



LWV of the Villages/Tri-County Area

December 2011 & January 2012

Vol. 6 Issue 6

www.lwvtri.org

Nationally recognized! Locally active!

MARK YOUR NEW 2012 CALENDARS

FOR OUR UPCOMING EXCITING

GENERAL MEETINGS!

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JANUARY 23, 2012

BRAINSTORMING

WITH

CAROLINE EMMONS-SCHRAMM

FEBRUARY 27, 2012

"HOW FLORIDA HAPPENED"

THE HONORABLE BUDDY MacKAY

MARCH 26, 2012

DR. CHARLES MOJOCK, PRESIDENT

LAKE-SUMTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE



What is this? The answer can be found on page 4 of this issue.

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

Many thanks to **Janet Duncan** for making the arrangements and handling the reservations for our Holiday Luncheon. We had good food and good conversation. Thank you also to our members who donated to our Auction.

As you see, our first three meetings of the new year promise to be not only informative but educational. In **January**, in preparation for our Annual Meeting in April, **Caroline Emmons-Schramm**, former state League president, and LWVUS National Coaching Team Ruth Shur Fellow will take us through the program planning process. This is the process whereby Leagues at all levels determine what issues they will be concentrating on for the coming year in the case of local Leagues.

We are very happy and pleased to announce that our guest speaker in **February** will be **The Honorable Buddy MacKay** who rose from farm life in Ocala to the Governor's Mansion in Tallahassee. First elected to the Florida House in 1968 and to the Florida Senate in 1974, he served six years in each legislative body. From 1983-89, he served three terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. He served eight years as lieutenant governor with Gov. Lawton Chiles, and after Gov. Chiles' sudden death, served as Florida's 42nd governor until Jeb Bush was sworn in.

In **March**, we will be meeting at the Leesburg Public Library, and our guest speaker will be **Dr. Charles Mojock**, President of Lake-Sumter Community College which is currently serving over 7500 students on three campuses in Lake and Sumter counties.

At our **December** board meeting, we voted to change the meeting date of our monthly board meetings from the second Monday of the month to immediately following our monthly general meetings. This will begin with our **January 2012** board meeting. Hopefully, by making this change, it will encourage more participation on our board by our members.

Lastly, I would like to officially welcome back the **LWV of Marion County MAL Unit** to our area after a long absence. The convener is **Allie Gore**. Allie and another Marion MAL member attended our Holiday Luncheon, and we look forward to working with them as the election season gets underway. Please see page 3 for some of their upcoming activities.

As you get ready for the holidays and the new year, please think about how you can participate in our League. There are many opportunities and I hope you will give some thought as to how you can help.

**Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year!**

Joanne

P.S. Don't forget to invite a friend to attend a meeting with you.

CALENDAR

January 2012

Monday, January 23, 10 a.m.
Caroline Emmons-Schramm
Brainstorming aka Program Planning
Community Bank & Trust Co.,
CR466, The Villages.
Board Meeting to follow immediately.

February

Monday, February 27, 10 a.m.
The Honorable Buddy MacKay
"How Florida Happened"
Meeting place to be announced.
Board Meeting to follow immediately.

March

Monday, March 26, 10 a.m.
Dr. Charles Mojock, President
Lake-Sumter Community College
Leesburg Public Library, Leesburg

Membership

Congratulations to League member, **Nancy Bell**, for being one of four persons to be honored by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Committee. Nancy is being recognized for her work as co-founder and coordinator of the Tri County Interfaith Alliance as well as her work as chairwoman of the local Sacred Conversations on Race, which is a national program instituted by the United Church of Christ. The breakfast will be held on Saturday, January 7, 9 a.m., at the Savannah center in The Villages.

Welcome to two new League members, **Mary Ruth Curtis** (Mt. Dora) and Rosalyn **Haskelson** (Clermont). We also send out get well wishes to **Owen Pope**, and we hope to see Owen and Peggy back at our meetings in 2012.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Bob Kuperberg and his family on the death of League member, **Thelma Kuperberg**, who passed away in November after a long illness. Thelma was a former member of the LWV of Marion County before joining our MAL Unit. She served as Treasurer on our board.

Don't forget that dues checks, either individual or family and including the **\$10** Local Dues, are payable to **LWVTRI**, and can be sent to **Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Dr., The Villages, FL 32162**.

The **LWV of Marion County MAL Unit** (<http://lwvmarion.org>) will be sponsoring the following activities starting in January 2012:

- **Tuesday, January 11, 2012, 2:30 p.m.**
- Movie: ***Iron Jawed Angels*** tells the true story of how activists helped win women the right to vote.
- **Tuesday, January 18, 2012, 2:30 p.m.**
- Movie: ***Not for Ourselves Alone*** which tells the story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony.
- Both movies will be shown at On Top of the World, Live Oak Hall, 8415 SW 80th Street, Ocala.
- **Wednesday, January 25, 2012, 2:30 p.m.**
- Marion County's Local Government
- Presented by Judy Johnson, attorney, former Marion Commissioner and former LWVF board member.
- To register for any of these events, send an email to lwvocala@gmail.com.

Some positions are up for reelection in 2012 at the Annual Meeting, and all members are being urged to think about participating more fully in the operation of our League. As you read earlier, board meetings will now take place after the general meetings so as not to tie up another Monday in your life. Please give it some thought!



LWVUS Education Consensus

Many thanks to **Bernice Cozewith, Carolyn Johnson** and the members of the **Education Committee** for their hard work these last several months in gathering and disseminating all the information that was presented to us at our two consensus meetings.

The results of our meetings have been sent to LWVUS. After receiving the material it is up to the national League Board to determine whether or not consensus has been reached by Leagues across the country. We should find out more in April so stay tuned!

Voter Service & Education

The redistricting maps will be taken up during the first weeks of January when the 2012 Legislative Session begins. Once these maps are approved and voted on, we will have a better idea of our new voting districts on the national, state and local levels.

The **Republican Presidential Primary** is **January 31** (book closing, January 3, 2012); the **Florida Primary** is **August 14** (book closing, July 16) and the **General Election** is **November 6, 2012** (book closing, October 9).



Because local Leagues across the state are under a self-imposed moratorium with regard to registering voters, if you or someone you know wants to check on their registration status, they can do so now because the League of Women Voters of Florida has made it easy to be ready: with one scan of your smartphone, our Be Ready Tag can connect you to the Division of Elections to check your voter status. If you need to make a change, you will then be connected you to your local Supervisor of Elections via phone, email or website link to register, change party affiliation, address, name, signature or renew your absentee ballot request.

Don't know what a tag is: Find out by [clicking here](#) and then go to your smart phone and get a free download for the tag mechanism at <http://gettag.mobi>. Once that's on your phone you can scan the tag from the image above.

Once again, as our League did two years ago, we will be putting together presentations on the proposed amendments on the 2012 ballot as well as hosting a candidates' forum. Help will be needed to research the pros and cons of the amendments as well as with speaking engagements and candidate forums. While some people feel the League is nonpartisan, I think I can safely say that after our experiences two years ago, our League received nothing but positive feedback about our presentations. So, whether people realize it or not, there is a place for nonpartisanship and civility in the political process. Join the Voter Service & Education Committee and help educate the citizens of the tri-county area about the upcoming ballot issues. Make your participation one of your New Year's resolutions!

From LWVUS

Elections: Voters Depend on the Attorney General for Real Action

Earlier this week, U.S. Attorney General Holder traveled to the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library & Museum in Texas to address the growing momentum behind anti-voter laws. In its [statement](#), the League applauded Holder's speech, but expressed disappointment in the Department of Justice's record on voting rights enforcement. The League called on the DOJ to act more forcefully and without delay to ensure fair elections in 2012. Also, see the League's [press release](#) prior to Holder's speech, and a sampling of the extensive media coverage: [The New York Times](#), [The Washington Post](#), [Talking Points Memo \(TPM\)](#) and [Los Angeles Times](#).

Elections: LWV Fights Voter Suppression Laws – Multiple Fronts in Multiple Ways

As voter suppression laws sweep the nation, the League is fighting back in a variety of ways. The [LWV of Kansas](#) is working in coalition to help educate and register voters before new, stricter laws go into effect. The [LWV of South Carolina](#) steps up the pressure urging the US Department of Justice to deny pre-clearance of the state's voter ID law. The [LWV of Ohio](#), working with other organizations, succeeded in getting a measure on the ballot to overturn a newly enacted law that would significantly decrease the number of early voting hours in Ohio. The LWV of Florida has taken its message to national TV! [LWVFL President Deirdre McNabb](#) eloquently rebuffed a state legislator, who supported the state's new restrictions on citizen registration drives.

From LWV of Florida



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

LWVTRI members are invited to travel to 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 Florida and the issues affecting it, as well as make sure that our legislators hear from *the people*. In addition, you will get to meet League members from across the state.

There are two evenings of entertainment planned, including a cocktail reception at the exclusive Governor's Club and the League's 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 the best yet, and we hope that you are motivated to come to Tallahassee and help the League move our state forward! For more information, contact **Jessica Lowe-Minor, Executive Director**, LWVExecutiveDirector@gmail.com, (850) 224-2545



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, and FL 32162.**

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