



League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area
Nationally Recognized & Locally Active
www.lwvtrifl.org

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November 2016

President's Letter

By the time this is read, the LONG election season will be near or at the end. It has been an exciting time to be a League member as we have continued our speaking engagements, voter guide activities and other actions to help keep an informed electorate. And best of all, we can safely watch television and not have any more attack ads!

Over the summer our League applied for full Local League status rather than the Member at Large designation we received when we started back in 2005. **Carolyn Johnson** compiled and submitted all the paper work during the summer. A few weeks ago, we received word that the LWVUS Board approved our application. We are now considered a fully-fledged League. Among the perks of this designation--we can send our own delegates to the LWVUS Convention which is held every two year, and rather than the state League submitting our membership information to D.C., we have to assume that responsibility. Other than that, it is business as usual. Well done to all who had a part of forming and growing this Local League.

The November meeting is at the usual place, but on a different Monday. We will gather on **Monday November 14**. League Member **Joan Rintleman** will recount her experience of running for office as a candidate for the Lake County School Board. We are looking forward to seeing you there and, as always, invite a friend.

Carolyn Johnson will be taking reservations for our **Holiday Party** which will be on **Monday, December 12**, at the **Red Sauce Restaurant**. Please remember your item for our Holiday Gift Exchange and money for tickets to win that special something!

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten study continues with organizational meetings in November. See **Susan Gold** or **Joanne Coen** for more information.

Please see our website www.lwvtrifl.org for more details. And a big thanks to **Char Griffin** for this primo site.

Yours in League,
Beth Hicks, President

November General Meeting
Monday, October 14, 2016
10:30 a.m.
Community Bank & Trust Company
The Villages



Guest Speaker: Joan Rintelmann

Topic: Running For Office

Joan Rintelmann is League member and was a candidate in the August Primary for a seat on the Lake County School Board. It is easy to criticize candidates, but do we really know what is involved? Find out when Joan speaks at our November meeting. You don't want to miss this meeting!

Membership

We had a wonderful turnout at our **Tea & Social** at the **Tea & Spice Exchange**. In addition, we would like to welcome two additional members to our League: returning LWVTRI member, **Linda Thomas**, and new member, **Penny Thomas**.

Our membership is now 70.

Let's aim higher in 2017!

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

The deadline for reservations for the **Holiday Party** is **Monday, December 7**. If you have not made your reservation, you can still do so at the November General Meeting. A portion of the **\$25** cost will be donated to **Tutors for Kids, Inc.** Contact **Carolyn Johnson**, cgjohnson4103@gmail.com for further information. In addition to this being a holiday luncheon, this is our League's only fundraiser of the year. So come with your gift for the Holiday Gift Exchange and purchase a chance or chances for that item you just cannot live without.

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, but cannot commit to meetings with specific deadlines and can work at their own pace. Please contact **Beth Hicks**, ethicks71@gmail.com, if you are interested.



Education

If you haven't contacted **Susan Gold** yet about participating in our visits to the VPK programs in the tri-county area, there is still time to do so. This project requires your help.



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 have been invited to attend the **Lake/Sumter AAUW** meeting on **Saturday, November 12**, beginning at 10 a.m. at the **Bridgeport Recreation Center (1670 Lake Miona Drive, across from Arnold Palmer Country Club)**. The directors of the **Early Learning Coalitions** that cover the tri-county area will be the guest speakers. You do not have to be a resident of The Villages to attend.

Voter Service

Thanks to all of our League members who distributed the Florida League of Women Voters printed Voter guides. We distributed 4,000 and the state delivered another 2,500 to the Lake County Library System. Thank you for all of your work. In addition, with the help of **Char Griffin, Kathy Hansen and Bernadette Aley, Beth Hicks** and I spoke to several hundred residents of Lake, Marion & Sumter Counties about the Florida Constitutional Amendments on the November 2016 ballot.



From the response we received, I am hoping many of you will volunteer to continue our **Speakers Bureau** to talk about the **Florida Constitutional Commission** that will be holding hearings around the state in 2017. The state League has prepared a PowerPoint presentation and Beth and I are planning on setting up an orientation for those of you who are willing to carry this information to tri-county area citizens. If you would like to help but do not wish to speak, we can use your skills to contact the groups to whom we have spoken and set up 2017 speaking engagements.

Last, but definitely not least, we are so proud of the three Voter Guides that are on

our new website. They are all the work of League member **Char Griffin**. Without her skills and generous contribution of time, we could not have accomplished so much. Kudos to Char and thank you all for a job well-done.

Carol Van Noy
Voter Service Chair

*Early Voting continues until November 5.
The Voter Guides for Lake, Marion & Sumter Counties are available on our
website www.lwvtrifl.org.*

From LWVUS

League Joins Amicus in McCrory v. Harris

The League joined an amicus in the case of McCrory v. Harris. The case will be argued at the U.S. Supreme Court on December 5, 2016. The brief argues that the North Carolina legislature's redistricting map was intentionally gerrymandered on the basis of race and therefore cannot be legalized by using the explanation that it was a political gerrymander.


League Urges State Election Officials to Prevent Voting Discrimination and Disruption

The League joined 88 voting and civil rights groups in urging state election officials to create plans to prevent voting discrimination in advance of the first presidential election in fifty years without a fully operable Voting Rights Act (VRA). Letters were sent to state elections officials in every state. LWVUS was joined by the state Leagues in Florida, Texas, Arizona, Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia on the letters in their states.

Fixing the Hole in Our Democracy: D.C. Statehood and Voting Rights

Additional materials are now posted on the LWV Website as part of the project to educate League members and the public on the need for full voting rights for D.C. citizens. The LWVDC will be spearheading this effort, called "Fixing the Hole in Our Democracy: Statehood and D.C. Voting Rights". Learn "[How the District of Columbia is Governed in 2016](#)" and "Congressional Intervention the local affairs of the District of Columbia". And don't forget to take our [quiz](#) to test your knowledge about D.C.!

*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization.
The League neither supports or opposes political parties or candidates.
The League promotes active participation of citizens in their government
through education and advocacy.*

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