



Nationally Recognized! Locally Active!

November 2019
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Co-Presidents' Corner

As the holiday season approaches, I am mindful of all the many things in my life for which I am thankful. As I watch events unfold around the world, I am thankful for our free society in which we are guaranteed freedom of expression and the knowledge that every voice counts at the polls. We are just one year away from a very important election cycle. The League has much to do in terms of fulfilling our mission and goals. Our mission is to defend democracy by empowering voters. We do that by helping motivate every person to vote and to participate with knowledge and confidence.

Our work will ramp up significantly in 2020, so I ask you to consider how you can help. We will need volunteers to assist with events such as candidate events and in the preparation of our local voter's guide. We anticipate our Speakers' Bureau will again be busy with engagements in our three-county area. Please consider ways you can become involved.

After the recent tax increase in Sumter County, residents have raised some questions about who represents them and how they are elected. Evidently there are some discrepancies in the district maps which were recently uncovered, and some people are

questioning the wisdom of the “One Sumter” election rules in which the county commissioners are elected by the entire voting population rather than just the voters who reside in the commissioners’ districts. If you are interested in researching the current situation or monitoring the actions of the Sumter County government, please consider joining the Legislative Education and Action Committee. Contact **Bonnie Field, bfield222@gmail.com, 352 435-0079.**

Your League needs your time and talents. Please consider stepping up to help with some of the following critical roles in our organization:

- One volunteer to serve on the Nominating Committee. This is a short-term task which involves identifying new leaders to step forward to keep our League growing and strong. You will work with Kathy Williamson (chair) and Terri Roeher.

We are all busy with various activities, but please consider stepping up to serve in one of these capacities. You might consider finding a friend who can help you share these duties.

Contact lwttriprez@gmail.com to volunteer or for more information.

Dine & Discuss Kickoff a Success

Eighteen members and guests attended the inaugural Dine & Discuss event on October 15th. This will become a quarterly event designed to better reach our members who work during the day or who live in the Lake County area. Mark your calendars for the next event to be held **January 14, 2020**.

Yours in League,

Gail

Gail Formanack, Co-President

P.S. Don't forget to invite a friend to our **November General Meeting** and mark your calendars for upcoming events. **Please note that we will be meeting on the third Monday, November 18!**



November General Meeting

When: Monday, November 18, 2019*

10:30 a.m. - 12 noon

**Where: Manatee Recreation Center
1512 Hillsborough Trail, The Villages**

***Note this is the third Monday; not the fourth Monday.**

**Guest Speaker:
Karen Kagalis, Partnership Specialist
Atlanta Regional Census Center
U. S. Census Bureau**



Ever heard "Don't ever let anyone tell you you don't count." It has never rung so true as now with the 2020 Census. Our speaker will address the importance of being counted in the 2020 Census; and what it means to us, our families, and community.



As we get ready to enter an election year, we need to remember the nonpartisan foundation of the League of Women Voters. Many of us are politically active, but our affiliations are left at the door. We cannot distribute election materials, sign candidate petitions etc. in our meetings. With regard to apparel, that means no partisan or candidate shirts, buttons, hats, sashes etc. are to be worn to a League meeting. The League's nonpartisanship is our bedrock.

Thank you!

Beth & Gail



2019 Annual Holiday & Gift Exchange

Join us for a a buffet luncheon, at the Colony Recreation Center, 510 Colony Boulevard, The Villages, on Monday, December

9, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. The cost is \$25 per person and [you can click](#) here for a glimpse of the menu. Reservations can be made at the **November 18 General Meeting** or by contacting **Karen West**, west.k9@gmail.com. The deadline for reservations is **Wednesday, November 27**, and there will be no refunds for cancellations after that date.

In addition to this being a holiday luncheon, this is our League's only fundraiser of the year. So come with your gift for the Holiday Gift Exchange and purchase a chance or chances for that item you just cannot live without.

We are also happy to welcome our guest speaker **B. E. Thompson** who is **Director of Development at Lifestream Behavioral Center**. His position includes grant development, coordination of special events, community outreach, cultivating donors, and serving as government liaison. He will be speaking to us about the Open Door, which is a homeless drop in center in Eustis. In addition, he will also speak about Hope House which is an eight bed permanent supportive housing program for chronically homeless men. We will learn about the homeless situation in Lake County, and all that Lifestream has done to help those who are living on the streets.



On January 22, 2020, at 7:00 pm, **Kimberly Wilmot Voss**, journalism professor at the University of Central Florida will speak on "**Politicking Politely: Well-Behaved Women Making a Difference in the 1960s and 1970s.**"

Our League will have a table and be allowed to distribute membership materials as well as have designated seating. Online registration is required in advance. **Make sure you identify**

League of Women Voters when answering "How did you hear about this event?" This will allow you to sit with the group. Beacon College's Salon Speaker series events are free of charge, and hors d'oeuvres are served. The location is yet to be determined. Learn more about these events and register by visiting Beaconcollege.edu/salon.

Membership

Welcome to our newest member:

Lynn Miller

Just a reminder that dues are due on the **anniversary month** of your joining the League. You will receive an email reminder from **Karen West** (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.

League Name Badges

League name badges are now available to all members for **\$5.50** 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:

Juvenile Justice-Linda Bishop
Natural Resources-Bonnie Field

If you would like to participate in the conference calls with the liaison, please contact **Beth Hicks**, lwwtriprez@gmail.com.

Voter Registration Credentials

Just a reminder to 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 interested in doing voter registration with our League, 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 Hicks**, [**lwwtriprez@gmail.com**](mailto:lwwtriprez@gmail.com) for the password for the Member link on the state League website.

League Website



Our website, **LWVTRIFL.org**, has a **Members Only** section (see screenshot above with **Members Only** highlighted in **red**) 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 webmaster:

Char Griffin at webmaster@lwvtrifl.org.

Legislative Education & Action Committee

Our first Legislation Education Unit meeting was held on October 25, 2019. Our discussion began with some general study topic thoughts as we became better acquainted. We reviewed the simple process of “tracking” a bill on our computers. Although the Legislature is not in session at this time, bills are being filed and assigned to committees -both in the FL Senate and the FL House. As our goal is to monitor legislation as it is filed, we agreed to gather a list of certain bills, (those which are on LWVFL’s list of Legislative priorities). At our next meeting, we will discuss which bills are either favorable or unfavorable with the Leagues positions. This will be an ongoing project and we invite anyone who is interested in learning more about the legislative process to join us. For further information, contact **Bonnie Field**, bfield222@gmail.com, 352 435-0079.

Your Help is Needed!

Our organization has grown to over 100 members, and we could use your help as we manage the many tasks involved in maintaining a viable organization. We are an organization of volunteers, and some of us hesitate to commit to tasks due to

upcoming travel plans, etc. Please consider if you could help with any of the tasks below. Contact lwvtriprez@gmail.com.

League Liaisons: Participate in state League conference calls and update membership on the following issues especially during the legislative session: Gun Safety, Census and Medicaid

Voters' Guide and Vote411: Assist in drafting questions and contacting local candidates running for office in 2020. This is an ad hoc committee working before the primary and general elections.

Speakers' Bureau: We anticipate more speaking requests as we grow closer to the 2020 election. If you are interested in being trained and educated on the speaking topics, we would welcome more volunteers.

Financial Review: Our bylaws state the treasurer's records should be reviewed on an annual basis. Please consider joining a small committee to review our organization's finances. This is an ad hoc committee with a short-term commitment.

Voter Service

Speakers Bureau

Since March 2019, the Speakers Bureau has made presentations to 21 organizations and more are being scheduled.

Below are some of the topics for which our League is providing speakers:

Balance of Power: 3 Branches of US Government

The Constitution of the United States divides the federal government into three branches to ensure a central government in which no individual or group gains too much control. This

presentation describes the powers of the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches of the federal government and how they relate to one another.

Electoral College & National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC)

This presentation explains the origin and function of the Electoral College and what some states are doing to change how we elect the President and Vice President of the United States to reflect the popular vote.

2020 US Census

The 2020 census will mark the first time people will be able to respond to the census online as well as by phone and mail. Census results help determine how the federal government will distribute billions of dollars among states, counties and local governments. The census affects legislative redistricting at all levels of government and determines how many seats in Congress each state gets. This PowerPoint explains the 2020 census and why it is important that everyone responds to help Florida compete for these benefits.

Your Voice. Your Power. Your Vote.

In 1776 only 10% of Americans had the right to vote. Learn the history of expanding voting rights and the important benefits to those who turn out and vote. This presentation describes the ways voters can register and vote which includes registering online, Vote by Mail, early voting and more.

The Fight for Women's Suffrage

The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote. This PowerPoint describes the sacrifices of activists whose tireless efforts from 1848 to 1920 culminated in women's suffrage.

FL Government

This PowerPoint describes the history of Florida government, the responsibilities and powers of Florida government officers and how laws are created.

Please contact

**Jeannie Hamilton, Speakers Bureau Chair, 303 817
9988 Lwvtrispeakersbureau@gmail.com**

if you know a group that would be interested in one of our presentations.

From LWV Florida

With the Census coming and another round of redistricting in 2021-22, LWVFL President Patricia Brigham wrote a widely published OpEd on redistricting. It explains why we should support a bill filed by Sen. José Javier Rodríguez, D-Miami. **Senate Bill 252** would repeal an open records exemption and allow public scrutiny of all drafts of reapportionment plans, amendments or supporting documents in real time as the maps are being developed.

The League's **Census letter to Gov. DeSantis** urging funding to ensure a complete count for Census 2020 was picked up by Florida Phoenix as well. "The importance of the count cannot be underestimated."

LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area | 1960 Ardmore Way, The Villages, FL 32162

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