



Nationally Recognized! Locally Active!

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Co-President's Corner

100 years ago, women didn't have representation in government. The League of Women Voters US has asked all local Leagues to join in a **“Day of Action”** on **February 14, 2020** which marks the **100th Anniversary** of the founding of the

League of Women Voters. Because that date is the sad anniversary of the Parkland school shooting, the Florida League has asked its local Leagues to observe this day on **February 13th**. As part of the national **“Women Power the Vote”** campaign, the **LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area** will officially launch our **“Be a Voter”** campaign targeting young women in our area through social media. We hope to garner the attention of the traditional media with our campaign while informing the public of the League’s anniversary and our continued efforts to increase voter participation. All members will be asked to help spread our **“Be a Voter”** message through any social media platforms you use or with personal conversations with young women you encounter in your daily activities. Business cards with the **“Be a Voter”** message will be available at meetings to hand to people and direct them to our videos and other voting information on our website. Please be prepared to help spread the word in our local community.

Our **February 24th** general meeting will feature a presentation on the history of women’s suffrage given by League member **Char**

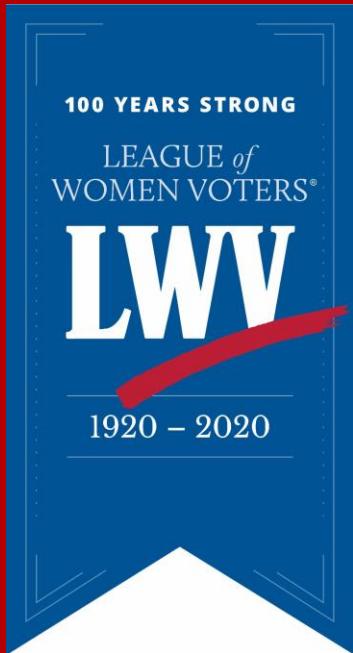
Griffin, and we will honor our local organization's charter members. We hope you will come celebrate the 100th birthday of the League, complete with birthday cake! If you are unfamiliar with the rich history of the organization, the following is a brief synopsis of how it all started 100 years ago as taken from the LWVUS website. More information is available at <https://www.lwv.org/about-us/history>

The League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920 during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The convention was held just six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote after a 72-year struggle. The League began as a "mighty political experiment" designed to help 20 million women carry out their new responsibilities as voters. It encouraged them to use their new power to participate in shaping public policy. From the beginning, the League has been an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that citizens should play a critical role in advocacy. ***It was then, and is now, a nonpartisan organization.*** League founders believed that maintaining a nonpartisan stance would protect the fledgling organization from becoming mired in the party politics of the day. However, League members were encouraged to be political themselves, by educating citizens about, and lobbying for, government and social reform legislation.

This holds true today. The League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public. The League has a long, rich history, that continues with each passing year.

Yours in League,
Gail Formanack
Co-President

P.S. Invite a friend to our 100th birthday celebration!



February General Meeting

Celebrate the League's
100th Birthday

Topic: The Fight for
Women's Suffrage

Presenter: LWVTRI Member
Char Griffin

When: February 24, 2020
10:30 a.m. - 12 noon

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

On August 18, 1920, American women won the right to vote after a struggle that dates to the launch of the Woman's Movement in 1848. During those 72 years, untold numbers of women marched, wrote letters, made speeches, and picketed the White House. These activities drew scorn and ridicule, and for some, imprisonment under inhumane conditions. Make no mistake: gaining suffrage for women was a fight.

The LWV was founded by one of the leaders of this battle: Carrie Chapman Catt. Therefore, we are particularly proud to bring you this story of sacrifice, courage, and determination as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment.

Join us for this presentation created by our League

and adopted by the League of Women Voters Florida!

LWVTRI 14th Annual Meeting

When: Monday, March 23, 2020
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Where: Leesburg Resource Center
1041 CR468, Leesburg, FL
Cost: \$25 per person

Guest Speaker: Lauren Ritchie, Columnist
Orlando Sentinel



Jill Moss Greenberg
Joan Johnson
Kim Norberg
Alice Gardner

Just a reminder that 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.

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**, lwvtriprez@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, 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**, lwvtriprez@gmail.com for the password for the Member link on the state League website.

2020 Legislative Session

The Florida League has hired a new lobbying firm to assist the many individual issues chairs in monitoring the bills filed and moving through the legislature this session. Weekly reports will be shared to inform members about bills affecting the League's priority issues. Following our local League's study on



the quality of Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten programs, we will especially be monitoring bills filed to improve the quality and funding for early childhood education programs.

LWVTRI members **Gail Formanack, Bonnie and Bob Field, and Connie Treadway** are registered to attend the **LWVFL Lobby Days** in Tallahassee scheduled for **February 4-5**. In addition to the educational sessions, the attendees hope to visit personally with senators and representatives from our local area. Check the March newsletter for a complete report.

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. As part of your New Year's Resolution, please consider helping with any of the tasks below. For more information, contact lwvtriprez@gmail.com.

Assess the liability risks of LWVTRI and make recommendations for insurance needs. As background, our local League has for many years paid a small portion of a policy obtained by the state League. However, this year the premium tripled. We are currently covered, but our needs may be quite different from other Leagues which have office space and hired staff. If you can join a small committee of board members to contribute your expert opinion, please contact lwvtriprez@gmail.com.

Work on a team to organize candidate events for the upcoming elections. Ideally, our League would sponsor an event in each of our three counties. Members of the team will obtain a facility and invite local candidates to attend. Contact lwvtriprez@gmail.com.

As you know, our League applied for, and received, a grant from **Women United** for our **"Be A Voter"** project. As Gail mentioned, our project roll out is Feb 13 to coordinate with

League projects across the country celebrating our 100th Anniversary. Since Florida has a Feb 17 registration deadline to Vote in the Primary, we are distributing that segment of the project now.

Please contact lwvtriprez@gmail.com, if you have relatives or friends with expertise in social media. We could use their assistance with our “**Be a Voter**” campaign. This is a link to one of twelve videos that our League has produced to encourage young women to Vote:

<https://spaces.hightail.com/receive/OhI7IzZiqD/fi-b44e90b8-a644-49e7-b128-512223c88740/fv-c4a95911-329e-41a9-98e2-8605af11c4c9/Here%27s%20the%20Thing%20Feb%202017.mp4>

LWVTRI Board Positions: Our Nominating Committee members, **Terri Roher, June Webber** and **Kathy Williamson** have been working on our slate of officers, directors and committee chairs for 2020. While the slate is nearly complete, we still want to give every member a chance to run for the leadership positions that will start a new term in April 2020. Please give serious consideration to serving in these positions. **Kathy Williamson** can be reached at uffda_fyda@yahoo.com. This will be a great year to be even more involved with League activities!

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 & 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.

Beacon College Salon Series

Beacon College Salon Series is in its third season of monthly talks.

As part of our goal to make ourselves known, in the community, our local League was a sponsor for the recent talk by Dr. Kimberly Wilmot Voss on Politicking Politely.



We had a table with League information and handouts and were recognized by the organizers as a sponsor. An added bonus was they showed our Be A Voter video.

What a great way to be out in the community!



Be A Voter "Tee" Shirt

Be A Voter shirts are available at League meetings for \$10. Surprise your neighbors, friends and family with a reminder about the importance of voting. For more information, contact **Gail** at formanag@gmail.com.

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.

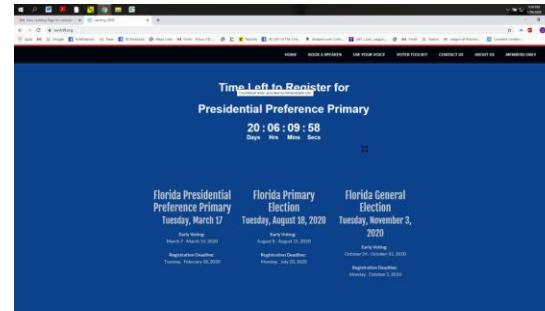
The drop down menu from the Top-Nav allows you to go directly to the page you want to access.

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 webmaster:

Char Griffin at webmaster@lwvtrifl.org.

Landing Page

If you haven't been to our website lately, you have missed our new Landing page, lwvtrifl.org , that focuses our visitors on the important information about the upcoming elections.



The page features a countdown clock showing the days, hours, minutes and seconds left to register for the next election. Currently, we are counting down for registering for the **Presidential Preference Primary** that will be held on **Tuesday, March 17**. The clock will be updated to alert visitors about registration deadlines for the Primary Election on August 18, and the General Election on November 3. A link to [Vote411](#) is prominently displayed as is the "Be a Voter" video targeted to young women to encourage them to vote. The red "Enter Site" buttons at the top and bottom of the page take you to our Home page.

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.

Women of the Century Recognition

USA Today Network is commemorating the 19th amendment's 100th anniversary with special features of trailblazing American women from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. They are seeking nominations of women who have made a difference on the state or national level in areas such as Arts & Literature, Civil Rights, Business, Education, Entertainment, Law, Media, Non-Profit & Philanthropy, Politics, Science & Medicine, and Sports. They are also launching Womankind to celebrate unsung women who make the world a better place through their good work and example. To nominate a woman,

visit <https://usatodaynetwork.secondstreetapp.com/Women-of-the-Century/>

Women's Suffrage 101: It's suffragist, not suffragette

As we prepare to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, confusion has again surfaced about the term "suffragist" versus "suffragette." The correct term to refer to advocates for the right to vote is suffragist, not suffragette. In fact, suffragette was considered a derogatory term in the U.S. women's suffrage movement.

The terms suffrage and enfranchisement mean having the right to

vote. Suffragists are people who advocate for enfranchisement. According to the National Parks Service and other sources, reporters covering the suffrage movement took sides. In 1906, a British report used the word “suffragette” to mock those fighting for women’s right to vote. The suffix ‘ette’ is used to refer to something small or diminutive, and the reporter used it to minimize the work of British suffragists according to the NPS. The term remained offensive in the U.S. and was not embraced by the U.S. suffrage movement. Instead, the term “suffragette” was used by anti-suffragists in their fight to deny women in the United States the right to vote.

LWVTRI Legislative Education & Action Committee

We had a busy agenda for our last meeting prior to the LWVFL Lobby Days. Our learning process is moving along. Our agenda included a review of the bills our Lake, Marion and Sumter legislators have filed. We looked at the bills to determine which bills are among the League's priorities for tracking. A handout of a few of the acronyms commonly used in the Legislature was provided, and a peek at the full glossary of terms with their meaning was also available. Additional helpful web sites were identified.

If any of this has piqued your interest, please call **Bonnie Field, 352 435-0079** for details. We are hoping to have more folks join our group, and all members are welcome.

LWVTRI Natural Resources

Judith Hushon , Chair of the Natural Resources Committee, provided an in depth overview of the League's Natural Resources Legislative Priorities going into the 2020 Session. This listing of Bills, along with talking points will be useful at Lobby Days in Tallahassee on Feb 4th and 5th.

Topics we are reviewing: Fracking, Water resources, Water

Quality Improvement, Storm water Management Systems, Land Acquisition Trust Fund, Florida Forever, Renewable Energy, Climate Fiscal Responsibility, Electric Vehicle Charging Stations, and Prohibition of Plastic Carry Out bags & Straws. If any of this information leaves you with a burning desire to learn more and participate in the Natural Resources Group, please call **Bonnie Field, 352 435-0079** for details.

