



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/WINTER ACTIVITIES

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LUNCH WITH THE LEAGUE – 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 \$16.00. RSVP to (251)662-3386 or lovjan42@comcast.net.

MONTHLY STUDY GROUP – 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) 662-3386. 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 or

(251) 666-7914.

November 20 – 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch with the League at the Marriott Hotel. Our featured speaker is Dr. Diane Abercrombie, chairwoman and professor of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies, which is the only program in Alabama that trains primary-care physician assistants. RSVP to (251) 662-3386 or lovjan42@comcast.net.

December 4 – 7:00 p.m. – 1st Congressional District Candidates Debate Candidates Forum at McGill Toolen High School, 1501 Old Shell Road.

December 5 – 6:00 p.m. - Planning Meeting for the group study on agriculture at Gina Finnegan's home, 1306 Dauphin Street (just west of Ann Street)

December 8 – 4:30-7:00 p.m. - Annual Holiday Party at the home of Anne Walsh, 3709 Tudor Lane.

December 10 – Primary Run-Off for Alabama House 104

December 17 – General Election for U. S. Congress District 1

President's Letter

LWV of Mobile 2013-2014 Officers & Directors

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Greetings from our nation's capital! Washington, DC is beautiful this time of year, since the city is tree covered and the leaves are in full color right now. The Capitol may not be, but looks, newly painted and shining white. Wouldn't it be great if the business that takes place there could just get a new coat of paint and be similarly renewed?

It seems to me that with the current state of affairs in our wonderful country, the LWV mission for the next year or two needs to be to somehow creatively convincing the electorate that they need and want to vote and not give in to discouragement. If we don't get back to voting with attention and enthusiasm, we could lose what made this country great so many years ago. I need your input as to any creative ways that you can think of to energize a lethargic citizenry to once again participate in selecting our leaders. Please call or email me, or any Board member, with any ideas you may have, even if you think they sound "crazy." We need to do something to jump start our collective batteries again!

In closing, I will quote the last paragraph from Elisabeth MacNamara's LWVUS President's Message today. "Voting brings us together as Americans-it is the one time we are all equal. It doesn't matter whether you're rich or poor young or old; Election Day is your opportunity to support your community and have a say in our future. At a time when so much is at stake for our community and our future, voting allows us to take control. Every vote counts and together, our votes will make a difference."

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

Welcome New Members!!

***Lois Bolter
Celestine Chappell
Bob Collier
Renee Collini
Dennis Evants
Tom Herder
Beatrice Ishler
Rhoda Pickett
Anna Powell***

Additionally, we entered two high schools, and met with great success in getting students registered.

National Voter Registration Day

By Betty M. Shinn

I received an email from Andrea Pennington, League President, asking me to chair the National Voter Registration Day for Tuesday, September 24, 2013.

National Voter Registration Day is a nationwide, nonpartisan effort to register thousands of voters on one single day. This event would occur almost two weeks after being asked and accepting. No problem. I am passionate about Voter Registration, a great civic activity I enjoy because I realize the power of every single vote and the importance of voting.

What a wonderful opportunity to get young folk registered to vote for the first time, update voter registration rolls for people who have moved, changed names or other information that is critical to keeping voters names active on the voter registration list, a win-win opportunity.

Email momentum began with asking for advertisement as I turned to a familiar League skillful at getting information to the public, Erica Perkins and Kathryn Cariglino.

I started with a simple two point action plans; first, enter the local high schools and secondly have all League members get involved by asking each member to register at least on new voter.

It was a very rewarding experience for many of our members. Gina Finnegan was glowing and literally pouncing up and down as she ceremoniously handed me what I'm sure is only the beginning of her voter registration efforts. Gina, in her first effort to register voters, registered five voters.

Thanks to everyone for making this endeavor a success on every level, especially Mobile County School Board Commissioners who gave us permission to go into local high schools to register students to vote. This national event met with great success all over the country, and League members in Mobile are poised to play a pivotal role in efforts to engage citizens in our democratic process and voting is one of the key elements. Myra Evans advised our numbers represent 1% of the total national numbers for the National Voter Registration Day. Hurray! I'm privileged to have served as chair. The League of Women Voters Mobile registered 98 voters which fulfilled the goal of having almost one registered voter for every League member.



Betty Jones, Betty Shinn & Andrea Pennington at Williamson High School on National Voter Registration Day



Gina Finnegan turning in her voter registration forms to Betty Shinn



*Gretchen McDermott, Lella Lowe and Barbara Caddell at
LeFlore High School*



Dr.

Dr. Diane Abercrombie to Speak at November Lunch

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, November 20 for our last luncheon of 2013. We are excited to feature Dr. Diane Abercrombie as our guest speaker. Dr. Abercrombie serves as the director of the Physician Assistant Studies program at the University of Alabama, and she will share with us the changing role of this healthcare professional as states grapple with a steadily declining number of primary health doctors.

In Alabama, more than half of all primary care physicians are over the age of 50. Nationally, medical students are increasingly opting for specialty areas instead of primary care fields, with less than 40 percent going into primary care fields. It is expected that by 2020, the nation will be short 45,000 primary care physicians. In Alabama, it is currently estimated that between one and two million residents lack access to a primary care physician.

Physician assistants, who are licensed to deliver basic medical care under the supervision of a licensed physician, are viewed as a potential solution to the shortage.

Dr. Abercrombie was awarded a federal grant of nearly \$1 million to help increase the number of trained physician assistants through the USA program. The grant program also includes an effort to recruit veterans as students.

"Physician assistants are highly trained healthcare providers who play an integral role as part of a professional healthcare team," Abercrombie said. "The physician assistant allows for a continued and sustained level of excellence in patient-centered healthcare and helps to bridge the gap between supply and demand."

Abercrombie will explain the role and history of the physician assistant position. She will also discuss the current state of healthcare access in Alabama, particularly in rural and other underserved areas. She will share how physician assistants can help to fill the medical gaps caused by a steady decline in the number of primary care doctors.

I hope to see you at this very informative luncheon next week. Dr. Abercrombie has a tremendous amount of experience in both the education and practice side of her field, having served as a primary care physician assistant in the area. This luncheon will conclude our Alabama healthcare study.

Please join us at the Bel Air Marriott (Airport Blvd., near the mall) from 11:30 until 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 20. Cost of the buffet lunch is \$16. Please RSVP to Jane Gordon at lovjan42@comcast.net or call Gina Finnegan at 432-2492.

Gina O'Brien Finnegan
Vice President/Program Director
League of Women Voters of Mobile



***You are cordially invited to the
League of Women Voters of Mobile's
Annual Holiday Party
Sunday, December 8, 2013
4:30 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.
At the home of Anne Walsh
3709 Tudor Lane
(Behind St. Ignatius Church)
Bring your favorite finger food
Spouses & Guests are welcome!
Call Anne at (251) 343-5056
For more information***



League of Women Voters of Mobile

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<http://www.lwvnet.org/lwv/al/mobile/>

Dr. Allen Perkins, chairman of Family Medicine at the University of South Alabama, spoke about the Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare) at the League's October luncheon. With graphs and statistics, Dr. Perkins explained many of the underlying reasons that made necessary a significant change in the way healthcare is delivered and paid for in America. He also explained the basics of how the ACA is supposed to work. In addition to his as a department chair, Perkins is a professor, family practice physician and has served as president of the Alabama Rural Health Association and the Alabama Academy of Family Physicians.

Did You Renew?

This is the time of year when LWV members are asked to renew membership dues.

Dues: Individual - \$45

Student - \$22.50

2 members in a household - \$67.50

You may wish to pay your dues at a Monday Study Group meeting or at the next monthly luncheon...

OR mail dues to: LWV of Mobile, PO Box 40602, Mobile, AL 36640

Whichever method you choose, please know that your membership is valued! The coming year for the League promises to be an active one with many different opportunities for involvement. Thank you for all you do for the League and for our community!

**Beth Hardaway
VP Membership**