



Nationally Recognized! Locally Active!

*October 2019
Volume 13 Issue 5*



Co-Presidents' Corner

With the arrival of fall, the League is ramping up activities to educate and engage our members and the general public. October 15th is the date we will launch our new evening meeting format called "Dine and Discuss." We are committed to offering this at least quarterly, and we may increase frequency based upon interest. Our goal is to engage our working members who are unable to attend meetings during the workday and to offer a more convenient location for the growing contingent of members residing in Lake County. We will start with an informal discussion of the League and our mission and then grow the programming to feature discussions led by our own members based upon their career experiences and interests. See the meeting notice elsewhere in this edition for details on place, reservations, etc.

One of our goals is to build on the collaborations we have with other organizations. We have successfully partnered with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) on the study of Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten as well as the August Equalitea. Our organizations will join with others in an umbrella group called "Sisters of Suffrage" to plan and share events around the 100th celebration of the 19th amendment. As plans unfold, we will keep our members informed about events in which you may wish to participate.

Our Speakers' Bureau is developing a reputation in the wider community as a "go-to" group for providing quality, non-partisan information on a number of issues. Collaboration with the organizations who sponsor our speakers is vital in order to fulfill our mission of voter education. Many of the referrals to our Speakers' Bureau come through our members who are involved in a variety of organizations.

We are delighted to be invited to participate in the **Small Business Expo** sponsored by the **Southern Christian Leadership Foundation** on **October 5**. League members will speak to the importance of registering and voting. This opportunity came to us from connections made through the Sisters of Suffrage group which again demonstrate the importance of networking.

Our League is collaborating with **Beacon College** to partially sponsor a program in their **Beacon Salon Speaker Series**. Mark your calendars now for **January 22, 2020** when Kimberly Wilmot Voss will speak on "**Politicking Politely: Well-Behaved Women Making a Difference in the 1960s and 1970s.**" More details will be forthcoming as to how to register and be included in our preferred seating area. Their programs offered on a monthly basis are very informative. Learn more by visiting BeaconCollege.edu/Salon.

Our goals of voter education and higher participation at the polls can only be met through teamwork. Many thanks to our members and these other like-minded organizations for allowing us to advance our mission.

Yours in League,

Gail Formanack, Co-President

P.S. Don't forget to invite a friend to our October General Meeting and mark your calendars for upcoming events.

October General Meeting

**When: Monday, October 28, 2019
10:30 a.m. - 12 noon**

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

Guest Speaker:



Andrew Warren

Andrew Warren, State Attorney of Florida's 13th Judicial Court in Hillsborough County, will speak on reforming our local criminal justice system. His work has focused on treatment, prevention, and rehabilitation for offenders with substance abuse and mental health issues. He initiated a civil citation program for juveniles and adults. Warren has degrees from Brandeis University and Columbia University and worked in San Francisco, New York, and Washington DC prior to returning to his home state of Florida to continue his public service.

October League Happening!



New Meeting Format Introduced on October 15

In an effort to accommodate our working members in addition to members who live in Lake County, LWV- The Villages/Tri-County Area is introducing “Dine and Discuss.” The events will be held at 5:30 at a restaurant in the Leesburg area.

The first is scheduled in the meeting room at **La Palma Mexican Grill (1690 Citrus Blvd)** which is across from Rural King on Hwy. 441. Attendees may order from the menu offering a wide variety of Mexican dishes as well as burgers, steaks, and salads. The first meeting will be an informal discussion about the League. At following meetings, we plan to have a brief speaker with time for discussion. We anticipate having four of these events every year and may increase the frequency based upon interest. Please consider joining us.

The restaurant would like a rough idea of how many to expect, so please **RSVP to Gail Formanack at formanag@gmail.com or Beth Hicks, lwvtriprez@gmail.com.**

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

United States® Census 2020

November General Meeting

Monday,
November 18, 2019
10:30 a.m.

Manatee Recreation Center,
1512 Hillsborough Trail, The
Villages.



December Holiday Party

Monday
December 9, 2019
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Colony Cottage Recreation
Center
510 Colony Blvd.
The Villages



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 members:

Bob Field

Melissa Iverson

and to **Karen Elliott**, a returning League member!

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:

Gun Safety-Cindy Vinarski

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**, lwvtriprez@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

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, In order to prepare ourselves for effective interactions with our local Florida legislators, our League is forming a new group. Our group will begin our work shortly, and there is still time to join us. Our activities will include:

- Educating and familiarizing ourselves with the LWV Florida's priorities and actions
- Observing our local elected officials at various public meetings
- Visiting our local elected officials
- Gathering answers to our questionnaire supplied by LWVFL
- Reporting our findings to LWVFL
- Informing our members of our findings
- Lobbying our elected officials in accordance with League priorities.

As much of this work will be done on the computer, our meeting times will be flexible. If you are interested in finding out more information or say you're on board, please 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 lwwtriprez@gmail.com.

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.

Communications: Our newsletter expert, Joanne Coen, would like back up to assist with Constant Contact – our communications platform used to distribute meeting notices and reminders as well as the newsletter.

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.

Natural Resources

Following is an update from the state League Natural Resources conference call conducted by Judith Hushon on September 16th.

A letter was sent to Gov. Ron DeSantis by Patti Brigham indicating the LWV'FL's support of the resolution by the United Nations declaration on Oct. 18th, 2018 of a climate emergency.

LWVFL priorities for Natural Resources are :

- Getting a good water bill (Sen. Debbie Mayfield is reintroducing her good bill)
- Supporting full funding of Florida Forever
- Supporting legislation promoting the use of solar power & electric cars.(A way for Natural Resources and the Leagues Solar groups to work together is being reviewed.)

LWVFL is not however, ruling out other issues such as a fracking ban, or supporting climate change regulations. Good News is that 2 new projects were approved from Florida Forever funding.

Bill 7068 was signed by the Governor and is moving forward with 3 toll roads. The Sierra Club and 1000 Friends of Florida are among those filing suits. The LWV may file an amicus brief with one of these groups. Visit www.1000friendsofflorida.org for detailed info on this issue. There are many local Leagues in the counties affected by these roads and we will be participating .

Voter Service

Speakers Bureau

Since March 2019, the Speakers Bureau has made presentations to 21 organizations.

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

- National Popular Vote Interstate Compact & the Electoral College
- US Constitution & the Balance of Power

Please contact

Jeannie Hamilton, Speakers Bureau Chair, 303 817

9988 Lwvtrispeakersbureau@gmail.com

for more information about presentations.

From LWV Florida

Ban Assault Weapons NOW is a bipartisan grassroots coalition of concerned Floridians of which the LWV Florida is a member.

BAWN is leading the grassroots movement to put an amendment on Florida's 2020 ballot to constitutionally ban the sale of assault weapons. Their mission is to collect nearly 800,000 signatures so Florida voters can have their voices heard. To download and sign the petition go to: [**BAWN**](#) and follow the directions.



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Sent by joanne.m.coen@gmail.com in collaboration with

