



Nationally Recognized! Locally Active!

September 2021

Volume 15 Issue 3

Special Notice for Subscribers!

It has come to our attention that if you are receiving our newsletter via **Gmail**, they are likely being truncated by Google, with much of the content being distorted or simply not being visible.

If you're using Gmail, upon opening the e-mail, please scroll down to the end of the e-mail and if you see the message:

[Message clipped]
[View entire message](#)

Please click on this link to see the full newsletter as we intend it to be! Thanks!



Co-President Notes Gail Formanack

Although we don't have regular meetings in the summer, many Leaguers have been busy with League events. Many thanks to the Marion County League members who pulled together the online Voters guide (VOTE411) and a candidate Meet and Greet event for candidates running in the Ocala municipal elections this fall. Voter Services chair Carol Van Noy led these successful efforts, and she and her team's efforts are appreciated.

Mary Kay and I worked closely with several other board members to prepare the long-delayed celebration of Women's Suffrage at the Equalitea held on August 26th. The League partnered with WUCF

(PBS) to show a segment of *The American Experience: The Vote*. We also worked closely with many members of the Sisters of Suffrage. We especially thank our panelists Jill Moss Greenberg, Lisa French, and Katina Stephens. This was our first in-person event in over a year, and we appreciate those who came out despite the new spike in COVID due to the Delta variant.

We look forward to resuming in-person meetings in September at Manatee Recreation Center. Details on our speaker are below. We hope the health risks subside, but we would ask you to consider wearing a mask and to stay home if you are not feeling well.

Several of us attended the virtual LWVFL state convention in June. This convention happens every two years, and we hope the 2023 event will be able to be in-person. Virtual information sessions were offered for several days preceding the official convention, and those were open to any League member. I hope you may have participated in one of them. The business of the convention included passing budgets and revision of the LWVFL Program. In addition, the state convention body passed a resolution urging our Florida government to adopt an integrative approach to climate change. A letter was sent to Governor DeSantis directing Florida departments and operations to take this integrative approach with support for local and regional efforts.

Stay well, and we hope to see you at an in-person meeting soon.

Yours in League,
Gail Formanack

CO-PRESIDENT MARY KAY ROSINSKI

WANTED A FEW GOOD MENTORS!

We have established a new mentoring program for new members to our League.



The role of a mentor is to contact someone who has just joined and welcome them. There are many ways to support a new member, such as letting them know about upcoming meetings (even driving together!). We try to connect people who live near each other. It's just a nice way to let a person know that they have a friend they can contact if they have questions.

If you are interested in mentoring a new member, please contact Mary Kay Rosinski, Co-President, at mknceta@yahoo.com or 619-742-2067

September Meeting In-Person Manatee Recreation Center



September 27, 2021 at 10:00 am

Speaker: Patrick Walsh with Covanta Lake Energy Waste Facility

Topic: Recycling has ended in The Villages. Learn how your waste is converted to energy.

Energy-from-Waste: How Does it Work?

Energy-from-Waste takes non-hazardous waste – otherwise destined for landfill – and combusts it in specially-designed boilers to generate steam which drives a turbine for electricity generation. Ash is processed to recover metal for recycling while all gases are collected, filtered and cleaned before being released safely into the atmosphere.

For every ton of municipal solid waste processed at an Energy-from-Waste facility like Covanta Lake, greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by an average of one ton. This is due to the avoidance of methane from landfills, the offset of greenhouse gases from fossil fuel electrical production and the recovery of metals for recycling.

From Covanta's 2020 report to customers:

- We processed **162,636** tons of Solid Waste;
- EfW processing reduced the waste volume by 90%, **saving over 231,000 cubic yards of landfill air space.**
- -that's equivalent to approximately **3 Spaceship Earth buildings at EPCOT!!**
- We produced **77,771** megawatt hours of energy, which would provide enough electricity for over **7,100** households in the community annually;
- We recycled **4,813** tons of ferrous metals;
- We recycled **284** tons of non-ferrous metals, including **nearly**

\$6,000 in discarded coins!

- As of Dec 31, 2020 our facility has gone **5,205 days** without any OSHA recordable injuries or incidents. That is **over fourteen years injury free!**
- After completing EPA stack testing in January of 2020, the Covanta Lake facility's particulate emissions averaged over **90% below** the EPA allowable amounts.

Here is a [link to a virtual tour](#) of their Okahumpka facility:

Board Meeting Highlights

The board met in-person for an orientation and planning session on April 30th. One of its first actions was to appoint Char Griffin secretary filling the vacancy created when Mary Kay Rosinski was elected co-president. The board began work on a strategic plan. The June meeting was held via Zoom. The group brainstormed speaker ideas for the coming year, and the co-presidents finalized the speaker line-up through February 2022. The board met in person on August 2nd. Discussions were held on the Equalitea event. A fiscal review of the treasurer's records was scheduled. The bulk of the time was spent on revisions to the strategic plan. The board will review the plan one more time at its September meeting. When approved, it will be shared with the entire membership via the website.

Be A Voter Videos Recognized at Telly Awards



Red Apples Media, a video production company located in Leesburg and co-owned by League member Nancy Schwartz, recently received a silver award for their production work on our League's "Be a Voter" videos which were aired on social media prior to last fall's election. The videos targeted younger women, who frequently are non-voters, by encouraging them to register and educate themselves prior to voting. The 30-second social media ads were viewed over 180,000 times.

Well done Red Apples Media!

Celebrating 101 Years of Women's Suffrage

The League of Women Voters was the primary sponsor of the EqualiTea celebration held on Women's Equality Day, August 26th. This event was postponed two times previously, but we decided to persevere, and the event was held at Rohan Recreation Center as scheduled. Approximately 115 reservations were made, but health concerns likely kept some people away as the estimated crowd was 80.



The event was planned in conjunction with Sisters of Suffrage, a coalition of organizations in and around The Villages formed to recognize the mission and accomplishments of the suffragists who worked tirelessly for decades to gain the right to vote for women. The PBS affiliate in Orlando (WUCF) contacted the League in 2019 and offered to do a pre-screening of their special *The American Experience: The Vote*. Although our event was postponed, the film showed on PBS in July, 2020 prior to the 100th Anniversary of Suffrage. The program was planned around a viewing of a 30-minute segment of the film featuring the Washington Parade of 1913 which took place prior to the inauguration of President Woodrow Wilson.

After watching the excerpt, a discussion was held featuring panelists Jill Moss Greenberg, Lisa French, and Katina Stephens. They reflected on various aspects of the parade's significance, the first protest march of its kind held in Washington, D.C. The audience also was able to submit questions.

Rosella Valentine made closing remarks and reminded the audience the work started by the suffragists continues as we await passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and continue to fight voter suppression with support for federal legislation such as the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. She also called upon attendees to sign a petition on Change.org to recognize August 26th (Women's Equality Day) as a National Day of Celebration. The goal is to have 102,000 signatures by August 26th, 2022. Please [visit the site](#) and add your support for this effort:

The program was emceed by Co-President Gail Formanack. Refreshments and decorations were overseen by Co-President Mary Kay Rosinski. Many Leaguers and SOS members helped with set up and clean up, and we appreciate the teamwork it took to make the event a success. Thank you to those members who supported the event with your attendance.

For more pictures of the event, please visit our [Facebook Page](#)

Comments from Attendee Dorothy Dobbs seems to sum up the feelings of many:

"Thank you and the LWV for all the planning and work involved in making the EqualiTea a very special event. Please let all the planning committees know that it was a wonderful event for all. There was a shared response to the film and speakers by all attendees. It felt a lot like 'women power'. I am so glad we finally had a chance to gather as a group to celebrate our 101 years of women's voting rights. "



LWVFL Legislative Priorities and Lobby Days

The Florida League is asking local leagues for input regarding the 2022 Legislative priorities. It has determined that Voting and Redistricting automatically be the top two priorities. Locals will have the opportunity to provide input on four additional priority topics by ranking the following other areas of interest: Clean Energy, Education, Gun Safety, Health Care, Home Rule/Preemption, Immigration, Juvenile Justice, National Popular Vote, Natural Resources, Poverty & Affordable Housing, and Reproductive Health and Justice.

Your local board will review the above list and submit our recommendations based upon local interest. To make this a more inclusive process, two "listening sessions" have been scheduled by LWVFL to allow the general membership across the state to have input.

At the advice of the League's paid lobbying firm, the League is planning to move our organization's Lobby Days to November 16-17 during legislative committee hearings held prior to the session's start in January. It is hoped we will have better access to our local representatives during this less busy time. More details will follow. If you are interested in attending this planned in-person event in Tallahassee, please contact Gail Formanack at formanag@gmail.com.

Congratulations to our Ocala League members! On August 14, 2021, we published an Ocala City Elections Voters' Guide on Vote411.org. Eleven of the fifteen candidates for Ocala Mayor and Ocala City Council, 73% of the eligible candidates, participated. That is a fantastic response!!



The same Ocala League members also organized and staffed the August 21, 2021 Meet and Greet, in which 9 of the 15 candidates, 60% of the eligible candidates, participated. This was a terrific turnout, since we had never before held a Meet and Greet in Ocala. There were approximately 35 voters who met with the candidates that day. Of those attendees, 5 signed up to receive more information about the League and 4 others sat for a demonstration of Vote411, so they can access it on their own computers or those that the library offers. Plus, as a result of the Meet and Greet, a candidate who had not originally participated in Vote411 decided to do so.

Congratulations and Thank You to the following League Members:

Alice Gardner, (pictured above) who chaired the Ocala Vote411 and Ocala Meet and Greet;

Joleen Gonzalez, who gathered candidate information for Vote411, wrote an Op-Ed for the Ocala Star Banner and demonstrated Vote411 at the Meet and Greet;

Desi Liebfried who gathered candidate information for Vote411 and spread the word about the Meet and Greet to her Ocala friends.

Lynn Miller, who helped develop questions for the candidates to answer in Vote411 and who also brought masks and wipes to the Meet and Greet,

Dr. Jean Mee and **Harriet Nelson**, who helped develop questions for Vote411;

Janis Dorgan, who helped develop the Vote411 questions and also created posters, handouts, PSAs, and press releases about Vote411 and the Meet and Greet.

Char Griffin, who, even though she was in Vermont, ensured that the candidate information and questions were loaded into Vote411. Char also ensured that the invitation and receipt emails were set up, that the three Ocala City Charter Amendments that will be on the September 21, 2021 ballot were formatted and in Vote411. She also reported the candidate responses to Alice, so she could follow up with those who had not responded; and

Jeannie Hamilton and **Mary Kay Rosinski**, who set up the LWV sign and staffed the entry table at the Meet and Greet.

We can all be proud of the great contribution these League members made to democracy, in general, and to the Ocala Community, in particular. **We Salute You!!**

Tuesday, September 28, 2021 National Voter Registration Day.

If you are already registered to vote, we suggest that you go online to the Supervisor of Elections website in your County to ensure that they have the correct information for you. If you are not registered to vote, we urge you to go to the State Voter Registration Site and register today.

Tri-County Supervisors of Elections:

Lake County: <https://www.lakevotes.com/>

Marion County: <https://www.votemarion.gov/>

Sumter County: <https://www.sumterelections.org/>

State Voter Registration Site: <https://registertovoteflorida.gov/home>



Vote By Mail Change

If you vote by mail (VBM), mark your calendar for December 31, 2022! After that date you will need to contact your Supervisor of Elections to request a VBM ballot for 2023 and 2024, the next Presidential Election. Since 2002, voters in Florida could VBM, without an excuse. They merely had to be registered to vote and request a VBM ballot, by phone, in-person, or online. Once requested, the voter would automatically receive a ballot in the mail, for 2 Florida State General Elections, or 4 years.

In the 2021 Legislative Session, the Legislature reduced the period in which the request for a VBM ballot is effective from 2 Florida State General Elections (4 years) to 1 Florida State General Election (2 years). Therefore, all VBM requests must be renewed after December 31, 2022, to be effective for 2023 and 2024, the next Presidential Election year.

Lake County on PBS



UCF has been doing a show called Central Florida Roadtrip. On July 15 they did a show on Lake County that included Clermont, Yalaha, Howey-in-the-Hills and Umatilla. Here is the [LINK](#) to the show. You'll need to go way down on the site to find the show on Lake County.

We have about 1/5 of our membership in Lake County now - Lake is an interesting county and worth an exploration!

Speaker's Bureau

We are pleased to announce two new timely topics from our Speakers Bureau.

Please contact [Jeannie Hamilton](#) to schedule your group for either a live or zoom presentation.



Redistricting

After the Census, Redistricting is done every ten years to ensure the House of Representatives and State Legislatures truly represent the population. This presentation explains the following: what is Redistricting; how is it done; what can go wrong and how can we make it more fair?

Senate Bill 90

Senate Bill 90 (SB90) was passed by the Florida Legislature in April 2021 and signed into law by Governor DeSantis in May 2021. This presentation explains changes to the voting process and includes Voter Registration, Vote by Mail, Election Administration and Election Protection in Florida.

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**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

9/27 Monthly Meeting, 10 AM
Manatee Recreation Center

10/25 Monthly Meeting, Manatee 10 AM

11/22 Monthly Meeting, Manatee 10 AM



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) 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.

League Website

If you have forgotten the password for members only, please [email Karen West](mailto:Karen West).

Editor Musings

If you have a submission for this newsletter, please use the [newsletter email](#). Deadline for the October issues will be September 27

Yours in the League,
Beth

