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President's Letter



What a great turn out to inaugurate our new digs at the Manatee Recreation Center for the January program planning meeting! The Manatee Recreation Center is our new home and it was nice to have seats for everyone! Plus, there was coffee. It was so good to get the input from so many members, including new members and those who joined at the meeting, on our proposed 2019-20 LWVTRI program. The board will consider all suggestions and you will receive the proposed 2019-20 program in the Annual Meeting Packet which will be available at the beginning of March.

We are happy to welcome state **League President Patti Brigham** as our guest speaker at our **February General Meeting**; hopefully, you can join us for lunch following the meeting...we will take a firm head count at the start of the meeting.

Our **Annual Meeting** will be **Monday, March 25**. Check out the detailed information in the newsletter. We will adopt our budget, program, elect new board members, have a great lunch and kick off a year's celebration of the League's centennial and suffrage. As a matter of fact, in addition to February 14th being Valentine's Day, it is also the 99th birthday of the League of Women Voters!

Kathy Williamson is the nominating committee chair. While the slate is 95% complete, we are still looking for one more **Director** and two more nominees for the **2020 Nominating Committee**. Please give serious consideration to filling these positions. Kathy can be reached at uffda_fyda@yahoo.com.

So happy to have several people step up to volunteer for our action areas and legislative interviews. There is always room for more. This is one way to familiarize yourself with the League's positions and how we advocate for them.

We are growing as a League. Your membership shows your commitment to informed government. Let us know where and how you can fit in.

In League,
Beth Hicks

P.S. Don't forget to invite a friend!

***FEBRUARY 14TH
HAPPY 99TH BIRTHDAY
TO
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS!***



February General Meeting

**Monday, February 25, 2019
Manatee Recreation Center,
1512 Hillsborough Trail
The Villages
10:30 a.m. - 12 noon**

**Guest Speaker
Patti Brigham,
LWV Florida President**



March
LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area
Annual Meeting
Monday, March 25, 2019
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Continental Country Club
50 Continental Boulevard
Wildwood, FL 34785



D.C. Women's March

Two LWVTRI members traveled to Washington DC for the 2019 Women's March. **Dee Melvin** and **Mary Schulz**, (second and third from the right) along with three other local women, decided to participate in the March to show their support for issues of concern to many women such as

immigration reform, voter suppression, climate change, reproductive rights, equal pay, and public education. On the 17 hour Amtrak ride from Orlando, they met others also headed to the March and were offered encouraging words of support from many other train passengers. Upon arriving in DC they were impressed with the high level of energy, unity, and enthusiasm by the crowd of 100,000. They took special notice of the large number of young adult men and women as well as mothers with young daughters wanting to make their voices heard. They came home inspired and uplifted by the peaceful and exuberant show of democracy in action.

Mary Shulz

Membership

A warm welcome to our newest members: **Grace Arnold, Dorothy Duncan, Mary Carol Holbert, Mary McIntyre, Luth Tenorio** and **Kris Vanderploeg**. We welcome back returning LWVTRI member **Luth Tenorio** as well as League members who have relocated to our area and those who are first time members.

Just a reminder that dues are due on the anniversary month of your joining the League. You will receive an email reminder prior to your anniversary date.

When you do, please make your check payable to **LWVTRI** and mail it to **Bernadette Aley, 1106 Monterey Lane, The Villages, Florida 32159.**

LWVTRI Annual Meeting

The **Annual Meeting** will be held on **Monday, March 25, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.** at the **Continental Country Club, Wildwood.** In addition to the business meeting, this will be the kick-off of our year long celebration of the centenary of the founding of the League and the 19th Amendment. We invite you to join in the spirit of this celebration by asking all members and their guests to wear something with purple, yellow or white--the suffrage colors. Following the business meeting and lunch, there will be a special presentation by League members that you won't want to miss. So mark your calendars and plan on being there.

For reservation information and entree selection, please click [here](#).

League Name Badges

League name badges are now available to all members for **\$5**. Choose either a magnetic or pin backing. Name badges can be ordered at the general meetings.

League Liaisons

Liaisons will participate in statewide conference calls as well as keep members updated on proposed legislation during the legislative session. Here are our League's liaisons:

Natural Resources-Bonnie Field
Cindy Vinarski-Gun Safety

If you would like to participate in the conference calls with the liaison, please contact **Beth Hicks, lwtvtriprez@gmail.com**. We would also like to have a liaison for **Juvenile Justice**. Please contact **Beth** if you are interested.

Voter Registration Credentials

League members who are certified to register voters, as well as League members who would like to be certified to register voters, please note that as of **December 31, 2018**, the certification of all voter registrars expired. League members who do voter registration for the League will need to re-certify their credentials with the State League **ASAP**. Beginning in 2017 the LWVFL instituted a 2-year cycle whereby the list of approved voter registrars would be

wiped clean, requiring members to re-certify. The two-year cycle ended on 12/31/2018.

If you are planning to do any voter registration you must study the PowerPoint which is on the LWV Florida website and take the quiz, attaining a perfect score. Once you pass with 100% you will get a notification from LWVFL that you are authorized to do voter registration. To begin the certification process, please contact **Beth Hlcks**, lwvtriprez@gmail.com for the password for the Member link on the state League website.

2019 LWV Florida Legislative Summit

The **Legislative Summit** is only 2 months away! Join other Florida League members in **Tallahassee** on **April 9-10** as we take over the Capitol and lobby on our issues. This is the highlight of the League year, and it is not possible without you! Mark your calendars now.

Voter Service

The **Speakers Bureau** offers the following Power Point presentations (PPT):

National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (using popular vote instead of Electoral College to elect President)
Charter Schools
Balance of Power: 3 Branches of US Government
Florida Government
Gun Safety
Your Voice. Your Power. Your Vote!

If you are a member of a club or group that would like to have a speaker present one of these topics, contact **Jeannie Hamilton**, jeannie@jeannierealtor.com.

The speakers Bureau is looking for experienced speakers who will travel in pairs to present in various locations in and around The Villages and the tri-county area. Training on the equipment and presentations will be offered later this month. So if you are interested in joining the Speakers Bureau, contact **Jeannie** at jeannie@jeannierealtor.com.

HR1

On Friday, January 4, **HR1** was introduced in the House of Representatives. This bill comprises a bold, transformative set of reforms to strengthen our democracy and return political power to the people. While LWVUS supports the legislation, they recognize that it is not a perfect bill.

Why we need a comprehensive package of democracy reforms:

- It should be easier, not harder, to vote. The **For the People Act** improves access to voting with reforms like Same Day Registration and Automatic Voter Registration.
- More needs to be done to protect voters' voices. The **For the People Act** requires independent redistricting commissions, ends voter roll purges based on failure to vote, and restores the Voting Rights Act.
- Our government should respond to the will of the people, not the interests of powerful corporations and wealthy donors.
- The **For the People Act** includes strong provisions for improving transparency in campaign finance and strengthening government ethics enforcement.
- As an organization with a mission of empowering voters and defending democracy, the League of Women Voters is proud to support legislation that does the same.

The **For the People Act** makes elections fairer and puts power back in the hands of the American people. It deserves support from all members of Congress.

Call your legislators and tell them how important this package of reforms is to the future of our democracy. Urge them to vote in favor of **HR1**.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization.

The League neither endorses or opposes candidates or political parties.

The League is political in that it does take positions which are based on study and consensus by the members.

Check us out at www.lwvtrifl.org

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