



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TALLAHASSEE

www.lwvtallahassee.org 850.309.3005 lwvtallahassee@gmail.com

Tallahassee

Volume 22 Number 5

December 2013

OUR PURPOSE:

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

IN THIS ISSUE

[President's Message](#)

[Welcome New Members!](#)

[Board Bytes](#)

[My League Story](#)

[S & A Group & Committee Contacts](#)

[Health Care S & A Group](#)

[Local Gov't S & A Group](#)

[Climate Change & Sustainability S & A Group](#)

[Membership Committee](#)

[Voter Deadline](#)

[Board Contacts](#)



Holiday Luncheon & Fun'raiser

Please join us Saturday, December 14, for our annual holiday celebration and reunion!

We'll begin with the popular "Fun'raiser" at 11:00 a.m., then continue at 11:30 with a holiday themed luncheon and an uplifting speaker followed by your insightful questions and dialogue.

Our dynamic, expert speaker, Susan Glickman, will share with us all the good news on clean energy--what's good for our pocketbooks, good for our health, and good for our planet. Ms. Glickman actively lobbies the Florida Legislature on clean energy and economic opportunity issues and has organized two, statewide Clean Energy Congresses at the Capitol. In addition to representing the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and the Natural Resources Defense Council, she directs the Florida Business Network for Green Energy Economy.



Our "Fun'raiser" is a "ticket auction" for new or intriguing gifts that you donate.

For each \$10 donation to LWVT, you'll receive 30 tickets; for each gift you want, put more tickets in front of that gift; if your ticket is drawn, then you win!

To donate a gift: please bring a gift no later than 11:00 a.m. that costs no more than \$20 (or better yet, repurpose an intriguing something that you never use). Gifts can be dropped off anytime prior to December 14th at Rebecca's home at 1017 Cherokee Dr., Tallahassee, 32301.



04 Wednesday 1:30 p.m.
Quality of Life Target Issue Committee Meeting, Tallahassee Room, City Hall

04 Wednesday 4:00 p.m.
Tallahassee City Commission, City Hall 2nd Floor

10 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.
Leon County

Date & Time	December 14, 2013 Wednesday 11:00 a.m.--1:00 p.m. Hot Topic Luncheon
Location	Capital City Country Club 1601 Golf Terrace Drive

Commission Meeting
Courthouse, 5th Floor

10 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
LWVT Board Meeting
LWVF Office
540 Beverly Court

10 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
Leon County School
Board, Howell Center
3055 W. Pensacola St.

11 Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
Local Gov't S & A
Meeting at Ruth
O'Donnell's

12 Monday 2:00 p.m.
CRTPA Meeting
City Hall, 2nd Floor

14 Saturday
11:00 a.m.
Hot Topics Luncheon
Capital City Country
Club, 1601 Golf Terrace
Drive



Buffet Menu	Green salad with fixings * Vegetable Lasagna or Smoked Turkey Breast with giblet gravy * Loaded mashed potatoes * Green Bean Casserole * Dessert
Cost	Members - \$17 Nonmembers - \$20
	The first three student members to RSVP eat FREE!!

FOR RESERVATIONS	please call 309-3005 or e-mail LWVTallahassee@gmail.com
------------------	---

Please RSVP by Wednesday morning, December 11.

Because the League must pay for reservations cancelled after Wednesday, December 11, those who cancel late should reimburse the League for the cost of their reservations.

President's Message

Even in nonelection years, the League is very busy studying issues, watching our government, coming to consensus on positions, and advocating for our principles. Ideas for what work we prioritize today originated last year from you, the League member.

League leaders are already planning what projects we will next tackle and what issues we will pursue in the coming year.

When you look around your community and the region:

Is there something you see that needs to be done?

Is there something that you wish the League would do? or do differently? or not do?

What issues concern you the most?

How do you think we can best educate and encourage the most voters to participate in the upcoming election?

Does the League have a position that should be reconsidered?

When you write, phone, or email your ideas about such questions, then you are beginning the "Program" planning process. (The word "Program" in League-speak means the issues for action and the positions adopted by the membership at the Annual Membership Meeting.)

We are looking for your ideas now, because the Program planning process takes a little bit of time to do well. Once received, member recommendations are evaluated according to established criteria. Then the board takes a vote and publishes in the Voter newsletter a "recommended Program" for your consideration in ample time before members are asked to adopt the next year's Program. We welcome you to contact us now!

- Rebecca Sager

President, League of Women Voters of Tallahassee

(850) 219-9966

rsager@music.org



Seen at the Last Hot Topic



Dr. Sean McGlynn



Dr. Ray Bellamy, County
Commissioner Kristin Dozier,
Dr. McGlynn

Dr. Dale Olsen

Mark Earley

Debra Rumberger

Jane Moyer

Cynthia Schwartz

Alexis Schwartz



Board Bytes

(from the board meeting of November 19th)

- LWVT's treasury has a total of cash and CD investments of \$17,014.17.
- LWVT donated \$100.00 to the Downtown Improvement Authority because we are allowed to set up a table at the Saturday Markets for free.
 - Other opportunities for a table or booth are being investigated. Anyone who has a suggestion should let any board member know.
- A consensus meeting relative to the statewide education study of charter schools will be planned.
- Peter Butzin, Kathy Winn, and Liz Holifield agreed to serve as the Program Committee.
- Peggy Ramsey and Linda Davis will serve on the Budget Committee. Others may be asked to participate.
- Kathy Winn and Rebecca Sager will get a Nominating Committee in place.
- Rebecca Sager will send a letter to LWVF asking the State Board to work towards a Florida Constitutional amendment guaranteeing Florida residents the right to vote.

Breaking News: Lobby Corps Getting Organized

What: Lobby Corps Organizational Meeting

Where: State Office of the League of Women Voters of Florida, 540 Beverly Court,
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

When: Tuesday, December 10th at noon. Bring your brown bag lunch. Drinks will be served.

You are invited to attend a meeting to explore possible Lobby Corps activities with Debbie Rumberger, newly appointed League Lobbyist, and Jessica Lowe-Minor, Executive Director of the League of Women Voters of Florida.

In the past, the Lobby Corps has consisted of League members who volunteer to assist our statewide lobbyist in keeping up with legislation that might affect issues of interest to the League. League members have attended Legislative Committee meetings, observing and reporting on the discussion of proposed legislation. League members have testified before the Legislature as individuals or as representatives of the League, provided that their statements are consistent with the League's positions and the language is approved before speaking. Come see what this next Legislative Session holds for us and how you can be involved. Members should RSVP to Kathy Winn at kathywinnclan@embarqmail.com or via phone at (850) 766-2612.

- Kathy Winn

My League Story by Cynthia Gardner Williams

My name is Cynthia Gardner Williams and all of my adult life I have been involved with human rights, civil rights and equal rights. Growing up in the South in the forties and fifties and being a minority and a woman, I had many experiences which denied my rights. I promised myself early in my adult life that I would work to protect the rights of others and the democratic process.

After reading a leaflet explaining the mission of the League of Women Voters, I knew what I needed to do--become a member. That was three years ago. It has been a rewarding experience, working to address issues that relate to human dignity.

Through encouragement, education and support, the Tallahassee League of Women Voters has given me the opportunity to work with others who believe that we can make a difference.

- story gathered by Martha Stewart

Study and Action Group and Committee Contacts

Study and Action Groups

Ruth O'Donnell, Chair, Local Government
(850) 668-6911, ruth.odonnell@comcast.net

Kathy Winn, Chair, Health Care
(850) 877-0960, kathywinnclan@embarqmail.com

Margie Thomas, Chair, Education
(850) 270-9750, margie.thomas2010@comcast.net

Dot Skofronick, Chair, Climate Change/Sustainability
(850) 222-8544, dsjs@embarqmail.com

Membership Committee

Marty Monroe, Co-Chair
(850) 942-2340, martymonroe@me.com

Sharon Russell, Co-Chair
(850)878-1407, (850)212-7633, sharonkrussell@aol.com

Voter Service

Janet Findling, Co-Chair
(850) 942-2291, janetfindling@comcast.net

Rebecca Sager, Co-Chair
(850)219-9966, rsager@music.org

Health Care Study and Action Group

On November 5, Health Care Study and Action Group Chair Kathy Winn joined the Bond Community Health Center's Certified Application Counselors at the Farm Share event in Quincy. The Bond staff were signing up folks for health insurance under the federal Marketplace. Cars lined up for miles on US 90 for this event in which low income families could drive their cars through the Farm Center to pick up produce donated by Florida's growers. Copies of the *Know Your Public Officials* for Gadsden County were distributed to people as they drove by in their cars.



Members of the Health Care Study and Action Group will be meeting with Jane Sauls, County Commissioner, on December 3rd to discuss the prospects for the expansion of the Medicaid Program in Florida and how her constituents feel about the issue. The new state League lobbyist, Debbie Rumberger, will be joining us. She is a member of our Tallahassee League!

Kathy Winn will be presenting as a part of a panel at an Affordable Health Care Act Town Hall Meeting jointly sponsored by Bond Community Health Center and the *Tallahassee Democrat*. The Meeting will be held at the Bond Community Health Center, 1720 S. Gadsden Street, on Thursday, December 5th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Theresa Chase, former chair of the Health Care Study and Action Group, will be there in the audience to lend support.

For further information on the activities of the Health Care Study and Action Group, please feel free to contact Kathy Winn at kathywinnclan@embarqmail.com or 766-2612. Copies of a handout on accessing health care using the federal Marketplace are available as well as many handouts and articles on the Affordable Care Act and the Medicaid expansion.

- Kathy Winn

Local Government Study and Action Group



Local Government Quizzes Locals at Downtown Marketplace

Results Pitiful

It was our turn to manage the League table at the City of Tallahassee Downtown Marketplace for five Saturdays in November. As a way to interest people in local government the Local Government S & A Group developed a quiz about city and county commissioners, asking on which commission each of them serves. The quiz was administered by our volunteers at the Marketplace table. Although fewer than thirty people tried the quiz over the month, it is still quite clear that this subject is not something our local residents are clear about! Only one person got them all correct and he works for the Supervisor of Elections Office. Many people got about half and some only one or two. It seems we have some educating to do.

Imagine Tallahassee Reports to Sales Tax Committee on December 12th

Plan to attend the 12:00 p.m., December 12th, meeting of the penny sales tax committee at the downtown library. Imagine Tallahassee, the nonprofit organization helping Leon County determine the best ways to use the 15 percent of the one-cent tax collected (if the tax is continued by voters next fall) for economic development. Don't forget to wear your League button! By the way, if you need a button, League President Rebecca Sager just purchased a new batch.

Tallahassee City Commission Makes Decisions About Ethics in Government

Local Government Study & Action Group members have been following the work of an ad hoc panel of residents asked by

the City of Tallahassee to make recommendations regarding ethics in city government. League member Marilyn Wills served as an alternate on this panel and was fully involved in all discussions. We have been regularly reporting to you on this effort. On November 20th the City Commission held a workshop to discuss the panel's recommendations and city staff's review. It was a free-flowing conversation between commissioners and representatives of the panel, great example of local government at work. Although the *Tallahassee Democrat* did not report the action in an article you may have read, Commissioners approved ten of the panel's 18 recommendations. Several other recommendations were sent back to city staff for further research on the possible consequences of implementation. What the *Democrat* did report the next day was that a decision on the key recommendation, hiring an ethics officer, was not approved or rejected but rather delayed until the next City Commission meeting. This recommendation caused a lot of discussion and was also sent to staff for more research.

- Ruth O'Donnell

Climate Change and Sustainability Study and Action Group

Americans just "enjoyed" the event known as Black Friday... some believe this day has always been the busiest day of shopping for Americans. In fact, according to the *New Yorker*, the name was first used in the early 1960s by police officers describing the gridlock that occurred in downtown Philadelphia by the holiday shoppers combined with traffic from attendees of the Army-Navy football game!

Now, we have several friends who enjoy waking up early and standing in crowds in search of bargains, and if that is your thing, we won't judge you. We prefer to be warm, cuddly, and sleepy while you all trek. But as we watch a multitude of our favorite local stores closing for business, we implore all of you, as you shop, regardless of when or in what town you do shop -- shop local.

We don't know anyone who denies the value in local stores -- the uniqueness of the offerings, the support of our business-owner friends, the fact that most of the money stays local, and frequently, the greenness of a local purchase. However, if we all put our money where our mouths are, we would continue to have flourishing local businesses. Instead, we, and almost all of us, are guilty of choosing convenience over local.

So, in addition to the multitude of local stores that will be open for holiday shopping, we invite you to consider the following options in Tallahassee:

- The Alternative Christmas Market: December 7th, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and 8th, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., at John Wesley United Methodist Church, 1589 Old Saint Augustine Road. This is a way to avoid the consumerism of the season by contributing to a favorite charity.
- The Green Shopping Holiday Extravaganza: December 14th, 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m., at Railroad Square, 567 Industrial Drive. Several green and recycled/reused/vintage products will be offered, along with a craft workshop, music and an organic wine tasting, served by Tallahassee Celebrities (with bottles for sale!). This benefits Rethink Energy and the Sharing Tree. Come visit after the League's annual Holiday Luncheon!
- Sales for Tails: December 14th, 7:00 p.m. on and December 15th, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., at Gabrielle Consulting, 3035 Eliza Road. This event benefits multiple animal causes.
- Just One More Art Festival: December 14th and 15th, at the Downtown Parks.

- Kim Ross and Carlos Boueres

Look on the [LWVT web site](#) for the sea level change flyer created by the Climate Change and Sustainability S & A Group. The group has been handing out the flyer at the Saturday Downtown Market to aid in educating the public on the dangers of climate change.

Membership Committee



The membership committee is looking for new blood and new ideas. Please join Sharon Russell and Marty Monroe, once a month for no more than 30 minutes. We meet virtually (online). Next year will be another difficult round of election issues and it would be a great opportunity to expand the LWVT base. If you are interested in joining the fun, please contact Marty Monroe at 228-8882.

- Marty Monroe, Co-Chair

OPT OUT - *go Green!*

If you would like to opt out of the traditional paper Voter (the one that arrives by regular mail), then please send an email to lwvtallahassee@gmail.com with "Opt Out" in the subject line.

VOTER DEADLINE

The next Voter will be the January Voter. The deadline for submission of material is Friday, December 27. Please e-mail your articles to lgdavis75@gmail.com.

Membership Form

Name _____

Phone (home) _____

Address _____

Phone (mobile) _____

E-mail _____

Please Circle Annual Membership Level:
(May 1, 2013 - April 30, 2014)

Please circle all topics that interest you:

\$150.00 Susan B. Anthony household membership _____

Voter Services

\$100.00 Susan B. Anthony membership _____

Local Government

\$ 90.00 Household membership _____

Fundraising

\$ 60.00 Individual membership _____

Health Care

\$ 30.00 Student membership _____

Lobby Corps

I am enclosing \$5.00 for LWVF Lobby Fund _____

Sustainability/Natural Resources

Additional gift to LWWUS Education Fund _____

Publicity

Membership

Hot Topics

Education

Hospitality/Events

TOTAL: _____

Please make all checks payable to LWV of Tallahassee.

Mail to LWVT, P.O. Box 10216, Tallahassee, FL 32302-2216.

You may also renew/join at www.lwvtallahassee.org. There is a \$2.00 charge for using PayPal.

