



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.

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President's Letter

The Presidential Primary is March 15, and once that is over, it won't be long until the activity in candidate filings for county, state and national offices starts to pick up.

Because of redistricting, Congressional and state Senate district lines have changed, and with that a game of "musical chairs" has begun:

- Rep. Richard Nugent will not be seeking reelection; one of the candidates who will be running in the Republican Primary is Rep. Daniel Webster whose district boundaries have changed. Rep. Webster doesn't feel he could be elected in the new district so he is running for District 11 which will encompass all of Citrus, Hernando and Sumter counties in addition to portions of Lake & Marion counties.
- Sen. Alan Hays will not be seeking reelection to his Florida Senate seat; instead he has filed to run for the Republican nomination for Lake County Supervisor of Elections.
- Rep. Dennis Baxley, who represents Marion County and who had previously indicated that he would be running for the seat held by Sen. Charles Dean, has changed his mind and decided to run for the Republican nomination for the recently redrawn District 12 Senate seat that includes all of Sumter County and portions of Lake and Marion counties. Rep. Marlene O'Toole, is term limited, and has indicated that she will also seek the Republican nomination for Senate District 12.

On the local level, there will be filings for school board, county commissions, county charter offices and, in The Villages, Community Development District Supervisors. And this is just March!

Once again, our League will be preparing an online Voters Guide not only for the August Primary but also for the November General Election. With much thanks to Char Griffin, Beth Hicks & Carolyn Van Noy for their hard work on past guides, your help will be needed. Voter education and service are the core principles of the League, and without your help we cannot succeed. In addition to the guides, we already have speaking dates scheduled, and your participation is essential to our success.

The day following the Presidential Primary, the League will be joining with other organizations to celebrate Women's History Month at Lake Sumter State College on Wednesday, March 16. The guest speaker will be Genean Hawkins McKinnon from the Florida Commission on the Status of Women. In addition, Emogene Stegall, retiring Lake County Supervisor of Elections, will be honored for her many years of service. We hope you will join us at this event.

We invite you to join with the League in welcoming Pamela Goodman, LWV Florida President, to our Annual Meeting on March 21. With just two more weeks left in the 2016 Legislative Session, Ms. Goodman will be speaking about the work of the League during the session as well as other League activities. If you haven't made your reservation for the Annual Meeting I urge you to do so.

As we end one League year in March and begin a new one in April, many thanks to all of you who have made our League what it is today. Our membership continues to grow and involvement in League projects is increasing. We continue to learn about our community and state through our informative general meetings.

Looking forward to seeing you on March 21!

In League,
Joanne M. Coen

P.S. Invite a friend to the Annual General Meeting!



Pamela Goodman, LWV Florida President

When:

Monday, March 21, 2016

Time:

11a.m. - 1 p.m.

Where:

Continental County Club

CR44

Wildwood, Florida

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Congratulations to League members **Martha Harnitt** and **Richard Coen**.

At the February 24th meeting of the Lake County Board of County Commissioners, 61 volunteers who contributed over 150 hours of service in 2015 were honored with a special recognition. The Volunteer Service Awards recognized volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts to various county departments and divisions including Public Resources, Public Safety, Community Safety & Compliance to name a few. Among those being honored was League member, **Martha Harnitt**, with 164 hours in the Literacy Program.

League member, **Richard Coen**, has been appointed to the Sumter County Valuation Adjustment Board.

Annual Meeting

The deadline for reservations is **Monday, March 14th**. Please [click here](#) for the reservation form and for further information, contact **Carolyn**

Johnson, cgjohnson4103@gmail.com. The Annual Meeting Packet containing nominations, proposed budget and program for 2016-17 will be emailed to League members prior to the meeting

"40 Acres and A Mule" Tour

and invites to join her in a [40 Acres and A Mile Tour](#). If you are interested in this tour, please click on the link provided and contact **Joanne Coen**, joanne.m.coen@gmail.com. We will try to find a date that is convenient for Beverly and our members and guests.

Dues

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**, [cgjohnson4103@gmail.com](mailto:cjohnson4103@gmail.com).

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

The League will once again be joining with other organizations to celebrate

[Women's History Month](#) on

Wednesday, March 16,

Lake-Sumter Community State College, 441, Leesurg. The guest speaker will be **Genean Hawkins McKinnon** from the **Florida Commission on the Status of Women**. In addition, the League, along with the other sponsoring organizations, will be recognizing **Emogene Stegall**, retiring Lake County Supervisor of Elections, who will not be seeking reelection after many years of service to the citizens of Lake County. We hope you will join us for this celebration!



The Florida Commission on the Status of Women is a nonpartisan board, statutorily created in 1991, consisting of 22 appointed members. The Commission is administratively housed in the Office of the Attorney General. The Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of Senate and the Attorney General appoint four members and the Chief Financial Officer and Commissioner of Agriculture each appoint three members for a term of four years.

The Commission's mandate is to study and make recommendations to the Governor, Cabinet and Legislature on issues affecting women. These recommendations are presented in the form of an annual report that is distributed in the first quarter of each

EDUCATION

When the VPK committee prepared their questionnaire for the Early Learning Coalitions, little did they realize more questions would be raised than when they started. The report which will be presented at the Annual Meeting in March is extensive and left the committee knowing that more work needed to be done. After hearing from the members of the committee and the guest speakers at the January general meeting, if you are interested in working on this committee, please contact **Susan Gold**, Susangold28@gmail.com. We hope you will join us.



VOTER SERVICE & EDUCATION

The Presidential Preference Primary is March 15, 2016.
Early Voting begins:



Lake County

February 29 - March 12

Marion County

March 5 - March 12

Sumter County

March 5 - March 12

For information about times and locations, go to the [League's website](#), and click on the appropriate link.

To vote at an Early Voting site or at a polling place on Election Day, voters are required to present current and valid photo and signature identification. Two forms of identification may be presented if one form contains the voter's photo and the other form contains the voter's signature. Below are acceptable forms of identification:

- Florida driver's license
- Florida identification card issued by HSMV
- U.S. Passport
- Debit or credit card
- Military identification

- Neighborhood association identification
- Public assistance identification

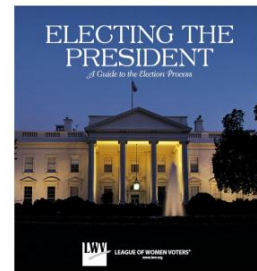
As you know, we will be preparing an online voter guide for the August Primary and November General Elections. In order to make the job easier, your help is needed. If you like to work on the computer, you might think about helping out with this project. Help is needed in writing questions which will be asked of the candidates; checking candidate contact information, etc. This is a one time project. Please think about becoming involved. If you can help, please contact **Carolyn Van Noy**, denny.carol@gmail.com.

If you have not signed up to participate in the Speaker's Bureau, there is still time. Our speaking engagements begin in April. Presentations are being prepared, and you will not be flying solo! Voter service is the core mission of the League, and your help and participation is needed and appreciated. For further information contact **Richard Coen**, joannejon@aol.com.

FROM LWVUS

Electing the President: Everything You Need to Know

With the battle for the White House already underway and presidential primaries looming soon, the League has answers to voters' most frequently asked questions. We have once again teamed up with the Newspaper in Education Institute to produce *Electing the President*, a handy guide outlining all you need to know about the presidential election process. The guide will appear in newspapers nationwide as well as be shared with schools, community organizations and voters who need a helping hand as they navigate the election process. From helping you navigate the complex nomination process to providing succinct tips for making sense of the daily barrage of campaign coverage and advertising, *Electing the President* will serve as your go-to resource all the way up to Election Day. Check out our guide here--then tell us what you're paying attention to this election season! The League is working hard to distribute this and other educational materials to voters across the country, but we need your help. Download the [guide](#) here, and share it with your family, friends, and any potential new voters in your life!



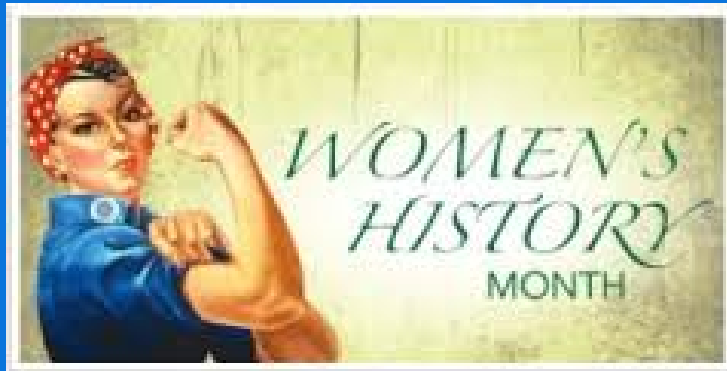
FROM LWVF

Take advantage of the ability to visit Cuba with the League's upcoming Sisters Across the Straits Delegation. The dates are May 23-28, 2016 and the itinerary is tentatively schedule to feature:



- a visit to Ernest Hemingway's former home and the small town east of Havana that served as the backdrop of "The Old Man and the Sea;"
- a day trip to Valle Vinales, which has spectacular limestone formations and the tobacco plantation in the Pinar Del Rio province west of Havana;
- visits to many many museums and historical sites.

Prices have been finalized and the state League is accepting registrations and deposits. Registration closes March 23, so if you are interested in finding out more, go to www.thefloridavoter.org and click on Trips & Events at the top of the home page.



Celebrate with us on March 16 at LSSC!

Don't forget to check out our website, www.lwvtri.org

and

Like us on Facebook!



Follow us on **twitter**