



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.html

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

MARCH 2019

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carol Andersen



As the 2019 Mississippi State Legislature winds down and we all take a moment to enjoy the arrival of spring, the League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area is looking ahead to programs and events we will be organizing in our ongoing work to more fully engage citizens in our democracy.

Since our last newsletter, your Jackson League hosted a Legislative Day in February for the state League of Women Voters, with a "Lobbying 101" training session by a seasoned lobbyist followed by a tour of the Capitol. We also hosted a membership meeting earlier this month, featuring Jill Mastrotoro, policy director for Audubon Mississippi, who spoke with us about the "One Lake" project in Jackson and the threat it poses to the Pearl River. Audubon Mississippi considers the Pearl River a "crown jewel" in our ecosystem, connecting almost 500 miles of communities, natural resources, conservation lands and economic interests, as it flows southward from its headwaters in central Mississippi, along a shared border with Louisiana, before emptying into Mississippi Sound, Lake Borgne, and the Gulf of Mexico. The project would destroy thousands of acres of important habitats that support Bald Eagles, songbirds, fish, and wildlife, while wiping out critical habitat for several federally threatened species like the Wood Stork and Gulf sturgeon, Mastrotoro said. Additional concerns include reduced downstream freshwater flows, public health and safety, economic impacts, lack of public input, questionable project costs, and lack of compliance with federal laws. The League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area is part of an alliance of organizations that opposes the One Lake project. (continued next column)

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The LWVJA board recently formed a voter services committee to plan and implement voter services more strategically across the Jackson area. The committee is currently working to develop contacts with the Mississippi Apartment Association to offer voter registration materials with all new apartment leases issued by members of that Association. The committee has also approached the bureau of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services about attending naturalization ceremonies where they can speak with new citizens about voter registration. The committee also hopes to work with local school boards to make voter registration part of the graduation process.

Coming up on April 13, we will hold our annual meeting with an election of officers for the coming year, adoption of a new budget and a keynote address by **Rukia Lumumba**, a criminal justice advocate and sister of Jackson Mayor Chokwe Lumumba, who will speak about her work in evidence-based violence prevention and interruption. Our annual meeting and luncheon will take place at the Fondren Presbyterian Church, 3220 Old Canton Road, Jackson, beginning at 10 a.m. and adjourning at 12 noon. For details and to register, please go to [Register for LWVJA Annual Meeting/Luncheon](#)



On June 8, your Jackson League will host the state convention of the League of Women Voters. The convention will begin with an optional evening social Friday, June 7, at a local member's home and will continue Saturday, June 8, at Drago's on County Line Road with a business meeting, reports from Leagues around the state, awards presentations and remarks from Julie Hussey of the LWVUS Board of Directors and chair of the LWVUS 100th anniversary celebration in 2020. She will share LWVUS programming

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MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Elaine Talbott



Annual Dues for Student Members Reduced

Did you know that the Jackson Area League of Women Voters has reduced our annual dues for student members from \$20.00 per year to \$5.00 per year through 2021? This would be an ideal time to get your children and grandchildren involved in good government issues. The earlier we can foster civic engagement in our youth the more likely they will remain active and aware of current events that impact them, their families, the city, state and country.

Welcome to our Newest Member

At our March meeting, Malia Jones, daughter of Lakeeta Jones, became our newest and youngest member of the Jackson Area League. Please welcome her and encourage more students to join us. We need their enthusiasm and energy to see the future of LWV.

Dues Reminder

As a reminder, please check the member roster at the next meeting to note your status. Our dues are payable every year on our League joining anniversary date.

**Memberships and Membership Renewals are VITAL to the Work of The League
You are Appreciated**

LWV-JA ELECTIONS COMING UP ON APRIL 13

The LWV-JA Nominating Committee, including Nicki Green, Barbara Powell and ably chaired by Elaine Talbott, presents the slate of Officers and Directors for voting at the Annual Meeting/Luncheon on April 13, 2019. Nominations can also be made from the floor during the meeting with the consent of the person being nominated. For a description of qualifications and role for each positing, see the [LWV-JA Bylaws](#).

NOMINATIONS

1st VICE-PRESIDENT PROGRAM/ADMINISTRATION

Deloris Lee

TREASURER

LaKeeta Jones

Membership

Elaine Talbott

Social Media and Public Relations

Joy Parikh

Voter Editor

Savina Schoenhofer

Nominating Committee- 1 year

Dierdre Payne – Chair

Joy Parikh

Barbara Powell

Note: Officers terms are staggered, not all positions are up for election every year.

LEAGUE NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

League of Women Voters Oxford/North Mississippi

The LWVOXNMS hosted Jackson attorney Brad Pigott at its February membership meeting, who spoke on a proposed constitutional amendment on how state legislative districts are assigned. In March, the League heard from Ruth Ball, a recruiter for the 2020 Census, about the importance of the Census and how it is managed. The League is preparing now for its annual meeting in May.

The Oxford/North Mississippi League has participated in two voter registration drives in recent months, including one in January at a regional naturalization ceremony where League members helped register more than 50 new citizens to vote.

The LWVOXNMS plans to sponsor multiple forums in July for candidates seeking county offices, prior to the primary election in August. The League will also plans to sponsor forums for candidates for House and Senate offices serving the North Mississippi region, prior to the November election.

The first two scholarships from the LWVOXNMS scholarship fund, established in 2018, will be awarded this spring to a graduating senior at Oxford High School and at Lafayette County High School.

League of Women Voters East Central Mississippi

Mississippi's newest League of Women Voters, a Meridian-based Member at Large Unit, was officially organized on Feb. 5. The LWVECM has a current membership of 26, and is already busy registering voters—the League will staff a voter registration booth at the Earth's Bounty Farmer's Market in Meridian April 6

League of Women Voters Pine Belt

The LWVPB, based in Hattiesburg, also hosted Jackson attorney Brad Pigott, who spoke to members in January on gerrymandering at the proposed constitutional amendment to revise how state legislative districts are drawn. Other recent League activities include a lecture by member Patricia Cuza on the 19th Amendment at the Hattiesburg Library and the launch of voter registration drives at high schools and colleges throughout the Pine Belt region. This month, the League is co-sponsoring, with the University of Southern Mississippi, a public lecture by Gina McCarthy, a former EPA administrator, on invisible pollutants threatening our environment.

League of Women Voters Mississippi Gulf Coast

The LWVMGC is working with its three regional circuit clerks, Gulf Coast high schools, local churches and coordinators for local festivals to plan voter registration drives in the months leading up to the August primary elections. The League is developing plans for its annual luncheon, which focus on the topic of climate change. Dates and details will be announced soon.

The LWVMGC has put extensive effort in recent weeks into developing a social media presence; their first League newsletter will be issued soon; and they received strong press coverage for League participation in the Mississippi Gulf Coast International Women's Day March on March 9.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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plans to mark the League's centennial, which officially falls on February 14, 2020, as well as the 100th anniversary of ratification of the 19th amendment on August 18, 2020. A full agenda and registration details will follow soon.

As the League of Women Voters approaches the start of its 100th anniversary year, your Jackson League is in good shape. We know the work that needs to be done and we have an active and growing membership to tackle that work. We are happy that you are a part of it. See you at our annual meeting in Fondren April 13!

League of Women Voters – Jackson Area 2018-2019

Officers and Board of Directors

President
Carol Andersen

**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
Social Media/PR: Joy Parikh
National Items: Vacancy
State Items: Annie Reiher

Nominating Committee
Elaine Talbott
Nicki Green
Barbara Powell

Calendar

Apr. 9 **Board Meeting**, 5:30 p.m.*

Apr. 13 **LWV-JA Annual Meeting**
Fondren Presbyterian Church
3327 Old Canton Rd,
Jackson, MS 39216.

June 8 **LWV-MS State Convention**
Dragos Restaurant
1005 E. County Line Road
Jackson, MS 39211
(Evening reception June 7)

* 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 Jefferson St., Jackson. All meetings are open to the public.

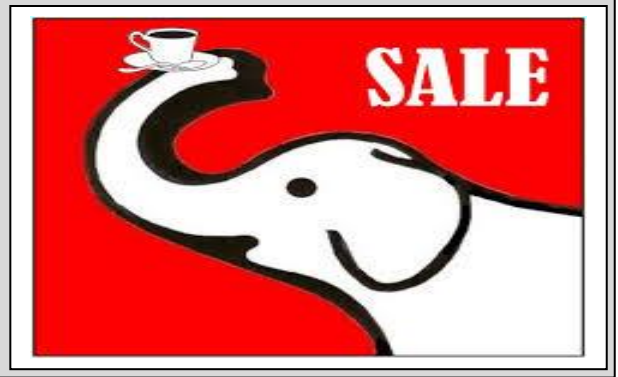
LWVJA Welcomes Your Suggestions for Future Program Topics

The League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area is interested in hearing our members' suggestions for future programs. If there are topics you would like to hear about or speakers you would like to hear from, please send your suggestions, with any contact details, to LWVJA President Carol Andersen, carol.d.andersen@gmail.com.

League of Women Voters – Jackson Area
Making Democracy Work

WHITE ELEPHANT SALE – AN LWV-JA ANNUAL MEETING TRADITION

The White Elephant Auction is the League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area's one fund raising event of the year. Members are encouraged to donate white elephant items such as 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. Please suggest an opening bid for your donated objects when you bring them on the 13th.



HAPPY FAMILY – in celebration of women activists everywhere!

Inspired by real events, [Happy Family](#) is a play about one determined woman. In the 1970s she led a group of working women who sued a major corporation for equal pay and equal opportunity. With the help of a roving civil rights lawyer, they won. It took them ten years of hardship, but they won.



EQUAL PAY EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

[LISTEN HERE](#)

FROM LWV-US

TAKE ACTION

**Including a citizenship question is bad for
the Census. Take action now.**

[**SIGN THE PETITION**](#)

PROPOSED BUDGET 2019-2020 LWVJA

INCOME	BDGT 2018-2019	ACTUAL 2018- 2019 Year to Date 3-25-19	BDGT 2019--2020
Dues from members	4175	2712.44	4245
Donations-General	900	975.00	1100
Projects-designated donations	75	100.00	325
Annual Meeting/Auction	600		600
LWVUS Voter Service grant	300	0	
TOTAL	6050	3787.44	6270
EXPENSES	BDGT 2018-2019	ACTUAL 2018-2019	BDGT 2019-2020
P.O. Box Rental	112	120.00	120
Voter Service & Voter registration efforts	500	99.00	500
Newsletter-printing if needed	70		30
President	50		50
Treasurer-printing, correspondence	34	5.00	32
Program-meeting expenses	175	95.00	120
Action-to communicate with Legislature if needed	100		75
Membership-recruiting efforts	80	50.00	80
Miscellaneous	100		80
Annual Meeting-Lunch, Auction	200		200
Delegates Travel	1500	1522.53	1500
PMP(Per member payment) to LWV-US -32 per ind. 16 for additional HH member	2384	2352.00	2638
PMP for LWV-MS -10 per ind. 5 additional HH member	745	660.00	845
TOTAL	6050	4808.53	6270

Note: More income will be added as dues and/or donations are added during this fiscal year. More expenses will also be shown, including the cost of the annual meeting and luncheon.

Proposed budget reviewed and revised after Budget Committee Meeting, March 14, 2019.

Budget Committee: Barbara Powell, chair, Kay Brodbeck, and Gene Everitt (ex officio) If you would like more information, please contact Gene Everitt at gene.everitt@gmail.com or 601-910-4106.