

THE VOTER

LWVEA to Host ACLU Voting Rights Strategist at 2026 Annual Meeting

LWVEA is thrilled to announce that we will be hosting **Samuel Duff**, Voting Rights Strategist of [ACLU of Alabama](#), at the **LWVEA Annual Meeting on April 13!** Mr. Duff will speak about priority issues and unifying the divide as we approach the 2026 midterms.

Join us! The **LWVEA Annual Meeting** will be held **Monday, April 13** at Auburn First Baptist Church.

Doors open 5:30 pm.

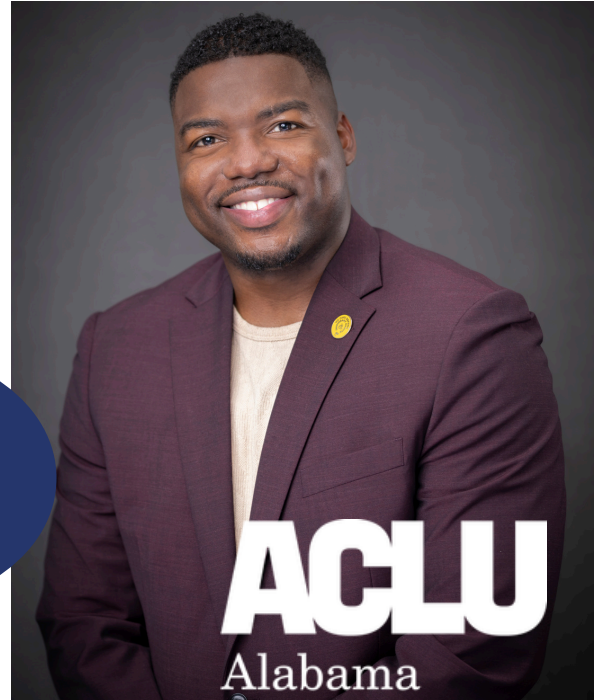
Dinner served at 6:00 pm,

with business meeting shortly thereafter.

Keynote speaker Samuel Duff will present at 7:00 pm.

Dinner is \$15. Please us know by **Friday, April 3**, if you plan to eat dinner by emailing lwveastal@gmail.com. Everyone is welcome to attend the business meeting and the speaker's presentation regardless of whether they have dinner!

During the meeting, we'll award the **first LWVEA Scholarship** to a local high school senior. If you'd like to donate to the scholarship fund, please visit [our website](#) or plan to donate at the Annual Meeting.



The American Civil Liberties Union of Alabama is a private, non-profit membership organization that serves as freedom's watchdog. It works in the courts, legislatures, and communities to defend the civil liberties and civil rights guaranteed to us by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Learn more at www.aclualabama.org.

Bring
menstrual
products to
the Annual
Meeting on
Apr. 13!

Menstrual Product Drive

The LWVEA is partnering with **Tuskegee Menstrual Closet** to collect menstrual products for those in need. Bring menstrual products to the Annual Meeting to participate! Scan the QR code below to learn more.



Are You Ready for the 2026 Elections?

The next election in Alabama is the **State Primary Election on May 19!**

The **registration deadline** for the primary election is **May 4.**

Act Now:

- **Check** your voter registration status.
- **Register** to vote!
- **View** a full list of state election deadlines.

LWVEA News

Move the Ash

LWVEA Hosts Screening of Mobile Bay Coal Ash Doc

Did you know that **Alabama Power's** coal-fired **Plant Barry**, located right next to the Mobile River, maintains a **21-million-ton coal ash pond**? The unlined pond, held in place by a single dirt dike, covers an area equal to **451 football fields**, and it stores toxins released by the power plant. These toxins — arsenic, lead, and cobalt — pollute the groundwater. What's more: a severe weather event could cause the pond to flood, releasing the toxic sludge throughout the area in a disaster that would cover 30 square miles and irrevocably devastate the Mobile Bay.

On March 16, at [Boxcar](#) in Opelika, LWVEA hosted a screening of the documentary [Sallie's Ashes](#) followed by a Q & A with **Diane Thomas** and **Savan Wilson** who are featured in the film. The film follows **Sallie Smith** who, despite a terminal lung cancer diagnosis, rallies her friends Diane and Savan to start a campaign to get Alabama Power to move the ash.



Together, the three women established the [Coal Ash Action Group](#). Sadly, Sallie does not see the fight through — it is far from over — but thanks to the three women's community engagement and public pressure campaign, Alabama Power has pledged to recycle and move *part* of the ash.



A partial removal still leaves tons of toxins behind polluting the groundwater. Now Diane and Savan are continuing the fight to move the ash completely, and they need your help! Here's what you can do:

- Learn more about the coal ash pond and how you can [join the "Move the Ash" movement](#).
- Send a letter to Alabama Power (especially if you are a customer) and urge them to move the ash—not partially but completely.
- Contact your elected officials to voice your concern about the threat the pond poses to the Mobile Bay.

*Submitted by Ann Moss
LWVEA Programs Director*

See [local news coverage of the event](#) in *The Observer!*

The Coal Ash Action Group in Baldwin and Mobile counties are committed to raising awareness and mobilizing effective actions that encourage officials at all levels of government to reject the current cap-in-place practices for coal ash disposal.



LWVEA News

Fighting Censorship **LWVEA Hosts Read Freely Alabama**

This is a guest post by Pamela Wiggins, a congregant of Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship who attended the February LWVEA program meeting featuring Read Freely Alabama.

On February 9, I and other AUUF congregants attended a League of Women Voters discussion on the state of our public libraries in Alabama. The organization leading the fight against library censorship is **Read Freely Alabama** (RFA), a volunteer non-profit organization.

Censorship is on the rise across the United States, and one of the most visible battlegrounds is our public libraries. In Alabama, our library system is experiencing both direct censorship and more subtle forms of “soft censorship,” limiting access to information. The Alabama Public Library Service (APLS)—the group that administers federal and state funds to our state’s public libraries—has become a central player in this controversy. Chaired by John Wahl, a Trump-endorsed candidate for Alabama lieutenant governor, the APLS has threatened to defund our public libraries if they don’t remove children’s books deemed “sexually explicit” or “pornographic” (i.e., books that feature LGBTQ+ characters or themes) or “racially divisive” (i.e., books that explore racial justice themes).



Read Freely Alabama is a non-profit state-wide resource hub for local chapters and affiliated groups fighting library censorship.



Last December, the APLS pulled Fairhope Public Library’s funding after the library refused to remove books from its shelves. However, thanks to an outpouring of donations, the RFA and EveryLibrary Institute raised the \$42,230 that the APLS had pulled within just 4 days.

The APLS’s initiative to withhold funds poses a grave threat to smaller libraries in communities with limited resources. These libraries will have to choose between complying with APLS codes or losing their funding.

What can we do?

The RFA urges Alabamians to:

- Attend library board meetings (see Auburn’s schedule [here](#))
- [Call](#) your elected officials
- Check out [challenged and banned books](#)
- [Sign up](#) for the RFA newsletter
- Stay informed about what your local library is doing regarding censorship
- Get to know your librarians

Submitted by Pamela Wiggins

Read the full version of this report on [AUUF’s website](#).

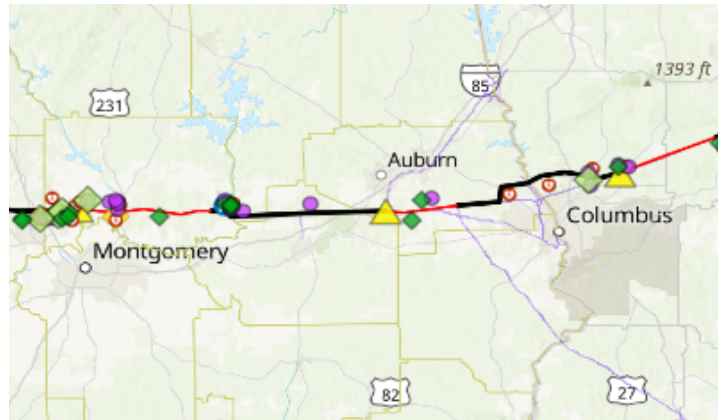


SSE4 Pipeline Update

Public Hearing on SSE4 Pipeline to Be Held in Auburn Apr. 28

You may recall last November's LWVEA program meeting, where **Energy Alabama** Deputy Director and General Counsel **Sheree Martin** educated us about the **South System Expansion 4 Pipeline Project** (SSE4), which will run through the Auburn-Opelika metro area. (Read the LWVEA coverage of that event [here](#).)

Alabama Rivers Alliance is working with a coalition of local, regional, and national partners to oppose the harmful plan to expand the methane gas pipelines across Alabama, which would deepen our reliance on dirty, expensive fossil fuels for decades. ARA and partners are officially intervening in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) proceedings and working closely with local community leaders to host a series of meetings across the path of the pipeline to inform communities of the impacts and



empower them to participate in the FERC process.

Join ARA at the next public meeting in Lee County on **Tuesday, April 28 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm** at [Auburn Unitarian Universalist Fellowship](#) (450 E Thach Ave, Auburn). Pizza and drinks will be provided! Learn more about the proposed project, see up to date maps of exactly where the new pipelines would go, and learn about concerns that may impact your property and your community.

Learn more about the pipeline and what you can do by visiting [ARA's website](#).

Call for Future Board Members



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

EAST ALABAMA

Do You See Yourself on the LWVEA Board?

Want to learn the ins and outs of your local League? Keep your finger on the pulse of what is happening? **Consider joining the LWVEA Board!** Participate in monthly meetings with fun and interesting people. Foster community awareness and action in an area of your choice, such as voter services, social justice, sustainability, and more.

Interested? **Email Kim White at lwveastal@gmail.com.**