

LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area



October 2012 Voter

Vol. 7 Issue 3

Nationally Recognized! Locally Active!

**The League of Women Voters does not endorse or oppose
political candidates
or parties.**

**The League encourages engagement and participation
in the political process.**

October General Meeting



**Commissioner Leslie Campione, Chair
Lake County Board of Commissioners**

Monday, October 24, 2012

10 a.m.

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

A Florida native, Com. Campione was elected to the County Commission in 2012 and presently serves as the Chair. A graduate of UF College of Law, Com. Campione has owned her own law practice focusing in the areas of local government law, environmental law, real property, business and land use law. In addition, she has served as the City Attorney for the Town of Lady Lake, the Town of Montverde, and the City of Umatilla.

Com. Campione's presentation will cover the budgeting process, the conflict between lower property values potentially causing lower tax revenues and the need to provide essential community services, and the possible impact on that process if the proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution that may reduce property tax collections are approved at the November election.

As Willie Nelson sings "on the road again," the League finds itself participating in 15 amendment presentations to various groups, clubs and houses of worship in the tri-county area between now and the end of October. People we speak to are so glad to receive the "2012 Florida Election & Voter Guide" provided by the LWV of Florida Education Fund. The League's unbiased information presented in a civil and intelligent manner is well received, and many thanks to those League members who are helping to educate the tri-county community. In thinking about the proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution, consider some of the following recommendations from the League of Women Voters of Florida's "Yardstick for a Good State Constitution:"

1. Must not conflict with any provision of the Federal Constitution.
2. Should be a simple, understandable and integrated statement of basic law, free from obsolete and statutory detail; a flexible instrument free from unsound limitations binding upon the Legislature.
3. Should have clearly defined lines of authority and responsibility.
4. Should provide for a representative Legislature based essentially on population with self-executing reapportionment.
5. Should establish a uniform system of courts adapted to the expanding needs of a growing state.
6. Should have general provisions under which cities and counties may achieve self-government.
7. Should establish state standards for finance and taxation that meet the requirements of modern society.
8. Should provide for a merit system for the selection, retention and promotion of state personnel.
9. Should provide for meeting the increasingly extensive social and economic problems that affect the general welfare.
10. Should provide for a system of free public education with equality of opportunity of all.
11. Should include amendment processes that are in harmony with the other provisions of the Constitution.

As state League President Deirdre Macnab said in a press release dated September 27, 2012, "This November, Florida voters will see 11 of the most complex, confusing and, in some cases, misleading constitutional amendments proposed in recent memory. Voters will need to make a fundamental decision: "Do I want this in the state Constitution?"

The League of Women Voters of Florida urges voters to give a "thumbs down" to the 11 amendments they will confront on Election Day.

Our Florida Constitution was crafted as a document that is intended to be difficult to change, and kept sacred for the purpose of identifying the structure of our government," said League President Deirdre Macnab.

Macnab also called attention to some things that all 11 amendments have in common--regardless of the issues they address: all were proposed by the state legislature within the last two years and all were placed on the ballot under new laws that allow the legislature and Attorney General to re-write summaries that do not pass court review. While legislators have steadily made it more difficult for citizen initiatives to be put to voters, they have removed safeguards relating to their own proposals."

With the start of early voting on October 27, it is important to read and study, not only the information about the amendments, but also the candidates. If you live in Lake County, you will want to mark your calendar for Tuesday, October 9, and a Candidates' Forum. Check out the 2012 Local and State Voters' Guide on our website, www.lwvtri.org. Make sure your friends and neighbors are prepared also.

Joanne M. Coen

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

Member News

Welcome to the following news members: B. & George Grassel and Nora & Joe Hill.

The November General Meeting on Monday November 12, at the Community Bank & Trust Co., CR466 in The Villages, will be devoted to Program Planning. What does the League mean by Program Planning? According to veteran League member, Charlene Walker, "Not to be confused with special programs (speakers, forums, etc.), that are presented at our regularly scheduled monthly League meetings, League Program Planning is the process by which members, you and me, prioritize issues we want to work on for the coming League year. This is done annually on the local League level and every two years on the state and national League levels." At this meeting, we will be discussing what we, as a local League, would like to present for approval by our members at our 2013 Annual Meeting. This meeting will be facilitated by Caroline Emmons-Schramm, our MLD Mentor. In addition to being a member of the Orange County League, Caroline is the former state president of the LWV of Florida and president of the LWV of Orange County. She brings a wealth of knowledge and League experience and this will be an excellent opportunity for our newer members to become in the program planning process. So mark your calendars and bring your ideas. Bring a friend so they can see how the League works.

The LWV of Marion County has invited members of our League to join them for lunch at The Braised Onion, 620 NE 25th Avenue in Ocala on Wednesday, November 14, at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$16 and includes tax and gratuity. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us. Several members of the Marion County League attended our Women's Equality Day Celebration in August, and it would be nice to reciprocate so that we can meet League members with whom we have much in common. Carpooling will be available. Contact Joanne at joanne.m.coen@gmail.com.

In lieu of a December General Meeting, League members will once again be getting together to celebrate the holiday season with a luncheon and Chinese auction on Thursday, December 6, 11:00 a.m., at Stonecrest Country Club, SR27, Summerfield. We will be ordering off the menu, and ask that you bring a gift, valued at no more than \$20, for the auction. This auction is the major fundraiser for the League and helps to offset the costs of maintaining our website. The luncheon is not limited to League members only, so bring a friend! To make a reservation, contact Janet Duncan, jwdunc22@gmail.com, or Carolyn Johnson, cgljohnson@comcast.net.



As you know, dues are payable on the anniversary month when you joined the League. Please check with Carolyn Johnson to make sure you are up-to-date-- especially if you joined during the summer months. If you have an Individual membership, please make your check payable to LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area in the amount of \$60; if you have a Household membership, your check should be in the amount of \$85. All checks are to be sent to Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Drive, The Villages, FL 32162.

Don't forget--you can find us on Facebook!

Voter Service & Education

The League, in conjunction with the Business and Professional Women of North Lake, will be sponsoring a Lake County Candidates' Forum on Tuesday, October 9, beginning at 6:15 p.m. at the W.T. Bland Library, 1995 N. Donnelly St. in Mt. Dora. Candidates for Supervisor of Elections, as well as candidates for the Lake County School Board, have confirmed their participation. Lake County League members, please spread the word and contact Charlene Walker, cawalker7@comcast.net, if you can help at the Forum.

Many thanks to Clark Schlosser and Myyen, Carolyn Van Noy, Charlene Walker, Pat and Al Wichman for enduring the heat, rain, black flies and love bugs as

the League participated in Constitution Day at LSCC on September 19. It was a great opportunity to educate the students about the amendments and the Florida Constitution. League member, Lucy Espey-Frances, also presented a program on the Constitution at Mt.Dora Middle School.

Market Nights on the Square are up next and thanks to Judie Brown, Barbara Cope, Janet Duncan and Diane Jacobson for staffing the table at Spanish Springs on October 1. Next up is Lake-Sumter and thanks to Carol Dodd and Clark Schlosser. Tables at Market Night are in addition to the many amendments presentations already on the calendar. Our next Market Night will be Monday, October 22, at Spanish Springs. To check out our speaking engagements, go to our website, www.lwvtri.org.



Making Democracy Run 5K/1K Saturday, October 27, 2012

Get your running shoes or walking shoes on, and come out to the Polo Fields on Buena Vista Blvd. in The Villages, and participate in the League's kick-off of Early Voting on Saturday, October 27. If you aren't a runner or walker, spread the word and help the League encourage not only physical exercise but our precious right to vote. Volunteer to help out at registration, handing out water bottles, etc. Come out and cheer the runners and walkers on. Contact Richard Coen, joannejon@aol.com, to help out.

All proceeds will benefit the League of Women Voters of Florida's nonpartisan voter registration and education efforts.

For more information, go to www.lwvtri.org, and click on the Making Democracy Run link.

What is happening in the League on the National Level

League Opposes H.R. 5912

In a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives, the League joined other coalition partners in opposing H.R. 5912, a bill that would repeal the presidential public financing system.

League Supports Office of Congressional Ethics

In a letter to House Speaker Boehner, and Minority Leader Pelosi, the League joined with coalition partners in expressing support for the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) and urging them to ensure its uninterrupted operations in the next Congress by reactivating the agency and appointing the necessary board members.

An Invitation to Join the League

I would like to: _____ join _____ donate to the League.

Name _____

Address _____

Zip Code _____ Phone _____

No. _____ Email _____

Membership Categories:

- Susan B. Anthony \$100 _____
- Individual \$ 60 _____
- Household \$ 85 _____
- Student \$ 25 _____

Please make your check payable to the LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area and mail it to

Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Drive, The Villages, Florida 32162.

Dues include membership in the national and state League of Women Voters as well as the local League

Dues are not tax deductible.

The League of Women Voters does not endorse or oppose political parties or candidates. The League encourages informed and active participation in government and works to increase understanding of major public policy issues.

