



League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area

Nationally Recognized & Locally Active

www.lwvtrifl.org

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President's Letter



Democracy is not a spectator sport! How many times have I written that and have you heard it? Some questions for you: Have you filled in and sent your vote by mail ballot in? Have you planned where you are going to early vote? Have you figured out a good time to go to the polls on Election Day? I certainly hope there is a resounding YES to one or more of the questions! We MUST make sure our voices are heard with our ballot. If you have been keeping up with the national news, the right to vote is under attack in many states. Entire groups are being disenfranchised by decisions made by state officials. **We must be true to our founding principles and fight for votes for all eligible voters.**

Our local League continues to meet itself coming and going. We have sponsored 3 meet and greets, made 47 presentation, spoken to over 2,100 people, have driven from Ocala to Mt. Dora and from Summerfield to Groveland, passed out hundreds of voter guides and have had numerous hits on our website.

The board is starting to make some long-range decisions regarding all this activity and looking to the future. The exponential growth of our

commitments means it is time to set up specific committees and work together for even more successful future elections. Where can you fit in? What is your time and talent? Are you a computer nerd? Do you have time at home to work on research? Are you willing to take an easy online test and be certified to register voters? Will you make phone calls? We all have something to give, please consider doing your part for the greater good. After the election, you may get a call from a board member, please think it through and join us in protecting the vote and informing the electorate.

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, we are moving our November meeting from the fourth to the third Monday of the month. Again, we will be meeting at the **Belvedere Library, 325 Belvedere Blvd., The Villages**.

I hope you have made your reservation for the Holiday Luncheon. There is still time to do.

Yours in the League,
Beth Hicks



November General Meeting
Monday, November 19, 10:30 a.m.
Belvedere Library, 325 Belvedere Blvd. The Villages

Guest Speaker: Frank Costanzo
Topic: By The Numbers--November Election Results

December Holiday Luncheon
Monday, December 10, 11 A.M.–1 P.M.
Red Sauce Restaurant, 1000 Canal St.
Lake Sumter Landing, The Villages

Guest Speaker: Denise Burry, Forward Paths

Forward Paths is located in Leesburg and believes that everyone should have the opportunity to live up to their full potential. Their focus is on the community's homeless youths and those who are aging out of foster care. Together they work to create a path that leads to independence. Their vision is of a supportive community that aids those youths in acquiring housing, transportation, job skills, and other needed services that will direct them on a forward path to success. At any one time, they have about 50 clients from across Lake County and Sumter as well.



Just a reminder that dues are due on the anniversary month of your joining the League. You will receive an email reminder prior to your anniversary date. When you do, please make your check payable to LWVTRI and mail it to **Bernadette Aley, 1106 Monterey Lane, The Villages, Florida 32159.**

League Name Badges

League name badges are now available to all members for \$5. Choose either a magnetic or pin backing. If you would like to order one, please contact: June Webber, budweb@comcast.net.

Holiday Luncheon

Join us for our Annual Holiday Luncheon & Gift Exchange at Red SauceRestaurant, Lake Sumter Landing, The Villages. The cost is \$25 and that includes tax, tip and soft beverage. Reservations can be made by contacting Carolyn Johnson, cjohnson4103@gmail.com, or you can bring your check to the November General Meeting. Seating is limited so don't delay- make your reservation now. The deadline for reservations is Monday, December 2, and there will be no refunds for cancellations after that date. Luncheon selections do not have to be made in advance, but if you would like to see what will be on the menu, [you can click here](#).

In addition to this being a holiday luncheon, this is our League's only fundraiser of the year. So come with your gift for the Holiday Gift Exchange and purchase a chance or chances for that item you just cannot live without.

Thank you to those members who answered Carolyn Johnson's call for volunteers to help at the luncheon. We are well staffed.

October General Meeting Guest Speaker Diane Kornegay

Diane Kornegay was appointed Superintendent of Lake County Schools and has been in office since January 2017. She discussed the challenges and successes in improving student achievement and successes in Lake County Schools.

In the 1917-18 school year, the first under her leadership, the number of schools earning A or B grades has increased from 19 to 25. The high school graduation rate has gone from 77% to 85%, the number of people in administrative positions has been reduced and more teachers in the schools has allowed all elementary schools to have music teachers and art teachers or STEAM (arts integrated with STEM classes) teachers.

A new technology plan is providing ChromeBook laptops for each student over a five year period. These computers are loaded with Google Class Work which enables student collaboration, and all textbooks are loaded on the computer.

Perhaps most exciting is the focus on vocational academies in all high schools. Leesburg High School has a revitalized construction academy, supported by local contractors and builders who mentor students, provide paid summer internships, and upon successful completion of the program, a high paying job after graduation. Tavares High School is piloting a Teacher's Academy this year – to create a pipeline for home-grown Lake County teachers in the future.

Voter Service

Since last Summer, we have held three Candidate Meet and Greets, i.e. a Judicial Meet and Greet before the August Primary Election, a General Election Meet and Greet in The Villages and one in Umatilla. The candidates who participated were very grateful for the opportunity. And, many of you and your neighbors took advantage of the opportunity to talk with the candidates and get to know them.

We have distributed over 8,000 copies of the State's printed Voters Guide, which featured the candidates for Federal and Statewide office, as well as explanations of the twelve 2018 Ballot Issues (Constitutional Amendments). Thank you to the many LWV members who took Guides to the various locations, especially **Sara Rich**, who has covered most of South Lake County!!

Vote411 has been a great success, as well. Thank you, **Char Griffin**, for not only learning a whole new software system, but making corrections and generally monitoring the site.

In addition, our Speakers' Bureau has been in great demand. As of this writing, our 12 speakers and 5 assistants have given presentations on the 2018 Constitutional Amendments, to over 2,000 people. What a great job they have done!! Thank you and kudos to our Speakers' Bureau and **our Speakers' Bureau Coordinator, Jeannie Hamilton**.

Going forward, we want to keep the momentum going, on all of these fronts. While the next election will be in 2020, we must start preparing. Since that will be a presidential election year, the volume of

opportunity will be even greater. Please contact Carol Van Noy, atdenny.carol@gmail.com if you are interested in participating in any of the following: Speakers Bureau, Voter Registration, Forums and Meet and Greets, Online Voters' Guide (Vote411), and Distribution of LWV State printed Voters' Guides.

If you still haven't settled on your candidates and the amendments, you can go to VOTE411.org, the online voter guide. Go to the site, enter your home address, and click the **green** "ENTER" button. On the next page click the **green** button to get personalized information on the candidates and issues that will appear on your ballot.

You will see candidates' unedited answers to questions and can compare their positions. Information about the constitutional amendments is also in the guide. When you have made your selections, you may print, email or text your choices to use as a reference when you vote.

NOTE: If accessing www.Vote411.org on a smart phone, be sure to click the plus sign (+) to expand the text and see all the details that appear automatically when viewing on a computer screen.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization.

The League neither endorses or opposes candidates or political parties.

The League is political in that it does take positions which are based on study and consensus by the members.

Check us out at www.lwvtrifl.org

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