

IN MEMORIAM: RUTH WRIGHT

When the Auburn/East Alabama League of Women Voters wanted a study done thoroughly and meticulously we turned to Ruth Wright. The League was her passion. She served her local league as secretary, as City Council observer, and finally (with much trepidation on her part) as a two-term president. Ruth was always afraid she would not do a good job. My role was to say, "There, there, you're doing fine. It will be all right." And I was right, because she always did what she set out to do, and did it well. In a time when the local papers didn't cover city affairs very well, Ruth's detailed reports in the Voter kept us informed about the issues that concerned the League. During her presidency, she was truly the face of the League in the community, and it was a face of integrity and passion for good government and wise decision-making.

At the state level, Ruth put all the writing skills she taught to generations of Auburn University students into play in writing the reports of state studies on which League positions were based. These included studies of the Legislature, initiative and referendum, and charter schools.

The East Alabama League honored Ruth with the Phyllis Rea Award for community service in 2003, and the Sue Flood Award for service to the League in 2011. Her service to the State LWV was recognized with the Joyce Woodward Award in 2005. No recipient of these awards ever deserved them more.

Ruth, we will miss you, not only as a sister in our League endeavors, but as a beloved friend.

Charlotte Ward

Ruth Wright (1933 - 2018)

Ruth Lehmann Wright, who died on February 11, was born and grew up in Lagrange, Georgia. An only child, she was active in her Methodist youth group, attended and graduated from LaGrange College, where she was listed in "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities," and continued graduate studies in English at Auburn University. She did further graduate work at the University of Virginia and the University of London.

Returning to Auburn in 1965, she married fellow English professor, Tom Wright, and taught, among other things, the rigorous composition courses that prepared generations of Auburn students to write well in whatever business or profession they pursued.

Ruth joined the Auburn League not long after joining the Auburn faculty, and over the years, the League benefitted from her writing skills in many ways, from the minutes she prepared during several terms as secretary to informative reports of her observations of City Council meetings to the professionally written reports for both local and state-wide studies.

Ruth served two terms as president of the East Alabama (formerly Auburn) League, during which she became the face of the LWV in her community, representing the League with integrity and passion. Whatever Ruth undertook, she did well, and happily, the local League recognized her gifts with the Phyllis Rea Award for community service in 2003 and the Sue Flood Award for service to the LWV in 2011. The LWVAL also honored her with the Joyce Woodward Award for service to the state organization in 2005.

Ruth's dedication and cheerful (one of her favorite words) spirit will be sorely missed by her League friends across the state of Alabama.