



League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area

Nationally Recognized & Locally Active

www.lwvtrifl.org

Volume 11 Issue 3

October 2016

President's Letter

We are full into our election year happenings! There are speaking engagements, candidate forums, and voter guide work all over the area. Thank you to our many members for volunteering to help with so many facets of the election. We can always use help so contact **Carol Van Noy**, denny.carol@gmail.com, if you are able to do a small part in a huge job.

The recent Mount Dora candidate forum included help from the next generation. **Travis Burkes**, a high school student from Webster who is being mentored by **Leaguer Char Griffin**, joined the forum "staff" as a timer. His notes from this night are included in this newsletter. We thank him for his help and enthusiasm.

Looking for a way to help the League, but unable to commit to meetings? We have a need for a historian. Our newspaper clippings and information are in banker's boxes and need someone's tender loving care. Past clippings need to be sorted and stored in a more organized fashion. We have members who will clip the newspaper articles; we need help organizing and presenting. This is a GREAT job for someone who wants to help at their own pace. Please contact **Beth Hicks**, ethicks71@gmail.com, if you are interested.

We regretfully accepted the resignation of **Karen West** from our board. Her husband's health issues made her service too much. We are actively looking for a replacement board member. Please contact any board member if you are interested in working with a committed group of Leaguers.

The League is trying something new with our upcoming **Tea and Conversation, Wednesday, October 5, 2-3:30 p.m., The Tea & Spice Exchange in Brownwood, The Villages**. Please join us for an informative and social afternoon. Reservations can be made with **Carolyn Johnson, cjohnson4103@gmail.com**.

Thank you for your support over the summer. Welcome back to the seasonal residents. It is time for all of us to get to work in this, the home stretch of this election cycle. Looking forward to see you at the October General Meeting, and don't forget to invite a friend!

In League,
Beth Hicks

And Remember



**October General Meeting
Monday, October 24, 2016
10:30 a.m.**

**Community Bank & Trust Company
The Villages**

**Guest Speaker: Matt Hudson, Energy Services Specialist
SECO Energy**

Topic: SECO Cooperative Solar Project



This year the LWV Florida has teamed up with Community Power Network to form a new entity called [FL SUN](#). Designed to help everyday citizens get far more affordable prices for solar energy, and to educate Florida's citizens about the potential to reduce utility bills across the state, this new cooperative approach will use a best practice that is currently working in five other states.

Join us and see what is happening in our area!

Membership

We are happy to welcome **Judy Bonn** as a new member of our League and it is our hope that Judy and all League members and guests will join us on **Wednesday, October 5**, from 2–3:30 p.m. for a tea tasting and program at **The Tea & Spice Exchange of Brownwood, The Villages**. The cost is \$5 and reservations can be made by contacting **Carolyn Johnson**, cgjohnson4103@gmail.com.

Upcoming Dates

November General Meeting
November 14, 2016
10:30 a.m.
Community Bank & Trust Company,
The Villages
Topic: Running for Local Office
Speaker: League member
Joan Rintelmann

December Holiday Party
December 12, 2016
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Red Sauce Restaurant
The Villages
Guest Speakers: Carolyn Ruhr &
Frank Russo, Tutors for Kids, Inc.
Cost: \$25 person
RSVP Carolyn Johnson
[**cgjohnson4103@gmail.com**](mailto:cgjohnson4103@gmail.com)

Remember, that dues are payable on the anniversary month of your joining the League. If you are unsure of your anniversary date, contact Carolyn Johnson,

cgjohnson4103@gmail.com.

Education

The Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) project that LWVTRI, in collaboration with the Lake / Sumter branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), started last year is now moving into its next phase:



observations and interviews in VPK

classrooms. *We are in need of people to help develop questionnaires for interviewing program directors and teachers, to work on adapting observation check-lists, and/or observe in classrooms and interview directors and teachers.*

There will be organizational meetings at the home of **Susan Gold** on **Tuesday, November 15** from **1:00 to 3:00 P.M.** and on **Friday, November 18** from **10:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon**. All interested LWV members are invited to attend one or the other of these gatherings; please contact **Susan Gold**, susangold28@gmail.com, if you would like to volunteer.

League members may recall hearing the Early Learning Coalition directors from the tri-county area when they spoke at the January meeting. Those directors will be talking about the VPK program at the **Lake / Sumter AAUW meeting Saturday, November 12**, and League members are invited to attend. The meeting will be at **10:00 A.M.** at **Bridgeport Recreation Center (1670 Lake Miona Drive, across from Arnold Palmer Country Club)**.

Mt. Dora Candidates' Forum A Young Man's Thoughts

Going into the Mt. Dora forum, I had expected to find an environment in which the candidates answered a series of non-specific questions with replies that were often riddled with tropes and clichés, and often resorted back to using the same rhetorical attacks and defenses, with little regard for substance or actual solutions.

Instead, what I found was something that was more reminiscent of a town hall or organization meeting, in which members of the community gave their ideas and opinions on ways to address specific problems and improvements within the community. Being so close to the candidates in such a small room helped remove the

"celebrity status" I had assigned them in my mind, and really helped humanize them. I think this humanization made the candidates a lot easier to read. You would often notice when a candidate was prepared and when they were not, when they really knew what they wanted to say when they didn't.

Overall, I found the experience very interesting, and I think those who are interested in politics as well as those interested in learning about and improving their local community would feel the same.

Travis Burkes

Voter Service

Kudos to the following for making the **September 7, 2016 Mt. Dora Council Candidate Forum** a great success. **Beth Hicks** made the long drive at dinner hour, to help set up the room, then welcomed the audience and explained the role of the League; **Judie Brown** was the excellent moderator, for the four candidates for two offices; **Margy Barrett** and **Char Griffin** did a great job of reviewing audience questions and keeping Judie supplied; **Sharon Edwins, Lynne Klaczak, Karen West, and Kathy Williamson** ensured that all 75 plus audience members were greeted at the door, given handouts, and then collected their questions, through the two hour evening; and **Carol Van Noy, with Char Griffin's Mentee, a high school Junior, Travis Burks,** kept the candidates to the time limits. Thanks to all!

The November General Election Voter Guides for Lake, Marion and Sumter Counties will be available shortly on our website, www.lwvtrifl.org. In the meantime, you can go to our website for links to the proposed 2016 Amendments to Florida's Constitution, and a guide to the 2016 Retention of Florida Supreme Court Justices.

Don't forget that the last day to register to vote or make changes in your voter registration information is **October 11, 2016.**
Make sure you are registered and your information is up-to-date!

Natural Resources

In the September newsletter there was a recap of the current water withdrawal issue in Sumterville in Sumter County. The article mentioned that three administrative hearings would be held in October.

The *Sumter County Times* recently reported that due to the exorbitant legal costs, the Sumter residents who are involved in this issue are ending their quest for the administrative hearings. To read more about this, [click here](#).

According to the article, "...the group is not giving up.... For the time being they are waiting for additional opportunities to address the issue through other venues, such as possible zoning hearings."

Sumter resident Joe Flynn is quoted in the article saying, "The average citizen can't afford to challenge anything SWFWMD wants to do." How sad!



Check out our website, www.lwvtrifl.org!

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LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area, 1960 Ardmore Way, The Villages, FL 32162

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