



**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

February, 2018

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

**THEATRICAL PORTRAYAL OF
FANNYE A. COOK AT MARCH 10,
2018 MEETING, PEARL LIBRARY**



Dr. Cathy Shropshire portraying Fannye A. Cook,
naturalist and conservationist

The League of Women Voters of the Jackson area will host its next membership meeting from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Saturday, March 10 in the Meeting Room of the Pearl Library, 2416 Old Brandon Rd., Pearl. This meeting is free and open to League members and the general public. A glimpse at Fannye Cook's remarkable life unfolds in a half-hour, biographical portrayal performed by wildlife biologist *Cathy Shropshire with introduction and closing by **Libby Hartfield.

Fannye A. Cook, a 1911 graduate of what is now the Mississippi University for Women, was a pioneer among scientists, conservationists, and women. Miss Cook was born in 1889 in Crystal Springs, Mississippi, when women couldn't vote, serve on juries, and were considered generally unsuited for the serious business of politics or

science. Still, none of the naysayers deterred her, and may have emboldened her. She was the driving force behind creating the Game and Fish Commission (now the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks), she founded the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science, led the push to create a system of wildlife management areas and the push to protect the Gulf of Mexico's barrier islands, catalogued Mississippi's flora and fauna, spent her life researching and teaching, and doing so much more.

*Dr. Shropshire retired from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries and Parks, served for over 11 years as executive director of the Mississippi Wildlife Federation, and is now the theatrical incarnation of Miss Cook. Dr. Shropshire's captivating portrayal both entertains and educates, in the true spirit of the incredible Fannye Cook.

**Libby Hartfield is the former Director of the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science and co-editor of the book, "Fannye Cook: Mississippi's Pioneering Conservationist." Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

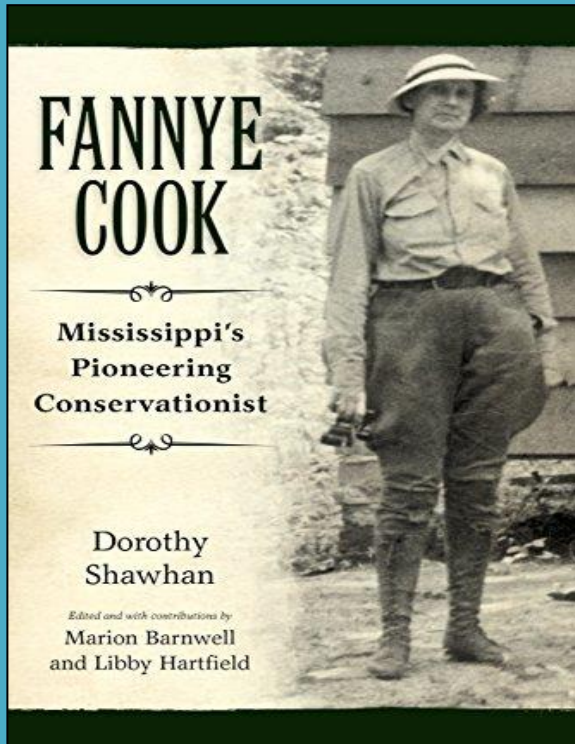
Libby Hartfield



Please plan to attend and bring a friend!

CALENDAR 2018

March 10, Membership Meeting, 10:30 a.m.,
Topic: Mississippi's Pioneering
Conservationist, Fannye Cook; **Speakers:**
Libby Hartfield and Cathy Shropshire;
Place: Meeting Room of **Pearl**
Library, 2416 Old Brandon Rd., Pearl



March 13 LWVJA Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.,
Conference Room of the Mississippi
Department of Agriculture and
Commerce, 121 N. Congress St., Jackson.
Members are welcome to attend.

April 14 LWVJA Annual Meeting & Brunch,
10:00 a.m.
Mississippi Crafts Center, 950 Rice Rd.,
Ridgeland

May 18-19 State Council
Hosted by LWV-Oxford/N. MS
All LWV members invited
lwmscouncilreg

MEET THE CANDIDATES:

LWV-MS HOSTS CANDIDATE FORUM



On February 8, 2018, LWV-MS hosted a Candidate Forum for the MS House of Rep. District 60 special election. Thanks to candidates Morris Mock and Jim Giles for participating. As part of carrying out our mission of encouraging informed and active participation in government, the League of Women Voters continues to be a key sponsor of candidate debates and forums.



LWV Official Timekeepers
Lakeeta Jefferson Jones
and Alice Skelton

Forum Moderator
LWV-JA President
Barbara Powell



Message from the President



Barbara Powell



Membership Notes by Elaine Talbott

At our January meeting Nancy Loomer, Executive Director of the Parents' Campaign, discussed education bills before the legislature and gave insight to their impact on public schools—especially the danger of lower funding.

On February 8, the LWVJA sponsored a candidate forum for candidates in the special election for House of Representatives, District 60 in Rankin County. The special election was due to the resignation of former Representative John Moore. Thanks go to the leadership of Anna Hall and eight LWVJA member volunteers who made the forum possible.

You are in store for a special treat at our March 10 membership meeting. Our speaker is Libby Hartfield former Director of the Mississippi Museum of Natural History and co-editor of the recently published book, *Fannye Cook: Mississippi's Pioneering Conservationist*. Libby will discuss Ms. Cook and her influence on Mississippi. Much of the program will be presented by Fannye Cook herself (as portrayed by Cathy Shropshire). Don't miss it!

Our nominating committee has prepared a full slate of officers to be elected at our Annual Meeting, April 14th! Other committees are being formed to prepare a budget for next year and carry out an audit. If you would like to serve on one of these committees, contact me at <lwvjacksonarea@gmail.com>.

Barbara Powell

Welcome... Please welcome new member **Rebecca Newsome** and **Maud Kuykendall** who joined LWV-JA in January.

Elaine says... I attended my first meeting because someone invited me. I liked what I saw and joined on the spot! Please invite any women and men that you believe would be interested in fostering fair elections and good government to attend the upcoming meeting on March 10th, 2018.

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://lwv.org/content/mission-statement-and-core-values>

<http://lwv.org/history>

NATIONAL LWV-US ACTION ITEM

LWV-US NATIONAL ACTION ITEM
Tell Congress to...
Support Automatic Voter Registration

Spread the word
#AVRact

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

BE INFORMED

LEAGUE POSITIONS

DEVELOPMENT OF PEARL RIVER IN JACKSON AREA

Some years back, the LWVJA did a series of about six programs on a proposed Le Fleur Lakes development. Speakers included someone from the Corps of Engineers, the developer of the project, a city planner, etc. At the end of the study, LWVJA took the following position which appears on the LWVJA web page <http://www.lwv-ms.org/JA_Action.html>.



LEFLEUR LAKES PROJECT We recognize that the Pearl River can be an asset for development, flood control, recreation and enjoyment of nature in the tri-county area; however, we support the exploration of alternative proposals other than the Lefleur Lakes project. We are interested in alternatives which are less expensive, create less damage to the environment, do not destroy existing habitat and recreational opportunities, are not irreversible and provide more public space.



At our March meeting Libby Hartfield will tell about the Fanny Cook Wildlife Area which is being developed in the Jackson Area. Keep in mind these LWVJA goals for development of the area along the Pearl River as you hear about the new development.

GUN CONTROL

LWVUS POSITION (established in 1990)
The League of Women Voters believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.



The League supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background checks, personal identity verification, gun safety education and annual license renewal. The license fee should be adequate to bear the cost of education and verification.



The League supports a ban on “Saturday night specials,” enforcement of strict penalties for the improper possession of and crimes committed with handguns and assault weapons, and allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.



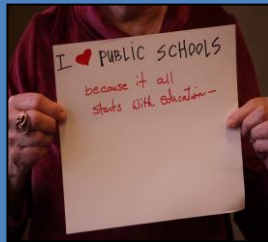
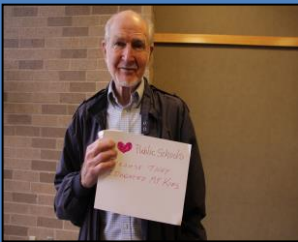
<https://www.facebook.com/LWVJA/>



@LWVofMS

I LOVE PUBLIC SCHOOLS BECAUSE...

Nancy Loomer at LWV-JA January Meeting



LWV-Jackson Area Board of Directors

2017-2018

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Barbara Powell

1st Vice-President

Program/Administration

Deloris Lee

2nd Vice-President Voter

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Nominating Committee

Natalie Maynor, Chair

Fran Leber

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-JACKSON AREA

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

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 and Saturday 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:

lwmscouncilreg