

APRIL 2001

President's Message

As you read this, the "Goat Hill Express Caravan" may be gathering for the road trip to Montgomery! We need Constitutional reform NOW! The only way we'll get it is for our leaders in Montgomery to realize the substantial grassroots support for this effort. April 4 is our day to prove that constitutional reform is a concern of top priority for Alabama citizens. Call Sarah McDonald (967-2829) and get on the "Express"!

The LWVAL Convention is just one month away. Colette Scott and her committee are giving 110% to this event, and on the weekend of May 5-6 we will all be thankful for their dedication. Colette, Sarah McDonald, Gayle England, and I visited the Tutwiler on March 21 to go over convention plans and tend to a few details. We are fortunate to have the Tutwiler as convention site. It's a four-star jewel that would look quite at home in any European capitol! Our workshops are diverse and feature distinguished experts in the fields of constitutional law and reform, air quality and preservation of natural resources, and League management. I am thrilled beyond words that we will have our dynamic national League president, Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, as our special guest for the banquet! Many League program items are high on Washington's agenda thanks to her progressive leadership.

Although a separate event, our own LWVGB Business Meeting will follow the state convention on Sunday afternoon, May 6 (with a short lunch break in between). Your vote will decide the program, budget, by-laws, and leadership of our Birmingham League for the coming year. As our grassroots foundation demands, you literally will determine the future of this League. Just as we encourage the public to participate in the democratic process, let's not forget our own responsibility to be informed and active as voting members of this organization.

Well, the president's message may not be the place for a sales pitch, but this convention deserves an exception. Even before you read about our LWVGB Business Meeting and more convention details in this Voter, I wanted you to get this news "up front": This convention is substantial in League content, education, and even entertainment. Even if you had to travel across the state to attend this convention, it would be an event highly worthy of your time, delegate or not. And, here it is in your own backyard! I look forward to seeing each of you in the "Goat Hill Express Caravan" on April 4 and then at LWVAL Convention 2001 and the LWVGB Business Meeting in May!

PROPOSED BYLAWS' CHANGES

The Bylaws Committee of the League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham, composed of Judith Hand, Chair, Gayle England, Colette Scott, and Becky Sylvester, proposes the following amendment to the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham:

Article VI. Financial Administration

SEC. 2 Dues - Delete current wording:

Annual dues shall be payable at the time of joining, and each anniversary thereafter. Any member who fails to pay dues within two months after they become payable shall be dropped from the membership rolls.

and substitute:

Dues are payable at the time of joining, and shall be due and payable by September 15 each fiscal year thereafter. Any member who fails to pay dues by December 15 each year shall be dropped from the membership rolls. Any person who joins between January 1 and June 30 of each year shall pay half of the annual dues.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

DINE AROUND-FRIDAY, MAY 4, 2001

Join local and out of town state LWVAL members/delegates for an "informal" evening as we "dine" at some of Birmingham's great restaurants and "welcome" convention attendees. Meet in the lobby of the Tutwiler Hotel at 6PM!!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE-APRIL 15, 2001—
(*LATE FEES APLLIED AFTER DEADLINE*)—SEE
STATE VOTER FOR REGISTRATION FORM OR
WWW.LWVAL.ORG) QUESTIONS – call Sarah
McDonald at 967-2829 or Colette Scott at 988-0868

NEW FINGERTIPS AVAILABLE

The latest edition of *Fingertips* has been printed and is now available by contacting Rose Packer

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CONVENTION NEWS

BANQUET KEYNOTE SPEAKER—SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2001

- **Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins** will be sharing her vision for “Making Democracy Work in the 21st Century.” As the LWVUS President, she is involved in many national as well as international speaking engagements—Jefferson-Jenkins presented the keynote address at the University of North Texas UN Conference for Women and then traveled to the Leiden University in the Netherlands to speak on the League’s efforts to increase citizen participation in the electoral process, focusing on women and African-Americans. She was also the key speaker at the Martin Luther King Jr., celebration at Santa Monica City College and served on a University of Arizona College of Law panel on Campaign Finance Reform and Federal Election Laws. **Don’t miss this exciting opportunity to hear and meet her!**

LUNCHEON SPEAKER—SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2001

- **Scott Stantis-Editorial Cartoonist for the Birmingham News and President, American Association of Editorial Cartoonists**—will share thought-provoking commentary on “issues” with an entertaining presentation of “editorial cartoons.”

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS—SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2001

WORKSHOP I (CONCURRENT-CHOOSE ONE)

- **Leadership and League Management** – **Charlotte Ward, President, LWVAL** will lead an informal presentation and discussion of “how to.” An excellent opportunity to “network” with other Leagues and share common challenges as well as approaches to League management/leadership with “tips” from our state president.
- **Working Toward Clean Air in Alabama** – **Steven A. Smith, DVM, Executive Director of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy** will provide an overview of strategies for clean air in Alabama. Don’t miss this opportunity for timely information on the present situation in Alabama and gain insight into what community action your League may initiate.

WORKSHOP II

- **League Leadership for Constitutional Reform** – a distinguished panel provides insight and discusses strategies for local initiatives.
 1. **Dr. H. Bailey Thomsom, Associate Professor, Department of Journalism, University of Alabama**
 2. **Dr. Howard Walthall, Professor, Cumberland School of Law and Director of State Constitutional Law Project**
 3. **Kay Ivey, former Director of Communications of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE)**, has served as a lobbyist in several different capacities and will be very informative on how to effectively work with the Legislature to get Constitutional Reform.

CAHABA RIVER WATERSHED WAS TOPIC OF MARCH UNIT MEETING

Beth Stewart with the Cahaba River Society gave an excellent presentation on the upper Cahaba watershed. She focused on the area from Trussville to Helena, discussing past problems and future problems that will affect the river. Many of the problems result from decisions made by each municipal planning/zoning board. Their decisions ultimately go before the City Council of that municipality. This watershed is of great concern since it is our main source of drinking water.

We as a League and as individual citizens can make a difference by speaking out about zoning, especially if it is in the city where you live. Encourage the County Commissioners and State Representatives to support proper planning along the Cahaba River.

Recommended Program for LWV of Greater Birmingham 2001-02

The board of directors of the LWV Greater Birmingham recommend adoption of the following items.

1. Retain all current positions.
2. The following new studies should be undertaken in the order listed and as soon as resources are available.
 - a. A new study of Land Use Policies in Jefferson County. Such a study should be done to complement current positions on Air and Water Quality.
 - b. A new study of Public Education Support Systems. Such a study should include, but not necessarily be limited to a review of libraries, guidance & counseling and volunteerism.
 - c. An update on the Administration of Justice position.

CURRENT POSITIONS

- I. Government.
 - A. Urban Government.
 1. Cooperation of city and county governments.
 2. More active role by suburbs in :
 - a. Solutions to areawide problems. (land use, air water quality)
 - b. Equitable funding for lower economic group problems. (housing, transit, health)
 - c. Home Rule.
 - d. Broader representation on boards/agencies.
 - e. Better communication between citizens and boards and agencies.
 - B. Jefferson County.
 1. Separation of legislative and administrative functions.
 2. Election by district.
 3. Consolidation of administration in one office. (Council-Manager form)
- II. Transportation.
 - A. Public system on regional basis.
 - B. Funding on regional basis.
 - C. Stable funding source.
 - D. Planning for efficiency, needs and environmental quality.
 - E. State DOT funding.
 - F. Transit Authority areawide and equitable.
- III. Education.
 - A. Adequate financing.
 - B. Pre-first grade schooling.
 - C. Public involvement.
 - D. Accreditation.
- IV. Administration of Justice
 - A. Diversion from criminal system to community-based programs.
 - B. More uniform sentencing/pretrial release.
 - C. Protection/basic human rights for prisoners.
- V. Natural Resources.
 - A. Air Quality.
 1. Pollution reduction.
 2. Incentives.
 3. Funding.
 - B. Water Quality.
 1. Pollution reduction.
 2. Best management in development and construction.

3. Zoning for flood protection.
4. Urban runoff assessment.
- C. Surface Mining.
 1. Regulation of strip mining.
 2. Noncompliant owner/operators.
- D. Parks and Recreation.
 1. Acquisition of public land.
 2. Evaluation of sale of public land.
- E. Hazardous Materials. (non nuclear)
 1. Restriction of production and use of toxic materials.
 2. Recycling and resource recovery.
 3. Adequate funding for regulation enforcement.
 4. Strengthening of state regulations.
 5. Monitoring of shipments.
 6. Stronger regulation of transport by air or water.
 7. Handling of local accidents.
 8. Alternative methods of shipment.
 9. Local government responsibility.
- F. Nuclear Materials.
 1. Public awareness of dangers in shipment.
 2. Tighter control of transport.
 3. Strengthening of regulations for health and safety.
 4. Local regulation of transport.

Proposed Budget LWV of Greater Birmingham 2001-2002

EXPENDITURES

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
1. Program	225.00	250.00
2. Advocacy	455.00	100.00
3. Citizen Education	60.00	1200.00
4. Voters Service	1955.00	100.00
5. Member Services	1515.00	1450.00
6. Support for the League	3750.00	3500.00
7. Intra-League Activities	925.00	1000.00
8. Administration	330.00	300.00
9. Operation	2259.00	2300.00
10. Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00
11. To Reserves	0.00	0.00
Total Expenditures	\$11,474.00	\$10,200.00

INCOME

1. Dues	4105.00	4000.00
2. Contribution	2370.00	800.00
3. From Ed Fund	3599.00	2450.00
4. From Reserves	0.00	1950.00
5. Miscellaneous	1400.00	1000.00
Total Income	\$11,474.00	\$10,200.00

APRIL CALENDAR

Wed., April 4	Constitutional Reform Rally in Montgomery Meet at Days Inn Hoover Depart Hoover	11:00 a.m. 8:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m.
Wed., Apr 18	Unit Meeting Civil Rights Institute Speaker (to be announced)	12:00 noon
Wed., Apr. 25	LWVGB Board Meeting BACC 8th Floor Conference Room	12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.
Sat., Sun., May 5-6	Alabama League of Women Voters State Convention	
Sun., May 6	Annual LWVGB Business Meeting Tutwiler Hotel, Downstairs Ballroom (following the State Convention)	2:30 p.m.

Happy April Anniversary

The League appreciates your saving the League the expense of a dues notice by sending your dues (\$40 individual, \$60 family) on seeing this reminder.

Any additional contribution is gratefully received! If you wish to make a tax deductible contribution, it must be by separate check made out to the LWV of Alabama Education Fund.

Pat Chetelat
Judy Hand
Betty Likis
Leslie O'Neil
Martha Stewart
MaryStewart

IN MEMORIAM

Longtime League member Katrine Nickel died February 8, 2001. As Membership Chairwoman during the mid-eighties, Katrine was instrumental in doubling the local league membership. Her enthusiasm for the League and for Amnesty International will long be remembered.

THE
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OF WOMEN
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VOTER

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The League of Women Voters is a national, nonpartisan organization, whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government, and to act on selected governmental issues. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. It is financed by membership dues and contributions of interested citizens who realize that the League is the spirit of democracy in action. Membership is open to anyone.