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September 2023 Newsletter Volume 15 Issue 3



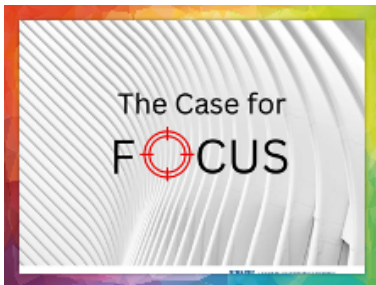
*** IMPORTANT ***

New Site for General Meetings

Starting in September we will meet at our new locations, The Fruitland Park Library, for our monthly meetings.

**The Fruitland Park Library
604 W Berckman Street
Fruitland Park, FL 34731**

Please use the door on the right which takes you directly into the meeting room. Do **not** use the main library door because the inside door between the library and the meeting room will be locked. We hope members will find this location more convenient . . . and it's free.



September Meeting Discussion: Educational Issues for Program

This will be an **important meeting** to decide possible critical additions to our Program: what, if any, education issues should be included in our focus.

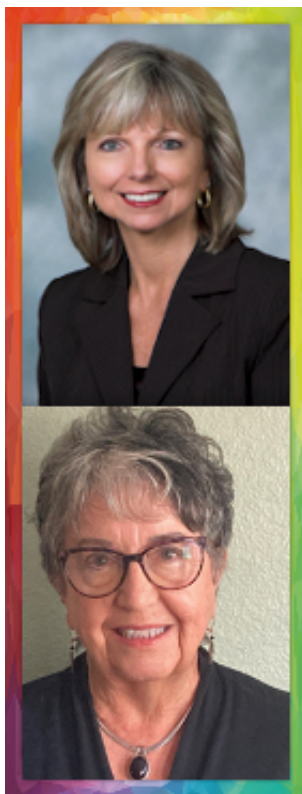
After a quick review of our *Case for Focus*, members will participate in small group discussions about which components of education truly fit into our nonpartisan 2023-2024 Program. A general discussion

will consider all viewpoints, after which the members will vote on the educational component of our Program.

We need your input! Please attend this meeting and re-ignite your passion for our League of Women Voters. For more information about why this is such an important decision, read this article from our [April 2023 newsletter](#).

Monday September 18
10 AM
Fruitland Park Library **

**** Note new location**



Co-Presidents Column

Spreading the Need for Focus throughout Florida

At the LWVFL Convention in June, LWVTRI Board members had the opportunity to discuss the need for focus with other Leagues. Many expressed interest and our conversations with those Leagues are ongoing. The LWVFL Board is still committed to a broad range of issues but realizes this is causing many people to view the League as partisan. Debbie Chandler, LWVFL's Co-President, wrote in the August issue of The Florida Voter about her decision-making process for selecting issues to be included in Legislative Priorities:

I considered whether other organizations were a better voice for the issue. Some organizations are experts in the field, just as we are experts in the voting arena. Are we better served lending our support to them, rather than trying to carry the issue ourselves?

[READ MORE](#)



Save the Date. Spread the Word

On **Saturday, October 21** from **2 to 4 pm**, LWVTRI will be hosting a free, community-wide event: *Disinformation: Spot It. Stop it.* Please plan to attend. [Register](#) and tell your friends. Undecided? You can read more [HERE](#) or go to our [website](#).



Florida LWV Litigation Activity

After the last legislative session a number of new laws were passed that disenfranchise voters. Your Florida League is fighting back with six lawsuits. To learn more, check out [our website](#).



Ocala Meet & Greet

Ocala is having a municipal election for City Council District 2. We were proud to host a Meet and Greet for the two candidates, , Ire Bethea and Reginald Landers.

Audrietta Izlar, a League member, did a wonderful job organizing this event. We partnered with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., who had several volunteers supporting Audrietta. Hosting a Meet and Great provides a valuable opportunity for voters to engage directly with political candidates. Voters can make more informed decisions when casting their votes after learning about a candidate's values, policies and vision for the future. Hearing directly from a candidate ultimately fosters accountability and transparency. Our League will be hosting future Meet and Greets when election season hits next year. Keep an eye on this newsletter for announcements about ways you can help our League and your community.



Voter Services

Voter Registration Quiz: Do you want to participate in our Voter Registration events? This is some of the most important work you can do for your democracy. But, to do it, you must take the [LWVFL Voter Registration Quiz](#) every two year.

Postcard Project Needs YOU: Want to help eligible voters without leaving home? Here is your chance with the [Returning Citizens Postcard Project](#).

Ocala Election: The City of Ocala holds its elections in the odd-numbered years. This year, one Council Position is up for election. Thanks to Audrietta Izlar, Char Griffin and Mary Kay Rosinski, we have a Voters' Guide for the race that will be on the ballot and we held a Meet and Greet with the candidates. [Read More](#)

Making It Happen

A **big thank** you to Cris Andersen for her work on the Returning Citizens Postcard project. Cris and her group of volunteers have addressed and mailed 4,000 postcards with postage paid with local donations and another 5,000 with postage provided by LWVFL. She has requested another 5,000 postcards from LWVFL and is looking for LWVTRI members to give her a hand.

Membership News

Let's Welcome Our Newest Members!

Laura Kammer
Richard Dorgan
Linda Myers
Shelley Placito

Volunteers Needed

We need an Assistant Newsletter Editor who can devote 6 to 8 hours a month to our League. This is a way you can make a difference without leaving your home. If you are a detail-oriented person who is not afraid to learn a new application, please contact [Char Griffin](#) for details.

Board Briefs

Click [HERE](#) to read the highlights of the September 11, 2023 Board Meeting.

Book Club Corner

The Book of Gutsy Women: Favorite Stories of Courage and Resilience

by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chelsea Clinton

This book is a must read for every woman! The title aptly conveys the delights the reader will experience as they tour this narrative. Of the more than one-hundred and thirty brave and resilient women from all over the world who are profiled in this book [READ MORE](#)

- Recommended by Kathy Porter

Future Meetings

General meeting are held at the Fruitland Park Library.
For location of other events, check the calendar on our [website](#).

September 18 (3rd Monday)

General Meeting

Discussion: Educational Issues in LWVTRI's 2023-24 Program

October 21 (3rd Saturday)

Community Event: Disinformation: Spot it. Stop It.

Speaker: Alan Hayes, Lake County Supervisor of Elections.

Workshop: Validating social media posts.

October 23 (4th Monday)

General Meeting

Speaker: Kathleen Crampton. National Popular Voter Interstate Contract

November 27 (4th Monday)

General Meeting

Speaker: Bill Keen, Sumter County Supervisor of Elections

December 14 (2nd Thursday)

Holiday Luncheon

Speaker: Marie Bogdonoff. Women in the Military

January 11 (2nd Thursday)

General Meeting

Program Planning. Lead by Beth Hicks & Gail Formanck

February 8 (2nd Thursday)

General Meeting

Speaker: Vilia Johnson. Ranked Choice Voting

March 14 (2nd Thursday)

Annual Meeting

Speaker: Dr. Janeane Reagan. Social Media's Effect on our Brains

April 11 (2nd Thursday)

General Meeting

Speaker: Debbie Chandler, LWVFL Co-President

May 9 (2nd Thursday)

General Meeting

Discussion: How to Activate Voters

Editor Musings

As a former teacher, September always seemed to signify a new year. The summer vacations are over, time to get to work. I sincerely hope you can find a place to make a contribution to defend democracy!



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