



# 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.html](http://www.lwv-ms.org/Jackson_League.html)

## DECEMBER 2018

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Carol Andersen**



In the wake of a vexing mid-term election season in Mississippi, a fellow League of Women Voters member shared with me two articles that posed different but related questions with important bearing on our current times. One asks, "Why are we so angry," and examines the roots of American rage, while the other inquires, "What does civility mean," and explores situations when [controlled] anger is necessary to give voice to what we care about deeply. The first article is by Charles Duhigg and can be found [here](#) in the January/February 2019 issue of *The Atlantic*. The second article is a transcript of the [December 3 episode](#) of "On Being," in which host Krista Tippett considers what the term "civility" actually means, and when it can be [mis]used as a tool of oppressors to silence those on the margin.

Coming from a field of work that puts a premium on civility—i.e. a willingness to consider respectfully the views of others, with an understanding that we are all connected and rely on one another—I tend to think anger is the antithesis of civil discourse. But the value of moral rage as a tool to motivate and impassion people to correct injustices is very intriguing. And, too, the idea that insisting on conciliatory civility in all circumstances can stifle and even subvert reasonable debate.

What I learned from the first article, by Duhigg, is that moral anger is an effective and useful tool for effecting necessary change, as used by Martin Luther King Jr. and Cesar Chavez, but for anger to be productive,

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## LWV-JA CALENDAR 2018-2019

Jan. 8, 2019 Board Meeting\*

Feb. 12, 2019 Board Meeting\*

Feb. 20, 2019

LWVMS Legislative Day and  
LWVJA Member Meeting  
Community Foundation for MS,  
Jackson

March 2, 2019

LWVJA Member Meeting  
Location and Topic: (TBA)

March 12, 2019 Board Meeting\*

April 13, 2019

LWVMS Annual Meeting  
Location and Speaker: (TBA)

\* 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 Jefferson St., Jackson. All meetings are open to the public.



## President's Message (continued from Page 1)

at some point, it must stop. Victory often demands compromise, says Marshall Ganz, who spent 16 years organizing alongside Chavez and is now a senior lecturer in public policy at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. Duhigg worries that the American political elite have learned to use this psychological tool to keep us perpetually divided. The second article, with Tippet's careful analysis of how we use our anger, is more encouraging. She discusses the "inner work" we must do before we ever enter conversations with our challengers, to know our own thoughts and to nurture a curiosity about others' positions on issues. She is careful to point out that "caring is not capitulating." In other words, listening with curiosity and engaging in a respectful, *civil* discussion does not require that we abandon our own convictions. The great hope, Tippet suggests, is that civil discourse with those who think very differently than we do, will in itself illuminate the fact we share common ground as human beings, even if we do not stand on common ground with our opinions.

I think these are useful contemplations for those of us involved in the work of the League of Women Voters. As I am learning in journalist Elaine Weiss' account of the final push to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment, *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*, both anger and civility played important roles in that great battle for access to the ballot box. The early suffragists practiced both, and it seems their greatest successes came when they balanced their anger with decent human courtesy. They were certainly propelled in their campaign by deep frustration and dissatisfaction with the status quo as non-voting citizens, which they marshaled and deployed strategically to call out those who denied women's right to full equality. But their tactics also included civility—perhaps "adventurous" or "muscular" civility, as Krista Tippet might call it—to find common ground among those who feared women's involvement in our nation's political life and those who demanded it. I hope we, in the League of Women Voters, can remember the value of both in our work.

## NOTES ON MEMBERSHIP



Elaine Talbott

At our November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting we were pleased to have Wilma Clopton join the Jackson Area League. Her mother was a past member of the League so it is a family affair. We look forward to her participating in League projects and the opportunity to get to know her.

We have an exciting year coming up with some important and essential actions in which LWV-JA will be involved. It is a great time to reach out to people you know who would like to be more involved in improving voter access and making sure every vote counts the way the voter intended.

In a recent report from LWV-US the statistics showed nationally states are losing Leagues and Leagues are losing members. Mississippi is running counter to trend. We have started two new Leagues in the past three years and our Leagues are adding new members. Let's keep going in that direction.

# LWV-JA MEMBER PROFILE

## WILLIE JONES



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

**WJ:** I live in Jackson, MS now, originally from Bassfield, Mississippi. Married to Harold Tyree Jones (he is Retired USDA). We have two children together, with 5 grandchildren.

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

**WJ:** I moved back to Jackson, MS in 1992 from Los Angeles CA. I am currently President/CEO Dependable Source Corp. of MS, a business that supplies workforce solutions to the transportation industry. In 2011, Dependable Source Corp. Home Health was launched.

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

**WJ:** Approx 2 or 3 years ago. I made my choice to join because of its focus on voter empowerment and education. Also, I have always felt there was transparency in the League's approach. Long time commitment to its mission.

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

**WJ:** Education and healthcare.

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

**WJ:** I just began to get involved this year. I reached out previously, but felt it difficult to connect. When WFP partnered with the league and ACLU on expanding voter access, I got to know one of the League's members and I began to attend meetings. The meetings have been very informative.

**LWV:** Why has the League remained important to you?

**WJ:** Great resource. Good opportunity to meet and dialogue with other women who believe in good policy and understand the importance of voter engagement.

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

**WJ:** I rely on the resources and information to help empower my own community service work. Voter guide, legislative information and informed meetings.

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

**WJ:** Recent speaker on Education.

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

**WJ:** Education, Healthcare, Job development and training, supporting women for public office, strong, innovative leadership that unifies and builds.

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

**WJ: Mission is relevant, strong national presence and its diverse, smart committed membership.**

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

**WJ: Be responsive, continue to partner and build good relationships.**

**LWV: Anything else you would like for us to know about you.**

**WJ: I would like to support the league and engage where needed. Please keep me updated.**

**Willie Jones is an avid golfer, traveler and community advocate. This excerpt from her professional bio illustrates the strength and commitment she brings to the LWV-Jackson Area. LWV-JA welcomes her membership and looks forward to working with her to advance the causes of good government and active citizenship!**

- selected by the Mississippi Business Journal as one of Mississippi Top CEOs for 2018.
- 2013 - 50 Leading Business Women in Mississippi (Top 10 Finalist)
- 2016 - Largest Minority Owned Businesses List - MS Business Journal
- Leadership Greater Jackson Graduate, 2012-2013
- Executive Council, Leadership Greater Jackson Alumni Association, Chair – Programs Committee
- Member/Graduate, Leadership Mississippi 2014
- Former Chair, Jackson Greater Chamber Vision 2022, Core City Small Business Committee
- Vice-President, Board Margaret Walker Center, Jackson State University
- Member, Jackson Rotary Club International
- Board Member, Jackson Arts Council
- Graduate, Millsaps College, Public Management
- Draughton’s Business School - Office Administration
- Santa Monica College – Accounting
- Graduate, SEDI – State Executive Development Institute – Stennis Institute, MS State University
- President (2010 - Present), Women for Progress of Mississippi
- Creator & Co-Host of Women for Progress Radio (WMPR 90.1, Weekly Radio Program 5:30-7:00 pm).
- Through the WFP organization, launched Lunch & Learn. strengthen communities.
- Member, Anderson United Methodist Church
- Advisory Board Member, Pete Brown/Grove Park Golf Course
- Vice President, Lady Drivers Golf Club • Board Chair, Urban League of Mississippi
- Hinds County Economic Development Authority, Board Member, At Large
- Women’s Foundation of MS, 2018 Women of Vision Award
- American Heart Association, Circle of Red Member

## Mississippi Public Education PAC Leaders Speak at November LWV-JA Meeting

The November 17, 2018 meeting of the League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area featured an information-packed presentation on the work of the Mississippi Public Education PAC. Founding members Julia Weaver and Kate Farabaugh filled us in on the origin and background of the MPE PAC and discussed objectives and strategies for 2019 to promote candidates whose platforms include strong positions in support of public education in Mississippi.

Shown below are photos from the presentation, provided by Joy Parikh.

