

# *The Voter*

## League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area

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

April 2015

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

[http://www.lwv-ms.org/Jackson\\_League](http://www.lwv-ms.org/Jackson_League)

*You are cordially invited to*

## ***League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area***

### ***2015 Annual Meeting Luncheon***

***Saturday, April 18***

***Location:*** Mississippi Craft Center - 950 Rice Road, Ridgeland

***Time:*** Set up 10:30 AM – Event 11:00-1:00

***Guest Speaker:*** Donald Campbell, Associate Professor of Ethics, Mississippi College School of Law. Subject: Redistricting

***Business:*** Election of officers, budget approval, proposed bylaws amendment

***Silent Auction:*** Members are asked to donate white elephants, baked goods, or used items such as books or CD's. Arrive in time to have everything set up for the auction before 11:00 a.m. Auction coordinator: Carol Andersen.

***Luncheon:*** Beef brisket with a variety of salads and desserts

***Cost:*** \$10.



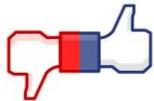
**Directions:** Take the Natchez Trace east from I-55 and go 1.8 miles. Take the exit for Madison/Ridgeland/Ross Barnett Reservoir. Turn south on Old Canton Rd. and drive .3 mi. to Rice Rd. Turn left on Rice Rd. and go 1.1 miles to 950 Rice Rd. Mississippi Craft Center is on the left.

**Alternate Route:** Take Old Canton Rd. from Jackson to Rice Rd. Turn right onto Rice Rd. and go 1.1 mi. to the Mississippi Crafts Center on the left at 950 Rice Rd.

## **Message from LWVJA president**

Redistricting and reapportionment is the focus of the speaker Donald Campbell for the annual meeting. He is a law professor at the Mississippi College School of Law and will help us better understand the process of how districts are drawn. For many years the League of Women Voters of the US and MS has worked to promote fair, open and accountable redistricting processes. In the 1980s reapportionment for the City of Jackson gave the opportunity for women and blacks to serve as elected officials. The Mayor Dale Danks saw that Senator Henry Kirksey, a black map maker, was preparing to take legal action on the current commission form of government where all were elected at large. The mayor convinced his colleagues to adopt the mayor council form of government. That 1985 election allowed 3 women and 3 blacks to serve on the city council. I had the opportunity to thank Sen. Kirksey for his action that gave me 12 years of public service on the City of Jackson Council.

*Marcia Weaver*



The Treasurer's and Nominating Committee reports will be presented to members for voting at the Annual Meeting.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

The following people have agreed to serve if elected:

- Administrative/Program VP - Barbara Powell
- Treasurer - Carolyn Townes
- Voter Service VP - Mary Ann Everitt

Nominating Committee: Elaine Talbott, Dary Shenefelt, Eugenie Bradshaw

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-JACKSON AREA  
PROPOSED TREASURER'S REPORT AND BUDGET JULY 1, 2015-2016**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>BDGT 2014-2015</b>	<b>ACTUAL 2014-15</b>	<b>BDGT 2015-2016</b>
Carry-Over	\$312	559.5	275
Dues	\$2,375	875	1925
Donations	300	605	300
Projects	100		100
Annual Meeting/Auction	\$100		300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,187</b>	<b>2039.5</b>	<b>2900</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>BDGT 2014-2015</b>	<b>ACTUAL 14- 15</b>	<b>BDGT 2015-16</b>
P.O. Box	92	92	92
Voter Services	200	133.79	200
Newsletter	20	18.4	20
President	15	37.5	40
Treasurer	10		10
Program	120	141.3	200
Action	40		40
Membership	40		40
Miscellaneous	50	37.5	50
Annual Meeting	50	11.65	150
Delegates Travel	500		500
PMP for LWV-US	1500	883.5	1178
PMP for LWV-MS	550		380
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3187</b>	<b>1355.64</b>	<b>2900</b>

## WHITE ELEPHANT SILENT AUCTION, APRIL 18TH

The League of Women Voters-Jackson Area will hold a White Elephant Silent Auction Saturday, April 18, 2015, during its annual meeting at the Mississippi Craft Center. Donations of gently-used items from your home are requested for the auction, such as books, jewelry or pottery. Home-made donations are also welcome: baked goods, hand-crafts, etc. Please bring a printed description of each item you offer for auction.

Alternately, members might consider donating “coupons” for a service: home-delivery of a meal-in-a-box, for example, or weekend use of a vacation home, or for a social outing such as a day at the nail salon or lunch-on-you. (See sample “coupon” below.)

Donations may be delivered to Carol Andersen (5359 Briarfield Road, Jackson, 39211), to Marcia Weaver (55 Nelson Circle, Jackson 39212), or to the Mississippi Craft Center on the day of the annual meeting, April 18<sup>th</sup>, **no later than 10:00 a.m.**

The White Elephant Silent Auction will be open throughout the annual meeting until 10 minutes after adjournment, when winning bids will be announced and merchandise may be collected and paid for. Proceeds from the auction will go into the LWV-JA operational budget and may be used for operational expenses such as meeting space, lobby efforts and gifts for speakers.

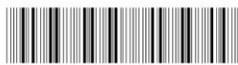
## SAMPLE:

This coupon  
entitles you to

**lunch with Carol Andersen  
at the Feathered Cow**

Redeem: 601.832.5007

Expiration Date: 12.31.2015





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
Jackson Area  
WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION

Donor's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Item \_\_\_\_\_

Description of item: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Approximate Retail Value \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested Opening Bid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

For LWVJA:

Sold to \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/email \_\_\_\_\_

Item # \_\_\_\_\_

Winning Bid \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## **Member Feature**

### **LWV-Jackson Area Member Feature: Joyce Nall Dortch**

(JACKSON, MS) – The work of the League of Women Voters is as important and necessary today as it was more than 40 years ago when she first joined the Jackson league, says Joyce Nall Dortch. “I think the percentage of those voting in this country is disgraceful,” she says, “and is still something we must work on.”

Dortch does not recall the exact year she joined the Jackson league, “but by 1970, I was a member and serving as co-chair of legislative work with Elaine Crystal, who introduced me to the League.” Dortch held a variety of positions with the Jackson League over the years, including a term as president, and although she is less active in retirement, she remains deeply interested in and engaged with the League’s work.

Voter registration and education are key components of the League’s work to foster civic engagement and enhance access to the vote. Dortch says that work must continue. “I think many people may not feel they are touched by the laws, and so they don’t vote. That’s something the League works hard at: helping people understand that they *are* affected by our laws.”

Organizations like the League of Women Voters must never consider their work finished, Dortch believes. “We face ongoing challenges to our rights – look at the repeated challenges to *Roe v. Wade* and the Voting Rights Act. The work of the League is important to keep citizens aware of their rights and to exercise their rights so they don’t slip away from them.”

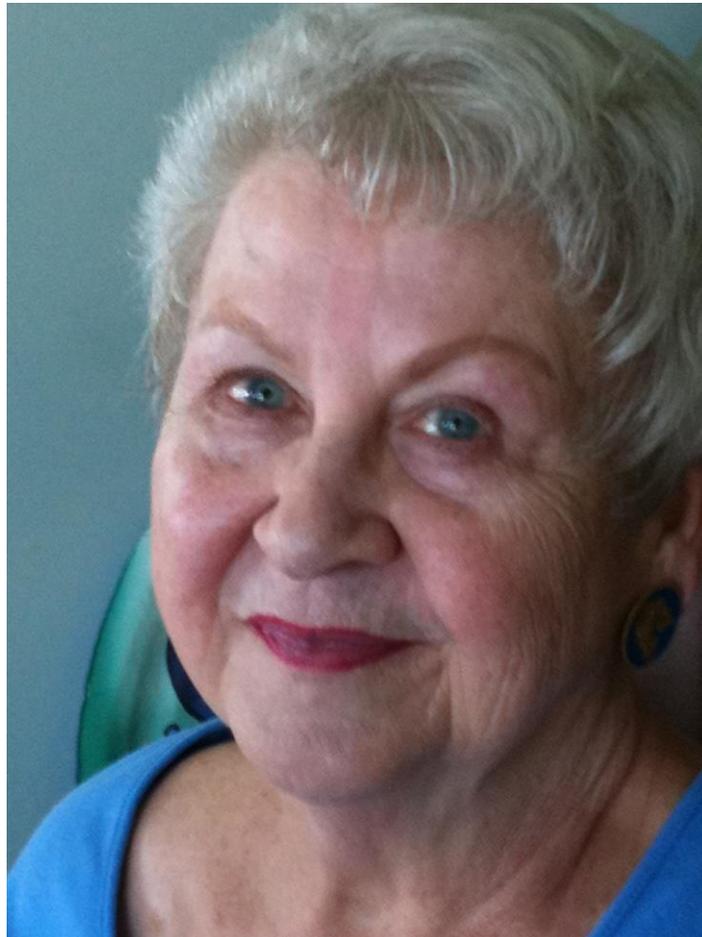
Dortch, a Mississippi native, moved to Jackson when she was 12 and has lived here all her life except for three years of graduate study in New York City where she completed a master’s degree in social work at Columbia University. She practiced as a social worker in Jackson for more than 40 years. Most of her work was in the area of advocacy, administration, policy development and program development. She was the first pediatric social worker at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, and then worked with foster care with the Methodist Children’s Center. Her policy and advocacy work over the years included assisting the state of Mississippi prepare for the White House Conference on Children in 1970. She also worked with the Governor’s Commission on Children and Youth and later freelanced in the governor’s office, helping to create the Early Childhood Commission.

“Some of the highlights of those years were working on regulations for day care in Mississippi, the kindergarten bill and of course, working on legislation to ensure the fair and equal right to vote,” Dortch recalls.

As a League member, she also focused on legislative work, often attending LWV Legislature Day with fellow League members when they visited the Mississippi statehouse en masse to urge legislative support for issues of importance to the League.

“The League is unique in its focus,” Dortch says. “It is a bipartisan organization that focuses on the right of *everyone* to vote. Some changes are only possible through the legislative process, so it is important that citizens use their vote to make their voices heard.”

The League needs younger generations now, Dortch says, to rise up and carry on fighting for these rights. “I know these issues still matter; many of the issues are unchanged, they just look a little different than they did when I joined the League of Women Voters. But they remain important issues and we need younger members to join us in this work.”



*Joyce Dortch*

**LWV President Elisabeth MacNamara to LWVJA president Marcia Weaver:**



*MARCH 26, 2015*

Dear Marcia,

Ninety-six years ago this week, Carrie Chapman Catt addressed the Jubilee Convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association and called for a League of Women Voters to “Finish the Fight”. Mrs. Catt was a brilliant organizer when mobilizing could only be done by putting boots on the ground. In calling for a League of Women Voters, Carrie Catt was revealing a long-term strategy to mobilize women in Making Democracy Work ® through an organization that could make their voices and their votes count.

Just over a year later, the 19th Amendment had passed the Congress and been ratified in the states. Carrie Catt issued another call to action. “The vote is won. Seventy-two years the battle for this privilege has been waged, but human affairs with their eternal change move on without pause. Progress is calling you to make no pause. Act!” For 95 years the League has been following that very sound advice. In 2015 progress is still calling and giving us the means to empower and mobilize voters online in ways that Carrie Catt could not have imagined but as a brilliant organizer would have welcomed and embraced in the cause of strengthening our democracy. The League will make no pause in using every means at our disposal to act!

In League,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elisabeth", written in dark ink.



## Who are the members?

Membership in the League of Women Voters, the most respected and effective grassroots organization in the country, is open to men and women of all ages. Our members make a visible difference by serving as community leaders using their experience to create positive, lasting change in our communities.

## How do I join?

It's easy! Just fill out this form - [http://www.lwv-ms.org/join\\_form.html](http://www.lwv-ms.org/join_form.html). You can also contact us at [http://www.lwv-ms.org/Jackson\\_League.html](http://www.lwv-ms.org/Jackson_League.html) or at 601-372-8851. We'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF MISSISSIPPI, INC.**

Serving the people of the state of Mississippi.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, multipurpose organization of women and men that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose candidates or political parties. We do provide a forum where all candidates to an office can state their own positions.

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