

March 2010

The Voter

Board of Directors
League of Women Voters of
Greater Birmingham
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- Nancy Ekberg, 1st Vice President
- Cissy Bennett, Secretary
- Amanda McGriff, Treasurer
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- Joyce Lanning, Natural Resources
- Joan Burroughs, Public Relations
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- Jean Johnson,
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- Ann Smith,
Off-Board Observer Corps Water
Works
- Angelyn Simmons, Off-Board Voter
Assistant

MARCH 24, 2010 MEETING

Open Secret

Based on the transcripts of the 1901 Alabama Constitutional Convention

This month's meeting will begin at 11:30am at the Alabama Power Corporate Headquarters in the Electra Room. You may purchase lunch in the cafeteria prior to the meeting.

Alabama Citizens for Constitutional Reform, with the support of the League of Women Voters of Alabama, Greater Birmingham Ministries and the American Association of University Women of Alabama, has taken the official transcript of the 1901 Alabama Constitutional Convention and created a re-enactment, using actors in period costume, speaking the words of the 1901 delegates.

This half-hour re-enactment film was named "Open Secret" after some of the words used during that Convention. A woman, although not a delegate, and not allowed to vote in 1901, appealed to the men to allow women to vote. They turned her down. They also disenfranchised poor whites and Blacks in that memorable document. Their words will surprise you. The screenings of this re-enactment are being presented throughout Alabama beginning this month. There will be a discussion following each screening on whether or not the Constitution should be changed, and the best way to do it. The audience is invited to participate in the discussion.



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 lwvgb.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.

LWVGB Program Review Committee Update

The Program review recommends no changes at this time for the League of Women Voters of Greater Birmingham Program.

No additional studies have been suggested at this time.

Nominating Committee Report March 1, 2010

The LWVGB Nominating Committee recommends to the membership the following members to serve on the Board of Directors for the 2010 to 2012 term:

Treasurer----Amanda McGriff
Director-----Joyce Lanning
Director-----Leonette Slay
Director-----Open

The Nominating Committee recommends the following member for the unexpired term from 2010 to 2011:

Secretary----Angelyn Simmons

The Nominating Committee recommends the following members for the 2010 to 2011 Nominating Committee:

Chair: -----Open
Member:-----Yvonne Brakefield

Respectfully Submitted,

2009-2010 Nominating Committee:

Amanda McGriff, Nancy Sales, Ann Smith

McDonald's Musings

A Note from LWVGB President, Sarah McDonald

In this issue you are receiving some, but not all, of the information we are required by the bylaws to send you 1 month before our Annual Business Meeting on April 29th.

The board decided some time ago not to review bylaws every year and this is a no-review year. The report on recommended program is contained in this issue.

The report of the Nominating Committee is here, but incomplete at this time. The committee, consisting of Nancy Sales and Amanda McGriff, worked very hard under the leadership of Ann Smith. There are always slots available for board members and the chair of the Nominating Committee is still open. So, yes, there is still time to call Ann, Nancy or Amanda. (We actually have until March 29th to send you additions to the slate.)

The budget report will come to you by email or paper mailing near the end of the month.

We hope to have many of you with us at Richard's Barbeque for dinner and the meeting.

More information will be provided in the April Voter.



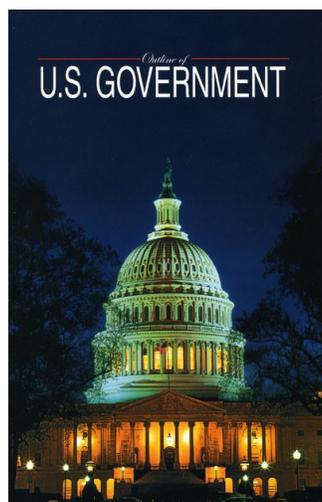
February Meeting Summary

Biofuels from Waste: Good Economics, Good for our Environment

Given the strides made by the City of Hoover in the last fifteen years, the city's fleet of over 400 vehicles might just be fuel-independent in the future. David Lindon, Fleet Manager for the city, explained that the Energy Policy Act of 1992 promoted the use of alternative fuels and alternative fuel vehicles in order to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil. (Alternative fuels are designated E for Ethanol or B for Bio-Diesel, followed by a number which is the percent of the fuel from that source.)

Not knowing when the fleet might be penalized for violation of that law, under the leadership of Mayor Tony Petelos, Hoover began purchasing - for the same price - flex-fuel automobiles that could run on E-85 or regular gas. If the E-85 fuel wasn't available, the fleet got credit for compliance anyway. But an economical entrepreneurial spirit evidently kicked in because now 85% of the fuel used by the City of Hoover is a qualified alternative fuel made in the United States, and the B-100 Bio-Diesel is made in Hoover from used cooking oil gathered from restaurants and homes.

(continued on Page 4)





February Meeting (continued from Page 3)

Detailing the costs from unclogging sewers fouled by grease, Mr. Lindon showed how the G2O (Grease 2 Oil) program pays it's own way, saving service calls and cutting fleet fuel costs at the same time. B100 costs Hoover only \$.70 per gallon to make. The by-product of the conversion process produces water and glycerin, which is sold to a car wash to be used as soap. By his calculations, if each household in Hoover failed to wipe a frying pot free of cooking oil before washing, it could put about 1 tablespoon down the drain. If each home created only one tablespoon of oil a week this way, with 30,000 homes, there would be one hundred ten 55-gallon barrels of cooking oil per year clogging the sewers.

In April, 2009, the City of Hoover fueled the first police vehicles in the country with E-85 fuel - made from eight tons of Hoover municipal wood waste. The waste was taken to a demonstration plant in Livingston, Alabama where it was processed into ethanol. This cellulosic ethanol is preferable to corn ethanol, and David would like to see a commercial-scale production facility making it available in his own city.

David Lindon left us with a reminder: "Whether you think you can or think you can't, you're right." Leadership like this program in Hoover can help the greater Birmingham area be right – in the right way.

Even if you don't live in Hoover, you can take your waste cooking oil to any Hoover Fire Station for recycling.

Update on Legislation for a Constitutional Convention

Although HJR 54 was tabled on February 24th, it is still available for re-introduction in the House.

SJR 42 is in the Rules Committee of the Senate, and Rules Chair, Lowell Barron, says he is considering it for introduction into the Senate. SB177 has passed out of committee and is awaiting third reading and vote by the Senate.

League members are asked to continue their pressure on House and Senate legislators. Your legislator can be reached at www.legislature.state.al.us.

Of particular concern is Rep. James Buskey, of District 99 in Mobile, who steadfastly stands up against HJR54 via filibuster.

Also of concern are Reps. Paul DeMarco (Homewood), Greg Canfield (Vestavia Hills), Mary Sue McClurkin (Shelby County), Owen Drake (Leeds), Jim McClendon (Springville, St. Clair, and Shelby), Elwyn Thomas (Oneonta), John Rogers (Birmingham), Jack Williams (Birmingham) and Allen Treadaway (Birmingham).

In the Senate, there is a majority as co-sponsors, but there is concern about Sen. Scott Beason (Gardendale) and Steve French (Mountain Brook).

Thanks for ANY and ALL calls you make.

Copies of the "Open Secret" DVD, the re-enactment that uses the words from the Official Transcript of the 1901 Constitutional Convention, have been sent to all Legislators.

Check the ACCR website www.constitutionalreform.org to see a list of the screenings, including a viewing on March 24 at our local League meeting.

LWVGB Calendar

Month	Day	Time	Event
March	24	11:30am	Monthly Membership Meeting, Alabama Power Corp
April	6	11:30am	Board Meeting, Community Foundation Building
April	29	6:00pm	Annual Meeting, Richards BBQ on Acton Rd

QUOTABLE QUOTES

Sure God created man before woman. But then you always make a rough draft before the final masterpiece.

~Author Unknown

Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves.

~Abraham Lincoln

Blessed are the young, for they shall inherit the national debt.

~Herbert Hoover, attributed



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

*Cyrodys Jackson of Birmingham
Denise Pomeroy of Hoover*

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