



***Nationally Recognized! Locally Active!***

**November 2020**

**Volume 14 Issue 8**

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## **President Notes**

### **Gail Formanack**

As you read this, election day will be but a few days away, or just a few days ago depending on the speed of the newsletter editor. We have been encouraged to think of it as an “election season” as many of you have already voted either by mail or at an early voting site. We also know that in states where mail-in ballots can be counted if they arrive after election day that results may be delayed. Patience will be required.

Our Florida League president Patty Brigham, in a meeting for all members, stated that a peaceful transfer of power has always taken place in this country, and we must continue to believe in the system. Rumors have been abundant, but she assured members that electors cannot be switched legally by the state legislature or the governor. For those of you who have decided to be election watchers, you are urged to call 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) if you see any voter intimidation. She cautioned members to never engage with protestors.

I am immensely proud of the work our members have done to educate and inform voters on both the candidates running for office as well as on the six constitutional amendments. Our Voter Services team and Speakers Bureau have been very busy, and a number of members have stepped up to write postcards to first-time voters. No matter the outcome of the election, our mission of voter engagement will have been achieved if we achieve record turnout. Let’s hope our “Be a Voter” message has resonated with millions of Floridians.

Yours in League,  
Gail

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**Thanks to Bonnie Field**

Co-president Bonnie Field has resigned from her position on the board but will remain a League member while she addresses some health concerns. We thank Bonnie for her willingness to serve as a leader in our League and wish her the best. The League's Nominating Committee will be activated soon as it seeks to fill open positions on the board of directors. Please consider serving in a board capacity by volunteering or consenting when asked. If you are interested, please contact Mary Schulz, chair of the Nominating Committee, at [marykschulz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marykschulz@sbcglobal.net)



Thank you



## Meeting Information

**Monday November 16  
Note change due to the Thanksgiving Holiday**

**10:00 social time  
10:30 meeting via Zoom**

### **Topic: National Popular Vote**

Kathleen Crampton will be our speaker. Kathleen is a retired senior executive with experience in the health care sector. She serves on multiple boards and is currently Chair of Floridians for National Popular Vote. She lives in Palm Beach and will join us via Zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting November 16<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 am social, 10:30 am meeting start time

#### [\*\*Click Here for Zoom Meeting\*\*](#)

Meeting ID: 859 6940 7126

Passcode: 858926

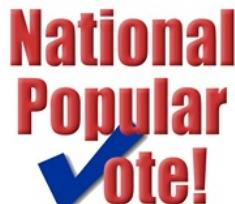
No computer or smart phone? Join by phone (audio only) and enter Meeting ID and Passcode above.

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

If you are new to Zoom and need help, call Gail at 402 630-8791 any time before 10:30 for assistance.

A reminder will be sent. If you aren't a Zoom user, you can view the meeting by going to our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/LWVTheVillagesTriCountyAreaFlorida/>



## **OBSERVER'S NOTES**

Those of you interested in our National Popular Vote Compact work may be interested in the following 2 bills on that topic here in Florida.

HB 335 by Rep. Joseph Geller and its companion bill SB 908 by Sen. Victor Torres. They are from 2019/20, and are expected to

be re-filed again during the next Florida Legislative session beginning Tuesday March 2, 2021.

Bonnie Field 352 435-0079

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## New Member Orientation

The League can seem like a complex organization with its three-levels of structure and protocols for action. Members who have joined in the last 18 months will receive an invitation to participate in a special Zoom orientation which will allow you to meet each other as well as some of the leaders of your local League. Watch your email for a special invitation to attend.

NEWCOMER  
**VIRTUAL**  
ORIENTATION



## VOTER SERVICES

We are very proud of the work our League has done to inform and encourage 2020 Florida voters.

Thirty of our members wrote more than 3,000 postcards encouraging returning citizens to register and vote and urging registered voters to vote.

Our Speakers' Bureau made 17 Zoom presentations on the Amendments on the 2020 General Election ballot, to 361 attendees. At least two of these talks were available on Facebook with over 100 additional views.

We distributed 2,100 printed Voter Guides and 2,400 bookmarks describing and instructing how to access Vote411.

In addition, in early October, we registered voters with the Southern Christian Leadership Foundation.

We continue to post Be A Voter videos of young women urging young people to register and vote, on Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat.

In September and October, we held three Zoom candidate forums.

From Saturday, August 22 through Saturday, October 31, we sent weekly emails to over 200 recipients, who sent them on to others, about voting in 2020 (topics such as Vote-by-Mail, Early Voting, etc.)

In collaboration with the Sisters of Suffragists, celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, we created a display of National Archive History of Women's Vote, in Lady Lake Library through Election Day, as a reminder to vote.

We placed ads about Vote411 in Villages Daily Sun, Ocala Star Banner, and Orlando Sentinel.

Thanks to all of the members whose generous gift of time and money has made possible an informed electorate participating in a fair and free election. We are grateful for your contribution to continuing to achieve a more perfect union.

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## 2020 Census Florida Results

The League worked tirelessly along with many others to ensure that Floridians were counted in the 2020 census. Hampered by the pandemic, the 2020 census saw several deadline extensions, but the enumeration was called to halt in mid-October. The national self-response rate was 67%. Florida's self-response rate was 63.8%. Locally our tri-county area logged the following rates: Sumter 71.1%, Marion 66.9%, and Lake 64.1%. Using other methods to count the population led the Census Bureau to declare Florida with a total enumeration rate of 99.9%.

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## Natural Resources

Knowledge is power! Arm yourselves with scientific facts by learning from the scientists. If you explore the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection's site, you will become informed on the issues facing Florida and the science involved in assessing those issues.

The FLDEP was created by the Florida Legislature in 1993, by combining the existing Dept. of Natural Resources and the Dept. of Environmental Regulation. Today it is responsible for the protection, conservation, and management of Florida's environment and natural resources. The FLDEP enforces Federal and State environmental laws, protects Florida's air and water quality, cleans up pollution, regulates solid waste management, promotes pollution prevention, and acquires environmentally sensitive lands for preservation -using the legislated program "Florida Forever" funding.

They also maintain a statewide system of parks, trails, and aquatic preserves. The FLDEP provides guidance to Florida's congressional delegation, federal agencies, and national associations on federal legislative proposals that include amendments and reauthorizations of environmental laws, requests for appropriations, and implementation of suggestions or constituent inquiries.

If you want to learn about the water bottling issues or minimum water levels - the FLDEP website is the place to become fully informed....their [website](#) is extensive when fully explored. One may also sign up for their newsletter to keep informed.

**THE WOMEN'S *suffrage* CENTENNIAL**

**EVENT PANELISTS**



**VIRTUAL EVENT**

**KAREN HILL**  
Chair of the National Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission

**BEVERLY E. SMITH**  
National President & CEO, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

**JILL MOSS GREENBERG**  
Executive Director Emerita, Maryland Women's Heritage Center

**NOVEMBER 10TH • 6:30PM-8:00PM**

youngperformingartists.org/suffrage-centennial

Beverly Steele from Young Artists, Royal in Wildwood and a Fellow Suffragist is happy to announce the Virtual Panel discussing The Right to Vote and the African American Woman. She has assembled a nationally recognized panel which includes Villager Jill Moss Greenberg. She invites us all to join the virtual event. More information can be found at the [Young Artists Website](#)



## Speaker's Bureau

Our new normal is Zoom presentations. We have been busy with amendments talks, with our final amendment presentation on October 21. There are other presentations available to your group. [Here](#) is information on our current presentations. For more information and to schedule a presentation click [here](#).

## Local League on Social Media



**Facebook - League of Women Voters  
The Villages Tri County**

**Twitter - LWV-TV/Tri**

**Snap Chat  
League of Women Voters The Villages**

**Instagram - Lwvtriprez**

**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!**

**Dates for  
2020-2021 Meetings**

11/16/20 General meeting via Zoom  
12/14/20 General meeting via Zoom  
1/25/21 General meeting – Manatee or Zoom (TBD)  
2/22/21 General Meeting – TBD  
3/22/21 Annual Meeting – TBD  
4/26/21 General Meeting – TBD  
5/17/21 General Meeting - TBD

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Dues are payable on the **anniversary month** of your joining the League. You will receive an email reminder from **Karen West** ([LWVTRImembers@gmail.com](mailto: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.

Please note: The National League will also send you a request for membership the month before your dues are up for renewal with LWVTRI THE VILLAGES. Please send your renewal **LOCALLY**. National gets a portion of your local dues as does the State League. Local memberships support all levels - and we need to keep the grassroots organization strong. We may not get "credit" for you as a local member if your check goes directly to National.

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## League Website

Our website, [LWVTRIFL.org](http://LWVTRIFL.org), has a **Members Only** section containing multiple pages:

- the main **Members Only** page has our membership list, minutes from our last Board meeting, an Expense Voucher, our chapter's By-Laws as well as other information
- the **Publications** page is where you can find past newsletters

as well as copies of our national and local studies

- the **Voter Guide Archive**
- a **Caught on Camera** page containing candid photos from our events and activities.

The drop down menu from the Top-Nav allows you to go directly to the page you want to access.

When you select one of these pages, you will be required to provide a password. To gain access to this restricted part of our website, contact our member chair:

Karen West LWVTRImembers@gmail.com

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### **Editor Musings**

We are all becoming experts with Zoom if we want to stay in touch with others. Please take care of yourselves and look out for others.

If you have a submission for this newsletter, please use the [newsletter email](#). Try to get it to me by the 25th of the month. Thanks!

Yours in the League,  
Beth

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