



The Voter

September, 2017

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Letter from the President

By all these lovely tokens September days are here/
With summer's best of weather/
And autumn's best of cheer. -- Helen Hunt Jackson

Labor Day, the "unofficial" end of summer, marks the beginning of a new season at the League, with the renewed rhythm of our monthly scheduled events. That's not to say that summer was not an active season, with the Summer Social, voter registrations, Vote411 and our vote reporting on the municipal elections for local TV stations! September, however, brings the commencement of our "routines," e.g., the monthly luncheon series, study group, Vote 18, National Voter Registration Day and other ongoing voter registrations as well as special activities to engage with the Mobile community.

In addition to the things that we "do," there are many behind the scenes tasks that are critical to keeping the League moving ahead. Do you have computer skills? Would you like to help write press releases? Make phone calls? Graphic design? There are many ways in which to volunteer with the League, including many that can be done on your own time and own schedule. We also are interested in members who would like to become involved in working on important "backbone" committees: Budget, Development and Communications. Every bit helps. Let us know your interests and how you can help! September, which is the beginning of our dues year, is an especially a good time to invite friends and colleagues to join the League. Consider bringing a guest to an event to meet and get to know LWVM. The Membership Committee is planning an orientation/League 101, tentatively for some time in October, for members who have joined recently as well as any members who are interested in reconnecting with the League or in finding new ways to become involved. Keep an eye on the website calendar and Facebook for updates on this and other events that will be happening in the fall.

And, September is not too soon to begin to think about our future leadership. The Nominating Committee has begun their work to develop the slate of officers and board positions to be elected in April at the Annual Meeting. If you have an interest, want to know more about the leadership positions, or would like to recommend someone, contact Suzanne Schwartz, Chair, or committee members Andrea Pennington or Amanda Jones.

Finally, I want to encourage each of you to let me and the other officers and board members know of any ideas you have for ways LWVM can serve our community and make democracy work. We are a grass roots organization and you are the most important part. It has been a pleasure since the beginning of my term in May, and over the summer, to work with so many talented and dedicated members and I look forward to what we can all do together this fall and beyond.

In League,

Mary Anne Wilson, President

LWVM Officers & Directors

President
Mary Anne Wilson

VP/Programs
Rose Johnson

Program Chair
Linda Langan

VP/Membership
Beth Hardaway

Membership Chair
Julie Castle

Secretary
Mary Ann Merchant

Treasurer
Amanda Jones

Voter Services
Anne Walsh

Directors
Jaclyn Bunch
Carol Adams-Davis
Gina O'Brien Finnegan
Cora Cade Lemmon
Joan McCracken

Betsey Wooten, ex-officio

Contact Us

League of Women
Voters of Mobile
P. O. Box 40602
Mobile, AL 36640

<http://www.lwvmobile.org>

Calendar of Events

LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE ó An opportunity to socialize with League members and listen to guest speakers presenting issues of importance to the League. Luncheons are held the **third Wednesday** of the month from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Marriott Hotel on Bel Air Boulevard. The buffet lunch is \$18.00. Reservations required. Call or email Jane Gordon at 251-626-3386 or lovjan42@comcast.net.

MONTHLY EVENING STUDY GROUP ó Please join us for our evening study group sessions. Evening study group is not only enlightening and informative but also quite enjoyable. We begin with appetizers and light conversation.

VOTE 18 - Schools are calling and scheduling our national-award-winning, young-voter engagement program. Contact Myra Evans to learn more: bobalouiemom@yahoo.com or 251-666-7914.

September 16– 2:00-4:00 p.m. – Evening Study Group ó at the home of Jane Gordon, 2115 Sheffield Court, as we learn more about climate literacy.

September 20 – 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Lunch with the League at the Marriott Hotel - kick off of our series of discussions on the coastal impact of climate change. Featured speaker is Carrie Stevenson, Coastal Sustainability Agent with U FLA extension service for Escambia County.

September 23 – 10:00-2:00 p.m. - Celebrate Mobile, hosted at Trinity Episcopal Church and sponsored by the Literacy Coalition of South Alabama, will Celebrate Midtown. Come out and learn more about what is going on in Mobile and stop by our LWVM booth. Free and open to the public.

September 25 – 5:00-8:00 p.m. ó Empowering Change Forum - Join Soledad O'Brien, award winning journalist and a panel of local leaders in a conversation about inclusion in Mobile. Space is extremely limited.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/empowering-change-forum-tickets-36278101779>

September 26 - National Voter Registration Day – Contact Betty Shinn to volunteer bettyboo222@comcast.net

September 30 – 12:00-2:00 p.m. - Vernon Crawford Bar Association's Community Fair - focus on service and resource providers to formerly incarcerated persons. LWVM will have a voter registration booth at LeFlore High School, 700 Donald Street. Contact Betty Shinn to volunteer.

October 10 – 5:30 p.m. - LWVM Board Meeting – Via!, 1717 Dauphin Street.

October 23 – 5:30 p.m. – Evening Study Group - A review of LWV US *Impact on Issues: A Guide to Public Policy Positions* – USA Library Room 181

October 25 – 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – Lunch with the League at the Marriott Hotel ó a panel of science experts to present and discuss Climate Change and answer questions (NOTE: schedule changeô this luncheon is the fourth Wednesday).

November 13 – 5:30 p.m. – Evening Study Group - An Overview of Highest Ranking Solutions to Reverse Global Warming. Reference: DRAWDOWN by Paul Hawken and Putting a Price on our Carbon Footprint.

Check the website calendar and Facebook for event updates including the December Holiday Party (TBS) and December Board Meeting.

A Publication of the League of Women Voters of Mobile, Alabama

*The League of Women Voters,
a national, nonpartisan
political organization,
encourages the informed and
active participation of citizens
in government and influences
policy through education and
advocacy*

Program Update

The LWV Mobile Study Group will begin its fall study of climate change on Saturday, September 16th. We will begin our four part series with a discussion of the LWV Toolkit For Climate Action found on the LWV website, focusing on Essential Principles of Climate Science. We will also be discussing the latest film from Al Gore "An Inconvenient Sequel." All are invited and encouraged to preview the LWV website.

Join us at 2116 Sheffield Court, Mobile from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Please bring an appetizer to share.

For further information contact Rose Johnson at frjohn2@bellsouth.net.

Carrie Stevenson Kicks Off Our Discussions on Coastal Impact of Climate Change

Carrie Stevenson, Coastal Sustainability Agent with the University of Florida Extension Service for Escambia County, will be September's featured luncheon speaker on the study of the coastal impact of climate change. Carrie has been with University of Florida



Extension Service for Escambia County for 13 years. Her educational outreach programs focus on living sustainability within a vulnerable coastal ecosystem. She also works to help residents better understand how to protect and preserve local wildlife habitats and water resources, wisely use our abundant rainfall and sunlight, and to prepare and mitigate for flooding, coastal storms and climate impacts.

She has said that the planet's rising heat levels carry far-reaching consequences that many do not consider. The effects include increased rainfall, rising sea levels, sharp fluctuations in day-to-day temperatures, shifts in the growth patterns of agricultural crops and a jump in health problems related to heat, such as asthma. She also said that "a lot of folks will attribute the change in climate to cyclical warming and won't want us to take ownership of the problem, but I think there are some concrete things that we as a community can do to offset the damage."

Carrie holds a Master's degree in Biology/Coastal Zone Studies from the University of West Florida in Pensacola and received her undergraduate degree in Biology from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama.

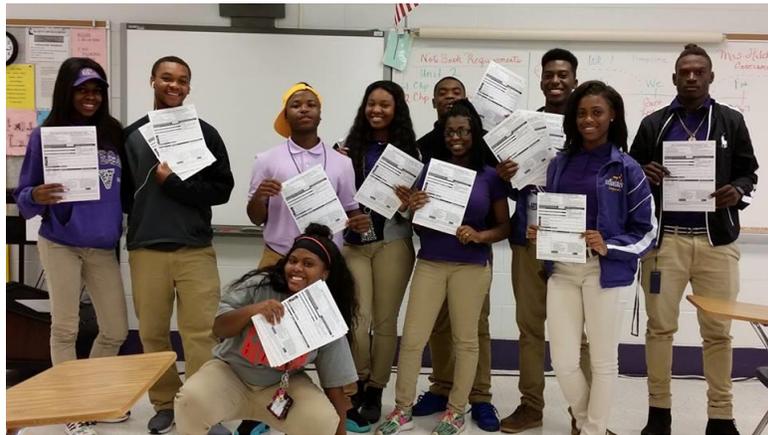
All LWVM luncheon events are open to the public, but reservations are required. Please RSVP to Jane Gordon lovjan42@comcast.net or 251-402-3321 by Monday, September 18. Lunch is \$18 or [\\$19 by credit card](#). Free seating is also available without the luncheon cost, however, reservations are still required to arrange for extra seating.

Vote 18 Update

Schools are back in session and so is our Vote 18 Program- our award winning interactive FREE 45 minute high school voter registration program.

For new members who have not heard of our Vote 18 program, it is a 45 minute, free program that leads the students through the history of voting, graphically illustrating voting laws and history. Through the dynamics of exclusion, mock elections, group interaction and rewards, students experience the economic and social impacts of voting. Vote 18 makes voting personal. Instead of telling students to vote, they become active participants in the democratic process and teach each other WHY they should vote

Blount and Murphy are already on the schedule and we are working on others. If you have any contacts or relationships with a school, public or private, please reach out and offer our services. Once you have a name and contact information, please email it to Myra Evans bobalouiemom@gmail.com and she will follow up and get it scheduled. With team work we will reach all eligible seniors in the County!\



Dues are Due!

September means "Dues Collection Time" for the League each year. You should have already received a personal email notification about your dues on September 5.

Dues for the 2017-18 year:

Individual member dues: \$50

Second Household member dues: \$25

Student dues: \$25

Options for payment:

Mail your check to LWV of Mobile, P. O. Box 40602, Mobile, AL 36640. Pay online at lwvmobile.org. Pay (check/credit card) at the next League event: Study Group (Sept. 16) or Luncheon (Sept. 20)

If you have had a change of address/phone/email, please send your updated information to Beth Hardaway at bhardaway@southalabama.edu or call her at 251-343-7765.

National Voter Registration Day

By Betty Shinn



National Voter Registration Day is always held the last Tuesday in September. League members and community organizations in all 50 states will make a united effort to register voters. This year the focus is first-time voters.

Studies indicate that voters who register at age 18 and actually vote become life-long voters. We want to see this trend continue, and as such, will visit local high schools during the lunch break on September 26 [from 11:00 am-12:30 pm.] in search for 18 year olds. We will inform and remind students of the upcoming Alabama Senate Race and the impact that race will have on their lives; from receiving financial aid to the recruitment of better jobs in our local area so they can have a better future.

We need volunteers to help on September 26th. The more volunteers, the more schools we can cover, and the more schools we cover, the greater opportunity to meet students one on one. It's a win-win learning experience. We need your help. Our goal is 75 ó 100 registered voters. There will be a brief, informal role play and pep rally on September 23rd.

Looking for a way to make a difference? Volunteer for National Voter Registration Day. Email me at bettyboo22@comcast.net to say you will help.

Welcome New Members!

J. C. Barker, Joan Chadick, Lucy Cope, Queen Daniels, Hahn Hua, Nina Ford Johnson, Kelly Jones, Cierra Jones, Gayle Lammers, Ethel Lomas, John Lowe, Kathy McMaken, Alice Nolen, Brad Nolen, Violetta Simpson, Michon Trent, Julee Waldrop, and John Williams.
Returning Member: Merceria Ludgood.

Our membership is now at 117 members!

Defending the Environment

As we begin our study on the coastal impact of climate change, let's review the League of Women Voters' position on the environment.

The League of Women Voters has been at the forefront of the environmental protection movement for decades, consistently supporting legislation to preserve our nation's natural resources and protect our public health. We support legislation that seeks to protect our country from the physical, economic and public health effects of climate change while also providing pathways to economic prosperity.

The League believes that averting the damaging effects of climate change requires action from both individuals and governments at the local, state, national and international levels. By raising public awareness of the causes and likely impacts of climate change, helping citizens learn what they can do to protect the environment and building broad support for effective climate solutions, we can help put our country -- and our planet -- on the path to a sustainable future.

We believe that a path toward a clean energy future will strengthen our economy by opening up millions of jobs to Americans while also rescuing America from its dependence on fossil fuels, reducing threats to our health, protecting the natural resources that we depend upon for survival and creating millions of domestic jobs. The League's environmental work falls into the three categories below:

Global Climate Change – Climate change is the greatest environmental challenge of our generation. The League supports legislative solutions, including setting caps on greenhouse gas and carbon pollution, encouraging conservation and renewable energy and investing in a new clean energy economy. We also support strong executive branch action under the Clean Air Act to cut industrial carbon pollution from new and existing power plants, which are the largest source of industrial carbon pollution in the US. The League works to build grassroots support for action on climate change nationally and at the state and local levels in order to avoid irrevocable damage to our planet.

Clean Air Defense – We work to protect our air quality by advocating for federal air pollution controls on industrial processes, government installations, fuels and motor vehicles. League members across the country actively campaign to urge the President and Congress to lead the world in the fight against climate change by controlling carbon pollution from new and existing power plants. The League presses for full implementation of the Clean Air Act of 1970 and for strengthening amendments, while fighting against attempts to weaken it.

Clean Energy – The League advocates for legislation to improve energy efficiency throughout the economy and improve pollution control, including shifting to renewable energy, establishing federal fuel-efficiency standards and opposing oil drilling in environmentally sensitive areas. The League opposes the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline, which threatens to pollute huge drinking water reserves, increase the world's dependence on dirty oil and increase the greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Preservation of a healthy environment is a top priority, and state Leagues have taken the lead in working to block fracking and dangerous mining processes that threaten to pollute natural resources in their communities.

LWVM's Super Successful Summer Social

LWV of Mobile held its annual summer social at the Old Shell Road Growler on July 18. Thanks to Cora Cade Lemmon and her committee for organizing this relaxed and well-attended event. Several of our local political leaders dropped by to join in on the fun.



