



# The VOTER

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

JUNE-2011

## Board Planning Meeting



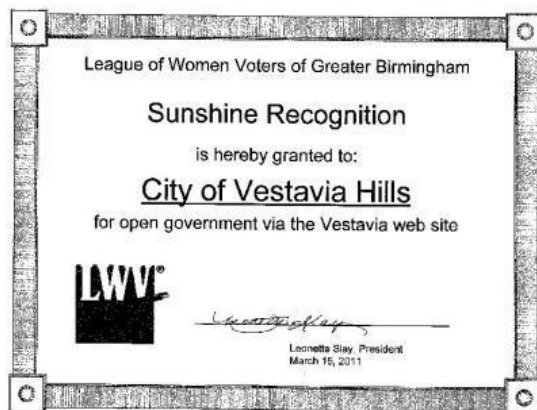
The 2011-2012 LWVGB Board held its annual planning meeting on June 11, 2011 at the home of Leonette Slay in Hoover. Kathy Byrd, our LWVAL President, joined the group to speak on the LWVUS Membership Recruiting Initiative (MRI) as well as LWVAL priorities for 2011-2012. The LWVGB Board then voted to readopt the LWVGB policies on non-partisanship; use of membership directory & mailing lists; use of exclusionary establishments for meetings; diversity; consensus and concurrence; legislature; participation on public commissions, boards, and committees; and League cooperation with other organizations. We discussed portfolio assignments and meeting locations, and developed a tentative calendar of

activities for 2011-2012. Overall, it was a very productive meeting and the calendar will be published soon.

## Must See!

Vestavia Hills has uploaded the LWVGB Sunshine Week certificate to their website --

<http://www.vestaviahills.net/Business/NewsandRankings/tabid/399/Default.aspx>.



## SUMMER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 12, 2011: LWVGB Board Meeting, The Community Foundation Building, 2100 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North, 11:30am.

August 2, 2011: LWVGB Board Meeting, The Community Foundation Building, 2100 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North, 11:30am.

September 13, 2011: LWVGB Board Meeting, The Community Foundation Building, 2100 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue North, 11:30am.

**The Next General Membership Meeting will be scheduled in September.**

## Legislative Wrapup



The 2011 Legislative Session ended on June 9<sup>th</sup> and brought with it SOME constitutional reform. For the first time, constitutional reform legislation has finally passed. Senate President Pro Tem Del Marsh offered a Senate Joint Resolution, SJR82, that was passed unanimously in the Senate, passed by voice vote in the House and has been signed by the Governor.

The Resolution established a Constitutional Revision Commission that will provide a schedule of reforms beginning this year and continuing through 2014. The Commission will consist of the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the President Pro Tem of the Senate and three persons appointed by each of them. Those to be appointed must reflect the diversity of the State. The Alabama Law Institute will advise and staff the Commission.

The first year, they are charged with giving the Legislature constitutional amendments on unconstitutional language in the Constitution, a revision of the Banking Article and a revision of the Private Corporation Article.

In 2012 they are to give the Legislature constitutional amendments on the Distribution of Powers, the Legislative Department and Representation.

In 2013 they are to give the Legislature constitutional amendments on the Declaration of Rights, Executive Department and Education.

In 2014 they are to give the Legislature constitutional amendments on Impeachments, Exemptions and Miscellaneous.

One constitutional amendment was offered and passed this year regarding erasure of unconstitutional language, popularly called the racist language bill, SB112. It was offered by Senator Arthur Orr with many, many co-sponsors. It passed the Senate and the House and goes to the voters in the General Election in 2012. It erases the language that authorizes poll taxes and restrictions to voting, and it erases any reference to a prohibition against Black and White children being taught together.



There was some objection to the bill by some Black legislators because it did not include language that would require the State to provide education. That language had been included in a bill sponsored by Rep. James Buskey in 2004, which failed at the polls because voters were convinced by former Supreme Court Judge Moore and others that if the State was required to provide education, active judges could force the State to increase taxes.

Bills on the Banking Article and the Private Corporation Article made it all the way to the Senate floor but died because they were not brought up for debate. They will be re-introduced again next Session.

Other reform bills also died because they did not move forward. One was a constitutional amendment allowing statewide limited home rule to counties. This one (HB181) should not be confused with home rule

legislation offered for Jefferson County. HB181 offered very limited home rule, and no authority to levy taxes. It died in the House County and Municipal Government Committee. Another reform bill that did not move was Rep. Patricia Todd's constitutional amendment that would have allowed a very small portion of gas and vehicle tax to be used for public transportation. It died in the House Ways and Means Committee.

## Member Profile



Ida Tyree Hyché has been a member of the League of Women Voters Greater Birmingham for over seven years, actively participating in voter registration projects. Her volunteer service with voter registration includes working in the Jefferson County Deputy Registrar's office, setting up voter registration tables at UAB, and community civic and professional organizations. Elected an LWVGB Director in 2010, Ida served on the nominating and budget committees, and participated in the Sunshine Week project research. She made the formal presentation of Sunshine Week's study to the Jefferson County Commission in March 2011.

An avid civic and church leadership volunteer, Ida currently serves as Director and Secretary on the board of Christian Service Charities, Annadale, VA, an organization affiliated with the Combined Federal Campaign, and Southeast Regional Director for the United States Army Warrant Officer Association, which serves AL, GA, TN, SC, NC, FL, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Ida is a federal employee with a federal agency in Huntsville and is also a member of the Alabama Bar. She is married to a retired principal/educator and has one daughter, Shade' A. Hyché, a League member, who is a 2L student at Cumberland School of Law.

*Photos from Board Planning Meeting, 11 June 2011*



### Board of Directors, 2011-2012

Ida Tyree-Hyche	President
Vacant	1st VP
Angelyn Simmons	Secretary
Amanda McGriff	Treasurer
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Karen Threlkeld	Director, The VOTER
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Cyrondys Jackson	Director, PR/Communication
Joan Burroughs	Director, Health
Leonette Slay	Director, Membership
Michael O'Donnell	Chair, Nominating Committee
Jean Johnson	Technical Director (Off Board)
Donald Marks	Social Media (Off Board)
Diane Marks	Social Media (Off Board)

### QUOTABLE QUOTES

Because I am a woman, I must make unusual efforts to succeed. If I fail, no one will say, "She doesn't have what it takes." They will say, "Women don't have what it takes." ~Clare Boothe Luce

Never let the hand you hold, hold you down. ~Author Unknown

I am woman! I am invincible! I am pooped! ~Author Unknown

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