



The VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER BIRMINGHAM

<https://www.lwvbg.org>

August 2018

SEPTEMBER WILL BE DUES RENEWAL MONTH

Leslie O'Neil, LWVGB Treasurer

Please mark your calendar and plan now to include League membership dues in your September budget.

Dues are:	Individual	\$55.00
	Household	\$75.00
	Student	\$27.50

We all want to have a strong local League. Board members have been elected and appointed and are responsible for the leadership of the League. Many of their activities require capital outlay. But we do not want to limit our Board members to those who can afford to provide financial backing to carry out their League activities without reimbursement.

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, \$2050 of your dues money was paid to state and national in the form of Per-Member-Payments. That left \$832.50 to spend on local League activities.

Fortunately, extra support came from member contributions. Seven League members or 11% contributed an extra \$531.50 to the general fund. In addition, 10 members contributed \$530.00 to the Birmingham account of the LWVAL Education Fund and 3 members contributed \$678.30 in In-Kind contributions. This additional \$1739.80 enabled the LWVGB to provide web services, telephone contact, postal services, and membership meeting venues, handouts, and even a cake to celebrate the League's 98th birthday.

In order to have more money to support local League activities in 2018-2019, your LWVGB Board members have each pledged to contribute a minimum of \$5.00 extra to the general fund.

Please join the Board and plan to make an additional contribution when you pay your dues in September.

LWVGB Member Appointed to City Planning Commission

In late 2017, LWVGB board member Haley Colson Lewis was appointed to the Birmingham Planning Commission with a term that will end in 2023. As a member of the commission, Haley also serves on the city's zoning advisory committee. Consider if you could make a difference by offering your services to your city or county--and be a voice for League principles of transparency, accountability, and citizen access.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

Mark your calendar. See this issue or [LWVGB Online Calendar](#) for event details.

- Aug 21:** LWVGB Board Mtg
- Aug 26:** Women's Equality Day
- Sep 2018:** Dues Renewal Month
- Sep 17:** Constitution Day
- Sep 21:** UN Day of Peace
- Sep 25:** National VR Day
- Sep 25:** LWVGB Board Mtg (tentative)
- Sep 27:** LWVGB Cocktail Reception
- Oct 22:** Voter registration deadline Gen Electn
- Oct 23:** LWVGB Board Mtg (tentative)
- Oct 24:** United Nations Day
- Nov 03:** Absentee Ballot Application Deadline
- Nov 05:** Deadline to cast Absentee Ballot
- Nov 06:** ELECTION DAY
- Nov 27:** Annual Giving Tuesday
- Dec 01:** LWVGB Holiday Luncheon



LWVGB Cocktail Reception "Meet & Greet"

Date: Thursday, 9/27/18

Venue: The City Club

Additional information will be included in the September VOTER.

PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPHS

Leonette Slay

The summer is speeding by, and your board has been actively planning both program and outreach activities for the next five months. After a program break during June and July, we are planning a meeting in north Birmingham during the latter part of August. Guest speakers Haley Lewis and Kirsten Bryant of GASP will present a history of the long-standing pollution issues in north Birmingham neighborhoods, their organization's efforts in bringing governmental attention to the environmental issues, and lessons they learned in the process about regulatory agencies, transparency, open records, and financial resources. You will not want to miss this meeting. We are finalizing details of the venue and will send out as soon as they are confirmed. We expect the meeting time will be 5:30-7:00 p.m.

The LWVGB is planning to host a judicial forum in October. Member and former president Ida Tyree-Hyche will contact Upsilon ETA Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha, and the Magic City Bar Association to gauge interest in co-sponsoring the forum with the League. These organizations previously helped co-sponsor the LWVGB program on gerrymandering in March 2018. Jefferson County has fourteen contested judicial races on the November 6th ballot. Shelby County has no contested judicial races. LWVGB plans to assemble a booklet summarizing biographical information and experience on each candidate that will be available to members and the public. We expect to determine a date and venue for the forum in the next month. The League conducted a very successful judicial forum during the last election cycle, and we expect many voters will be looking to us to provide information before they cast votes in November.

At the national level, our volunteer Lobby Corps is gearing up for discussions surrounding the upcoming confirmation hearings for Judge Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. The LWV in DC has a corps of trained volunteers (called the Lobby Corps) who meet as needed with members of Congress or their staffs. On August 1st a Lobby Corps volunteer will meet with the member of Senator Jones' staff who oversees judicial issues. As always, the affected state Leagues have an opportunity to weigh in. Our LWVAL president Barbara Caddell has provided excellent background to the Lobby Corps, with specific concerns, after polling local League presidents. In addition, LWVUS President Chris Carson sent a letter to all senators on July 19th with four suggested questions for Judge Kavanaugh. You can read her letter, and see the League's four fundamental questions, on our web site.

In the League calendar, September is synonymous with membership renewal. Leslie has provided you with information on where your dues go and why membership is so important to our work and overall organizational health. Also, **Save The Date!** The LWVGB annual membership social, scheduled for September 27th, will again be at City Club, 1901 6th Avenue North, Suite 3100, in downtown Birmingham. All members and their guests are invited to hear very brief comments from LWV leaders, watch the sun set over Birmingham, and enjoy the generous hospitality of City Club. Watch your September VOTER for full details!

Remember to mark your December calendar for our December 1st holiday luncheon. We have invited a well-known Birmingham leader as our guest speaker and are awaiting a confirmation. Look for additional details and a bio in a forthcoming Voter.

We encourage your feedback on the VOTER, planned programs and activities, and your ideas for the future.

VOTER SERVICES

Nancy Sales, LWVGB Director

We are certainly getting into the fall and General Election season now. We have new and updated information pamphlets and other documentation to share with both new voter registrants and those wishing to update their voter registration cards. Barbara Lewis and Maria (Vet) Hawkins are working to schedule voter registration educational opportunities for high school students who will be eligible to vote on Election Day. I am also working with The Lovelady Center to conduct voter registration drives and to offer opportunities to apply for voting rights restoration. **Do you have suggestions for additional locations?**

LWVGB will once again participate in the National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday, September 25th. Volunteers will be needed to work voter registration sites on that day and at community colleges, Max Central Station, local shelters and selected high schools through October 22nd. **Can we count on you to help?**

Please contact [me](#) to volunteer for one or more of these important voter services activities.

LWVUS 53rd National Convention

Mikeshia Harvill, LWVGB Vice President

Held in the lovely city of Chicago, the League of Women Voters' United States (LWVUS) 53rd National Convention was packed full of sessions. The theme was, "Creating a More Perfect Democracy." Topics ranged from diversity & inclusion, redistricting, the budget and more.

There was something special about being in the city of Chicago, because it was in this great city in 1920 that the League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt!

I was humbled to be in the midst of such passionate women and men coming together for social justice. The experience was also a bit intimidating because it was my first convention. It took a moment for me catch on to the strict process of following Robert's Rules of Order. It was especially confusing and entertaining to vote with our red/ green cards.



Mikeshia Harvill

The speakers, such as Rosie Rios, 43rd Treasurer of the United States, and Elaine Weiss, award winning journalist & writer, were phenomenal! I left the convention feeling more of a connection to the women and men attending the conference.



Alabama Delegation to Convention

Did You Know?

Newer LWV members may not know that the League has one unit outside the U.S. The unit, organized in 1977, is in Hong Kong. Research "LWV Hong Kong" and see their interesting programs and speakers. (An "umbrella revolution" in Hong Kong in 2015 started because of student-led demonstrations for voting rights. It was so named because students used umbrellas to protect themselves from pepper spray and tear gas).

Board of Directors, 2018-19

Leonette Slay	President (2019)
Mikeshia Harvill	Vice President (2019)
Tyrone Williams	Secretary (2019)
Leslie O'Neil	Treasurer (2020)
Connie Arnwine	Director (2019)
Haley Colson Lewis	Director (2020)
Maria "Vet" Hawkins	Director (2019)
Nancy Sales	Director (2019)

Nominating Committee (2019)

Yvonne Brakefield Knowles, Chair
Jean Johnson
Board Appointee (TBD)

Off Board

Yvonne Brakefield Knowles VOTER Editor

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"The earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it."

~ *Hinmatóowyahtqít, Chief Joseph*

"Human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the fiber of a free people. A nation does not have to be cruel to be tough."

~ *Franklin Delano Roosevelt*

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