



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

*Nationally Recognized & Locally Active*

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

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### From the President's Pen!

Dear Friends and Fellow Leaguers,

***Let the (Florida) Sun Shine!*** What a fantastic start to our project to bring solar power to the Sumter/Lake County area in a big way. Many thanks to Char Griffin and Linda Thomas for being a League presence as we plan a 2018 launch. There is further information and details in this newsletter. Once again, the League is making a difference!

The other big news for our local League is the establishment of an accrual account under the auspices of the LWV Florida Education Fund which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. What does this mean? It means that if you would like to make a charitable donation to our League, it will now be tax deductible. The donations to the LWVF Ed Fund are accrued to our League and can only be used for educational purposes not advocacy. For information, please contact **Sharon Edwins**, [design361@yahoo.com](mailto:design361@yahoo.com).

Our speaker's bureau continues to educate people on the Constitutional Revision Committee, and speaking engagements are on the 2018 calendar. Contact us if you would like a group to be scheduled.

And suddenly we are looking at 2018, another election year! Soon it will be time to think **voter registration, voter guides**, and other methods to inform the public.

Our treasurer, Sharon Edwins finds that she needs to resign. Please consider if this is a call to you to help. She will help train you and you will get support from a fantastic board! Think about it!

I would like to wish all a wonderful holiday season. May you and your loved ones enjoy each other and remember all the blessings of the past year.

Yours in the League,  
Beth  
Beth Hicks, President

*Happy Hanukkah*

*Merry Christmas*

*Happy & Healthy 2018!*

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### Upcoming Meetings

#### 2017 League Holiday Party & Auction

Monday, December 11, 2017

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Redsauce Restaurant, Canal Street,  
Lake Sumter Landing, The Villages

Guest Speaker:

Steve Muller, Beacon College

#### January 2018 General Meeting

When: Monday, January 22, 2018

Where: Community Bank & Trust Co.  
CR466 & Parr Dr., The Villages

Time: 10:30 a.m.

2018/19 Local League Program Planning\*  
for LWVTRI

#### February 2018 General Meeting

When: Monday, February 26, 2018

Where: Community Bank & Trust. Co.  
CR466 & Parr Dr., The Villages

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Guest Speaker: William Keen

Sumter County Supervisor of Elections

#### 2018 LWVTRI Annual Meeting

When: Monday, March 19, 2018

Where: Continental Country Club  
Wildwood

### **\*What is Program Planning?**

The League is a grassroots organization and every year prior to our Annual Meeting, the League holds a "program planning" meeting in which the members make recommendations concerning program issues.

What is the League's definition of "program?" In the League, "program" is the process of study and advocacy of issues and is the core component of the League's mission. Our "program" positions consist of all prior issues

selected by our members at our Annual Meetings. This is true at all levels of the League, local, state and national.

Our **January 22 General Meeting** will be devoted to "program" planning in preparation for our March Annual Meeting. [Click here](#) to review the **Adopted 2017/18 Program** and put **January 22, 2018** on your new calendar!

## Membership

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members **Carol Daub** and **Thomas A. Welsh**.



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**.

## *First Woman*

A great holiday gift for a young woman you may know--*First Woman* 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). Makes a wonderful Hanukkah or Christmas gift.

## 2018 LWV Florida Legislative Summit

Summit is already only 2 months away! Join other Florida League members in Tallahassee on Feb. 6 and 7 as we take over the Capitol and lobby on our issues. This is the highlight of the League year, and it is not possible without you!



Sign up to meet with your legislators, hear from lawmakers in the process, learn how to lobby them, and mingle with your fellow League members at the annual Gala! For more information, contact **Beth Hicks**, [ethicks71@gmail.com](mailto:ethicks71@gmail.com).

## 2018 LWVUS Convention

Interested in being a delegate to the 2018 Convention in the Windy City! The National League Convention will be held at the Hilton Chicago from June 28 to July 1, 2018. Meet with Leaguers from all across the country, as we make sure that Florida's voice is heard for the upcoming biennium. Stay tuned.



## Education

The second round of visits to VPK programs in the tri-county area is underway and will continue during 2018. Visits will continue through the early part of 2018, and we should have some interesting news to share with the membership at the 2018 Annual Meeting.



Among the many proposals in the legislature is one to contract the number of Early Learning Coalitions across the state. This contraction would affect those ELCs that cover more than one county. The Nature Coast ELC covers several counties, one of which is Sumter. If the proposed legislation passes, Sumter would most likely join the Lake County ELC. Naturally, we will keep an eye on this situation.

Many thanks to those League and AAUW members who have been involved with the VPK project from the beginning two years ago. What began as a project to educate ourselves and our respective organizations, has now turned into something more. Very special thanks to League members **Susan Gold** and **Gail Formanack** and AAUW member **Linda Carpenter** for their hard work on this project. If they were paid for the number of hours they have put in, they could probably take some nice vacations! We can always use more help, and if you are interested in participating in the visitations, please contact **Gail Formanack**, [formanag@gmail.com](mailto:formanag@gmail.com).

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### **Solar Power Co-op**

As a result of our November meeting about solar co-ops, a planning committee was formed to develop a co-op in our area. ([Click here to see a video of the meeting.](#)) The co-op's purpose will be to reduce installation costs for homeowners and support members from sign-up through post-installation. We are working with the state League and Solar United Neighbors (SUN) – a non-profit that has helped nearly 2,500 homeowners go solar. SUN's staff will do most of the heavy lifting to get our local co-op up and running.

LWVTRI will be responsible for finding other Community Partners to lend support, coordinate a press conference with local media to kick off the 3 month sign-up window, and find venues for three information sessions where SUN will present and answer the questions of potential co-op members.

Our committee will keep you informed as the project moves forward. We hope to hold the press conference and start member sign-ups in May 2018. In the meantime, if you want to learn more, go to <http://www.solarunitedneighbors.org>. You can just browse their site or use the link at the bottom of their home page to sign up for their newsletter.

**Char Griffin and Linda Thomas**

### **Voter Service**

#### **2018 Florida Legislative Session**

During the course of the **Florida Legislative Session**, which will begin on **Tuesday, January 9, 2018**, and last for 60 days, the League's lobbyist will provide weekly updates of what is happening in Tallahassee.

In addition, **Action Alerts** will be sent to local League members when local lobbying can play a critical role and when member interest and knowledge are high enough to produce an effective response. Local Leagues are urged to take the action requested in the Alerts in the name of their local League or as individual members as appropriate. State level positions come from the study and consensus of individual League members, so local

League support can prove very effective in lobbying on these positions. Make your voices heard in Tallahassee when you are asked!

2018 will be a busy year for Leagues across Florida. In addition to elections, there will be proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution. As you know, the FCRC has quite a few proposals that they will be voting on, and those proposed amendments will be on the November ballot. During the course of the last year, our League has been making presentations about the FCRC, and we already have presentation dates lined up for 2018.

Part of the League's mission is to educate not only ourselves but the community, so we invite you to think about making a resolution in the New Year to join the League's Speakers Bureau. This is not a solo activity. You will work with another League member and all presentation materials will be supplied. Please think about it and if you are interested, contact **Carol Van Noy**, [denny.carol@gmail.com](mailto:denny.carol@gmail.com).

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*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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