



League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area

Nationally Recognized & Locally Active

www.lwvtrifl.org

Volume 12 Issue 4

October 2017

President's Pen

The League of Women Voters has always had ***the right to vote*** as a core value. These days we need to be very aware of ways that this basic right is under attack.

1. **The President's Advisory Commission on Election Integrity** needs your attention. This commission is chaired by Vice President Mike Pence with Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach as vice chair. Their mission "is to root out voter fraud." A side "benefit" for many seems to be denying the right to vote by using challenges and activities that make it difficult if not impossible for some to vote. Please keep up on this body and their activities!
2. **Restoration of Rights for Former Felons in Florida.** There are over 1 MILLION Floridians who have permanently lost the right to vote due to a felony conviction. Some of these non violent felons never went to prison, but served in diversionary programs. Does not matter. The process in Florida for restoration of rights costs an average \$8000 and takes years. The LEAGUE is involved in gathering signed petitions for a constitutional amendment to restore rights for non violent felons at the conclusion of their sentence. Please take the time to sign a petition and perhaps get friends to sign them. Our next meeting, October 23 will have a program on this topic and petitions will be available.

There is so much going on. Find where you can fit in and join us.

Yours in the League

Beth Hicks

P.S. Don't forget to invite a friend to a League meeting!

September General Meeting

**When: Monday, October 23, 2017
10:30 a.m. – 12 noon**

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

**Topic: Restoration of Voting Rights Amendment
Presenters: Beth Hicks & Carol Van Noy**

In order to get the Voting Restoration Amendment onto the 2018 ballot, 700,000 petitions from Florida voters need to be collected by December, 2017.

The proposed ballot summary is as follows:

This amendment restores the voting rights of Floridians with felony convictions after they complete all terms of their sentence including parole or probation.

The amendment would not apply to those convicted of murder or sexual offenses, who would continue to be permanently barred from voting unless the Governor and Cabinet vote to restore their voting rights on a case by case basis.

Membership



We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members, Jeannie Hamilton, Katherine Mason and Mary Kay Rosinski.

Dues are due on the anniversary month of your joining the League. You will receive an email reminder prior to your anniversary date. Please make your check payable to LWVTRI and mail it to Sharon Edwins, 1144 Ardsley Place, The Villages, Florida 32163.

Upcoming Monthly Meetings

Monday, November 13

HOT TOPIC *The NEW Economics of Rooftop Solar in Florida* HOT TOPIC

SUMTER COUNTY GOVERNMENT ANNEX*

ROOM 102, 7375 POWELL RD., WILDWOOD

10:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Come and hear former **Florida League president Deirdre Macnab**, now the **State League's Energy Chair**, as she presents some exciting news about clean renewable energy and the movement that is spreading across the state thanks to grassroots civic activists.

We are also happy to welcome back to our League, **Mary Dipboye**, who first brought the idea of the solar cooperative to Florida, and hear about the remarkable success that League members have had educating Floridians on how they can harness the power of the sun with their roofs.

As Florida Solar Energy Center Director Jim Fenton says: "Solar is now the single best investment a Florida homeowner can make." Come and learn more.

***Note change of meeting location
from Community Bank & Trust
to the Sumter County Government Annex
for the
November meeting only.**

Monday, December 11

Holiday Party

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Red Sauce, Lake Sumter Landing, The Villages

Join us for our **Annual Holiday Luncheon & Gift Exchange** at **Red Sauce Restaurant** in The Villages. The cost is **\$25** and that includes tax, tip and soft beverage. Reservations can be made by contacting **Carolyn Johnson**, cjohnson4103@gmail.com, or you can bring your check to the October general meeting. Seating is limited to **37** so don't delay and make your reservation now. The deadline for reservations is **Wednesday, December 6**, and there will be no refunds for cancellations after that date. Luncheon selections do not have to be made in advance, but if you would like to see what will be on the menu, [you can click here](#). In addition to this being a holiday luncheon, this is our League's only fundraiser of the year. So come with your gift for the Holiday Gift Exchange and purchase a chance or chances for that item you just cannot live without.

Our guest speaker will be **Mr. Stephen F. Muller, MS, VP Communications & Development** for **Beacon**

College in Leesburg. Founded in 1989, Beacon College was the first institution of higher education in the country accredited to award bachelor degrees exclusively to students with learning disabilities, ADHD and other learning differences. The group of parents who conceived of Beacon College did so knowing that given the right environment, support, and tools, all students can succeed. The College is committed to student success, offering academic and personal support services that help each student achieve his or her goals. In addition, Mr. Muller will be accompanied by a student from the college. So mark your calendar and join us as we celebrate the holidays and learn more about this wonderful educational facility in our own backyard.

LWVUS *Impact on Issues*

The national League's 2016–2018 guide to public policy positions, *Impact on Issues*, is now [available for download HERE](#). If you would like a printed copy, it is available for purchase on Amazon or download for Kindle. The cost is \$5.95.

First Woman

We will have available at all our meetings copies of *First Woman* which recognizes American suffragists who worked successfully for women's civil rights. The wealth of detail included here irrefutably shows the growing contributions women have made to our national life. These courageous women smoothed the path that led our nation to where it is today. The cost is \$14.95. For information contact **Charlene Allmen**, charallmen@gmail.com.



Education

VPK

Committee members are busy meeting to go over the observation tools they will be using when visits begin to the VPK providers in the tri-county area. In September, League members **Gail Formanack** and **Susan Gold** together with AAUW member **Linda Carpenter** met with **Rep. Don Hahnfeldt** specifically about VPK. We are grateful to Rep. Hahnfeldt for his input and suggestions going forward.

If you would like to become involved in this project, please contact **Joanne M. Coen**, joanne.m.coen@gmail.com.

Voter Service

Speaker's Bureau

The Speaker's Bureau has made several presentations so far on the Florida Constitutional Revision Commission and more are scheduled over the next several



weeks. As a matter of fact, we have just booked a speaking engagement for 2018! We can always use more people to either be presenters or to operate the computer while the presentation is being made. Materials are all ready for presentation. If you would like to join the Speakers' Bureau or to schedule a presentation to a group you belong to, please contact **Carol Van Noy**, denny.carol@gmail.com. The Speaker's Bureau is the education part of the League's mission. Your help is really needed!

Online Voter Registration

Online voter registration took effect on October 1. On September 20, LWV Florida president Pamela Goodman sent a letter to Secretary of State Ken Detzner expressing concern regarding 1) online registration data requirements, 2) third- party voter registration organizations, and 3) online voter registration public engagement and education. [Click here to read her letter in full.](#)

Upcoming Legislative Delegation Meetings

The **Sumter County Delegation** will be meeting on Wednesday, October 18, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Sumter County Building on Powell Road & CR466A, The Villages.

The **Marion County Delegation** will be meeting on Thursday, October 19, at Central Florida State College, CR 200, Ocala.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization.

The League neither supports or opposes political parties or candidates.

The League promotes active participation of citizens in their government through education and advocacy.



Like us on Facebook

Follow us on **twitter**

www.lwvtrifl.org