



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

www.lwvtrifl.org

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From the President's Pen!

Annual Meeting time! I certainly hope that you have made your reservations for our upcoming annual meeting on Monday March 19. Details are in this newsletter on how you can join us. This is an important part of local league governance as the members will pass a program for the next year, pass a budget, and elect new directors. Your board has been busy getting these together and you can expect an email with a link to the required paperwork soon. We will also have guest speakers from the Sumter County School District to update us on what is going on in the schools. Based on our February meeting, we will follow up on getting our 18 year old students registered to vote!

We live in difficult times. The courage of the teens from Parkland and from all over Florida is inspiring. They can truly change the world. The League supports their endeavors to become active with the issues that impact them. Just a reminder that the League is issue oriented and we neither endorse or oppose political parties or candidates. We focus on the ISSUE and not who is or isn't supporting an issue!

The League of Women Voters of Florida seeks to reduce and prevent gun crimes, injuries, and deaths via:

1. A state ban on all semiautomatic assault weapons and large-capacity feeding devices
2. Comprehensive universal background checks and ensuring that the State provides all relevant records to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS)
3. Continuing efforts to defeat unsafe gun legislation, such as Open Carry, Campus Carry, and Stand Your Ground expansion.

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.

See you at the Annual Meeting on March 19th!

In League,
Beth Hicks, President

P.S. The newest NPR station is up and running in our area. It is WMFV 89.5 FM!

12th Annual Meeting

When: Monday, March 19, 2018

Where: Continental Country Club

CR44, Wildwood, Florida

Time: 11 a.m. – 1 p..m.

Guest Speakers:



Sumter County
School
District

Debbie Moffitt, Sr. Director of Curriculum & Instructional Services

Deborah W. Smith, Sr. Director of Business & Institutional Services

Lisa Whiteman, Sr. Director of Human Resources & Administrative Services

Membership

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members:

Linda & Gregory Cooke
Joan Fitzgibbons
Dee Melvin.



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

There is still time to make your reservation for the **12th Annual Meeting** to be held on **Monday, March 19, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.** at the **Continental County Club, CR 44 in Wildwood.** The cost is **\$25.** [Please click here for the reservation form.](#) Your reservation form and check payable to **LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area** should be sent to **Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Drive, The Villages, FL 32162.** If you have any questions, please contact **Carolyn Johnson, cgjohnson4103@gmail.com.**

[The Annual Meeting Packet can be accessed by clicking here.](#) The packet contains the proposed budget and program for 2018–19 as well as the list of nominees. We ask that you print out those items you will need for reference at the meeting.

League Name Badges

League name badges are now available to all members for \$5 with either a magnetic or pin backing. If you would like to order one, please contact **Beth Hicks, ethicks71@gmail.com.** The turn around time is quick!



April General Meeting

Monday, April 23, 10:30 a.m.
Community Bank & Trust Co., CR466 & Parr Drive, The Villages
Consumer Protection in Florida
John Eisner & Dick Romeo

May General Meeting

Monday, May 21, 10:30 a.m.
Community Bank & Trust Co., CR466 & Parr Drive, The Villages
Constitutional Revision Commission Amendments on the November Ballot
League Speakers Bureau

Links Checker Needed

Char Griffin, who is our website administrator, needs one more link checker for our website. Once a month you would check our links to make sure they are all active. Let her know through the website you are able to do this. Many thanks!



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

Tales from Tallahassee

Jake and Diana Bishop attended the 2018 LWV Florida Legislative Summit in February, and enjoyed two full days of training, discussion and advocating on LWV issues.

At the end of the second day a recognition dinner took place, and it was interesting to hear the success stories. One success story was a local League who far surpassed their quota of signed ballot petitions. Another was League members from Seminole County and solar power co-ops. The women who initially knew nothing about solar were able to successfully put together a co-op of 60 participants and are in the process of starting a second co-op. This is happening around the state. These are only two examples of the power of the League Members working together on an issue. We came away with a much more optimistic view of what can be changed.

All attendees were welcoming and helpful. The process of educating new people was very thorough. This was our second time attending and was as educational, if not more, than the first. This year's attendance of 200 members was one of the largest yet, and we would recommend anyone with the time and energy to attend.

Education

Visits to VPK providers in the tri-county area are winding down as we complete another part of our examination of Florida's VPK program. This joint project between our League and Lake/Sumter AAUW has been under way for three years.



In the current phase of the project, 18 volunteers are going in teams of two to observe VPK classrooms in action and to interview each program's director and VPK teacher. To date, we have visited 18 programs in the tri-county area, with each visit lasting at least three hours. After each visit, the two visitors prepare four reports: a director interview report, a teacher interview report, an observation checklist, and an observation narrative. It's easy to see that each of our volunteers put in many hours of work for each observation, and most volunteers completed at least two site visits.

In earlier phases of this project, volunteers were involved in designing the observation and interview forms, participating in pilot testing of our materials and procedures, and helping to revise them as needed. For this final phase, in addition to those volunteers who are conducting site visits, several others planned and are carrying out the analysis of the information collected. A report based on this information will be issued in late summer or early fall.

As we approach the end of our process of learning about VPK, we would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was involved. In all, 25 volunteers from our two organizations have contributed to the project: We could not have done it without them. And now we are looking forward to the Annual Meeting and reporting on the VPK consensus meeting which was held in January.

Voter Service

Our Speakers Bureau now has a new Coordinator: Jeannie Hamilton is now accepting requests for speakers. Thank you Jeannie!! We continue to speak to groups, about: the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC), which is in the process of holding public hearings to decide which proposals to place on the 2018 General Election Ballot; the Restoration of Felon Rights, which will be on the 2018 Ballot; and two other topics are in our future. We have a Power Point Presentation for the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, which is an initiative in the development stages, to urge states to agree to instruct their Presidential Electors to vote for the candidate who received the most votes, nationwide, instead of in their state. After all of the Amendments to the Florida Constitution have been filed with the Florida Secretary of State, we will prepare a Power Point Presentation explaining the proposed Amendments and the pros and cons of voting for them. If you belong to a group who would like to have a speaker on one of these topics, please contact Jeannie Hamilton. Or, if you have speaking experience and would like to volunteer to speak for the League, please contact Carol Van Noy.

Florida is one of the States in the Public Advocacy for Voting Rights (PAVR), which is researching compliance with the Motor Voter Laws. In 2017, Janis Dorgan and Janet Duncan, interviewed the

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), in each of the three counties, Lake, Sumter and Marion and found them all working hard to implement the State's Motor Voter Law. The PAVR now wants us to send members whose licenses are due for renewal to their local DMV Office, and report back whether they were offered the opportunity to register to vote. If your drivers' license is due for renewal, and you are willing to go to your local DMV Office, please contact Carol Van Noy to volunteer.

Ellen Dugan has volunteered to implement a Voter Registration Drive. Thank you Ellen!! Ellen and Carol will meet with the Supervisors of Elections in the three counties and ask what we can do to help them. Once we know their needs, we will make a plan and Ellen will implement it. If you are interested in Voter Registration, please contact Ellen Dugan.

Webmaster Charlene Griffin and Carol Van Noy are again preparing to develop the 2018 online Voters Guide. For the first time, we will use VOTE 411, a software program sponsored by the US League. The program offers the voter a ballot specific to their address and the ability to compare candidates for the same office. We still must contact the candidates and urge them to give us the information that we need for the program. If you are interested in researching candidate contact information, please contact Carol Van Noy.

MEMBER VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- Contact **Jeannie Hamilton, Speakers' Bureau Coordinator, 303-817-9988, jeannie@jeannierealtor.com**, if you belong to a group who would like to have a speaker on one of the topics, described above.
- Contact **Ellen Dugan, Voter Registration Coordinator, 352-633-5241, ellen.dugan@gmail.com**, if you are interested in Voter Registration.
- Contact **Carol Van Noy, Voter Services Chair, 352-633-5353, denny.carol@gmail.com**, if you have speaking experience and would like to volunteer to speak for the League; or, if your drivers' license is due for renewal, and you are willing to go to your local DMV Office and report back on whether they offered voter registration; or, if you are interested in researching 2018 candidate contact information.

*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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