

July 2010

The Voter

Board of Directors
League of Women Voters of
Greater Birmingham
205 583-5000
admin@lwvqb.org

- Sarah McDonald, President
- Nancy Ekberg, 1st Vice President
- Angelyn Simmons, Secretary
- Amanda McGriff, Treasurer
- Joyce Lanning, Director
- Leonette Slay, Director
- Ida Tyree-Hyche, Director
- Joan Burroughs, Public Relations
- Ginny Randolph, Voter Services
- Karen Threlkeld, Editor
The Voter
- Connie Arnwine, Nominating
Committee Chair
- Jean Johnson,
Off-Board Technical Director
- Ann Smith,
Off-Board Observer Corps Water
Works



*Ginny and Sarah at the Annual
Board Planning Meeting*

SPECIAL ISSUE

This month's VOTER contains a lot of information about plans for 2010-2011, based on the National Convention and LWVGB Annual Board Planning Meeting. We wanted to share with you what we were up to!

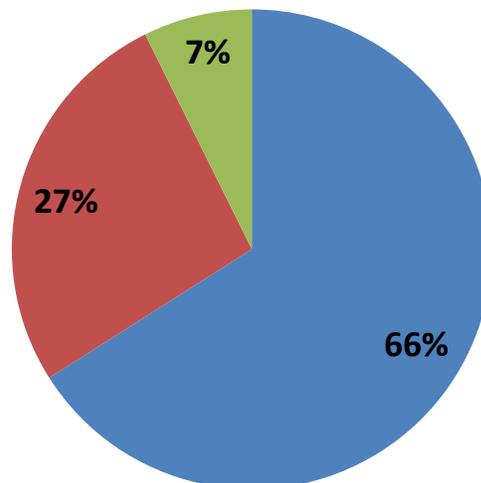
WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

When you pay League dues, you may be wondering where that money actually goes to work. The chart below shows that most of your \$45 annual dues go to the National League (\$29.70) with a smaller but substantial amount to the State League (\$12.00).

The Local League only gets a very small amount, \$3.30 per member per year!

Dues Allocation

■ National Per-Member-Payment (PMP) ■ State PMP ■ Local PMP



10/10/10 Day of Climate Action

At the Atlanta Convention for LWV, delegates attending the climate change caucus enthusiastically endorsed the idea that Leagues across the country participate in the international day of climate action on October 10, 2010. The campaign, the **10/10 Global Work Party**, is being organized by 350.org, a movement aimed at uniting the world around solutions to the climate crisis.

In every corner of the world they hope communities will put up solar panels, insulate homes, erect windmills, plant trees, paint bike paths, launch or harvest local gardens and more.

According to the July 8, 2010 LWV Leader's Letter, State and Local Leagues are encouraged to engage in some kind of activity on 10/10/10 that will build awareness about what people can do to protect the planet. Leagues can coordinate plans and learn what others are doing on the League's climate change email list. (To join the discussion, visit the For Members section of the LWVUS website.) For project ideas and resources, check out the League's new web-based [Toolkit for Climate Action](#) and 350.org's October 10 webpages.

Our September 30 meeting for LWVGB will be devoted to information and preparation for our 10/10/10 project, to be chosen in August. If you have ideas and suggestions or would like to get involved in planning and/or participating in our 10/10/10 Work Party, contact Joyce Lanning at 205-870-0808 or jalanning@bellsouth.net.

Put these dates on your calendar now: **11:30 on September 30, 2010 in the Electra Room of Alabama Power**. The room will be available starting at 11:00 for those who would like to get lunch at the cafeteria to bring to our meeting room to learn about our part of the Global Work Party. And save the **afternoon of Sunday, October 10, 2010**, to join in our chosen project!



CHARTER SCHOOLS STUDY APPROVED BY STATE LEAGUE

Laura Hill of the Auburn League is leading a LWVAL study on Charter Schools. Anyone interested in volunteering to help should contact Sarah McDonald.



Karen Threlkeld & Nancy Ekberg consider an issue at the Annual League Planning Meeting

More about the LWV Toolkit for Climate Action, continued from page 3

IV. Mobilizing Your Community

Learn about programs to cut GHG emissions and adopt more sustainable best practices and how you can help advance green initiatives in your community.

V. Promoting Public Policy

Strong action at every level of government is needed to combat global climate change. Learn about important policy initiatives at the state and federal levels and ways in which you can build the public support needed to secure their adoption and implementation.

VI. Resources

Explore this comprehensive set of resources for in-depth information about key climate change-related topics, including climate science, energy, economics, ethics, health, and national security.

More about the LWV Toolkit for Climate Action

State and local Leagues, and individual League members, have a critical role to play in helping to limit future climate change and protect the planet. This toolkit provides action plans and resources that Leagues and League members can use to:

- help people in their community learn what they can do at the individual and household levels to save energy and reduce their carbon footprint,
- work with their community to set emissions-reduction goals and then develop and implement a plan to achieve those goals, and
- build grassroots support for strong action on climate change at the state and federal levels, including eventual ratification of an effective international climate agreement.

In the Toolkit:

I. Choosing a Role for Your League

Play a very important role in educating your communities about global climate change and the need for strong action to reduce GHG emissions.

II. The Basics of Climate Change

Get up to speed on the basics of climate change with the clearly written and accessible resources in this section.

III. Engaging Individuals

The decisions that people make every day have an impact on climate change. Help individuals and groups from school-age kids to congregations and business communities learn about actions they can take to reduce their carbon footprint.

- Continued on page 2 -

McDonald's Musings

It has been a busy summer for League members across the state and across the country. The LWVAL held its Council in Auburn in May. Using "emergency" measures the Council adopted a study of the Charter School concept. This was done so that should the legislature ever pass enabling legislation for charter schools, the League would have a position to use in analyzing the law. Lauren Hill of Auburn is heading the study and would welcome committee members. Teaching credentials are not needed for the committee – just a desire for the best education for Alabama's students.

Leonette Slay was our delegate to the national convention in Atlanta in June. I attended as an observer for part of the meeting. We came home with some interesting ideas for administration of the League which we will talk about in coming months. I also met some old League friends from St. Louis – my original mentor and several others who got me started in the League. Whenever I find myself suffering from League Fatigue, a trip to a national convention is the cure. I shall spend my last few months here in Birmingham working to continue the momentum begun by my predecessors, Ginny Randolph, Yvonne Brakefield and Jean Johnson, to name a few.



SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

The League is always seeking volunteers to assist in various ways. Currently we are seeking volunteers to help Jean Johnson with the League's website. Consider this a great way to learn or enhance your web skills. Contact Jean at jjohnson@brooknet.com for more information.

How about joining us? Connie Arnwine and Nancy Ekberg want to enlist a few good people to help with yearly notices to members, organize membership dinners, encourage member participation in League activities and reach out to groups who share our goals to find members interested in becoming Leaguers. Call Nancy at 967-2897 or e-mail her at _nanekberg@aol.com (mailto:nanekberg@aol.com) if you can join us in this effort.

LWVGB Calendar

Month	Day	Time	Event
August	3	11:30am	<i>Board Meeting Community Foundation Building</i>
September	7	11:30am	<i>Board Meeting Community Foundation Building</i>
September	30	11:30am	<i>Monthly membership meeting Alabama Power Company Electra Room</i>

IN MEMORIAM

Long time League members remember Marilyn "Mitch" Pippen who died June 26th in Birmingham. An Illinois native, she came to Birmingham with her late husband, Tom Pippen. She was quite active in a number of local groups, including the League and the United Nations Association.

A memorial service for Gaynelle Tatum, former LWVGB president, will be held on July 16th at 4 pm at Kirkwood By The River.



WELCOME to our new members!

Catherine Roden-Jones from McCalla

League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham
PO Box 530522
Mountain Brook, AL 35253