



**League of Women Voters
of the Jackson Area**
The Voter

P.O. Box 68214, Jackson, MS 39286-8214
http://www.lwv-ms.org/Jackson_League

March, 2018

League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement.

**REP. KATHY SYKES TO SPEAK AT
LWV-JA ANNUAL MEETING
APRIL 14, 2018**



The Honorable Kathy Sykes, Representative from MS District 70, will be the Speaker at the LWV-JA Annual Meeting on April 14, 2018. She will give a review of the 2018 Legislative Session.

Rep. Sykes was elected in 2016 from District 70 in Hinds County. She is a member of the Mississippi Democratic Party. She serves as Vice-Chair of the Interstate Cooperation Committee and sits on the Banking and Financial Services, Drug Policy, Public Health and Human Services, Public Utilities, Technology and Workforce Development committees. Rep. Sykes is a Lanier High School and Jackson State University Alumni with deep roots in Community Organizing. She has worked decades fighting for worker and civil rights. She is affiliated with the National Congress of Black Women, NAACP, Miss. Alliance of State Employees, Southern Christian Leadership and Miss. Immigrant Rights Alliance to name a few. She resides in her city of birth, Jackson and has one son and one granddaughter. She is of the Methodist faith.

**LWV-JA 2018 Annual Meeting
Lunch
Saturday, April 14**

Where: Mississippi Crafts Center
950 Rice Road, Ridgeland

Time: 9:30 a.m. - Silent action set up.
bidding begins at 9:50.)

10:15 a.m. - Meeting is called to order

Business: Election of Officers, approval of the budget and vote on an amendment to the bylaws.

Brunch: The menu is beef brisket with sides and desserts. (There will also be vegetarian options.). Cost \$12

Silent Auction: Members are asked to donate white elephant items, baked goods, jewelry, or used items such as books or CD's. Members should arrive in time to have everything set up for the auction by 9:50 a.m.

Pre-registration: by April 11

Contact Elaine Talbott so we know how much food is needed.

elaine@phillipsbark.com

Directions: Take the Natchez Trace east from I-55 and go 1.8 miles. Take the exit for Madison/ Ridgeland/Ross Barnett Reservoir. Turn south on Old Canton Rd. and drive .3 mi. to Rice Rd. Turn left on Rice Rd., go 1.1 miles to 950 Rice Rd.. MS Craft Center is on the left.

Alternate: Take Old Canton Rd. from Jackson to Rice Rd. Turn right onto Rice Rd., go 1.1 mi. to the MS. Crafts Center on the left at 950 Rice Rd.

PLEASE COME AND BRING A FRIEND

League of Women Voters of Mississippi

State Council

**Friday & Saturday
May 18-19, 2018**

*Hosted by The League of Women Voters, Oxford/
North Mississippi*

Make your plans now to be in Oxford Friday evening, May 18 and Saturday, May 19 for a stimulating time with other League members. All sorts of interesting things are planned and you don't want to miss this opportunity to connect with League members from all over the state.

These connections help keep us strong and moving in the right direction! Oxford is a beautiful town with excellent places to eat and shop. It's a great place to take a mini-vacation!

Go to the website below to get detailed information and register:

<https://lwvoxnms.wixsite.com/lwvmscouncilreg>

REGISTRATION CLOSSES MAY 14, 2018

Message from the President



Barbara Powell

Our March meeting was a dramatic rendition of the life of Fanny Cook, a Mississippi pioneer naturalist who founded what is now the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science. Dr. Cathy Shropshire, former director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife and Fisheries impersonated Ms. Cook and was aided by Libby Hartfield, former director of the Museum of Natural History. We also learned about the One-lake Project which was being discussed in the legislature and the new Fanny Cook Wildlife Area being developed near Jackson.

LWVJA had a patriotic-looking voter registration table at March For Our Lives, Saturday, March 24. In addition, members with registration forms on clipboards worked the crowds. Thanks for a job well done go to Anna Hall and all the members who participated.

April 14 will be our Annual Meeting Lunch which will be the last LWVJA meeting of the 2017-2018 year. New officers will be elected and we will also vote on the budget for next year and a proposed amendment to our bylaws. Be sure to note the report of the Nominating Committee, proposed budget and bylaws amendment elsewhere in the Voter.

Our speaker for the luncheon will be Representative Kathy Sykes, member of the Mississippi House of Representatives. She will discuss high points (and maybe low points) of the legislative session which will have just ended.

All members are invited to bring items for the silent auction. It is always one of the fun parts of the Annual Meeting and is our only fund-raiser of the year.

As outgoing president of the LWVJA, I would like to thank each of you for your participation and support of the League of Women Voters. Our work in protecting citizen's right to vote and in speaking out on issues important to democracy is needed as much now as ever before. I would also like to thank the board for their great teamwork in leading the Jackson Area League.

You are all invited to attend State Council Meeting in Oxford, May 18 and 19. I hope to see many of you there.

Barbara Powell

LWV-Jackson Area Board of Directors

2017-2018

President

Barbara Powell

1st Vice-President

Program/Administration

Deloris Lee

2nd Vice-President Voter Services

Anna Ingebretsen Hall

Secretary

Megan Tidwell

Treasurer

Gene Everitt

Elected Directors

Membership: Elaine Talbott

Voter Editor: Savina Schoenhofer

Appointed Directors

Public Relations: Carol Andersen

National Items: Anna Ingebretsen Hall

Social Media: Joy Parikh

Nominating Committee

Natalie Maynor, Chair

Fran Leber

Kay Brodbeck

LWV-US NATIONAL ACTION ITEM
Tell Congress to...
Support
Automatic Voter Registration
#AVRact
Spread the word
LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

LWVJA – Proposed Budget 2018-19

INCOME	BDGT 2017-2018	ACTUAL 2017-2018	BDGT 2018--2019
Dues from members	3750	3975	4175
Donations-General	600	550	900
Projects-designated donations	75		75
Annual Meeting/Auction	600	655	600
LWVUS Voter Service grant	300	300	300
TOTAL	5325	5480	6050
EXPENSES	BDGT 2017-2018	ACTUAL 17-18	BDGT 2018-2019
P.O. Box Rental	102	112	112
Voter Service & Voter Service Grant-Voter registration efforts	500	362.80	500
Newsletter-printing if needed	70		70
President	100		50
Treasurer-printing, correspondence	16	9.80	34
Program-meeting expenses	100		175
Action-to communicate with Legislature if needed	100		100
Membership-recruiting efforts	85		80
Miscellaneous	300	115.5	100
Annual Meeting-Lunch, Auction	200	176.56	200
Delegates Travel	800		1500
PMP(Per member payment) to LWV-US -32 per ind. 16 for additional HH member	2112	1920	2384
PMP for LWV-MS -10 per ind. 5 additional HH member	640	725	745
TOTAL	5325	3421.66	6050



Proposed Bylaws Amendment

For over 12 years, our treasurer has notified members on the anniversary date when they had originally joined League that it was time to pay dues for the coming year. Our bylaws still say that annual dues are payable on July 1 and people will be dropped from the roll if they are not paid by Oct. 1. The board has recommended amending the bylaws to fit with current practice. The amendment will be voted on at our Annual Meeting on April 14. Both the current wording and the proposed change are below. The reason for requiring that all membership be up to date by January 30 is that the LWVUS charges us a per member payment based on our membership on January 31.

ARTICLE VI: FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Current wording:

Section 2. Dues. Annual dues shall be payable July first of each fiscal year. Any member who fails to pay dues prior to October 1 of the fiscal year shall be dropped from the membership rolls.

Change to :

Section 2. Dues. Annual dues shall be payable on or before the anniversary of the date that the person joined League. Any member who fails to pay dues in the arrears prior to January 30 of the following year shall be dropped from the membership rolls.

From the website at:

http://lww-ms.org/LWVJA_Bylaws.html

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-JACKSON AREA

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

LWV: Tell me a bit about yourself.

Anna Hall: Anna Ingebretsen Hall, born and raised in Jackson.

LWV: How long have you lived in the Jackson area and what have been your activities since living here?

AH: I have three children I am currently raising here who take up the majority of mine and my husbands time. They attend Casey Elementary and Jackson Academy, both of whom I support as much as possible. Outside of the League I also work with Jackson Council PTA the official liaison between the JPS PTAs and National/MS PTA. We also offer training and support to parents and students so they can be strong advocates in the district. I am often found at Walton Elementary where my children previously were in school, serving on their PTA board and helping where needed.

LWV: When did you join the League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area, and what drew you to the organization?

AH: I joined the League in 2016 encouraged by other women I admired and respected who were members.

LWV: What were some key political issues in Mississippi and nationally at the time you first joined the League?

AH: At the time I joined I had become complacent about the political atmosphere, assuming we were headed in a good direction as a nation. I didn't feel like my involvement was essential. But after becoming involved in the public schools in Jackson I became aware of how vital local involvement is and how much our country is affected by the movements in cities and communities.

LWV: Describe your involvement in the League over the years.

AH: I first joined the board covering national Issues, and then took over voter services as vice president.



MEMBER PROFILE: ANNA HALL

By Carol Anderson

LWV: Why has the League remained important to you?

AH: The League really represents an opportunity to cross the political line to all of my fellow community members. To hear their voice and demand fair representation without the congestion of political affiliation or hot button issues dividing us.

LWV: Has League membership given you an opportunity to make an impact on your community? How?

AH: The most wonderful part of participating in the League of Women Voters is presence. Registering Voters, holding candidate forums, speaking to students, all of those things places us outside of our heads, social media, and the bubble of our own social groups and brings us together face to face as a community.

LWV: Do you have a particular League memory you could share?

AH: I attended a forum for the election commissioners' race and I remember thinking, "That's a thing? Wait, and we vote on that?" That was when I knew I needed to learn more and be more involved. I knew I couldn't walk into another voting booth not knowing what I was voting for.

LWV: What are current political issues that particularly pique your interest?

AH: At this point I think it is obvious that I am very passionate about education. We are at a turning point in history where our greatest fight will be for education equality and also at a point when students voices are the loudest.

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LWV: What do you see as the strengths of the League of Women Voters? What keeps the League relevant?

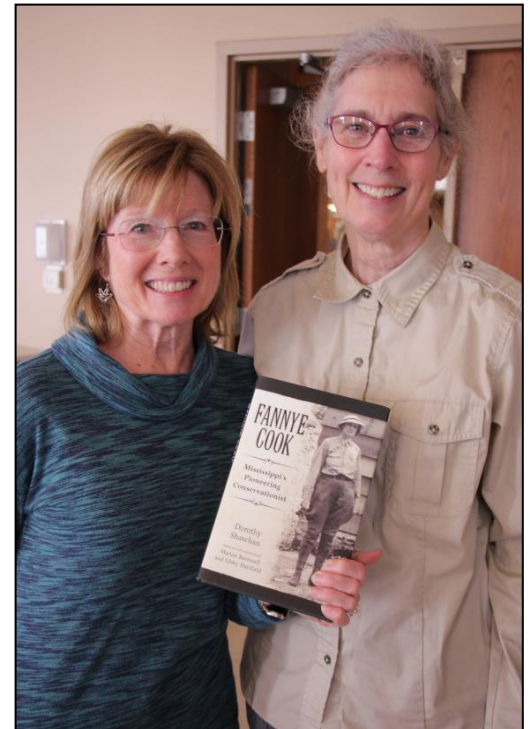
AH: The leagues greatest strength is its non partisan stance. We are pushing against the notion that you have to choose a side and scream the loudest. The league represents true and honest faith in democracy.

LWV: How might the League reach out to new, younger, more diverse members?

AH: My hope for 2018 is that we stop asking "how do we get more youth or minorities involved?" I have heard it repeatedly. The assumption is that someone has a key to reaching young people and people of color and bringing them to the table. But the secret is that ALL people want to be heard and they want to be involved, period. If you look around and you don't see some groups present or represented it is because there was no space available for them to stand in and no silence for them to speak into. Make space, be silent, listen.

Libby Hartfield and Dr. Kathy Shropshire Presenting the life of Fannye Cook, Mississippi pioneer naturalist.

Photos from the LWV-JA program March 12, 2018, courtesy of Joy Parikh.



Slate of Officers for 2018-2019

Nominating Committee: Natalie Maynor (chair), Fran Leber, and Kay Brodbeck

We (the Nominating Committee) have finished our work and submit the following slate to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in April.

Officers To Be Voted On This Year:

President (two-year term):
Carol Andersen

VP for Voter Services (two-year term):
Anna Hall

Secretary (two-year term):
Megan Tidwell

National Issues Director (two-year term):
Alice Skelton

State Issues Director (two-year term):
Annie Reiher

Nominating Committee (one-year terms):
Elaine Talbott, chair; Nicki Green; Barbara Powell

Officers Elected Last Year With Another Year to Serve

Administrative VP: Deloris Lee
Treasurer: Gene Everitt
Membership Director: Elaine Talbott
Voter Editor: Savina Schoenhofer

We hope that Joy Parikh will continue to serve as Social Media and PR Director, but that is an appointed position rather than an elected one.



VOTER SERVICES

Saturday March 24th we registered voters at the March for our Lives Rally in front of the Supreme Court. We set up our registration table but also sent volunteers out with clipboards to register with the marchers. Being available in the crowd was a huge success and I believe a very effective way to get word out and be available. We registered 20 voters that day, most of them will be voting for the first time this fall. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the day a success, Barbara Powell, Natalie Maynor, Joy Parikh, Jan Watson, Fran Lieber, Toni van Kriedt.



(L-R) Rita Williamson, Natalie Maynor Elaine Talbott, Jan Watson, Fran Leber, Barbara Powell.

Photo courtesy of Scott Crawford



<https://www.facebook.com/LWVJA/>



@LWVofMs