



**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](http://www.lwv-ms.org/Jackson_League)

**November, 2017**

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

**BETH ORLANSKY TO SPEAK AT  
NOV. 18, 2017 LWV-JA MEETING**



The League of Women Voters of the Jackson area will host its next membership meeting Saturday, November 18, 2017 at the Willie Morris Library from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This meeting is free and open to League members and the general public. The address for the library is 4912 Old Canton Road, Jackson, MS.

The guest speaker will be Beth Orlandsky from the MS Center for Justice speaking on *Voter Suppression*. Attorney Orlandsky serves as advocacy director with the Mississippi Center for Justice. In this capacity, she manages the Center's policy campaigns and oversees the work of the staff attorneys. Orlandsky holds a bachelor's degree in Anthropology from Stanford University and a law degree from the University of Tennessee. She has been involved as a volunteer with a wide variety of organizations. She and her husband Steve, also an attorney, have raised three sons, Abram, Jonathan, and Benjamin.

Plan to attend and bring a friend!

**CALENDAR 2017-2018  
LWV-JA**

- Nov. 18** Membership Meeting,  
Willie Morris Library,  
4912 Old Canton Rd., Jackson  
Topic: Voter Suppression
- Jan. 4** Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.\*
- Jan. 27** Membership Meeting,  
Topic: Legislative Issues
- Feb. 8** LWVMS Legislative Visits Day
- Feb. 1** Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.\*
- Mar. 10** Membership Meeting: Tour of  
the Planned Fannie Cook  
Wildlife Area
- Mar. 20** Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.\*
- Apr. 14** Annual Meeting

**\* Unless otherwise noted, all board meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, 121 N. Jefferson St., Jackson. All meetings are open to the public.**





**MEMBER FEATURE:  
Kay Brodbeck**

**INTERVIEWER:  
CAROL ANDERSEN**

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LWV: Tell me a bit about yourself.

Kay Brodbeck: I grew up on a farm in northern Illinois. My family is still on the land. I am married with three daughters, of whom we are very proud: Jessica in Miami, Amy in Seattle and Laura, married to a Norwegian, Oyvind, and living in Norway.

LWV: How long have you lived in Jackson and what have been your activities in Jackson (jobs, other organization memberships, etc.)?

KB: I have lived in Clinton for 40 years. I have been co-owner and CEO of Mississippi Safety Services for 31 years, which provides traffic safety courses of the National Safety Council throughout the state of Mississippi. Prior to MSS, I was executive director of the Clinton Community Christian Corporation for five years, a multi-purpose social service agency under the United Way umbrella.

Prior to that, I was on staff of the Central Mississippi Planning and Development District. Some of my activities: I am currently president of the National Association of Women Highway Safety Leaders. I am a former chairman of the Mississippi Association of Highway Safety Leaders. I am active in the Northside Baptist Church, Clinton, and have been Sunday school teacher for 14 years.

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

KB: I first joined the League in Warren, Ohio, when I worked at a community house in a low-income area (much like Boys or Girls Club). On the Board was a forward-thinking lady who invited me to League. When we moved to Clinton, I joined the League as soon as I found it!

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

KB: The first study I was involved with in 1973 was on international relations. It was complicated then also!

LWV: Describe your involvement in the League over the years (offices held, committee work, etc.).

KB: I served as president of the Jackson (MS) League and the League in Warren, Ohio. I was also co-president of the Mississippi state league. My work with League is consistently on voter education through our voter services.

LWV: Why has the League remained important to you?

KV: I love the League for its members who care about their community and are willing to invest time and energy to improving it. I appreciate the  
(continued on p. 3)

connection to intelligent, involved and open-minded people.

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

KB: I would like to think so! Just heard from a teacher who uses League's candidate guides with students. We intend to provide unbiased information on issues that goes beyond the sound bites that flood the airwaves.

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

KB: We have not always stood on the popular side of issues, such as our support for state funded kindergartens. I appreciate the League's dogged stance for kindergartens. In Voter Services, for the previous Jackson city elections, we cooperated with the Clarion-Ledger and WAPT TV to organize seven candidate forums. It was quite an undertaking, but well attended and worth the effort. On the League's 90th anniversary, Dick Johnson, Dary Shenefelt and I presented a playlet on the times around 1920 leading up to the suffrage amendment passing, giving women the right to vote. As Susan B. Anthony, I felt immersed in the struggle for voting rights.

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

KB: Open government. At a time when newspapers are downsizing, I'm concerned about losing investigative reporting. Government needs watchdogs. I'm glad to see campaign finance reforms also.

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

KB: The League is trusted and we must live up to that trust. We have to be true to the principle of non-partisanship.

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

KB: Keeping a social media presence that is current and interesting. Personally reach out to younger people. It was an invitation from a seasoned member that brought me into League in my early 20s.

## LWV-Jackson Area Board of Directors 2017-2018

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Barbara Powell

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#### Program/Administration

Deloris Lee

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Anna Ingebretsen Hall

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Membership: Elaine Talbott

Voter Editor: Savina Schoenhofer

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Public Relations: Carol Andersen

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Social Media: Joy Parikh

### Nominating Committee

Judy Barber, Chair

Fran Leber

Natalie Maynor



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# Message from the President



Barbara Powell



**Please  
Mark  
Your  
Calendar**

A sizable crowd at our October Meeting heard Dr. Robert Luckett speak on the topic of activism and civility. He related some of the history of protests and conflict in the U.S. One point Dr. Luckett made was that even when protests are hostile, conflict can call attention to issues that society need to deal with. Dialogue and productive action may come later.

Thanks to volunteers who have helped with voter registration this fall. The most recent event was registration of students in the Jackson Public Schools. Be sure to read the report by Voter Service Vice President Anna Hall for more details.

**Our next membership meeting will be at 10:30 a.m. on November 18 in the Willie Morris Library in Jackson.** Our speaker will be Attorney Beth Orlansky, advocacy director for the Mississippi Center for Justice. She will discuss the problem of voter suppression in Mississippi. The League of Women Voters was born out of the struggle to allow women to vote. Since League's inception, it has supported legislation to improve the accessibility of voting for all citizens. We have also opposed actions which make it more difficult for people to vote. Mrs. Orlansky will discuss some of the obstacles to voting today and changes that need to be made.

Barbara Powell

From the Desk of Mary Ann Everitt, State Co-Chair...

**Save the date! State Council of the LWVMS will be held May 17-18, 2018 in Oxford.**

Plan to spend a spring weekend in Oxford and enjoy the hospitality of LWVOXNMS. The Oxford League is making lots of plans for a great meeting with some fun thrown in for good measure.

Tour the town and one of the most beautiful college campuses in the country on a double decker bus on Friday afternoon and then mingle with other members at a Friday evening reception on the Square. Listen, learn and be motivated by dynamic speakers on Saturday morning and our keynote speaker following lunch.

Dr. Robert Luckett, Director of the Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University speaking to the membership meeting of the Jackson League of Women Voters at the October meeting.







## Membership Notes

Elaine Talbott

### Welcome, New Members

Deloris and Crystal McKinnis  
Linda Letherwook  
Lakeeta Jones  
Rims Barber

Rims joined officially in October although he has attended LWV meetings for years and lends us the use of their office for our Election Day Hotline.

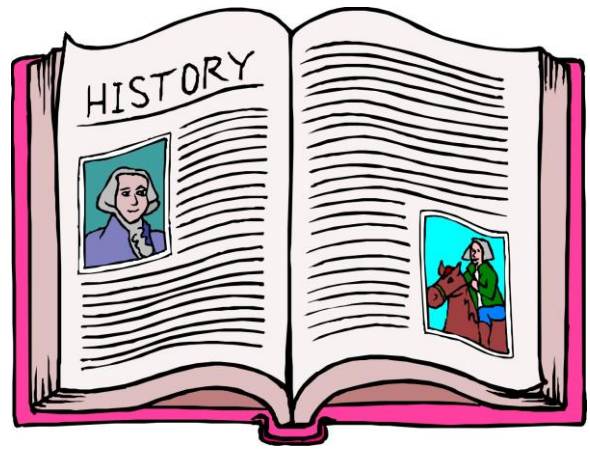
### Enhancing Inclusivity

In an effort to enhance inclusivity in our chapter, the Board authorized the development of a plan for members to spread out the payment of their membership fee if it is difficult for them to pay the full fee all at once. Because we send a check to the national office to cover our assessment at a designated time, we will be seeking donations for a fund to pay the national assessment on time even though all membership payments may still be pending, with the fund being replenished as deferred payments are received. If you have suggestions regarding this deferred payment process, please share them with me at [elaine@phillipsbark.com](mailto:elaine@phillipsbark.com). We will continue to report as this plan becomes finalized.

### Reviewing Mission and History

For both new and long-time members, it is good to review the Mission and History of the League of Women Voters occasionally. Both can be found on the website of the National LWV: <http://lww.org/content/mission-statement-and-core-values>

<http://lww.org/history>



### Brush Up on LWV!

#### Mission

The League of Women Voters is a citizens' organization that has fought since 1920 to improve our government and engage all citizens in the decisions that impact their lives. We operate at national, state and local levels through more than 800 state and local Leagues, in all 50 states as well in DC, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong.

#### History

Formed from the movement that secured the right to vote for women, the centerpiece of the League's efforts remain to expand participation and give a voice to all Americans. We do this at all three levels of government, engaging in both broad educational efforts as well as advocacy. Our issues are grounded in our respected [history](#) of making democracy work for all citizens.



LWV-JA Meeting  
Nov 18, 10:3 AM,  
Willie Morris



## VOTER SERVICES

**Anna I. Hall**

In October we partnered with the Jackson Council PTA, Hinds County Circuit Clerks office, NAACP and Hinds County Election Commissioner Zakiya Summers to register voters at 5 high schools.

We registered almost 400 students at Wingfield, Callaway, Provine, Murray and Jim Hill. Our amazing team of volunteers included Marsha Weaver at Jim Hill, Carol Anderson at Callaway, Joy Parikh at Murrah and David Ingebretsen at Provine.

In addition to Zakiya Summers students heard from state senator David Blount, Hinds Co. Circuit Clerk Zach Wallace and NAACP representative Nsombi Lambright on the value of their voices being heard through their vote.

We will continue our efforts with JPS into November with Forest Hill and hopefully an event later in the year at Henley Young Youth Detention Center.

**Please feel free to contact me at if you see voter registration events needed in the metro area or if you have any ideas you would like to share on voter services (aihall529@gmail.com).**

### Resources

- to change your voter registration, go to: [www.sos.ms.gov/Vote/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.sos.ms.gov/Vote/Pages/default.aspx)
- <http://www.vote411.org/>  
Sponsored by the LWV Education Fund. Enter your address to find your polling place, build your ballot with our online voters' guide and much more! Check out our resources for military and overseas voters!

