



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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The Future of Leon County Schools

Come and hear what our newly elected Superintendent of Schools, Rocky Hanna, has planned for Leon County schools. The Public Education Study & Action Group has asked him to comment on various issues, some of which are elected vs. appointed superintendents, charter schools, state and county funding, vocational education, to name just a few. If you have questions of your own for him, you will get your chance to ask them at the January Hot Topic.



Mr. Hanna is well-acquainted with all facets of education in this county, having begun his career as a hall monitor at Leon High. After that humble beginning he attended night school at FSU and earned his teaching certificate. He taught World History, American Government, and Economics, and coached football and weightlifting at Godby High. He taught peer counseling and ran a successful classroom mentoring program for "at risk" students who were in danger of dropping out of school for truancy, discipline problems, poor grades, and substance abuse at Lincoln High.

Mr. Hanna has also served in administration at Leon High as Dean of Students. After earning his Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and Administration from FSU, he was promoted to Assistant Principal and then Principal. For the past four years he has served as a district administrator working with Special Sites and Programs including students in foster care and those under the jurisdiction of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

<i>Date</i>	January 25, 2017
<i>Time</i>	11:30 a.m.--1:00 p.m.
<i>Location</i>	Four Points by Sheraton 316 West Tennessee Street
<i>Menu</i>	Beef stroganoff or vegetarian stroganoff, vegetable, salad, rolls and butter
<i>Cost</i>	Members - \$20 Nonmembers - \$23



09 Lobby Corps Organizational Meeting, Sheraton Four Points 6:00 p.m.

10 Thank You Ion Celebration at The Moon **POSTPONED**

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

18 New Member Orientation, 7:00--8:30 p.m., LeRoy Collins County Library, 200 West Park Avenue, Program Room B

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

17 Tuesday 1:00 p.m., CRTPA Board Meeting, City Hall

21 Tallahassee Women's March, 12:30 p.m. , Railroad Square

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

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

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

25 Wednesday 11:30 a.m--1:00 p.m., LWVT Hot Topics, Four Points-Sheraton Hotel, 316 W. Tennessee Street

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

27 & 28 LWVF Kickoff 2017 Rosen Hotel in Orlando

31 Tuesday 9:00 a.m., Community Legislative Dialogue Meeting, County Commission Chambers

**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 Saturday, January 22, those who cancel late must reimburse the League for the cost of their reservations or find someone to take their places at the Hot Topic.

President's Message



A new year is upon us. We had a very busy election season with over 62 individual Voter Services events and more than 400 volunteer hours spent working on our VOTE411 Leon website, various candidate forums, and educating voters. Speakers talked to groups about the amendments to the Florida

Constitution that appeared on the ballot and hundreds of the State League's Voter Guides were handed out at the Downtown Market, at Community Centers and during other events. On Saturday, October 22, copies of the Voter Guide were included in the newspapers of 35,000 subscribers! A big thank you to all of you volunteers who made these Voter Services events possible!

The calendar for 2017 is already filling up with events. Opportunities for participation by League members and friends abound! There are details on these elsewhere in the Voter and check your email inbox for details and reminders.

The Board of Directors of your League will be meeting the night before the Hot Topic Luncheon and members are always welcome to attend, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the United Church in Tallahassee, 1834 Mahan Drive.

Each of our four Study and Action Groups that focus on health care, climate change and sustainability, local government, and public education are organizing for action.

I encourage you to read about the activities of these groups and participate where you can.

Kathy Winn, President

League of Women Voters of Tallahassee

5 February Tallahassee
Marathon, Kleman Plaza, Myers
Park

Our December 2016 Holiday Luncheon



President Kathy Winn



Special guests Susie
Caplowe, Christopher Moore



2016 Reviewed

I encourage you to click on the link below and take a look at what the League accomplished nationwide in 2016. The document is long (because of the number of accomplishments!) but if you just glance at the headlines you might gain a new perspective on the importance of the League's work and how well regarded the League is all over the country. You might also find you have renewed energy for the battles yet to be fought.

[The League Year in Review](#)

Linda Davis
Voter Co-Editor



A Tribute to Ion Sancho!--POSTPONED



THIS EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED

Kickoff 2017

Due to overwhelming requests following the workshops offered last May at the gathering of members from around the state called LWVF Council, the League of Women Voters of Florida is preparing an even bigger and better training and networking program for all members. The League of Women Voters of Florida's Kickoff 2017 will be held January 27--29 in Orlando at the Rosen Plaza Hotel.

The League of Women Voters of Tallahassee is offering a scholarship for the weekend which will cover the registration fee, hotel room, and transportation. Contact Kathy Winn at kathywinnclan@embarqmail.com or 766-2612 to take advantage of this opportunity.

Workshops on the following subjects will be held:

- Media Training
- Public Speaking
- What's a Hot Topic?
- Today's Technology to Increase Efficiency
- New Membership Orientation
- Fundraising Successes and Strategies
- Social Media
- How to Build a Local Advocacy Program
- Network with our State Action Groups on our key Issues and perfect your presentation of these issues!

Go to [Kickoff 2017](#) for more details.

Adopt a Precinct Fundraiser



A big THANK YOU to the fourteen LWVT members who served as poll workers during the 2016 election cycle. Some worked at our official Adopt A Precinct site at Timberlane Church of Christ, while others worked at precincts throughout Leon County. Each spent a 14-hour day during the election, as well as training by the Supervisor of Elections office, and they DONATED their earnings to LWVT. Many worked all three elections!

Participants were:

Margaret Boeth, Linda Davis, Erin Edwards, Donna Erlich, Janet Findling, Sandra Kendall, Doris Partridge, Sharon Pollock, Peggy Ramsey, Kathy Reeves, Sanford Safron, Carol Weissert, Marilyn Wills, and Kathy Winn. We also participated in Kids Voting and Maggie Lawrence delivered those ballots at the close of the polls at the General Election.

Thanks to you generous, hardworking folks, our treasury is happier by \$4,020.13!!!

Peggy Ramsey, Treasurer

Lobby Corps

Some of you know that a number of our local Tallahassee League members volunteer during the legislative session to monitor House and Senate committee meetings when bills of interest to the League are being discussed. While the League of Women Voters of Florida has a paid lobbyist during the session, Debbie Harrison Rumberger, she cannot possibly attend all of the many overlapping meetings being held. So the Lobby Corps has her back.

The League's 2017 legislative priorities are in the areas of education, election law, gun safety, health care and natural resources--certainly a wide variety of issues. The state board of the LWV selects the bills in

each interest area which will be followed by our lobbyist and the Lobby Corps, and a list is sent to the volunteers each Sunday evening of the bills that will be up for discussion that week and in which committees they will be heard.

Members of the Lobby Corps let me know which committee or committees they will be able to cover that week. Monitoring involves physically attending a committee meeting, wearing a LWV button, and taking notes about what occurs as our bills are being discussed. It is important that the League have a presence at as many meetings as possible. The state office has developed a one-page report form that can be emailed to the League office after the committee meeting. The reports are then added to our database for each bill so that our lobbyist and the state board can know rapidly what occurred. The state League board of directors has decided monitors who wish to speak for the League before a committee may do so this year, using pre-approved speaking points.



The committee meetings are held during the day at the Capitol and occur mostly from Tuesday through Thursday, with occasional meetings held Monday afternoon or Friday morning. Both House and Senate committees begin meeting in January (for two weeks) and February (for three weeks), then the regular session starts on March 7 and runs through the first week of April.

If you have a special interest in any of the issue areas mentioned above and feel you are in a position to monitor some of the meetings for the League, please contact Jan RuBino at 850-224-9262 or at rubinojan@yahoo.com. We very much need your help because we never have enough people to cover all of the meetings, especially once the regular session begins. Even if you can only attend occasionally, that will be a great help.

Plan also to attend this year's organizational meeting of the Lobby Corps on Monday, January 9, at 6:00 p.m. at the Four Points by Sheraton, 316 West Tennessee Street . Your questions about monitoring for the League will be answered by our lobbyist and other Tallahassee members who are experienced monitors. State League President Pamela Goodman will also be present. I think you will find volunteering at the Capitol for the League of Women Voters to be an interesting and enlightening experience.

Jan RuBino
LWV Lobby Corps

Speakers' Bureau



In the past our Speakers' Bureau was dormant except during election season. That was important, but since part of the League's mission is to help create an informed citizenry, we hope now to make it an ongoing, perennial project. There is much to be done. We will need not just speakers, but researchers, writers, and anyone who likes to put slide shows together. In short, we need a team. We have a few players now and they are stars, but we need more. Please help me build this team. You can communicate with me at stuartb@radicalbleedingheart.net

Stuart Baker, Chair
Speakers' Bureau

Voter Services

The campaigning and elections may be over but the work of the Voter Services Committee is never done. The direct assistance we provide to voters takes many forms.

- We continually register voters (mainly at the Saturday Downtown Market) and assist voters with change of address forms, political party changes, etc.
- During election years we research, construct and maintain our popular web site VOTE411Leon.org, which publishes the candidates' answers to questions posed by the League.
- During the weeks the Legislature is in session, we follow issues that directly affect voters such as the Senate bill that would automatically register Floridians to vote when they apply for or renew their driver's license.
- After each election and in conjunction with the Supervisor of Elections Office, we update a pamphlet called "Know Your Public Officials" and distribute it throughout Leon County. This pamphlet contains a list of current officeholders and their contact information.



In addition to the above, we would like to add some activities that would increase the League's visibility and extend our reach:

- Set up voter registration tables at other community events such as festivals, parades, art shows, track meets, and other special events
- Visit schools with American history lessons or games (maybe dress in costumes -- we are open to ideas)
- Sponsor trivia contests or essay contests for high school history and/or government classes
- Work with FSU and FAMU Leagues

Please join our committee! We are excited to have new enthusiastic members. For questions, please contact me at 850/ 504-8492 or RMBT1947@gmail.com.

Margaret Boeth
Voter Services Co-Chair

Communications Committee

The LWVT Communications Committee is composed of The Voter Editors, the FaceBook & Twitter Administrator, the Webmaster, and our Publicity Person.

The Voter is our almost monthly (nine issues a year) newsletter like you are reading right now. In it you will find news of what has happened in the League and what will happen in the near future. The first article is always the Hot Topic announcement for that month. There will be a calendar of events for the month in the left sidebar. New members are always recognized. A membership form and the members of the Board of Directors are always listed at the end of the newsletter. Reports of past activities and announcements of future events make up most of the rest of the newsletter.

Right now, our greatest need is a publicity person. This is not a huge job, but it involves sending a few emails to our contacts at the right time each month. The primary event we publicize is our Hot Topic meetings. There might be another event now and then that we would want to publicize. If you are interested in helping us fill this gap, contact Linda Davis at 850-559-0935 or 878-7320 or lqdavis75@gmail.com.

Linda Davis, Vice-President
League of Women Voters of Tallahassee

Climate Change/Sustainability Study & Action Group

This group will be focused and active in a number of areas promoting Clean Energy - renewable, efficiency and conservation - for the purpose of combating climate change.



There is an on-going effort to collect Community Solar commitment cards for a customer participation program that requests the City to add solar energy production beyond the proposed 20 MW solar farm. During a future City Public Relations Event, the League, jointly with ReThink Energy and Sustainable Tallahassee, will deliver the more than 300 collected cards to the City's kickoff event for their customer participation program.

We will also continue studying whether to endorse one of two rooftop solar co-operatives (community bulk purchase of solar panels and installation). One is FL Sun, which is being promoted by the Florida LWV actively around the state and another is the Leon County Regional Solar Cooperative effort by Terry Ryan.

We may as a committee readdress whether there are still problems with local solar permitting.

Additional initiatives were explored at a recent meeting with several new members. Many will encourage League members to take personal responsibility to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to getting home energy audits and making efficiency changes, also discussed were transportation (car pooling and batching trips) and food issues (more vegetables and fruits less beef). All will reduce CO2 in the atmosphere.

For the 2017 Tallahassee Marathon we will again provide a water table for the runners and will have a League of Women Voters theme. Get your suffragist costume ready! The Marathon will take place February 5, 2017, It begins at Kleman Plaza and will go through Myers Park.

Anyone is welcome to join us if you have interest in or input for any of these important issues. The next Climate Change/Sustainability meeting is January 12, 2017, 10:30 a.m., at Beans at Betton, 1950 Thomasville Road (Food Glorious Food).

Dot Skofronick, Chair
Steve Urse
Climate and Sustainability Study and Action



Some of last year's Marathon water table participants--FUN!



Health Care Study & Action Group

Members of the Health Care Study and Action Group have been attending meetings of the Steering Committee responsible for guiding the Leon County Community Health Assessment. The final draft of the assessment results is available and comments are being accepted until January 16, 2017. Contact Kathy Winn for instructions on how to make a comment at kathywinnclan@embarqmail.com or 766-2612. In the early months of 2017, health department staff will be looking for members of the community who are interested in working on the development of the Community Health Improvement Plan which will be designed to address the problems identified in the assessment. If you or an organization you are involved with is interested in participating in this planning, please contact Kathy Winn, Chair of the Study and Action Group.

Members of the group will also be following the implementation of food desert and health care transparency bills passed by the Legislature in 2016.

Finally, we will be watching as the Legislature grapples with Medicaid expenditures and the potential impact of any action that will be taken by Congress concerning the Affordable Care Act.

Kathy Winn, Chair

Public Education Study & Action Group



What we do: The Public Education Study & Action Group of the Tallahassee League of Women Voters actively participates in national and state League studies of issues relating to PreK--12 education. The most recent was the 2014 state study of charter schools. The study involved getting information from each charter school in our county to compare to standards established by the state of Florida. Our group is also active in developing topics and speakers for at least one Hot Topic luncheon per year. In addition, during election years, we participate in candidate forums for candidates for Leon County School Superintendent and School Board by developing questions or discussion points relating to education in our area. We meet on an as-needed basis and welcome any interested League members. If you wish to be added to our "meeting alert" list, contact Margie Thomas via email at Margie.thomas2010@comcast.net.

Margie Thomas, Chair

Local Government Study & Action Group

The Local Government Study & Action Group is an active committee currently composed of eight members. During election years we organize and present several candidate forums where the public can meet and ask questions of the candidates for local and state office. We feel that an informed electorate is essential for a functioning democracy.



In other years, we present programs that deal with the political issues of the day which local governments can influence. We are currently working on our February Hot Topic where the incoming State Attorney and Public Defender for our district will present their goals for their administrations and where our members can ask questions dealing with criminal justice and public safety. We also monitor issues in which the League is interested that come before the City and County Commissions.

Our next meeting will be on February 7 at 7:00 p.m. We will be looking at questions for the February Hot Topic program and discussing future plans. If you have an interest in the governments closest to the people, the ones that most directly impact our daily lives, please join us.

Joan Kanan, Chair,
850-294-7763
joankanan03@yahoo.com

New Member Orientation

Whew!!! If you new members have read all the way through this lengthy newsletter to this point, you should have more than an inkling of why we need your help. There is so much work to be done and we have many opportunities to do it.

Our next new member orientation is scheduled for January 18, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., in Program Room B of the LeRoy Collins Public Library, 200 West Park Avenue. Please come and meet the people in charge of these hard-working, dedicated special groups of members.

If you have not already done so, please let me know you are planning to attend. You can reach me at 878-7320, 559-0935 or lgdavis75@gmail.com. Bring a friend, if you like.



Linda Davis, Chair
Membership, Leadership Development Team

Women's March on Tallahassee

We know that many of you will be traveling as individuals to Washington, D.C., for the Women's March on Washington on January 21. For those not traveling to Washington, D.C. we wanted to make sure you knew about the March on Tallahassee scheduled for the same day.

Organizations from across Florida will be standing in solidarity in Tallahassee to demand more of our state leaders and fight for the protection of our rights. Planned Parenthood is one of the hosts of this event and you can learn more and [RSVP here at this link](#).

The League of Women Voters of Florida knows what is at stake in 2017. We encourage you as individuals to support these groups and their efforts.

Glenda Rabby	Lisa Vera
Janet Tashner	Ramona Abernathy-Paine
Kristen Ellington	Ernie Paine
Sarah Tyson	Jeannie Brubaker
Frances Webb	Paula DeBoles-Johnson
Meghan Martinez	Tracy Woodard-Meyers
Eleanor Baumgarten	Linda Mabile
Karen Goodlett	Larry Myers
Shannon Guse	Jane Jordan
Sally Sperling	Abdelilah Skhir
Kathy Grobe	Karen Skinner
Dawn Griffin	Roberta Christie
Silvia Nagin	Catherine Keen
Christine Koontz	


