

The Voter

League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area

January 2012

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

January Meeting League Legislative Issues

When: 10:30 a.m., Saturday,
January 28

Where: Willie Morris Library
4912 Old Canton Road,
Jackson

Program: Members of LWVMS Lobby
Corps will discuss issues
before the 2012 Legislative
Session.

Refreshments

Members are welcome to bring a
snack item to share.

Agenda

10:30 Refreshments,
Meet and Greet
10:45 Program
12:00 Adjourn

2012 Legislative Visit Day

**February 16,
10:15 am-2:00pm**

**Public Policy Center of MS,
736 N. Congress**

10:15—Registration, coffee

**10:30—Legislative update, do's and
don'ts**

11:45—Lunch

**12:30—Walk or ride to Capitol; Meet
with Legislators, Visit
Committees and Sessions**

**2:15—LWVMS Board Meeting, open to
all**

**Rsvp by Feb. 10 to gene everitt
601-910-4106,**

everittg@bellsouth.net

**Cost of lunch: \$10.00 payable to
lwwms**

Mail to: Gene Everitt,
402 McDonald Dr. Clinton, MS

LWVJA Voter Registration

League volunteers conducted a voter registration drive the last few weeks of September. Fran Leber and Kay Brodbeck prepared kits with all the needed materials. Then Fran lead several training sessions for the volunteers. She also trained members of Jackson State University's Political Science Club. Voter registration took place in front of the Fortification Street McDades and the Fondren McDades, in the Jackson Medical Mall, at the Hinds School of Nursing, and Mississippi College. Fifty eight people were registered and many more forms were given to people to mail in later. Volunteers included: **Mary Margaret Bollinger, Kay Brodbeck, Mary Ann Everett, Gene Everitt, Keri Friedley, Jane Hawkins, Dick Johnson, Fran Leber, Barbara Powell, Robin Simpson, Elaine Talbott, Carolyn Townes and Margaret Wodetzki.** Volunteers received the gratitude of those who registered.

Voters' Guide

The League and Clarion-Ledger worked together to produce a Voter's Guide for the November General Election. The Guide appeared in the online Clarion-Ledger. State League contacted candidates for statewide and regional office and LWVJA contacted legislative candidates in the tri-county area inviting their participation. It took a bevy of volunteers for the project. **Kay Brodbeck, Fran Leber, Gene Everitt, and Barbara Powell** came up with questions. **Dierdre Payne, Elaine Talbott, Harriet Tanzman, Marcia Weaver and Margaret Wodetzki** called candidates for addresses and/or follow-up. **Carol Andersen and Barbara Powell** sent out letters to candidates. **Krista Buckhalter and Stacy Callender** volunteered to help input data at the Clarion-Ledger. **David Hampton**, Editorial Director of the Clarion-Ledger, worked with us to enable the project.

Election Day Hotline

Harriet Tanzman organized the Election Hotline, scheduling volunteers in two-hour shifts with two persons in each shift. The Public Policy Center of Mississippi provided a conference room for our use and Rims Barber let the League use his office phone and computer. Forty four calls were received from the public. Most of them wanted to know where to vote. Five calls had questions about the election rules or complaints about their polling place. Thanks to the volunteers who made this service possible: **Mary Margaret Bollinger, Kay Brodbeck, Jane Hawkins, Fran Leber, Deloris Lee, Natalie Maynor, Barbara Powell, Dary Shenefelt, Harriet Tanzman, and Margaret Wodetzki.**

Nominating Committee at Work

Nominating Committee members **Marcia Weaver**, Chair; **Dierdre Payne** and **Janet Crawford** are seeking to fill the following positions: president, voter service vice president, secretary, Voter editor, membership chair, and nominating committee.

Elected positions are for two-year terms and will be elected at our Annual Meeting April 21. No officer can serve more than two consecutive terms. If you would be willing to serve in one of these offices or have suggestions, contact Marcia Weaver-- E-mail, <Pplnn@yahoo.com> or phone, 601-372-8851.

Special Thanks

Our special thanks go to **Stacy Callender** for putting the materials for our education and privatization studies on the LWVMS Blog, <http://lwvms.wordpress.com/>, so they are easily accessible to members.

NOTE: Voter Editor, **Janet Crawford**, is temporarily disabled with a broken ankle. Barbara Powell edited this edition. We wish Janet a speedy recovery.

President's Corner

At the time of our last *Voter*, League had been asked to send poll watchers to observe the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians' election. We had eighteen poll watchers and two alternates ready to go. Members of the Choctaws' Election Committee came to Jackson and trained our volunteers. However, a few days before the election, the tribal council decided not to have outside poll watchers. They made a contribution to League in recognition of our efforts.

League's focus quickly turned to local election activities. Fifteen members helped **register voters** at five sites in the Jackson area during the last two weeks of September. Training was carried out for our own volunteers and for the Jackson State Political Science Club who were doing their own registration drive. Another set of twelve volunteers worked on the **Voters' Guide** which was published in the online Clarion-Ledger. Harriet Tanzman organized ten volunteers to answer voters' questions on the **Election Day Hotline**. Two members, Fran Leber and Keri Friedley, served as hostesses for the **Mississippi Public Broadcasting** election night coverage. Judy Lacy worked to set up a candidate forum for legislative candidates in the tri-county area. The event was canceled, however, because in most races only one candidate was going to participate.

Stacy Callender who ably lead our Education Consensus Study, set the basis for the study in our September Membership Brunch. During the October and November Hot Topics Discussions, she lead us to consensus on the study questions. Our local consensus appears on the LWVMS blog site, <http://lwvms.wordpress.com/>. Scroll down to find the consensus. Our opinions have been sent to LWVUS to help determine the national League's stand on the role of the federal government in public education.

WHAT A YEAR AND IT IS ONLY HALF OVER!

In our next meeting, January 28, a League's Lobby Corps will give us information about the new group of legislators and bills of interest in the 2012 Legislative Session. Don't miss it!

All members are encouraged to participate in State League's *Legislative Visits Day* on February 16.

It is time to start reading articles on the LWVMS Blog <http://lwvms.wordpress.com/> in preparation for the March meeting, a LWVUS Consensus Study on Privatization, a very important issue both nationally and in Mississippi.

Barbara Powell

Getting to know our members-- Keri Friedley

I am delighted to be the Secretary for the LWVJA. I have always been interested and passionate about politics. My Mother, Karlyn Stephens, is the President of the League of Women Voters on the MS Gulf Coast and she sparked my interest in the LWV. All of the LWVJA members have been so knowledgeable about the issues and so warm and supportive to me.

I grew up in Texarkana, TX and went to high school in Biloxi, MS. I have a bachelor's degree in Music from SMU in Dallas, TX. I married my husband, Chris, a Dallas native, in 1997. We have no children...only two furry four-legged ones. We moved to Biloxi, MS where my Mother and Dad still live. After Hurricane Katrina, my husband and I moved to Brookhaven, MS where he became an insurance adjuster and I worked for an investment company. In July of 2011, my husband and I moved to Brandon, MS. Recently I started a new job with a bank in Flowood.

League Will Study Privatization

Privatization of government assets, services and functions has been occurring for decades at all levels of government. The consequences of “privatizing” a government service or function, may enhance the function or service. Alternatively, it may reduce or alter functions and services. Government revenues may be reduced or lost and jobs may be cut. In some instances, this may have a detrimental effect on the “common good” or public well-being.

The LWVUS has prepared a study to identify policies and parameters that should be considered when any governmental entity is planning to undertake some type of privatization process. They have prepared background materials regarding privatization and questions for local Leagues to discuss. If local Leagues across the nation arrive at a consensus on the questions, it will form the national League position on privatization. That position can also be used for advocacy by local and state Leagues.

The Jackson Area League will discuss privatization and seek consensus at our March 24 meeting. Stacy Callender is placing the study materials on the LWVMS Blog at <http://lwvms.wordpress.com/>. The site lets you “subscribe” so you will be notified when additional articles are added to the blog. The consensus questions can be found at <http://www.lwv.org/content/consensus-questions-introduction%C2%A0>. If you would be interested in being on the committee to plan and lead the consensus meeting, contact Barbara Powell (E-mail, bpwll@bellsouth.net or phone, 601-362-8577).

Calendar

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| January 28 | Membership Meeting , 10:30 am, Willie Morris Library, 2912 Old Canton Rd., Jackson, LWVMS Lobby Corps discusses “Legislative Issues.” |
| February 16 | LWVMS Legislative Visits Day , 10:15 am, Public Policy Center of MS, 736 N. Congress (All members are encouraged to attend) |
| February 28 | LWVJA Board Meeting, 6:00 pm |
| March 24 | Membership Meeting , 10:30 am, Willie Morris Library, 2912 Old Canton Rd., Jackson, Consensus Study on Privatization |
| April 3 | LWVJA Board Meeting, 6:00 pm |
| April 21 | LWVJA Annual Meeting |

Check the LWVJA webpage, http://www.lwv-ms.org/Jackson_League.html, for information on local League’s priorities, positions, up-coming events, officers and bylaws.