



# **LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area**

**[www.lwvtri.org](http://www.lwvtri.org)**

**Nationally Recognized! Locally Active!**

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

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

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## **President's Letter**

It is hard to believe that we just had our first General Meeting of 2014 and it is time to resume our work as League members. We have busy months ahead of us!

We started off 2014 with a visit from Rep. H. Marlene O'Toole at our January meeting. Every seat in the room was taken by League members and guests. With an emphasis on education, Rep. O'Toole outlined her priorities for the 2014 Session which begins in March. This was an informative meeting, and we are grateful to Rep. O'Toole for taking us through the route she has to follow to generate a bill and shepherd it through the process to, hopefully, passage by both houses of the legislature. As she pointed out, it is not as easy as you might think!

I hope you have two of our upcoming meetings on your calendar. We are very excited about our February and May meetings. In February, we will be meeting at the Sumter County Government Building on CR466A and Powell Rd., Wildwood. We will be celebrating the League's 94th birthday, and joining us will be Leslie Burch, Interim Library Services Manager, Sumter County Library System, who will be updating us on the outsourcing of the operations of the library system.

Additionally, we are happy to be welcoming Rep. Wilton Simpson, District

18, to his first meeting with our League. Sen. Simpson was elected to the Senate in 2013, and his district encompasses all of Hernando County, a portion of Pasco County and all of Sumter County with the exception of The Villages. We are hopeful that Sen. Simpson will address legislation he is working on involving water issues. After hearing both presentations and before the celebration begins, we will be developing our local program for the coming League year which begins April 1.

In May, three of our League members who live in Lake County will be hosting League members and guests at a covered dish luncheon meeting on May 19, at the Waterwood Community Clubhouse on Lake Harris in Yalaha. ***Carpooling is a must*** and we are in the process of working out those details. Our guest speaker will be J.T. Glisson. Author and artist, Mr. Glisson was raised in Cross Creek and was a neighbor of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. In fact, he was the boy with the clubfoot in Rawlings' book, *Cross Creek*. Mr. Glisson will be talking about his book, *The Creek*, describing his day-to-day life growing up. Mr. Glisson will have copies of *The Creek* for purchase at the luncheon. In preparation for this meeting, it is recommended that you read *Cross Creek*.

March will be our Annual Meeting at which time we will elect our board, and approve a budget and program for the coming League year. Our guest speaker will be the Hon. Alan Gold, retired federal judge, who will speak about campaign financing. With this being an election year, the topic is very timely and of great concern to the League.

April will be devoted to the discussion of water issues, and in June, Karen K. Krauss, Supervisor of Elections, Sumter County will be our guest speaker. The timing for this meeting is perfect as Primary Elections will take place in August.

As you can see, we have a few busy months ahead of us, and even though our general meetings end in June, we will still be busy with our speaking engagements and the publication of our Voters Guide 2014.

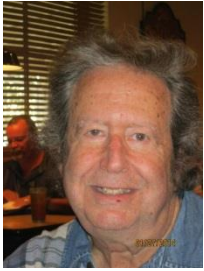
We all joined the League for various reasons, and the core mission of the League is to educate not only ourselves but the community. Please get involved! We are only as strong as our membership!

Joanne M. Coen

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

## **Membership**

### **Meet A League Member**



My wife and I moved to The Villages eight years ago from Wilmette, IL after retiring from the Chicago Public School System where we both taught for over 25 years. I joined the League because of my interest in nonpartisan politics and because I felt I could make a difference on the local level. The League also gave me an opportunity to get involved in the community. I have been able to use my experience as a teacher to work on the statewide study of charter schools. In addition to education, I am interested in other issues and the League has given me a chance to interact with other group members, and share my ideas with them. The League has given me an opportunity to become involved in something worthwhile.

### **Welcome New Members**

Joan Brown

Anne Grewe

### **Thanks**

To our members whose support at the Holiday Party and individual monetary contributions helped us reach our goal of purchasing a projector for use at the general meetings and speaking engagements.



To Pat & Al Wichman for the donation of lanyards. No more pin holes!

## **Member Happenings**

Char Griffin has been asked to serve on the Sumter County School Board's Strategic Planning Committee.

The Readers Theatre Group of The United Church of Christ at The Villages will perform "Memories of World War II: When We Were Children," written by League member, Nancy Bell, on Wednesday, February 19, at 2:00 p.m. in the Activities Center of Steeplechase on County 103, north of County RD 466. Admission is free. For further information, contact Nancy Bell, [jonanbell@gmail.com](mailto:jonanbell@gmail.com).

The Michigan State University Alumni Club, along with Belks Department Store, will sponsor a Fashion Show on Friday February 21 at 2:30 PM at Sea Breeze Recreation Center, The Villages. The cost of \$10 will include the show, refreshments, and door prizes. This is a fund raiser with the proceeds staying in the area for local schools. For further information, contact League member, Beth Hicks, [ethicks71@gmail.com](mailto:ethicks71@gmail.com).

## **General Meetings**

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings take place on the fourth Monday of the month at the Community Bank & Trust Co., CR466 & Parr Drive, The Villages.

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| February 24, 10:30 a.m.,<br>Rm. 102, Sumter County Govt. Building, CR466A & Powell Rd., Wildwood | Celebration of the 94th Birthday of LWV Sen. Wilton Simpson (R-18th District), Leslie Burch, Interim Library Services Manager, Sumter Library, Program Planning. |
| March 24, 10:00 a.m.                                                                             | Annual Meeting with guest speaker, The Hon. Alan Gold.                                                                                                           |
| April 21, 10:30 a.m.                                                                             | Water issues will be discussed. Guest speaker: TBA                                                                                                               |
| May 19, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Waterwood Community Clubhouse, Yalaha                                    | Covered dish luncheon with guest speaker, J.T. Glisson, <i>The Creek</i> .                                                                                       |
| June 23, 10:30 a.m.                                                                              | Guest Speaker: Karen K. Krauss, SOE Sumter County                                                                                                                |

## **Women's History Month Celebration**

The League is very happy to be one of the Sponsors of the upcoming National Women's History Month 2014 celebration at Lake-Sumter State College. The theme for this year is "Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment." In keeping with that theme, the celebration will feature a panel of local women who fit those descriptors:

- Phyllis Baum, RN, MBA VP & Chief Quality Officer, Central Florida Health Alliance
- Rosann Brandeburg, Exec. Dir. LSSC Institutional Advancement/Foundation, Member, Lake County School Board
- Emily Lee, Bates Avenue Community Facilitator, Member LSSC Board of Trustees
- Donna Miller, Lake County Judge

Facilitator: Nancy Hurlbert

The date is Wednesday, February 26, 4:30 - 6:30 PM at the Magnolia Room, Lake-Sumter State College Leesburg Campus. Reservations not required and light refreshments will be served.

### **Sponsors:**

American Association of University Women, Lake & Sumter Branch (AAUW)  
Business and Professional Women, North Lake (BPW)  
Democratic Women's Club of Lake County  
Lake County National Organization for Women (Lake NOW)  
Lake-Sumter State College, New Directions Program and Equity & Diversity Committee  
League of Women Voters, The Villages/Tri-County Area (LWVTRI)

### **Local Government Committee**

The Local Government Committee will monitor the Lake, Marion and Sumter County Commissions, by reviewing the Agendas and Minutes of those entities meetings, on their web sites. In the tradition of the "League Observer Corps," which was volunteers who went to every meeting of the local government entity, we will be there virtually to ensure that the conduct of County business is transparent and in the interest of County residents. If you want to learn more about County Government, to make sure that it is open and accountable, and if you have access to the Internet, we urge you to join us. Contact Carol Van

Noy at [denny.carol@gmail.com](mailto:denny.carol@gmail.com) or at 352-633-5353. Below are the County websites. We look forward to your eager participation in making democracy work.

**Lake County:**

[https://www.lakecountyfl.gov/board\\_agendas/index.aspx](https://www.lakecountyfl.gov/board_agendas/index.aspx)

**Marion County:**

<http://www.marioncountyfl.org/about/agendas-and-minutes>

**Sumter County:**

<http://sumtercountyfl.gov/index.aspx?nid=70>

## **Natural Resources Committee**

### **The Politics of Water**



Water continues to be one of the most important and controversial issues of the day. The focus of this committee will be educating not only ourselves but the community-at-large, about issues effecting us in the tri-county area as well as the state of Florida.

As League members, these are several ways that you can have your voice heard! Your participation on this committee is important. Do you really know and understand the workings of the water management districts? Do you know that they can and cannot do? Are you concerned about water withdrawal and its effects on all aspects of life in Florida? There will be an organizational meeting in February so I hope you will join us. For further information, please contact Charlene Walker, [cawalker413@gmail.com](mailto:cawalker413@gmail.com).

Since the 1920s and 30s, the League of Women Voters United States has studied and established positions on resource management. The overarching position is "Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest." This provided impetus for the League to build "a broad national program focused on protecting and managing the interrelated aspects of air, land use, energy and waste management.

As state and local Leagues were established, the League has been in the "...forefront of the environmental protection movement, helping to frame legislation and seeking to preserve and protect life-supporting ecosystems and public health." Public input opportunities are a cornerstone for the League.

Another water issue of interest is the Floridians' Clean Water Declaration Campaign. The Floridians' Clean Water Declaration Campaign is a collaborative effort driven by dozens of civic and environmental organizations from around the state. The groups, of which the League Women Voters of Florida is one, are coming together to create a force for change - a change in the water policies of the state of Florida. By sharing ideas and resources across stakeholder lines and watersheds, we will be stronger - stronger together to command our right to clean water.

If you go to the website,

[http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5215/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_K EY=16024](http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5215/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_K EY=16024),

you will find a declaration to sign. Among the rights and responsibilities mentioned in the declaration, are: clean drinking water, safe lakes, streams, protection from water pollution, water privatization, etc.

## **Voter Service & Education Committee**

It is time for our Voters Service and Education Committee to focus on the coming election cycle and our speaking engagements.

Changes to Florida's campaign spending limits, potential amendments to our constitution, and voter identification rules will be focal points for our first presentations this year. We already know that there will be two amendments: one dealing with dedicated funding for water and land management and the other, medical marijuana. Changes to Florida's laws dealing with legalized gambling have been discussed as possibly appearing on the ballot in November if a joint resolution is passed by three-fifths of the membership of each house of the legislature. In addition, there is talk about an amendment on term limits.

Our first speaking date of 2014 will be Saturday, February 8, in Mt. Dora and our Speakers Bureau is hard at work preparing for that engagement.

If you want to join our Speaker's Bureau to help in our mission to educate Florida voters contact Richard Coen, [joannejon@aol.com](mailto:joannejon@aol.com), for more

information.

**Correction:** In the last edition of The Voter, the Primary Election date was incorrectly stated as July 28, 2014; the correct date is August 26, 2014.

## **How A Bill Becomes A Law**

With the start of the 2014 Legislative Session just a month away, it is good to know how a bill becomes a law in Tallahassee. As Rep. O'Toole alluded to in her presentation on January 27, it is not all that easy.

- Either house may originate any type of legislation.
- A legislator sponsors a bill which is referred to one or more committees related to the bill's subject.
- The committee studies the bill and decides if it should be amended, pass or fail.
- If passed, the bill moves to other committees of reference or to the full house.
- The house votes on the bill.
- If it passes in one house, it is sent to the other house for review.
- The same process is followed in the second house as it did in the first house.
- The bill can go back and forth between the houses until a consensus is reached.

As League members, we will be called upon by the state League's advocate during the session to contact legislators concerning certain pieces of legislation. Please respond.

## **2014 LWVF Legislative Council/Leaders' Council**



Are you ready to change our state in 2014? Mark your calendar for LWVF's Legislative Summit & Council of Leaders in Tallahassee, April 9-11, 2014.

This legislative session is bound to be a busy one, and with issues like healthcare, environmental protection, education and elections all on the front burner, LWVF cannot afford for our League members to sit this one out. The state of Florida needs YOU! There are lots of exciting events and activities planned for Summit & Council 2014 and you will not want to miss out! For further information, contact Joanne M. Coen, [joanne.m.coen@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.m.coen@gmail.com).