

THE VOTER

P.O. Box 68214, Jackson, MS 39286-8214

http://www.lwv-ms.org/Jackson_League.html

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

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carol Andersen



The League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area is honored to host the 2019 LWVMS state convention Saturday, June 8, at Drago's Seafood Restaurant in Jackson. In addition to a business meeting, presentation of state awards and election of state officers, participants will hear from keynote speaker Julie Hussey of the League of Women Voters of South Carolina and Mississippi's national board liaison, who will reflect on the League's work over the past 100 years and will share the League's vision for the next 100 years.

Hussey became a League member in 1991 and during the nearly 30 years since has been a fundraiser, and the chair of education, communications and transportation committees, the local president in Charleston, SC, a state co-president, and became a national board member at the national LWVUS Convention last June.

She is chair of the national board's 100th Committee and a Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee member and will share her thoughts on how 2020 offers an important opportunity to reflect on who we are and how we got here with updates on how the LWVUS is celebrating the power of women and harnessing that power for the next 100 years.

Rebecca Tuuri, associate professor of history at the University of Southern Mississippi, will offer response remarks exploring the history of southern women's participation in the League of Women Voters from the organization's founding through its activism at the height of the civil rights movement. She will focus especially on the League's efforts to aid women in the U.S. and abroad through support for protective legislation in the early twentieth century, the mid-century United Nations

Declaration on Human Rights, and civil rights legislation in the 1960s. Tuuri will also examine both the successes and failures of southern League women working across class, racial, and religious divides.

Convention-goers will also hear from Kendra Wright, a partnership specialist with the U.S. Census Bureau, who will share details about how state data will be collected for the 2020 census and how the League can be helpful in ensuring Mississippi has a complete and accurate count. Mississippi is considered a "hard to count state," so Wright and other specialists hope to partner with trusted organizations across the state, like the League, to ensure policies and decisions affecting our state for next 10 years are based on accurate information.

The 2019 LWVMS state convention begins at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, June 8, with registration and networking, followed by the start of the business meeting at 9:30 a.m. Full conference details and registration links can be found [here](#).

For local convention-goers and those who will be arriving in Jackson the night before the convention, Friday, June 7, the Jackson League will host a free and casual "Flip-Flops and Wine" social beginning at 5:30 p.m. Details and sign up can be found [here](#).



Julie Hussey

Rebecca Tuuri

Kendra Wright



MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Elaine Talbott



NEW MEMBERS

The Jackson Area League of Women Voters continues to grow. Please welcome Sandra Winfrey and Constance Burwell when you see them at a meeting.

LWV STATE CONVENTION

Speaking of meetings, we hope you have signed up for the state Convention on June 8th. If not you can still do so or register at the door.

Most of our meetings are long on business and short on socializing. You have the chance to interact with local League members and members from around the state on the evening of June 7th at our Wine and Flip Flops social. Please consider joining us even if you aren't able to attend the Convention the following day. Please see complete details in this newsletter.

REMINDER

Just a reminder, have you renewed your membership for 2019? Your renewal is due annually on your anniversary date. You don't have to wait for that date. Paying early does not change your anniversary date.

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

You are Appreciated!



Wine, Flip Flops and Schmoozing

*Where: 305 Pebble Creek Dr.
Madison, MS 39110
601-942-0401*

*When: Friday June 7, 2019
5:30-7:30 PMish*

Convention registration is not required to attend this event.

Please join us for the kick off of the LWV statewide convention. Before we get down to business, relax in your casual attire and get to know your local League members and others from around the state.

Wine, finger food and non-alcoholic beverages provided.

LEAGUE NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE

League of Women Voters Oxford/North Mississippi



The League of women Voters – Oxford/ North Mississippi awarded the first ever Dianne Smith Fergusson scholarship to the valedictorian of the senior class of Lafayette County High School, Caleb Lafferty, who will be off to Brown University this fall.

League of Women Voters Oxford/North Mississippi at Naturalization ceremony to register new voters on May 10, 2019.



League of Women Voters East Central Mississippi

LWV-East Central Mississippi recently conducted a Priority Issue survey to understand which issues are of most interest to local voters during this state-wide election year.

League of Women Voters Pine Belt

LWV-Pine Belt will host a luncheon on June 11, 2019 to kick off a year of celebrating the passage of the 19th amendment. The luncheon will be held in the Historic Hattiesburg Train Station. Keynote speaker Jennifer Ingram Johnson, President-Elect of the Mississippi Bar Association, who will speak about her mentor and first woman statewide office holder, Evelyn Gandy. See details and ticket information at:

https://www.facebook.com/events/328460921185623/?active_tab=about

League of Women Voters Mississippi Gulf Coast

The Gulf Coast Voter, LWV-MGC's newsletter published its inaugural issue on May 10, 2019.



League of Women Voters – Jackson Area 2019-2020



Officers and Board of Directors

President

Carol Andersen

1st Vice-President

Program/Administration

Deloris Lee

2nd Vice-President

Voter Services (vacant)

Secretary

Megan Tidwell

Treasurer

Lakeeta Jones

Elected Directors

Membership: Elaine Talbott

Voter Editor: Savina Schoenhofer

Appointed Directors

Social Media/PR: Joy Parikh

National Items: Emily Stanfield

State Items: Annie Reiher

Nominating Committee

Dierdre Payne, Chair

Joy Parikh

Barbara Powell

Calendar

June 8

LWV-MS State Convention

Dragos Restaurant

1005 E. County Line Road

Jackson, MS 39211

(Evening reception June 7)



MEMBER PROFILE

Rae Dillon



LWV: Tell me a bit about yourself (full name, where you live now, where you are from, family)?

Rae Dillon. Live in Brandon for past 12 years with Max, my nine-year-old American Eskimo (Spitz)

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

Former board member, Pioneer Ministries, Founding Board Member, PEARSON Foundation; Former board member, DREAM, Inc

I'm mostly MS gal, but have lived in Detroit, MI, Lafayette LA and Talladega AL. Recently retired from every board I've served on.

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

Initially, in 2016. Mission/purpose drew me.

Believe in mission; want to actively educate/encourage others to vote!

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

Poverty, human rights, equality, Trumpism

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

Voter registration, mostly

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

Evening honoring the late great Bill Minor.

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

Should not be a political issue, but it is: racism; immigrant rights, public education, political engagement of youth, poor.

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

Voter registration; public education

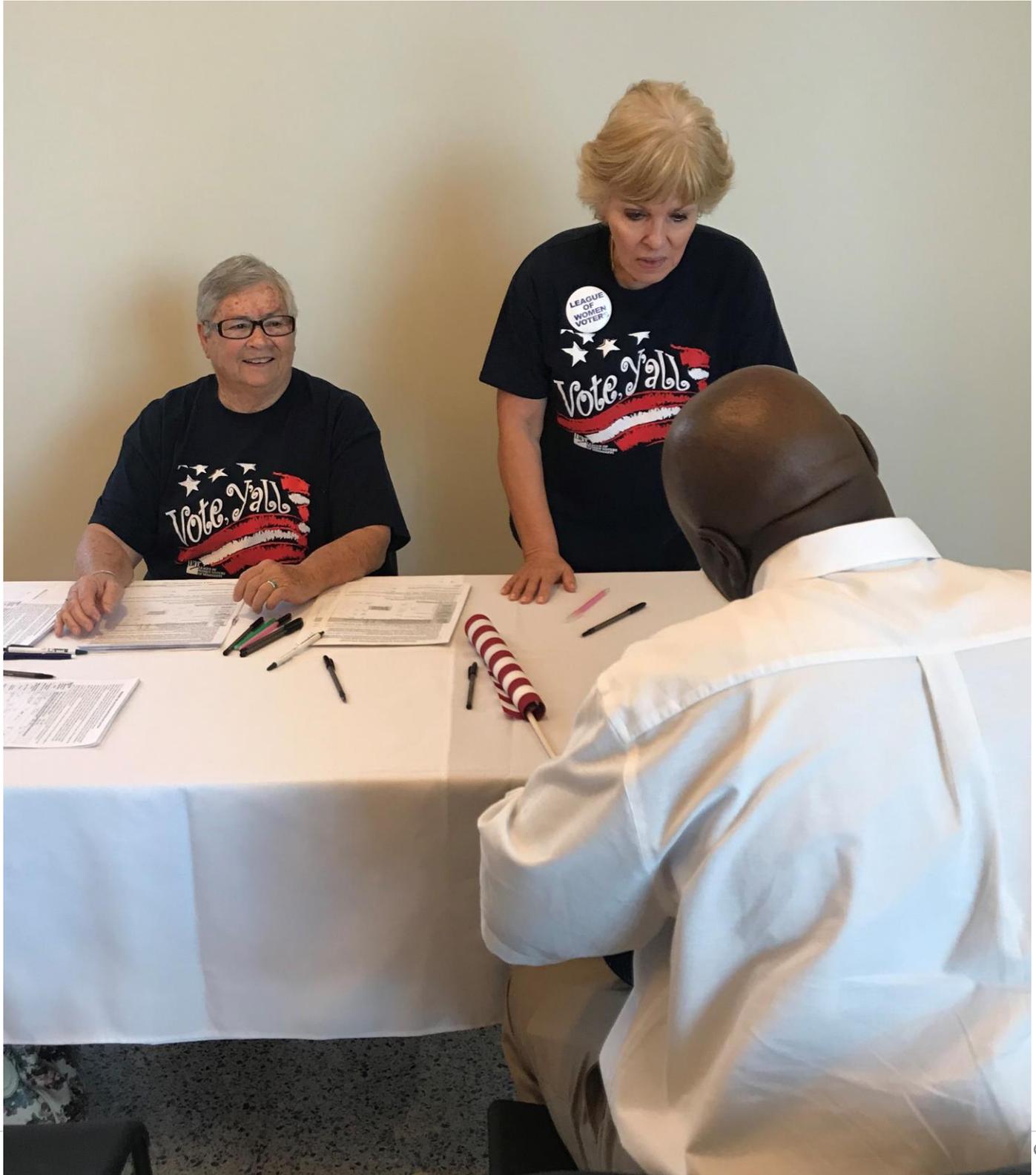
LWV: How might the League reach out to new, younger, more diverse members?

Forums, great PR



LWV-JA ON HAND TO WELCOME NEWLY NATURALIZED U.S. CITIZENS

On May 10, 2019, thirteen people from nine countries became new U.S. citizens during a ceremony held Thursday in Jackson. Chief District Judge Daniel Jordan administered the oath at the federal courthouse and delivered an inspiring address. The League of Women Voters – Jackson Area was represented by Elaine Talbott (standing) and Savina Schoenhofer (seated). At the conclusion of the ceremony, LWV-JA offered voter registration and nine of the new citizens were registered to vote.



Rukia Lumumba Discusses ‘Violence Interruption’ as a Response to Crime in Jackson, at LWVJA Annual Meeting

The League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area met April 13 at the Fondren Presbyterian Church for its annual meeting. In addition to electing new officers to expiring terms on the LWVJA board and adopting a budget for 2019-2020, the League welcomed keynote speaker Rukia Lumumba, founder of the People’s Advocacy Institute in Jackson, a community resource and training incubator for social, political and economic development, who shared her vision for community-driven solutions to crime in the Capitol city area.

Lumumba’s efforts to implement a violence interruption program takes the unique position of treating violence as a public health disparity. Her program uses the methods and strategies associated with disease control — detecting and interrupting conflicts, identifying and treating high-risk individuals, changing social norms and using trained community members, health practitioners, social service providers, police and city government — to reduce violence, if not eliminate it.

Lumumba and the People’s Advocacy Institute are also exploring a violence prevention model known as “credible messaging,” which is a comprehensive approach to justice that seeks to build trust and inspire change from within communities themselves. Credible Messengers are mentors who have passed through the justice system and sustainably transformed their lives who want to give back to help others. They call upon their own life experiences to connect with younger, justice-involved people to encourage them in a different direction.

This work is relevant to the League of Women Voters in our own efforts to equip citizens with the knowledge and the confidence to participate fully in the shared life of our democracy.

Lumumba is the sister of Jackson’s mayor, Chokwe Antar Lumumba, and daughter of the late former mayor, Chokwe Lumumba. She grew up in a very community-active, politically-active home. She was born in Detroit but has lived most of her life in Mississippi. She attended Tougaloo College and has a degree in political science with a focus on international law. She also has a juris doctorate degree from Howard University School of Law.

Lumumba’s approach to violence was featured recently in the [Clarion-Ledger](#), where she was quoted, saying, “I honestly believe that the problem with violence is one of inequality in the same way that health disparities exist due to inequality. I believe that we are not as healthy as we could be because of this inequality and violence is absolutely a health epidemic.”



LWVJA Seeks Voter Services Director

The League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area seeks a vice president for voter services to fill the unexpired term of the immediate past vice president. This is a two-year elected position, but the unexpired portion of the term, through April 2020, will be filled by board vote.

One of the primary missions of the League of Women Voters is to provide information to the general public on all aspects of the voting process and registering, voting in person or absentee, dates of elections, location of polling places, and gathering and disseminating nonpartisan information on candidates. The vice president of voter services leads this outreach, with the support of the board and a volunteer voter services committee. This position coordinates all voter service efforts, recruits committee members to perform voter service activities, and assures communication among committee members and the board. The vice president seeks out opportunities to register voters, disseminates information about voter registration deadlines and upcoming election dates, assists with production of voter guides, and helps coordinate candidate debates and issues forums.

All inquiries may be directed to LWVJA President [Carol Andersen](#).

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS – JACKSON AREA
MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

League Endorses Protecting American Votes and Elections (PAVE) Act

LWVUS endorsed legislation introduced by Senator Ron Wyden to protect American elections from foreign interference by mandating hand-marked paper ballots and setting new cybersecurity standards for all federal elections. [Read information about the PAVE Act here](#)

From LWVUS...



CENSUS 2020: ONE YEAR OUT

by Jessica Jones Capparell

In less than one year, on April 1, 2020, the Census will be in full swing. Communities across the country will begin reporting to the U.S. Census and be counted. This process of counting will ensure that the political power, health, and safety of every community is maintained or enhanced in the upcoming decade.

In the next year though, there is much preparation that needs to be done by community groups who represent minorities, immigrants, children, and others to ensure that everyone is counted.

Why census data matters

EDUCATION

Census data is used to influence the distribution of billions of dollars that go to educational agencies that pay for special education, school lunches, improving teacher quality, and Head Start programs.

HEALTH CARE

The information collected determines where community health centers are placed to better serve low-income patients and aid current health disparities, such as those impacted by the opioid crisis.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Companies use the data from the census to determine where to build factories or expand store real estate.

POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

Finally, census data is used to draw the state and federal legislative district lines that ultimately determine the elected officials who represent us.

The drastic effects of a census undercount

The U.S. Census Bureau has been working to prepare for Census 2020 for the last decade, testing the forms, engaging communities, and planning for a new digital count.

We are committed to a fair and accurate 2020 Census because if our communities are not fully counted, opportunities for investment, health, public safety, and representation will be lost.

It's up to all organizations and individuals to get involved and make our voices heard.

Now is the time to build power and support in our communities by getting involved in Complete Count Committees at the state and local levels. Complete Count Committees will be planning to work together—across communities and political ideologies—to ensure that every community is accurately counted.

The League will be working on Complete Count Committees, with local and state governments, and with community members to stand up and be counted. **A good census is the first step to making sure that everyone has good roads, schools, and representation now and in the future.**