



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

November 2022

Volume 16 Issue 5



**CO-PRESIDENT
Mary Kay Rosinski**

During this busy election season, your League has been working hard to empower voters. Our many volunteers have worked to ensure that local communities had the opportunity to register to vote. And we provided non-partisan information about the election in multiple ways so everyone could vote with confidence. We want everyone to know the candidates and know the issues. Here are some of our accomplishments:

20 Voter Registration events with 58 Voters registered

4 Candidate forums

Sumter County Commission races
Lake County School Board Candidates
Florida House District 52 Candidates
Lake County Candidate Meet and Greet

Distributed 7,935 Voter Guides

Email responses to 363 Voters requesting information

VOTE411.org 87% of 97 candidates responded in the primary and 61% of 70 in the general election

Website: Our landing page was updated with extensive information about the election with over 1,600 unique hits.

1. Early voting information
2. Guide to Judicial races
3. Online voting guide
4. The Florida Amendments

5. Pitfalls when voting by mail
6. The Independent Fire District Referendum
7. 33 Speakers Bureau presentations. 1,304 attendees
8. And much more.

To those who have worked so hard to ensure everyone had easy access to information about the election, I thank you. To those who studied their choices and became informed voters, I thank you. Thank you for being a voter. You made a difference.

November General Meeting Monday November 21 10 AM Manatee Recreation Center

Guest Speaker Lisa French

Please join us for our November meeting! We will take a break from elections and politics. Our speaker is new League member Lisa French. Lisa is a popular member of the Enrichment Academy who focusses on women's studies. Her topic will be **Oveta Culp Hobby**. Many will remember Lisa from the March 8 Lake Sumter Landing Women's celebration and her talk on women in the present.



Several members continue the conversation with lunch following our meeting. All are welcome to join.



October General Meeting Recap

On October 24, 2022, over 40 members and community members attended the Village Public Safety Department's (VPSD) presentation on the referendum to establish an Independent Fire Control and Rescue District in the Sumter County portion of The Villages. Fire Chief Edmund Cain and Deputy Chief Jim Goodworth explained the history of this proposed change, what to expect if the referendum passes, and the funding formula defined in the referendum.

Audience engagement was evident by the many questions that followed.

Members of VPSD staff brought computers and were available after the presentation to allow participants to see estimates of how much their taxes would increase if the referendum passes.



LWV The Villages/Tri County

HOLIDAY BUFFET LUNCHEON

Monday - December 12th

11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m.

BIG CYPRESS RECREATION CENTER

3110 Hendry Drive

Wildwood, 34785

**Guest Speaker
David Houck SOZO Kids**

\$25.00 per person

Checks are payable to LWV Villages/Tri-County
Please R.S.V.P and send your check by December 1st to
Bernadette Aley (sunflowerinde@yahoo.com)
1106 Monterey Lane, The Villages FL, 32159

*There will be no refunds for cancellations received after
December 1st*

Buffet includes vegetarian lasagna, chicken parmigiana and Caesar salad.

Beverage station serving coffee, tea and water.

You may bring your own bottle of wine, if you wish.

We will have a holiday gift raffle with prizes supplied by the board.
Raffle tickets will be sold at the door. This is our major fundraiser,
so we look forward to your strong support.

Board Meeting Highlights

We now have over 140 members. Ten years ago we had around 40. In the last two months we received 5 Contact Us forms from people who surfed the web, found our website, and reached out to learn how to join. We are a growing force in the Tri-County area.



LWV branded tote bags are still available for \$15. They will be available at our General Membership Meetings. By purchasing one of these nifty bags, you will be financially supporting our many efforts to educate and register voters.

The Board decided to promote seminars and other educational events, consistent with our mission, if they are run by our coalition partners (e.g., ACLU, NAACP, Southern Christian Leadership Foundation, All Voting is Local) or governmental agencies.

The Board will be presenting an amendment to our Bylaws at our Annual Meeting, which will make the Board responsible for preparing the budget. Currently, the budget is prepared by a separate Budget Committee. Since the Board is elected to plan League activities and the budget is merely one part of the planning, the current procedure not only is unique to our League, it serves no purpose that we can determine.

We are planning a community event to be scheduled later next year. The topic will be related to the misinformation and disinformation we face as voter. More information to come!

Details were worked out for our Holiday Luncheon. Your Board is donating wonderful gifts for a raffle. So be prepared to purchase some raffle tickets! See the flyer for details regarding date, time, deadline, etc. See you there!!

Speakers Bureau

Speakers Bureau presentation numbers to date are as follows:

Senate Bill 90 – 4
News - Separating Fact from Fiction - 6
Redistricting – 2



Total presentations – 33
Total attendees – 1304

A huge thank you to our dedicated Speakers Bureau Team of 7 Speakers and 3 Assistants! Collectively, they gave a conservative 85 total number of hours of their valuable time to inform voters. Feedback from the hosts has been wonderfully positive on both content and on presentation style. Please contact [Jeannie Hamilton](#), if you would like to be a Speaker, Assistant or have a presentation made to a club of your choice

Welcome to Our New Members



Dale Wright
Sandra Christian
Audrietta & Benjamin Izlar

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

November 21 - Lisa French, Villages Enrichment Academy

December 12 - Holiday Luncheon
David Houck SOZO Kids

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

February 27, Wesley Wilcox, Marion County SOE

March 27 - Char Griffin *I Don't Think We are in Kansas Anymore.*

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 Monterry 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

We seemed to have survived the election season. We all did our part and we thank all who did their part to empower voters and defend democracy

Yours in the League,
Beth

