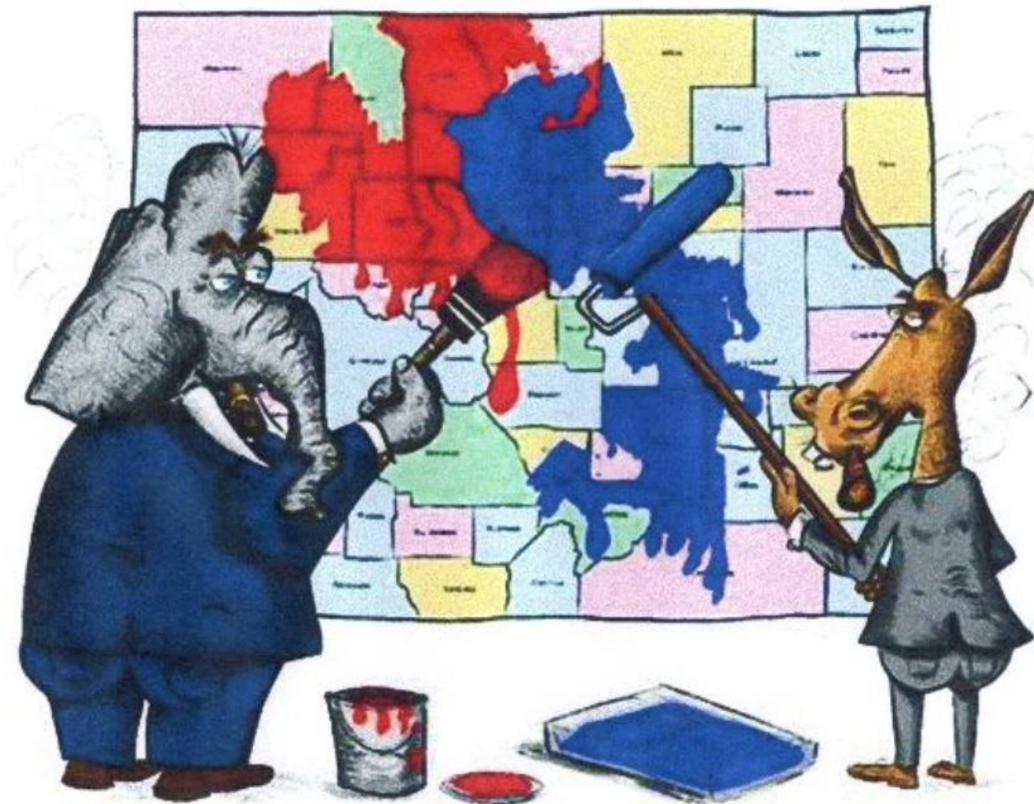




LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
OF LOUISIANA

REDISTRICTING

THAT RESPECTS DEMOCRACY



State Convention
February 27, 2021

CONTENTS

CONTENTS.....	2
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS.....	1
WELCOME TO THE LWVLA WEBINAR.....	4
WEBINAR SPEAKERS.....	5
Allison Riggs	5
Stephen Kearny.....	5
Morgan Shannon	6
Royce Duplessis	6
WELCOME TO THE LWVLA PLENARY SESSION	7
LWVUS SPEAKER: Leah Edwards	7
LEAGUE REPORTS.....	8
LWV OF LOUISIANA, Hilda Walker Thomas, president.....	8
LWVLA Criminal Justice Committee, Joanna Pettit, chair.....	9
LWVLA Education Committee, Kathleen Espinoza, Rhonda Gleason, co-chairs.....	10
LWVLA Environment Committee, Wendy King, chair.....	11
LWVLA Healthcare Committee, Linda Hawkins, chair	11
LWVLA Voting Rights Committee, M. Christian Green, chair	12
LWVLA Voter Services Committee, Ellen Torgrimson, Laurie Jones, co-chairs.....	13
LWVLA Women’s Issues Committee, Rosalind Blanco Cook, chair.....	14
LWV OF BATON ROUGE STATE UNIT, Melissa Yarborough, president	15
LWV OF CADDO-BOSSIER, Susan Bettinger, president	17
LWV OF LAFAYETTE, Kathleen Schott Espinoza, Leader	20
LWV OF NATCHITOCHEs STATE UNIT, Delores Blalock	22
LWV OF NEW ORLEANS, Rosalind Blanco Cook, co-president.....	22
LWV OF ST. TAMMANY, DeVoe Allen, co-chair	25
ORDER OF BUSINESS	27
RULES OF CONVENTION, 2021.....	28
REPORT OF THE FINANCE/BUDGET COMMITTEE.....	29
LWVLA STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	29

LWVLA ESTIMATED BUDGET vs ACTUAL	30
LA PROPOSED BUDGET 2021-2023	31
LWVLA EDUCATION FUND STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	32
LWVLA EDUCATION FUND BUDGET VS. ACTUAL (EST.).....	33
LWVLA EDUCATION FUND PROPOSED BUDGET.....	33
REPORT OF THE BYLAWS COMMITTEE.....	34
ARTICLE I - NAME.....	35
ARTICLE II - PURPOSES AND POLICIES	35
ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP	35
ARTICLE IV - LOCAL LEAGUES AND STATE UNITS.....	36
ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF DIRECTORS	39
ARTICLE VIII - STATEWIDE LEGISLATIVE AND ADVOCACY TRAINING MEETING	43
ARTICLE IX - NATIONAL CONVENTION AND COUNCIL	43
ARTICLE X - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS	43
ARTICLE XI - PROGRAM	44
ARTICLE XII - FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION	46
ARTICLE XIII - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY	47
ARTICLE XIV – AMENDMENTS.....	47
PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT	49
PROPOSED 2021 PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS OF THE LWVLA	49
REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, STATE OF LOUISIANA	49
JUSTICE	53
NATURAL RESOURCES.....	55
SOCIAL POLICY	56
HEALTHCARE.....	58
EDUCATION.....	60
MEMBER-SUGGESTED PROGRAM AREAS OF EMPHASIS.....	63
RECOMMENDED ITEMS:	63
NOT RECOMMENDED ITEMS:	64
REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE.....	65
NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENT: Hilda Walker Thomas	66
NOMINEE FOR VICE PRESIDENT: M. Christian Green	66
NOMINEE FOR SECRETARY: Ellen Torgrimson.....	67

NOMINEE FOR TREASURER: Amanda Couvillon	67
NOMINEE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS: DeVoe Potter Allen	68
NOMINEE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Laurie Foley-Jones	68
NOMINEE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Melissa Yarborough	69
NOMINEE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Dr. Patrice Sentino	69
NOMINEE FOR CHAIR OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Wendy King	70
NOMINEE FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE; Alicia Chaisson	70
NOMINEE FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Alfred Doucette, Jr.	71
IN MEMORIAM	71
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS.....	72

9:00 AM-12:00 PM: MORNING WEBINAR

WELCOME TO THE LWVLA WEBINAR

Moderator: Hilda Walker Thomas, LWVLA president

The League of Women Voters of Louisiana (LWVLA) welcomes League members and guests to the 2021 State Convention and our webinar “Redistricting That Respects Democracy.” We are especially happy that you are joining this virtual platform using Zoom to attend the meeting to celebrate seventy-seven years of LWVLA. We are pleased that we have made it through 2020 as we met challenges of the pandemic and adapted to using technology in order to fulfill our mission.

The LWVLA in Louisiana consists of four local leagues: Caddo-Bossier, Lafayette, St. Tammany and New Orleans. In addition, there are two state units: Natchitoches and Baton Rouge, which are working toward becoming Local Leagues. The LWV operates on three levels—national, state and local—and members are encouraged to participate at all three levels.

LWVLA is participating in the second year of “People Powered Fair Maps,” a LWVUS National Campaign focused on Redistricting in 2021. Funds from a LWVUS grant have made possible this webinar that we are offering free to our members and the public, and we thank the LWVUS.

Before we begin the Webinar, a few housekeeping notes:

- The microphones of all audience members are muted.
- Make sure your speaker function is on and set to an adequate volume.
- A Q&A session will follow each panelist’s talk.
- If you have a question for a speaker, please type it into the Q&A box and include your name and League.
- Any other question please type it into Chat.

Now let me welcome our distinguished Webinar panelists.

WEBINAR SPEAKERS

Allison Riggs



Allison Riggs is the Interim Executive Director of the Southern Coalition for Social Justice and leads its voting rights program. She has been focused on fighting for fair redistricting, against voter suppression, and advocating for electoral reforms. She has litigated redistricting cases on behalf of State NAACP Conferences in Texas, Florida, Virginia and North Carolina. She argued the Texas redistricting case and the North Carolina partisan gerrymandering case in the United States Supreme Court. She received her undergraduate, Master's Degree and J.D. from the University of Florida.

Stephen Kearny



Stephen Kearny is a co-founder of Fair Districts of Louisiana, the state's only grassroots alliance of citizens advocating reform. A proud Baton Rouge native, he now lives in New Orleans, where he works in power grid analysis.

Morgan Shannon



Morgan Shannon is the Director of Strategic Partnerships for the Power Coalition for Equity and Justice. She served as Program Manager at the W. K. Kellogg Foundation where she worked with the Mississippi, New Orleans, and Boys and Men of Color portfolios. She also served as Program Associate at the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where she supported the Health and Climate Justice programs. Morgan also worked as frontline staff for CommonHealth Action and Pittsburgh Community Improvement Association in the South West section of Atlanta, Georgia.

Royce Duplessis



Royce Duplessis is Louisiana State Representative for District 93 and Vice Chairman of the House and Governmental Affairs Committee. He is a graduate of Xavier University and the Howard University School of Law and currently runs Duplessis Law Firm, LLC. He was a Special Council for the Louisiana Supreme Court, focused on criminal justice reform. He was Chairman of the New Orleans City Planning Commission and was named the recipient of the New Orleans Reginal Leadership Institute's *2017 Fellow; Leadership Award* and was one of Xavier University's *2015 40 Under 40*.

12:35 PM-5:00 PM: LWVLA PLENARY (BUSINESS) SESSION

WELCOME TO THE LWVLA PLENARY SESSION

Moderator: Hilda Walker Thomas, LWVLA president

Housekeeping Notes:

- The microphones of all audience members are live but please keep yours muted.
- Make sure your speaker function is on and set to an adequate volume.
- If you have a question for a speaker, please type it in the chat function and include your name and league.
- Use the “Raise Hand” function located at the bottom of the Participants function box for voting or when asking to speak. The “Lower Hand” function is in the same position.

LWVUS SPEAKER: Leah Edwards



Leah Edwards, Treasurer and the LWVUS and the liaison to the Louisiana Leagues, managed the LWV of San Francisco’s Voter Services programs before serving as president from 2017 to 2020. She also represented the LWV as a delegate at the United Nations 63rd Commission on the Status of Women and is currently serving as the Treasurer of the national LWV. She received a B.S. in Political Science from the University of Arizona. She is a Chartered Financial Analyst Charterholder and leads initiatives related to environmental, social, and governance investing at the investment management firm Dodge & Cox.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

To develop the slate of candidates for the LWVLA Convention, the Nominating Committee followed the following selection process:

- Considered the needs for an incoming board
- Developed a list of characteristics and skills desirable for board members
- Revised the formal application form, adding additional open-ended questions for written response
- Contacted all members seeking candidates for nominees
- Agreed upon the candidate best suited for each office and invited that candidate to run for that office

All candidates have agreed to run for the listed office.

PROPOSED LIST OF NOMINEES FOR 2021-2023

For Officers

President	Hilda Walker Thomas (St. Tammany)
Vice President	M. Christian Green (Lafayette)
Secretary	Ellen Torgrimson (New Orleans)
Treasurer	Amanda Couvillon (St. Tammany)

For Board of Directors (four elected positions)

Director	DeVoe Allen (St. Tammany)
Director	Laurie Jones (St. Tammany)
Director	Patrice Sentino (New Orleans)
Director	Melissa Yarborough (Baton Rouge Unit)

For Nominating Committee

Chair	Wendy King (New Orleans)
Member	Alicia Chaisson (Lafayette)
Member	Alfred Doucette, Jr. (State Member)

Respectfully submitted by the
2019-2021 Nominating Committee

Wendy King, Chair
Alicia Chaisson
Alfred Doucette, Jr.

NOMINEE FOR PRESIDENT: **Hilda Walker Thomas**



Hilda Walker Thomas holds a B.S. in Secondary Education from Southern University and A & M College, Baton Rouge, Louisiana and an M.Ed. from Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio. She is a retired educator having served as a Junior High School Principal for Cincinnati Public Schools and for New Orleans Public Schools. She also served as a School Test Coordinator for Prince George's County Public Schools, Maryland. She served, on a part time basis, as a Resident Teacher Supervisor in Prince George's County, Maryland training new teachers. Hilda is a member of the St. Tammany LWV and a member of the LWVLA Board of Directors. She worked on the LWV Louisiana Charter School Study and served on the LWVLA 2019 Convention Committee. She is presently serving as President of LWVLA and on the LWVUS Nominating Committee. Email:

hildathomas@att.net

NOMINEE FOR VICE PRESIDENT: **M. Christian Green**



Christian Green holds degrees from Georgetown University in history and government, Emory University in law and theology, and the University of Chicago in religion and ethics. She has taught at DePaul University, Harvard Divinity School, and the Candler School of Theology. She has been a researcher at the Religion, Culture, and Family Project at the University of Chicago, the Park Ridge Center for the Study of Health, Faith, and Ethics in Chicago, and the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame. She is currently a Senior Fellow and Research Director on Law, Religion and Human Rights at the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory University, an editor of the *Journal of Law and Religion*, and editor and publications manager for the *African Consortium for Law and Religion Studies* (ACLAES). Christian is a member of LWV Lafayette and serves as the LWVLA Vice President m.christian.green@gmail.com

NOMINEE FOR SECRETARY: Ellen Torgrimson



Ellen Torgrimson is a technical editor with 30 years' experience working in the environmental consulting industry. She recently "retired," but continues to do freelance work editing and assisting in writing a variety of technical reports, and marketing and public information materials. Prior to becoming a technical director, Ellen taught piano at both the pre-college and college level, and her primary interests are the visual and performing arts. Ellen first joined the League as a member of the Natchitoches Unit and currently belongs to LWV New Orleans. She previously served as chair of the Voter Services Committee and LWVLA Secretary. She also serves as the League representative on the Water Resources Commission, an appointment she received from Governor Edwards of Louisiana. Email: Etorg52@gmail.com

NOMINEE FOR TREASURER: Amanda Couvillon



Amanda Couvillon is in her second year with The League of Women Voters of St. Tammany. She is a graduate of Huntingdon College in Montgomery, Alabama with a B.A. in Communications. Amanda is currently an elementary teacher in Covington, LA teaching first grade. She joined the League of Women Voters in 2018 wanting to help make a difference in her community. She recently worked on a campaign during the 2018 Parish Council election as an Event Coordinator. Amanda also organized and led her neighborhood in a Zoning Board and Parish Council. Email: couvilla@yahoo.com

NOMINEE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS: DeVoe Potter Allen



DeVoe Potter Allen currently serves as a co-chair of LWV-St. Tammany Parish, as well as chair of the local Environmental Committee. She received a BA and an MA in Psychology from Southeastern Louisiana University. She retired after a career of 25 years with the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services, Child Welfare Division. Post retirement, she worked as a school psychologist with a private pupil appraisal team that contracted with charter schools in New Orleans, LA. DeVoe is a passionate advocate for children and families. She also advocates to environmentally sustainable development and protections for all aspects of the earth's environment. Email: nanavoe@bellsouth.net

NOMINEE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Laurie Foley-Jones



Laurie Foley-Jones is a graduate of Loyola University New Orleans where she received a B.S. in Elementary Education and an M.Ed. from Southeastern University in Hammond, LA. She is a retired Early Intervention Special Education Teacher. Throughout her 25 year teaching career, she has worked in Orleans, Lafayette and St. Tammany Parishes. She has served as a Kindergarten, Preschool, Early Intervention teacher, mentor and coach. She has chaired and served on several committees including School Improvement, Textbook and Crisis Prevention. Laurie has spent her life promoting excellence in Early Childhood/ Special Education. She is a member of LWV-St. Tammany and serves as co-chair of Voters Services for LWVLA. Email: K2lcjjones@gmail.com

NOMINEE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Melissa Yarborough



Melissa Yarborough joined the League of Women Voters of Greater Baton Rouge Unit when it reformed in 2018. She currently serves as the President and Voter Education Organizer of the local Unit of LWV. Melissa has a B.A. in Spanish from Bryn Mawr College and a M.Ed. from LSU Shreveport. She currently works from home while raising her two young children with her spouse, David, but looks forward to returning to teaching soon. Her volunteer work has primarily focused on education, youth empowerment, civic engagement, and immigrant justice. Email: myarborough@gmail.com

NOMINEE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Dr. Patrice Sentino



Dr. Patrice Sentino is a native of Chicago, Illinois who moved to New Orleans in 1982. She has served as an educator, clinician, community organizer, and researcher. She works with New Orleanians who are affected by social and environmental trauma, high-risk for juvenile delinquency, homelessness, mental illness, and behavioral health. She holds a Doctorate of Social Work from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, a Master of Social Work from Southern University at New Orleans, and a Bachelor of Substance Abuse and Addiction Counseling from Southern University at New Orleans. She is currently continuing pursuing an Education Doctorate Degree in Educational Psychology and Technology at Chicago School of Professional Psychology,. Presently she is the CEO of the Center for Hope Children and Family Services. Patrice is a member of LWV New Orleans, Email: centerforhoperehab@nocoxmail.com

NOMINEE FOR CHAIR OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Wendy King



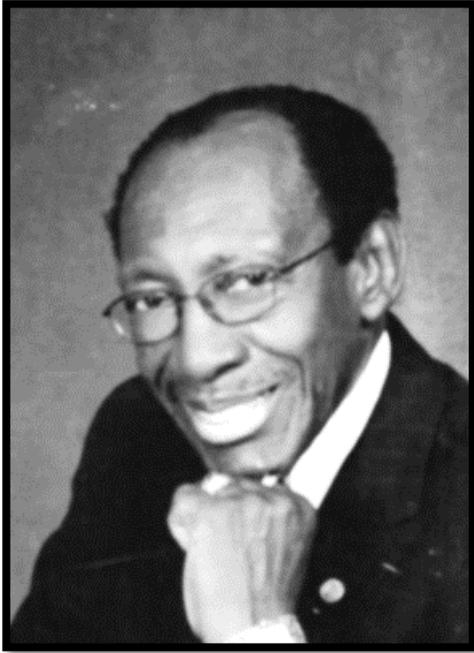
Wendy King is a LWV New Orleans Board member and has been active in the area environmental issues since the late 1970s. She joined the Sierra Club in 1977, shortly before graduating from Loyola University. Her volunteer work the Sierra Club has included editing the Chapter and Group newsletters, being treasurer of the New Orleans Group, and currently chairing the New Orleans Group's Waste and Recycling committees, plus being the New Orleans Group Excomm's secretary. For the LWVNO, she has met with other environmental committee members to discuss issues and actions her committee can work on. She is currently the LWVLA State Environmental Committee Chair and has followed the legislature's environmental legislation each session. Email: wking@tulane.edu

NOMINEE FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE; Alicia Chaisson



Alicia Chaisson is a member of the Leadership Team for LWV-Lafayette. She was a recipient of the 20 Under 40: Young Leadership Award. She was a candidate for Lafayette City-Parish Council in 2015. Alicia is a Talented Theatre teacher for Lafayette Parish. She earned her BFA in drama at New York University, Tisch School of the Arts, graduating in 2006 with honors. From 2008-2011, Alicia was an active ensemble member of the New York Neo-Futurist. Since moving to Lafayette in 2011, she has directed, written consulted, and acted or performed in over twenty productions at the professional, university and community level. She loves using her theatrical skills to further the mission of the League. Email: aliciajeanchaisson@gmail.com

NOMINEE FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Alfred Doucette, Jr.



Alfred Doucette, Jr. is a past President and Vice President of LWV Lake Charles. He is the chaplain of the Louisiana Black History Hall of Fame and is a past President and Vice President of Toastmaster International 1225. In Lake Charles he serves on the Mayor's Commission of Armed Forces and is a member of the Mayor's Commission of Disability. Alfred is a life member and a past Commander of Chapter 17, Disabled American Veterans. He earned an AA degree in computer information system specialist and application specialist from Sowela Technical College. Alfred is a State Member and has served two terms on the LWVLA Board of Directors. Email: douce6539@gmail.com

IN MEMORIAM

<p>LWV LAFAYETTE</p> <p>Ann Chance</p> <p>Thetis Cusimano</p> <p>ST. TAMMANY</p> <p>Roberta Bruck</p>	<p>NEW ORLEANS</p> <p>Anne Dlugos</p> <p>Marietta Schleh Herr</p> <p>Helen Malin</p> <p>Joel Grossman Myers</p> <p>Karen Wimpelberg</p>
--	---

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND THANKS

LWVLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019-2021

Hilda Walker Thomas, President
Cherry Fisher May, Vice President
Ellen Torgrimson, Secretary
Carol DeVille, Treasurer
M. Christian Green
Joanne Pettit
DeVoe Allen
Andrea Dube

CHAIRS OF LWVLA STANDING COMMITTEES 2019-2021

Criminal Justice Committee, Joanne Pettit, chair
Education Committee, Kathleen Espinosa, Rhonda Gleason, co-chairs
Environment Committee, Wendy King, chair
Healthcare Committee, Linda Hawkins, chair
Voting Rights Committee, M. Christian Green, chair
Voter Services Committee, Ellen Torgrimson, Laurie Foley-Jones, co-chairs
Women's Issues Committee, Rosalind Blanco Cook, chair

SPECIAL THANKS

To the League of Women Voters for a grant from their People Powered Fair Maps program which helped pay for the Redistricting webinar.