

April 2013 Edition



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
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The VOTER



League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham
<http://www.lwvgb.org>

April Membership Meeting - The 2014 Project Alabama

By Trish Powell Crain

Special points of interest:

- * April 9—April Membership Meeting, Homewood Library, 6pm
- * April 26-28—LWVAL Convention, Tuscaloosa
- * May 9—Annual Meeting, Niki's West, 6pm

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Please join us for our April membership meeting on Tuesday, April 9, at 6:00 p.m. in the Round Auditorium at the Homewood Public Library in Homewood. We will learn about the 2014 Project Alabama, a non-partisan effort to encourage, identify and train more women to seek elected offices.

Alabama has a poor track record of electing women. Currently, there are 19 women in the Alabama legislature. Alabama ranks 48th among state legislatures with women comprising 13.6% of state legislators according to statistics compiled by the Center for American Women and Politics. The election of 2014 presents a unique opportunity for women to increase

their numbers in office. Following the 2010 census, Alabama's congressional and legislative districts were redrawn. The congressional districts affected the 2012 election but the redrawn legislative districts take effect in 2014. New and open seats will be created.

Reapportionment creates opportunity, and research shows that women have more success winning open seats. Also, 2014 coincides with a gubernatorial election.

The 2014 Project Alabama has partnered with many organizations in Alabama to identify and train women who are considering run-

ning for elected offices. These organizations include the American Association of University Women (AAUW), the Leading Edge Institute, the Women's Economic Development Council, the Women's Leadership Institute of Auburn University, and Women of Will.

Join us for this informative presentation and discussion about the need for women's voices and perspectives to be represented in our elected bodies and how to increase the number of qualified women in elected positions. Light refreshments will be served.

May 9 Annual Meeting

By Cyrondys Jackson Springer

Our 2013 Annual Meeting will be held on May 9, 2013 at 6pm at Niki's West, 233 Finley Ave W, 35204; 205-252-5751.

See business meeting plans and documents at www.lwvgb.org/members/



Constitutional Reform Report

By Nancy Ekberg

PROGRAMS

Please read the recommended programs for 2013-2014 at

[http://
www.lwvgb.org/
LWVGB_Program
2009-10.htm](http://www.lwvgb.org/LWVGB_Program_2009-10.htm)

The Board recommends to our membership that we continue with these programs.

We will vote on the adoption of these programs at our May business meeting.

The Constitutional Revision Commission has set up three sub-committees to recommend revisions to the following three Articles:

Education Article: Chair, Vicki Drummond, members Senators Brian Taylor, new Commissioner Quinton Ross, Rep. Randy Davis and John Anzalone

Executive Article: Chair, Matt Lembke, with Al Agricola, Greg Butrus and Senator Cam Ward.

Declaration of Rights: Chair, Jim Pratt with Rep. Patricia Todd and Carolyn McKinstry.

All three committees met for a couple hours on Friday, March 15th at the law offices of Bradley Arant in Birmingham.

The Education Article sub committee met for a public hearing on Friday, March 22nd at the offices of Bradley Arant for three hours and

heard from several who spoke in favor of keeping the first sentence of Section 256 and deleting all of Constitutional Amendment 111.

The next meeting of the Education sub-committee will be May 6th.

The time and place will be listed on the ALI web site— www.ali.state.al.us

The next meeting of the Executive Article sub committee will be April 1st at 1:00 p.m. at the offices of Bradley Arant in Birmingham

Each committee will report their findings to the full Commission right after the Legislative Session ends in early May.

The Local Government sub committee that is part of the revision of the Legislative Department

Article had a meeting on March 13th at 3:00 p.m. in the State House to deal with some final aspects of the Legislative Article.

They will probably meet one more time before the Legislative Session ends so they can report findings to the full Commission.

All information about meetings and reports of earlier meetings as well as the transcripts of the majority of full Commission meetings are on the Alabama Law Institute website: www.ali.state.al.us

Students from UAB, University of Alabama and Samford have held meetings in March to discuss revision of the Legislative Article and the Education Article.

We're "Flaggin' the Train to Tuscaloosa" for LWVAL Convention 2013

By Jean Johnson

Don't miss LWVAL Convention 2013 in Tuscaloosa, April 26-28, at the Hotel Capstone! All LWVGB members are invited and encouraged to attend. Delegates will vote on the business of the League - the budget, officers and directors, changes in bylaws, and program for the coming

biennium. But there is so much more to convention for all League members! Our hosts, LWV of Alabama and LWV of Greater Tuscaloosa, have a dynamite weekend in store for you! Read on.

The convention weekend will begin with a Technical Workshop on Friday, April

26, presented by Scarlett Gaddy and Jean Johnson. The workshop will focus on the power of social media to advance League projects and objectives in our communities. Because of limited space, each League is limited to one or two representatives at the workshop. LWVGB will be well

(Continued on page 3)

Convention (continued from page 2)

represented by Catrena Carter.

At the luncheon buffet on Saturday, April 27, Dr. Leigh Ann Poole, Coordinator of the Nurse Practitioner Concentration in Mental Health and Primary Care for Rural Populations, Assistant Professor, at the University of Alabama, will speak on Health Care in Alabama. Dr. Poole is a primary care provider. Her nursing experience includes emergency, labor and delivery, neonatal ICU, disaster relief, student health, international missions, and travel nursing. She is an expert in health care policy, advanced health assessment, advanced pharmacology, and online education. Dr. Poole's clinical research interests are in telehealth and health seeking behaviors in vulnerable populations.

Mary Klenz, Board Member of LWV of the United States and Alabama Liaison, will be joining us for convention. Want to know more about national League activities and how Alabama League members can participate? Mary will take your questions on Saturday afternoon.

A Panel Discussion on Water and Energy in Alabama will follow on

Saturday afternoon. Addressing energy issues will be Michael Churchman, Executive Director, Alabama Environmental Council and Senator Cam Ward (R) 14th District, Bibb, Chilton, Jefferson and Shelby, Co-Chair Permanent Joint Legislative Committee on Energy Policy. Water issues will be addressed by Heather Elliott, JD, Associate Professor of Law at the University of Alabama and author of a 2012 Alabama Law Review article on Alabama's Water Crisis (<http://www.law.ua.edu/pubs/lrarticles/Volume%2063/Issue%202/Elliott.pdf>) and Vaughn McWilliams, JD, an Alabama native who has been involved in our State Water Planning process. Formerly, McWilliams was Water Resource Specialist at the Colorado Water Conservation Board, and Assistant Attorney General in the Colorado Attorney General's Office, Natural Resources Section. These four speakers should give us a balanced view of the energy and water issues facing our state and hopefully be able to answer some of our questions. Questions for the panelists may be submitted to Joyce Lanning at jalanning@bellsouth.net prior to convention.

At the Convention Banquet on Saturday evening, keynote speaker Robert "Bob" McCurley, Jr. will address issues facing Alabama. Mr. McCurley was the Director of the Alabama Law Institute from 1975-2012. In that capacity, he was involved in drafting legislation for the Alabama Legislature, providing orientation to new and returning legislators prior on the legislative process, reporting about legislative sessions in reports and by speaking around the state to groups like ours, writing numerous books and articles about legislative issues, and teaching courses at the University of Alabama Law School.

As you can see, you do not want to miss this convention! "Flag the Train to Tuscaloosa" (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZyPaaAfAW4>) and catch up with League friends. Make new friends and enjoy the hospitality of LWV of Greater Tuscaloosa. It is sure to be an informative and enjoyable weekend! Registration deadline is April 15. Get all convention and registration information at www.convention2013.lwval.org. See you in T'Town!



Convention Luncheon Speaker, Dr. Leigh Ann Poole



Convention Keynote Speaker, Robert "Bob" McCurley, Jr.



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Making Democracy Work!

League of Women Voters Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

League of Women Voters Education Fund Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters Education Fund works to encourage the active and informed participation of citizens in government and to increase understanding of major public policy issues.



Special LWVAL Legislative Reports

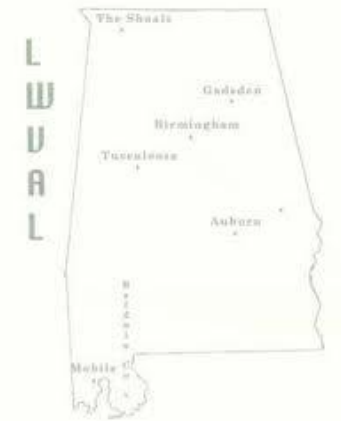
By LWVAL

On Feb. 26-28, 2013, the Alabama Legislature took bold actions in the areas of legislative operations/administration and education policy.

Because of the length, complexity, and far-reaching impact of this legislation, the LWVAL offers summaries and impact analyses of the bills in these special break-out reports:

- [Legislative Operations and Administration: HB147/SB122](#)
- [“Local Control School Flexibility Act of 2013” or “Alabama Accountability Act of 2013”: HB84/SB54 \(Updated 3/9/13 to include filing of dissent and Montgomery Circuit Court action.\)](#)

For complete coverage of all issues followed by the LWVAL, see the [LWVAL 2013 Legislative Report, last updated March 23, 2013.](#)



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