



## December 2024 Newsletter

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### DECEMBER 2024 MEETING: Holiday Luncheon Guest Speaker: Beverly Steele



**Thursday, December 12 at 11:30 am \***

The Bistro at Grand Oaks Resort  
3000 Marion County Road  
Weirsdale, FL

\* Reservations required. Deadline passed.

Note time and location is different  
than our regular meetings

Royal, founded in Sumter County after the Civil War when freed slaves were given 40 acres and a mule, is one of only two homestead communities remaining in the U.S. This historic land has been passed down through the generations. Our guest speaker, Beverly Steele, will share that rich history with us as well as current efforts to have Royal added to the National Register of Historic Sites.

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### \* \* \* **IMPORTANT: Changes Impacting You** \* \* \*

You will receive an email from LWVUS within the next several weeks explaining what to expect when they take over dues collection in February. While the FROM in this email will be LWV, the actual email address will be *ChapterSpot.com*. (*ChapterSpot* is the software company LWVUS is using to process registration and renewals.)

When it's time to renew, you will receive renewal notices from this email address as well.

The renewal notice will encourage you to pay online using ACH, an electronic payment method that requires typing in the numbers at the bottom of a check. A secondary option is to pay online

provide any assistance you may need if you [email](#), phone or text Char Griffin (616.826.9343.)

If you renew at Susan B Anthony level, **please** continue [reading](#).

See [FAQs](#) for more details.

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## CO-PRESIDENT COLUMN: Structural Changes to LWVTRI



Our national League, LWVUS, is launching a new membership system in late January or early February. When this happens, we will no longer be collecting your dues; LWVUS will.

This change requires a change to our local Bylaws as well as the responsibilities of the Board - particularly those of the Treasurer and Membership Director.

In preparation for these changes, the Board has been reviewing how we operate. In the process we worked with a consultant from LWVUS and learned we do not need the complication of running two organizations: LWVTRI, a 501c4, and LWVTRI Education Fund, a 501c3.

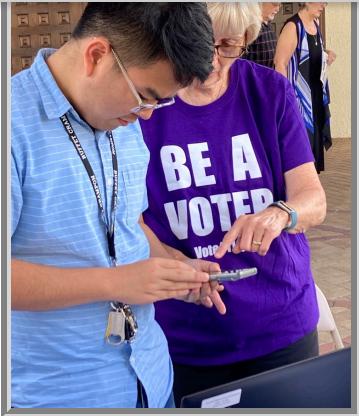
As a result, the Board recommends we merge LWVTRI, the organization in which you are a member, into LWVTRI Education Fund. This surviving 501c3 will be named League of Women Voters of The Villages / Tri-County Florida.

We need your approval to merge. You received an email on December 3, asking you to vote. If you have not done that already, please do that now by completing this short [form](#). Our current Bylaws require that at least 20% of members participate in this decision.

[< READ MORE >](#)

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## VOTER SERVICES: Keeping Voters Informed



## Sumter Counties in 2024?

We have received a report from the League of Women Voters US, who developed the Vote411 software. The report tells the number of people who used Vote411 from January 1 to November 5, 2024, in all Florida locations. This [chart](#) lists all of the locations in our three counties. The total listed is 15,412 users, but that accounts only for those who live in the listed cities. There are additional users in Lake, Marion and Sumter counties who do not live in any of the listed cities. What a great success!!

**Speakers Bureau:** We currently have one scheduled presentation on January 25, 2025, at the Leesburg Public Library. We will have many more during 2025. If you want to participate as a Speaker or as an Assistant, please contact [Carol Van Noy](#). The Speakers Bureau is a great opportunity to hone your skills and defend democracy by educating voters, at the same time. Plus, it is fun to meet people and to learn about other organizations.

**Voter Registration:** We currently have no scheduled voter registration events. The major topic for 2025 will be to urge those who vote by mail to request a vote by mail ballot so they will be able to vote by mail in the 2025 and 2026 Elections. We have applied for a grant to contact young voters, so we will be going to all of the College Campuses in this area. We have also applied for a grant to provide information to former felons, so we will be addressing postcards to former felons who have not registered to vote. If you would like to register voters, inform vote-by-mail voters that they must renew their request or address postcards to former felons, please contact [Carol Van Noy](#). This is important work that you will find very fulfilling!!

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## JANUARY 2025 MEETING



Sumter County Judge Paul Militello will be our guest speaker, Thursday, January 9 at 2 pm.

As one of the 3 members of the Sumter County Canvassing Board, Judge Militello will tell us why Canvassing Boards are vitally important to fair elections and will explain how the Board monitors and certifies election results.

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## DO NOT MISS: Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition

**VOICES & VOTES. DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA**

Leesburg Public Library  
100 E. Main Street  
Leesburg, FL

November 16 through January 11

Gather a group of friends and see this Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition: [Museum on Main Street: on Democracy in America.](#)

< [LEARN MORE](#) >

**BOARD BRIEFS**

The Board approved motions to merge the 501c4 into the 501c3, discussed holding Leadership Training for our League members, and agreed on a response to LWVFL on League priorities.

< [LEARN MORE](#) >

**MEMBERSHIP NEWS****Let's Welcome Our Newest Member**

Jaime Bramer

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

General meetings are held in the Fruitland Park Library on the 2nd Thursday of the months between September and May, except for the Holiday Luncheon in December.

Meeting details can be found on the [Calendar](#) page of our website.

**January 9**

**Canvassing Board**

Speaker: Honorable Paul Militello  
Sumter County Court

Speaker: Same Coodley  
Campaign Manager of *All Voting is Local*

**March 13**

**Program Planning**

Discussion: LWVTRI's program for the next fiscal year

**April 10**

**Social Security: Eligibility & Long Term Viability**

Speaker: Bernadette Aley  
Retired District Director of Social Security Administration

**May 8**

**Annual Meeting**

Business Meeting: The only business meeting of the year will include elections of officers, approval of budget, and adoption of program.

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