



## May 2025 Newsletter

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### MAY 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

#### PLEASE COME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING & SOCIAL



**Thursday, May 8 at 2:00 PM**

Palm Villa Room \*\*

Fruitland Park Library

601 W Berckman Street

Fruitland Park

\*\* Larger room with outside entrance

Due to construction, parking in front of the library is limited. Overflow parking is available at the **Heritage Community Church**, 509 W Berkman St, Fruitland Park, FL. Follow signs.

This important meeting is the only business meeting of the year. It will include election of officers, approval of the budget, and adoption of the program for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. We need voting members there! Guests are always welcome! The [meeting\\_packet](#) was mailed on April 8. A QR Code will be provided at the meeting for you to view it on your phone, or you can print it and bring it with you.

After the meeting, there will be a hospitality social, and refreshments will be provided.

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### CO-PRESIDENT COLUMN: Looking Back. Moving Forward.

At our Annual Meeting we will review our last fiscal year and plan the next. We should be proud of all we accomplished in FY 2024-25. For a small League our members had an outsized impact on Lake, Marion, and Sumter counties. We covered 46 local races with 118 candidates in the 2024 election cycle. Our efforts to inform voters included three Candidate Meet & Greets, 15 voter registration events, two candidate forums, and two digital voter guides on Voter411. Local candidates' participation in Vote411



the primary, a record unmatched by any other league in the United States!

A complete list of LWVTRI's accomplishments is on the [About Us](#) page of our website.

Unfortunately, since our last annual meeting, [14 of our most dedicated members](#) have or are in the process of moving out of the area. That is leaving a leadership vacuum that must be filled if we are to continue to serve the tri-county area.

We need a chair of Speakers Bureau and a chair of Voter Registration. Unless someone steps up, we will not be able to offer these services in Lake and Sumter counties next year. We also need someone to serve on the Board as Communications Director.

Could that someone be you?

We have experienced members doing the work, procedures in place, and Board members willing to train you. We need someone to lead.

See the Voter Services article (below) for more information about Speakers Bureau and Voter Registration Chairs. For more information about the Board position, please contact [Char Griffin](#).

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## VOTER SERVICES: How can you defend democracy in 2025?



Voters need more information. We have two programs that meet this need:

Our **Book a Speaker Program** provides much of that information. You can ensure that program will survive, by volunteering to follow up on the requests made on the [Book a Speaker](#) portion of our website. We call that Speakers Bureau Chair. Soon there will be no one in that position and without that task, the volunteer Speakers and Assistants will not be able to provide the service. Most of the work can be done from home and there are experienced volunteers who will help you.

You can also inform voters by **scheduling voter registration events** through contacting the list of hosts we have from previous years to determine when we might participate in their 2025 events. This, too, can be done from home. There is a list of volunteers who are ready to attend such events, to tell voters how they can ensure that their votes count.

Please contact [Carol Van Noy](#). She will provide training and mentoring to ensure that it is easy and fun. This is a great opportunity to hone your skills and defend democracy by educating

## BOARD BRIEFS

At the April meeting, the Board discussed the upcoming Annual Meeting and the need to find nominees for Voter Registration Chair and Speakers Bureau Chair, made plans to share the election

integrity presentation over Zoom, and planned a response to partisan language from LWVUS and LWVFL.

[< Read More >](#)

## MAKING IT HAPPEN



Pat Beerhalter organized an event where LWVTRI members addressed 500 postcards to former felons. The postcards will connect those returning citizens to LWVFL resources that can help them safely register to vote.

Pat is planning another event in May where another 500 postcards will be addressed. If you are interested in participating, contact [Carol Van Noy](#).

If you see Pat and her team (Sandy Christian, Jill Davie, Joy Meyer, Ginny Schobinger, Carol Van Noy), please thank them for their important work.

We also owe Verna Fitzsimmons, Marilyn McFadden, and Carolyn Pasquale our appreciation for their help in making the April 12 Community Event so successful.

## COMMUNITY EVENT



### Empowering Voters through Election Reform

The League of Women Voters of the Tri-County area hosted a community event on *Empowering Voters through Election Reform* on Saturday, April 12, at Sea Breeze Rec Center in The Villages. Wesley Wilcox, Marion County Supervisor of Elections, was to begin the event, followed by League President Charlene Griffin presenting a PowerPoint on balancing the need for election security and voter access as well as presenting some examples of election reform.

After some brief introductory remarks about his background and explanation about the basics of the election process in Florida and our local counties, Wilcox opened the floor to

verification, and immigrants and voting.

[< Read More >](#)

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### Let's Welcome Our Newest Members

Deirdre Burke

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## FUTURE MEETINGS

### LWVTRI holds no meetings during the summer.

The next meeting will be Thursday, September 11 at 2:00 p.m.

The FY 2025-26 meeting schedule will be in our next newsletter, coming out Thursday, September 4, 2025.

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