



**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

January, 2018

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

**NANCY LOOME TO SPEAK AT
LWV-JA MEETING JAN. 27, 2018**



The League of Women Voters of the Jackson area will host its next membership meeting Saturday, January 27, 2018 at the Willie Morris Library from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This meeting is free and open to League members and the general public. The address for the library is 4912 Old Canton Road, Jackson, MS.

The guest speaker will be Nancy Loome, co-founder and Executive Director of The Parents' Campaign. Loome serves as president of The Parents' Campaign, a Jackson, Mississippi-based network of more than 64,000 Mississippians committed to improving and supporting public schools. She also serves as President of The Parents' Campaign Research and Education Fund. Loome has been recognized by numerous organizations for her work to improve public education for Mississippi children. She is a recipient of the Mississippi School Board Association's Friend of MSBA award and numerous other recognitions.

Please plan to attend and bring a friend!

**CALENDAR 2018
LWV-JA**

- Jan. 27** Membership Meeting,
Topic: Education Issues in the
2018 Legislative Issues;
Speaker: Nancy Loome, Exec.
Dir., The Parents' Campaign.
Place: Willie Morris Library,
4912 Old Canton Rd., Jackson,
10:30-11:30AM
- Feb. 12** Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.*
- Mar. 10** Membership Meeting:
Life of MS Naturalist Fannie
Cook and the new Wildlife
Area named for her. Speaker:
Libby Hartfield, Former
Director, MS Museum of
Natural Science. Place: TBA
- 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 public.



MEMBER PROFILE: ELAINE TALBOT

**BY
CAROL ANDERSON**

LWV: Tell me a bit about yourself (full name, where you live now, where you are from, family)?

Elaine Talbot: Born March 26th, 1949 to Don Talbot and Margaret Philips Talbot in Plymouth County, Iowa. Oldest of four children. Attended grades K- first half of 4th in a one room country school house that taught K-8th. Moved to a farm in rural Akron, Iowa where my mother still resides.

LWV: How long have you lived in the Jackson area and what have been your activities since living here (jobs, other organization memberships, etc.)?

ET: Before coming to Jackson I lived in Minneapolis, Tampa and Birmingham. Moved to Jackson area, Madison County in April of 1979 just after the historic Easter Flood. Have worked in sales my entire career. First job in Mississippi Regional Manager for the Sazerac Company, thus first female liquor rep in the state of Mississippi. I have also sold for a brewery, conversion vans to new car dealers, durable hotel and restaurant food service equipment to the hospitality industry until I settled into sales management in the lawn and garden supply industry in 1989. I am currently VP of Sales for a regional company that sells bagged soil and bark mulches to lawn and garden retailer.

In addition to League I am a member of Wells UMC and serve as Chair of the Council, sing in the choir and facilitate an adult Sunday School Class. I serve on the Board of Common Cause and am a member of the ACLU and HRC.

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

ET: Now there is a hole in my memory. I can't remember when I joined or who first invited me. It was probably in 2009-10 and with the political climate and the resurgence of voter suppression efforts it seemed like a good fit for my priorities.

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

ET: Voter ID was a hot topic that seemed to me to be a way to suppress the votes of people of color, the working poor and students. It occurred to me that my time would be well spent with an organization whose goal was to protect voting rights.

LWV: Describe your involvement in the League over the years (offices held, committee work, etc.).

ET: Voter registration, planning for state conference and convention as well as local league events. Have served on the local Jackson Board, on nominating committee and at present as Membership Director. State Board communications director and at present state Treasurer.

LWV: Why has the League remained important to you?

ET: I came to protect the vote and lo and behold found out in short order that there is a lot more to League than registering folks to vote.

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

ET: I sure hope so. It has given me the opportunity to share with some gifted terrific women in public education in regard to public policy issues that reach beyond our community and state. (con't on p. 3)

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

ET: We had an interesting field trip to Simmons Catfish Farm in Yazoo County during an agriculture study the League had undertaken nationwide. What interested me more than the facility was impact trade agreements have on our farm economy.

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

ET: Money in politics!

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

ET: 2018 is supposed to be The Year of the Woman. Women and our male allies are standing up in greater numbers and assuming more and more leadership roles. A national organization like the League of Women Voters has the reach to make our voices heard from the Pearl to the Potomac. My dream is a day when the League of Women Voters once again hosts and moderates our Presidential debates. That would mean we have returned to a time when big money is on the sidelines and policy is debated rather than the circus we have witnessed in the last several cycles.

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

ET: I think we have found one key. You get that first young, that first diverse member. You engage them. You listen to them. You get them involved. Then you ask them to invite their friends.

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-JACKSON AREA

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK

Message from the President



Barbara Powell

I hope that you all enjoyed the holidays and endured the cold snap without harm.

At our November meeting, Beth Orlansky, an attorney with the Mississippi Center for Justice, discussed how voting is being suppressed by redistricting to give an advantage to one party and by lifetime disenfranchisement for many crimes. She also discussed things that can increase access to voting such as allowing pre-election voting and online voter registration—issues which will be before the legislature this year.

At our January 27 meeting, Nancy Loome, Executive Director of the Parents' Campaign, will speak about issues in the 2018 Legislative Session which will affect public schools. The legislature may change the funding formula for public schools this year and deal with other issues that could profoundly affect our schools. Don't miss the opportunity to hear how we can advocate more effectively for public schools!

LWVJA is co-sponsoring a forum on expanding voter access, Be Counted, Friday January 12 at 11:30 a.m. in the Mississippi School of Law. Other co-sponsors include: ACLU, Women for Progress, and Mississippi Votes. The forum was originally to be December 8 and has been rescheduled because of snow. We are thankful that Anna Hall, LWVJA's Voter Service Vice President, has helped plan the event and will be part of the program.

Note that the LWVMS has canceled the Legislative Visits Day which had been scheduled for February 8.

I hope to see you at our next meeting, Saturday, January 27 at the Willie Morris Library!

From the Desk of Mary Ann Everitt, State Co-Chair...

Save the date! State Council of the LWVMS will be held May 17-18, 2018 in Oxford.

Plan to spend a spring weekend in Oxford and enjoy the hospitality of LWVOXNMS. The Oxford League is making lots of plans for a great meeting with some fun thrown in for good measure.

Tour the town and one of the most beautiful college campuses in the country on a double decker bus on Friday afternoon and then mingle with other members at a Friday evening reception on the Square. Listen, learn and be motivated by dynamic speakers on Saturday morning and our keynote speaker following lunch.

More details to follow soon.



Beth Orlansky addressing the LWV-JA Meeting in November 18, 2017 at Willie Morris Library.



Membership Notes

Elaine Talbott

Welcome, New Members

Brenda Hyde and Stephen Scott

Jeanne Luckett

Reviewing Mission and History

For both new and long-time members, it is good to review the Mission and History of the League of Women Voters occasionally. Both can be found on the website of the National LWV:

<http://lww.org/content/mission-statement-and-core-values>

<http://lww.org/history>



VOTER SERVICES

Anna I. Hall

The “Be Counted” Voter Panel at MC School of Law has been rescheduled for Friday January 12, 2018.

LWV-MS is partnering with MS NAACP, MS Votes, Women for Progress in MS, and ACLU.

If anyone is available to help that day we need 2-3 volunteers to greet and manage the crowd.

Where: MC School of Law, 151 E. Griffith, Jackson

When: Friday, January 12, 2018 (rescheduled from Dec. 8, 2017).

Time: 11:30AM-1:00 PM

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED – Please RSVP to mail@womenforprogress.net



<https://www.facebook.com/LWVJA/>



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