

# LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area

[www.lwvtri.org](http://www.lwvtri.org)

*Nationally Recognized! Locally Active!*

*The League of Women Voters does not endorse or oppose  
political parties or candidates.*

*The League of Women Voters encourages  
engagement and participation in the political process.*

**Volume 9 Issue 5**

**Dec. 2014/Jan. 2015**



## President's Letter

Many thanks to the Natural Resources Committee for sponsoring the November meeting with Robin Grantham of the SWFWMD as the guest speaker. Robin provided us with much information about the Florida Water Star program as well as an overview of the responsibilities of a water management district. For those members and guests who are new to Florida, this was an excellent learning experience.

Our last League gathering will be **Friday, December 12**, at the **Continental County Club in Wildwood** for our **Annual Holiday Luncheon & Auction**. I hope you have made your reservation and are thinking about what you will be donating as well as what you hope to win. As you know, this is our **ONLY** fund raiser activity, so I hope you come prepared to purchase your tickets to win that "must have" item.

The first meeting of 2015 will be **Monday, January 26, 10:30 a.m.**, at the **Community Bank & Trust Company**. For a change of pace, instead of a guest speaker, **YOU**, the members of the League, will be the speakers as we determine what issues we, as a local League, will focus on during the 2015-2016 League year which begins on April 1.

Our February program is in the planning stages, and one of our confirmed guest speakers will be **Sheriff Gary Borders** of Lake County. This program will be devoted to human trafficking in the tri-county area. If you would like to be involved in planning this meeting, please contact Richard Coen, [joannejon@aol.com](mailto:joannejon@aol.com). Delegates to the national League 2014 Biennial Convention in Dallas concurred with the

following position of the New Jersey state League:

*Human Trafficking: Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.*

*The League of Women Voters of New Jersey opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made-through legislation and changes in public policy-to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools.*

That brings us to March and our Annual Meeting. As you know, **Beth Hickswill** be heading up the Nominating Committee. Positions to be filled are President, Vice President, Treasurer, and two Directors. Terms will be for two years, 2015-17. In addition, we have a vacancy for a Director who had to resign due to ill health. That seat runs until 2016. As I mentioned last month, for an organization to continue to grow and thrive, which our League has done so well these last few years, there has to be leadership and the willingness of people to become involved. Please give serious consideration to stepping up. When the work is shared, it is much easier to get the job done.

This is the final newsletter for 2014. Our next next newsletter will be February 2015. Until then--

***Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas.  
Peace and health in the New Year!***

In League,  
*Joanne*  
Joanne M. Coen

## January 2016 General Meeting

**Topic: Program Planning for 2015/16**

**Guest Speakers:**

**League Members**

**Monday, January 26, 2015**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Community Bank & Trust Company**

**CR466 & Parr Drive**

**The Villages, FL**

What is Program Planning? League members come together to discuss issues of interest and current or potential League concerns. They recommend to their local League board the issues they wish, as a League, to study and act on. These recommendations are consolidated by the local League board and the board decides which issues and positions have the most support, are most timely and are most appropriate for League activity. At the local League Annual Meeting, members are then asked to decide which issues will become part of the local League program. More information will follow after the first of the year.

## **Membership**

We are happy to welcome a new member, **Marsha Herring**, who joined us at the November meeting.

As we have mentioned before, dues are payable in the anniversary month you joined the League. You will receive an email reminder from **Beth Hicks**, our **Membership Chair**, as the date approaches. Individual dues are \$60 and household dues are \$85. Checks are payable to **LWVTRI** and mailed to **Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Drive, The Villages, FL 32162**. If you are not sure of your dues anniversary date, please contact **Carolyn Johnson**.

Please remember that the Community Bank & Trust Company is a place of business. Please do not gather outside the Conference Room to talk with other League members. Not everyone is retired!

## **Education**

As you know, our local League participated in the state League Charter School study. The study can be found on our website, [www.lwvtri.org](http://www.lwvtri.org). Members of the state study committee participated in meetings at the June national League Convention in Dallas, and generated a great deal of interest in not only charter schools, but other education issues as well. As we look ahead to the 2015 Legislative Session in Tallahassee, it is important to keep informed about possible education



legislation. One way of doing that is to participate in the LWV Education blog which was started by League members from Alachua & Hillsborough. This is an open blog and is not limited only to League members. If education issues are important to you, contact **Karen West**, [westk9@gmail.com](mailto:westk9@gmail.com), for further information.

## Local Government Committee

Monitoring local government action is very important to the League of Women Voters because local government action has the most direct impact on residents than any other government activity. Therefore, now that the election is over and Fruitland Park's Charter Amendment passed, we will follow the Fruitland Park process for drawing Districts, for the next election. Wildwood's Charter Amendment did not pass, so we will follow their process for dealing with the resulting issues. In addition, we will research the Villages Amenity Authority Committee and the Villages Community Development Districts, to determine how they work and what they are considering. We need volunteers who want to be informed about what is happening in local government. Please call **Carol Van Noy**, **352-633-5353** or by email, [denny.carol@gmail.com](mailto:denny.carol@gmail.com).



## Natural Resources

### ***Tour of Water Plant in The Villages***

In conjunction with The Villages Environment Club, the League is planning a trip to the water filtration plant in The Villages. The date will be after the first of year; if you are interested and want to join the list, please let Joanne



Coen, [joanne.m.coen@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.m.coen@gmail.com), know. Only 30 people can be accommodated on the tour and so far we have responses from 15 interested Leaguers. You do not have to live in The Villages to participate.

### ***November General Meeting***

Our guest speaker, Robin Grantham, is the Senior Communications Coordinator and the Florida Water Star program administrator for the Southwest Florida Water Management District ([floridawaterstar.com](http://floridawaterstar.com)). Robin also coordinates the District's Florida-Friendly Landscaping program and other water conservation efforts. She told us that she was glad to speak to us because women between the ages of 50 and 70 are most likely to promote sustainable water policies.

One of Robin's slides showed a map of the 5 water districts in Florida. The Districts were established in 1978 and are defined by the watersheds. SWFWMD consists of 16 counties with 4.7 million people. There are 5 first magnitude springs in the District. Tampa is the only city in the District with a reservoir. There is a wealth of

information at the web site: <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/>.

In existence for 6 years and aimed at builders, developers and homeowners, Florida Water Star is a voluntary certification program designed to increase water efficiency in landscapes, irrigation systems and indoors in new homes. In addition to providing general guidelines for water efficiency, it addresses specific needs relevant to Florida. The program consists of criteria for three types of construction/development: residential, commercial and institutional, and community. The program addresses indoor water use, such as reduction of leaks, efficient fixtures and appliances, efficient hot water distribution and human behavior modification). Outdoor irrigation issues that are addressed are reduction of leaks, micro irrigation vs. high volume irrigation, use of increased shade and less turf. The return on investment is an important statistic that builders and developers want to know. It is difficult to measure but roughly estimated an investment of \$1500 would be returned in savings over 2.8 to 3.2 years.

A look at the web site reveals that Florida Water Star is a statewide conservation program. The St. Johns River, South Florida and Southwest Florida water management districts administer the program within their jurisdictions, and the Florida Green Building Coalition administers the program in the rest of the state.

The Bronze Star program is designed for retrofitting existing homes. Robin acknowledged that in recent years there have been severe budget cuts and job losses at the District. She could not predict what affect the passage of Amendment 1 which provides a stable funding source for Florida Water and Land Conservation will have. Another question that Robin was not able to address was the fee structure that utilities charge for water. We will need to look elsewhere for answers to those questions. The presentation was interesting and contained a lot of information. It contributed to our knowledge about the water management districts.

### ***Meeting with Sumter County Public Works Director***

LWVTRI members, Mary Hampton and Annie Grewe, along with Pam Treffehn, a resident of The Villages met with Richard Baier, the new Director of Public Work for Sumter County on November 14. The purpose of the meeting was to express their various concerns regarding recycling within the county.

They offered observations regarding the most recent Sumter County Household and CESQG Household Waste Collection held October 25, 2014. Mention was made of residents waiting on a long line in their vehicles. Annie Grewe suggested that at future collection events of this type, resident volunteers might be able to help by communicating with those residents who are waiting to make their recycling and

hazardous material donations.

Mr. Baier shared a ten-page document that reflected various data of the 2013 and 2014 household hazardous waste collection events. The October, 2014 collection was co-sponsored with Marion County with over 1,383 people participating in the event. Perma-Fix of Florida, Inc. charged over \$50,000 for pick-up of the hazardous materials.

Mr. Baier was asked if it is true that there is presently no recycling being done in Sumter County business offices. In addition, he was asked why there are no recycling containers made available to the public who attend the Sumter County State Fair. We discussed our concerns relating to projected population increases in Sumter County by the year 2014. According to the Sumter County Chamber of Commerce website, Sumter County is projected to have over 200,000 residents by 2040. We wonder how the County is planning to handle recycling/garbage collections for such a high number of residents.

Mr. Baier was told about a program Mary Hampton sponsored in May, 2014, for teachers from the tri-county area to share information with the public regarding their recycling lessons and school recycling collections. The group was told by one of the teachers that no one in the community had ever asked before for information regarding recycling lessons being taught in the school.

If you would like to attend a similar meeting with the Public Works Director of Lake and Marion Counties, please contact Mary Hampton, [Mary.queenofrecycle@hotmail.com](mailto:Mary.queenofrecycle@hotmail.com).

### **National & State League News**

#### ***LWV United States***

For the past few months, LWVUS has been collecting comments in support of a life-saving proposal to cut carbon pollution from existing power plants. The comment period for the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Power Plan ended earlier this week, and thanks to our fantastic supporters from across the country, we helped submit over 48,000 comments in support of the regulation! In total, over 8 million comments were submitted in support of the proposal!



Two new Committees formed-- LWV Money in Politics Committee & LWV Constitutional Amendment Committee:

- The 2014-2016 League Program on Key Structures of Democracy includes a review and update of the LWVUS campaign finance position. A newly formed committee will provide educational materials and activities to inform members

and citizenry about complex issues around money in politics. The committee will conduct an update of the League's position on campaign finance for the purpose of addressing the lack of member understanding and agreement as to whether financing a political campaign is protected speech under the First Amendment. The campaign finance position will be updated through a study and consensus process to consider: (1) the rights of individuals and organizations, under the First Amendment, to express their political views through independent expenditures and the finance of election campaign activities; and (2) how those rights, if any, should be protected and reconciled with the interests set out in the current position.

- The 2014-2016 League Program on Key Structures of Democracy includes a study the process of amending the U.S. Constitution. The committee will study the process by which the U.S. Constitution can be amended, including the constitutional convention method, and identifying the gaps and challenges in those methods.

### ***LWV Florida***

Join your fellow Leaguers in Delray Beach for the LWVF's upcoming Convention, May 15 & 16, 2015! This exciting event will bring members from all across the state together for two days of activities, including an oceanside gala, an evening of live music and more! Participants will also learn about the League's issues via caucuses and educational workshops, and will help shape LWVF's 2015-2017 Program during Plenary sessions at the historic Old School Square Crest Theater!

The price to attend the Convention is \$150 for League members (includes: welcome reception & oceanside gala featuring a surprise guest, plenary sessions, caucuses & workshops on all of your favorite Hot Topics, election of new LWVF Officers and Board of Directors, program and budget decisions, and a dinner reception featuring a live band.) The registration price does not include travel to Delray Beach or hotel accommodations.

For information, contact Joanne M. Coen, [joanne.m.coen@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.m.coen@gmail.com).

### **Invitation to Join the League**

Please print this page and fill out the Membership Information Form. Then mail it with your check to: League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area, Membership Chair, 1315 Arredondo Drive, The Villages, Florida 32162.

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### **MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of additional member(s) in household \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Village or Community \_\_\_\_\_

Single Membership \$ 60.00

Household Membership \$ 85.00

Student Membership \$ 25.00

Susan B. Anthony Membership \$100.00

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made payable to the LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area. Dues are not tax deductible.

Comments (e.g. interests, how you heard about the League)

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