

The Voter

League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area

April, 2012

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

2012 Annual Meeting & Lunch

Saturday, April 21, 2012

10:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

**Mississippi Crafts Center, 950 Rice Road, Ridgeland
Harbor Room, Second Floor**

- 10:00 a.m. Set up for Silent Auction and Bidding
- 10:30 a.m. Business Meeting (Elect officers, adopt a budget)
- 11:15 a.m. Break
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch and Installation of Officers – Brisket on a bun from Lumpkins (\$8.00). Members, bring a salad or dessert to share with others.
- 12:00 n Speaker: Insurance Commissioner Mike Cheney, on Mississippi Health Insurance Exchange
- 12:30 p.m. Finalize Silent Auction
- 12:45 p.m. Adjourn

Bring a Friend. This is a great opportunity to introduce your friends and potential new members to the LWV.

Bring Donations for the Silent Auction. Think about plants, food items, books, kitchen tools, or other treasures. Proceeds help support League activities.

Bring a Salad or Dessert. Enough for a few. Lunch will be from Lumpkins and will cost \$8.00.

Make a Reservation. Contact Janet Crawford by April 18 at 601-362-5407, or E-mail to jamjancrawford@aol.com.

Directions. From Northeast Jackson, go north on Old Canton Road. Turn right (east) onto Rice Road in Ridgeland. Go 1.2 miles to the Craft Center which will be on your left.

From I-55, go north of Jackson. Take exit 105A for the Natchez Trace Parkway. Turn right onto the Natchez Trace and go 1.8 miles. Take the Madison/Ridgeland/Barnett Reservoir exit. Turn right onto Old Canton Road and go 0.3 mile. Turn left (east) onto Rice Road. Go 1.2 miles to the Crafts Center which is on the left.

President's Corner

During our January meeting, a panel of state League Lobby Corps members discussed issues before the 2012 legislature. Fran Leber talked about election issues. Barbara Powell discussed proposed legislation related to public records requests. Judy Barber talked about health care issues. Harriet Tanzman explained the importance of legislation to require that all school superintendents be appointed rather than elected. Elaine Talbott discussed prospects for fully funding the Mississippi Adequate Education Program (MAET).

In February, all members were encouraged to attend the LWVMS Legislative Visits Day. Following an update on issues, a number of our members visited with legislators at the State Capitol.

During our March meeting, we discussed the issue of privatization. The group successfully reached consensus on the questions posed by LWVUS. Our opinions will help form a national League position on privatization. Thanks to Marcia Weaver for moderating the discussion, Carolyn Townes for serving as recorder, and Janet Crawford for being the timekeeper.

Saturday, April 21, will be our Annual Meeting with election of officers and approval of a budget for the next year. I am delighted that Marcia Weaver and Jane Hawkins are willing to serve as co-presidents for the next two years. Jackson League is a great group to work with. During the past year, our members completed numerous election activities for the benefit of the community. We've carried out two national consensus studies, as well as becoming informed and active on legislative issues. Through League, we members have been involved in thoughtful dialogue and actions to serve and to improve our community. Thanks to all of you for your good work!

Barbara Powell

Remembering Robbie Stewart

League member Robbie Stewart died on February 18th. Robbie was born in Jackson and later graduated from Tuskegee. She worked for 27 years in Rochester, NY as a senior foster-care and adoption caseworker. After retiring in 1988, she and husband Bill moved to Jackson. Robbie was active in church and community activities, including the League of Women Voters. She also served as an election commissioner for the city of Jackson. Barbara Powell, who worked with Robbie on the municipal election commission for a number of years, says that Robbie was a role model for her. Robbie was a kind woman who lived her life with a purpose – making a difference and helping others. She will be missed.

LWV-JA Board Nominees

Co-Presidents	Marcia Weaver Jane Hawkins	Membership Dir. Voter Editor	Deloris Lee Dierdre Payne
3 rd VP/Voter Ser. Secretary	Barbara Powell Keri Friedley	Nom. Comm.	Janet Crawford, Effie Clay, Judy Lacy

Officers Whose Term Expires in 2012-2013

1 st VP/Admin. 2 nd VP/Program	Fran Leber Gene Everitt	Treasurer Nat Items Dir.	Margaret Wodetzki Carolyn Townes
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Proposed Budget for 2012-2013

Anticipated Income

Dues	\$2200
Donations	200
Projects, Misc	350
TOTAL	\$2750

Anticipated Expenses

P.O. Box	\$ 86
Voter Service	200
Newsletter	50
President	20

Anticipated Expenses, cont.

Treasurer	\$ 15
Program	100
Action	50
Membership	100
Misc.	25
Annual Meeting	50
PMP for LWV-US	1485
PMP for LWV-MS	470
Delegates/Travel	1000
TOTAL	\$3651

A Day in Madden, by Jo Ann Hall, new member

When passersby spy a windblown woman sitting alone behind a battered aluminum table outside a rural Mississippi fire station, curiosity is piqued. On Tuesday, March 13, as I waited by the Madden Fire Station, people stopped and asked if I were selling hot plate lunches. A couple of ladies wondered where I'd hidden the Girl Scout cookies I was obviously hoarding.

I wasn't hawking anything, however. What I was doing was conducting an LWV exit poll of the Mississippi Primary on behalf of Edison Research, whose analysts had chosen the Madden site for interviews. About a month ago, I mentioned to Barbara Powell that I'd like to volunteer with the exit polls to benefit the Jackson Area League of Women Voters. Barbara connected me with the professionals at Edison and I completed a very thorough, efficient training session using materials they provided and by making a couple of phone calls.

My job was to approach voters as they exited the polling place, of course, keeping the required 30 feet from the voting booth. About 75% of the people who voted accepted my request to complete the survey. The remaining folks were polite, however, usually citing a need to hurry on to another destination. At three designated times, I called in the survey results to the Edison partners in New Jersey. My duties were easy; the day's events went exactly as Edison had predicted.

Although I've been casting ballots for years, this experience provided a different perspective on the electoral process. Many people who came to the station seized the opportunities to offer up their opinions twice, once with their vote, and again as they answered the confidential, brief survey questions. Many seemed to find the survey questions provocative, even prompting some to weigh their answers aloud. I can't help believing that they left the polling place thinking deeply about the choices they'd made and why they'd made them.

I enjoyed the sight of a mother accompanying her daughter on her first outing as a registered voter. What great roll modeling on the part of a parent! I was touched to see elderly folks who had driven out together, two or three in a car, assisting one another to balance on canes across the rocky drive. Less tangible, yet equally satisfying, was the air of community among this small village's inhabitants as they performed their civic duty.

The day's activities left me reflecting upon the very real contributions each of us can make in the political process.

If you received this newsletter in the mail, and if you also have an e-mail address, please let us know so that we may cut down on our expenses. (Editor)

**LWV-JA
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