



VOTER

TAKE NOTE!

March 24th - 11:00 a.m.
Briarcliff Unit Meeting

March 25th - 7:00 p.m.
March General Board Meeting
Clairmont Place

April 18th - 10:30 a.m.
Annual Meeting
Carpe Diem Restaurant

April 22nd - 7:00 p.m.
April General Board Meeting
Clairmont Place

April 28th - 11:00 a.m.
Briarcliff Unit Meeting

May 8th - 11:30 a.m.
Annual Community Luncheon
Holiday Inn
Downtown Decatur

May 26th - 11:00 a.m.
Briarcliff Unit Meeting

May 27th - 7:00 p.m.
May General Board Meeting
Clairmont Place

June 23rd - 11:00 a.m.
Briarcliff Unit Meeting

TBD:
Consensus meeting on National Popular Vote

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

~ *Susannah Scott, President*

Over the past year, we've all heard a lot about change. It was a presidential campaign slogan, it's a daily reality on Wall Street and it's a constant part of our everyday lives. It's no surprise, then, that this Spring brings a time of change to your LWVDK.

In April, the Board of Directors invites all members to our Annual Meeting, which will be held at Carpe Diem on Saturday, April 18th beginning at 10:30 am. At this meeting, we'll say goodbye to members who are transitioning off of the Board and will welcome new directors and officers to take up the organizational work of the LWVDK. We will also be approving changes to the Bylaws and the Budget for FY 2009-2010. Perhaps most importantly, we'll be deciding as a League what areas we wish to focus our attentions on in the coming year.

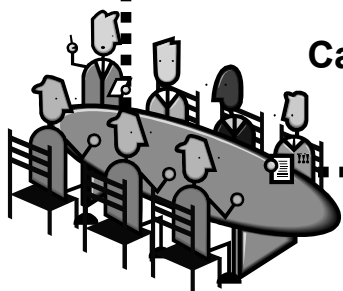
These are not changes that should be left solely in the hands of the 13 women who currently sit on the Board of Directors. We can guide and recommend, but in order for the League to fully represent its members, we need you to be in attendance at the Annual Meeting making your voices heard. In the November election, 78% of DeKalb voters came out to influence the direction of the change in national, state and local politics. I challenge our membership to equal that percentage as the LWVDK moves into the coming year working to fulfill its mission of encouraging informed and active participation in government, increasing understanding of major public policy issues, and influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

LWVDK ANNUAL MEETING!

SATURDAY, APRIL 18th, 2009
10:30 A.M.

Carpe Diem Restaurant, Decatur

Don't miss it!



BYLAWS COMMITTEE REPORT

~ Edna Kopetz, Chair

At the May 2008 Annual Meeting, Marty Collier was appointed Chair of the Bylaws Committee, along with members Edna Kopetz and Sally Byers. Marty was unable to serve as chair and President Scott asked Edna to serve in the position. Elisabeth MacNamara, former LWV DK president and currently 1st VP, LWVUS, and President-Elect Belinda Pedroso are also committee members. All Board members were asked for their suggestions, but none proposed any changes. A quorum of committee members met to propose the following amendments to the bylaws. Please note that we will vote on these proposed amendments at the Annual Meeting on April 18th.

2009 Proposed Amendments to the LWV of DeKalb Bylaws

Art. II - Purposes and Policy, Sect. 1, Purposes: The purposes of the LWV DeKalb are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government, and to act on selected governmental issues. Delete "of citizens"

Rationale: The first three Articles of our Bylaws must conform to those of LWVUS, which deleted "of citizens" from their Bylaws because the League educates more than citizens.

Art. II - Purposes and Policy, Sect. 3, Local Nonpartisan Policy: The board of directors shall formulate a non-partisan policy concerning political activities of board members at the first or second board meeting following Annual Meeting. Insert "or second".

Rationale: In 2008 "at the first board meeting..." was added to our bylaws to ensure that all board members, especially new board members, knew of our nonpartisan policy in a timely fashion. However, we have been holding our first board meeting in the hour immediately following Annual Meeting when the president, especially a new one, has her hands full. Allowing the policy to be adopted at the second meeting, as well as the first one, may make for a better understanding of the issue by the new board..

Art. III – Membership, Sect. 2 (below B): ~~Current members of other local leagues who wish to associate with LWV DeKalb may join the newsletter mailing list for a fee and may participate in committees, discussions, and other League activities but will not have voting privileges. Delete this section.~~

Rationale: This Item is obsolete and hasn't been used in years.

Art. IV – Board of Directors, Sect. 3, Vacancies: ~~Three unexcused~~ Four absences of any member from the board meetings within one year shall be deemed a resignation. Delete "Three unexcused" and substitute "Four".

Rationale: At the May 24, 2008 Board meeting, a motion passed to change board absences from three unexcused absences to four absences, eliminating the distinction between excused and unexcused. It is necessary to change the Bylaws to accommodate this motion. It is important that board members make a commitment to attend board meetings to ensure the smooth running of our local league.

Art. VII. – Membership Meetings, Sect. 3, Annual Meeting: An Annual Meeting shall be held annually between April 15 ~~May 1~~ and June 15 each year at a place determined by the board of directors. Change May 1 to April 15.

Rationale: "between May 1 and June 15" was added in 2008 to clarify when we should have our Annual Meeting. That has come back to bite us this year when LWVGA moved their Convention to April 25. Our league believes it is important that all board members, especially new ones, attend the LWVGA Council/Convention. In order to do that, we need to hold our Annual Meeting prior to the LWVGA meetings, which means in 2009 we need to have our meeting on April 18, before May 1 as currently stated in our Bylaws. It is likely that LWVGA will continue to have their meetings in April, due to conflicts with high school and college graduations in May.



2009-2010 BUDGET

~ Sid Mullings-Bradley, Treasurer

Below is the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2009-2010. Members of the budget committee include: Sid Mullings-Bradley, Alethia Chisolm, and Jacquie Scott. At the Annual Meeting, it is necessary to vote to adopt this proposed budget for the next fiscal year, so please review the following information. All questions will be addressed at the Annual Meeting.

League of Women's Voters of DeKalb County, Inc

LWV-DeKalb BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2009 to JUNE 30, 2010

Budget assumptions: Non-profit budget nets \$0 (income must match expense). Ed Funds projects are pass-through only.

INCOME	Proposed Budget (2009-2010)	Final Budget (2008-2009)	Comments
Annual Meeting	\$0.00	\$500.00	Since we do not fundraise at this event, we can not expect any income to be generated.
Contributions/Donations:	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Community Luncheon	\$7,500.00	\$4,000.00	
Fundraising Events/Initiatives	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	
Scudder Interest	\$300.00	\$300.00	
Member Dues	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	
Reserves Transfer	\$2,478.00	\$3,938.00	The transfer will be from the Scudder Account. This money is only to be spent in dire emergencies.
Education Fund Reimbursements	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
TOTAL INCOME	\$21,278.00	\$19,738.00	

EXPENSES	Proposed Budget (2009-2010)	Final Budget (2008-2009)	Comments
DeKalb Voter	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	
Membership Promo	\$1,250.00	\$1,500.00	Membership recruitment and retention
Miscellaneous Expense	\$0.00	\$150.00	We combined this line item with the "Supplies" line item
Fundraising Events/Initiatives	\$300.00	\$300.00	
Community Luncheon	\$4,500.00	\$3,500.00	
PMP, National	\$2,975.00	\$2,613.00	Paying \$743.75/quarterly
PMP, State	\$2,033.00	\$2,005.00	Paying \$508.25/quarterly
Voter Education	\$3,500.00	\$3,000.00	Primary Voter Guides
Telephone	\$600.00	\$600.00	
Voter Service	\$100.00	\$100.00	Voter registrations events
Annual Meeting	\$100.00	\$250.00	Photocopying and any other miscellaneous expenses to host the Annual Meeting
Units (Briarcliff and Lithonia)	\$50.00	\$50.00	Miscellaneous operational costs
Conv_Council, State	\$500.00	\$1,000.00	2010 State Council
Conv_Council, National	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	2010 National Convention
Corporate Tax	\$30.00	\$30.00	
Member Directory	\$400.00	\$400.00	
Post Office Box	\$40.00	\$40.00	
President & Board	\$100.00	\$200.00	
Program Items	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	Brunch-N-Learns and forums
Supplies	\$300.00	\$500.00	
Web Hosting	\$500.00	\$500.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$21,278.00	\$19,738.00	

LWVGA-Education Fund- LWV-I (501c3: contributions are tax deductible)

Account	Balance(as of 2/21/2009)	Allowed Usage
*General	\$1,151.63	Unrestricted
TOTAL	\$1,151.63	

ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY

~ Belinda Pedroso



Joshua Tickell is a man who, some ten plus years ago, drove his car across country on nothing but vegetable oil obtained from fast food restaurants as fuel. At the time, Mr. Tickell was trying to demonstrate to America that vehicles could be powered with a bio-fuel substance, i.e. used vegetable oil. He had two basic tenets: 1) the United States should begin to cultivate other sources of fuel – namely bio-fuel sources to reduce our country's reliance on fossil fuel and 2) bio-fuel sources are more environmentally safe.

After several iterations of his concept, lots of driving and reevaluation of his thesis, Mr. Tickell has written a book and produced a film entitled "Biodiesel America" being shown in limited release in California. I was so intrigued by the topic that I perused the book on-line. The book is a great piece of work and practical! The book shares his personal journey from Australia to Louisiana, where he realized how an oil-rich environment can become damaged by the petrochemical industry. He also explores his experiences while crossing the country for 11 years in his "Veggie Van". During his travels, Mr. Tickell promoted the use of bio-fuels and compiled footage for his documentary film.

Mr. Tickell's book got me to thinking: "*So, what are our Legislators doing to stem the tide and use of fossil fuel in Georgia and/ or to promote the production of bio-fuel energy sources?*" I know we currently have approximately twelve bills that focus, in some way, on environmental sustainability. The legislative update in "Under the Gold Dome" has reported on several. But there are three bills in particular that seem to be the most significant of the legislation proposed to date and include:

Georgia General Assembly - SR 109

Status: Second read February 5, 2009

This bill creates a Joint Study Committee composed of 26 members who will study the Retrofit of Diesel Engines in Georgia. According to the bill, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) states that 27 counties in Georgia, including 20 counties in metro Atlanta as well as areas surrounding Macon, Rome and Chattanooga, have not met the federal air quality standards for ground level ozone, particulate matter or both ("non-attainment" areas).

Georgia's industries heavily rely on diesel engines to carry out port, rail, construction and agricultural business. This issue is problematic in two ways, because the cost of retrofitting diesel engines may jeopardize Georgia's economic viability, however, if Georgia does not achieve federal standards the State may be imposed with costly violations. Either way it is critical that the work of this committee reflect the best outcome for the economic and environmental viability of Georgia.

Georgia General Assembly - SB 78

Status: Senate Read and Referred

This bill would provide for the investigation and remediation of properties where there have been releases of environmentally harmful substances into the environment. The bill would also develop corrective action plans; set program standards and policies; provide remediation rules and regulations; repeal conflicting laws; and set aside other purposes for environmental remediation of hazardous waste properties. The Director of the Environmental Protection Division would be able to provide the criteria for qualifying persons to remediate the property.

Georgia General Assembly - HR 177

Status: House first reader – January 30, 2009

This bill would create a House Study Committee on the Airborne Release of Pentachlorophenol and its Effects on the Health of Georgia Residents. This committee would essentially be responsible for studying how airborne fuel particles affect human health and the environment and the extent to which these substances can be classified by the EPA as a cancer causing agent.

Get involved and talk with your legislator about becoming an Environment Advocate for Georgia!

COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE DEKALB LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AND THE DEKALB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS A ROARING SUCCESS

~ Anita Darden

The evening was chilly on March 3rd, but at the informal meet-and-greet, the “Talk of the Town”, was full of hot topics! Karen Walker and Rene Rogers of BB&T graciously hosted the LWVDK, the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce and interested citizens of DeKalb with wine and hors d’oeuvres provided by Wal-Mart. We were honored to have special guests Howard Mosby, Polly McKinney, Bettye Davis and Jay Cunningham in attendance.

Leonardo McClatchy of the DeKalb Chamber introduced **Howard Mosby**, the Chairman of the DeKalb House Delegation, who described his job at the Capitol as one of herding cats. Additionally, he provided details on some of the pending legislation before the Georgia House of Representatives including transportation taxes and Property Tax assessments. **Polly McKinney**, from the LWVGA, gave an overview of the League’s issues position against proposed voter registration bills, including SB86 and SB45 which the League considers a poll tax because it requires additional effort and sometimes additional cost for voters. Therefore these bills may act as a deterrent to voting for some Georgia populations. **Bettye Davis**, DeKalb County CEO Burrell Ellis’ Assistant Chief of Staff, shared that they want to reach out to the neighborhood, so she celebrates this kind of meeting as an example of that kind of collaboration. **Jay Cunningham**, Board of Education District 5 Representative, suggested that meetings like these are a good idea since they may enable more collaboration and understanding between the citizens of DeKalb and their government. He and Bettye also shared a story about a local school that needed play ground space; collaboration between the parks commission and the school system allowed the children from the school to play in the adjacent park.

A theme that ran throughout the meeting was the burden that DeKalb seems to bear for other counties and the city. The discussion ranged from topics including the \$.01 tax DeKalb County pays to support Marta to some local citizens asking why DeKalb uses its educational budget to support other counties like Gwinnett. The perception in the room was that DeKalb School System has needs of its own, including a decaying school building infrastructure and the need for stronger teaching talent. All in all, the group shared enjoyed a lively discussion about our local community.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF DEKALB COUNTY 2008-2009 Board of Directors

President, Susannah Scott
 President-Elect, Belinda Pedroso
 First Vice President, Donata Renfrow
 Second Vice President, Jacquie Scott
 Third Vice President, Tracey-Ann Nelson
 Treasurer, Sidoney Mullings-Bradley
 Secretary, Edna Kopetz

Director, Leng Leng Chancey
 Director, Allison Richards
 Director, Anita Darden
 Director, Sally Byers
 Director, Francesca Kerpel
 Director, Anne Wilson



2009 LWVDK ANNUAL COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

~ Tracey-Ann Nelson, Fundraising Chairperson

The League of Women Voters of DeKalb will host their Annual Community Luncheon on May 8, 2009, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Downtown Decatur, Georgia. The League of Women Voters was one of many organizations across the county that presented a good government transparency report to the new administration. The report includes several principles to help guide policy vision. It also contains a wide range of policy recommendations, including government openness to making the necessary changes to bring the government's use of the Internet into the Web 2.0 world. All of the report's recommendations, however, are aimed at improving the connection between government and the people. The LWVDK has been actively engaging citizens throughout the community for many years and continues to do its important grass-roots work in DeKalb County. The theme of this year's luncheon continues that tradition by focusing on *Transparency is Good Government*.

This year's luncheon committee has been working diligently to ensure that 2009 has broad support across DeKalb County from businesses, elected officials, community organizations and citizens. It's a new year; and a new opportunity for all of us to take an active role in building a better government and tackling the tough issues facing our local community.

Please mark your calendars and plan to join the League of Women Voters of DeKalb County for this important community event. Tickets and sponsorship packages are available. Single non-member tickets are \$50 per person, while LWV DeKalb members' tickets are \$40. If you would like more information please contact Tracey-Ann Nelson, VP Fundraising at fundraising@lwvdk.org or 404-275-0084.



DEKALB COUNTY LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

~ Anita Darden

On January 22nd the DeKalb Chamber of Commerce held its annual Legislators Reception in the Events Lofts at Underground Atlanta. The event was presented by AT&T and sponsored by Perimeter College. The evening reception celebrated the commitment and dedication of DeKalb County's and Georgia's officials elected to the state legislature. It also created an opportunity for dialogue between legislators and the business community, as well as organizations in DeKalb like the League of Women Voters DeKalb, Leadership DeKalb and the Junior League.

The environment served to make meeting and greeting comfortable and low key. The urban ambiance was chic as well as convenient since Underground parking was plentiful and nearby. The generous spread of appetizers and wine and beer made this the perfect environment for meeting and greeting and just plain fun. Serious discussions would need a follow up, but the event was great for putting names to faces and discovering who to contact at a later date.

A brief program was presented when a number of representatives and officials stood up to say a word or two. Topics were not substantive, but briefly touched on the state budget, water conservation, and the concerns of Perimeter College about its status in this rocky economic environment. While we hoped to see our own Past-President KaTasha Sagers-Aguayo among the legislators, Dee Dawkins-Haigler won the position, and we throw our full support behind her.

Try to make this free event next year, DeKalb voters! You will have a great time.

MEMBERSHIP

~ Jacquie Scott, VP Membership

Presently LWVDK has 148 local members, 28 national members, and 3 lifetime members for a total of 179 LWVDK members.

Several of our national members have memberships that have just expired or are about to expire and I encourage you to consider renewing your memberships through the LWVDK. By renewing with the LWVDK, our League retains some of the dues money for local education, and advocacy projects. Remember that a member of the LWVDK is also a State and National League member.

If you have a phone number and an email address, please share it with the LWVDK. It helps when an urgent need arises for us to contact you. That doesn't occur often but it does occur. If you do not want your phone number or email address published in future Directories, please make that request known to me.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF DEKALB COUNTY

MEMBERSHIP and/or DONATION

Student \$25

Individual \$60

Household \$90

NAME(s) _____

FULL ADDRESS _____

PHONE(s) _____
Home Work Cell

E-MAIL _____

<http://www.lwvdk.org/joinus.html>



You are invited to...
THE 2009 LWVDK ANNUAL COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

This year's topic:
"Transparency is Good Government"

May 8, 2009
11:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
Holiday Inn Convention Center in Downtown Decatur, Georgia.

Tickets and sponsorship packages are available.
Single non-member tickets are \$50/person, LWVDK member/\$40.
If you would like more information please contact
Tracey-Ann Nelson, VP Fundraising at fundraising@lwvdk.org or 404-275-0084.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
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