



LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area Voter

*Nationally Recognized! Locally Active!
The League of Women Voters does not endorse or oppose
political parties or candidates.
The League encourages engagement and participation in the political process.*

September 2013

Volume 8 Issue 3

School Choice in Florida

**Public School? Private School? Home School?
Charter School?**



**As part of the statewide League study
on school choice with emphasis on charter schools, Superintendent Richard
Shirley, Sumter County, and his team will address all
facets of charter schools
from curriculum and finance to personnel.**

**Monday, September 23, 2013
10:30 a.m.
Community Bank & Trust Company
CR466 & Parr Drive
The Villages**

President's Letter

It is hard to believe that September has arrived. I am not sure where "the lazy, hazy days of summer" went, but I do know that League work is never done!

As we start our monthly meeting schedule, in addition to marking your calendar for our September 23rd meeting, please mark your calendars for October 28th when we will be having a speaker from the Florida Association of Counties. We are also pleased to announce that Rep. H. Marlene O'Toole will be with us for our January 27, 2014 meeting; she will give us some insight into what to expect from the 2014 Legislative Session. Speaking of the 2014 Legislative Session, the deadline for returning your three priorities for the upcoming session is September 16th. Please go to our website www.lwvtri.org and under League Publication click on Study & Action 2011-2013 to review the League's position on various issues. Once you have done this, please send your three top legislative priorities for 2014 to me at joanne.m.coen@gmail.com.

In addition to committee meetings, updating the League website and member handbook over the summer, League members and guests took some time out on August 26th to celebrate Women's Equality Day. Many thanks to Kathy Hansen and her helpers for setting up the room and preparing the refreshments. In addition to our panelists, Leslie Campione and Gloria Hayward, the League was happy to welcome Coms. Doug Gilpin and Don Hahnfeldt from the Sumter County BOCC; Linda Winchester, Sumter County School Board, Anne Marie Norman from Sen. Alan Hays' office, Anne Helmuth, LWV Florida Director and Caroline Emmons-Schramm, former president of the LWV Florida.

With League activity picking up, I would ask that you take a moment to think about why you joined the League and what you can contribute to its success. Obviously, you think the League has an important role to play not only during election season but also during the rest of the year. Please think seriously about participating in one of the following committees:

Membership
Program Planning
Education
Ethics
Natural Resources
Voter Service & Education.

We will have sign-up sheets at the September 23rd meeting, and I hope between now and then you will give this some serious thought. The hours are not long and granted the pay is nonexistent, but you will meet some very dedicated and interesting League members.

I look forward to seeing you at our September meeting, and as always, remember to bring a friend!

In League,
Joanne M. Coen

Membership

Since our last meeting in May, we would like to welcome three new members to our League: **Anne Berg, Mary Flanagan and Marsha Shearer.**

As was mentioned in the President's letter, Member Handbooks are now ready and can be picked up at the September General Meeting. If you will not be able to attend the meeting, please contact Beth Hicks, ethicks71@gmail.com to obtain your handbook.

Education Committee

As you know, our League is participating in the statewide study of school choice in Florida. Karen West, who is heading up the local study committee, would like some volunteers to visit charter schools in the tri-county area. Ideally, she would like to have two people visit each of the selected schools. This is a perfect way to become involved on a onetime basis and contribute to the work of the League. Please contact Karen at westkg@gmail.com.

Ethics Review Committee

The Ethics Committee is happy to announce that General Counsel to the Florida Association of Counties, Ginger Delegal, will be the guest speaker at October 28 General Meeting. She will be talking about the difference between charter and non-charter counties, noting that Marion, Lake and Sumter are non-charter counties, whereas, Orange, Palm Beach and Miami-Dade are charter counties. Just a reminder that the Ethics Review Committee is still open to members who wish to study ethics policies, procedures and practices of Marion, Lake and Sumter County. If you wish to find out more about this committee, please call Carolyn Van Noy at 352 446-1660. There will be a sign up sheet at the September meeting.

Natural Resources Committee



By this time, all League members have received 20 blank petitions from the state League office in Tallahassee. Over 600,000 signed petitions are needed in order to ensure that the Florida Water and Land & Legacy amendment will appear on the general election ballot in November 2014. If this amendment makes it to the ballot and is approved by 60% of the voters, it will ensure state funding for the purchase and maintenance of conservation land throughout Florida. This measure WILL NOT increase taxes, nor will it increase state funding. It simply allocates a portion of the existing documentary stamp tax (paid when real estate is sold) to water and land conservation, management and restoration. This is the same funding source that the state has used for water and land conservation for the last two decades. Please bring your signed petitions to the September general meeting, and we will forward them to the state League office.

The League will be having a petition signing table at the Lady Lake Library on West Guava Street. Again, this is another activity that involves a short time commitment. If you are interested in

helping to gather signed petitions at the Library or if you have any questions about the petition itself, please contact League member Charlene Walker at cawalker413@gmail.com.

Voter Service & Education

The League is very happy to announce that we have been asked by the Mt. Dora Area Chamber of Commerce to moderate a candidates forum for the offices of Mayor and City Council on Wednesday, October 23, 2013 beginning at 7 p.m. If you would like to help out at the forum, please contact Richard Coen, joannejon@aol.com.

Join or Donate to the League

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

Name _____

Address _____

Village or Community _____

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.