



LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area Voter

Nationally Recognized! Locally Active!

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

The League encourages engagement and participation in the political process.

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In This Issue

[February General Meeting](#)

[Membership News](#)

[Upcoming Meetings](#)

[News from LWV Marion County](#)

[News from LWVF](#)

[News from LWVUS](#)

[Donate or Join](#)



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While looking at the inaugural ceremonies I was struck by the comments of Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn). He quoted Alex Haley, the author of "Roots," who said: "Find the good and praise it." Sen Alexander went on to speak about the "immense power as we inaugurate the president of the United States." It is done peacefully. There are no coups or riots. The beauty of our system was on display for all the world to see. Going forward, it would be wonderful if all our elected officials could remember these six words, "Find the good and praise it," as they undertake their responsibilities to the citizens of the county, state and country.

Thank you to Com. Doug Gilpin, Chairman of the Sumter County Board of Commissioners, for speaking at our January general meeting. Com. Gilpin spoke about the county's continued good economic and financial condition as well as the efforts to bring new business into the county. He also cited the fact that the county's school system is rated A and Supt. Richard Shirley was recently named Florida's 2013 Superintendent of the Year by the Florida Association of District School Superintendents. During the Q&A, he went into more detail about the county's transportation system, the interaction between Lake and Sumter counties in the MPO, and the proposed interchange off the Turnpike which will allow another entry point into The Villages.

The 2013 Legislative Session begins in March. During the session, league members will be receiving weekly updates from Tallahassee as well as being asked to contact our senators and representatives about pending legislation. This is another way for you to participate in the League!

As you make your plans to attend a League meeting, please remember to invite a friend.

In the spirit of the League,

Joanne M. Coen

**February General Meeting
Tri-County
Supervisors of Elections**



Karen Krauss, Sumter County



Emogene W. Stegall, Lake County



Wesley Wilcox, Marion County

**Monday, February 25, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Lady Lake Community Center
West Guava Street
Lady Lake, Florida**

Join us for a panel discussion with the Supervisors of Elections from the tri-county area. The supervisors will be speaking about their respective county's experiences as well as the proposed changes to election laws from the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections. In addition, we will be hearing from league members who worked at the polls in various capacities.

Membership

Welcome back to local league membership, Barbara Prescott and Rosella Valentine, who were members of the former Lake County League. In addition, we also welcome Char Griffin and Kathy Juliano who joined at the general meeting.

Dues checks are to be made payable to LWVTRI and sent to Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Drive, The Villages, FL 32162.

Upcoming Meetings

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, March 25, beginning at 11 a.m., at which time we will be electing a slate of officers and directors, approving our budget and voting on our proposed program for the coming league year. In addition to our annual meeting, we will be recognizing Women's History Month. Our guest speaker will be Judge Heidi Davis, Fifth Judicial Circuit, Family Law Division and Probate Division. The meeting and luncheon will be held at the Golden Corral on 441/27 in Leesburg. The cost for the luncheon will be \$12 and checks payable to LWVTRI can be sent to Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Dr., The Villages 32162.

As we have done in prior years, we will be participating in the celebration of Women's History Month at Lake-Sumter State College. The celebration and luncheon will be held on Friday, March 1, 2013, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Magnolia Room at the Leesburg Campus. The featured speaker will be Dr. Daniel Schafer who has written extensively about northern Florida. He will be talking about his book "Anna Madgigine Jai Kinsley-African Princess, Florida Slave, Plantation Owner." This celebration will also recognize VIVA Florida 500. To make your reservation, contact league member, Rosella Valentine, 323-8608.

News from LWV of Marion County

The Marion County League of Women Voters in cooperation with On Top of the World Communities Master the Possibilities (MTP) Education Center is offering the following programs free and open to the public. Unless otherwise specified the programs will be held in the MTP center located at 8415 SW 80th Street Ocala 34481.

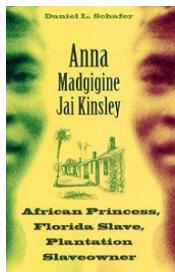
Questions: 861-6303.

February 26, 2013 7:00 PM

Black Ocala: An Oral History

Webber Center, College of Central Florida

The Marion County League of Women Voters in cooperation with the Senior Services Programs and African American Student Union at the College of Central Florida offer a unique opportunity to learn of the rich history and heritage of Ocala's Black Community. Topics include: Paradise Park, the Cultural heritage and Black Business Community of West Ocala (including 1st



Black Millionaire) and the civil and voting rights movement.

March 6, 2013 2:00 PM

One Woman One Vote

The 70-year battle for women's suffrage is the subject of this gripping documentary. One Woman, One Vote documents the struggles both of the leaders and the women who fought alongside them. From Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Alice Paul, this film follows the fight for equal rights.

March 13, 2013 2:00 PM

Go Back In Time With Susan B. Anthony

Deirdre Macnab, state president of the League of Women Voters of Florida will appear as Susan B. Anthony to take the audience back in time.



News from LWVF

League members from Florida will have an opportunity to lobby on behalf of the League at the Legislative Summit and 2013 Convention which will be held in Tallahassee beginning Wednesday, April 10, 2013 and ending on

Saturday, April 13. The Legislative Summit begins with the Old Capitol Gala on Wednesday evening, and continues the next day with legislative briefings from elected officials in the morning and lobbying representatives and senators in the afternoon. Friday is the start of the LWVF Biennial Convention with the wrap-up on Saturday afternoon. This is a great opportunity to meet with legislators and network with other league members. If you are interested in attending, please contact Joanne M. Coen 750-1366.

Deirdre Macnab, president of the League of Women Voters of Florida, has been named Central Floridian of the Year 2012 by the "Orlando Sentinel."

Citing Macnab's dynamic approach to leadership, the Sentinel said, "Florida's League of Women Voters, founded in 1939, has been on a roll since Macnab took charge in 2009. It spearheaded the coalition that persuaded voters in 2010 to reform the state's hyperpoliticized and often profoundly unfair process for drawing legislative and congressional districts.

"The League and its allies convinced a federal judge to strike down part of a 2011 state law that severely restricted voter-registration drives.

"And the group fought alongside others for extra early-voting hours last year. Gov. Rick Scott rejected their request but now apparently has seen the light."

League of Women Voters of Florida, issued this statement in response to the Governor's release of recommendations for election reform:

The League of Women Voters of Florida applauds Governor Scott's recent recommendations for election reform. From increasing the number of days for early voting from 8 to 14, allowing local Supervisors of Elections more flexibility in determining early voting locations, and restoring shorter ballot language for voters, these steps are essential to helping us put Florida's elections fiascoes behind us once and for all. It is imperative to not only restore citizens' confidence in our electoral process, but also to show America that Florida can be synonymous with excellence in elections. We applaud the Governor for taking a critical first step, and we now look to the Florida Legislature to do their part to protect our state's democracy.

News from LWVUS

Voter Registration Modernization in the Spotlight

The Brennan Center for Justice held a panel discussion on voter registration modernization this week in DC. with Secretaries of State from MN, ND, NV and OR who discussed the need for on-line voter registration modernization. In conjunction with the panel discussion the Brennan Center also released a new publication - The Case for Voter Registration Modernization. Registration modernization is one of the four pro-voter reform issues the League has identified as priorities this year at the state and federal level.

Women and the Rule of Law: A View from the Americas

A one-day conference, jointly sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Inter-American Dialogue, and International Association of Women Judges, will take place in Washington DC, on February 27, 2013. The conference will showcase the progress that women have made in gaining access to judicial leadership positions across the Americas. A central purpose will be to draw on the collective experience of accomplished judges to develop recommendations on how to enhance the positive role of women in the judiciary.

Join and/or Donate!

I would like to join ____ and/or donate ____ to the League.

Name _____
Address _____

Zip Code _____ Phone No. _____
Email _____

Membership Categories:

Susan B. Anthony	\$100	_____
Individual	\$ 60	_____
Household	\$ 85	_____
Student	\$ 25	_____

Please make your check payable to the LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area and mail it to Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Drive, The Villages, Florida 32162. Dues include membership in the national and state League of Women Voters as well as the local League. Dues are not tax deductible.

The League of Women Voters does not endorse or oppose political parties or candidates. The League encourages informed and active participation in government and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues.