



LWV of the Villages/Tri-County Area

November 2011

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www.lwvtri.org

Nationally recognized! Locally active!

November General Meeting

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Join us on

Monday, November 14, 10 a.m.,

Community Bank & Trust Co.

CR466 & Parr Drive

The Villages

Part II

LWVUS Education Study on the
Role of the Federal Government

In

Education

Covering

Common Core Standards

&

Assessments

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 Message

Thanks to Nancy Velez, Chief Academic Officers, Lake County School District for an informative and interesting discussion of civics in the curriculum as well as other issues of importance involving education. Nancy was most gracious as we questioned her about our upcoming topic of common core standards from an educator's point of view.

As we wrap up our national study on education, you will have the opportunity to participate in another national study on the issue of privatization. I hope you can attend the committee meeting.

I had the pleasure of attending a meeting of the Ocala Women's Network last week as they rolled out their "Public Call for Civility & Decorum." This is initiative, sponsored by the Ocala Women's Network, a non-partisan group of women leaders in Marion County, simply asks "...our elected officials and the constituents they serve to observe a Civility Agreement by conducting business using respect and good manners at all times." This is not the first of its kind program in Florida. Civility Agreements already exist in Mascotte, Ocoee, Orlando City Council, Winter Park, Deltona and Dunedin, Florida. Please see page 4 for more about this initiative and how you can support it.

We have just received the 2012 Legislative Interview packet, and if you would like to participate in these interviews, please let me know.

Whether you are travelling or not, please have a happy, healthy and safe Thanksgiving.

Joanne

P.S. Don't forget we are meeting one week earlier because of the Thanksgiving holiday!



November

- Mon., Nov. 14, 10 a.m. LWVUS Education Study Consensus Meeting, Community Bank & Trust Co., The Villages. **Board meeting to follow.**
- Tues., Nov. 15, 2 p.m. Privatization Committee meeting at Steeplechase Residences, CR103, Oxford.

December

- Thurs., Dec. 8, 11 a.m. Holiday Luncheon, Stonecrest Country Club, 27/441, Summerfield.
- Mon., Dec. 12, 10 a.m. Board Meeting at the home of Joanne Coen. Meetings are open to members.

Membership

Remember that dues are payable annually on the anniversary of your joining the League, and checks, including the **\$10 Local Dues**, and payable to **LWVTRI**, can be sent to **Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Dr., The Villages, FL 32162.**

November General Meeting

As we wrap up our study on the role of the Federal Government in education, we will be discussing the final section of that study: Common Core Studies and Assessments.

The Common Core Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. The initiative is sponsored by the National Governors Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). As such, the initiative is a national one and neither developed nor funded by the federal government.

Bernice Cozewith and members of the committee have been working on this section, and summaries of this white paper plus the questions to be discussed at the meeting will be forwarded to you. Review the material prior to the meeting and be prepared to engage in a lively discussion.

LWVUS Privatization Study

Here is your second chance to participate in another study committee. Remember, League positions are derived at from the bottom up not the other way round like some other organizations. As you know, at the 2010 LWVUS Convention, delegates voted to study the issue of privatizing functions and services normally attributed to governments. Here in Florida, during the last session, we saw the Florida Legislature approve the privatization of a number of prisons in south Florida. The Police Benevolent Association sued the state and just recently, a Leon County judge ruled the plan unconstitutional. Gov. Scott said he would not appeal the decision; however, the Florida Legislature did not agree and they are appealing the decision. This is not an issue that will go away especially in light of budget constraints on state and local governments.

A committee formation meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 15, 2 p.m. at Steeplechase Residences, CR103, (just off 466 by Wal-Mart) in Oxford.** At that time, we will review the material available from LWVUS and decided what areas to cover. To find out more about this study, you can go to <http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Projects2&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=167&ContentID=17987> and review the timeline as well as the white papers that have been prepared.

If you are planning on attending, please contact **Nancy Bell.** Her email address is in your Membership Directory.

2012 Legislative Interviews

As you know, we have established our priorities for the coming legislative session beginning In January. The top three priorities are:

- Government in Florida
- Education

- Social Policy

Prior to the start of each session, Leagues across the state engage in legislative interviews with their elected state representatives. Questions and background information have been prepared by our state Legislative Action Chair. This is an excellent opportunity for you to interact one on one with your elected officials. Please contact **Joanne** if you are interested in participating.

Holiday Luncheon & Chinese Auction

As is our custom to celebrate the holidays, we will have our annual luncheon on Thursday, **December 8th, 11 a.m., at Stonecrest CC, 27/441, Summerfield, at 11 a.m. If you have not made your reservation, you can do so at the November 14th meeting.** A reservation form with choice of entrée is on page 5.

Back by popular demand is our favorite fundraiser, the Chinese auction. What, you may ask is a Chinese auction? This is the LWVTRI version. Each attendee is asked to donate a new item or perhaps something which is in good shape which you would like to regift. The value of the item should probably be in the \$10 to \$20 range, we leave that to you. Bring this item to the luncheon where it will be displayed. Attendees will buy tickets for \$10 (the fundraising part!). In front of each item will be a cup. By placing one of your tickets in a cup you are bidding on that item. One ticket from each cup will be drawn and that ticket owner will win the item. Yes, you may put all your tickets in one cup. And yes, you could buy a second set of tickets. (Although we are pretty generous with the number of tickets you receive for a mere \$10!) This all takes quite a bit of time so we ask you to bring only one item.

This auction is a lot of fun and a painless way for us to support LWVTRI. We generally earn over \$200 which in practical terms pays for the maintenance of the website. So start looking around for just the "right" item to bring and we will see you in December.

Carolyn Johnson

Ocala Women's Network

This nonpartisan group of professional women leaders in Ocala is sponsoring an effort whereby petitions will be signed and presented to the elected officials in Marion County stressing the need to conduct business using respect and good manners at all times. As mentioned earlier, many communities in Florida already have Civility Agreements, and **OWN** is asking that such an agreement between elected officials and constituents be in place in Marion County.

We will have petition forms and further information at the November meeting, and ask that all our Marion County residents not only sign the petition but take it back to their communities, clubs and organizations and gather additional signatures.

With the election season closing in fast, there is a definite need now more than ever for civility in our public discourse.

"Civility costs nothing and buys everything." Lady Mary Worley Montague 1689-1762

*2011 Holiday Luncheon
Reservation Form*

Trio Salad

Mixed greens with tomatoes, onion and cucumber slices with two ounces each of egg, tuna and chicken salad

Chicken Caesar Salad

Classic Rubeen

Corned beef, sauerkraut, swiss cheese and 1,000 island dressing served on marbled rye bread and french fries

Club Sandwich

Ham, turkey, bacon, swiss and american cheese, lettuce and tomato served on wheat bread with french fries

Coffee, Tea and Soda is included.

Price is \$15 per person .

Tax and gratuity are included.

*Name*_____ *Entrée Selection*_____

*Guest*_____ *Entrée Selection*_____

*Phone No.*_____

*Amount Enclosed*_____

No cancellations after December 1, 2011. Reservation and check can be sent to Janet Duncan, 2239 Lockwood Loop, The Villages, 32162.

From LWVUS

Clean Air Defense

This month League President Elisabeth MacNamara asked Senators to protect America's children and families from dangerous air pollution. The League and coalition partners sent a letter to Senators urging them to oppose the Congressional Review Act resolution, sponsored by Senator Rand Paul, which would void the life-saving Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR). In addition, the League and its partners sent a letter to the House of Representatives urging members to oppose the suite of bills contained in Majority Leader Cantor's legislative agenda, including H.R. 2681 and H.R. 2250. The League also asked supporters to take action and tell their Representatives to protect public health by voting against these bills. In appreciation, the League and coalition partners sent a letter of thanks to members of the House of Representatives, who voted to oppose the TRAIN Act, which could block two long overdue standards that would reduce pollution and protect public health.

From LWV of Florida

Tag Program

The "Be Ready to Vote" Tag program is a national first! Through the League's partnership with Microsoft, the state of Florida will be a test market for facilitating citizens' access to voting information via their smartphone. The purpose of the Tag program is to connect voters directly with their local Supervisor of Elections. The goal is to reach out to youth voters (under 30) as well as minority voters and the general public.

This is a print campaign! The universal Tag that connects users to their Supervisor of Elections can be photographed off a television or PC screen. Think of newspapers, posters, and/or flyers; all these items can be easily scanned. The directions on how to use this program come directly when the app is downloaded.

LWV Florida 2012 Legislative Summit: February 21-23, 2012

Please join us in Tallahassee this February for the state League's Legislative Summit -- not only will you be making a difference in Florida, but it'll be FUN too! You will gain valuable knowledge about our state and the issues affecting it, as well as make sure that our legislators hear from *the people*.

We have two evenings of entertainment planned, including a cocktail reception at the exclusive Governor's Club and our second annual Old Capitol Gala in the historic Senate chambers. Come to Tallahassee to lobby and return home an expert on what is happening statewide. This year's Legislative Summit will be one of our best yet, and we hope that you are motivated to come to Tallahassee and help the League move our state forward! More information to follow.



LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area
Be a Voice for Citizens! Be a Force for Change!
Be Involved in the Process!
www.lwvtri.org

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Address _____ Email _____

_____ Zip Code _____

Village, if applicable _____

Community, if applicable _____

Former League Member: Yes ___ No ___ Where: _____

Your active participation is needed. Are you interested in:

___ Government in Florida ___ Education in Florida
___ Justice in Florida ___ Social Policy in Florida
___ Natural Resources ___ Growth Management

Could you help with:

___ Newsletter (Electronic) ___ Membership ___ Public Relations ___ Fundraising

Dues are paid annually on the anniversary of joining:

Individual	\$ 50.00 + Local Dues of \$10	_____
Household	\$ 75.00 + Local Dues of \$10 per person	_____
Student	\$ 25.00	_____
Susan B. Anthony	\$100.00 Membership Dues +Donation	_____

A check should be made payable to **LWV of Florida** for the applicable amount. In addition, the check for **Local Dues** should be made payable to **LWVTRI**. Both checks should be 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*.