

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.

November 2014

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

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

General Membership Meeting

Saturday, November 22, 2014

Location: Willie Morris Library, 4912 Old Canton Rd, Jackson

The meeting will be called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Topic: How the Affordable Care Act Affects Mississippi Hospitals

Speaker: Shannon Coker, MS Hospital Association, Advocacy and Communications, Director

Both the Affordable Care Act and the Mississippi Legislature's response to the ACA significantly affect our hospitals. Come to learn more.

President's message

As you see above, critical issues for hospitals will be the topic for the November 22nd meeting. I look forward to seeing you there!

The voter hotline service had some new features this year. We partnered with Common Cause to get the notice out statewide. We also sent PSAs to statewide radio and TV. Thanks to the members & friends who gave hours of work to answer about 50 callers for the Election Day Hotline: Kay Brodbeck, Fran Leber, Barbara Powell, Elaine Talbot, Lynn Evans, Dary Shenfelt, Steve Overman, Toni van Kriedf, Natalie Maynor, Jeanhee Kang, Carolyn Townes, Margaret Wodetzki, Mary Ann Everett, Megan Tidwell, Natwassie Truly & Marcia Weaver. We couldn't do it without you.

We want to also welcome new League members, Janet Hendrick Clark, Jeanhee Kang, John Tidwell, and Deborah Rae Wright.

Marcia Weaver

Member Spotlight -

Dardanella (Dary) Shenefelt, 79, of Brandon, MS, was reared in Alton, IL. She attended Grinnell College in central Iowa, receiving a degree in elementary education. She and her husband of 57 years, Ray Shenefelt, moved to Mississippi in 1992 when Ray accepted a job at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. They have four adopted children and eight grandchildren, and are members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jackson where Dary is actively involved in religious education.



Shenefelt and her husband have contributed to the League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area (LWV-JA) for many years. She became actively involved 10 years ago when longtime member Fran Leber asked her to attend a meeting of the Jackson league. Since then, she has served as treasurer and secretary of the Jackson League. She is currently serving her third year as treasurer for the state League, and was recently appointed 2nd Vice-President of Voter Service. She frequently serves with other League members staffing a telephone call-in center on Election Days.

“The League is important to me because it’s the best source available for acquiring unbiased information as I make voting decisions,” says Shenefelt. “Through its forums, internet postings, newsletters, meeting speakers and published responses from candidates to questions posed by the League concerning relevant issues, members can make educated choices.”

Shenefelt counts League members Fran Leber and Marcia Weaver as inspiration for her work with the League. “We are so fortunate for such dedicated members like Fran, who keeps legislators on their toes, and Marcia, with her inside knowledge of the workings of the city council,” she says.

“At this point of time, we are dealing with crucial issues such as the response of our political leaders to global warming, adequate education and fair treatment of ‘illegal’ immigrants,” Shenefelt says. “In January 2007, League members were at the Capitol urging passage of the Mississippi Adequate Education Program Funding Bill, and our elected officials still have avoided fully funding MAEP. Poor decisions will have devastating effects on future generations.”

For Shenefelt, League membership has its fun moments, as well. She recalls dressing as Carrie Chapman Catt, founder of the League of Women Voters, for a skit with other League members, and taking an educational excursion to a catfish farm. She hopes the organization can begin attracting younger and more diverse members in Jackson and in Mississippi to continue the important work of League.

UPDATE ----



During the November 4 General Election, sixteen members of the LWVJA and one member of Mississippi Common Cause operated the Election Day Hotline to answer voters' questions. The most frequently asked question was "Where do I vote?" Voters also inquired about what was on the ballot and election rules. A few callers reported problems at the polls, such as a machine not working or not having a sign to tell handicapped voters where to enter the polling place. This was the first time that LWVJA, with assistance from Common Cause, advertised the Hotline in news media statewide. Although most calls came from the Jackson area, some came from as far south as Bay St. Louis and as far north as Greenwood. Nearly 50 calls were received. Volunteers working in 3-hour shifts were busy, but not frenzied. One new volunteer mentioned how grateful the caller's were when their questions were answered. It made the experience both interesting and rewarding, besides good fellowship among the volunteers.



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.

Why should I join?

Through participation in League projects, you will:

- contribute valuable service to the community
- gain knowledge and experience through the study and discussion of timely and important topics
- discover new interests, develop new skills and learn about crucial issues in your community
- make professional contacts and develop lasting friendships as you meet others in League who share your interests

How much time does it take?

It's up to you! Many members choose to support the League only with their annual dues. Your membership alone gives us the political influence needed to build a voice for citizens and a force for change. We cover a broad spectrum of issues and concerns; you may choose to become involved in one or more of them by actively participating in a group study, or listening to a panel of experts at a meeting or just reading about them in one of our publications.

How do I join?

It's easy! Just [fill out the form](#). Contact us at http://www.lwv-ms.org/Jackson_League.html or at 601-372-8851. We'd be happy to answer any questions you might have.



1/24/15 General Meeting - Legislative Issues (State Legislative Day 2/12/15)
3/21/15 General Meeting - National Study
4/18/15 General Meeting – Annual Meeting



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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