



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.*

November 2013

Volume 8 Issue 5

November General Meeting

Monday, November 18, 2013

10:30 a.m.

Community Bank & Trust Company

2285 Parr Drive

The Villages, Florida 32162



**Ginger Delegal, General Counsel
Florida Association of Counties**

As part of the League's mission to educate not only its members, but also the community, we will be discussing what differentiates a charter county from a non-charter county. Are Lake, Marion and Sumter counties charter counties or non-charter counties? Did you know that out of the 67 counties in Florida, 20 are charter counties? The League is happy to welcome Ms. Delegal to our November meeting.



President's Letter

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, on behalf of the board I would like to say "thank you" to

- Carolyn & Tom Johnson for hosting the Charter School Consensus Meeting with a brunch at their home;
- Karen West for doing such a terrific job in overseeing the gathering of material for the study and for leading the consensus meeting;
- Char Griffin, a new member, for acting as recorder for the consensus meeting;
- those members who participated in the consensus meeting;
- the Mt. Dora Area Chamber of Commerce for inviting us to moderate their recent Candidates' Forum
- Nancy Bell for moderating the forum and to Mary Aneiro, Richard Coen, Lucy Espey-Francis, Char Griffin, Beth Hicks, Carolyn Johnson, Carol Van Noy, Pat & Al Wichman and Charlene Walker for all their help at the forum;
- Kathy Hansen & Charlene Walker for collecting signed petitions at the Lady Lake Library;
- Steven Cooper for making arrangements for the Holiday Party;
- and all League members who continue to support our activities.

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, our November meeting will be held on the third Monday of the month, November 18, and I hope you will mark your calendars to attend this informative meeting. If you moved from "somewhere else" to Florida, navigating the governmental structure can be confusing. Ms. Delegal will aim to clear up some of this confusion. So, before you begin your holiday travel or start to make preparations for turkey day, come and spend some time with us. You will be glad you did.

There will be no December General Meeting. Rather, the League, and guests, will be celebrating the holiday season with our Annual Holiday Party & Chinese Auction on Friday, December 13. We have invited a representative of the Wildwood Historical Association to speak about the Baker House on CR44A which is over 100 years old and the home of former state Senator David Hume Baker. Presently, the house is undergoing some much needed work and it will be open for tours during the holiday season. Join the League for holiday cheer and celebrate our surroundings.

As always, don't forget to invite a friend or neighbor--they are always welcome!

Happy Thanksgiving,

Joanne M. Coen

Membership

Welcome to new members Lynne Klaczak and Catherine Snyder who joined us at our October meeting. Welcome also to Laurence "Laurie" Tellett who joined after attending the Mt. Dora Candidates' Forum. We look forward to your participation.

Congratulations to League member, Richard Coen, upon his appointment to the Sumter County Library Advisory Board. Nice mention of League member, Char Griffin, for her work with Tutors for Kids in an article on Wildwood Middle School at www.Villages-News.com.

Just a reminder that Member Handbooks are now ready and can be picked up at the General Meetings or by contacting Membership Chair, Beth Hicks, ethicks71@gmail.com.

Meet a League Member

All of my adult life, everywhere I've lived (Colorado, New Jersey and Vermont), I have been an active participant in the community.

As a new full-time Florida resident and voter, I wanted to learn about Florida's government and the important issues in the State. I chose The League of Women Voters because of its long-standing reputation as a non-partisan organization and a good source of unbiased information. I have been a member of the League since May, 2012.



Kathy Hansen

When I attended my first meeting, I received a warm welcome. I noted the strong leadership and dedication of the members. I became aware of the connection of the local Leagues to the State and National League and the many benefits that are derived from that. I saw the willingness of the members to partner with other organizations to work toward common goals.

I joined the League because I want to help protect and preserve Democracy and make it work better for all citizens and that's what the League is all about.

Holiday Luncheon & Auction

Not only is this a social occasion, but it is also the only fundraising opportunity for our League. In addition to a lovely lunch, good conversation and a presentation by the Wildwood Historical Association on the Baker House, you will have the opportunity to win something you have always wanted or needed! All we ask is that you bring an item to donate to the auction and watch your fellow Leaguers as they eagerly try to win that priceless object!.



Mark your calendars for Friday, December 13, 2013, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Continental Country Club on CR44 in Wildwood. The cost of the luncheon is \$15 and includes tax, tip and beverage.

You can make your luncheon reservation at the November 18 General Meeting. If you prefer, you can mail your entree selection

- Vegetarian Salad
- Trio Salad (chicken, egg and tuna)
- Hamburger with French fries
- Fried fish sandwich with French fries.

plus check payable to LWVTRI to Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Drive, The Villages, Florida 32162. Reservations must be received by December 6, and there will be no refunds.

Education Committee

Even though the committee has finished its work on the Charter study and submitted its report to the state League chair, that doesn't mean that the work of the committee is finished. As the 2014 legislative session begins in March, education will once again be on the agenda. To find out more about the important work of this committee, please contact Karen West at west.k9@gmail.com.

Ethics Review Committee

The Ethics Committee is happy to be sponsoring the November General Meeting with Ginger Delegal, General Counsel of the Florida Association of Counties.

Ms. Delegal is a frequent speaker and author on topics of interest to the local government community in Florida and has taught a fundamental class on the U.S. Constitution at Tallahassee Community College. She is a member of the Florida Bar, recently appointed to the Executive Committee of the City, County & Local Government Section of the Bar, and the State Bar of Georgia.

The committee will be meeting on Tuesday, November 12, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the home of Carolyn Van Noy. The committee is presently studying different ethics scenarios based on advisory opinions from the Florida State Ethics Commission. If you wish to find out more about this committee and its interesting work, please call Carolyn Van Noy at 352 446-1660.

Natural Resources Committee



As Pat Grierson told us at our October meeting, the Florida Water & Land Legacy petition is reaching its needed number of signed, verified petitions. Unless Florida's voters approve a proposed state constitutional amendment on the 2014 ballot to guarantee funding to buy and protect important parts of the state's remaining undeveloped conservation lands, it's doubtful they'll ever be preserved, former state Sen. Rick Dantzler said recently.

If this amendment makes it to the ballot and is approved by 60% of the voters, it

- will provide state funding for the purchase and maintenance of conservation land throughout Florida.
- will ensure that our cherished beaches, rivers, lakes, springs and forests are protected for future generations.
- will direct one-third of existing state revenues from "documentary stamps" to fund restoration and conservation projects in Florida's most critical water protection areas and lands. 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.
- will reinforce Florida's long-standing leadership on water and land conservation.

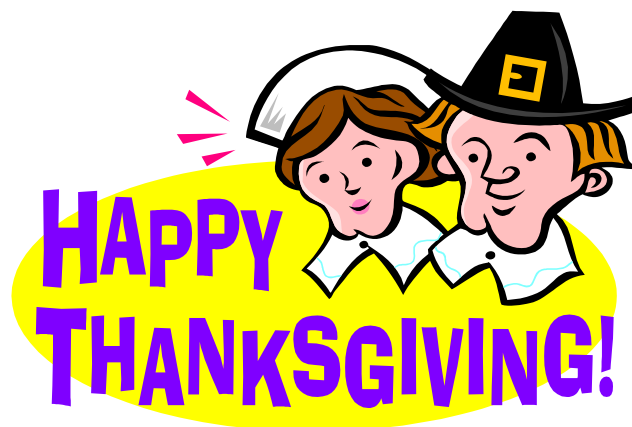
If you have not signed the petition, you can go to our website, www.lwvtri.org, and click on Take Action. Signed petitions can be returned to the address on the petition. Just note The Villages/Tri-County LWV on the front of the envelope. All signed petitions are to be submitted by November 30. If you need more petitions, please contact Charlene Walker, cawalker413@gmail.com.

Voter Service & Education

The League was happy to be asked to moderate the recent Mt. Dora Area Chamber of Commerce Candidates Forum. Moderator, Nancy Bell, along with other League members were in attendance and acted as ushers and screeners. There were nine candidates and the races were divided between Mayor and City Council. It was encouraging to see the turnout and the questions posed by the audience were excellent.

2014 is an election year, and once again, the League will be preparing a voter's guide as well as making presentations on the ballot issues. Help from League members will be needed as we undertake these projects.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Richard Coen at 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 Dues

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.

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political parties or candidates.**

**The League encourages informed and active participation in government and works to
increase understanding of major public policy issues.**