



League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area

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.

December 2013
January 2014

Volume 8 Issue 6

December Holiday Party

Friday, December 13, 2013

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Continental Country Club

CR44, Wildwood

Guest Speaker: Gidget Gibney
Wildwood Historical Association

Join with League members and guests as they celebrate the holiday season.

President's Letter

Thank you to Carolyn Van Noy and her committee for arranging our November program. Ginger Delegal, General Council, Florida Association of Counties, gave an excellent presentation on county government retracing its formation from the very beginning to present day. We were also happy to welcome Com. Welton Cadwell, (Lake County), Com. Kathy Bryant and Com. Stan McClain, (Marion County) as guests to our meeting and thank them for sharing their thoughts with us.

As you can see, there will be no general meeting in December. Rather, we will be gathering to socialize over lunch and participate in a Chinese Auction. We have invited a speaker, Gidget Gibney, from the Wildwood Historical Association, and she will be bringing us up to date on the restoration of the Baker House which is on CR44A in Wildwood.

The Baker House 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. If you haven't made your reservation yet, there is still time do to so.

Our next General Meeting will be January 27, and our scheduled guest speaker is Rep. H. Marlene O'Toole. With the 2014 Legislative Session beginning in March, this is a perfect opportunity for League members and guests to hear from Rep. O'Toole about what will be on the legislative agenda and to share with her the League's legislative priorities.

As you begin to look forward to making plans for the coming year, I hope you will give serious consideration to participating in a League activity. The Voters Service Committee will need help with forums and the voters' guide; a speakers bureau is getting ready for presentations to begin as early as March. The Local Government Committee is continuing its ongoing work. Even though we have finished with our portion of the state study on charter schools, the Education Committee will continue to follow and report on what is happening.

We are looking forward to a busy year ahead with races at all levels of government, and your help is greatly needed. So, make the League part of your New Year's resolutions.

Thank you for your continued support of the League and its mission. On behalf of the board, I would like to wish you

*Happy Hanukkah
Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year!*

We look forward to seeing you on December 13 and don't forget to invite a friend.

Joanne M. Coen

P.S. Just a reminder that this newsletter covers both December and January. The next newsletter will be February 2014! You can check out the calendar on our website, www.lwvtri.org.

Membership

Welcome to our newest member, Pam Ibrahim, who joined at the November meeting. It is wonderful to see the League membership growth in Lake County.

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

If you need an up-to-date membership list, please contact Carolyn Johnson, cgljohnson@comcast.net.

Meet a League Member



Because the League continued to be involved with controversial issues and because they took on governments and elected officials at the local, state and national levels, I decided that it was the group for me. I joined in 1982.

During the thirty plus years that I have been a member, I was president of the LWV Orange County and the LWV of Tallahassee and I was on the LWV of Florida board for six years. I have either chaired (immigration, transportation, voting systems, education) or participated in (almost every one undertaken by the three LWVs to which I belonged) studies designed to result in a consensus of the members. No study that the League adopts is simple.

The League does not shy away from hotly debated issues. That is why I am still a member.

Holiday Luncheon & Auction

The deadline for reservations for the Holiday Luncheon & Auction is Friday, December 6, 2013,

Where:	Continental Country Club CR44, Wildwood, Florida
Time:	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Cost:	\$15 per person

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

You can make your reservation by contacting Carolyn Johnson, cgljohnson@comcast.net.

Invite a friend to join you, and don't forget your gift for the auction!

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.kg@gmail.com.

Local Government Committee

As the Ethics Committee was planning the program for the November General Meeting, it became apparent that its scope was expanding beyond the issue of ethics in local government. Because our League covers three counties, the committee decided that it needed to understand the working of local county government. So with that in mind, the committee has been reborn as the Local Government Committee. Whether new to Florida or a native, understanding how local government works is imperative when it comes to making informed decisions at the polls. If you are interested in learning more, contact Carolyn Van Noy, denny.carol@gmail.com.

Natural Resources Committee



Thank you to all League members who helped in gathering signed petitions for the conservation amendment. As of the end of November, 866,247 petitions of the overall 910,000 target have been collected. To qualify for the 2014 ballot, a total of 683,149 verified signatures is needed. This number represents 8% of the number of voters who voted in the 2012 presidential election. That 8% must also come from at least 14 of the 27 **congressional** districts throughout Florida.

So far they have already qualified in two districts: District 5, which is comprised of Alachua, Clay, Duval, Marion, Orange, and Seminole counties and District 13, Pinellas County.

The work of the Natural Resources Committee is not done. Water and its uses is a continuing issue, and if natural resources are your passion, please contact Charlene Walker, cawalker413@gmail.com.

Voter Service & Education

Next year is expected to be a busy time for our Voter Services Committee.

Voter Registration Deadlines are July 28, 2014, and October 6, 2014, for the primary election and the general election respectively. The 2014 Election Day date is July 28, 2014, for the primary election, and November 4, 2014, for the general election.

Both campaign financing and possible difficulties in voter identification and registration are topics that the League will be closely reviewing.

Two potential amendments to the Florida constitution are currently being undertaken through the voter initiative process. The first dedicates funding for water and land conservation, management, and restoration; while the second proposes to legalize medical marijuana. Of course, the Florida legislature may pass joint resolutions proposing amendments to the state constitution. Because ballot summary language can be difficult to understand, it is likely that the League will again be asked to explain the affect of any amendments that appear of the November ballot.

Our League already has speaking engagements scheduled for next March and May. If you would like to help the League fulfill its mission of voter education, then please think about joining the Speakers Bureau. Contact Richard Coen, joannejon@aol.com, for more information.

Join or Donate to the League

I would like to: ___ join and/or ___ 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.

**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.**