



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

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**CO-PRESIDENT
Char Griffin**

New Year. New Beginning.

The New Year is a time to look forward and challenge yourself to be a better you.

Organizations can do that too.

To that end the LWVTRIFL Board has been looking at ways the League can have more impact in our community while providing more members with a sense of purpose and belonging. It's a lofty goal and one that requires continuous improvements. It will be fun! It will be exciting!

At the moment we are laying the foundation by exploring bylaws changes that will allow us to be more adaptable; changes that will create an organization structure that reflects the work that lies ahead. Not so fun. Not so exciting. But necessary, and we will need your help.

For now, just know that the only time we can change Bylaws is at the Annual Meeting in March. Any amendments must be submitted to the members, in writing, at least one month in advance. That means amendments will be coming your way in February. We ask that you take the time to read them, ask us questions, and be ready to vote.

Thank you for being a member of our League. What we are doing is important. YOU are important. And, as always, I welcome any suggestions you may have – especially on ideas for making you and/or others feel more connected. Send your thoughts to char.griffin@me.com

Board Meeting Highlights

The Board has been discussing whether the position of Director should carry with it a set of responsibilities critical to the functioning of the League. To that end one of the director positions for 2023-2024 will be Communications Director. This position will coordinate the website, the newsletter, social media, and public relations.



Given that voters are required to renew their request to vote by mail before the next election, the Board has decided we need to work on a plan to educate voters. Since Ocala elects its city council in off-years, this education program must be ready before the municipal elections in 2023. If you would be interested in working on this project, please contact Carol VanNoy (denny.carol@gmail.com)

In appreciation of the speaker at our December meeting, David Houck, the Board agreed to donate \$100 to the *Friends of SOZO Kids* to help purchase gifts for the children living in poverty in the Ocala Forest.

Neither the General Meeting in November nor December was held on the 4th Monday because of conflicts with holidays. The same is the case in May. This happens every year, so the Board discussed changing our regular meetings to the 2nd week of the month. A survey will be sent to members to determine the day of the week as well as the time of day that best accommodates our members. Whether the timing will change for 2023-2024 will depend on finding an acceptable alternative for the majority of members plus room availability.

Our secretary, Dee Melvin, is moving to Texas in January. We thank Dee for all she has accomplished over the years and will miss her.

Upcoming Board Vacancies

Board Members for the 2023 - 2024 fiscal year will be elected at our Annual Meeting on Monday, March 27, 2023. Now is the time to **consider running for office.**

The following 2-year positions are open

- Co-President



- Vice President, who will assume the responsibility of Voter Services Director if a proposed amendment to the Bylaws passes
- Treasurer
- Director At Large
- Communications Director, who will be responsible for coordinating the website, newsletter, social media, and public relations

In addition a Secretary will be elected to finish the one year remaining in the term of Dee Melvin, who has moved to Texas.

If you are interested in learning more about these positions, please contact Char Griffin. (char.griffin@me.com)

To volunteer to run for one of these offices or nominate another League member, contact Nominating Committee Chair, Mary Schulz (marykschulz@yahoo.com)

Welcome to Our New Members

Diane Ball
Renee McLain



**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

January 23 - Lou Sasmor - *What Flavor of Government Do You Want?*

February 27, Wesley Wilcox, Marion County SOE

March 27- Char Griffin and Mary Kay Rosinski, *The Case for Focus*

April 24 Martha Taylor, President of the NAACP TriCity

May 22 - Jason McHugh Wildwood City Manager, Wildwood Master Plan

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

.You can expect to have an email reminder from member chair Gail Formanack



(formanag@gmail.com) prior to your anniversary date. Please pay your dues locally rather than joining directly with LWVUS.

Effective April 1, 2022, members may now renew their membership online and pay with a credit card.

The link to the membership renewal page is

<https://www.lwvtrifl.org/renew.html> You may also navigate to this from the main top menu “Become a Member.” New members may register, current members may renew, and you can update your directory information if you have moved, have a new phone number, etc. Of course, you may still send a check through the mail to our treasurer, Bernadette Aley, 1106 Monterrey Lane, The Villages, FL 32159. Please fill out the member interest survey when joining or renewing. We would like to get you involved in an area of League work that interests you.

As of April 1, local dues have been increased by \$2.00 for individual (\$62) and household memberships (\$87). The amount retained by our local organization will increase from \$13.50 to \$15.50 (individual) and \$15.00 to \$17.00 (household). The Susan B. Anthony membership level includes a \$40.00 additional donation retained in the general fund so will remain at the \$100.00 level. This increase will cover the fees incurred when paying by credit card.

If you have forgotten the password for members only for our website, or have any other membership questions, please [contact Gail Formanack](#).

Editor Musings

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season. December is such a crazy month with alternate dates for so many events. Looking forward to a quiet year (we can hope) in 2023. We will continue to defend democracy and empower voters! **Please seriously consider how you can fit into our mission and what you can do!**

Yours in the League,
Beth

