



## 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)

**October, 2017**

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

### **LWV-JA Goes to Wellsfest!**

Saturday, September 30, 2017 marked the 34<sup>th</sup> Wellsfest celebration in Jackson and continuing our tradition, LWV-JA participated in the festivities with a Voter Registration/Voter Information booth. This year, the team was headed by our new Vice President for Voter Services, Anna Ingebretsen Hall. Anna was ably assisted by Jan Watson, Marcia Weaver, Dierdre Payne, Natalie Maynor and Gene Everitt.



These canine assistants (Sam, Leyla and Boo) attracted visitors to the booth and encouraged at least one person to join the League. Welcome to our newest member, Nancy Wilkey!

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

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Barbara Powell

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Membership: Elaine Talbott

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National Items: Anna Ingebretsen Hall

Social Media: Joy Parikh

**Nominating Committee**

Judy Barber, Chair

Fran Leber

Natalie Maynor

# Message from the President



Our September LWVJA meeting was a good start for the year. It began with a brunch as we sampled good food, socialized and browsed the Municipal Art Gallery. The group convened with a brief introduction to League's organization and its public policy positions. Fran Leber and I related some stories from the 60's and 70's when LWV was one of the first organizations in Mississippi to be integrated. Then three younger and newer members (Anna Hall, Nina Parikh and Annie Reiher) discussed why it was important to them to be a member of League. They got us all fired up, and perhaps they had an influence on several new people who joined League.

Alice Skelton has resigned her position as 2nd Vice-president/Voter Services due to other obligations. She led us in an incredible number of voter service events last year for both federal and local elections. The Board of Directors has appointed Anna Ingebretsen Hall to be the new Voter Service VP. Anna has already organized voter registration events in Crystal Springs, at Wellsfest, at Millsaps College and in the Jackson Public Schools. She is off to a great start!

Our next meeting will be at 10:30, October 21 in the Willie Morris Library in Jackson. Today's political atmosphere is marked by harsh rhetoric and sometimes even violence. Therefore, we have asked Dr. Robert (Robbie) Luckett to talk to us about combining activism with civility. He is an outstanding historian with a focus on the modern civil rights era. Don't miss this opportunity to hear him!

Barbara Powell

## CALENDAR 2017-2018

- Oct. 21 **Membership Meeting**, Willie Morris Library, 4912 Old Canton Rd., Jackson, 10:30 AM  
Speaker: Dr. Robert Luckett; Topic: Combining Activism with Civility
- Oct. 24 **Board Meeting**, 6:00 p.m.\*
- 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



New Member Recruitment Meeting at the Municipal Art Gallery September 9, 2017.

**League of Women Voters-Jackson Area  
Making Democracy Work**



## MEMBER FEATURE: GENE EVERITT

INTERVIEWER:  
CAROL ANDERSEN

*LWV: Tell me a bit about yourself.*

Gene Everitt: I grew up in Clinton. Married to Bert for 36 years, and we have two grown children and a 3 ½ year old grandchild.

*LWV: How long have you lived in Jackson and what have been your activities in Jackson?*

GE: I've lived in the metro area my whole life, grew up in the "country" north of Clinton, and lived in Jackson for 20 years. We are now back in Clinton.

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

GE: I had heard of the League, but only vaguely was aware of it. Kay Brodbeck invited me to a meeting. I was immediately drawn to the people who were an interesting and diverse group!

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

GE: Some of the meetings involved learning about immigration reform efforts, and the environmental impacts of the proposed Lake project, which was just heating up.

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

GE: I've served as co-president of LWVMS, secretary of LWVMS and treasurer of the Jackson League.

*LWV: Why has the League remained important to you?*

GE: League is still important because Democracy requires work. League can motivate people to take steps to get involved and informed.

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

GE: I think I've grown by stepping out of my comfort zone. When I respond to calls to action, I feel energized.

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

GE: Being involved in the Valuing the Vote project and interviewing people about their experiences and struggles to win the right to vote was inspiring!

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

GE: Protecting Voting Rights and especially here in Mississippi and streamlining the process for voters.

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

GE: I think the League has a great and positive voice in our country and beyond. The structure

of League has kept the nonpartisan stance strong and retained a lot of respect.

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

GE: I think we all need to be willing to try new ideas and be flexible. The League works in many ways, and all Leagues don't look exactly alike. We have core by laws and principles, but we can also grow and change.

## Fall 2017 New Member Brunch Municipal ArtGallery, Jackson



Fran Leber shares about the meaning of LWV in her life



Anna I. Hall tells her LWV story



Nina Parikh shares her LWV story



Annie Reiher tells her LWV story



LWV-MS Members Enjoy Art Exhibit



## VOTER SERVICES

Anna Hall, newly appointed Vice President for Voter Services, reports on voter registration activities over the last few weeks:

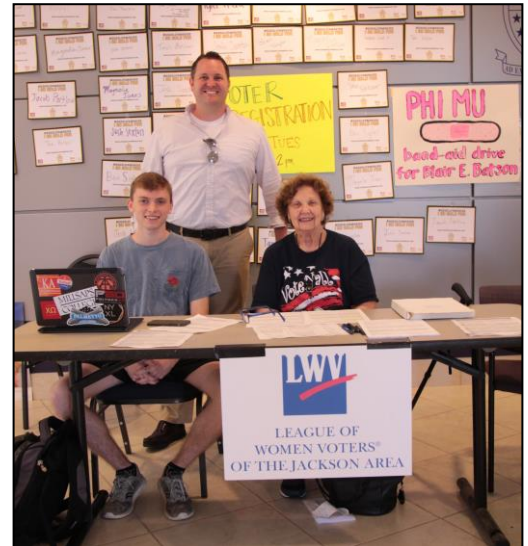
“We had a great time at Wellsfest this year! We signed up several new Voters, found new members and got to play with the dogs. Right after Wellsfest we headed over to Millsaps to work with the political science and government club. For 2 days we registered voters in the Leggett Lounge.

We are now on our way to tour five of the high schools in JPS, partnering with NAACP, Hinds County Election Commission and others to register eligible seniors. “



The Secretary of State has a new feature on the Y'all Vote page. You can now check your registration, find your polling site and change your address online.

[www.sos.ms.gov/Vote/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.sos.ms.gov/Vote/Pages/default.aspx)



Fran Leber with Nathan Shrader and a Millsaps student at the LWV Voter Registration table at Millsaps Oct. 1, 2017.



@LWVofMS

## Membership Notes

Please make welcome new members: Nancy Wilkey, Delores McKinnis, Linda Letherwood and LaKeeta Jones. We look forward to getting to know these folks as we work together doing League business.

At one of our Board meetings there was some discussion about what we can do to recruit more young members. It was pointed out by two of our young women on the Board that our \$50.00 annual dues are a steep ask for some younger potential members. After further discussion it was recommended that those of us that can should donate seed money to a scholarship fund. This could be used to fund part of the dues up front to keep the treasury straight. When the member is able to pay the balance, that payment would be added back into the scholarship fund. This will make the fund self-perpetuating. It is the consensus of the Board that monetary considerations should never prevent someone from joining us who has a heart for service and good government.

If you have recruited someone in the past who found \$50.00 all at once to be a barrier, please ask them again. That is also true of not only young folks, but perhaps retirees on a fixed income. The more members we have the greater our talent pool and ability to take on new and exciting projects.

Elaine Talbott  
Membership Director  
LWV Jackson

