



Save the Date:

- **Membership Meeting**
Monday, 11/18 @ 6:30PM
First Baptist Church
Healthcare Consensus
- **Hot Topics Lunch**
Thursday, 11/21 @ 11AM,
Toomer's Coffee
- **Board Meeting -
Consensus Report**
Monday, 11/25 @ 5:30PM
660 East Lane, Auburn
- **Holiday Social**
Tuesday, 12/3 @ 5:30PM
Zazu's on Magnolia

See Calendar on Page 5 for
more information

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League of Women Voters of East Alabama

<http://lww-eastalabama.org/>

From the President: What have we accomplished this year?

We have been in full swing since our planning meeting in June. As we approach the holidays, I wanted to take some time to reflect on what the LWVEA has accomplished so far in 2013.

- Our membership is just shy of 60! Thank you to the 59 of you who are helping the LWVEA chug along! We had 47 members last year so that is an increase of nearly 26%!
- Our membership meetings have been well attended with an average of 30 people joining us each month.
- We had a nice overview of Education in Alabama in August and Dr. Gerald Johnson gave a great talk about Alabama's poor in September.
- The healthcare meeting in October was a lively discussion and promises to be just as interesting in November as we discuss consensus questions regarding healthcare in Alabama.
- The Hot Topics Lunches have been most successful! Many members who are unable to attend the evening meetings have been able to attend the lunches. These informal meetings have yielded some great discussions on a wide range of topics. You will not regret attending one of these events!

(Continued on Page 3)

LWVAL Healthcare Consensus - Final Meeting

While we invite everyone to participate, only members in good standing (i.e., dues paid for 2013/14) will be able to vote.

The LWVEA will tackle the topic of Healthcare in Alabama at our meeting on November 18th. LWVEA director Jan Widell will again lead us through the consensus process while Carol

Daron and Ann Moss will act as record keepers. Consensus questions and background information are available at www.lwval.org. LWVAL policy on the consensus process may be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

The League of Women Voters of Alabama (LWVAL) has been gathering information, formulating questions

and studying the issue of healthcare for four years. Now is the time to participate in the healthcare consensus put forth by the state League.

The meeting is at the Auburn First Baptist Church starting at 7PM. Social time will start at 6:30PM. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Final Voter Photo ID Rules are Issued

Secretary of State, Jim Bennett, after consideration of public comment, has issued rules for photo identification for voters who do not have a valid photo ID. The photos can be acquired at the Board of Registrars, the Secretary of State's Office in Montgomery, at any Public Safety Department and at the Alabama Department of Senior Services (to their clients). In addition, special voter photo vans will fan out across the state with places and times to be announced.

Beginning in January, after the vendor's contract is finalized and election officials are trained, the free voter ID process should begin. The LWV will be ready to learn about and assist in the implementation of this new voter requirement.

We have learned that an exemption for a photo will be extended to elderly and handicapped voters who vote absentee and cannot get to their regular voting places due to a disability. We have not learned how that exemption is acquired.

We were happy to learn that the notary requirement was removed when a voter is applying for the photo ID. Also the notarization requirement was removed when an eligible voter without valid photo is identified by two election officials.

Language was added to indicate that a nondriver ID will not have an expiration date.

We will be learning more about the new rules as we help eligible voters get their photos made.

Marilyn Garrett
Director, Voter Services

Our 2013 - 2014 Membership booklets are now available

Many of you have received them already. If you have not, please contact Jan Widell at widelja@charter.net to arrange for your booklet. Although every effort was made to ensure that the information is accurate, there are four corrections to be made. Please check your booklet to be sure that you have this information.

1. Ruth Gynther's email is gyntherra@gmail.com
2. Carolyn Schafer's phone is 334-887-0128.
3. Carol Womer's email is caolcsw@knology.net
4. Sylvia Goldmann's phone is 334-821-2276.

Let Jan Widell know of any other necessary corrections. Thank you for your help!

2014 Youth Voter Registration Project Funded by LWV Education Fund

Grants of up to \$1000 are available for voter registration projects involving at least five area schools and targeting youth and new citizens. Applications are two pages, due December 2. Members are encouraged to offer suggestions. The proposal is on the National LWV website at <http://www.lwv.org/content/leagues-invited-apply-youthnew-citizen-registration-funding>

From the President (Continued from page 1)

- Our Voter Registration events have been just great! Marilyn Garrett and Laura Hill have been leading the way with help from several members.
- The level of engagement for the Photo Voter ID Law has been wonderful. Many of you submitted your comments to the Secretary of State and they addressed our concerns.
- Discussions among members still continue regarding the Auburn City Schools and funding for expansion. How will this all turn out?
- Two articles written by LWVEA members have been published in the *Inside the Village on the Plains* magazine distributed in Auburn.
- We had a very informative social media workshop that brought us up to speed with Facebook and Twitter.

I am sure there are many more points I could list here! However, I do want to post a few Wish List items for the first half of 2014:

- The Observer Corps continues to be our most direct route for public involvement yet we are lacking in any enthusiasm for participation. Please consider stepping up and attending a few of the many meetings held in our area. The school board meetings might be a priority.
- I would love to see more suggestions for articles for *The Voter* newsletter. Many of you enjoyed the articles written by Charlotte Ward and others depicting life in these United States! We would appreciate any articles you write and want to share (as long as they follow our non-partisan mindset).

Again, I am sure there are others but I don't want to seem ungrateful for the wonderful members we have and all you do! Thank you for making 2013 such a successful year (so far) and I anticipate great things from the LWVEA in 2014!

***Respectfully submitted,
Kristen De La Fuente
President, LWVEA***

New Webinar Available: Reaching Out to Millennials on Campus

A new webinar, "Reaching Out to Millennials on Campus," is now [available online in the Nikki Harris Online Training Library](#). Hosted by National Board Member Anne Schink and the [Young People's Task Force](#) Co-chairs Amy Hjerstedt and Melissa Currence, this webinar focuses on a variety of ways in which local Leagues can create a lasting presence on campuses by partnering with various student groups and staff members, ways to set realistic goals for campus outreach, and how creating a presence on campuses across the country will introduce a whole new generation to the great work of the League.

How did our elected officials vote?

You can keep tabs on what our elected officials are doing (or not doing, as it were) in Congress at the following website: <http://projects.washingtonpost.com/congress/113/>. You can also search by bill or by elected official.

The League of Women Voters of Alabama Consensus Policy

In order to act on any issue the League has studied, it is essential that the League has a clear consensus among its members.

Consensus, as explained in the 2002 edition of *In League*, “is the technique most often used in the League for reaching member agreement. It is a process whereby members participate in a group discussion of an issue. The ‘consensus’ reached by members through group discussion is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity; rather it is the overall ‘sense of the group’ as expressed through the exchange of ideas and opinions...” (p 10-58).

Since all statewide consensus is determined by State Board, State Board must decide what constitutes consensus. It is important that the State Board consider the following questions: Does a local League report complete member agreement? Fairly general agreement? Divergent points of view? All these factors must be considered by the entire State Board for it is responsible for determining whether consensus exists on a state item.

The questions should be clear to the membership, phrased for usable answers, a yardstick for judgment, and a framework for action. Questions must be objective and reasonably brief. The questions should be based on the resource material that was used in the study and they should cover areas that can lead to action. Do not aim consensus questions toward action on specific bills, instead make them general enough to apply over a period of time and changing circumstances.

Sometimes consensus on one or more questions is impossible to reach. This may happen because an insufficient number of members are concerned with the issue, or because, even with the best kind of study, discussion and participation, there is too much basic disagreement among members. In any case, a statement of alternative points of view should be included in the report. If no consensus is reached, report that no consensus was reached.

Reporting Consensus

A consensus report prepared by a local board for the State Board should include the following:

- The response sheet provided with the consensus questions, completed to show how opinions were distributed (if such a sheet has been provided).
- A brief statement of the consensus position, if one has been reached, and
- A brief statement of alternative points of view expressed by members who did not agree with the consensus position.

OR

- A brief statement explaining that no consensus could be reached.

In order for a local consensus report to be considered, it must be received by the deadline set by the State Board.

Calendar of Events

We want to see you! Add these events to your calendars and get involved!

November 21 (Thursday) - Hot Topics Lunches We will meet at Toomer's Coffee on South College from 11AM until 12:30PM. All members are welcome and encouraged to visit and chat.

November 18 (Monday) - General Meeting Healthcare Consensus Part 2. We will answer the healthcare consensus questions put forth by the LWVAL. Please join us for this important event. Auburn First Baptist Church, 128 E. Glenn Ave. Social time starting at 6:30PM with meeting beginning at 7:00PM. Light refreshments will be served.

December 3 (Tuesday) - Holiday Social We will gather this year at Zazu's on Magnolia Street at 5:30PM for some holiday cheer. Please plan to join us!

Observer Corps

Observers are needed for every meeting.

- [Auburn City Council](#) - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 7PM at 141 N. Ross St.
- [Opelika City Council](#) - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 7PM at 204 S. 7th St.
- [Auburn Planning Commission](#) - 2nd Thursday of each month at 5PM at 141 N. Ross St.
- [Opelika Planning Commission](#) - 4th Tuesday of each month at 3PM at the Public Works Facility, 700 Fox Trail
- [Lee County Commission](#) - 2nd and last Mondays of the month at 6PM (pre-meeting at 4PM) at the Lee County Courthouse
- [Auburn City Board of Education](#) - 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6PM in the Multi-Media Room at Auburn High School, 405 South Dean Road
- [Opelika City Schools](#) - 4th Tuesday of each month at 4PM in the Conference Room of the Opelika City Schools Board of Education Office (300 Simmons Street)
- [Lee County Board of Education](#) - 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6PM at the Central Office at 2410 Society Hill Road, Opelika

If you are interested in becoming an Observer, contact [Kristen De La Fuente](#) for more information.



LWVEA
660 East Lane
Auburn, AL 36830

E-MAIL:
president@lwv-eastalabama.org

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:
<http://lwv-eastalabama.org/>

Facebook:
[League of Women Voters of East Alabama](#)

Twitter:
[@lwveasta!](#)

LWV of East Alabama Board of Directors, 2013-2014	
<i>Kristen De La Fuente</i>	<i>President</i>
<i>Sandy Robinson</i>	<i>Vice-President</i>
<i>Carol Daron</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
<i>Laura Newland-Hill</i>	<i>Treasurer & Social Media</i>
<i>Linda Shook</i>	<i>Director - Membership</i>
<i>Marilyn Garrett</i>	<i>Director - Voter Service</i>
<i>Ruth Wright</i>	<i>Director - Education</i>
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<i>Janet Widell</i>	<i>Director - Healthcare</i>
<i>Ann Moss</i>	<i>Director - The Voter Editor</i>
<i>Charlotte Ward</i>	<i>Website Management (off-board)</i>

Dues are Due

Your dues go towards the functioning of the League of Women Voters at local, state and national levels. Locally, we use our portion of dues to send members to state and national conventions and councils as well as funding for voter services literature and registration drives.

Individual members \$55.00 Household of two \$82.50

Please send checks made payable to LWVEA to our Treasurer:
Laura Hill, 1317 Clearmont Cir., Opelika, AL 36801

About the League of Women Voters of East Alabama..

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots, nonpartisan, political organization that "has fought since 1920 to improve our systems of

government and impact public policies through citizen education and advocacy." Membership is open to men and women 18 or older.

Individual, family and student memberships are available. Join us today and help make a difference in the East Alabama area!

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF EAST ALABAMA**
660 East Lane
Auburn, AL 36830

