



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 10 Issue 2

May 2015



Our April General Meeting guest speaker, Beth Kassab, provided us with standing room only attendance. As we told Beth, now if we can only entice Scott Maxwell to venture from Orange County, we will have hosted three of the best columnist from the *Orlando Sentinel*! It was a wonderful meeting and the subjects covered ran the gamut from education, healthcare, the Florida Legislature and growing up in Florida.

We are looking forward to welcoming Wesley Wilcox, Marion County Supervisor of Elections to our May meeting. His topic will be online voter registration, and while the legislation passed in the Legislature, it is sitting on Governor Scott's desk awaiting his signature or veto. It is the League's hope, in conjunction with the 67 Supervisors of Elections in Florida, that he will sign this legislation!

As you know, the House ended their session three days early, and right now, the state of Florida is without a budget. The Special Session will begin on June 1 and run for 20 days. In addition to the budget, what about the legislation that is languishing because of the abrupt *sine die*? We wait and see what will happen. After all the fiscal year begins July 1....

Thank you to Janet Tutt, District Manager, for extending the invitation to the League to attend The Villages Resident Academy. Also, many thanks to Carrie Duckett, Manager of Customer & Support Services and all the speakers for their presentations. It was a wonderful learning experience and it is safe to say, that we have a much better understanding of Community Development Districts.

Our last general meeting until September will be May 18. If you have some time over the summer, you might think about participating in a League Summer Book Club. For more information, see Membership in this issue.

To our "snow birds" who might be leaving us until the fall, have a wonderful summer and we look forward to your return.

Finally, Carolyn Van Noy, will be representing our League at the statewide League convention in Delray Beach on May 15 & 16. It is a wonderful experience, and we are looking forward to her report when she returns.

In League,

Joanne

Joanne M. Coen

P.S. Don't forget to invite a friend to the meeting on May 18!

May General Meeting

When: Monday, 18, 2015

Where: Community Bank & Trust Company

CR466 & Parr Drive, The Villages

Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon



Guest Speaker: Wesley Wilcox

Marion County Supervisor of Elections

Topic:

Online Voter Registration

Membership

Welcome to our newest members, **Betty Cocchini, Karen Elliott, Beth Hollis** and **Joe Schlosser** who recently joined the League.

Just a reminder that 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**. All members should have received a copy of the latest Membership Directory. If not, please contact **Carolyn Johnson, cgljohnson@comcast.net**.

Below are the meeting dates for 2015-16. With the exception of the Holiday Party in December and the Annual General Meeting in 2016, all meetings will take place at the Community Bank & Trust Company, CR466 & Parr Drive, The Villages. If the meeting location does change, members will be advised:

MEETING DATES FOR 2015/16

Monday, April 27, 2015

Monday, May 18, 2015

Monday, September 28, 2015

Monday, October 26, 2015

Monday, November 16, 2016

Holiday Party, Friday, December 11, 2015

Monday, January 25, 2016

Monday, February 22, 2016

Annual Meeting, Monday, March 14, 2016.

Summer Book Group

The lazy days of summer means no League or other meetings and activities. That gives us all time to read.

Two books Beth Hicks has read plus another suggested by Carolyn Johnson would be wonderful reads...and lead to great discussions:

Cokie Roberts, *Capital Dames*

Karen Abbott, *Liar, Temptress, Soldier Spy*

Robert Putnam, *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crises*.

Two are studies of different women during the Civil War period, which in many ways is the birth of the suffragette movement. The third is "...A groundbreaking examination of the growing inequality gap from the

bestselling author of *Bowling Alone: why fewer Americans today have the opportunity for upward mobility.*"

If you are interested in reading either or both and would like to get together for a book club in the August time frame, please contact **Beth Hicks**, ethicks71@gmail.com.



April General Meeting

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/>.

Several League members recently met to discuss how to proceed with our research on the Florida VPK Program which is a free prekindergarten program for 4 year old children who reside in the state of Florida. We discussed various areas for investigation, and will be meeting again on **Tuesday, May 26, 1 p.m.** at **Panera's** in **Lake Sumter Landing**. We are happy to report that some members of Lake-Sumter AAUW will be working on this project with us. If you are interested in participating, please contact **Joanne Coen**, joanne.m.coen@gmail.com.

With the abrupt end of the 2015 session, many bills affecting education were left in limbo. One proposal would have boosted health and safety standards for early education programs, which is an area we will be looking at. Among others were a measure to scale back class size penalties; maximum class size, Bright Futures; student choice; and charter schools. This last would create

the Florida Institute for Charter School Innovation at FSU, strengthen charter school accountability and revise charter school funding provisions.

Local Government Committee

Eighteen of our League members attended the two day Resident Academy, on April 20 and 21. Several members have told me that they really learned a lot about the operation of the Villages Community Development Districts and appreciate the learning opportunity. One could not help but be impressed with the efficiency of this local government, with 249 full time and 731 part time employees and a \$244 million dollar budget. If you are a resident of the Villages, and you have not attended the Resident Academy, I urge you to do so. As a result, you will be a more informed voter, when your District Board of Supervisors positions are on the ballot.



The committee continues to follow issues in Fruitland Park and Wildwood. If you are interested in learning more about the area you live in, contact **Carolyn Van Noy**, denny.carol@gmail.com.

Natural Resources

The Committee continues to be concerned about the funding for Amendment 1 especially now that the regular Session has ended, and we are waiting for a Special Session. One advantage of the abrupt ending to the session was the proposed fracking legislation died--at least for now.

Wildwood Development Projects - In conjunction with the Local Government Committee, the committee hopes to learn more about the effect of these projects on Wildwood and its resources. Carolyn Van Noy, chair of the Local Government Committee, has received information from the Wildwood Development Services Department which should help us to understand the processes involved with these projects.

The next committee meeting will be **Thursday, May 21, 2 p.m.** at the home of **Deanna Woodall**. For further information, contact **Kathy Hansen**, hansenk2@comcast.net.

Voter Service

Richard Coen made a presentation to a local unit of retired New York State Civil Service employees about "Why Voting Matters". A lively question and

answer period followed the presentation.

In case you missed it, the United States Supreme Court in a recent 5-4 ruling upheld Florida's ban on elected judicial candidates personally soliciting campaign contributions. Chief Justice Roberts' opinion emphasized the need for public confidence in the independence and impartiality of the courts. Judges are not politicians even when they are elected to their position according to Chief Justice Roberts.

The Voter Services Group will soon begin to gear up for the 2016 election season. Since this is a presidential election year, we anticipate making a number of presentations to interested voters as well as preparing the online Voters' Guide. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact **Richard Coen ,750-1366**. We welcome our newest member, Kathy Hansen, who has arranged for Marion County Supervisor of Elections Wesley Wilcox to make a presentation at our May general meeting.

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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