



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 6

February 2015



President's Letter

Happy 95th Birthday to the League of Women Voters!

The League was founded on February 14, 1920 by Carrie Chapman Catt during the last meeting of the National American Woman Suffrage Association approximately six months before the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave women the right to vote. The League began as a "mighty political experiment" aimed to help new enfranchised women exercise their responsibilities as voters. Much has been accomplished by League members since 1920, and there is still much work to be done.

With that in mind, the Legislative Session will begin on March 3 and the League will be concentrating on the following:

- Social Policy-Support implementation of the Federal Health Care Reform Law in Florida, emphasizing access for all and control of costs including Medicaid expansion and mental health coverage. Support the education of Floridians regarding application for coverage.
- Education-Support a free public education system for Florida's high standards for student achievement and with equality of educational opportunity for all that is financed adequately by the state through an equitable funding formula.
- Government-Support an open government that is responsive to the people.
- Natural Resources-Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest by recognizing the inter-relationship of air quality, energy, land use, waste management and water resources.

During the course of the session, League members will be receiving emails recapping what transpired during the week. At times, you will be asked to respond to Action Alerts, and I hope you will take the time to do so.

Thank you to the members and guests who attended our January Program Planning Meeting. Many issues were discussed and the board will be meeting later this month to review the material in preparation for making recommendations at the annual meeting in March.

We are looking forward to welcoming Sheriff Gary S. Borders and Capt. Todd English of Lake County to our February general meeting. They will be speaking to us about human trafficking in the tri-county area. Delegates to the national League 2014 Biennial Convention in Dallas concurred with the already adopted position of the New Jersey state League. Below is that position:

Human Trafficking: Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made-through legislation and changes in public policy-to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools.

Our Annual Meeting will be on Monday, March 23, at The Cottage Inn in Lady Lake. We are pleased to announce that in addition to the business of the meeting, we will also be celebrating Women's History Month as well as the League's 95th birthday. Our guest speaker will be Lauren Ritchie, columnist for the *Orlando Sentinel*. Her columns can be found in the Lake section of the paper as well as online. You are in for a treat!

Beth Hicks is heading up the Nominating Committee. Positions to be filled are President, Vice President, Treasurer, and two Directors. Terms will be for two years, 2015-17. In addition, we have a vacancy for a Director who had to resign due to ill health. That seat runs until 2016. For an organization to continue to grow and thrive, which our League has done so well these last few years, there has to be leadership and the willingness of people to become involved. Please give serious consideration to stepping up. When the work is shared, it is much easier to get the job done.

In League,

Joanne

Joanne M. Coen

P.S. Don't forget to invite a friend to the February General Meeting!

February 2016 General Meeting

Topic: Human Trafficking

Sheriff Gary S. Borders

Capt. Todd Englis

Lake County Sheriff's Department

Monday, February 23, 2015

10:30 a.m.

Community Bank & Trust Company

CR466 & Parr Drive

The Villages, FL

Membership

We are happy to welcome a new member, **Ellen Dugan**, who joined us at the January meeting.

Dues are payable in the anniversary month you joined the League. You will receive an email reminder from **Beth Hicks, Membership Chair**, as your anniversary date approaches. Individual dues are \$60 and household dues are \$85. Checks are payable to **LWVTRI** and mailed to **Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Drive, The Villages, FL 32162**. If you are not sure of your anniversary date, please contact **Carolyn Johnson**.

The **Annual Meeting** will be held on **Monday, March 23, 2015, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** at **The Cottage Inn, 340 S U.S. Highway 441, Lady Lake**. At that time will elect officers and directors, approve the budget and proposed program for 2015-16. Our guest speaker will be **Lauren Ritchie**, columnist for the *Orlando Sentinel*. Ordering will be from the menu. However, the restaurant would like head count, so please make your reservation by

contacting **Carolyn Johnson**, cgljohnson@comcast.net.

Please remember that the Community Bank & Trust Company is a place of business. Do not gather outside the Conference Room to talk with other League members. Not everyone is retired!

Nominating Committee

Beth Hicks, ethicks71@gmail.com, is heading up the Nominating Committee. Positions to be filled are President, Vice President, Treasurer, and two Directors. Terms will be for two years, 2015-17. In addition, we have a vacancy for a Director who had to resign due to ill health. That seat runs until 2016. For an organization to continue to grow and thrive, which our League has done so well these last few years, there has to be leadership and the willingness of people to become involved. Please give serious consideration to stepping up by contacting Beth. Beth and the other members of the committee, **Lucy Espey-Francis** and **Lynne Klaczak**, will be happy to speak with you. When the work is shared, it is much easier to get the job done.

Education

Education issues are a priority for the League and one excellent resource to help you keep up-to-date, not only here at home but across the country, is the LWV Education Blog which is coordinated by Sue Legg, a member of the LWV of Alachua County. The Education Team blog is a forum to promote the exchange of information on school reform. They do fact-based studies, and encourage posts with reference citations that contribute to a better understanding of different points of view about school choice issues. For further information go to <http://lwveducation.com/contact-us/>.



Local Government Committee

Monitoring local government action is very important to the League of Women Voters because local government action has the most direct impact on residents than any other government activity. Therefore, now that the election is over and Fruitland Park's Charter Amendment passed, we will follow the Fruitland Park process for drawing Districts, for the next election. Wildwood's Charter Amendment



did not pass, so we will follow their process for dealing with the resulting issues. In addition, we will research the Villages Amenity Authority Committee and the Villages Community Development Districts, to determine how they work and what they are considering. We need volunteers who want to be informed about what is happening in local government. Please call **Carol Van Noy, 352-633-5353** or by email, denny.carol@gmail.com.

Natural Resources

Trip to The Villages Water Treatment Plant

On January 20th, members of the League joined with members of The Villages Environment Club for an early morning trip to one of the water treatment plants which is located on Buena Vista Blvd. in The Villages. Because of The Villages' size and the amount of landscaping and golf courses, various methods of irrigation are used. There are three utility districts in The Villages and each utility district has its own reclaimed water system. We visited the North Sumter County Utility Dependent District and the main purpose of this district, as well as the other two, is to irrigate the many golf courses in The Villages using reclaimed water. The NSCUDD covers the area south of CR466 and will include the property being developed in Fruitland Park. The tour lasted about 45 minutes and we saw the process from beginning to end. Thank you to Trey Arnett for a very informative tour.

Nuclear Power Safety

Kathy Hansen

George Erickson, author and world traveler, member of the Thorium Energy Alliance and the Union of Concerned Scientists, and former VP of the American Humanist Assoc., spoke at the Jan. 6th meeting of the Civil Discourse Club in The Villages at the Colony Cottage Recreation Center. The title of his talk was Nuclear Power Safety. The following website was suggested for review as background for the talk:

<http://energyrealityproject.com/nuclear-power-climate-change-warrior-for-the-21st-century/>. Most of the points Mr. Erickson made can be found at that web site. Below are a few of them:

- Carbon pollution is a great danger to the environment. While nuclear energy is efficient and doesn't pollute the atmosphere, there are concerns about nuclear accidents and handling of spent nuclear fuel. This hasn't been helped by Chernobyl, Fukushima and America dodging a bullet with Three Mile Island. Yet overall, nuclear is still among the safest energy generating methods.
- Thorium nuclear power is a superior alternative to radiation nuclear power. Thorium is common all over the earth, and therefore cheap, and is more efficient (less hazardous) to mine. A lack of information, misinformation and, in some cases, deliberate deception have prevented its use.
- In the 1940s the uranium-based reactor was the nuclear reactor of choice because the plutonium that was produced was useful for making bombs. The Molten Salt Reactor which can use thorium does not produce plutonium and so was cancelled because it was not useful for making bombs.
- There is a prevalent misunderstanding that any amount of radiation is bad; however radiation occurs in nature and is present all around us. Low dose rates from natural radiation are not a problem over a lifetime. The effect of radiation is the same regardless of the source. Nuclear radiation is a tiny portion of all radiation exposure.

When asked what action the public should take, Mr. Erickson suggested that we ask them to fund research in the development of new types of nuclear reactors. More about George Erickson and titles of books he has authored can be found at <http://www.tundracub.com>.

Women's Health & Retirement Security

The retirement challenges facing millions of American women simply can't be ignored. On average, women live longer than men yet their lifetime earnings are generally lower. Pay inequity while they're working, and often reduced benefits once they retire, means millions of women face retirement and health insecurity in their old age. The National Committee's "Eleanor's Hope" initiative, named in honor of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, raises awareness, recruits and trains new activists and bolsters Congressional leaders who are making a difference on women's health and retirement security issues. They advocate for legislation that addresses the inequities threatening millions of

retired women.

Laura Feldman from the **National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare** will be speaking about this important issue and there will be two opportunities to hear her:

Tuesday, February 10, 5:30 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
7280 S.E. 135th Street, Summerfield

Thursday, February 12, 7:00 p.m.
Tavares Civic Center
110 Caroline St., Tavares.

For further information, contact **Sue Michalson, 516 581-4011.**

State League News

LWV Florida

Join **LWVF State President Deirdre Macnab, LWVF State Board Members and Legislative Liaison, Debbie Harrison Rumberger** in Tallahassee, **March 17-19** for **Capitol**

Impact Days 2015! Essentially our "lobby days," the LWVF's annual Capitol Impact Days brings members from all over the state to Tallahassee to advocate on our issues before state leaders, ensuring that a strong and united League voice is heard. This two-day conference during legislative session includes an orientation program, seminars and trainings on understanding League positions and advocating with civility, briefings with legislative leaders in the Cabinet room of the Florida Capitol, lobbying legislators in person, members-only formal luncheons and dinners, and exciting fundraising galas with Florida leaders. for more information go to the state League's website, <http://thefloridavoter.org/>.



Join your fellow Leaguers in Delray Beach for the **LWVF's Biennial Convention, May 15 & 16, 2015!** This exciting event will bring members from all across the state together for two days of activities, including an oceanside gala, an evening of live music and more! Participants will also learn about the League's issues via caucuses and educational workshops, and will help shape

LWVF's 2015-2017 Program during Plenary sessions at the historic Old School Square Crest Theater!

The price to attend the Convention is \$150 for League members (includes: welcome reception & oceanside gala featuring a surprise guest, plenary sessions, caucuses & workshops on all of your favorite Hot Topics, election of new LWVF Officers and Board of Directors, program and budget decisions, and a dinner reception featuring a live band.) The registration price does not include travel to Delray Beach or hotel accommodations.

For information, contact **Joanne M. Coen**, joanne.m.coen@gmail.com.

Invitation to Join the League

Please print this page and fill out the Membership Information Form. Then mail it with your check to: League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area, Treasurer, 2615 Caribe Drive, The Villages, Florida 32162.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Name _____

Name(s) of additional member(s) in household _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone (home) _____ Cell phone _____

Email address _____

Village or Community _____

Single Membership	\$ 60.00
Household Membership	\$ 85.00
Student Membership	\$ 25.00

Susan B. Anthony Membership \$100.00

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Checks should be made payable to the LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area. Dues are not tax deductible.

Comments (e.g. interests, how you heard about the League)



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