



The VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF GREATER BIRMINGHAM
<http://www.lwvgb.org>

April 2021

PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPHS

Leonette Slay

As our year comes to a close, we have one important meeting left before a new LWVGB year begins. This is, of course, our annual meeting, where you--our members--select a new leadership team, vote on a new budget, and examine changes to our Bylaws. Your board has not recommended any new program studies for the coming year.

You will see the report of the Nominating, Budget, and Bylaws committees elsewhere in this Voter, as required under our Bylaws. Please take time to review these recommendations prior to the May 24th virtual meeting. Committee chairs Michael O'Donnell (Nominations), Mary Lynn Bates (Budget), and Leslie O'Neil (Bylaws) and their committee members have been at work for months, and we thank them for their thoughtful work. These reports underpin an efficient and financially secure organization on which we can continue to build. Please make an effort to attend and add your voice--from the comfort of your own space.


LWVAL Convention 2021
May 22nd , 2021
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
[Register for Convention](#)

LWVGB Annual Business Meeting
May 24th, 2021
6:30 – 8:00 P.M.
[Register for this Zoom meeting](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

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

- Apr 22:** Earth Day
- May 12:** LWVGB Board Meeting
- May 22:** LWVAL Virtual Convention
- May 24:** LWVGB Annual Business Meeting
- Jun 24-27:** LWVUS Council Meeting
- Aug 24:** Birmingham Mayoral Election
- Oct 05:** Birmingham Mayoral Election Runoff

LWVGB DUES ASSISTANCE FUND

This fund was instituted in 2019 to ensure that anyone with an interest in joining or renewing membership in the League is not hindered by income or financial difficulty.

If you need to take advantage of this fund, an application form is available [here](#). You may also contact [Leslie O'Neil](#) if you need additional information.

After the new team is elected, they will conduct an orientation and plan priorities for 2021-2022. The annual meeting gives all members, experienced and newer to LWV, the opportunity to suggest ideas for areas of emphasis, possible monthly programs, and generally give feedback for leaders' consideration. One element that will be integrated into all of our plans and activities is diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). To help LWVGB leaders understand the unique possibilities in the Birmingham metro, Dr. Zillah Fluker, CEO of activateelevate.org led 14 of us in a one hour intake session on Sunday, April 18th. We will schedule a two hour followup session with Dr. Fluker for all members at a time TBD for maximum participation.

HONORING MOTHERS ON MOTHER'S DAY

Mother's Day will be celebrated on May 9th. Why don't you consider honoring a mother in your life, past or present, by making a contribution to the [LWVGB General Fund](#) or the [LWVGB Account in the LWVAL Education Fund](#) in her honor or memory. This is an opportunity for you to recognize the accomplishments of our foremothers and the generation of mothers to come.

Happy Mother's Day



To the precious women in our lives who have nurtured us, guided us, and made us strong.
Honor or raise in memory a special woman in your life with a gift to the League of Women Voters.

LWVGB BUSINESS MEETING 2021

MONDAY, MAY 24, 6:30 - 8:00 P.M.

VIA ZOOM

[REGISTER](#)

Please note that this meeting is for League members only. Registration is required.

LWVGB Members, let's set the course for the League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham for 2021-2022. As a grassroots organization, we depend on you, the members, to determine our issue positions, issues for emphasis, budget, leadership, and more. What we will accomplish in the coming year is your decision. **A membership quorum is required to do business, so Members, please make every effort to [register](#) and attend.**



These are the business items that we will consider. The proposed program, budget, and bylaws changes are as recommended by the LWVGB Board. The slate is as recommended by the LWVGB Nominating Committee. Please read these before the meeting and be prepared to discuss and vote.

- **[Program](#)** - Decide LWVGB issue positions, studies, and issues for emphasis for the coming year.
- **[Budget](#)*** - Decide how we should spend our LWVGB funds.
- **[Bylaws](#)*** - Decide on proposed changes in the laws that guide our actions. Here is [draft of bylaws](#) if all changes are adopted.
- **[Slate of Board of Directors and Nominating Committee](#)** - Decide who you want to lead our League in 2021-2022 and recommend future leaders. Also, see this issue of *The Voter* for the report of the current Nominating Committee.

*[Send an email message](#) with subject line "LWVGB Business Meeting 2021" if you are a League member and need assistance in accessing the budget and bylaws proposals or have other questions about the business meeting.

BYLAWS! BYLAWS! BYLAWS!

The Bylaws Committee has conducted a comprehensive look at the LWVGB Bylaws and numerous changes are on the agenda for the Annual Business Meeting.

The most significant changes are to move the fiscal year a month earlier (June 1) and to return to the annual dues method that most other Leagues use. Several changes relate to items that were incorporated into the LWVUS Bylaws at the 2020 National Convention. Finally, a number of changes include clarifying procedures for elections and the makeup of the Nominating and Bylaws Committees, modifying the procedure for removing a board member for non-attendance, and incorporating some essentially editorial corrections.

A copy of the LWVGB Bylaws that has the proposed motions embedded in it is available with the Annual Business Meeting materials. **Since voting on Zoom is time-consuming, it will be helpful if members can contact a committee member with concerns and proposed changes before the meeting.**

Consider printing out a copy of the bylaws document since it may be difficult to read the details on the Zoom screen.

[Leslie O'Neil, Chair](#) , 205-968-9863

[La-Tanya Dunham](#)

[Yvonne Brakefield Knowles](#)

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

In 2000 the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1325, which recognized women's essential contributions to preventing and resolving conflict and building peace, while acknowledging different adverse effects of armed conflict on women and children. The resolution also affirmed the importance of equal participation of women in all efforts within the security environment and the peacebuilding process, including their role in decision-making. In the U.S., the Women, Peace, and Security act was passed in 2017, directing meaningful global participation and protection of women. The U.S. agencies responsible for implementing this act are Defense, State, Homeland Security, and the Agency for International Development. Current global humanitarian crises, especially in Yemen, Syria, and central America underscore the importance of this ongoing effort to involve women in governmental decision making.

LWVGB NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Nominating Committee of 2021-2023 of the League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham recommends the following slate of officers and directors for election to the LWVGB Board. All Nominees have agreed to serve in the positions noted if elected by the membership at the 2021 LWVGB Business Meeting.

Officers:

Vice President - Cindy Lowry

Secretary - Judy Jones

Directors:

LaTanya Dunham; June Fletcher; Jameria Moore; Julie Reese

For Information only, the following Officers and Directors continue in service:

Officers:

President - Dana Ellis (automatically from Vice-president)

Treasurer - Leslie O'Neil

Directors:

Jan Colson

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee further recommends the following as chair and member of the 2021- 2022 Nominating Committee. Nominees have agreed to serve in the position noted if elected by the membership at the 2021 LWVGB Business Meeting.

Ida Tyree-Hyche Hill, Chair; Leonette W. Slay, Member

Respectfully submitted **March 17, 2021** to the LWVGB Membership for their consideration,

Michael R. O'Donnell, Chair; Leonette W. Slay; Jean Johnson

BIRD OUTING SCHEDULED FOR MAY



LWVGB is teaming up with birding and botany experts from our local Audubon Society to offer an accessible one-mile hike on May 15th. Our hike will explore the High Ore Line in Midfield which opened in 2019 and is paved and relatively flat. Experienced birders Sarah Randolph and Chris Oberholster (who is also a botanist) will guide us. For details about the trail, parking suggestions, what to bring, go to alaudubon.org/event/2019-11-08 (Note - the event linked has passed, but our LWVGB event is very much ON!) Sarah has even provided GPS coordinates for the ideal parking spot.

We will gather before 8am at the trailhead (when birds are very active) and enjoy a leisurely walk while learning about the trail and area birds and plants. LWVGB requires that masks be worn. We will provide more details next month but put this on your calendar for a morning with other League members and friends. This might also be a good outing for young people in our circle. Locate your binoculars and grab a birding book like Common Birds of Birmingham and let's enjoy the biological diversity of our area.

SAMFORD UNIVERSITY LWV IN THE PLANNING STAGE

LWVGB Member and Samford University faculty member Dr. Ellen Buckner is working with a committed group of ten students, most of whom are rising juniors, to form a LWV on the campus of Samford University. They have already had several meetings and are working through the multistep process of becoming a sanctioned campus organization. LWVGB is forming a committee to work with Ellen and the students to iron out organizing details over the summer. If you want to join Ellen and committee members Jameria Moore and Leslie O'Neil please reach out directly to Ellen at ebbuckner@gmail.com. Their goal is to have official recognition in place as the fall semester begins so they can engage the Samford community in a variety of ways. The Tuscaloosa LWV has recently started a student group at the University of Alabama so we can share lessons learned and best practices. We hope that the Samford group will provide us with a template to use with other Birmingham area institutions of higher learning. Thanks to Ellen for spearheading this effort!

Board of Directors 2020-21

Leonette Slay	President (2021)
Dana Ellis	Vice President (2021)
Jennifer Sanders	Secretary (2021)
Leslie O'Neil	Treasurer (2022)
Brooke Adams	Director (2022)
Jan Colson	Observer Corp Director (2022)
Cindy Lowry	Membership Director (2022)

Nominating Committee (2021)

Michael O'Donnell, Chair
Jean Johnson

Off Board (2021)

Jean Johnson	Vote411/Communication Mgr
Ida Tyree-Hyche Hill	Voter Services Chair
Nancy Sales	Voter Services Advisor
Yvonne Brakefield Knowles	THE VOTER Editor

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"I am a freeborn citizen of America and by the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, I shall not be denied the right to vote because of my race, color, or sex and I will not move until I have been registered."

*~Indiana Little, Birmingham suffragist
(at the Jefferson County Registrar's Office)
January 18th, 1926*

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