



THE VOTER

LWV of the Villages/Tri-County Area ◊ September 2011 ◊ Vol. 6 Issue 3
www.lwvtri.org
Nationally recognized! Locally active!



**JOIN US FOR
A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION
ON
THE *ROLE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IN EDUCATION***

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2011
10 A.M. – 12 NOON
COMMUNITY BANK & TRUST Co.
CR466
THE VILLAGES**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization.
We do not endorse political parties or candidates.

We encourage informed and active participation in government and work to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

You know summer is ending when the school year starts. Now that the tri-county area schools are back in session, what an appropriate topic to kick off our League year—education! Local League members have been very busy these past several months reading and preparing material for the national League study on *The Role of the Federal Government in Education*. Thank you to **Bernice Cozewith, Carolyn Johnson** and members of the committee for their hard work. LWVTRI committee members have summarized the white papers prepared by LWVUS and these will be in the information packet you will be receiving. This is the first of two meetings on this timely topic so, like a good student, read your material and come to the meeting prepared to participate in the discussion. More information can be found on page 3. Don't forget to invite a friend!

The League did not take the summer off. We held two coffees at Panera's covering the proposed amendments on the 2012 ballot as well as the reapportionment process. Both were well attended, and I am happy to say that we welcomed a new member, **Carol Pait**, who attended the reapportionment coffee and joined on the spot. The Reapportionment Hearings came to our area in July and several League members were in attendance. Contrary to the piece written by Rep. Kelli Stargel that appeared in the "Orlando Sentinel," speakers at the Hearings in The Villages, especially League representatives, were not disruptive. Now we wait and see the process play out. We have invited Sen. Allan Hayes, (R-20), a member of the Reapportionment Committee, to be the guest speaker at our October meeting.

As if one national study wasn't enough, a second study will be getting underway and it is very appropriate for League members in Florida. At the 2010 LWVUS Convention, delegates voted to adopt a study on issues to be considered when transferring government services to the private sector. Here in Florida, there are talks underway to privatize some prisons as well as Medicaid. Find out more about this important issue on page 3.

2011-2012 will be a busy time for Leagues at all levels. Now is the time to rethink why you joined the League and to also reflect on our mission which is "The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy." How can you help? Will you become more involved? Think about it!

In League,

Joanne

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our newest member, **Carol Pait**, of Fruitland Park. You will find contact information for Carol in your Membership Directory which you received.

Thoughts are with **Nancy Bell**, who is recovering from heart surgery and **Thelma Kuperberg** and **Frances Spedding** who are dealing with health issues.

Dues for **August**: **Betty Keller & Roberta Scott**; **September**: **Beth Hicks & Carolyn Moores**; **October**: **Phyllis Cohen, Wanda Cooksey, Bernice Cozewith, Carol Dodds & Clark Schlosser, Diane Jacobson**. Checks, including the **\$10** Local Dues, and payable to **LWVTRI**, can be sent to **Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Dr., The Villages, FL 32162**.

UPCOMING DATES

SEPTEMBER

**Monday, Sept. 12,
9:30 a.m.**

Board meeting at home of Joanne Coen & open to all members.

**Monday, Sept. 26,
10:00 a.m.**

Community Bank & Trust Co., CR466, The Villages.

**Monday, Oct. 10,
10:00 a.m.**

Board meeting at home of Joanne Coen & open to all members.

**Monday, Oct. 26,
10:00 a.m.**

Sen. Allan Hayes, Community Bank & Trust Co., CR466, The Villages.

In preparation for the consensus on the national League Education Study, League members will be receiving, a packet containing a review of the consensus process; summaries of the white papers prepared by members of the national League study committee; consensus questions and other information that will aid you in participating in the consensus process. Please review this material and bring it with you to the September meeting.

At this meeting, committee members will be presenting information on the history of the role of the federal government in education, early childhood education, funding and equity issues, and legislation and funding for the disadvantaged. To read the white papers in their entirety you can go to: Http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Public_Education&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=112&ContentID=16956. After the presentations, questions addressing these topics will be discussed.

At our November meeting, we will wrap up our study as we deal with the topic of common core standards and answer the questions that pertain to that issue. Finally, at the conclusion of both meetings, we will see if we have reached consensus on the questions. Remember, consensus "...is not a simple majority, nor is it unanimity; rather it is the *overall sense of the group* as expressed through the exchanges of ideas and opinions, whether in a meeting of the full membership or a series of smaller discussion meetings." Your participation is needed as this is how the League determines its positions on issues.

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SCOPE OF THE PRIVATIZATION STUDY:

The purpose of this study is to identify those parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. It will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good.

Timeline:

August - October 2011	Information provided to Local and State Leagues
November 2011-May 2012:	Leagues are encouraged to participate in the study on Privatization of Government services, assets and functions, and the impact on local communities by scheduling meetings to educate members and communities about the issue and come to consensus.

Organization:

The committee will provide a history and background of privatization, a glossary of terms, legal issues to be considered when privatizing at different levels of government, current state regulations on privatizing and case studies on successful and unsuccessful privatizing efforts. Finally, the committee will provide suggested policies and parameters to be considered when privatizing.

Recommended Reading:

1. [**Government Privatization: History, Examples, and Issues**](#)
2. [**Paul Starr, "The Meaning of Privatization," Yale Law and Policy Review 6 \(1988\): 6-41.**](#)
3. [**Privatization: A Seattle League Study**](#)

If you are interested in finding out more about this proposed study, please contact Joanne M. Coen. This topic is of great importance to Floridians so think about participating.

LWVF LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2012

It is time for League members across Florida to choose the legislative priorities for the 2012 session of the legislature. You have received the LWVF program for 2011-2013 which was adopted at the 2011 LWVF convention. Please look over the document as well as the final issue of the Capitol Report for 2011. The latter is available on the LWVF website: www.lwvfla.org.

As in the past, you are being asked to choose the top **three** priorities for the session, and our lobbyist will concentrate the LWVF's efforts on those. However, since we do not know what issues the legislators will address during the session, we will not ignore other League priorities if they come up during that time. Remember, the 2012 session is starting in January due to the reapportionment process.

THE LEAGUE AND NONPARTISANSHIP

The 2012 election cycle is starting and the rhetoric is heating up. I have taken the liberty of reprinting again this piece written by a League member in Michigan:

It is not uncommon for outsiders, and even some members, to question how the League can be nonpartisan yet advocate on positions that, in the slice of time that is now, appear to be partisan.

In the highly partisan climate that has developed in recent years, the League is one of the very few political organizations that is not in either the liberal/Democratic camp or the conservative/Republican camp. And we have members of all political persuasions and encourage them to get involved in politics. So members may be partisan but the organization is not. All this is hard for many to wrap their minds around.

The League is nonpartisan in that we do not endorse or support any political party or candidate for office. We don't rate legislators, we don't track their votes and we don't threaten them if they don't vote our way. Voter service is one of our main missions and we publish nonpartisan voter guides and hold candidate forums to help voters educate themselves beyond TV ads.

Education is an important League function, and we try in our meetings and in this newsletter to inform our attendees/readers and stimulate them to think about issues in our world. However, the

Please look over the recommended items under each major program issue; if you agree that the issues under Government in Florida or Social Policy in Florida are the issues on which we should concentrate, you would choose Government in Florida and Social Policy. If you think the issues listed under Justice in Florida or Sustainability are more important, you would choose Justice in Florida and Sustainability.

For the past three years, the LWVF has solicited local Leagues' input on choosing priorities and have used the questions formulated by Leaguers for the legislative interviews.

Please return your priorities to Joanne by Monday, Sept. 12.

League is also an advocacy group, and we have positions on issues that have been developed over the years since our founding in 1920 and are the result of study and consensus of the local Leagues nationwide. These positions are updated from time to time, but are basically consistent. The positions and platforms of the political parties, on the other hand, do change and at times they resemble our League position, or not. But the League doesn't change or drop its positions because they are currently those of one party or the other. And we do speak out!

An example is health care. The League has a position on comprehensive health care for all Americans. President Truman liked that idea too and President Eisenhower delivered a special message to Congress on January 31, 1955 recommending a comprehensive health program for Americans. Lyndon Johnson got Medicare passed and that took the pressure off for awhile. But President Nixon encouraged HMOs as a way to rein in costs and provide health care for more people. Then President Reagan came along and decided the free market was the best way to manage health care and the Republicans have basically supported this idea since. But clearly both parties have been on both sides of the issue. The key is not to confuse politics with position advocacy.

(Reprinted with permission from Susan Gilbert, Newsletter Editor, LWV Berrien & Cass Counties, Michigan)



Villages/Tri-County Area
Be a Voice for Citizens! Be a Force for Change!
Be Involved in the Process!
www.lwvtri.org

Become a member of the LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area MAL Unit.

Name _____

Phone No. _____

Address _____

Email _____

Zip Code _____

Village, if applicable _____

Community, if applicable _____

Former League Member: Yes _____ No _____ Where: _____

Interested in:

Government in Florida _____

Education in Florida _____

Justice in Florida _____

Social Policy in Florida _____

Natural Resources _____

Growth Management _____

Dues are paid annually:

Susan B. Anthony	\$100.00	_____
Individual	\$ 50.00	_____
Household	\$ 75.00	_____
Local Dues	\$ 10.00	_____
Student	\$ 25.00	_____

Checks should be made payable to LWV of Florida and mailed to Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Drive, The Villages, FL 32162.

Your dues include membership in the LWVUS and LWVF as well as a subscription to the *Florida Voter*.