 Room, Saenger Theatre
Speaker: Kyle Whitmire, State Political Commentator, Alabama Media Group

Preliminary Schedule—cont'd

Sunday, April 29 - Second Day of Convention

8:00 - 9:00 Breakfast Buffet

9:00 - 12:00 Second Business Sessions

Establishment of a quorum

LWVAL -- Discussion and votes on:

Proposed Bylaws Changes

Proposed 2017-2019 Budget

Proposed 2017-2019 Program

Nominations for 2017-2019

Announcement of Award Winners

Other Business followed by temporary adjournment

LWVAL Education Fund -- Discussion and votes on:

Proposed 2017-2019 Budget

Nominations for 2017-2019

Other Business

LWVAL -- Direction and suggestions for the Incoming Board

12:00 Adjourn

Program Recommendations for LWVAL Convention 2017

1. Reaffirm support for League Principals, current LWWUS and LWVAL Positions.
2. Direct the incoming State Board to:
 - Investigate the possibility of developing a status report on Electrical and Alternative Energy Policy in Alabama.
 - Write a status report if deemed possible.
 - Then, post-report consider whether a formal study should be done and give the Board the authority to initiate it.
3. Adopt LWWUS position on Redistricting by 2017 convention concurrence.

The position listed below was adopted at the 2016 LWWUS Convention through use of the concurrence process. The adoption indicated that states without a position statement on the topic could use national's position in their advocacy efforts.

Adoption of the position by concurrence at this State Convention would result in adding the statement below to LWVAL positions. Having it formally part of LWVAL positions gives greater impact in relation to supporting or opposing state legislation.



Redistricting Position

1. Responsibility for redistricting preferably should be vested in an independent special commission, with membership that reflects the diversity of the unit of government, including citizens at large, representatives of public interest groups, and members of minority groups.
2. Every redistricting process should include:
 - a. Specific timelines for the steps leading to a redistricting plan;
 - b. Full disclosure throughout the process and public hearings on the plan proposed for adoption
 - i. Redistricting at all levels of government must be accomplished in an open, unbiased manner with citizen participation and access at all levels and steps of the process,
 - ii. Should be subject to open meeting laws;
 - c. A provision that any redistricting plan should be adopted by the redistricting authority with more than a simple majority vote;
 - d. Remedial provisions established in the event that the redistricting authority fails to enact a plan. Specific provisions should be made for court review of redistricting measures and for courts to require the redistricting authority to act on a specific schedule:
 - i. Time limits should be set for initiating court action for review,
 - ii. The courts should promptly review and rule on any challenge to a redistricting plan and require adjustments if the standards have not been met.

(Continued on page 5)



Redistricting—cont'd

3. The standards on which a redistricting plan is based, and on which any plan should be judged, must:
 - a. Be enforceable in court;
 - b. Require:
 - i. Substantially equal population,
 - ii. Geographic contiguity, and
 - iii. Effective representation of racial and linguistic minorities.
 - c. Provide for (to the extent possible):
 - i. Promotion of partisan fairness,
 - ii. Preservation and protection of “communities of interest,” and
 - iii. Respect for boundaries of municipalities and counties.
 - d. Compactness and competitiveness may also be considered as criteria so long as they do not conflict with the above criteria
 - e. Explicitly reject:
 - i. Protection of incumbents, through such devices as considering an incumbent’s address, and
 - ii. Preferential treatment for a political party, through such devices as considering party affiliation, voting history and candidate residence.



Recommended Changes in LWVAL Bylaws

1. Change and replace all of the following throughout the bylaws:

Alabama Board changed to State Board
 state League or state league changed to State League
 national board changed to National Board
 national league or national League changed to National League

Explanation: While some of the changes may violate strict grammar rules, use of capitalization will facilitate locating material in the bylaws, especially for newer members and new board members.

2. Add the following sentence to Article IV, Sec. 4

Sec. 4. The Secretary.

The secretary shall keep minutes of convention, council, and of meetings of the board of directors; shall notify all officers and directors of their election; and shall sign, with the president, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the board; shall perform such other functions as may be incident to

(Continued on page 10)

LWVAL General Fund Proposed Budget 2017-19

1	INCOME	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
2	Dues				
3	LL PMP @ \$10	2955	3105	3010 ¹	3161 ¹
4	MAL PMP @ \$40	40	40	830 ²	872 ²
5	Meetings				
6	Workshops	0	0	0	0
7	State Council - 04/18	1000	0	1000	0
8	State Convention - 04/19	0	1500	0	1500
9	2019 Gala Fundraising	0	1000	0	1000 ³
10	Miscellaneous				
11	Interest	0	0	0	0
12	Other	50	50	50	50
13	Investment Dividends	0	0	100	100
14	Contributions/Fundraising	500	500	500	500
15	From Ed Fund - 15%	265	280	249	264
16	From SB Reserves	0	0	0	0
17	From General Reserves	0	401	0	201
18					
19	TOTAL INCOME	5060	7126	5739	7648
20	In-Kind Contributions	250	250	250	250
21					
22	EXPENDITURES	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
23	Program/Advocacy				
24	New Study	75	75	75	75
25	Support	75	75	75	75
26	Advocacy	100	100	100	100
27	Subtotal	250	250	250	250
28	Field Services				
29	Membership Services	100	100	200	200
30	MAL Unit Grant	-	-	50 ⁴	85 ⁵
31	Workshops	0	0	0	0
32	State Council - 04/18	1000	0	1000	0
33	State Convention - 04/19	0	1500	0	1500
34	2019 Gala Planning	0	1000	0	1000 ³
35	Transparency Award	0	250	0	250
36	State Directory	0	0	0	0
37	State Board Reports	0	0	0	0
38	Subtotal	1100	2850	1250	3035
39	Alabama VOTER				
40	Printing	50	50	50	50
41	Mailing	60	60	60	60
42	Subtotal	110	110	110	110
43	Community Relations				
44	Public Relations	100	100	100	100
45	Affiliations	0	0	0	0
46	Subtotal	100	100	100	100

LWVAL Proposed Budget 2017-19 (cont'd)

47	EXPENDITURES	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
48	IntraLeague				
49	MAL PMP	16	16	336 ⁶	353 ⁶
50	Board Dels. - State	250	350	250	350
51	Del. LWVUS Council 06/17	1500	0	1500 ⁷	0
52	Del. LWVUS Convention 06/18	0	2000	0	2000 ⁸
53	Subtotal	1766	2366	2086	2703
54	Finance				
55	Direct Mail	50	50	50	50
56	Fundraising	0	0	0	0
57	Subtotal	50	50	50	50
58	Administration				
59	President	50	50	50	50
60	Board Tools	100	100	100	100
61	Board Meetings	500	500	500	500
62	Committees	25	25	25	25
63	Subtotal	675	675	675	675
64	Operations				
65	Telephone	150	150	150	150
66	Postage	50	50	50	50
67	Internet Services	225	225	225	225
68	Supplies	100	100	100	100
69	Copying	50	50	50	50
70	Bank/Audit	50	50	50	50
71	Paypal Fees	50	50	50	50
72	Miscellaneous	50	50	50	50
73	Subtotal	725	725	725	725
74	To Reserves	284	0	493	0
75					
76	Total Expenditures	5060	7126	5739	7648

¹ Based on National Database Roster as of 1/31/17; assume 5% increase in each subsequent year.

² Based on 21 MAL in 2016; assume 5% increase in each subsequent year.

³ Gala expenses/income are budget neutral for event.

⁴ Grant to Shoals Area MAL Unit for expenses.

⁵ Additional assistance to Shoals Area MAL Unit; \$5 per Primary + \$2.50 per Additional/Student.

⁶ Based on 20 Primary @ \$32, 2 students @ \$16. Half of expense covered by General Fund and half by Ed Fund. Assume 5% increase in subsequent year.

⁷ Travel allowance for 2 to attend Council; 75% of registration fee covered by Ed Fund.

⁸ Allowance for 2 to attend Convention (\$1000 ea.) for registration, travel and shared hotel.

LWVAL Education Fund Proposed Budget 2017-19

1	INCOME	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
2	Contributions	1000	1000	1000	1000
3	Fundraising	1000	1000	0	1000
4	Vote411	-	-	4025 ¹	0
5	TPSMA Suffragist Memorial	-	-	422 ²	0
6	Publications	0	0	0	0
7	Facts and Issues	0	0	0	0
8	Other	0	0	0	0
9	Miscellaneous				
10	Interest	0	0	0	0
11	From Reserves	965	0	3186	337
12					
13	Total Income	2965	2000	8633	2337
14					
15					
16	EXPENDITURES	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
17	Citizen Education	600	745	600	745 ³
18	Publications				
19	Facts and Issues	700	700	700	700
20	Other	0	0	0	0
21	Other				
22	Vote411 and Voter Services	200	200	5000	200
23	TPSMA Suffragist Memorial	-	-	500	0
24	MAL PMP (50%)	16	16	336 ⁴	353 ⁴
25	Board Dels. - State (15%)	38	53	38 ⁵	53 ⁵
26	Dels. US Council 06/15	1125	0	1173 ⁶	0
27	Administration (reimb. AL 15%)	102	102	102 ⁷	102 ⁷
28	Operations (reimb. AL 15%)	109	109	109 ⁸	109 ⁸
29	Paypal Fees	50	50	50	50
30	Miscellaneous	25	25	25	25
31	To Reserves	0	0	0	0
32					
33	Total Expenditures	2965	2000	8633	2337

¹ Fundraising to cover expenses for Vote411 for entire state (raised \$975 of \$5000 total).

² Fundraising to complete Suffragist Memorial pledge (raised \$78 of \$500 total).

³ May include mileage to speak with state and local citizen groups or other Citizen Ed. needs.

⁴ Based on 21 MAL; 50% could be paid from General Fund. Assume 5% increase in each subsequent year.

⁵ 0.15 x \$250; 0.15 x \$350

⁶ For Pres. + 1 to attend US Council; 75% of registration fees covered by Ed Fund (0.75 x \$795 x 2).

⁷ 0.15 x \$675

⁸ 0.15 x \$725

4 AND COUNTING.... By Kathryn Byrd

Not so long ago, the League of Women Voters of Alabama reported a few members-at-large (MALs) among its statewide membership. Exciting things have happened! Our newly formed Shoals Area Member-at-Large Unit has grown to 19 paid members, and we can boast five other independent MALs in other areas of our state, including otherwise unserved areas of Huntsville and Dothan. It looks as if we are on a roll...

Kathy Byrd, LWVAL 1st VP and MAL Advisor, spoke recently with Elizabeth Messer, President of the Muscle Shoals Area MAL Unit, and both shared enthusiasm at the unit's strong growth this year. But developing an MAL unit takes dedication in laying the groundwork. Kathy Byrd began work with Nancy Muse and a few other League members in the fall of 2015, to revive the once-vibrant League in the Florence-Muscle Shoals area. Enter Michelle Bernstein, a recent transplant from the Memphis area, who independently saw the need for a league in this area. With lots of work and use of personal contacts, a meeting was held at the local library, led by Kathy and LWVAL President Anne Permaloff. Fourteen women came in, with promises of more to come. An organizational meeting followed. The group voted to begin a new member-at-large unit, individual dues were paid, and the first three articles of the League of Women bylaws were adopted, naming the group as a unit of the League of Women Voters of Alabama, stating the League's mission, and explicitly defining the group's nonpartisanship policy. The LWVAL Board subsequently voted to grant the group official MAL-unit status.

The group has continued to grow and thrive. Elizabeth noted that the group has explored some aspects of the LWVAL program so members could familiarize themselves with the program and its positions, and so the unit can decide which area to pursue. Voter service, in particular voter registration, has topped the list. In February members are meeting with one of the local Boards of Registrars to learn the steps necessary for a voter registration drive. After her conversation with Elizabeth, Kathy felt the group already has a grasp of what is involved. With the University of North Alabama and three campuses of the local community college nearby, Elizabeth felt they have a ready audience to begin working with.

Importantly, Elizabeth expressed an identification with the Alabama League as a whole. She plans to attend this spring's state convention in Mobile, and is encouraging other unit members as well. When Kathy asked if the group wishes to work toward recognition as a full-fledged league, Elizabeth's immediate response was an enthusiastic "yes!" Kathy has repeatedly noted the group has a tremendous amount of talent and experience. Expect more good things from our MALs!

The President's Message by Anne Permaloff

A major part of this *Voter* contains information about State Convention at the Downtown Hampton Inn in Mobile, April 29-30 as well as a registration form and reservation information for the hotel at a special rate. This material also will be on line at the state website (www.lwval.org). The Nominating Committee will send its report to local presidents by the end of February.

The Mobile League has been fantastic in its planning efforts. The State Board thanks Betsy Wooten (Mobile president), Suzanne Schwartz, the Mobile Board, and the many Mobile leaguers who have worked so hard on various committees to make convention possible.

All league members are invited to attend convention, not just delegates. Convention is a great way for members to learn more about league operations and to meet and exchange ideas with members from other leagues in the state and the new Greater Shoals MAL Unit.

A State Board committee headed by Scarlett Gaddy developed ideas for issues to cover Saturday afternoon, a time traditionally devoted to league education or issue education presentations. All LL/MAL presidents were invited to participate in this process through a phone conference. Recommended items were shared with the State Board which then identified topics designed to assist local leagues in their work as the most important topics to cover.

As longtime members of the state Advocacy Committee, Hattie Kaufman and I were asked to facilitate the first presentation/discussion focusing on League Program and Advocacy Linkages. The second presentation covering Local League Advocacy Preparation and Action will be led by David Stout, Special Projects Organizer for the Arise Citizens' Policy Project. He will focus on how to plan for and organize local advocacy efforts for existing positions. A luncheon exercise will be related to these discussions.

We urge you attend the Transparency in Government Celebration reception on Saturday night. The winner of our Transparency Award will be honored and our speaker for the evening will be Kyle Whitmire, State Political Commentator, Alabama Media Group, who will discuss the importance of government transparency. There will be food and a cash bar. Gina Finnegan of the State Board is coordinator for the event and worked closely with a committee of Mobile leaguers to make the event special. Please join us in Mobile.

Bylaws—cont'd

the office and as the president and board may direct.

After convention the secretary shall transmit copies of the minutes to members of the Reading Committee designated by the president and shall receive their analysis results, make all necessary corrections, and transmit the final approved copy to the newly elected secretary.

Explanation: This change brings the bylaws in line with the Education Fund bylaws as amended by the Education Fund Board on January 23, 2016. The action seeks to end the confusion over who is responsible for convention minutes.

LEAGUE MEMORIES from Charlotte Ward

I joined the Auburn LWV a few weeks after moving to Auburn in the fall of 1957, at the invitation of Anne Amacher, also a newly arrived faculty wife, whom I met at the Auburn University Newcomers Club. The Auburn League had been formed that spring by a group of politically conscious members of the Women's Club. Two women of my parents' generation, Florence Spencer and Florence Showalter, were my inspiration.

Mrs. Spencer was a Lee county native and wife of a local businessman. They were a rarity in those days: Republicans.

Mrs. Showalter was, as I recall, a New Englander by birth who had come to Auburn when her husband accepted a faculty position in the Auburn University English Department. When she arrived, Auburn had few paved streets and was indeed still a village. She told me she cried for the first month she was here.

By the time I arrived, they were community matriarchs, beloved and respected by many.

In those days, League program was built around two focal points: CAs, or current agenda items, chosen then as now by vote in state and national conventions, and CRs, or continuing responsibilities, former study items kept on the back burner for action as needed. One of our study items in 1957 was tax structure. The national League's position was that there should be unified budgets at all levels, with little or no earmarking. I learned quickly why in Alabama this was a bad idea. Now, nearly 60 years later, it is still necessary to protect schools via a separate education budget!

The LWVUS in those days paid more attention to international affairs and the UN than it does now. Mary Anne Breyer, another English faculty wife, was our extremely knowledgeable international affairs expert.

Anne Amacher soon became interested in local water quality issues. She attended all Water Board meetings and, in her wonderful Southern lady-like way, terrorized the members into making the right decisions for the next fifty years.

In the early sixties, the civil rights movement was heating up, but the LWVUS, always a conservative body in the sense that it does not rush into taking stands, but insists on thorough study, was very hesitant about jumping into the civil rights battle. In 1962, I had just been elected president of the Auburn League and was to be one of its delegates to the national convention in Pittsburgh. The recommended study item to be adopted was "A Study of the structure of the United States Senate" or words to that effect, the aim being to examine the committee system and the filibuster. At the first session, however, a caucus was announced for those interested in presenting a civil rights item as our principal CA. I went. I met with a small group of women from states across the country who felt that the League needed to get into this fight. We mounted a campaign, complete with party hats. Someone found red cellophane firemen's hats at a nearby novelty store, and we wore them, proclaiming that when the city is on fire is no time to debate redecorating the firehouse! I became the spokeswoman for the group, because I was the only member with a genuine southern accent, which I could thicken as needed. To make a long story short, we won, with the adoption of the League's first Human Resources study. (Note for the future: the senate

(Continued on page 14)



Position on Payday Lending Adopted by LWVAL Board

Payday Lending

The League of Women Voters of Alabama supports action to change the current laws regulating the payday loan industry. Disproportionately, lower income borrowers are relying on payday loans for a variety of reasons, including a lack of other, more traditional sources of financial assistance.

Defaults on these loans often have dire consequences, different from traditional lending. As the debt amount rapidly multiplies, it can become impossible to repay. Because the current law allows payday loan establishments to charge interest rates up to a staggeringly high rate of 456% APR, these high interest rates, which rapidly multiply the debt amount, are one of the primary causes of defaults on the loans. High, additional fees charged when a loan carries over for another term contribute to defaults as well.

The League supports some or all of the following as part of payday loan reform:

- A. Cap the interest rate at 36%.
- B. Limit rollover fee amounts.
- C. Provide consumer education programs related to finance.
- D. Provide incentives for small loan lending by banks and credit unions.
- E. Extend the time for repayment of the loan before a new fee is applied.
- F. Require a multipayment plan to replace the current one-time payment plan.
- G. Require the consumer to choose between a one-time payment and multipayment plan.
- H. Require clearly and simply written loan agreements.

Adopted January 28, 2017

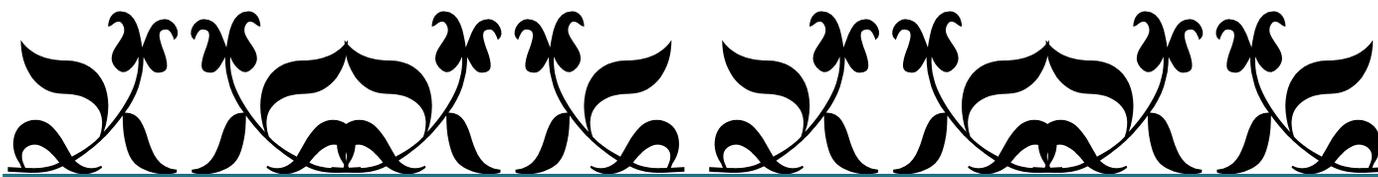


Congratulations to Scarlett Gaddy!

2017 Tuscaloosa County Schools

Alabama State Teacher of the Year

Award Nominee



In Memoriam

Ruth J. Wright, Life Member of the League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham

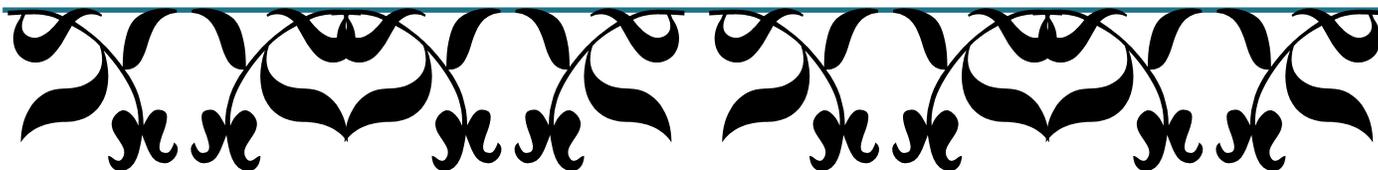
Ruth Wright died peacefully January 18, 2017, at Brookwood Hospital due to respiratory complications. She was 93 years old. Ruth was an active leader in both the League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham and of Alabama. She was a champion of the League and for all citizens of our community and state.

Ruth was the go-to person for LWVGB in the 1970s and '80s on the environment and conservation of natural resources. She worked to preserve our air and water quality and for wise land use. Ruth was particularly concerned about the land-transport of hazardous materials, especially nuclear materials, across Jefferson County and other Alabama counties.

In the 1990s Ruth focused on public transit in the Greater Birmingham area, and worked tirelessly, along with another League champion, Jessie Tehranchi, to try to make good public transportation available to all.

Ruth worked to improve the fairness and efficiency of local government. She was a League leader in advocating for the County Manager in Jefferson County, a position that was created in 2009 and filled in 2011 by then Hoover Mayor Tony Petelos.

These are just highlights of Ruth's many works. There is virtually no public issue in which she was not involved. For decades she was a regular observer of the Jefferson County Commission and the Birmingham-Jefferson County Transit Authority and an advocate for League issues in Jefferson County and in Montgomery. Ruth participated in many local and state League studies - wrote study plans, participated in the research, and often drafted League positions following member consensus. She served on the Board of Directors of both the League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham and of Alabama.



Memories—cont'd

still needs work!)

This was also the time that school integration issues were arising in Alabama. The state constitution at that time had no explicit requirement for the funding of public schools. There was a strong movement in the state government to simply close all public schools rather than integrate them. The State League was hesitant to act, since there was no explicit position on the books. Emily Haynsworth, an Auburn math professor and a very distinguished scholar in her field, and I, now an assistant professor of physics, were sent to a workshop in Washington (on foreign affairs, I think) with the mission of finding out how far we could go, based on League principles and national positions, in supporting integrated public schools. I heard later that odds were being laid on whether these two ivory tower types would find their way back home.

We came back with a tentative authorization to act, and the Auburn League did so at once. I think we were the first organization in the state to speak out publicly on the necessity of keeping the public schools open, and open to every Alabama child, red, yellow, black, white, or polka-dot! Our membership soared to over 100. Apparently a lot of people were just waiting for someone to speak up. The State League quickly joined the fight. We were a small voice, but I think we made a difference. No schools were closed, and in most places, integration proceeded relatively smoothly. The die-hards opened "Academies."

In the early sixties, there were strong Leagues from the Gulf to the Tennessee Valley: Mobile, Baldwin County, Montgomery, Tuscaloosa, Auburn, Birmingham, Anniston, Gadsden, Morgan County, and Huntsville. The coastal Leagues did excellent work in studies of environmental problems in their area, and have consistently updated them and lobbied for preservation of coastal ecosystems.

Every League took seriously its duty to provide opportunities for voter registration, even when each worker had to be deputized by the probate judge to do the job. Sylvia Goldmann of Auburn, who served several years on the Lee County Board of Registrars, made it her business to see that someone went to every high school in Lee County in the spring to register seniors who had turned eighteen.

After the Voting Rights Act passed, Auburn Leaguers went to rural schools and churches with voting machines, courtesy of the local moving company that stored the machines between elections, and taught newly registered voters how to operate them. Some Auburn fraternities provided "chaperons" as we went into remote areas in the days before cell phones, just in case the ladies got in trouble!

Leaguers volunteered to help new voters at elections, when people who could barely read and write needed help in reading the ballots. They were, of course, honor-bound not to influence how the ballots were marked.

Nearly every League regularly provided, and still provides, candidate forums at the state and local level.

Sadly, as the founders of some of the early Alabama leagues died or moved away, the North Alabama leagues faded away. The trend today seems to be to join special interest groups to accomplish short term goals, rather than commit to a multi-purpose organization like the LWV, but I believe the League still serves a critically important purpose, and we may even be getting a better hearing now than we did in our early days. I'm glad for the opportunity to share these memories with a new generation of Leaguers.

The Women's March by Cory Unruh

On January 24, 2017, I traveled to Washington, DC to march with half a million other women. I wore all white, as a nod to my suffragist foremothers, and donned a pink pussy hat a friend in California knitted for me. We were too deep in the crowd to hear any of the speeches or musical acts that had been organized, but the clever protest slogans written on signs surrounding us were enough to keep us inspired while we waited to start marching. The march was supposed to begin at 1:00, but when it became clear at 1:15 that nothing was moving, there came a chant from the front of the line -- "Turn around! Turn around!" We didn't find out until later that there were so many marchers we split into two groups following two different paths to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

We marched, chanted, cheered, sang, waved, and supported each other. I was with five friends and every 50 feet or so, we would all check in with each other so we wouldn't get separated in the sea of people.

The alternate route we took followed the inaugural parade route from the day before, and supporters sat in the bleachers left from Friday, and cheered us on. Our route took us past President Trump's new hotel at the Post Office Building.

When we finally arrived at the end, we cheered and hugged and high fived each other and began the long walk back. We retraced the path, which was still packed with marchers, 2 hours after we had started! There were so many people, and everyone seemed genuinely happy to be there. The feeling of camaraderie was strong. I got choked up a few times -- when I saw mothers marching with their tween daughters, older women being pushed in their wheelchairs, and especially when I came around the Capitol Building and looked over the mall

(Continued on page 16)



March—cont'd

and saw a sea of pink hats.

Throughout the day, we heard sporadic stories about marches going on around the world. "Did you hear about Iowa?" "How many in Los Angeles?" "They're marching in Antarctica!?" "Did you see the pictures from Kenya?"

We were greeted warmly by the DC residents and police and even got a smile or two from the National Guardsmen stationed at various points in the city. It is not lost on me that we were treated this way because we were mostly white women, and had it been half a million people of color marching because Black Lives Matter, the response would have been much different.

I will never forget that day, and I have a picture of me holding a sign that reads, "Release your tax returns now!" I look like I'm laughing, but really, I was shouting, "This is what democracy looks like!"





REGISTRATION FORM 2017 LWVAL STATE CONVENTION
Hampton Inn & Suites Mobile Downtown Historic District, Mobile, AL
Saturday, April 28 – Sunday, April 29, 2017

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone #: _____

Local League: _____

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

Friday Night Reception in Mobile (details to follow)

Friday Night Reception	Yes, I will attend.	No, I will NOT attend.
League Member		
Guest		

Convention Registration Fees

CATEGORY OF FEE	PRICE EACH	TOTAL COST
FULL REGISTRATION includes Saturday Evening Transparency Celebration, Sat/Sun Sessions & Meals/Snack	\$80	
TWO-DAY REGISTRATION (No Saturday Celebration) w/ Meals on both days	\$55	
SATURDAY SESSION ONLY, with Breakfast, Lunch & Snack	\$40	
Saturday Luncheon Only (No Sessions)	\$15	
Saturday Session Only, No Meals	\$0	
SUNDAY SESSION ONLY, with Breakfast	\$15	
Sunday Only, No Meals	\$0	
Saturday Evening Transparency Celebration ONLY	\$30	
TOTAL DUE***		

***Payment due by **April 15, 2017**, online at www.lwval.org or by mail to interim LWVAL Treasurer Lella Lowe, 2609 Shay Ct., Mobile, AL 36695.
 Email: rollread@bellsouth.net Phone: 251-455-5073

Travelling to Convention and Need a Hotel? Rooms are available at the Convention Site: Hampton Inn & Suites Mobile Downtown Historic District, 62 South Royal Street, Mobile, AL 36602
110+ Tax 14% Standard Rooms (Based on 1-4 Guests in the Room)
\$129 + tax 14% Studio Suites (Based on 1-5 Guests in the Room)

Use Code AVS before March 28, 2017, for the discounted rate.

(251) 436-8787 www.mobiledowntown.hamptoninn.com

Questions? Contact Anne Permaloff grafonpermaloff@charter.net (334) 717-8525

CANCELLATIONS must be made no later than April 17, 2017.

www.lwval.org



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LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®

Officers 2015-20107

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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.