



League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area  
*Nationally Recognized & Locally Active*

[www.lwvtrifl.org](http://www.lwvtrifl.org)

Volume 12 Issue 5

November 2017

**November General Meeting**  
**Monday, November 13, 2017**

**HOT TOPIC \*The NEW Economics of Rooftop Solar in Florida \* HOT TOPIC**

**SUMTER COUNTY GOVERNMENT ANNEX\***

**ROOM 102, 7375 POWELL RD., WILDWOOD**

**10:30 a.m. – 12 noon**

**Speakers: Deirdre Macnab & Mary Dipboye**

Former Florida League president **Deirdre Macnab**, now the State League's Energy Chair, will be joined by **Mary Dipboye** as they present some exciting news about clean renewable energy and the movement that is spreading across the state thanks to grassroots civic activists.

We are happy to welcome back to our League, **Mary Dipboye**, who first brought the idea of the solar cooperative to Florida, and hear about the remarkable success that League members have had educating Floridians on how they can harness the power of the sun with their roofs.

Solar United Neighbors of Florida is proud to be a statewide partner of the League of Women Voters of Florida. The League played an instrumental role in launching Solar United Neighbors of Florida and has championed the spread of solar co-ops. Together we are bringing solar to the Sunshine state!

To find out more about this project before the November 13 General Meeting, go to <http://www.solarunitedneighbors.org/florida/about-solar-united-neighbors-of-florida/>

As Florida Solar Energy Center Director Jim Fenton says: "Solar is now the single best investment a Florida homeowner can make." Come and find out more.

**Please note the change in meeting location from the Community Bank & Trust Co. for the November meeting only.**

## **President's Pen**

Lately, too many people are throwing up their hands and saying there is nothing that one person can do. If/ when you join(ed) the League you will **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**. Here are a few concrete examples of our State League and what we have accomplished.

We are **REACTIVE** – When Hurricane Matthew was bearing down on our state, Gov. Scott did not see any need to extend voter registration dates. Pam Goodman, State President contacted a lawyer and in less than a week the deadline was extended.

We are **PROACTIVE** – The State League is in litigation regarding the appointment of Florida Supreme Court justices. Oral arguments are November 1 for our case asking that the new governor appoint justices on his/her first day in office and not the outgoing governor on his/her last day.

We are **AWARE** – The State League has filed a friend of the court brief on the side of the city of Cape Coral. The city's ordinance banning plastic bags has been struck down by the state legislature. A case of "home rule" that will set a precedent makes this more than a plastic bag case, and the state league is speaking out in favor of home rule.

We **CAN** and **DO** make a difference. Come to our November 13 meeting and see how the League is working to make the Sunshine State the Solar Power State. [Follow the link, and sign a petition to restore the voting rights to former felons.](#)

Thank you to Joanne Coen for "volunteering" to be Vice President with the understanding it is etched in stone that she will NOT move up after my term...I just need someone who is aware and able to step in while we are wandering the world.

Yours in the League  
Beth Hicks

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## **Membership**

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members, **Virginia Ryan** and **Sally Wolking**.

Just a reminder that dues are due on the anniversary month of your joining the League. You will receive an email reminder prior to your anniversary date. When you do, please make your check payable to **LWVTRI** and mail it to **Sharon Edwins**, [1144 Ardsley Place, The Villages, Florida 32163](#).

## ***December Holiday Luncheon & Gift Exchange***

***Monday, December 11, 2017***

***Red Sauce, Lake Sumter Landing, The Villages***

***11 a.m. – 1 p.m.***

Join us for our **Annual Holiday Luncheon & Gift Exchange** at **Red Sauce Restaurant** in **The Villages**. The cost is **\$25** and that includes tax, tip and soft beverage. For reservations you can contact **Carolyn Johnson**, [cgjohnson4103@gmail.com](mailto:cgjohnson4103@gmail.com), or you can bring your check to the **November General Meeting**. Seating is limited to **37** so don't delay – make your reservation now. **The deadline for reservations is Wednesday, December 6, and there will be no refunds for cancellations after that date.** Luncheon selections do not have to be made in advance, but if you would like to see what will be on the menu, **you can click here.** 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.

Our guest speaker will be **Mr. Stephen F. Muller, MS, VP Communications & Development** for **Beacon College** in **Leesburg**. Founded in 1989, Beacon College was the first institution of higher education in the country accredited to award bachelor degrees exclusively to students with learning disabilities, ADHD and other learning differences. The group of parents who conceived of Beacon College did so knowing that given the right environment, support, and tools, all students can succeed. The College is committed to student success, offering academic and personal support services that help each student achieve his or her goals. In addition, Mr. Muller will be accompanied by a student from the college. So mark your calendar and join us as we celebrate the holidays and learn more about this wonderful educational facility in our own backyard.

### ***First Woman***

A great holiday gift for a young woman you may know--***First Woman*** which recognizes American suffragists who worked successfully for women's civil rights. The wealth of detail included here irrefutably shows the growing contributions women have made to our national life. These courageous women smoothed the path that led our nation to where it is today. The cost is **\$14.95**. For information contact **Charlene Allmen**, [charallmen@gmail.com](mailto:charallmen@gmail.com). We will have copies at the November General Meeting. Makes a wonderful Hanukkah or Christmas gift!

### **Voter Services**

In 2017–18, the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) is holding its every 20 year review of the Florida Constitution. We have been speaking to groups about this very important process, so they can follow its progress and even suggest changes to the Florida Constitution. September 22 was

the deadline for submitting proposals to the CRC, but it was extended to October 6, because of Hurricane Irma and until October 31, for Commissioners to submit proposals to the CRC. The State League has been following the CRC's progress and, with several other good government organizations has issued a letter of rebuke. Apparently, the CRC is moving forward with only 6 of the 2,000 public proposals. The letter notes that the 1997-98 CRC proceeded with 30 general concepts raised by public proposals. [Read the letter and add your voice to the League's.](#)

Our Speakers Bureau has also been making the presentation on the Restoration of Felon Voting Rights. In 2018, we will be speaking to groups about both the CRC and Restoration of Felon Voting Rights. After June 2018, we will make presentations about the Primary and General Elections, as well as the Amendments that will appear on the 2018 Election Ballot.

In September and October, we interviewed both of the local State Legislators, Senator Dennis Baxley and Representative Don Hahnfeldt, about the issues in which the League has taken a position. We drafted the responses to the State Lobbyist's interview questions, to give her a sense of where our representatives stand.

We are also engaged in interviewing the managers of the Department of Motor Vehicles, in Lake, Marion and Sumter Counties, to determine what their procedures are regarding the mandate to offer voter registration to those obtaining or renewing drivers' licenses. That project must be completed by December 15.

2018 will be an election year, and once again, the League will be preparing an online Voter's Guide. It is not too early to think about becoming involved in the process. Voter service is one of the League's most important functions and if you are interested in helping, please contact **Carol Van Noy**, [denny.carol@gmail.com](mailto:denny.carol@gmail.com). There is much to do.

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

**@LWVTheVillagesTriCountyAreaFlorida**

**Forward**

*League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area  
is a nonpartisan organization. The League neither  
supports or opposes political parties or candidages.  
The does take positions on issues after study and consensus  
by the members.  
[www.lwvtrifl.org](http://www.lwvtrifl.org)*

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