



***Nationally Recognized! Locally Active!***

**October 2020**

**Volume 14 Issue 7**



## **Co-President Notes**

### **Gail Formanack**

The general election is fast approaching, and it will be like no other due to the pandemic. For the first time ever, our registration and voter education efforts have been virtual. As a partner in National Voter Registration Day (September 22), our League posted paid advertising on Facebook, Instagram and Snap Chat attempting to reach those who aren't already registered. Our "Be a Voter" videos will be running constantly on Facebook and SnapChat through the October 5<sup>th</sup> deadline to register. Remember to wear your purple Be A Voter t-shirt as you venture out before the election and encourage those you meet to vote. Be sure to direct them to [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org) for information on the candidates and amendments.

Two months ago, I mentioned in this publication that the League would be advocating for **Amendment 3** on the ballot – open primaries. However, the state League board reversed its decision after realizing it could adversely affect minority representation in some districts across the state. The League still believes in the principle of broader voter participation through open primaries, however this amendment's structure putting the top two vote getters on the general election ballot seems to create more problems than it solves.

The League is strongly opposed to **Amendment 4** which would require a proposed constitutional amendment to pass in two consecutive elections. State League president Patti Brigham says, "This will nail the coffin shut" on the citizen's initiative process by adding additional burden to an already expensive and difficult process for citizens to exercise their rights to amend the

constitution at the polls.

Whether you vote by mail or in person, I hope you stay safe and healthy.

Yours in League,  
Gail

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## Co-President Notes Bonnie Field

I have noticed many of our members in our local league have indicated their interest in the League's "Issues", when completing the membership or renewal application. This is wonderful! The League advocates for us all to be "educated" voters. But life is short and our time is limited. Do not fret. The State League has provided an excellent – but brief overview of the League's issues.

Visit our [website](#) get to the "homepage", at the top of that page click on "ISSUES". Each issue will have its own box . The League provides a brief history on the issue, current education, and areas of advocacy. The State Chairs/Co-chairs are listed for each issue. Some even have a "Here" button, inviting you to join the action group , participate in their monthly phone call, and suggests the actions the members may work on.

Our local league has an Observer's Group. Its purpose is to educate our interested members in observing the Florida legislative process. By devoting a few hours on the computer, one may easily learn how to track your Legislator's bills and bills pertaining to League issues. This information is helpful when studying or taking action on any of the issues. If any are interested please contact me to arrange a lesson or two. The actual "observing" is completed on your own computer, on your own time schedule.

**Please be safe and VOTE!**

Best Regards

Bonnie Field Co-President

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**VOTE 411 is Ready for you!**



Make your way to [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org). Click on "What's On My Ballot". You will then be prompted to input your residential address. After you input your address, you will be directed to everything on your ballot. You will see the candidates who responded with their photos, contact information and responses to

questions. In addition, you will find explanations of and what happens if you vote **Yes or No** on each of the six Florida Constitutional Amendments that will be on your ballot. It's all there!!- And, you will be able to print it, if you wish. This is a nation wide LWV project, so be sure and share with all your friends!

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## LWV Election Presentations Available Online!



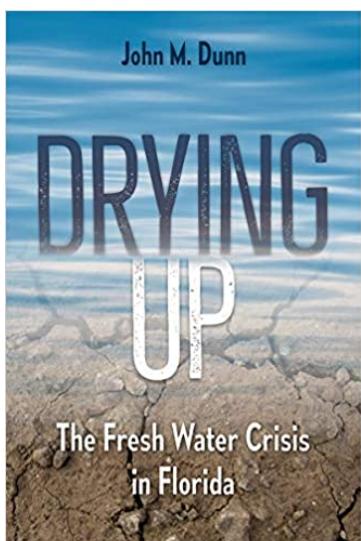
The League of Women Voters realizes they cannot reach all voters so the League is offering licensed, un-editable versions of the **DECISION 2020: Proposed Florida Constitutional Amendments** and the **Vote By Mail in Florida** Power Point presentations to any person or group that requests copies to present to their constituency. In this way, we hope to reach faith organizations, civic groups, neighborhood associations, social clubs, and others.

Individuals may access the two non-editable presentations on the following [Google Drive Link](#).

PASSWORD: **GOTV2020**

If further clarification is needed, please [visit](#)

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## October Meeting Information

Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 social time  
10:30 meeting via Zoom

Speaker: John Dunn, author of **Drying Up: The Fresh Water Crisis in Florida**, will speak on water issues facing Floridians.

University Press of Florida is offering a discount price of \$18 plus free shipping, for his book, valid through November 30. Here is a [link](#) to order the book. Use code LWV20 at checkout. Attendees

can also place their order by calling 800-226-3822 and mentioning code LWV20. The book store is open 8-4 weekdays.

The discount code is valid starting now, so attendees can order the book before the event if they'd like. And if you'd like to share the direct link to order his book, it is <http://upf.com/book.asp?id=9780813056203>

### [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 869 2704 6992

Passcode: 298221

No computer, phone in with one of these numbers, and use the Meeting ID and Passcode above:

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)



## **VOTER SERVICES**

The election has been our focus. Thanks to the work of many League members, we contacted all of the 2020 Primary and General Election candidates. As a result,

Vote411 contains the photos, background/contact information and responses to our questions of the candidates who chose to participate. [Vote411](#) also contains explanation of each of the six Florida Constitutional Amendments that will be on the 2020 General Election Ballot.

Many of our members have been writing postcards urging former felons who have no financial obligations related to their incarceration to register to vote. The initial goal was 1,000 postcards and to our surprise and delight, completed 2,000 postcards. Included in the grant for this campaign, was a \$75 stipend for each 1,000 cards ordered and mailed. Our local League will receive \$150 for our efforts! Thank you and congratulations to all of our members who volunteered for this important work.

The Florida State League indicated there may be another post card writing campaign to urge registered voters to vote.

We also sent letters to all Assisted Living facilities, in Sumter and Marion Counties. In the letters, we suggested that the Administrators or the Activities Directors inform their registered residents about how to request vote-by-mail ballots. We told them how they could collect the completed ballots and drop them off at

the office of the Supervisor of Elections or at early voting sites.

Since January 2020, our Speakers' Bureau has received 53 requests for presentations of which 11 were canceled because of the pandemic; 31 were presented via Zoom; 14 were on the six Florida Constitutional Amendments that will appear on the 2020 General Election ballot and 15 are scheduled for October. After the election, Speakers Bureau will start scheduling 2021 Zoom presentations on The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC), Balance of Power: 3 Branches of Government, The Fight for Women's Suffrage, News: Separating Fact from Fiction, Florida State Government, Vote By Mail and 2020 Census. Our Speakers' Bureau has received \$575 in honorariums/donations, this year, to date.

We have distributed to the libraries in the Lake, Sumter and Marion Counties over 2,000 printed voter guides and 2,500 bookmarks describing Vote411 and how to access it.

On Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, at 3 pm ET, The US League of Women Voters will hold a [General Election Get Out the Vote \(GOTV\) Best Practices](#) webinar. During these unprecedented times, educating voters on how they can participate in upcoming elections will pose unique challenges. If you would like to participate in this important project, [Click here to register today!](#) Our Chapter Number is FLO48 which will aid your registration process.

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## LEAGUE OBSERVERS

There is an informative booklet available to download or read About the Leagues' "OBSERVERS" groups on the LWWUS site - here is the [link](#) to the pdf file:

If you would like more information about our Observers group, Please email Bonnie Field at : bfield222@gmail.com

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This year, we will be having an Election Season rather than an Election Day! Your League is sending out weekly reminders about the different aspects of getting you ready to cast your vote. Watch for this logo on mailings which usually are sent on Saturday. We encourage you to share with your friends. If they are interested in getting them from us, just contact [Beth](#) and they will be put onto the mailing list.

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If you have questions about the process, find the answers on our [website](#).  
Don't wait too long to mail your ballot.  
Consider delivering it to your supervisor of elections if you still haven't mailed it by October 13<sup>th</sup>.



## Speaker's Bureau

Our new normal is Zoom presentations. [Here](#) is information on our current presentations. Our amendments presentation is the most popular this month! For more information and to schedule a presentation click [here](#).

## Local League on Social Media



**Facebook - League of Women Voters  
The Villages Tri County**

**Twitter - LWV-TV/Tri**

**Snap Chat  
League of Women Voters The Villages**

**Instagram - Lwvtriprez**

## New Members

We would like to welcome our new Members who joined in September



**Jean Delafchell**

**Kathy Dindia**

**Kathleen Johnson**

**Judie Pristaw**

**Kudos to...**

**Carol Van Noy, Char Griffin, and the entire team** responsible for the work involved in creating and distributing the print and online Voters Guide.



**Beth Hicks** for hosting a well-received virtual Equalitea in recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women's suffrage and for the weekly emails on voting information

**Jeannie Hamilton** and all volunteers reaching out to former felons who have paid their fines through the postcard campaign to get them to register to vote.

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Dates for  
**2020-2021 Meetings**

11/16/20 General meeting via Zoom

12/14/20 General meeting via Zoom

1/25/21 General meeting – Manatee or Zoom (TBD)

2/22/21 General Meeting – TBD

3/22/21 Annual Meeting – TBD

4/26/21 General Meeting – TBD

5/17/21 General Meeting - TBD

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Dues are payable on the **anniversary month** of your joining the League. You will receive an email reminder from **Karen West** ([LWVTRImembers@gmail.com](mailto:LWVTRImembers@gmail.com)) prior to your anniversary date. When you do, please make your check payable to **LWVTRI** and mail it to our **Treasurer, Bernadette Aley, 1106 Monterey Lane, The Villages, Florida 32159**. If you are not sure of your anniversary month, you can contact **Karen West, LWVTRImembers@gmail.com**. Please add Karen's address to your email contact list.

Please note: The National League will also send you a request for

membership the month before your dues are up for renewal with LWVTRI THE VILLAGES. Please send your renewal LOCALLY. National gets a portion of your local dues as does the State League. Local memberships support all levels - and we need to keep the grassroots organization strong. We may not get "credit" for you as a local member if your check goes directly to National.

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## League Website

Our website, **LWVTRIFL.org**, has a **Members Only** section containing multiple pages:

- the main **Members Only** page has our membership list, minutes from our last Board meeting, an Expense Voucher, our chapter's By-Laws as well as other information
- the **Publications** page is where you can find past newsletters as well as copies of our national and local studies
- the **Voter Guide Archive**
- a **Caught on Camera** page containing candid photos from our events and activities.

The drop down menu from the Top-Nav allows you to go directly to the page you want to access.

When you select one of these pages, you will be required to provide a password. To gain access to this restricted part of our website, contact our member chair:

Karen West LWVTRImembers@gmail.com

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## **Editor Musings**

We are all becoming experts with Zoom if we want to stay in touch with others. Please take care of yourselves and look out for others.

If you have a submission for this newsletter, please use the [newsletter email](#). Try to get it to me by the 25th of the month. Thanks!

Yours in the League,  
Beth

