



2024
Annual Meeting
Packet

**Annual Meetings
March 14, 2024
Grand Oaks Bistro**

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**LWV The Villages/Tri-County
Annual Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2023**

Meeting Called to Order by Mary Kay Rosinski (Co-President) at 12:38 PM

- The Rules of the Meeting were reviewed by Rosinski
 - A Motion to adopt the Rules was made by June Webber and a 2nd was made by Beth Hicks
 - The motion carried
- Meeting Minutes
 - The Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting were approved by a Special Committee and were published in the Annual Meeting Packet
 - Rosinski presented the names of this year's Special Committee
 - There were no objections so Jill Davie and Diane Grayber will review and correct the minutes of this Annual Meeting
- Adoption of the ByLaws and the Proposed Changes
 - As mailed in the Annual Meeting Packet
 - A Motion to Adopt the ByLaws as Amended was made by Kathy Williamson and a 2nd was made by Linda Carpenter
 - The motion carried
- Adoption of the 2023-2024 Budget
 - The Budget Committee consisting of Barbara Giger, Barbara Fieldman, Treasurer Bernadette Aley and Mary Kay Rosinski submitted the budgets found in your packet
 - There are two (2) budgets-a Regular Budget and an Education Budget
 - Now that our League has established its own 501(C)(3) charitable organization called the LWVTRI Education Fund there is a requirement to adopt a second budget
 - A Motion to Approve the Regular Budget was made by Mary Schulz and a 2nd was made by Linda Carpenter-the motion carried
 - A Motion to Approve the Education Budget was made by Beth Hicks and a 2nd by Char Griffin-the motion carried
- Adoption of the 2023-2024 Program
 - A Motion to Adopt the Program as published in the Annual Meeting Packet was made by Sue Bodenner with a 2nd by Linda Carpenter

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- Discussion
 - The proposed Program reflects our “core issues”
 - Suggestion for a Program Addition was made to-“Urge the LWVFL to provide leadership and support for eliminating Florida’s write-in loophole.”
 - This suggestion was in the form of a Motion which was viewed as an addition to the initial Motion to Adopt Program
 - As a discussion item the motion was made by Kathy Williamson with a 2nd by Beth Hicks and carried
 - An additional suggestion in the form of a Motion was made by Kathy Williamson with a 2nd by Mary Schulz to “Support and promote universal standards and accountability for tax-funded schools.” And that Public Schools need to provide programming for “complete” understanding by students.
 - There was an extended discussion including an opinion stated by Linda Carpenter that this does not represent our focus and is not in our best interest or appropriate for our League.
 - June Webber called the question and the motion was not carried
 - A suggestion in the form of a Motion was made by June Webber with a 2nd by Linda Carpenter to review our Program as it addresses education and also to remove the Education Section of the Program and review it before becoming part of the Program. That was carried
 - A Motion to **Adopt the Program as Amended** was made by Linda Carpenter with a 2nd by Beth Hicks
 - This carried
- Election of Officers and Directors
 - Mary Schulz, the Nominating Committee Chair presented the Slate of Officers and Directors as it appeared in the Annual Meeting Packet
 - Mary Kay reviewed each position and asked if there were any Nominations From the Floor- there were none
 - A Motion to Close Nominations was made by Char Griffin with a 2nd by Cecile Bouchard
 - The Motion carried and the Chair then cast a vote for the nominees
 - Election Results

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- Mary Kay Rosinski, Co-President: 2-year term
- Carol Van Noy, Vice President of Voter Services: 2-year term
- Phil Grayber, Secretary: 1-year term
- Kathy Porter, Treasurer: 2-year term
- Dorothy Duncan, Director: 2-year term
- Cheryl McBride, Director of Communications: 2-year term
- Announcements
 - Beth Hicks announced we can send 6 Delegates who can Vote to the LWV Florida State Convention
 - As of now we have 4 committed to go with 2 openings
 - It would be good to be able to use our 6 votes so please consider attending

Co-President Mary Kay Rosinski declared the **Meeting Adjourned** at 1:27 PM

Respectfully submitted, Phil Grayber - Secretary

LWV The Villages/Tri-County Annual Report FY 2023 - 2024

Even with few elections in FY 2022 -23, it was a busy year.



In October we hosted our second community event: *Disinformation: Spot It! Stop It!* Over 100 people attended. Lake County Supervisor of Elections, Alan Hayes, explained the safeguards his office has in place to ensure election integrity. Despite these safeguards, his office had to deal with false narratives spread on social media about compromised elections. The second half of the event was a workshop where audience members tested their skills at validating information.

In April LWVTRI called an organizational meeting of organizations within the tri-county area that share similar goals centered on empowering voters. We shared what each of our organizations has to offer and continue to reach out for support when our work intersects.



LWVFL was one of the sponsors of the *Transformative Justice Freedom Ride* in May. The voter-cade harkened back to the days of the *Freedom Riders* who risked their lives to help Blacks vote in the South. Our local League had voter registration tables and a speaker at the stops in Ocala and Leesburg.



In total we had nine voter registration events throughout our three counties. During these events 30 volunteers registered five new voters and collected 410 pledge cards from those registered to vote. We will use the contact information supplied on the cards to remind people of important election dates and notify them when our voter guides for the 2024 Primary and General elections are published on Vote411.

Our League was also active in sending post cards to returning citizens attempting to have their voting rights restored. The Florida Legislature's interpretation of Amendment 4, a citizen's initiative intended to restore those rights, has created roadblocks the League assists in overcoming. The post cards direct returning citizens to lawyers who work pro bono to answer their questions. Over 32,000 post cards were addressed by 14 volunteers.

Even though there were no elections in most communities last fiscal year, Ocala had its municipal elections. Three volunteers worked to publish the Vote411 vote guide for the Ocala City Council race. Both candidates responded to the questions for our voter guide and attended the candidate meet-and-

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Annual Report
FY 2023 - 2024**

greet hosted by three volunteers. Because of this LWTRI-sponsored event 30 voters had the opportunity to meet the candidates before making an informed choice.

The Speakers Bureau educated our community on 10 different topics - including two that were new. Our 25 volunteers made 15 presentations to over 340 people throughout the year.

On March 5 we will speak at the Leesburg Public Library along with Lake SOE, Alan Hays, essentially recreating the October Disinformation Event. This will be one of several events the library is running in 2024 around the theme: *Voices & Votes: Democracy in America*.

The culmination will be a traveling Smithsonian Institution exhibit of this name, which will be on display in November. The library was one of a handful of locations nationwide who were chosen to host this exhibit. LWVTRI wrote a letter of support in the packet the library submitted during the application process and committed to promote this exhibit throughout the community. More on those efforts next fiscal year.

LWV The Villages/Tri-County Recognition of Those Who Made It Happen

Every League member makes a difference, but without the leadership of the following individuals
LWVTRI would not have been able to function

Board Members

Bernadette Aley: As Meetings & Events Director, Bernadette booked and coordinated the speakers at our meetings and handled the many details required for our Holiday and Annual Meeting luncheons.

Gail Formanack: None of us would be members without Gail. She sent out renewal notices, reached out to new members, maintained the membership list, and coordinated the New Member Welcome Events. Prior to taking on this important role, Gail served as co-president of our League for three years.

Phil Grayber: Phil served 3-years on the Board first as vice president and later as secretary, but you also saw him as the greeter at our meetings because whenever something needed to be done, Phil would volunteer to do it.

Jeannie Hamilton: Jeannie had to leave the Board shortly after our 2023 Annual Meeting due to health issues, but during her years of service she was the idea-generator who constantly directed us towards new opportunities. Jeannie also served as Speaker Bureau Chair and substantially grew the number of engagements throughout the tri-county area.

Christine Loken-Kim: Joining the Board shortly after becoming a League member, Christine served as director from 2022 to 2024. As an out-of-the-box thinker, Christine made many suggestions that improved our League from including more options for member involvement at our meetings to website design changes that improved navigation.

Kathy Porter: The money person, our Treasurer Kathy Porter, is responsible for collecting and dispersing funds, ensuring we operate within budget, reconciling the bank balances of two organizations, all while dealing with the technological challenges of our credit card processing application, *Square*.

Dorothy Stephens: Serving as director since 2021, Dorothy was a steady Board presence with an extensive knowledge of League operations. Dorothy could always be counted on to volunteer for projects from planning the Community Event in 2023 to working on Speakers Bureau.

Carol Van Noy: As Voter Services is the heart-and-soul of the League, the Vice President of Voter Services is the heart-and-soul of the Board. Carol's extensive knowledge of the functioning of governments at both state and local levels has been instrumental in guiding all of our voter services efforts. She has formed close relationships with local officials, developed leaders to chair the areas within her portfolio, and created documentation for her successor.

LWV The Villages/Tri-County Recognition of Those Who Made It Happen

Committee Chairs

Janis Dorgan: Janis handled LWVTRI's Public Relations for so many years there is no record of when she started. Through her efforts, the League has become known throughout the tri-county area and the public learned about our community events as well as general meetings. She also shared her artistic talents in designing graphics for our promotional materials, social media, and website.

Diane Guffey scheduled Speaker Bureau engagements, maintained the equipment, and trained presenters and assistants. Her efforts not only served to advance our mission of educating voters but also brought new members into our League.

Beth Hicks: Beth has served in many roles through her years in the League, including two-terms as President. Since stepping down from those duties, she has served as newsletter editor. Being a world-traveler never stopped Beth from getting emails out, even if that meant working from her smart phone on a ship off the coast of Greece while she was quarantined with COVID.

Audrietta izlar: Audrietta juggles Speakers Bureau, Voter Registration, Vote 411, and Candidate Meet & Greets in Marion County. She is the linking pin to other civic minded organizations in Ocala bringing new energy and purpose to that part of the tri-county area.

Sandy Christian: As Voter Registration Chair, Sandy, recruits the volunteers and maintains the equipment for the ever-increasing number of requests for LWVTRI to register voters at events throughout the community. This year we have worked events sponsored by churches, colleges, and civic organizations.

LWV The Villages/Tri-County

Rules of the Meeting

1. Twenty percent (20%) of the membership shall constitute a quorum at the Annual Meeting.
2. Only members of The League of Women Voters of The Villages / Tri-County Area shall have the privilege of the floor and vote.
3. A majority of the voting members present shall be required for the adoption of the proposed program and bylaws.
4. In the event of prolonged discussion of any item of business, each member will be limited to 2 minutes to speak to the issue unless otherwise stipulated.
5. Nominations may be made from the floor by any voting members, provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

LWV The Villages/Tri-County (501c4) Proposed Bylaw Changes

FISCAL YEAR

Rationale for Change: When the bylaws were written the fiscal year for both LWV US and LWVFL was April 1st through March 31st. Both organizations have since changed their fiscal year to July 1st to June 30th. The LWVTRI Board recommends this bylaw change to again align our fiscal year with theirs.

ARTICLE VI. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area shall commence on the 1st day of ~~April~~ **July** and end on the ~~31st~~ **30th** day of ~~March~~ **June** of each year. These dates coincide with the League of Women Voters of Florida fiscal year.

DISSOLUTION

Rationale for Change: Our 501c3 was not established when the bylaws were written.

ARTICLE VI. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 6. Dissolution. In the event of dissolution for any cause of the League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area, all monies and securities owned by said League, after all accounts have been closed, shall be given to the **League of Women Voters of The Villages Tri County Area Education Fund.** ~~League of Women Voters of Florida.~~

LWV The Villages/Tri-County (501c4) FY 2024-25 Proposed Program

NOTE: The Board proposes that all programs for FY 2024-25 fiscal year be run out of the LWVTRI Education Fund (501c3.) The 501c4 will become inactive.

~~**League Advocacy**—Encourage local League members to respond to calls for action that come from the State and National Leagues.~~

~~**Local Government**—Promote an open government that is responsive to the people of the tri-county area.~~

- ~~• Monitor and support transparency in local government actions in the tri-county area.~~
- ~~• Urge LWVFL to provide leadership and support for eliminating Florida's write-in loophole.~~

~~**Voter Services**—Provide information about elections, election process, redistricting, and changes in the election law regarding voter access.~~

- ~~• Support and promote registration, activation, and education of voters.~~
- ~~• Educate on the state-wide initiative on National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.~~
- ~~• Support and promote the LWVFL position on the integrity of the election process.~~
- ~~• Support and promote the implementation of the voting rights restoration amendment.~~
- ~~• Urge LWVFL to provide leadership and support for open primaries.~~
- ~~• Urge LWVFL to provide leadership and support for ranked choice voting.~~
- ~~• Urge LWVFL to focus solely on core issues related to empowering voters and defending democracy.~~

LWV The Villages/Tri County Area (501c4)
FY 2024-25 Proposed Budget

Proposed 15-Month Budget
April 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

NOTE: This is the budget we will consider if the amendment to change the fiscal year passes.

Line		Proposed	Comment
	INCOME		
1	Dues	\$ 2,250	Average 10 members per month. Dues are \$15.
2	Susan B Anthony (SBA) Contributions	975	We receive approximately \$65/month in SBA
3	Total Income	\$ 3,225	
	EXPENSE		
4	SunBiz	\$ 125	Annual registrations of 501c3 with Florida (Apr)
5	Transfer to 501c3	3,100	
6	Total Expense	\$3,225	

Proposed 12-Month Budget
April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025

NOTE: This is the budget we will consider if the amendment to change the fiscal year fails.

Line		Proposed	Comment
	INCOME		
1	Dues	\$ 1,800	Average 10 members per month. Dues are \$15.
2	Susan B Anthony (SBA) Contributions	780	We receive approximately \$65/month in SBA
3	Total Income	\$ 2,580	
	EXPENSE		
4	SunBiz	\$ 65	Annual registration of 501c3 with Florida
5	Transfer to 501c3	2,515	
6	Total Expense	\$ 2,580	

LWV The Villages/Tri County Area (501c4)
FY 2024-25 Proposed Slate of Officers & Directors

The Nominating Committee consisting of Ann Koziol and Char Griffin propose the following slate.

Position	Nominee	Notes
Co-President (2-year term) 2024-26	Char Griffin	
Co-President (1-year term) 2024-25	Cheryl McBride	Completing final year of Mary Kay Rosinski's term
Secretary (2-year term) 2024-26	Vickie Southworth	
Director of Meetings & Events (2-year term) 2024-26	Bernadette Aley	
Director of Membership (2-year term) 2024-26	Tina Getz	
Director of Communications (1-year term) 2024-25	Gail Formanack	Completing final year of Cheryl McBride's term

LWV The Villages/Tri County Area Education (501c3) Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD)

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

What Are They?

QCDs are donations made directly from a traditional IRA to a qualified charitable organization. They are not included in income. QCDs count toward an individual's required minimum distribution (RMD).

What Is The Benefit?

QCDs reduce your adjusted gross income and potentially reduce your taxable income and the tax due.

You Qualify if:

- You are over 70 1/2
- You have a traditional IRA
- You are making charitable contributions
- The QCD is made directly from your IRA to the charitable institution
- Each individual can donate up to \$100,000 as a QCD if all requirements are met (reduced by cumulative deductible contributions to an IRA made at age 70 1/2 or later).

How to Make a Qualified Charitable Distribution

1. Contact your IRA trustee or financial institution for their procedures for QCDs.
2. Determine the amount that you want to contribute and advise your IRA trustee or financial institution.
3. Keep proof of your contributions such as a statement from the charitable institution and from the paying institution.

When Preparing Your Return

1. Your 1099-R will show the full amount of the distribution as taxable income.
2. The taxable amount on the 1099-R will need to be reduced by the amount of your QCD.
3. Only the reduced taxable amount will be included in your taxable income.
4. Since QCDs are not included in income, if you itemize your deductions, they are not allowable as charitable contributions.
5. Include proof of your contributions with tax documents for the year.

LWV The Villages/Tri County Area Education (501c3) FY 2024-25 Proposed Program

*After discussion at the general meeting on January 11, 2024
the Board proposes no revisions to the Program adopted at
the March 27, 2024 Annual Meeting*

FY 2024 - 25 Program

League Advocacy- Encourage local League members to respond to calls for action that come from the State and National Leagues.

Local Government - Promote an open government that is responsive to the people of the tri-county area.

- Monitor and support transparency in local government actions in the tri-county area.
- Urge LWVFL to provide leadership and support for eliminating Florida's write-in loophole.

Voter Services - Provide information about elections, election process, redistricting, and changes in the election law regarding voter access.

- Support and promote registration, activation, and education of voters.
- Educate on the state-wide initiative on National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.
- Support and promote the LWVFL position on the integrity of the election process.
- Support and promote the implementation of the voting rights restoration amendment.
- Urge LWVFL to provide leadership and support for open primaries.
- Urge LWVFL to provide leadership and support for ranked choice voting.
- Urge LWVFL to focus solely on core issues related to empowering voters and defending democracy.

**LWV The Villages/Tri County Area Education(501c3)
FY 2024-25 Proposed Budget**

**Proposed 15-Month Budget
April 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025**

NOTE: This is the budget we will consider if the amendment to change the fiscal year passes.

Line			Proposed	Comment
INCOME				
1	Contributions		\$ 7,540	
2	Development Funds	\$ 3,000		From donor to cover Voter Service expenses
3	Fundraisers	680		Monthly 50/50 and Holiday Luncheon raffles
4	Qualified Charitable Distributions	2,500		
5	Speakers Bureau	1,360		\$40/session for 34 sessions
6	Dues		\$ 3,100	Transferred from 501c4
7	Total Income		\$ 10,640	
EXPENSE				
8	Board Operating Expenses		\$ 2,180	
9	Administrative	\$ 400		Printing, SunBiz, Registration for <i>Doing Business As</i> (DBA)
10	Insurance	600		
11	Software	580		Quicken, Square Fees, Zoom
12	LWVFL Convention	600		
13	Communications		\$ 3,010	
14	Social Media Intern	\$ 2,400		
15	Software	610		Email & Website
16	Meetings & Events		\$ 160	
17	Meeting Supplies	\$ 60		
18	Speaker Donations	100		Holiday Luncheon Speaker
19	Membership		\$ 500	Member Appreciation & New Member Welcome
20	Voter Services		\$ 4,850	
21	Printing	1,500		Voter Registration & Speaker Bureau
22	Promotions	1,400		Vote411 & Voter Registration
23	Technology	\$ 1,950		Anti-Virus, Hot Spots, Texting, Vote411
24	Total Expense		\$ 10,720	

**LWV The Villages/Tri County Area Education(501c3)
FY 2024-25 Proposed Budget**

**Proposed 12-Month Budget
April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025**

NOTE: This is the budget we will consider if the amendment to change the fiscal year fails.

Line			Proposed	Comment
INCOME				
1	Contributions		\$ 7,260	
2	Development Funds	\$ 3,000		From donor to cover Voter Service expenses
3	Fundraisers	560		Monthly 50/50 and Holiday Luncheon raffles
4	Qualified Charitable Distributions	2,500		
5	Speakers Bureau	1,200		\$40/session for 30 sessions
6	Dues		\$ 2,515	Transferred from 501c4
7	Total Income		\$ 9,775	
EXPENSE				
8	Board Operating Expenses		\$ 1,890	
9	Administrative	\$ 310		Printing, SunBiz, Registration for <i>Doing Business As</i> (DBA)
10	Insurance	600		
11	Software	380		Quicken, Square Fees, Zoom
12	LWVFL Convention	600		
13	Communications		\$ 2,960	
14	Social Media Intern	2,400		
15	Software	\$ 560		Email & Website
16	Meetings & Events		\$ 150	
17	Meeting Supplies	\$ 50		
18	Speaker Donations	100		Holiday Luncheon Speaker
19	Membership		\$ 500	New Member & Membership Appreciation
20	Voter Services		\$ 4,210	
21	Printing	1,200		Voter Registration & Speaker Bureau
22	Promotions	1,360		Vote411 & Voter Registration
23	Technology	\$ 1,650		Anti-Virus, Hot Spots, Texting, Vote411
24	Total Expense		\$ 9,710	