



LWV of the Villages/Tri-County Area

April 2012 Vol. 6 Issue 9

www.lwvtri.org

Nationally recognized! Locally active!

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LWVTRI 5th Annual Meeting

Monday, April 16, 2012

10 a.m.

**Community Bank & Trust Co.
CR466 & Parr Drive
The Villages, Florida**



Be Ready to Vote!

RSVP: Carolyn Johnson
cgljohnson@comcast.net

*The League of Women Voters does not endorse political parties or candidates.
We encourage informed and active participation in government and work to increase understanding
of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy.*

President's Message

March was a celebration of Women's History Month at Lake-Sumter Community College, where the League, along with other groups, recognized the accomplishments of Ms. Jakki Perry, Human Resources Director for the city of Leesburg. Raised in Zellwood and educated at Bethune Cookman, she replied in response to a question about discrimination about race or gender, that the discrimination she felt was more because of gender. Today, she heads up the HR Department!

At our first meeting in Leesburg at the Library, we were very pleased to hear from Dr. Mojock about what he sees as the future of the community college system in Florida. He spoke eloquently about the challenges LSCC faces in terms of funding. LSCC will be offering its first four year degree in organizational management which will focus on workforce needs. Dr. Mojock expressed his belief that the college is fulfilling its purpose of being a bridge to a better future for the individual and society. In addition to Dr. Mojock, we were very happy to welcome four members of the former Lake County League to the meeting.

Please mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting on April 16. The packet containing 2011 Minutes, slate of officers and directors, and proposed program can be found on **pages 5-8**. Please print out these pages and bring them with you to the meeting. The proposed budget will be sent to you separately.

As you know, League members across the state have been working on the LWVF Transportation Study. The consensus questions can be found on **pages 3-5** of this newsletter. Please take the time to review and study these questions, and send your responses to Charlene Walker. Better still, print out the pages and bring them with you to the Annual Meeting on April 16th. **Your participation is necessary in order to determine if LWVF has reached consensus on this issue and thus able to take a position when necessary.**

Joanne

MEETINGS

MEMBER NEWS

We extend a warm welcome to our newest member **Gypsy Marie Roberts**.

Get well wishes to **Tom Johnson** and **Al Wichman**.

April

Monday, April 16, 10 a.m.

Annual Meeting

Community Bank & Trust Co.

CR 466 & Parr Drive

The Villages

Friday, April 27, 3 p.m.

Voter Service & Ed. Committee Mtg.

Panera's Bread Co., Spanish Springs,

The Villages

May

Monday, May 14, 10 a.m.

General Meeting

Community Bank & Trust

CR466 & Parr Drive

The Villages



VOTER SERVICE & EDUCATION

COMMITTEE

The committee will be meeting on **April 27, 3 p.m.**, at **Panera's in Spanish Springs**; we invite you to grab a cup of coffee and join us as we discuss plans for the upcoming election season. We will be reviewing material for candidate forums and upcoming speaking engagements. This is a perfect

opportunity for you to get involved on a short term basis and participate in the core mission of the League. The last "Capitol Report" for the 2012 Legislative Session is posted on our website, www.lwvtri.org. For further information, contact, **Betsy Brody**, esb501@yahoo.com, or **Richard Coen**, joanne.m.coen@gmail.com.

LWVF Transportation Study

Consensus Questions

Every member of the League of Women Voters Florida has studied, and is experiencing daily, the impact of transportation planning in Florida. Chances are if you do not have access to a car, you have difficulty getting to doctors, stores or friends' homes.

Our dependence on automobiles and the planning that is done to accommodate our love affair with them leads to environmental disasters, health problems from exhaust/lack of exercise, and personal issues-inability to get to stores, doctors, and friends.

Below are the consensus questions for the study, and it is very important that all League members respond. Please take the time to review the questions, and send your responses to **Charlene Walker**, cawalker7@comcast.net, no later than **April 23, 2012**.

****Please circle letter of choice. Add an explanation or question if appropriate.****

1. When a transportation project involves more than one local League's region, how should the decision be made to support, oppose or remain neutral be determined?
 - a) All impacted Leagues should be involved in a concurrence process
 - b) Local League receiving the most impact should decide?
 - c) Local League receiving the most impact should have the greatest influence on the decision?

2. Funding, always a major problem, has become a major stumbling block even for road building. Most planning agencies allocate a small percentage of funds for public transit, sidewalks and bikeways and the lion's share for roads. To date, planners and

politicians include public transportation in their plans, but leave them out of funding. What percentage (emphasis) would you dedicate to public transportation?

- a) 50/50 split with roads
- b) 25/75 public transit/roads
- c) Other?

Will you advocate for the percentage you choose? Yes_____ No_____

3. Funding sources are well defined – federal, state and local gas taxes plus any special taxes agreed to by voters. How can the League pressure planning agencies and elected officials at all levels to allocate more funds for public transportation? Circle all that apply.

- a) Calls and letters from local and state Leagues to local, state and regional governments/planning agencies?
- b) Meet with elected and appointed officials?
- c) Testify at planning meetings and to legislative delegations using LWVF transportation positions?
- d) Other

4. LWV Tallahassee reported on their W. Tennessee Transit Project, a component of Moving Tallahassee: Cars Optional, which in turn is under the umbrella of the Mobility District plan. The District goal is to “create a safe and desirable environment for pedestrians, cyclists and transit users.”

This microcosm of comprehensive, multimodal transportation system appears to include all the goals of the LWVF's transportation position.

- a) Would this type of planning work in your region? Yes_____ No_____
- b) What obstacles, besides money, do you envision?

5. One key factor in Seminole, Volusia and Tallahassee Leagues is that heavily traveled roads are ‘built out.’ No new roads or road widening can occur. For Leagues in regions where this has not as yet happened, can and will you

- a) Advocate for a ‘mobility district’ or similar planning process? Yes_____ No_____
- b) If so, would you like to receive details of the Tallahassee plan? Yes_____ No_____

6. LWV Polk recommended that wildlife be included in the process. Do you agree?
Yes_____ No_____

7. LWV The Villages/Tri-County deals with an area that covers three counties. There are two agencies that cover Lake & Sumter and Marion counties, respectively. Buses in those three counties do not cross county lines. Sumter County, the least populated of the three counties, has a small bus system which somewhat divides the county. The northern end of the county is serviced by the Wildwood Circulator which according to the schedule is not in service every day. The southern half of the county is serviced by the Orange shuttle. Within The Villages itself (which spans the three counties), there is a shuttle which divides the schedule between the north and south of The Villages and operates on alternating days.

- a) Does your region have a similar problem? Yes No
- b) If yes, how do you work with the local planners? Please explain.

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2012 ANNUAL MEETING

Below is the Annual Meeting information which should be printed out and brought with you to the meeting on **April 16, 2012, 10 a.m., Community Bank & Trust Co., CR466, The Villages:**

LWV OF THE VILLAGES/TRI-COUNTY AREA

Rules of the Meeting

1. Twenty percent (20%) of the membership shall constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting.
2. Only members of the League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area MAL Unit shall have the privilege of the floor and vote.
3. A majority of the voting members present shall be required for the adoption of the proposed program.

4. In the event of prolonged discussion of any item of business, each member will be limited to two minutes to speak to the issue unless otherwise stipulated.
5. Nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member, provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

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Minutes of the Fifth Annual Meeting

April 4, 2011

The Annual Meeting was held at Taverna Red Restaurant, Summerfield, FL. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 by President Joanne Coen. There were 18 voting members present including board members: Betsy Brody, Judie Brown, Joanne Coen, Richard Coen, Steven Cooper, Janet Duncan, Helen Gozdanovic, Carolyn Johnson, and Frances Spedding.

Coen thanked members for coming and introduced the two guests and two speakers. Coen announced we had a quorum.

Spedding moved the 2010 Annual Meeting minutes be accepted as corrected, the motion, seconded by Duncan carried.

Johnson presented the financial report (attached). She also presented the proposed Budget for 2011/12 (attached). Duncan moved we adopt the Budget; the motion, seconded by Brody carried. Johnson moved that the LWV/Tri adopt \$10 as Local Dues to be paid directly to LWVTRI at the same time as a member pays annual dues to the LWVFL. The motion, seconded by Diane Jacobson, carried.

Richard Coen presented the proposed Program for 2011/12 which includes:

1. Continue to follow actions of county and local governments for the tri-county area; and when appropriate take action based on LWV positions.
2. Continue to research school governance and funding for the tri-county school districts; and when appropriate take action based on LWV positions.
3. Participate in transportation studies; and when appropriate take action based on LWV positions.

The Program is basically the same as last year. Brody moved we adopt the proposed program. The motion, seconded by Beverly Epstein, carried.

Luth Tenorio presented the slate of officers for 2011/12. They are President: Joanne M. Coen; 1st V.P.: Richard Coen; Treasurer: Carolyn Johnson; Directors: Betsy Brody, Steve Cooper, and Frances Spedding. The secretary cast the vote for unanimous acceptance.

J. Coen thanked current and outgoing board members and reviewed the past years meetings and accomplishments.

J. Coen and Charlene Walker recently attended Legislative Seminar and Convention in Tallahassee. Coen gave a summary of the events and activities at Seminar and Convention.

J. Coen again introduced the guest speakers, Nancy Noonan and Ray Seeman from Marions United for Public Education. They discussed the status of education in Marion County and Florida in general, and the impact of proposed legislation on education.

The talk began prior to lunch and was concluded after lunch, followed by questions. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Judie Brown Secretary

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**2012-13 Proposed Budget
to be distributed separately.**

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PROPOSED 2012/2013 PROGRAM

- **Voter Service & Education**-continue to provide information about elections, election process, redistricting, amendments and changes in the election law and promote the Speaker's Bureau.

Issue for Action

Continue to keep informed about the Citizens United decision; and issues relating to the funding of elections.

- **Education**-research school funding for capital expenditures and operations and when appropriate take action based on LWV positions.
- **Transportation**-participate in transportation studies, and when appropriate take action based on LWV positions.
- **Natural Resources**-study local water issues and continue to oppose offshore drilling based on LWVF positions.

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PROPOSED NOMINEES FOR 2012-14

Secretary

Judie Brown

Directors

Bernice Cozewith
Charlene Walker

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LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area
Be a Voice for Citizens! Be a Force for Change!
Be Involved in the Process!
www.lwvtri.org

Name _____

Phone No. _____

Address _____

Email _____

Zip Code _____

Village, if applicable _____

Community, if applicable _____

Former League Member: Yes _____ No _____ Where: _____

Your active participation is needed. Are you interested in?

Government in Florida
 Justice in Florida
 Natural Resources

Education in Florida
 Social Policy in Florida
 Growth Management

Could you help with:

Newsletter (Electronic) Membership Public Relations Fundraising

Dues are paid annually on the anniversary of joining:

Individual	\$ 50.00 + Local Dues of \$10	_____
Household	\$ 75.00 + Local Dues of \$10 per person	_____
Student	\$ 25.00	_____

Susan B. Anthony	\$100.00	Membership Dues +Donation	_____
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A check should be made payable to **LWV of Florida** for the applicable amount. In addition, the check for **Local Dues** should be made payable to **LWVTRI**. Both checks should be mailed to **Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Drive, The Villages, and FL 32162**. Your dues include membership in the LWVUS and LWVF as well as a subscription to the *Florida Voter*.