



Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

May 2022

Volume 16 Issue 2

CO-PRESIDENT MARY KAY ROSINSKI

Our speaker at our General Membership Meeting (4/25) drew quite a crowd. Patrick Walsh, Area Asset Manager for Covanta, discussed how our trash is converted to energy. We had many guests who were interested in hearing his presentation. If you would like to see his video on this process, please visit this link:



<https://www.covanta.com/what-we-do/waste-to-energy>

The Covanta facilities divert waste from landfills to generate energy from the combustion of municipal solid waste. Their Waste-to-Energy process is designed to convert the waste that remains after recycling into electricity for homes and businesses and/or steam for export to industries. Covanta is one of the largest Energy-from-Waste providers in the world, with 46 plants across North America, six of which are in Florida. Covanta's capabilities are a key factor in helping companies and municipalities achieve their Zero Waste to Landfill goals.

Mr. Walsh joined Covanta in Dec of 2014 as an Area Asset Manager. Patrick is now the Area Asset Manager for the facilities in Lake County FL, Pasco County FL, and Tulsa OK. In addition to overseeing the financial aspects of plant operations, he also manages the incoming flow of all materials, and the proper management of all end products generated by the process, including recovered ferrous and non-ferrous metals, as well as currently working on several beneficial ash re-use projects.

May General Meeting
Monday, May 23 at 10am
Manatee Recreation Center



Co-Presidents, Char Griffin and Mary Kay Rosinski, will share the founding stories of our national, state and local Leagues (and the Florida LWV has an interesting history.) The major achievements of each organization will be covered so we are aware of our incredible accomplishments and can share with prospective new members.

This is an election year and we have much to do. We hope this program will provide the motivation needed as we work to empower voters and defend democracy.

After the meeting, please join us for lunch. It's always fun and a great way to meet members you do not know. As we grow in size, small group gatherings become even more important.



**ATTENTION NEW LEAGUE
MEMBERS!**

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

JUNE 8 at 3 PM

Calling all new members! Meet some fellow Leaguers and learn all about the League of Women Voters. We will review some interesting facts about the League and spend some time getting to know one-another. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be provided. Hope you can join us!

Char Griffin's House
2460 Bachman Path
The Villages

Citizen's Prosecutor Academy

The Citizen's Prosecutor Academy (a program sponsored by the State Attorney for the Fifth Judicial Circuit to inform the public on the justice system) is currently being held in The Villages at Colony Cottage Recreation Center, from Tuesday, April 19 through Tuesday, May 24. However, the class is now full.



The Academy will be offered in Marion County through the Master The Possibilities School, at 8415 SW 80th Street, Ocala, FL 34481 (near On Top of The World), from Tuesday, September 13 through Tuesday, October 18, each Tuesday for six weeks, from 10 am to noon. If you want to sign up for that program, contact Caren Francis (352) 861-9751.

The Academy is planned for a location in Lake County, in the Fall of 2022. For information about that program, contact Bridget Kiefer at the State Attorney's Office at 352-671-5914.

Board Meeting Highlights

- We are exploring the option of printing League branded tote bags which we can sell to our members, and potentially members of other Leagues as well. We hope this becomes another source of income for LWVTRI since Leagues have a number of hoops to jump through before using the League logo, so Leagues may decide buying a product already approved is easier than developing their own.
- The tri-fold brochures we use when promoting the League at community events became obsolete because the registration information did not include the new *Interest Survey* and the option to register online was not mentioned. The Board was considering dumping over 200 old brochures when our Treasurer, Bernadette Aley, suggested we cut off the 3rd section with the obsolete information. We now have beautiful bi-folds at no additional costs. Thank you, Bernadette!
- Members who joined since October 2021 will be invited to a New Member Orientation on June 8th at 3 pm. Expect an email within the next two weeks. We hope you can join us. BTW: More seasoned members who missed their own orientation, are welcome to join us. Use the *Contact Us* form



Voter Services

VOTER REGISTRATION:

Thanks to Mary Kay Rosinski for setting up the voter registration drive at Lake Sumter State College and daily took the materials to and from the location, for 5 separate days. And, thanks to all of the members who registered voters at Lake Sumter State College. We registered 19 voters and collected 99 pledge cards (on which the registered voters pledged to vote in the next election and gave us their email and phone number, so we could remind them). And, 11 Students helped our members register voters. It was a great success!! Thank you!!



We have an upcoming voter registration event, scheduled for the Ocala Juneteenth Celebration, on Saturday, June 18, 2022. We also plan to register voters in The Villages, at the African American Club's Juneteenth Celebration.

We will also have a voter registration drive on August 6, in Ocala. That event will be from 8:30 to 12:30. In June, I will recruit staffing for that event.

We are collecting pledge cards from all of the people we register, as well as from those already registered to vote who stop by our table. When we publish Vote411, in July for the Primary and in September for the General, we will text all of the people for whom we have pledge cards to tell them about Vote411, early voting, Vote by Mail and to urge them to vote.

Co-Chair Needed

We need a volunteer to manage the voter registration activity, while I manage the Candidate Information portion of Vote411. That member would recruit members, from those who have been State Certified, to staff the Voter Registration Events that are suggested by the Youth Registration Project and the Community Events Coordinators; designate the shifts for each event; send the necessary instructions to members who will staff those shifts; and coordinate with Jeannie Hamilton the materials to be taken to each event. Collects and retains completed pledge cards. In July and September texts the registered voters who completed pledge cards, using the Florida States Voices vehicle. In the texts, we will announce publication of Vote411 and encouraging them to vote.

VOTE411 Training

On May 24, we will train volunteers to collect Lake and Sumter candidates' information for Vote411.

Questions

In May, we will begin working on questions to be asked candidates in Vote411. We will ask the volunteers who will collect the candidates' information to provide questions for us to ask the candidates. Our candidates will be County Commissioners, School Boards, City Councils, Mayors, Water and Soil Districts, and Villages Community Development District Supervisors. If you have suggested questions for any of these positions, please send them to me: denny.carol@gmail.com.

To volunteer for any of the opportunities discussed above, please contact Carol Van Noy, denny.carol@gmail.com or 352-446-1660



Welcome to our New Members

Lois Venus

Anne Schalet Timoner

Dagne & Jon Sollid

Helaine Kaufman

Speaker's Bureau

The Speakers Bureau now has two identical laptop and projector AV systems to accommodate simultaneous presentations especially geared for increased requests later this year for FL Amendments and voter registration activities.



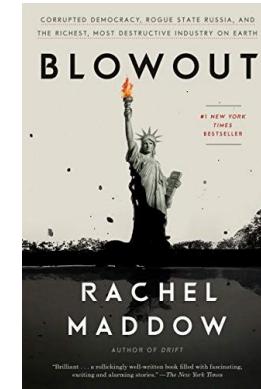
Because Senate Bill 524 struck down the ability of FL to implement Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), all hosts requesting that Power Point presentation were notified and given the option to continue with it or choose another topic. Three changed and one canceled.

Continued reminders: Speakers Bureau is always looking for Speakers, Assistants and opportunities each member has in their social groups to request an LWV presentation. These group presentations are a highly effective way to get the word out about the League and its mission to *"Empower Voters and Defend Democracy!"* Go to our website www.lwvtrifl.org and click on Book A Speaker for a list of current presentations.

BOOK REVIEW ~ *Kathy Porter*

Blowout: Corrupted Democracy, Rogue State Russia, the Richest, Most Destructive Industry on Earth
by Rachel Maddow

The full title of this tour de force conveys the essence of this illuminating book about the fossil fuel industry as so eloquently articulated by acclaimed journalist Rachel Maddow. In her inimitable style, she explains how the oil and gas industry is the most destructive business on earth, is at the root of climate change, and why you need a second mortgage to fill up your gas tank.



Maddow explores the unimaginably lucrative and corrupt oil and gas industry from its inception with John D. Rockefeller's colossal monopoly Standard Oil, to ExxonMobil, SaudiAramco, Shell, ConocoPhillips, BP, and their far-reaching effects around the world, to Putin's use of Russia's crude oil reserves to retain his power.

We cringe with horror as she recounts the use of atomic bombs to extract oil and gas from deep in the earth's core, and the damage caused by improper fracking. With her uncanny wit, she spears the hypocrisy of politicians and industrial leaders.

Maddow also leads us along the trajectory of why the Russian government attacked our 2016 election. Although the book was published in 2019, it clearly gives us insight into why Putin has attacked the Ukraine.

Maddow explains that the stakes have never been higher and tells us, "Democracy either wins this one or disappears."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! May 23 League Accomplishments

September Date TBD Cecile Scoon,
LWVFL President

October 24 Chief Edmund Cain, The Villages Fire Department

November 21 - Carolyn Ingham, Villages Enrichment Academy

December 12 - David Houck SOZO Kids

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

February 27, Wesley Wilcox, Marion County SOE

March 23 - 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](mailto:formanag@gmail.com).

Editor Musings

I hope everyone has a wonderful and restful summer and comes

back ready to work! Election year means lots of ways you can make a difference!

Yours in the League,
Beth

