

July, 2013



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

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

July 23 – Annual Summer Social at Taste Wine Bar, 2033 Airport Boulevard (across the street from Mellow Mushroom) 5:30-7:00 p.m. Free food and door prizes---bring a friend! **Cash bar.**

August 8 – Planning retreat at Anne Walsh’s Bay House at 218 S. Mobile Street, Fairhope – 9:00-1:00 p.m. All members are welcome. Bring a salad for the potluck lunch.

August 13 – Mayoral Forum sponsored by LWVM and WKRG – W. P. Davidson High School Auditorium, 3900 Pleasant Valley Road (will be televised live on Channel 5) (time to be determined).

August 14 – Presentation of Vote 18 to Career, Inc. Contact Myra Evans at bobalouiemom@Yahoo.com for more info.

August 16 – Last day to register to vote before the Municipal Election.

August 22 – Last day for a voter to apply for a regular absentee ballot (call 251-208-7469 for an absentee ballot application).

August 22 - Old Dauphin Way Association will hold a District 2 City Council Candidate Forum at 7 p.m. at St. Mary's School on Old Shell Road between Providence Street and North Lafayette.

August 27 – Mobile Mayor/Council Election. To see where you vote go to:
<http://www.cityofmobile.org/election/votingcenters.php>

September 11 - Presentation of Vote 18 to Career, Inc.

President's Letter

LWV of Mobile 2012-2013 Officers & Directors

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The phrase that inspires this particular message comes from my two year old grandson, who, when he saw his grandfather come out dressed for the day in khakis and a white golf shirt, exclaimed, "You look cute!" We have a member who also always remembers to say, "Don't you look cute today?" whenever she sees you. Everyone enjoys being told they "look cute" or something similar. It makes getting up early, showering, doing your hair, and picking out clothes, worth it to know that someone noticed. Since so much of what we do in the League involves interaction with people we have never met before, we have to hope that their interaction with us in some manner leaves them with that same happy feeling that coming to whatever event or meeting has caused our paths to cross has been worth their while getting up and dressed for it. It is communicated, generally not as directly as a two year old might, but by a friendly smile and your undivided attention for a few minutes to what another person has to say, whether or not you agree with it. It is something I think the League does well, providing information without being judgmental.

We will have a lot of opportunities in the next month to practice our communication skills, both with each other in meeting and planning events; and with others at our Summer Social, meeting prospective members and trying to make them feel welcome and comfortable with our group, as well as with the public at our upcoming mayoral forum, trying to have everyone feel welcome and valued, regardless of their opinion of the candidates and their views. If we are polite and courteous, we can only hope our guests will respond in kind.

If we put limits on speaking time at our Summer Retreat planning session and at our monthly Board meetings, it will be to keep the meeting moving and trying to respect everyone's time by finishing in a timely manner. Knowing that each of us has things about which we are passionate, we still have to have respect for the time of other members and plan our comments to be brief and thought out in advance to make our point. That way, hopefully everyone's point can be made and heard.

Speaking of reaching out and practicing our communication skills, Myra Evans has agreed to conduct a session at our Summer Retreat on the use of technology and how to make it work for us. She will specifically cover our social media options, such as FaceBook and Twitter, and how members can become proficient in using these options to the League's advantage. She will also be encouraging members to learn how to participate in preparing PowerPoint presentations for our forums and how to operate the necessary equipment to present the candidate questions at the forums. Please take advantage of this opportunity because we definitely need more than one person who can handle this kind of duty.

We have much to do right now and the community is looking to us to do it well. I guess our reputation precedes us, because we get constant requests from others in the community to help them with various projects. I want to thank everyone who has come to meetings for one thing or another for their help and input, and I ask those who have not yet participated fully not to wait for a personal invitation, but to come to an announced meeting and volunteer your energy. It is needed and will be welcomed. Feel free to call or email me if you are unsure whether a particular project would be good for you.

***Andrea Pennington, President
League of Women Voters of Mobile***



Spotlight on Shur

By Myra Evans

The main purpose of the Shur Fellowship is to spend time helping guide states to grow – grow their membership and their leadership. As the Shur Fellow working with Maine and Georgia, as well as New Hampshire and Rhode Island, I am privileged to hear about some exciting and interesting things. Recently I heard from RI about their work to raise awareness around the upcoming National Study, which we are also undertaking, on agriculture. They pointed out everyone eats, so everyone should be interested. I also have been reading their websites and publications. We have a lot to be proud of here with the great work our members produce. There are some interesting ways they approach their message. Beth Zotter is incorporating a number of those things as she launches our new site. I feel blessed to be connecting to these other states and it helps me see the value of my personal membership in LWV – at all three levels – and the impact we collectively make.

If you are interested in helping one of the leagues here in Alabama from your home via phone and internet, let me know and I can help get you connected. Currently our state of Alabama is on hiatus with regard to participation in this program. It is sort of sad, because this is free support (membership has its privileges) to help Alabama be as great as we can be! We need coaches and I know there are some great folks within our ranks that would excel at helping another league be all that they can be.

To read more about the Ruth Shur Fellows, go to <http://www.lwv.org/content/ruth-s-shur>



Vote 18

By Myra Evans

Well, it is summertime in the city – actually everywhere. And, this is more or less a quiet time for Vote 18. However, we do have a standing opportunity with Career Inc, the welfare-to-work program that we have been partnering with for about two years. We go monthly to conduct the 45-minute interactive program (www.vote18.org) and submit the completed voter registration forms that are turned in. However, this summer we were invited back to work with the Distinguished Young Women program (used to be America's Junior Miss). This is a delightful opportunity. And while 98% of them are not eligible to vote here, they all walk away with a taste for LWV and the work of voting and information that goes on their states' forms.

But, it is never too early to begin to look forward. There is an election in late August, before we will really get started in the schools. However, we are looking forward and have set a goal of getting the doors open in all of the high schools in the next 12 months. Any help you can provide would be terrific. Do you have a friend that works in any of them – or a student that attends? Please reach out to them and help them see this program as valuable. In particular, we need contacts in the new systems, Chickasaw and Satsuma, and the private schools (although UMS-Wright and McGill hosted us in the fall). Any other resources you are aware of, please share as well. 2014 will be the next big election cycle locally. If you still have not seen this program, put it down as a personal goal and come soon. It is amazing and fun! Looking forward to hearing from you – Myra bobalouiemom@yahoo.com



**You are cordially invited to
The League of Women Voters of Mobile's
Annual Summer Social
Tuesday, July 23, 2013
Taste Wine Bar, 2033 Airport Boulevard
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Bring a friend!
Free food and door prizes – Cash bar
(Park in the back parking lot and come in through back door)**

PUBLIC CONVERSATION: THE IMPACT OF BIKING ACCESSIBILITY ON THE FUTURE OF MOBILE



When: 6 p.m. Saturday, July 20
Where: Space 301, Downtown Mobile

Please join the Center for the Living Arts, Alabama Coastal Foundation, Mobilians on Bikes, and Team Share the Road as they join forces to share perspectives about the impact of biking accessibility on the future of Mobile and surrounding areas. Topics of discussion will include: accessibility on the proposed I-10 bridge over the Mobile River, biking safety issues, environmental benefits, and the impact of quality of life. This public conversation is a part of the CLA's

investigation of the *Futures Project* topic of Environment, Climate Change, Prediction and Politics.

For more information on this event and the *Futures Project* [Click Here](#).

CITY OF MOBILE BOARD OPENINGS

The City of Mobile utilizes volunteer boards and commissions to advise the Mayor and Council on a variety of topics. **There are over 40 boards in the City covering areas such as zoning, libraries, museums, and historic preservation, just to name a few.**

For those residents of Mobile who are interested in serving the community as a member of a City board, an application form is now available on the City's website. [Click here](#) or call the City Clerk's Office at 208-7411 to find out more information about the boards and to get the application.



League of Women Voters of Mobile

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