



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF TALLAHASSEE

Tallahassee

Volume 24 Number 5

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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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Hot Topic --

The Case For and Against Testing

Please join us for lunch followed by a discussion of the emphasis on testing in our public schools and the impact of that emphasis on children, teachers and parents. You can anticipate a civil dialogue by supporters and opponents of the administration of the FCAT and other standardized tests and the use of test results to grade schools and evaluate the performance of teachers. Are we testing instead of educating or are school reforms that emphasize testing resulting in real school improvement and better student learning?

Presenters will be announced when confirmed, but you can expect a lively discussion and answers to some of your questions about the status of education in Florida's public schools.

- Date January 28, 2015
(Fourth Wednesday)
- Time 11:30 a.m.--1:00 p.m. Hot Topic Luncheon
(buffet followed by program)
- Location Capital City Country Club
1601 Golf Terrace Drive
- Menu Pot roast or vegetable lasagna, salad bar,
vegetables, rolls and butter, tea and coffee
- Cost Members--\$17 Nonmembers--\$20

The first three student members to RSVP eat FREE!

For reservations, please call 309-3005 and leave a message, or e-mail LWVTallahassee@gmail.com.



07 Wednesday
9:30 a.m.-- 3:00 p.m.
Ethics Training, City
Commission and Staff
City Hall, Tallahassee
Room

\$ FREE LUNCH \$

Your January hot topic lunch will be free if you are the first

12 Monday 1:00 p.m.
CRTPA, City Hall, 2nd floor

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

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

14 Wednesday 4:00 p.m.
City Commission
City Hall, 2nd floor

15 Thursday 10:00 a.m.
Quality of Life Target Issue
Committee
City Hall, 2nd floor

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

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

28 Wednesday
11:30 a.m.--1:00 p.m.
LWVT Hot Topic Luncheon
Capital City Country Club
1601 Golf Terrace Drive

28 Wednesday 4:00 p.m.
City Commission
City Hall, 2nd floor

person to contact me (Linda Davis) by either phone (878-7320 or 559-0935) or e-mail (lqdavis75@gmail.com) with the correct answer to the following question:

In *Oliver Brown, et al. v. Board of Education*, whose name should have appeared as lead plaintiff?

The winner will be announced at the hot topic lunch.

President's Message

Happy New Year!

News You Might Have Missed

We have a new CEO at the State League Office. We want to welcome Viletta ("Vi") Coombs as the newly appointed Chief Executive Officer of the League of Women Voters of Florida.



We will miss Jessica Lowe-Minor, who has left employment with the League of Women Voters of Florida to go to work for Faith in Florida, where she will be promoting passage of a constitutional amendment restoring voting rights to felons.

Upcoming Events for Your 2015 Calendar

Please mark your calendars to attend Capital Impact Days 2015 on March 10--12, 2015. Join with League members from around the state to hear from legislators and state officials and visit your legislative delegation to discuss League positions and important issues. Issues such as expanding healthcare coverage, environmental protection, education, immigration reform, gun safety, climate change and elections are sure to be addressed.

Also coming up is the League of Women Voters of Florida Convention, May 15 & 16, 2015, at Delray Beach, Florida. Remember when we voted for our LWVT Program at our Annual Meeting in April? Well, every two years, the State League goes through a similar process, establishing positions on important issues and outlining action steps for the next two years. Local Leagues cannot take a position on an issue that is not consistent with the program established by the state and national League, so the Convention is an important opportunity to bring up an issue for study or a position for adoption at the state level. There will be educational sessions and local League members can organize a caucus of interested League members from across the state to address an area of concern or an issue. Don't miss this opportunity to influence state level action by serving as a delegate from the League of Women Voters of

Tallahassee. Hotel rooms are available at the Hyatt Place Delray Beach, 104 NE 2nd Avenue, in Delray Beach, Florida 33444. Call [\(561\) 330-3530](tel:5613303530). Scholarships to help defray the costs of attendance may be available from our League. Let me know if you are interested in attending and we'll make sure you get there.

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

Seen at the Holiday Luncheon



Dr. Elmira Mangum



*Susan Waters
Allison Edwards
Ellen Sullivan
Leighanne Boone
Raymond Bye
Katherine Bye*



My League Story by Margie Thomas

I have lived in Tallahassee since 2009. Previously, I lived in Fairbanks, Alaska, where my League Story begins, and in Naples, Florida. I first joined the League in Fairbanks in the 1980s, and joined the local League in Naples when I moved there in 1991. I joined the League in these cities as a means to acquaint myself with the local communities and their political and social issues and challenges. League is a grounding organization in each community, as it has been for me. I take pride in being a member of a national, state and local organization that is well respected, and noted for its integrity.

I have learned, from participation in the Tallahassee chapter, about Florida's public education funding through our national study, as well as our state study of charter schools. I continue to encourage friends and acquaintances to join and participate in the League.

Story gathered by Martha Stewart

Rhana's Walk Ends in Tallahassee Campaign Finance Reform is the Message

(reprinted from the Tallahassee Democrat)

No one has said, "I just love those hateful political commercials and annoying robocalls during election season." The corruptive influence of money in political campaigns is dangerous to democracy. The people's voices are being drowned out by the corporations, unions, and other groups with deep pockets.

An 81-year-old woman decided to take this message to Tallahassee. Rhana Bazinni walked over 400 miles from her home in Sarasota to the steps of the Capitol. She was joined



Rhana's walk ends at
Old Capitol steps

for the last few miles by folks from all over Florida who support the cause of campaign finance reform. They rallied to encourage adoption of a constitutional amendment to overturn the recent "Citizens United" Supreme Court ruling that said corporations can make unlimited campaign contributions.

Marchers wore red T-shirts that said, "Corporations are not people; Money is not speech."

Local volunteers from the League of Women Voters and Florida Common Cause helped host the rally which ended with a potluck lunch at the Unitarian Universalist Church. To learn more about how to get involved in the cause go to www.ingrannyfootsteps.org.

Volunteers from the League of Women Voters and Common Cause, left to right: Peggy Ramsey, Janet Findling, Kathy Winn, Rhana Bazinni, Richard Polangrin, Mimi Jones, Sally Butzin, Peter Butzin.



Shopping for Two Good Causes at



Thanks to LWVT members who shopped at Ten Thousand Villages on December 10 in support of our Community Shopping event: Kathy and John Winn, Janet Findling and brother, Ruth O'Donnell, Marty Monroe, Carol McCormick, Linda Davis, Erin Edwards and me. Special thanks to Debbie Gibson, who helped with sales and told us some fascinating stories about the artisans who are supported by the shop.

The store took in \$1,200 and estimated our take would be in the neighborhood of \$180. Good for all.

Peggy Ramsey, Treasurer LWVT

LWVUS's Education Blog



The League of Women Voters Education Team blog is a forum to promote the exchange of information on school reform from all over the nation. The members of the team conduct fact-based studies and they encourage posts with reference citations that contribute to a better understanding of different points of view about school choice issues. The Blog Coordinator is our own Sue M. Legg, Ph.D., from Florida.

Subscribe to the League of Women Voters blog: Education Issues at <http://lwveducation.com>. They welcome participation from both members and nonmembers.

Climate Change and Sustainability Study and Action Group

The group had a second combined meeting with the Sustainable Tallahassee Renewable Energy Advocacy Group on November 18 at the Sustainable Tallahassee office. Five members of the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee were present.

During the meeting we discussed a proposed letter to two city officials pointing out the need for more renewable energy in the form of solar, and perhaps establishing a citizens committee to explore further options for renewable energy.

We have also decided to take some informative field trips, perhaps to the two "solar sausage" facilities in the area. These trips will be open to the general membership of LWVT and Sustainable Tallahassee when planned. To find out what a "solar sausage" is, go to betterworldproject.org/Nov_Solar_Sausage.htm.

We also learned there is a loan program for solar installations in Tallahassee. Cost of solar PV qualifies for a 30 percent federal tax credit through 2016.

For more detailed information see the Residential Loan Handbook at talgov.com/Uploads/Public/Documents/you/learn/librar y.



Solar Sausages

Further meetings will begin at 5:15 p.m. at a date to be announced.

Dot Skofronick

Voter Deadline

The next Voter will be the February Voter. The deadline for submission of material is Friday, **January 30**. I know this is early but our normal deadline would be the day after Thanksgiving. Please e-mail your material to lqdavis75@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
Hot Topics
Local Government

\$100.00 Susan B. Anthony membership _____

Publicity
Communications
Education

\$ 90.00 Household membership _____

Health Care
Membership
Lobby Corps

\$ 60.00 Individual membership _____

Program
Hospitality/Events

\$ 30.00 Student membership _____

Fundraising Sustainability/Natural Resources

I am enclosing \$5.00 for LWVF Lobby Fund _____

Additional gift to LWVUS
Education Fund

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.

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