



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

Nationally Recognized & Locally Active

www.lwvtrifl.org

Volume 11 Issue 7

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**HAPPY 98TH BIRTHDAY
TO
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS!**

From the President's Pen!

Dear Fellow League Members & Friends,

The Local League continues to grow. We welcome our new members and look forward to their involvement. There are a couple areas where we could use immediate help! Kathy Hansen of the Board has graciously stepped forward to work on the nominating committee. Our bylaws say that we need 2 non Board members. Is there anyone who will step up and assist? We need some new Board members and the committee would work together to identify these future leaders in our midst.

Those who attended our January meeting had a special treat, a visit from WFME **General Manager LaFontaine Oliver**. He had the exciting news of a local NPR station, WMFV 89.5, coming to our area next in mid to late February. No more sitting in the driveway to finish a story on a radio that gets the station! He asks those interested to submit a survey to help make this station unique for our area. Please [click here](#), if you would like to participate in the survey.



Are you interested in a particular area of league concern: national resources, juvenile justice, voting rights, popular vote, etc but not ready to take over a committee? I have an easy way for you to learn more about your area of interest and dip your toe into the water of involvement. Most groups have monthly conference calls. You would be on a call with people around the state and hear what is happening first hand. This is a great way to find out more about an issue without a long term commitment. Try out a call and see what happens. Please contact **Beth Hicks**, ethicks71@gmail.com, for more information.

Thanks to our newest volunteers:

Jeannie Hamilton – Speaker's Bureau Coordinator

Mary Shulz – Speaker's Bureau

Ellen Dugan– Voter Registration Coordinator

Kim Fowler – Website Checker

Charlene Allmen – Website Checker.

As mentioned above, there is still a ***Need*** for two non board members for the 2018 Nominating Committee. Please step up and help! Our league will strengthen with many new hands. Thanks to those who stepped forward.

Thanks to those who have continued to volunteer for what needs to be done to make our league a vital force in the area.

Yours in the League,
Beth
Beth Hicks

February General Meeting

When: Monday, February 26, 2018

Where: Community Bank & Trust Co.

CR466 & Parr Drive

The Villages

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 12 noon



**Guest Speaker: William Keen
Sumter County
Supervisor of Elections**

Membership

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members
Kim Fowler, Helen Kelly, Sarah Reagan & Mary Schulz.



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.**

LWVTRI Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held on **Monday, March 19, 2018**, from **11 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the **Continental Country Club, CR44, Wildwood**. The cost is **\$25** and for entree selections, [please click here](#). In addition to electing officers and board members, members will be asked to approve our 2018–19 Program as well as the 2018–19 Budget. Results of the recent Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Consensus Study will also be announced at this meeting. For reservations and information, please contact **Carolyn Johnson**, cjohnson4103@gmail.com.

2018 LWV Florida Legislative Summit

Three League members will be attending the Legislative Summit beginning in Tallahassee on Tuesday, February 6. While there, they will be attending caucuses and also hearing from elected officials. In addition, they will be meeting with the Office of Early Learning in connection with the ongoing VPK project.



Old Capitol
Tallahassee

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.



Chicago Hilton

In Memoriam

We received word that Nancy Bell who was one of our original members died in Arizona where she had moved three years ago.

There will be a Memorial Service for Nancy on Sunday, February 11, 3 p.m. at the United Church of Christ on CR101 in Oxford.

Education



At the January 22 general meeting, in addition to local program planning for the coming League year, members participated in a local consensus on the League's Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten project. Results of the consensus will be discussed at the February board meeting and presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting on Monday, March 19, at the Continental Country Club in Wildwood. In the meantime, visits are still ongoing to the various providers in the tri-county area.

If you are interested in participating in the Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten project, please contact Susan Gold, susangold28@gmail.com.

Solar Power Co-op

As a result of the presentation on Solar Co-ops at our November 12, 2017 meeting, a number of attendees formed a Planning Committee to launch a co-op in The

Villages. This committee of both League and non-League members is working under the guidance of Solar United Neighbors which is a non-profit that formed its first co-op in Washington, D.C. in 2007, and now operates in eight states. It has helped nearly 2,500 homeowners install cost-effective rooftop solar panels on their homes.

The Planning Committee is not directed by our League. LWVTRI will be the first of many Community Partners the committee will be recruiting. Solar United Neighbors defines Community Partners as organizations that publicize the co-op to their members and allow the use of their logo in PR efforts.

In addition to finding Community Partners, the responsibilities of the Planning Committee are arranging a news conference with local media to launch the co-op and finding venues for public information meetings for individuals interested in going solar.

Solar United Neighbors handles all the other tasks including creating a webpage where interested individuals can join the co-op, sending members relevant emails throughout the process, presenting at the public information meetings, issuing Requests for Proposal (RFP) to solar installers, facilitating vendor selection, managing the installation, and serving as a resource to help homeowners with any issues that arise during or after installation.

If you would like more information about this committee, contact **Char Griffin**, char_griffin@sbcglobal.net.

Voter Service

We continue to speak to groups, about the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC), which is in its last year of its every 20 year review of the Florida Constitution.

Our Speakers Bureau has also been making the presentation on the Restoration of Felon Voting Rights and we have been collecting signatures on a petition to place the Constitutional Amendment on the ballot. Our work, with other good government partners has paid off. The we have collected sufficient signatures to qualify for the 2018 ballot. The next step will be for the Florida Supreme Court to approve the title and language of the proposed Restoration of Felon Voting Rights Constitutional Amendment, so it can appear on the 2018 General Election Ballot.

In 2017, thanks to **Beth Hicks, Char Griffin & Carol Van Noy** we interviewed our State Senator and State Representative and reported to the State Lobbyist their responses to the League's issues. In general they were very congenial and happy to give the League their opinions. Thanks to **Janis Dorgan** and **Janet Duncan**, we also interviewed

the Department of Motor Vehicles, in each of the three counties, Lake, Sumter and Marion and found them all working hard to implement the State's Motor Voter Law.

We are now beginning to prepare for the 2018 online Voters Guide and will look forward to conducting voter registrations. Any members interested in working on the Speakers' Bureau, the 2018 Voters' Guide or Voter Registration, please contact **Carol Van Noy, Voter Services Chair, 352-633-5353** or denny.carol@gmail.com.

*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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