

April 2010

The Voter

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League of Women Voters of
Greater Birmingham
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ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

APRIL 29, 2010

Richards BBQ, 2409 Acton Rd

6:00 pm

Join us for our Annual Business Meeting to vote
in our elections and speak out on relevant
issues.



Honor Your Friends and Loved Ones with a Gift to the Education Fund to Celebrate the League's 90th Birthday

The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 to help newly enfranchised women exercise their rights as voters. Ninety years later, the League is still fighting to improve our systems of government and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy.

You can honor your friends and loved ones by making a donation in their names to the League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham Education Fund in celebration of the League's 90th birthday. This fund works to encourage the active and informed participation of citizens in government and to increase understanding of major public policy issues.

For a tax-deductible donation of at least \$10 per name, the LWVGB will mail a commemorative "Nine Decades of Impact and Achievement" acknowledgement card to each of your honorees. There are two easy ways to donate. 1) Donate online at lwvqb.org, and e-mail the names and addresses of your honorees to apmcgriff@gmail.com; or 2) make checks payable to LWVAL Ed Fund, and mail along with the names and addresses of your honorees to: LWVGB, PO Box 320847, Birmingham, AL 35232. Please mark any children on your list so that they can be sent a special card designed just for them.

Please forward this information to anyone else who you think might be interested in participating.



McDonald's Musings

A Note from LWVGB President, Sarah McDonald

The League year is winding down, even though the political year is just heating up. Our Annual Business Meeting will be Thursday, April 29th at Richard's Bar-B-Que at 6:00 pm. No reservations are needed, just an appetite for League business. This is a good time to visit with friends, volunteer for projects, or to voice your opinion on the running of the League.

State Council will be held on Saturday, May 15th in Auburn. You are also welcome to attend this meeting. There will be discussion about a new proposal to study Charter Schools. This is considered an emergency by the board, as studies are usually adopted at convention, not council.

Joyce Lanning will be Birmingham's delegate to the National Convention in Atlanta in June. Again, all League members are welcome to attend as observers. It's a great way to learn the League ins and outs.

If you have not already done so, please fill out and mail in your household census form. For the life of me, I don't understand the opposition to this constitutionally-mandated exercise. This form asks so very little! Some ill-informed soul wrote to the Birmingham News that the form wants to know how many toilets are in your house. Well, that may have been useful information 100 years ago, but not on the current form. This is just another example of unthinking people being used to spread disinformation.

The board does not take vacation. We will be planning the next League year soon after the National Convention. One thing that seems to be popular is lunchtime meetings, especially at the Alabama Power building downtown. We will discuss this at the Business Meeting.



Sarah speaks at the March meeting

March Meeting Summary *Open Secret*

Offensive. Appalling. Embarrassing.
These are the words that Leaguers used to describe the *Open Secret* video viewed at the March 24 meeting.

As you may know, this re-enactment film, created from the official transcript of the 1901 Constitutional Convention, portrays the men who wrote that document as well as Frances Griffin, a woman who asked to speak on the subject of allowing women to vote. The League of Women Voters of Alabama is a co-sponsor of the film.

Even though many attendees knew what to expect, it was still very enlightening (and shocking) to hear the words spoken. Many present expressed a desire to get more involved with the efforts of the Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform (ACCR) for a Constitutional Convention leading to a new state Constitution.

For more information, check the ACCR website at <http://www.constitutionalreform.org>.

If you have not already seen the *Open Secret* video, the League recommends you do so. You can order a copy of the DVD at the ACCR website or attend an upcoming viewing.

Crowd of 400 assembled to watch the first screening of "Open Secret" at the Carver Theatre in Birmingham in February





90 YEARS OF MAKING
DEMOCRACY WORK

June 11-15, 2010 • Atlanta, Georgia



National Convention June 11-15, 2010 Atlanta, Georgia Marriott Marquis Hotel

[Click HERE for more information.](#)

The LWVUS invites all members to join fellow Leaguers from 50 states, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Hong Kong to celebrate 90 remarkable years of League achievements and chart the course for the next biennium of League programs.

All League members are invited to attend Convention, but Presidents of local, state and ILO Leagues appoint their allotted delegates. Non-voting members can be part of the excitement as the Convention delegate body debates and adopts the 2010-2012 National Program, the LWVUS Budget for the next fiscal year, and amendments to the LWVUS Bylaws. Delegates will also be choosing the LWVUS Board officers, directors and nominating committee for the next biennium.

UPDATE on Efforts to Promote a Constitutional Convention

Senate Joint Resolution 42 (SJR42) may come up before the Senate this week. This Resolution, if passed, would allow the people of the State of Alabama to vote on having a Constitutional Convention.

Since the Senate has already voted to let the people vote on Bingo and on allowing Alabama to opt out of the new Federal health care legislation, this may be the year for allowing the people to vote on a new Constitution for our State!

Let your Senators know you want them to vote in favor of SJR42. You can find your Senator and his/her contact information at <http://www.legislature.state.al.us>.

Funding for Climate Change Toolkit

The Board of the League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham approved a contribution from the Education fund to support the development of a Climate Change “toolkit” that is under development.

The toolkit will provide resources to Leagues to tell the story of climate change. This toolkit will be made available to all Leagues in the next year.

Alabama Transit Coalition

The Alabama Transit Coalition, a statewide transportation organization formed last year, will hold its Second Annual meeting on April 27, 2010 at United Way of Central Alabama in Birmingham.

The League is a member of this organization, and Nancy Ekberg represents the League on the organization’s Steering Committee. All League members are considered members of this organization and are invited to attend the meeting.

When: Tuesday April 27, 2010

Time: 9:30 – 3:00pm

Where: United Way of Central Alabama, 3600 8th Avenue South, Birmingham 35232.

Online registration for the meeting and information about the breakout groups can be found at <http://www.uwca.org>.

Lunch will be provided, compliments of AARP Liveable Communities Initiative.

The agenda is expected to include:

- Recap of 2009
- Coalition Goals for 2010
- New Steering Committee Members
- Keynote Speaker from Community Transportation Association of America

For more information, contact cnewton@uwca.org.

LWVGB Calendar

Month	Day	Time	Event
April	29	6:00pm	Annual Meeting, Richards BBQ on Acton Rd
May	4	11:30am	Board Meeting, Community Foundation Building

WELCOME to our new members!



*Sarah Witherspoon, Birmingham
Morgan Lee Curlette, Morris
Thomas Nelson, Birmingham*



QUOTABLE QUOTES

Whatever women do they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily, this is not difficult.
~Charlotte Whitton

They who would give up an essential liberty for temporary security, deserve neither liberty or security.
~ Benjamin Franklin

Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote.
~George Jean Nathan

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