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Co-Presidents' Corner



I was happy to represent our League at the recent state convention. LWVFL President Patti Brigham gave a “State of the State League” presentation. Highlights included a 20% growth in membership and several successful lawsuits resulting in 60,000 college students being able to vote early on campus, the striking of Amendment 8 from the ballot, and blocking the exiting governor from filling Supreme Court vacancies. A big win was also the passage of Amendment 4 allowing former felons to vote. We also heard about an effort to assist returning citizens who have had roadblocks put in their way by the legislature regarding payment of civil penalties. The state League is working to facilitate access to attorneys who will work with the former felons on a pro bono basis. A large effort will be made to educate and assist them in registering. One of the few “wins” in this year’s legislative session was the establishment and funding of a state committee on the centennial of the passage of a woman’s right to vote. Our state president is on the board, so we will be hearing more about the exciting plans.

I was honored to present the results of our study on Voluntary Pre-

kindergarten at a workshop. I spoke personally to the co-chairs of the League's education committee, and I left those conversations knowing our leaders at the state level understand and share our concerns about the quality of the educational experiences being received by 4-year-olds in VPK. We plan to march forward with our advocacy on this issue, and I feel that a window of opportunity may have opened when Governor DeSantis recently criticized publicly the abysmal failure rates of students taking the kindergarten readiness test. He has called upon the Education Commissioner to "prioritize this issue" and make improvements in the VPK program. We hope his leadership will lead to the legislature making positive changes in funding and assessment.

We would not be to this point in our advocacy work without our many League and AAUW volunteers who fanned out over the 3-county area to observe and interview teachers and directors in 23 VPK programs. Many thanks to all the volunteers who made this study possible, and we especially thank Linda Carpenter, Susan Gold, and Joanne Coen for their leadership on the project.

Yours in League,

Gail

Gail Formanack



While there will not be any general meetings until September, we call your attention to the various summer League activites. We

hope you can join us for lunch in June, a book discussion in July and a celebration of the 19th Amendment in August. If you are returning north, safe travels and we look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Beth & Gail

League Summer Activities

June 2019

- **Monday, June 24, 11:30 a.m., League lunch at Ricciardi's Brownwood, The Villages. RSVP Beth Hicks,lwvtriprez@gmail.com by June 17.**
- **Wednesday, June 26, 6-7:30 p.m., United Way Women United Giving Event, Leesburg Center for the Art, Leesburg.**
[Click here for more information](#)

July 2019

- **Monday, July 22, 4:30 p.m., discussion of "The Woman's Hour." RSVP Jeannie Hamilton,jeannie@jeannierealtor.com.**

August 2019

- **Friday, August 16, 2-4 p.m., LWVTRI/AAUW "Equalitea", Fish Hawk Recreation Center, The Villages.**
[Click here for more information](#)

Membership

Welcome to our newest members:

Sue Bodenner
Katherine M Bradley
Barbara & Thomas Jury
Dr. Jean Mee

Just a reminder that dues are due on the **anniversary month** of your joining the League. You will receive an email reminder from **Karen West** (LWVTRImembers@gmail.com) prior to your anniversary date.

When you do, please make your check payable to **LWVTRI** and mail it to our **Treasurer, Bernadette Aley, 1106 Monterey Lane, The Villages, Florida 32159**. If you are not sure of your anniversary month, you can contact **Karen West, LWVTRImembers@gmail.com**. Please add Karen's address to your email contact list.

League Name Badges

League name badges are now available to all members for **\$5**. Choose either a magnetic or pin backing. Name badges can be ordered at the general meetings.

League Website

Our website, **LWVTRIFL.org**, has a **Members Only** page that contains a current membership list, an Expense Voucher, our chapter's By-Laws as well as other information of potential interest.

If you are interested in gaining access, please contact our webmaster, **Char Griffin, webmaster@lwvtrifl.org**. She will reply explaining how to set up your own personal password so you can access this part of our site.

League Liaisons

Liaisons will participate in statewide conference calls as well as keep members updated on proposed legislation during the legislative session. Here are our League's liaisons:

Gun Safety-Cindy Vinarski
Juvenile Justice-Linda Bishop
Natural Resources-Bonnie Field

If you would like to participate in the conference calls with the liaison, please contact **Beth Hicks, lwgtriprez@gmail.com**.

Voter Registration Credentials

Just a reminder to League members who are certified to register

voters, as well as League members who would like to be certified to register voters, please note that as of **December 31, 2018**, the certification of all voter registrars expired. League members who do voter registration for the League will need to re-certify their credentials with the State League **ASAP**. Beginning in 2017 the LWVFL instituted a 2-year cycle whereby the list of approved voter registrars would be wiped clean, requiring members to re-certify. The two-year cycle ended on 12/31/2018.

If you are interested in doing voter registration with our League, you must study the PowerPoint which is on the LWV Florida website and take the quiz, attaining a perfect score. Once you pass with 100% you will get a notification from LWVFL that you are authorized to do voter registration. To begin the certification process, please contact **Beth Hicks, lwvtriprez@gmail.com** for the password for the Member link on the state League website.



2019 LWV Florida Convention Reports

Nothing like gathering with over 150 men and women who are as passionate about the electoral process as you are! We celebrated at the Ritz Carlton Golf Resort in Naples, FL. The pool and the course were tempting, but we soldiered on with the work that needed to be done. The days were full. Saturday breakfast was at 6:30 AM so we could begin at 7:30, and there was a Grab and Go lunch to take to a session! We debated and voted on amendments that allowed us to approve a program, budget and elect officers and board members to the statewide team.

We received applause and warm wishes during the Local League Roll Call when our slide of accomplishments was displayed. The delegates were impressed with our numbers in both membership and what we have accomplished with **Vote 411** and how many speeches we have

given. (Thanks **Carol Van Noy, Char Griffin and Jeannie Hamilton.**)

The best news for our local League is the acceptance of our recommendation for increased financial support for pre-kindergarten based on our VPK study. It is now part of the State Program, and this allows all state League members to advocate for and lobby their elected officials on this issue.

There is a state-wide commitment to collaborate and share our special centennial plans for 2020. For example, LWV Orange County has a Florida LWV timeline that they will share. State board promised more information in the near future

I attended breakouts sessions on Civics Education, Centennial Celebration, and Unlocking the League for Newcomers. I will share details of each topic with the board so that we can implement some great suggestions, handouts, and best practices. I was impressed by the knowledge and willingness to share their products with all. For example, we have a great source for Civics education for all and a great new and improved Welcome to the League packet. Just need to teach the author how to attach a file and email to me!

Beth Hicks



This was my first LWVFL convention, and I came away with a better understanding of the inner workings of the organization. I appreciated the opportunity to visit with the League's office staff and better understand the work they do on our behalf from the state office in Orlando. One of the actions taken by the delegates was to approve an increase in the budget that will allow our part-time lobbyist to become the full-time Director of Government Relations for the League. Nicolette Springer was hired right before this

year's legislative session, and her ability to effectively represent the League at committee hearings and meetings with legislators was quickly recognized. In July she will begin to visit legislators in their home districts in an attempt to build relationships and better understanding of the League's legislative priorities. She will also acquire some duties in fundraising as the state League hopes to write grants and acquire some business support for our events and other efforts.

I also attended workshops on fundraising and grant writing. We have brainstormed some big ideas regarding materials for distribution for the upcoming election, and we would like to identify willing business partners who would pay for printing while receiving recognition in the materials. If you have a personal relationship with a financial advisor or other potential sponsor, please let me know so we could team up in "the ask."

We heard from Jeanette Senecal, L WVUS Senior Director of Mission Impact. She spoke about nonpartisan advocacy emphasizing that nonpartisanship is part of the League's power and must be preserved. We heard from Dan McCrea, an expert on election security. He reminded us elections are an alternative to war providing for a peaceable transition of power affirming the people's right to speak and the government's obligation to listen. His chief concerns regarding election security revolve around computerized databases for registration and voting which are outsourced to various companies and more vulnerable to hacking. He believes more safeguards should be in place, and we should be less reliant on outside entities.

Gail Formanack



Hi fellow League members...I would like to share with you an overview of the 3 workshops I attended during the LWV 37th Biennial Convention in Naples, FL, June 7th & 8th 2019.

Presentations That Inspire....given by Marcia Herman and Karen Wilkerson of the LWV of Palm Beachthe purpose of Speakers Bureau and methods for delivering education to local communityour role is to present facts provided by the LWVFL, (and by Leagues who composed their own powerpoints which are approved by LWVFL).Karen demonstrated how she makes her presentations interesting and engaging to her audience....very informative workshop!

National Popular Vote in FL & the US....given by Marcia Herman with Jonathan Perloe, guest speaker.....Jonathan shared the steps taken by his small group of dedicated volunteers and the work involved, which contributed to the successful 10 year battle for Connecticut to join the NPVIC. Inspirational!

Building Influence : Effective Engagement at the Local Level.....given by Renna Stout , Sandi Vidal of LWV Orange County - and our very own Sara Rich. A detailed overview of the methods they formulated and used to engage and involve the "Millenials " and "Generation x" groups....they covered the nuts and bolts of attracting and sustaining relationships. Their "Leaders in Action " program is successfully reaching new members ! Superwomen !

Please contact me, **Bonnie Field**, bfield222@gmail.com, if you have interest in these topics.

Bonnie Field



Mary McIntyre, a member of our League, would like to share the following:

"Ze Carter Brown (CEO of Kitch'n Life Skills) and Consuelo Ibe, (CEO of Darling Diamonds) have combined efforts to run this program. They hope to supply over 200 girls with hygiene supplies to start back to school. Statistics indicate that there are many girls and young women who miss 20% of a school year because they don't have access

to menstrual needs. When a family needs groceries that supersedes other needs in many cases. We are women helping girls and young women with the basic needs that are sometimes taken for granted. The Resource Center is on CR468 (the red road) by Rimes School. Any things are needed: toothbrushes and toothpaste, body wash, deodorants, soaps, shampoo, etc."

For more information, please contact **Mary McIntyre, mmacfla@aol.com**

Education

Our League is very proud that our three year joint VPK study with AAUW/Lake-Sumter has resulted in our position on funding and teacher training being approved at the state League convention and becoming part of the state League's education platform. If you are new to the League and not familiar with Florida's VPK Program, you can go to our website, www.lwvtrifl.org and check out the report.

The 2020 Legislative Session will begin in January so committees will begin meeting during the summer and we expect to visit our local tri-county legislators to remind them of the VPK bills that did not advance

out of committee this past session.

If you are interested in education, please do not hesitate to contact one of our committee members,

Linda Carpenter, linda.j.carpenter@gmail.com,

Susan Gold, susangold28@gmail.com

or

Joanne M. Coen, joanne.m.coen@gmail.com.

Voter Service

Speakers Bureau

Below are the topics for which our League is providing speakers:

- **National Popular Vote Interstate Compact & the Electoral College**
- **FL Charter Schools**
- **US Constitution & the Balance of Power**
- **Suffrage**

Please contact

Jeannie Hamilton, Speakers Bureau Chair, 303 817

9988Lwvtrispeakersbureau@gmail.com

if you know a group that would be interested in one of our presentations.

Check us out at www.lwvtrifl.org

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