



THE VOTER

LWV of the Villages/Tri-County Area ♦ May 2010 ♦ Vol. 5 Issue 1
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MAY GENERAL MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 10, 2010
10:00 A.M.
COMMUNITY BANK & TRUST CO.
CR466, THE VILLAGES

GUEST SPEAKER:



T.J. FISH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization. We do 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 CORNER

As we approach our last General Meeting on May 10th, the Florida Legislature has approached the last day of the 2010 Legislative Session. The League can list its accomplishments, but at this point, I am not too sure about the legislature. After heated debate today, the Senate passed HJR 7231 which is their redistricting amendment. This will appear on the November ballot among other proposed amendments. Be prepared for a fight.

At our Annual Meeting, in addition to installing officers and directors and approving the budget and program for the coming year, we reviewed the League's activities during the past several months. We heard from Rep. Marlene O'Toole; the tri-county school superintendents, Cindy Kelley, city of Ocala; Marion County Com. Barbara Fitos and Scott Ales, former mayor of Eustis on the subject of growth management. In addition, we held a health care forum; at our December meeting, we reached concurrence on the question of transportation.

Looking forward to the coming League year's activities, we are preparing for the mock student election with the Sumter County school district. This project will be in conjunction with The Florida Joint Center for Citizenship, Department of Political Science, University of Central Florida. Once the August primaries are over, we will be conducting candidate and ballot issues forums. We have been approached by Lake Sumter Community College about the possibility of taping and televising the forums, and we are looking forward to that project. In August will be co hosting a Tea with AAUW in celebration of the 90th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment. So though small, we have many accomplishments with many more on the horizon.

Our guest speaker at our May General Meeting will be **T. J. Fish, Executive Director, Lake-Sumter MPO**. The article in last month's "Voter" outlined the duties and responsibilities of the MPO. Come and find out about what is on the agenda for Lake and Sumter Counties. As the first director of the Lake~Sumter MPO, his goal is to promote effective regional transportation partnerships. The best way to achieve this goal is by coordinating the wishes of

the various communities within the region into one comprehensive vision that is supported by citizen consensus. Transportation and road building is an important issue for the tri-county area not just Lake and Sumter Counties. Mark your calendars!

In League,

Joanne

Officers & Directors

President:	Joanne M. Coen
Vice Presidents:	Gladys Corbin Richard L. Coen
Treasurer:	Carolyn Johnson
Secretary:	Judie Brown
Directors:	Betsy Brody Bernice Cozewith Janet Duncan Frances Spedding Linda Thomas

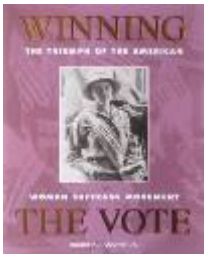
Welcome to new member, **Owen Pope**, husband of League member, **Peggy Pope**.

Mark Your Calendars

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| Monday, May 10 , 10 a.m., General Meeting. Guest Speaker: T.J. Fish, Exec. Dir. Lake-Sumter MPO. Board meeting will follow immediately. | Community Bank & Trust, CR 466, The Villages. |
| May 21 & 22 , LWVF Council. | Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida. |
| Monday, June 7 , 10 a.m., Board Orientation. | Home of Joanne M. Coen. |
| June 11-15 , LWVUS Convention. | Atlanta, Georgia. |
| Monday, August 16 , LWV/AAUW Tea. | Lady Lake Community Center, Lady Lake. |

Board Orientation Meeting

On **Monday, June 7**, the League Board will be having a Board Orientation meeting. This meeting will be conducted by Caroline Emmons-Schramm, former LWVF president, and member of the LWV Orange County. Caroline is our Mentor and will be working with us this year. At this meeting, we will be discussing, among other things, our plans for membership growth and programs for the coming year. If you have any suggestions along these lines, please contact Joanne Coen, joannejon@aol.com.



Women's Equality Day Celebration

Mark your calendars for **Monday, June 7, 2-4 p.m.**, and plan on attending a Tea co-hosted by the League and Lake-Sumter AAUW at the **Lady Lake Community Center, Guava Street, Lady Lake**. This will be a celebration of the 90th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment. AAUW and League member, Nancy Bell, has prepared a reading in which you will hear from some of the women involved in the suffrage movement. Refreshments will be served, so invite your friends and neighbors. Invitations will be extended to all elected women officials as well as other women in the community. Help will be needed so please contact either Sally Bard, sabinfl@aol.com, or Joanne M. Coen, joannejon@aol.com.

Amendments on the November Ballot

While most of our attention has been paid to Amendments 5 and 6, there are other amendments already on the ballot in November.

On the ballot so far:

Repeal Of Public Campaign Financing Requirement	(1)	The Florida Legislature
Homestead Ad Valorem Tax Credit For Deployed Military Personnel	(2)	The Florida Legislature
Property Tax Limit For NonHomestead Property; Additional Homestead Exemption For New Homestead Owners	(3)	The Florida Legislature
Referenda Required For Adoption And Amendment Of Local Government Comprehensive Land Use Plans.	(4)	Florida Hometown Democracy, Inc., PAC
Standards For Legislature To Follow In Legislative Redistricting	(5)	FairDistrictsFlorida.org.
Standards For Legislature To Follow In Congressional Redistricting	(6)	FairDistrictsFlorida.org.

Presently, the League has taken positions on **Amendments 5 and 6** (we support). **See exact wording of these amendments on page 5.** We have been advised by the state League's Legislative Action Chair to expect 10 or 11 amendments on the November ballot. At their July board meeting, the state board will review all amendments on the November ballot and decide, based on League positions, whether to support, not support or take no position on the amendments.

If you would like to be a poll worker, you can find out more information by going to the following tri-county supervisor of elections websites:

Lake County:

<http://elections.lakecountyfl.gov>

Marion County:

<http://www.votemarion.com/>

Sumter County:

<http://www.sumterelections.org/>

AMENDMENT 5

STANDARDS FOR LEGISLATURE TO FOLLOW IN LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING

BALLOT SUMMARY: Legislative districts or districting plans may not be drawn to favor or disfavor an incumbent or political party. Districts shall not be drawn to deny racial or language minorities the equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect representatives of their choice. Districts must be contiguous. Unless otherwise required, districts must be compact, as equal in population as feasible, and where feasible must make use of existing city, county and geographical boundaries.

Full text:

In establishing Legislative district boundaries:

(1) No apportionment plan or district shall be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a political party or an incumbent; and districts shall not be drawn with the intent or result of denying or abridging the equal opportunity of racial or language minorities to participate in the political process or to diminish their ability to elect representatives of their choice; and districts shall consist of contiguous territory.

(2) Unless compliance with the standards in this subsection conflicts with the standards in subsection (1) or with federal law, districts shall be as nearly equal in population as is practicable; districts shall be compact; and districts shall, where feasible, utilize existing political and geographical boundaries.

(3) The order in which the standards within sub-sections (1) and (2) of this section are set forth shall not be read to establish any priority of one standard over the other within that subsection.

AMENDMENT 6

STANDARDS FOR LEGISLATURE TO FOLLOW IN CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

BALLOT SUMMARY: Congressional districts or districting plans may not be drawn to favor or disfavor an incumbent or political party. Districts shall not be drawn to deny racial or language minorities the equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect representatives of their choice. Districts must be contiguous. Unless otherwise required, districts must be compact, as equal in population as feasible, and where feasible must make use of existing city, county and geographical boundaries.

Full text:

In establishing Congressional district boundaries:

(1) No apportionment plan or individual district shall be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a political party or an incumbent; and districts shall not be drawn with the intent or result of denying or abridging the equal opportunity of racial or language minorities to participate in the political process or to diminish their ability to elect representatives of their choice; and districts shall consist of contiguous territory.

(2) Unless compliance with the standards in this subsection conflicts with the standards in subsection (1) or with federal law, districts shall be as nearly equal in population as is practicable; districts shall be compact; and districts shall, where feasible, utilize existing political and geographical boundaries.

(3) The order in which the standards within sub-sections (1) and (2) of this section are set forth shall not be read to establish any priority of one standard over the other within that subsection.

Check us out
on
Facebook!



Check Us Out!
Be a Voice for Citizens! Be a Force for Change!
Be Involved in the Process!

Become a member of the LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area MAL Unit.

Name _____

Phone No. _____

Address _____

Email _____

Zip Code _____

Village, if applicable _____

Community, if applicable _____

Former League Member: Yes ___ **No** ___ **Where:** _____

Interested in:
Government in Florida _____

Education in Florida _____

Justice in Florida _____

Social Policy in Florida _____

Natural Resources _____

Growth Management _____

Dues are paid annually:

Individual **\$50.00** _____

Household **\$75.00** _____

Contribution to MAL Unit **\$10.00**
 or more _____

Checks should be made payable to
LWV of Florida
and mailed to
Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Drive, The Villages, FL 32162.

Your dues include membership in the LWVUS and LWVF as well as a subscription to the Florida Voter.