



# The Mobile Voter



*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*

## FALL ACTIVITIES

**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 **\$17.00**. RSVP to (251) 402-3321 or [lovjan42@comcast.net](mailto:lovjan42@comcast.net).

**MONTHLY STUDY GROUP** ó In-depth objective study of a selected issue held on the **second Monday** of the month from 5:30-7:00 p.m. at the home of Jane Gordon, 2116 Sheffield Ct., Mobile 36693, 251-402-3321. Light refreshments served.

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

**September 14** – 5:30-7:30 p.m. ó Monthly Study Group begins its study of money in politics at the home of Jane Gordon, 2116 Sheffield Ct., Mobile 36693, 251-402-3321.

**September 16** ó 11:30 a.m. ó 1:00 p.m. Lunch with the League at the Marriott Hotel. Sue Bell Cobb, Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court from 2007 to 2011 will be guest speaker. **Reservations required!** RSVP to 251-402-3321 or [lovjan42@comcast.net](mailto:lovjan42@comcast.net).

**September 22** ó National Voter Registration Day at Government Plaza. Volunteers are needed to work just a few hours or all day. Contact Betty Shinn at 251-433-4487 or [bettyboo222@comcast.net](mailto:bettyboo222@comcast.net)

**October 12** ó Monthly Study Group ó 5:30-7:30 p.m. ó Jane Gordon's home. Discussion continues on Money in Politics.

**October 13** ó LWVM Board Meeting ó 5:30 p.m. ó The VIA Center, 1717 Dauphin Street.

**October 21** ó Lunch With the League ó 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Marriott Hotel

## Letter from the President



As we remembered the events of 9/11 this past week, I'm particularly aware of the distinction that all of us as Americans share with our country- and that is "freedom" - to choose, to govern ourselves, and to express ourselves without fear. How fortunate I feel to be a part of women's group (and men) who are dedicated to promoting participation in our government and to educating ourselves and others to democratic principles!

This month we are particularly honored to have Judge Sue Bell Cobb, retired Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, speak to us as part of that process of governing ourselves- the issue of "money in politics." Please join us Wednesday, September 16 at 11:30 at the Marriott Hotel near Bel Air Blvd. The luncheon is \$17, payable at the door. It is always an excellent buffet. If you can come, please RSVP to Jane Gordon at: [lovjan42@comcast.net](mailto:lovjan42@comcast.net) (telephone: 402-3321). After our speaker's presentation, we will stay briefly to discuss some quick reports from a few committees.

This is a good time to consider joining our "study group" which begins this Monday, September 14 at 5:30 pm at Jane Gordon's house, 2116 Sheffield Court, Mobile 36693 (near St. Luke's school). We will be studying "money in politics."

If you're more interested in working with one of the other endeavors of the League, let me or someone at the luncheon know. Here is a list of some of the other areas of involvement:

**OBSERVER CORPS** (once a month observing a board meeting of one of the 50 boards that function as an arm of government.

**VOTER SERVICES** (Vote 18- speaking to high school youth); candidate forums (organizing public forums); Vote 411 (media coverage of candidate positions); and voter registration (helping to sign up more people to vote)

**MEMBERSHIP** (reaching out to the public to join us)

**PROGRAM** (helping with study group and procuring speakers)

**COMMUNICATIONS /PUBLICITY** (advertising to the public about our programs, speakers, etc.).

The chair of these committees will be recognized at the luncheon meeting.

I'm so glad to be starting our year with so many dedicated people who have worked all summer to really expand and develop our programs. Please know that everyone is invited to join in- any area you would like!

Sincerely,

***Betsey Wooten, President***  
***League of Women Voters of Mobile***



## Sue Bell Cobb to Speak at LWVM's First Monthly Luncheon

By Gina O. Finnegan

LWV-Mobile will launch its fall study, *Money in Elections*, with retired Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb, an advocate on the state and national levels for judicial selection reform. Cobb knows the topic well. She won election to the state's highest court in the most expensive judicial campaign in the nation that year -- with \$2.6 million in her campaign coffers and nearly twice that amount, \$5 million, in her opponent's coffers.

At our September 16 luncheon, Alabama's first female chief justice will offer perspective for voters as the state readies itself to elect three of the court's nine justices in 2016. Alabama led the nation in campaign spending for its supreme court races until recently. It is one of 39 states that elects its judges.

Cobb is a strong advocate for appointed judgeships. After serving as a judge for 25 years, she won election as chief justice on the Alabama Supreme Court in 2006. She retired in 2011.

"Those of us seeking judicial office often find ourselves doing things that feel awfully unsavory." Cobb wrote recently in Politico Magazine. "When a judge asks a lawyer who appears in his or her court for a campaign check, it's about as close as you can get to legalized extortion."

Cobb writes in Politico about her discomfort asking friends and acquaintances in the legal profession for campaign contributions and describes perfectly legal, but "shameful" and "embarrassing," tactics used by some successful judicial candidates around the country.

Our campaign finance study is part of a nationwide League of Women Voters examination of the issue, which will hopefully lead to the formation of an updated national position on campaign finance.

We will meet at the Bel Air Marriott at 3101 Airport Blvd. from 11:30-1:00 on Wednesday, September 16. This event is open to the public. The buffet lunch is \$17. Reservations required! Please RSVP to Jane Gordon at [lovjan42@comcast.net](mailto:lovjan42@comcast.net) or 402-3321.

### ***Welcome New Members:***

David Langan  
Pamela Darrington  
Kaelin Darrington  
Gordon McCracken

And welcome back to previous member:

Becky Becnel  
Current Membership: 106 members

## ***League Begins Program***

Please consider being part of the formation of the League of Women Voters' updated position on campaign finance issues. At LWV's 2014 convention, league representatives voted to study and revise our national position on money in elections. The LWV-Mobile membership voted at our April annual meeting to be part of this important work. We begin Monday, September 14, with our first evening study group session, held at 5:30 at Jane Gordon's house at 2116 Sheffield Court, 36693. Jane can be reached at 402-3321.

### September 14

Renee Collini will lead us with an introduction to the issue using a Powerpoint presentation and a fun quiz.

### October 12

Carol Adams Davis will introduce the consensus questions we are to answer at the end of the study. She will also summarize and lead discussion on three of the works the national study committee has recommended:

"Campaign Finance" Ch. 3 in Six Amendments: How and Why We Should Change the Constitution"

Magelby, David B., Editor, 2014: Financing the 2012 Election

Vogel, Kenneth P., 2014: Big Money

### November 9

Barbara Caddell and Gina Finnegan will summarize and lead discussion on the book "The New Soft Money" by Daniel Tokaji and Renata Strause. (Google "The New Soft Money.")

### December 14

We will hold our consensus meeting. This format is used locally and on state and national levels to develop positions on issues. With consensus, we will update our position. If we do not reach consensus on certain questions, we will not adopt those as part of our recommendations to the national position.

Some of the reading materials can be located at [http://forum.lwv.org/sites/default/files/mip\\_reading\\_list.final\\_.pdf](http://forum.lwv.org/sites/default/files/mip_reading_list.final_.pdf).

To be part of the ongoing national discussion, consider joining LWV's Money-in-Elections Google group, which will also link you to study materials.

Study group is not just a great opportunity to learn and engage in discussion with interesting people. We always begin with an array of hors d'oeuvres and light conversation. All members are welcome. For more information, please call 656-0130 or e-mail [ginaofinnegan@gmail.com](mailto:ginaofinnegan@gmail.com)



## **Social Media**

Are you in the loop? Are you in the know? If you want access to the latest, greatest, most cutting edge information follow League of Women Voters of Mobile on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/LWVMobile>) and Twitter (@MobileLWV). Check out the website ([www.lwvmobile.org](http://www.lwvmobile.org)) at least monthly for links and press releases. While you are there ó be sure to also check out the LWVAL (<https://www.facebook.com/LWVAL>) ([www.lwval.org](http://www.lwval.org)) and LWV (<https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomensvoters>) and [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) sites too. Membership has its privileges after all! And, bonus ó we are always looking for a few good folks to help with these sites. PM us on Facebook if you are interested.

## **Shur Fellow**

Applications are now being taken for consideration as a National Coach ó working with other states to increase membership and strengthen leadership. Our own League member Myra Evans is serving her second two-year term as a Ruth S. Shur Fellow. She works via phone and email with a partner to support three states. The commitment is two years, and you agree to be available as a resource to your assigned state(s) via a monthly phone conference call and a monthly conference call with the other Shur Fellows. Please contact Myra if you have any questions or are interested in more information ó [bobalouiemom@yahoo.com](mailto:bobalouiemom@yahoo.com).



★ 9 / 22 / 2015 ★  
NATIONALVOTER  
REGISTRATIONDAY.ORG

## National Voter Registration Day

National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) is coming! More than 225 League of Women Voters affiliates around the country have signed on to hit the streets and help register voters as part of this year's National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday, September 22. For the third straight year, the League is thrilled to be part of this massive celebration of voting and democracy. And with presidential primaries just around the corner, the timing has never been better for all of us to ask our friends, neighbors, coworkers and family if their voter registration is up-to-date.

More than 1,000 nonprofits, government officials, businesses and other groups have already signed up to participate in National Voter Registration Day 2015. While supporters of the day come from many different places and backgrounds, we all agree that voting is something to celebrate, whether it's in one of the hundreds of local elections taking place this fall or in next year's pivotal presidential election.

Here at the League, NVRD been a fun way for League volunteers to get out and know their communities. The day has also helped leverage the League's grassroots power around a single day of action on voter registration. The result? Tens of thousands of new voters registered by the League on past National Voter Registration Days.

Your League of Women Voters of Mobile will be doing its part by registering voters at Government Plaza on this day. Volunteers are needed. Contact Chair Betty Shinn at 251-433-4487 or [bettyboo222@comcast.net](mailto:bettyboo222@comcast.net) to let her know that you will help.

## Time to Renew for 2015-2016!

September 1 is the date each year when LWV members renew membership dues for the coming year. Email reminders will be going out shortly. At our LWV Annual Meeting in April, 2015, a dues increase was proposed by the Budget Committee and approved by the membership.

2015-16 Dues: Individual	\$50
+ 2 <sup>nd</sup> household member	\$75
Student	\$25

There are several options for paying dues:

**On Monday, September 14** at the first Study Group meeting or

**On Wednesday, September 16** at the first monthly luncheon

**By mailing dues to:** LWV of Mobile, PO Box 40602, Mobile, AL 36640

**Or by paying online** using PayPal by going to: [lwvmobile.org](http://lwvmobile.org)

**Note: If you have had changes of address, phone or email, please send current information to me at:** [bhardaway@southalabama.edu](mailto:bhardaway@southalabama.edu).

As always, thank you for the work you do for the League and for our community. Please know that your membership is valued!

Beth Hardaway  
VP Membership



## Vote 18 Update

We are already presenting, inspiring (we hope) and registering high schoolers. Lella Lowe, Barbara Caddell and Myra Evans were at Blount High School earlier this month in Ms. Hildreth's and Coach Blank's classes. They did 4 sessions, saw 82 students and submitted 41 forms. Outstanding! Several of the Vote 18 team will be at Murphy High School on National Voter Registration Day as well. And other schools are in negotiation. Please reach out to any high school groups you may have contact with and encourage them to invite us. We want to reach ALL of the schools this year. If you have any other questions or want more information, please contact Myra Evans at [bobalouiemom@yahoo.com](mailto:bobalouiemom@yahoo.com).

## Membership Committee News

The newly-reorganized LWV Membership Committee has been hard at work preparing for the upcoming League year. Members have very neatly organized themselves into several areas of service:

Beth Hardaway, Chair: Dues collection/maintenance of member records  
June Acree: Fundraising  
Julie Castle: Preparation of New Member Packets & Prospective Member Packets  
Linda Langan: New Member Orientation/Enlistment of college student members  
Cora Cade Lemmon: Personal telephone contacts and follow-up  
President Betsey Wooten has also attended meetings and made valuable contributions.

If you are interested in joining us to work on any of these areas, please contact Beth Hardaway at [bhardaway@southalabama.edu](mailto:bhardaway@southalabama.edu)



The LWVM held its annual planning retreat on September 16 at Anne Walsh's beautiful home on Mobile Bay. Kathryn Cariglino was the facilitator. It was an enjoyable afternoon with good conversation, good ideas, good company, and good food.

### *Calling all photographers - or want-to-be photographers*

*The Annual Meeting will not be quite the same without our pictures. Please be sure to email Myra ([bobalouiemom@yahoo.com](mailto:bobalouiemom@yahoo.com)) with ANY and all snaps you take of LWV folks in action - committee meetings, at other events, supporting the community, doing League work in the many ways we do League. And we can only post what we get - so if you want to see your smiling face - or someone else's, be sure to email them to our mailbox - [leagueofwomenvotersmobile@gmail.com](mailto:leagueofwomenvotersmobile@gmail.com) and an administrator will put them up for you.*

## Member Profile - Linda Langan



Linda Langan joined the League of Women Voters of Mobile this year. She became aware of the LWVM after a visit with her aunt who lives in Panama City, Florida. While staying with her aunt she was invited to attend a LWV Panama City meeting. She was impressed by the discussions among this group of LWV members and for their concerns and actions on behalf of their community. Upon arriving back home in Mobile, she looked online and discovered the LWV of Mobile. Delighted to find an active LWV in Mobile, she immediately contacted Beth Hardaway, became a member and attended the next monthly study group meeting. Since that time she has become an active LWVM member and serves on two of the LWVM committees, as well as becoming a LWVM board member.

Linda is a fairly recent retiree after having a 40 year career in nursing. Born in Liverpool, England, to an American father serving in the Air Force overseas and a British mother, Linda grew up with her two brothers in both the United States and in England. After completing high school at an all-girls school in Prescott, England, she finished her registered nursing program where she received nursing awards, and then worked as a registered nurse in England before returning once again to the United States.

She worked for decades as a nationally certified Operating Room Registered Nurse and was employed at hospitals in Mobile, Seattle, San Francisco, and San Diego as well as Liverpool, England. Additionally she spent three years in Karlsruhe, Germany, where she worked in Labor and Delivery at the 130th U.S. Army Station Hospital in Heidelberg - the same hospital to which General George Patton was transported in 1945 following a fateful accident.

As an operating room nurse she worked on many different surgical teams specializing in neurosurgical, plastic and reconstructive, as well as other specialty surgical procedures. She also held other positions in nursing management, in the specialty of reproductive endocrinology and she served in the position as a patient educator. She became a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner in 1983 and was one of the first board certified nurse practitioners within the city of Mobile. Linda practiced as a nurse practitioner at Mobile County Health Department and Jefferson County (Birmingham) Health Department during her career.

She attended Spring Hill College and graduated Magna Cum Laude. She has two children, both of who are grown and married. Her son is employed by Deloitte, and he and his family live in Orlando, Florida. Her daughter, a former Fulbright Scholar, is a practicing certified critical care and cardiac RN at Children's National Hospital in Washington D C, and lives with her family in Silver Spring, Maryland. Linda has 4 grandchildren and is excited about the anticipated arrival of a new grandson at the end of September. Linda travels quite frequently to spend time with her grandchildren and she declares that being a grandmother is the best job she has ever had!

Linda is married to Dr. David Langan, Professor Emeritus, who taught at the School of Computing at the University of South Alabama for 30 years. Together they enjoy traveling and last year spent four months traveling to England, France and Spain. They recently returned from the west coast after an Alaskan cruise and spending time with family and friends in Seattle and San Diego. Linda's other interests include reading, oil and acrylic painting, swimming and working on interior decorating projects.

Regarding her LWVM activities, Linda serves on the Observer Corps and the Membership committees and presently serves as an Observer Corps member attending local Mobile city board meetings. Linda is currently working on promoting the goals of the LWVM to a younger audience including local college students.



**League of Women Voters of Mobile**

P. O. Box 40602  
Mobile, AL 36640  
251-459-2267  
[lwvmobile.org](http://lwvmobile.org)

**LWV of Mobile 2015-2016  
Officers & Directors**

**President**

Betsey Wooten  
[Betwooten7@att.net](mailto:Betwooten7@att.net)  
251-414-5171

**VP/Programs**

Gina Finnegan  
[ginaofinnegan@hotmail.com](mailto:ginaofinnegan@hotmail.com)  
251-432-2492

**VP/ Membership**

Beth Hardaway  
[bhardaway@usouthal.edu](mailto:bhardaway@usouthal.edu)  
251-343-7765

**Secretary/Newsletter Editor**

Mary Ann Merchant  
[maryann.merchant@bellsouth.net](mailto:maryann.merchant@bellsouth.net)  
251-208-7414

**Co-Treasurers**

Barbara Caddell  
Lella Lowe

**Voter Services**

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Rella Snetsinger

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