



# **LWV of the Villages/Tri-County Area**

**May 2012 Vol. 7 Issue 1**

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

**Nationally recognized! Locally active!**

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**What are the changes in the election  
and  
voting laws?**

**Have my state  
and  
congressional districts changed?**

**What amendments will be  
on the  
November 2012 ballot?**

**Join us on**

**Monday, May 14, 2012, 10 a.m.,  
Community Bank & Trust Co.,  
CR466 & Parr Drive, The Villages**



**Be Ready to Vote!**

**for answers to these questions.**

The League of Women Voters does 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.

## President's Message

Thank you to **Carolyn Johnson** and **Judie Brown** for conducting the 2012 Annual Meeting. Elections took place and the budget and program for the coming League year were approved. This month's meeting, our last general meeting for the summer, will cover the various changes in the election laws, as well as the 2012 amendments and redrawn state and congressional districts.

While there will be no general meetings during the summer, the Voter Education & Service Committee will be busy putting final touches on presentations to outside groups prior to the November election. Since the League is not registering voters, our outreach will be educational on the issues. Please join us in this endeavor.

Our League lost a much beloved member in April. **Frances Spedding**, a board member since the beginning of our MAL Unit passed away. To say that she will be missed, is an understatement. Frances was the conscience of our board, and always reminded us of the League's mission. We extend our deepest sympathies to her daughters, Laura and Lynne and their families.

*Joanne*

## **MEMBER NEWS**

We extend a warm welcome to our newest member, **Sanna Henderson**.

Sanna was a member of the Lake County League and is a member of the Leesburg City Commission and also serves as the Mayor. Welcome back to the League, Sanna!

We have to say goodbye to a valued League and Board member. **Bernice Cozewith** and her husband are relocating to the Atlanta, Georgia to be closer to family. Bernice headed up the LWVUS Education Study Committee. Our loss is Atlanta's gain!

*Happy Mother's Day*



## **MEETINGS**

### **May**

**May 11 & 12, 2012**

**LWVF Council**

Holiday Inn  
Tampa

**Monday, May 14, 10 a.m.**

**LWVTRI General Meeting**

Community Bank & Trust  
CR466 & Parr Drive  
The Villages

### **June**

**June 9-12, 2012**

**LWVUS Biennial Convention**

Washington Hilton  
Washington, D.C.

## IN MEMORIAM

### FRANCES SPEDDING

Born in Oak Park, Illinois in 1914 (before much wanted to be a teacher, but the from pursuing that dream. One of her involvement in the planning and eventual Library in Michigan. Prior to her move to Grand Traverse Area in 1968 and was Finance Committee, Nominating Committee Committee. She was active on committees and candidate forums. In addition to her the Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners and served on the Traverse City Board of Review. Frances has been involved with the LWV of The Villages/Tri-County MAL Unit since its formation in 1995. In addition to being a member of the board until her death, she was very active in several committees. In addition to her League activities, Frances was involved in her church, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Fruitland Park.



women received the vote), Frances very hardships of the Depression prevented her proudest accomplishments was her building of the Traverse Area District The Villages, Frances joined the LWV- involved with budget planning, chair of the and chair of the Local Government Study involved in local and county governments League involvement, she was a member of

*She was our "conscience" and we will miss her very much.*

### **REVIEW OF LWVTRI ACTIVITIES**

We spent much of our 2011 summer reading and studying for the LWVUS Education consensus. The opening meeting in **September** was devoted to Consensus on the first half of the study, Funding and Equity. **Janet Duncan, Lucy Espey- Frances, Carolyn Moores, Carolyn Johnson, Joanne Coen, Beth Hicks and Steven Cooper** presented the material. **Charlene Walker** was our recorder. **Carolyn Johnson** led the discussion.

In **October**, **Nancy Velez, Chief Academic Officer, Lake County School District**, spoke to about the inclusion of civics in the curriculum as well as an educator's perspective on Common Core Standards.

The second half of the Education Study Common Core Standards, was the topic for our **November** meeting. **Bernice Cozewith** served as moderator and **Charlene Walker** was recorder. **Betsy Brody, Judie Brown and Al and Pat Wichman** made presentations.

Our LWV advisor, **Caroline Emmons-Schramm**, was our guest in **January** and we discussed possible program items and directions for the coming year. Our program selections reflect what we discussed at this meeting.

**Former Governor Buddy McKay** spoke to us in **February**. This was a special meeting and we anticipated a larger group would attend. Happily we were correct and the Lady Lake Community Building proved to be an excellent meeting place. Gov. McKay was a very interesting and knowledgeable speaker.

Although it was hard to follow Gov. McKay, **Dr. Charles Mojock, LSCC President**, did a pretty good job at our **March** meeting. Meeting at the Leesburg Library for the first time, Dr. Mojock gave an interesting presentation giving us information about the place of community colleges in education. Additionally, LWVTRI, along with other organizations, cosponsored a Celebration of Women's History Month at Lake-Sumter Community College.

In addition to these regularly scheduled events, the Board met monthly. The Education Committee met throughout the summer and fall. Another group explored the LWVUS Privatization study as a possible area of interest. The Voter Education & Service Committee has been making presentations on the changes in voting and election laws as well as the amendments on the November ballot. 2012 is an election year and we therefore anticipate increased activity.

All in all a good year for our small but dedicated League.

**Carolyn Johnson**

## **VOTER SERVICE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

The committee has had several speaking engagements, and will be meeting over the summer to coordinate activities relative to the November election. Be a part of this important arm of the League. For further information, contact Betsy Brody, [esb501@yahoo.com](mailto:esb501@yahoo.com) , or Richard Coen, [joanne.m.coen@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.m.coen@gmail.com).

## **FROM LWVF**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 12, 2012

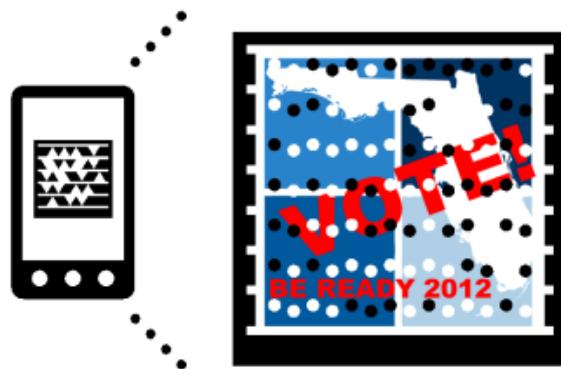
## **Florida College Students Can Use Their Smartphone to Ensure Their Vote Counts This Year**

Before you leave campus for the summer, be prepared for the fall.

The nonpartisan League of Women Voters of Florida has made it simple to make sure your vote counts this important election year. Using the League's "Be Ready to Vote" Microsoft Tag, one scan with your smartphone

does it all. Scanning the Tag with your smartphone lets you contact the Supervisor of Elections' office for your county, no matter where you live in Florida, to check and update your voter registration status. Voters can also visit

[www.BeReadyToVote.org](http://www.BeReadyToVote.org) or [www.VamosAVotar.org](http://www.VamosAVotar.org) in



**Get the free mobile app for your phone**  
<http://gettag.mobi>

Spanish for nonpartisan election information.

### **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

Florida will have two important elections this year: the Primary Election on August 14 and the General Election on November 6.

Florida voters must be registered 30 days in advance of each election. Election laws in Florida have recently changed. You should check your voter registration status now.

Have you moved recently?  
Has your name changed?

Voters could be penalized if their name has changed or they have moved without notifying their Supervisor of Elections' office about the change.

Don't take a chance that you could be handed a provisional ballot on Election Day. Make absolutely sure your vote will count. Scan the "Be Ready to Vote" Tag or visit [www.BeReadyToVote.org](http://www.BeReadyToVote.org) to be connected.

Be Prepared! Be Informed! Be a Voter!

It's democracy made easy!



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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Village, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Community, if applicable \_\_\_\_\_

Former League Member: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Where: \_\_\_\_\_

Your active participation is needed. Are you interested in?

Government in Florida  
 Justice in Florida  
 Natural Resources

Education in Florida  
 Social Policy in Florida  
 Growth Management

Could you help with:

Newsletter (Electronic)  Membership  Public Relations  Fundraising

Dues are paid annually on the anniversary of joining:

Individual	\$ 50.00 + Local Dues of \$10	_____
Household	\$ 75.00 + Local Dues of \$10 per person	_____
Student	\$ 25.00	_____

Susan B. Anthony	\$100.00	Membership Dues +Donation	_____
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A check should be made payable to **LWV of Florida** for the applicable amount. In addition, the check for **Local Dues** should be made payable to **LWVTRI**. Both checks should be mailed to **Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Drive, The Villages, and FL 32162**. Your dues include membership in the LWVUS and LWVF as well as a subscription to the *Florida Voter*.