



COUNTY LINES

Byline...

"The most important office in a democracy is the office of citizen" — Justice Louis D. Brandeis

Dear League Members,

Our Annual General Meeting is planned for Saturday, June 13. See pages 3 and 4 of this newsletter for details. I hope you'll be there to vote on important League business and to hear our keynote speaker, [Tom Plank](#), of Georgia's State Ethics Commission.

Please save the evening of Monday, September 14 for our annual Constitution Day commemoration. The event will feature a panel discussion on the pros and cons of the electoral college and the election of president by popular vote. The location of the event is TBD. Stay tuned for details.

RSVPs to our events are always appreciated. Knowing who is and is not attending helps us plan. Thanks!

Best regards,

Kat Alikhan

Kat Alikhan, President

Our Mission:

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

Global climate change was the topic of our League's May 9 forum. Featured were a presentation on global warming by League member, [Peggy Lehmborg](#), and a discussion on climate change legislation and other issues with Peggy; [Jill Johnson](#), program director for Georgia Conservation Voters; [Dr. Rand Knight](#), ecologist; and [Dawn Randolph](#), founder and president of DIR Consulting Group.

The League of Women Voters recognizes that global climate change is a serious threat to the environment, health, and economy of our nation. Visit the new Climate Change page on our website, www.dawsonpickenslww.org, for updates on climate change legislation and to learn more about this important topic.



From left to right are Peggy Lehmborg, Jill Johnson, Rand Knight and Dawn Randolph. Approximately forty people attended the May 9 Climate Change Forum in Big Canoe.

IN LEAGUE...



Meet [Spencer Maddux](#), a Big Canoe resident and member of the Dawson-Pickens League since its inception more than two years ago.

Spencer and his wife Carolyn (who is also a League member), moved to North Georgia when Spencer joined Delta Air Lines as a commercial pilot.

As a child, Spencer—born in Shreveport, Louisiana—lived in Hawaii, Virginia, Illinois, North Carolina, Texas, Ohio, New York, France and Germany. He resided in Kansas, Florida and England, among other locations, as an adult.

Spencer and Carolyn have two sons and six grandchildren. Pictured above with grandson, Rory (can you believe those gorgeous blond curls?), Spencer has been known to write letters to the editor with Rory's assistance.

Spencer holds a B.S. in Military Science from the United States Military Academy at West Point and a J.D. from Woodrow Wilson College of Law. In addition to being a Delta pilot, Spencer was a pilot with the United States Air Force Strategic Air Command and a physics teacher in the Dekalb County schools.

An active member of his community, Spencer is co-founder of the North Georgia Progressives, Chairman of the Dawson County Democratic Committee and a member of the Dawson County Board of Elections & Registration.

Spencer was drawn to the League of Women voters, he says, “for its excellent programs and publications and its fair and balanced presentation of important issues of public concern.”

A voracious reader and student of politics, Spencer also enjoys spending time with his family, hiking and savoring the natural beauty of North Georgia.

We're proud to have you as a member, Spencer!

Now that our League is officially sponsoring the education of Kenyan [Joy Neserem Saimi](#), an eight year-old primary school student, there have been questions about how to contribute to her fund. There are two ways:

- To make a tax deductible contribution, make your check payable to the Georgia League of Women Voters Education Fund (with a notation of “Joy's Fund” in the check's memo section) and mail to the League of Women Voters of Georgia, PO Box 29751, Atlanta, GA 30359.
- Cash donations will be gratefully accepted by our League at any of our events. Non-tax deductible checks may be sent to our League at PO Box 593, Jasper, GA 30143. A few dollars in Kenya goes a long way, so no amount is too small.



Joy Neserem Saimi

League member [Carol Tyger](#) is chair of fundraising for Joy's fund, with an annual fundraising goal of \$1,000. For more information about Joy and the Maasai Girls Education Fund, through which our League is working, visit www.dawsonpickenslwg.org.



LWVDP Vice President **Shellie Pierce**
with **Amanda Florentine**

LWVDP
Secretary
Sue
MacFarland
with
Kimbal
Kapuscinski

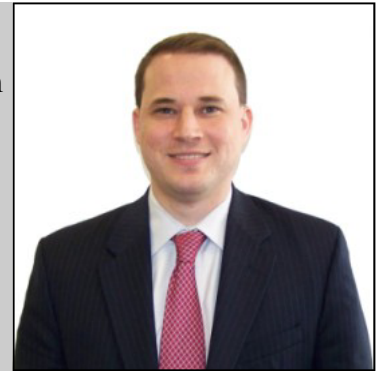


2009 winners of our League’s annual writing competition are **Kimbal Kapuscinski**, an 11th grader at Pickens High School and **Amanda Florentine**, a 10th grader at Dawson High School. Each was awarded \$250 for her winning entry. The topic addressed by competition entrants was: The federal mandate of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) will be rewritten with new legislation by the Obama administration. As a student, you, more than most, know and understand the impact NCLB has on you personally, as well as your high school and district. If you could provide input, what would you persuade President Obama to include in the new legislation?

Congratulations to our winners! Read the winning entries at www.dawsonpickenslwv.org.

Georgia's State Ethics Commission (SEC) will be the program focus of our Annual General Meeting on Saturday, June 13, from 10:00 a.m.—noon at the Dawson County Senior Center at 201 Recreation Road, Dawsonville.

Keynote speaker **Tom Plank**, a graduate of Emory Law School, serves as counsel in the SEC’s Investigation and Enforcement division. The SEC was created in 1987 to enforce the Ethics in Government Act objectively and on a nonpartisan basis. Legislation enacted by the 1992 General Assembly placed the responsibility of lobbyist registration and disclosure of expenditures with the SEC.

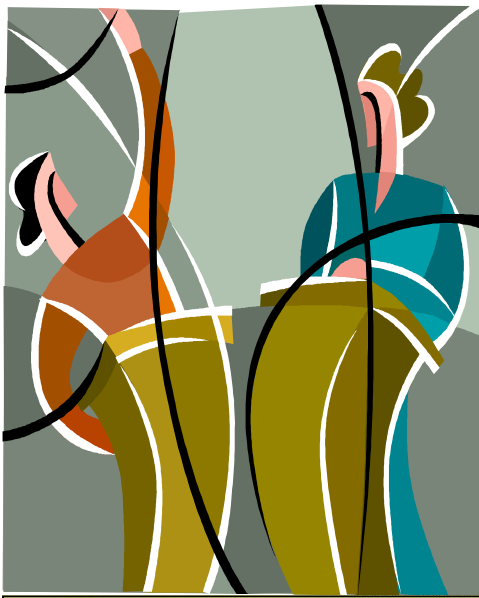


Tom Plank
State Ethics Commission

The Ethics in Government Act (EIGA) was enacted in 1986 to strengthen the faith and confidence of state and local citizens in their government and to ensure that the financial interests of office holders, nominees or candidates for public office do not conflict with the public trust. The EIGA requires public disclosure of campaign financing and significant private interests of public officers and candidates for public office so that voters are better able to determine whether personal financial concerns or obligations to special interests may prevent a candidate or public officer from acting solely in the public’s interest.

The meeting is free and open to the public, though only League of Women Voters’ members may vote on League business. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Kat Alikhan at 706-268-1225 or katalikhan@earthlink.net.

BRING A FRIEND



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, June 13, 2009

10:00 a.m.—noon

*Dawson County Community Center
201 Recreation Rd., Dawsonville*

We will discuss and vote on programming, the budget and board officers.

The keynote speaker is **Tom Plank** of Georgia's State Ethics Commission. Nonmembers are welcome to attend, but may not vote. Light refreshments will be served. Please RSVP to Kat Alikhan at 706-268-1225 or katalikhan@earthlink.net.

BRING A FRIEND

Where Do Your League Membership Dues Go?

This seems a good time to remind our members of how membership dues are spent.

Members pay \$60 a year to belong to the League of Women Voters of Dawson and Pickens Counties (plus an extra \$30 for another member within your household). When you join at the local level, you automatically become a member at the state and national levels.

In July, local Leagues—based on the number of members as of January 31 of that year—pay what is called per-member payments (PMP) to both the national and state Leagues. We will receive our PMP invoices from national and state in a few weeks. Payment of PMP invoices in a timely fashion keeps us in good standing with the national and state Leagues and it is an obligation we are happy to meet.

PMP payments represent approximately \$48 of each \$60 membership, leaving us about \$12 per member to fund local programs and activities. We've kept the costs for programming low and will have about \$800 in our operating account after paying our 2009 PMPs. We also have \$1,750 in our Education Fund—tax deductible contributions made to our League for education projects that are held by the state League until we request them for a particular project. For example, shortly we will withdraw \$500 to cover the costs of the two \$250 awards for our Pickens and Dawson counties' high school writing competition winners and \$256 to fund Joy Nesperem Samai's spring semester.

Are we getting a good deal for our money? You bet! Our local League wouldn't exist without the support and services we receive from state and national. Your membership dues help to pay the salaries of the LWVGA executive director (the position is currently vacant) and program assistant **Elizabeth Scott**, as well as staff at national. If you have any doubts about the bang you're getting for your membership buck, please visit the state website at www.lwvga.org and the national website at www.lwv.org.

Join the League of Women Voters of Dawson and Pickens Counties for \$60 or upgrade your individual membership to a household membership for your spouse or partner for \$30. Purchase an individual membership for a friend or family member.

League of Women Voters of Dawson and Pickens Counties

PO Box 593, Jasper, GA 30143

Phone: 706-268-1225

Email: DawsonPickens@lwvga.org

Web: www.dawsonpickenslwv.org

For more information about joining the League of Women Voters of Dawson and Pickens Counties or if you have questions about the status of your membership, call **Anita Rosen**, Vice President-Membership, at 706-268-0091 or contact her by email at rosensw@tds.net.

Newsletter Editor: **Kat Alikhan**, 706-268-1225 or katalikhan@earthlink.net.