



LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area Voter

Nationally Recognized! Locally Active!

The League of Women Voters does not endorse or oppose political candidates or parties.

The League encourages engagement and participation in the political process.

March 2013

Volume 7 Issue 7

Spring is just around the corner, the flowers and trees are in bloom, and that can only mean one thing--the Florida Legislature is in session. Committee hearings have been underway, and much attention is being paid to ethics and election laws. On the opening day of the session, the House passed ethics and elections bills, and there is legislation pending in the Senate. The first "Capitol Report" is on the state League website, www.thefloridavoter.org, and will be posted during each week the Florida Legislature is in session. Make sure you keep up-to-date on what is going on in Tallahassee..

We hosted the supervisors of elections from Lake and Marion counties at our February meeting. Karen Krauss, the SOE from Sumter County, was unable to attend due to illness. There was much discussion about the location of early voting sites. Among locations being proposed are convention centers and fair grounds. Unlike larger counties in the state, our tri-county area does not have convention centers, and here in Sumter County, the fair ground is 30 minutes from the population center--The Villages. It is our hope that the final legislation will expand early voting sites to include recreation and community centers.

With the arrival of spring and the legislative session, comes the League's Annual Meeting. A slate of officers and directors will be presented as well as the proposed budget and program for the coming League year.

We will also be celebrating Women's History Month, and our guest speaker will be Judge Heidi Davis of the Fifth Judicial Circuit. Both the proposed slate and program are presented in this newsletter. The proposed budget will be sent to League members via email.

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting and don't forget to invite a friend!

Joanne M. Coen
President

Membership

We are happy to report that our membership is continuing to grow, and we welcome Carole Jacobson to our League.

Dues checks should be made payable to LWVTRI and sent to Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Drive, The Villages, Florida 32162.

2013 Annual Meeting & Women's History Month Celebration

Monday, March 25, 2013
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Golden Corral Restaurant
1720 Citrus Boulevard
Leesburg, Florida

Guest Speaker: Judge Heidi Davis
Fifth Judicial Circuit

Judge Davis, appointed to the bench in 2010, has the distinction of being the first woman appointed to the Circuit Court for Hernando County. She replaced Judge Jack Springstead who had retired. Judge Davis now serves in Lake County in the Family Law and Probate Divisions. The Fifth Judicial Circuit covers Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Marion & Sumter counties.

The cost for the luncheon is \$12 and reservations can be made with Carolyn Johnson, 751-4103.

Proposed Slate of Officers and Directors

Joanne M. Coen, President, 2013-15
Richard L. Coen, Vice President, 2013-15
Carolyn Johnson, Treasurer, 2012-15
Betsy Brody, Director, 2013-15
Steven Cooper, Director, 2013-15
Beth Hicks, Director, 2013-14
Carolyn Van Noy, Director, 2013-14

Recommended LWVTRI Program for 2013-2014

Government

Review of ethics and conflict of interest laws and policies for the tri-county area.

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 campaign financing 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.

Nonrecommended Items

Proposed local study of privatizing county services.

News from LWVF

Legislative Summit and Convention begins April 10 in Tallahassee. For more information go to www.thefloridavoter.org and click on Events.

The state League board welcomed two new members: former Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder and former State Senator Alex Villalobos.

LWV Florida Education Fund's delegation visits to Cuba are resuming! There are still spots available to travel in April and May with other tentative dates scheduled for later in the year. For more information go to www.thefloridavoter.org and click on Events.

LWVF will be conducting a trip to Seneca Falls, New York this June 26-30 to re-trace the steps of America's first suffragists. More information to follow.

News from LWVUS

On Wednesday February 27th, the US Supreme Court heard arguments in *Shelby County V Holder*. The case focused on the constitutionality of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) - the VRA's main enforcement

mechanism. The national League is proud to have signed onto an amicus brief to signify our support for Section 5 and to ask the Supreme Court to uphold the lower court's ruling. We are joined in this effort by the League of Women Voters of South Carolina, which has signed on to a state brief that addresses how Section 5 helped implement and clear a Voter ID law in South Carolina.

The League of Women Voters and its partners, the Inter-American Dialogue and the International Association of Women Judges, held a standing room only two-day conference - Women and the Rule of Law: A View from the Americas - highlighting the important role women judges play in promoting and advancing the rights of women in the Americas. The group met with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the afternoon of February 26th - the day prior to the Court's historic hearings on the Voting Rights Act.

New League Forums-The League Forums is a new online community exclusively for League members and leaders. Go to www.lwv.org, click on LOGIN in the top red bar. Once logged in, use the Forums link in the left navigation bar. Members interested in learning more are welcome to view a recorded webinar introducing the new Forums.

Join or Donate to the League

I would like to: join donate to the League.

Name _____

Address _____

Zip Code _____ Phone _____
No. _____ Email _____

Membership Categories:

Susan B. Anthony	\$100	_____
Individual	\$ 60	_____
Household	\$ 85	_____
Student	\$ 25	_____

Please make your check payable to the LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area and mail it to Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Drive, The Villages, Florida 32162. Dues include membership in the national and state League of Women Voters as well as the local League. Dues are not tax deductible.

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The League encourages informed and active participation in government and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues.

