



Save the Date:

- **Program Meeting**
Monday, 1/26 at
6:30PM, Auburn First
Baptist Church 128 E.
Glenn Ave. Speaker: Sara
Wood
- **Hot Topics Lunch**
Wednesday, 2/4 from
11AM-12:30PM, Toomer's
Coffee, 1100 S. College
St. behind Loco's
- **Five O'Clock Social**
Tuesday, 2/10 5-8PM,
Tacorita on College
- **Program Meeting**
Monday, 2/16 at 6:30PM,
Auburn First Baptist
Church 121 E. Glenn Ave.
Speaker: TBD
- **Board Meeting**
Monday, 2/23 @ 5:30PM,
660 East Lane, Auburn

See Calendar on Page 4

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League of Women Voters of East Alabama

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

From the President: Is your calendar ready for all of this?

Time flies when you take a break! If it seems like a long time since the last *Voter*, that's because it has been a long time! After the Legislative Candidate Forum in October and the general election in November, the holidays kind of took over and some momentum was lost. I am happy to report that we are back on track and moving forward. The next few months will be very busy for the LWVEA as we have planned several program meetings as well as many social events to allow us to reconnect.

Programming: Board member and recent AU graduate Sara Wood will address the membership on Monday, January 26th, at the Auburn First Baptist Church starting at 6:30PM. Sara has been involved with several groups that focus on poverty. She will discuss her experiences including her work at an HIV clinic and with some of Alabama's prisoners. We plan to have a speaker on February 16th to talk about the Alabama budget process and the plans the governor has to close the shortfall in the General Fund. We will then revisit the topic of Alabama's prison system on March 16th (we are finalizing the speaker for that date).

Editorial Board: We have been asked to join the editorial board of the O-A News! The meetings, held every second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 1PM at their headquarters on Society Hill Road, are meant to solicit input and opinions from community members. We are able to offer our views on current events as well as offer ideas for future editorials. Let me know if you have any suggestions for editorials or if you want to attend a meeting as I would like to have a representative at each meeting.

Annual Meeting: Plans are underway for the annual meeting in April (the most likely date is Monday, April 13th). Let me know if you want to help out. Otherwise, you may be contacted to be on a committee. We need people to work on the planning, nominating, awards and budget committees. Please consider joining us on this effort.

State Convention: The biennial LWVAL State Convention will be held in Auburn during the weekend of May 2-3. Several years have passed by since we last hosted the event. Delegates and guests from all over the state are invited to attend. This year will have a bit more excitement as there will also be a fundraiser celebrating transparency in government on the evening of Friday, May 1st. Details are still being worked out but please save the dates on your calendars. We will need some help preparing for our guests!

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen De La Fuente
President, LWVEA

2014 Legislative Candidate Forum

On October 20th, the LWVEA hosted a Legislative Candidate Forum for Auburn/Opelika area state legislators. This was our third forum of the year and was quite memorable. Candidates included Shirley Scott-Harris, Tom Whatley, George Bandy, Gary Head and Mike Hubbard. The arrival of Mr. Hubbard caused quite a stir as earlier that day he was indicted by a Lee County Grand Jury on 23 felony corruption charges. Talk about a strange way to get publicity for our forum! We made an effort to keep the focus on the issues and the League.

Thank you to everyone who helped out before, during and after the forum: Ruth Gynther, Cory Unruh, Ann Moss, Kim White, Wiley Page, Amy Wright, Janet Clark, Carol Daron, Laura Hill, Jayson Hill, Dani Halverson, Josie Walsh, Neali Vann and Gary Mullen (let me know if I have forgotten anyone!). A big thank you to Kim White for getting the candidates there and making arrangements for the event.

From the Trenches: Practical Experience in Secondary Education

Our very own Clara Clothiaux has penned a book about her vast teaching experiences. After teaching science and math for 34 years, Clara started to write down her thoughts on children, teaching and schools and realized she had the makings of a book. Originally filled with tons of equations, her editor told her to get rid of all that stuff and focus on what really mattered: improving the lives of children. Clara was the recipient of the Phyllis Rea Award at our Annual Meeting in April earlier this year and this book demonstrates that she continues to push towards making a difference in our community.

If you have a book you would like to highlight, please send the information to Kristen De La Fuente at president@lwv-eastalabama.org.

Building a Lasting Peace: Where are the Women?

*Conversations at The Carter Center
presented by The Elders*

I had the honor of attending the latest meeting of The Elders at the Carter Center with LWVEA member Gary Mullen. It was an enlightening forum that dealt with the logistics of the peace process and the critical role that women play in the prevention of conflict as well as the peace-building process. Panelists included President Carter and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan as well as Mary Robinson, the first woman President of Ireland, and five other amazing women who are involved in the process and struggling to get a seat at the negotiating table. Please take a look at the video link below for some interesting personal accounts presented by each of the panelists.

<http://theelders.org/article/building-lasting-peace-where-are-women>

Submitted by Kristen De La Fuente

Nominations for the Phyllis Rea and Sue Flood Awards

We are looking for nominees for our annual awards. Letters of support are requested. Here are the details of each award:

Phyllis Rea Award - This award recognizes a person in the community who has demonstrated, by the investment of time and energy, a commitment to the principles of the LWV: to be informed and an active participant in our representative government and to be a person of integrity and creativity who has made a significant contribution to the life of our community. Last year's recipient was Clara Clothiaux.

Sue Flood Award - This award is given in recognition of a member of the LWVEA who has made a significant contribution to the League. Last year's recipient was Marilyn Garrett.

Call for Nominations: Board of Directors

The following positions are open for the next two-year term (2015-2017):

President, Secretary, 3-5 Director positions (various areas of focus)

If you have an interest in any of these positions, please send nominations to Nominating Chair Laura Hill (newlandhill@gmail.com).

Budget Committee - We need one non-board member to look at the budget for the next year. The commitment is minimal and Cory Unruh and Kristen De La Fuente are on the committee (how can you say no to that?).

Contact Kristen at president@lwv-eastalabama.org if you want to help out.

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 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)

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

Calendar of Events

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

January 26 (Monday) - Program meeting with Sara Wood Join us at the Auburn First Baptist Church on Glenn to hear Sara Wood share her personal experiences working with several non-profit groups in the state. Sara is focused on poverty and its effects on Alabamians. Social time at 6:30PM with program beginning at 7PM.

February 4 (Wednesday) - Hot Topics Luncheon Join us for lunch and conversation at Toomer's Coffee on S. College beginning at 11AM.

February 10 (Tuesday) - Five O'Clock Social We will meet starting at 5PM at Tacorita on College Street (location may change and will be updated, if necessary).

February 16 (Monday) - Program meeting Speaker TBD; Auburn First Baptist Church on Glenn. Social time at 6:30PM with program beginning at 7PM.

February 23 (Monday) - LWVEA Board Meeting The LWVEA board will meet at 5:30PM at 660 East Lane. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

March 4 (Wednesday) - Hot Topics Luncheon Join us for lunch and conversation at Toomer's Coffee on S. College beginning at 11AM.

March 10 (Tuesday) - Five O'Clock Social We will meet starting at 5PM (location TBD).

March 16 (Monday) - Program meeting Topic: Prison issues. Auburn First Baptist Church on Glenn. Social time at 6:30PM with program beginning at 7PM.

March 30 (Monday) - LWVEA Board Meeting The LWVEA board will meet at 5:30PM at 660 East Lane. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Annual Meeting: April Date TBD We will try for Monday, April 13th for our Annual Meeting. More information will be forthcoming.

May 1 (Friday) - Transparency Gala Fundraiser for the LWVAL This reception will honor individuals who have championed transparency in government. More information will be forthcoming.

May 2-3 (Saturday-Sunday) - 2015 LWVAL State Convention League delegates and guests from around the state are invited to attend this biennial event. We are honored to host the convention in Auburn this year. Details will be released shortly.



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, 2014-2015

<i>President</i>	<i>Kristen De La Fuente</i>
<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>Kim White</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Carol Daron</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Cory Unruh</i>
<i>Director - Membership</i>	<i>Amy Wright</i>
<i>Co-Directors - Voter Service</i>	<i>Kim White, Laura Hill & Ann Moss</i>
<i>Co-Directors - Social Media</i>	<i>Kim White & Cory Unruh</i>
<i>Director - Education</i>	<i>Ruth Wright</i>
<i>Director - Public/Media Relations</i>	<i>Neali Vann</i>
<i>The Voter Editor</i>	<i>Ann Moss</i>
<i>Auburn University Liaison</i>	<i>Sara Wood</i>
<i>League Consultant (off-board)</i>	<i>Charlotte Ward</i>

Membership Dues - January 31st Deadline

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 ~~~ Students \$10.00 ~~~Household of two \$82.50

Please send checks made payable to "LWVEA" to our Treasurer:

Cory Unruh, 549 Sherwood, Auburn, AL 36830

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

