



LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area

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.

Volume 9 Issue 2

September 2014

President's Letter

Are you ready for some (no, not football) League General Meetings? Well, the wait is over and our meetings will resume on Monday, September 22.

The last few months have flown by, but that doesn't mean that everyone was on vacation. The online Voter's Guide for the August Primary was prepared and many thanks to all who helped. Also, in August, our League hosted our first Meet & Greet for Judicial Candidates; we had an excellent response from the candidates plus the public. Thank you to all those League members who helped with this event and lent their support. For a Saturday afternoon in August, the turnout was exceptional and provided a wonderful opportunity for both the candidates and attendees to interact.

The tri-county Voter Guide for the November General Election is being prepared and should be online at the beginning of October. The state League will shortly be sending us the state Voter Guide containing information about statewide candidates and the amendments that will be on the ballot.

Over the next several weeks, the League has been asked to make presentations on the amendments and for further information about date, time and place, please go to our website, www.lwvtri.org. Further, the League will be sponsoring a Meet & Greet for candidates for The Villages' Community Development District Boards. This is our first time sponsoring a Meet & Greet for VCDD candidates, and the response from the candidates has been very positive. This meeting is open ONLY to Villages' residents.

As you can see, we will be busy the next several weeks, but I hope that you will join us for our September meeting where members of our Speakers' Bureau will go over the November ballot, including the amendments and charter issues in Fruitland Park and Wildwood. Don't forget to invite a friend!

In League,

Joanne

Joanne M. Coen

P.S. Since Labor Day is the traditional kick-off for the election season and since September brings back memories of book reports written during summer vacation, what better way to get back in the swing of League activities than by a book report written by League member, Karen West!

September General Meeting

Monday, September 22, 2014

10:30 a.m.

Community Bank & Trust Company

CR466 & Parr Drive

The Villages



Do you know what offices will be on the November ballot?

Do you know what the three amendments are about?

Do you know where to find information about judicial candidates?

If you attend the General Meeting on Monday, September 22, these, and many more, questions will be answered by members of our Speakers Bureau!

Membership

We would like to welcome a new member to our League, **Deanna Carr Woodall**, who joined over the summer. By now you have all received an updated Membership Directory. If not, please contact **Carolyn Johnson**, cgljohnson@comcast.net.

If your dues were due in the summer, you should have received an email reminder from Beth Hicks, our Membership Chair. To those who renewed their membership, thank you, and to those who haven't, there is still time to do so. Single membership dues are \$60 and household, \$85. Checks should be made payable to **LWVTRI** and mailed to **Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Drive, The Villages, FL 32162**. If you are not sure of your dues anniversary date, please contact Carolyn.

You may recall from previous issues of our newsletter that we have included some stories from members about what drew them to the League. Both corporations and organizations have rediscovered the tremendous value of *storytelling*. They have come to understand that there is no more powerful marketing tool than a *story* about the organization. We are asking that League members take a few minutes to think about what led you to join the League, and what you expect from your membership in the League. Going forward we would like to highlight a League member each month in our newsletter as well as compiling a *Story Bank* on our website, www.lwvtri.org. We look forward from hearing from you, and you can submit your *story* to **Beth Hicks**, ethicks71@gmail.com.

Local Government Committee

As we wrote in our last issue of the newsletter, what better way to watch democracy in action than to see two local governments prepare legislation to go on the November ballot. League members have been attending the Fruitland Park Charter Review Committee meetings, in which the Committee has carefully reviewed the entire charter and developed recommendations for the City



Commissioners. And, to their credit, the City Commissioners have attended each of the Charter Review Committee's meetings, giving them the opportunity to hear the discussion and understand the reasons for recommending some changes and not others. There was a public hearing in June and the Committee submitted its recommendations to the City Commission. The Commissioners discussed the recommendations and then held a public hearing. The result of these hearings and discussions will be the proposed amendment that will appear on the November Ballot.

League members have also been attending the City of Wildwood's Citizen Advisory Committee and City Commission meetings, at which they have been reviewing the possible districts that would be created if Wildwood voters approve a Charter Amendment changing the way Commissioners are elected, from At-Large, to By District. This is a totally different process, from Fruitland Park's, with the same goal, i.e., to change the City Charter to ensure that the current residents have as much voting power as new residents that will be added through large developments that have been permitted, but are not yet built.

Unlike Fruitland Park, where the Citizen Committee created a proposal for the Fruitland Park City Commission, the Wildwood the City Staff created a proposal for the Wildwood City Commission. The Wildwood Citizens Advisory Committee provided input to the process, by reviewing the City Staff's proposal, but had no decision-making power in the process. The Wildwood Citizen Advisory Committee was newly formed in April, and like Fruitland Park, the proposal had to be submitted to the Supervisor of Elections in June, in order to get the issue on the November Election Ballot. It has been a very interesting process, in which League members have learned a lot about local government in Florida.

The Charter Amendments for Fruitland Park & Wildwood will be the subject of our October General Meeting which will take place on Tuesday, 6-7:30 p.m., Pinnellas Park Library, Powell Road and CR466A,, Wildwood. Please contact **Carolyn Van Noy, 352 633-5353** or denny.carol@gmail.com, for further information.

Natural Resources Committee

Our League is getting fired up about **VOTE YES ON 1 WATER & LAND CONSERVATION AMENDMENT.**

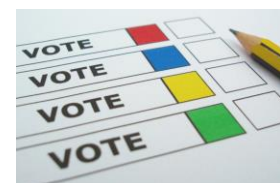


League members are planning to attend "**Speak Up Homosassa Springs,**" **Saturday, September 6, 10 am - 4 pm.** This is a call to action to protect and restore the waters of Citrus county and all of Florida's treasured waterways. Join former Sen. Bob Graham at one of Florida's most spectacular state parks which features a floating underwater observatory, manatees, wading birds, red wolves, a six month old Florida panther as well as other wildlife and exhibits, Attendees will have the chance to learn and enjoy the beauty of natural Florida through discussions, nature activities and presentations. Attendees will receive free admission to Homosassa Springs Wildlife State Park.

League members will also be advocating for the passage of Amendment 1 at the **Wings & Wildflower Festival,** which will be held from **Friday - Sunday, October 3-5,** at the **Venetian Gardens** in **Leesburg.** Please contact League member, **Claire Rahn, Clebs@juno.com,** if you can help and sign up for 1 or 2 hours between 9am and 4pm on Fri. or Sat. and/or 11am and 4pm on Sunday. Remember to let friends and neighbors know about the Fact Sheet which is available by going to our website, www.lwvtri.org, and clicking on the link on the home page.

The November General Meeting will be sponsored by the Natural Resources Committee and the guest speaker will be Robin Grantham who will speak about the role and mission of the Southwest Florida Management District, with emphasis on the Water Star Certification program.

Voter Service & Education Committee



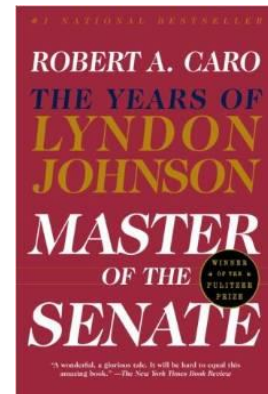
Our League will sponsor a **Meet & Greet** on **Thursday, October 9th,** from **6 PM** until **7:30 PM,** at the **Pimlico Recreation Center,** located at **530 Belvedere Blvd.** in **The Villages.** Candidates who will face opposition for a position on the Board of Supervisors of each of the Villages Community Development Districts will be on hand. We are planning to provide light refreshments. If anyone can help with that, please contact **Lu(Lucille) Michaels** at **352 750-0246.** As a reminder, this Meet & Greet is only open to residents of The Villages.

The LWV Florida Voter Guide will be sent to local Leagues sometime this

month and help will be needed with distribution of the Guide to Lake & Sumter main libraries, Lake & Sumter Supervisor of Elections, John Rohan at Lake Sumter Landing, and Lake Sumter State College Library in Leesburg. If you can spare a few hours and help with delivery to one or more locations, that would be a big help. Please contact **Carolyn Van Noy**, denny.carol@gmail.com, if you can help.

From Karen West

MASTER OF THE SENATE reads like a political novel. But if I hadn't read the first two books I wouldn't believe how completely Machiavellian Johnson was. I'm trying to answer the question in my mind how could a totally selfish Texan backed by big oil push through landmark civil rights legislation. And Caro is such a focused writer that he is answering my question, one brick at a time as Johnson set out to control the senate and then develop the credentials to be a nationally viable Democratic candidate for President of the United States.



The book is so well written that it is hard to put down - and unlike the political apology books, these books on Johnson "cut to the chase" - Johnson's early decision that he was going to be President!

Worth the time involved in reading this book.