



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF TALLAHASSEE

Tallahassee

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OUR PURPOSE:

To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected government issues

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Annual Business Meeting with Brunch & Mimosas!

Please note: Different day of the week, different time, different menu!



Our April meeting is the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee's annual business meeting. This is the meeting where we elect officers for the coming year and vote on proposed amendments to our bylaws, the proposed program, positions recommended for re-adoption, and the proposed budget. All of this material was presented in the March newsletter and is reprinted below in this newsletter. Please read it and come prepared to vote. This is your League and your vote is necessary to determine the direction of the League for the upcoming year. After the voting, we'll toast ourselves with mimosas!



April 2, 1513. Spanish explorer Ponce De Leon sighted Florida and claimed it for the Spanish Crown after landing at the site of present day St. Augustine, now the oldest city in the continental U.S.

04 Tuesday 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m., Workshop on Establishment of Citizen Charter Review Committee County Courthouse 5th floor

04 Tuesday 3:00 p.m. Leon County Commission

Date Saturday, April 22, 2017
Time 10:00 a.m.--12:00 noon
Location Four Points by Sheraton
 316 West Tennessee Street
Menu Scrambled eggs, sausage, potatoes, grits, muffins, pastries, fruit, mimosas
Cost **Members - \$20 Nonmembers - \$23**

The first three student members to RSVP eat FREE!

FOR RESERVATIONS please call 309-3005 and leave a message or email LWVTallahassee@gmail.com.

Because the League must pay for reservations cancelled after Wednesday, April 19, those who cancel late must

County Courthouse 5th floor
 04 Tuesday 6:00 p.m. Joint
 City-County Transmittal
 Hearing on Cycle 2017 Comp
 Plan Amendments City Hall
 2nd floor

05 Wednesday 4:00 p.m. City
 Commission Meeting
 City Hall 2nd Floor

11 Tuesday 6:00 p.m. Leon
 County School Board
 Howell Center
 3955 W. Pensacola Street

14 Friday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 Ignite the Power Within
 TCC Workforce Development
 Building

18 Tuesday 4:00 p.m.-7:00
 p.m., Tallahassee Ethics
 Board Meeting, City Hall 2nd
 Floor

20 Thursday 6:00 p.m.
 LWVT Board Meeting
 United Church in Tallahassee
 1834 Mahan Drive

22 Saturday 10:00 a.m.-12:00
 noon, LWVT Annual Meeting
 Four Points-Sheraton Hotel
 316 W. Tennessee Street

22 Saturday 11:00 a.m.
 Tallahassee March for Science
 Anita Favors Thompson Plaza
 124 West Van Buren Street

25 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.
 Leon County Commission
 County Courthouse 5th floor

25 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
 Hearing on regulations for
 medical marijuana
 dispensaries, County
 Courthouse 5th floor

25 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
 Leon County School Board
 Howell Center
 3955 W. Pensacola Street

26 Wednesday 4:00 p.m. City
 Commission Meeting
 City Hall 2nd Floor

reimburse the League for the cost of their reservations or find someone to take their places at the Hot Topic.

President's Message



Last week, those of us who believed that the federal Affordable Care Act was worth saving breathed a sigh of relief when the Speaker of the House withdrew the bill to "repeal and replace Obamacare." Many of you sent postcards and letters expressing your concern that many Americans would lose health insurance if the American Health Care Act proposed in the House of Representatives was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump.

Now we must insist that our representatives in Congress recognize that changes to the ACA are needed to make sure that all Americans can afford to keep their health insurance and use it, I hope you will contact your representatives again and stress the need to fix Obamacare, In my communications, I plan to ask Congress to seriously and carefully consider revisions only after obtaining input from all stakeholders, Both Republicans and Democrats should work on any changes, If there are alternatives to the mandate to purchase insurance, these changes must result in participation by all since this is necessary to keep insurance premiums reasonable for everyone. If they consider revising the required services covered under an insurance plan, they should remember that many people suffering from mental illness and drug addiction have benefited from having these services included, No provisions concerning the de-funding of Planned Parenthood would be acceptable in my view, but you may disagree. And I certainly would ask that they seriously reconsider their plans to block grant Medicaid.

Just as the League believes and preaches nonpartisanship, we have to let Congress know that we expect all members of Congress to work together to address the problems faced by our country, We should encourage our representatives to "keep their eyes on the prize": health care for all. Here is the LWVUS position on health care: Public policy should "promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs."

Let's keep the pressure on.....

*Kathy Winn, President
 League of Women Voters of Tallahassee*

LWVT's Annual Business Meeting in April

The League of Women Voters of Tallahassee will hold its annual business meeting and luncheon this year on Saturday, April 22, at 11:00 a.m. at Four Points by Sheraton. The membership will vote on the following items of business:

1. Officers for 2017--2018. The slate proposed by the Nominating Committee is:

President: Linda Davis

Vice-President: Teri Cleeland

Secretary: Margaret Boeth

Treasurer: Peggy Ramsey

2. Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws.

Article III, Section 2(a). Last summer at the National Convention, the League of Women Voters of the United States amended its Bylaws to change the minimum age to join the League from 18 to 16 years of age, and to remove the citizenship requirement. We are required to amend our bylaws to reflect the same changes. This is called a conforming amendment and no vote of the membership is necessary. The amended Section 2(a) will read as follows:

Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of local Leagues, state Leagues, and of the LWVUS.

Article VIII, Section 1, Nominating Committee. The LWVT Board of Directors has proposed to amend Article VIII, Section 1, by adding the underlined sentences below so that the section reads as follows:

The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting and shall consist of three to five members, at least two of whom shall be board members. The Nominating Committee shall receive nominations for officers and directors from any voting member. The period of time for submitting suggested nominees to the Nominating Committee shall be announced in the January Voter. The announcement shall include the names of the members of the Nominating Committee and their contact information. Persons suggesting nominees shall secure the willingness of their suggested nominees to serve.

3. Proposed Program for 2017--2018. The proposed LWVT Program for 2017--2018 is as follows:

Voter Service

Register and educate voters during the Saturday Downtown Market, at League activities, and by tabling at allied organization functions and community events. Educate the public on voter registration changes, voter systems and voter rights. Work with Leon County Supervisor of Elections to advance election reform. Support efforts to restore voting rights of convicted felons who have completed their sentences.

Promote Political Responsibility

Continue to inform members and the public about civic responsibilities and issues through monthly Hot Topic meetings as well as through a variety of community events. Promote League positions taken on proposed constitutional amendments. Support anti-corruption legislation. Hold workshops on how to advocate with elected officials using the speakers' bureau. Encourage citizen participation at Constitutional Revision Commission hearings.

Local Government

Engage with elected and appointed officials and staff members of local governmental entities in order to be informed of and investigate issues related to the League program that are of interest to members. Monitor City of Tallahassee and County Commission agendas and minutes to be alert to evolving issues and to promote efficient and responsible local governments. Participate in related state and national League studies. Study the current city and county land use and zoning planning criteria and process to determine the impact on quality of life in Leon County.

Education

Continually monitor Leon County Schools to determine the extent to which students in the county have access to a free public school system, in keeping with LWVUS and LWVF policy and position statements. This would include monitoring standardized testing reduction efforts, the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program (vouchers), the privatization of public education, early childhood education, and defacto segregation in our county school system.

Health Care

Support, monitor, and take action for ongoing national, state, and local physical and mental health care policies with educational and legislative initiatives that promote socio-economic, racial, ethnic, age and disability equity in accessing affordable, quality health care for all and control of costs. Provide information on the Affordable Care Act and potential changes to the Act. Support funding for providers of health care for the uninsured and initiatives to reduce infant mortality and food insecurity. Support accreditation of local hospitals and birthing centers as Baby Friendly. Advocate for mental health courts and crisis intervention training. Support women's reproductive rights.

Climate Change and Sustainability

Educate League members and the community on climate and environmental sustainability issues. Promote local and regional initiatives to ameliorate climate change and enhance long-term sustainability. Support increased use of solar energy.

Social and Economic Justice

Promote existing League positions and activities that address economic disparity. Seek to enhance educational and economic opportunity, education reform, progressive taxation, children and families, juvenile justice and access to health care and affordable housing in the local area. Promote the expansion of the City of Tallahassee's digital canopy to low-income areas including South City and Frenchtown. Support initiatives to identify and prosecute human trafficking.

Lobby Corps

Continue to support the LWVF's legislative advocacy effort at the Capitol by training volunteers in citizen advocacy, including monitoring and reporting on state legislative action of specific interest to the LWVF, such as health care, women's health and reproductive rights, gun safety, education, energy, land use, natural resources (especially water), taxation, and election law.

4. Recommended Positions for Re-adoption. The LWVT positions recommended for re-adoption for 2017--2018 are as follows:

Transportation

July 1994, the LWVT supports a transportation system that protects the environment and neighborhoods and gives incentives for multi-person transit. To this end, LWVT supports parking limitations, dedicated high occupancy vehicle lanes, Transportation Demand Management strategies such as flex-time, telecommuting and ride-sharing. The LWVT

agrees that consideration should be given to a light rail system.

The LWVT supports establishment of a countywide bicycle and pedestrian system of bike lanes, bike paths and sidewalks to facilitate motor-free transportation. The LWVT supports creation of a balanced transportation system that emphasizes protection of the environment and underscores the need for alternatives to single occupancy vehicles. Emphasis is placed on accommodating people who cannot or choose not to drive an automobile.

April, 2012, the LWVT supports a safer environment for pedestrians and bikers on Tennessee Street. The League supports a reduction in the number of lanes for cars to four, with turn lanes, where the remaining two lanes are designated as bus lanes also available to bicycle traffic that separate pedestrians from fast-moving automobile traffic. The League supports "Moving Tallahassee: Cars Optional," the creation of an eighteen-square-mile area in the heart of Tallahassee dedicated to creating a safe environment for pedestrians, cyclists, and transit users.

Charter Government

July 2000, LWVT supports charter governments in Leon County. We support charter review committees that review charters periodically and that have the power to propose amendments to the charter for direct placement on the ballot at the next general election. We believe all amendments to the charter should be accomplished by a simple majority vote. We support "an achievable percentage" of registered voters to bring about citizen petition; we oppose requiring 10% of registered voters from each district for citizen initiatives. We support establishing oversight of constitutional officers. We oppose allowing county ordinances to supersede city ordinances.

In 2002, Leon County became a charter county; LWVT supported the amendment. We support a non-partisan election of the Supervisor of Elections, city and county commissioners. We support fair and equitable representation. We support the removal of non-judicial functions from the Clerk of the Circuit Court position.

In 2010, both the city and the county appointed charter review committees; LWVT was represented on both committees.

Comprehensive Plan

In 1960-1961, LWVT supports measures in the Tallahassee Comprehensive Plan leading to long range City and County planning.

February 1964, LWVT advocates continued attention be paid to community planning with support of measures that will provide the best long range comprehensive planning for the community.

1979, LWVT commits to actively participating in the Comprehensive Plan decision-making process and commits to encouraging citizen input. We support full implementation of the official comprehensive land use plan.

Consolidation

October 1971, LWVT reaches consensus in support of the consolidation charter. (Charter failed)

April 1973, LWVT supports the new Charter for Consolidation including changes made by the Charter Commission. They include: (1) addition of a Department of Planning (2) procedural change in the recall of elective officials, by increasing the percentage of qualified official electors who must sign a petition from 10% to 20% (3) accountability for county officials (all officials would be required by the commission to submit "uniform

estimates or budgets for the operation of their offices...") and, (4) taxation rate: "The commission shall provide and maintain a fair and just differential between the tax levy in city and county". (Charter failed)

September 1991, LWVT supports the concept of consolidation if it provides for efficient and accountable government, including support for citizen initiative, referendum, and recall. Under consolidation, we support: a reduction of duplication of services; an appointed, qualified administrator with clearly defined lines of authority and responsibility and the power to appoint and fire department heads; coordinated countywide law enforcement; adequate and equitable revenue sources with tax in proportion to service provided. (Charter failed)

LWVT has supported consolidation of city and county governments since 1968. However, public support has never reached the threshold needed to adopt the consolidation measures on the ballot. While the two governments have never merged, there has been some functional consolidation in the areas of storm water, growth management, planning, parks and recreation, animal control, fire departments, and a joint dispatch center for emergency services. LWVT continues to support functional consolidation that provides for efficient and accountable government, that reduces duplication of services, and improves coordination of law enforcement countywide.

5. Proposed Budget for 2017--2018. The proposed projected LWVT budget for 2017--2018 is as follows:

Income Category	Projected 2016--17	Estimated 2016--17	Projected 2017--18
Member dues	10000	12000	12000
Meetings with meals	9500	8800	10000
Fundraiser: miscellaneous	300	300	300
Voter services publications	500	500	0
U.S. education fund	300	500	1000
State lobby fund	300	300	300
Member donations	4000	3500	900
Board of directors fund	1500	1410	1500
Susan B. Anthony membership	1200	1100	1200
Memorials	100	110	100
Other	200	200	200
Carry forward	3810	3810	3500
Total Income	30210	31120	29500

Expenses

Administration:	2710	2458	2700
Board expenses	810	581	800
Advertising	1900	1877	1900
Communications	1700	1335	1400
Meetings with meals	9500	10000	10000
Membership recruitment/retention	800	800	800
State/national meetings	2000	1912	2000
Per member payments/PMP	9000	8710	10000
National	5800	5257	6000
State	2900	2753	3000
US education fund	300	700	1000
State lobby fund	300	300	300
Outreach	2000	2242	500
Tabling and materials	1700	2000	200
Student scholarships	300	242	300
Committees/study & action groups	700	60	700
Study & action groups	400	60	400
Membership committee	100	0	100
Communications committee	100	0	100
Voter service committee	100	0	100
Intern stipend/expenses	1000	547	600
Board of directors fund	500	2500	500
Total Expenses	30210	30864	29500

Membership Renewal FY 2017/2018

Our new fiscal year begins May 1 and that means LWVT membership renewals are due!

You may pay at the annual meeting or mail a check made out to
LWVT to PO Box 10216, Tallahassee, FL 32302.
Or you may renew online at lwvtallahassee.org.

Amounts are unchanged:

Individual \$60
Household \$90
Student \$30
Susan B. Anthony Individual \$100
Susan B. Anthony Household \$150

Susan B. Anthony level memberships include dues, plus a donation to the Board of Directors Fund, to be used for special voter services projects as approved by the Board.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR CAUSE!

Constitutional Revision Commission Begins Work

At long last, the 2017-2018 members of Florida's Constitution Revision Commission have been named and the commission has held its first public hearing.

Carlos Beruff from Bradenton is the chair. The other 36 members represent geographic and racial/ethnic diversity. Six are from Tallahassee including Attorney General Pam Bondi. There are 15 women on the Commission; six Hispanics; five Blacks; and, one multi-ethnic member. There are three Democrats. Five commissioners are sitting members of the house and senate; there are five former legislators. More information on the members may be found here: [CRC appointments](#)

The CRC had an organizational meeting in Tallahassee March 20 and decided to launch public hearings even before it adopted its rules. The first hearing, in Orlando, on March 29, attracted an audience of over 400. Ninety-five citizens presented testimony to the Commission.

The League of Women Voters of Florida held a press conference on the Old Capitol steps on March 29th. President Pam Goodman pointed out that the CRC's proposed rules are at odds with Florida's tradition of open government and public access and that the CRC failed to provide timely notices of meetings. Other groups at the press conference included Common Cause, the ACLU and Planned Parenthood.

Upcoming hearings will be held in Miami-Dade and Palm Beach County. Future meetings will be posted on the Commission's webpage, [Florida Constitution Revision Commission](#), or the Revise Florida Partnership website, [Partnership for Revising Florida's Constitution](#).



Carol Weissert

Update on Janet Findling

Janet is in Room 1209 of a new beautiful facility called St. Augustine Plantation. The address is 2507 Old St. Augustine Road, Tallahassee, FL 32301, and the phone number is 850-309-1982. Janet continues to improve and has a wonderful attitude. She enjoys visitors and would love to see some League members, so if you have time, please drop by. See pictures of St. Augustine Plantation [here](#).

Margaret Boeth

Ignite the Power Within!

The Tallahassee/Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls in partnership with Tallahassee Community College is proud to present:

Ignite the Power Within

Women & Girls Empowerment Summit
Friday, April 14, 2017
9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Tallahassee Community College, Workforce Development Building

[Register Here](#)

The Summit will include dynamic female leaders from our community, educational workshops, engaging activities, fun and prizes, vendors and amazing networking opportunities. This event is free for Leon County girls in grades 7th-12th. Leon County

students will be excused with the completion of event registration and a Pre-approved Absence Excuse Form from their individual school. This year there will be a separate track for women at a cost of only \$20, which includes lunch. Seats are filling fast so register today!

For more information about the Ignite the Power Within summit, contact Paula DeBoles-Johnson by email at ccydcdirector@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you there!

*In Solidarity,
Paula DeBoles-Johnson, Chair
Tallahassee/Leon County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls*

Other Events of Interest

Thursday, April 20 National Healthcare Decisions Day
5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. FSU College of Medicine Auditorium
1115 West Call Street, Tallahassee, FL
Free copies of advance directives document Five Wishes will be available for you to address your end of life care.

Saturday, April 22 The March for Science
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Anita Favors Thompson Plaza
124 West Van Buren Street
Here's a rally for scientists and for those concerned with science followed by a march to the Capital.

Note from Climate Change & Sustainability

The table decorations for the March Hot Topics Luncheon were designed and provided by Linda Lee, Marty Quinn, and Meta Calder. In case you didn't know, they are not only pretty, they will attract butterfly larvae and are completely compostable. If you took one home, do plant the milkweed to encourage Monarchs to lay eggs here. Big thanks to the Climate Change and Sustainability study group for an interesting luncheon topic and unique, sustainable table decorations.

*Dot Skofronick, Chair
Climate Change & Sustainability*

Kathryn Myers
Katherine Britt
Linda Oxford
Judy Kirkpatrick

Francesca Melichar
Ion Sancho
Frances Mack
Julia Magee



Voter Deadline

The next Voter will be the May Voter. The deadline for submission of material is April 27. Please e-mail your material to lgdavis75@gmail.com.
