



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF TALLAHASSEE

Tallahassee
2016

Volume 25 Number 7

March

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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What's Going on in the Legislature?



Senator Bill Montford will be our guest speaker at our March Hot Topic. He will speak on the current legislative session's bills dealing with issues pertinent to pre-K through 12 education, including vouchers, for-profit charter schools, and the grading of teachers, schools, and school districts.

Senator Montford earned a BS in Mathematics Education in 1969 and an MS in Administration and Supervision in 1971 from Florida State University. He taught math at Belle Vue Middle School and was Principal at Godby and Lincoln high schools. He was President of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents in 2001 and 2002.

His elective offices include Leon County Commissioner from 1982 through 1988, Superintendent of Schools for Leon County in 1996, and he has been a member of the Florida Senate since 2010. In the Senate he is a member of the Appropriations, Banking and Insurance, Education Pre K--12, Gaming and Rules committees, Vice-Chair of the Education Committee and the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, and Chair of the Agriculture Committee.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS MARCH

08 Tuesday 1:30 p.m.
Joint City/County Workshop
Comp. Plan Amendments
County Courthouse, 5th floor

Date March 23, 2016

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

Time 11:30 a.m.--1:00 p.m.
Location Capital City Country Club
1601 Golf Terrace Drive

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

Menu Grilled mahi with lobster cream sauce or vegetable lasagna, caesar salad, vegetables, rolls and butter, coffee and tea
Cost Members - \$20 Nonmembers - \$23

08 Tuesday All Day
International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity.

The first three student members to RSVP eat FREE!

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

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

Because the League must pay for reservations cancelled after Saturday, March 19, those who cancel late should reimburse the League for the cost of their reservations.

21 Monday 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.
CRTPA Meeting
City Hall 2nd Floor

President's Message

22 Tuesday 7:30 a.m.
Community Legislative Dialogue Meeting
County Courthouse, 5th floor

Thank you to all the League members who volunteered to help at the State League's Summit event on February 16 and 17:



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

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Margaret Boeth | Pam Price |
| Linda Davis | Peggy Ramsey |
| Janet Findling | Barbara Rollins |
| Ann Lucas | Barbara Sterling |
| Jane Watson | |

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

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE take time to review the proposed slate of officers and board members, the suggested program and budget, and proposed changes to the by-laws that appear elsewhere in this issue of The Voter. We'll be voting on these at the Annual Meeting in April.

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

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

Your President,
Kathy Winn

24 Thursday 9:30 a.m.

CRA Meeting

City Hall, 2nd floor

29 LWVT Board Mtg. 7:00 p.m.

1834 Mahan Drive

Trivia Question for March



Be the first person to correctly identify the three people, from left to right, in this photograph and where it was taken and win a free lunch at the March Hot Topic.

Reply to Linda Davis by phone (559-0935 or 878-7320) and leave a message or by email lgdavis75@gmail.com.

March is Women's History Month

From www.edutopia.org:

Growing out of a small-town school event in Sonoma, California in 1978, Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society. The United States has observed it annually throughout the month of March since 1987. A few years later, the idea had caught on within communities, school districts and organizations across the country. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week. The U.S. Congress followed suit the next year, passing a resolution establishing a national celebration. Six years later, the National Women's History Project successfully petitioned Congress to expand the event to the entire month of March.

[More about Inez Milholland](#)

If you were at the February Hot Topic, you may remember the answer to the trivia question (Who was the first woman to have a memorial service held in her honor in the U.S. Capitol?) was Inez Milholland.

Wild West Women, Inc. is a National Women's History Project 2016 Partner. They make historical and current films about women. One of their latest film projects is about Inez Milholland. It's called "Remembering Inez: The Last Campaign of Inez Milholland, Suffrage Martyr." Films are available for purchase on their website.

From www.wildwestwomen.org:

It's about time we pay homage to Inez Milholland. She did more than just ride a white horse at the front of the parades. When Inez Milholland died in Los Angeles in October, 1916, she became lionized as the "Suffrage Martyr," the only person to die in the battle for American women's right to vote. Wild West Women will be involved in the planning of a centennial event to honor Inez and her untimely death at age 30. Bob Cooney, whose book on Inez is a tribute to her work, impact and inspiration will be working with us. (Book available at www.rememberinginez.com or at www.nwhp.org). We plan to organize a celebration of Inez in Los Angeles in 2016 and produce a documentary film on her life and influence.

Renewable Energy in Leon County

During a joint meeting with Sustainable Tallahassee Renewable Energy Advocacy group on February 16, 2016, we heard from Reese Goad and Ben Cowart of the City of Tallahassee Utilities. We learned of a change in the plans for the solar array which was to be built on the Hopkins power plant property then moved to the airport. First Solar was to build a 10MW and have it completed by the end of this year on the airport property. Site studies were being completed when the contract was dropped.



The second choice in the bidding process was Origis Energy. That company has presented an option for a 20MW solar power array that has been deemed more attractive. It can be built on the same site, but more efficiently and more economically. Projected completion date is mid 2017. This company has built a similar 20MW plant in Georgia which was visited by the city officials.

Many other options for Community Solar are being considered.

Dot Skofronick

Chair, Climate & Sustainability

We've Been to the Legislative Summit!

The Summit is the annual meeting where League members from across the State meet in Tallahassee to advocate for the League's priorities with the Florida Legislature.



Summit banquet at the Doubletree

Check out LWVFlorida's legislative priorities in the areas of election law, health care, education, water and natural resources and gun safety at [LWVF Legislative Priorities](#).

Participants joined Senator Bill Nelson for a press conference on the front steps of the Old Capital. At the Gala reception, the League recognized Representative Dave Kerner and Senator Diaz de la Portilla for their stand against open carry and allowing concealed weapons on college campuses. Senator Clemons was thanked for his online voter registration bill passed in 2014 and his work on redistricting last year.

Members of our League were recognized for organizing the Lobby Corps, volunteers who track proposed legislation on behalf of the League.



LWVT members at Summit Gala



LWVT Lobby Corps recognized at Summit Gala

Tallahassee Representatives Michelle Rehwinkel-Vasilinda and Alan Williams spoke to the group along with numerous other representatives and senators.

If you like politics and learning more about Florida's legislative process, consider attending this interesting and educational event next year.

Kathy Winn

Mary Rallis
Barbara Proctor



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 9th. at 11:00 a.m. at Capital City Country Club. The membership will vote on the following five items of business:

1. Officers for 2016--2017. The slate proposed by the Nominating Committee is:

President: Kathy Winn

Vice-President: Linda Davis

Secretary: Jessica Lowe-Minor

Treasurer: Peggy Ramsey

Board of Directors: Liz Holifield, Maggie Lawrence, Margie Thomas, Teri Cleeland

2. Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws. The following amendments to the bylaws are proposed by the Board of Directors (deleted language is indicated by strike-through; added language is indicated by underlining):

Article VII, Section 2: Annual Meeting: An Annual Meeting shall be held before April 30, the end of the fiscal year, the exact date to be determined by the board. The Annual Meeting shall: (a) adopt a local Program and Positions for the ensuing year, (b) elect officers and directors, ~~members of the Nominating Committee~~, (c) adopt an adequate budget, and (d) transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Article VIII, Section 1: Nominating Committee:

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.

3. Program for 2016--2017. The proposed LWVT Program for 2016--2017 is as follows:

Voter Service

Register and educate voters, e.g., during Saturday Downtown Market, at League activities, and by tabling at allied organization functions. Conduct outreach to community leaders and allied organizations in adjoining counties to facilitate collaboration on candidate forums, including Big Bend Environmental Forum and WFSU Bandwagon.

Educate the public on voter registration changes. Work with Leon County Supervisor of Elections to advance election reform. Develop and promote Vote411Leon.org, including voter education on proposed constitutional amendments. 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.

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.

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. In 2016-2017, this would include monitoring standardized testing reduction efforts, the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program (vouchers), the privatization of public education, and early childhood education.

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. Advocate for the expansion of Florida's Medicaid Program. 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.

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.

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 in the local area. Expand the City of Tallahassee's digital canopy to low-income areas including South City and Frenchtown.

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, education, energy, land use, natural resources (especially water), taxation and election law.

4. Positions for 2016--2017. The Positions LWVT recommends for adoption in 2016--2017 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 percent 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 Supervisory of Elections, city and county commissioners. We support fair and equitable representation. We support the removal of nonjudicial 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 officials electors who must sign a petition from 10 percent to 20 percent; (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. Budget for 2016--2017. The projected LWVT Budget for 2016--2017 is as follows:

	Projected 2015-16	Estimated 2015-16	Projected 2016-17
Income Category			
Member Dues	9000	10000	10000
Meetings With Meals	8000	7549	9500
Fundraiser: Miscellaneous	300	225	300
Voter Services Publications	0	0	500
US Education Fund	300	300	300
State Lobby Fund	300	300	300
Member Donations	1000	900	4000
Board of Directors Fund	1500	1450	1500
Susan B Anthony Membership	1200	1000	1200
Memorials	100	250	100
Other	200	200	200
Interest Income	25	17	0
Carry Forward	5795	5795	3810
Total Income:	26220	26536	30210
Expenses:			
Administration:	2820	2956	2710
Board Expenses	720	807	810
Advertising	2100	2149	1900
Communications	1200	1354	1700
Meetings With Meals	8700	9360	9500
Membership Recruitment/Retention	800	575	800
State/National Meetings	2500	1943	2000
Per Member Payments/PMP:	7000	8932	9000
National	4400	5745	5800
State	2300	2887	2900
US Education Fund	300	300	300
State Lobby Fund	300	300	300
Outreach:	600	450	2000
Tabling and Materials	300	150	1700
Student Scholarships	300	300	300
Committees/Study & Action Groups:	700	100	700
Study & Action Groups	400	100	400
Membership Committee	100	0	100
Communication Committee	100	0	100
Voter Service Committee	100	0	100
Intern Stipend/Expenses	1100	500	1000
Board of Directors Fund	500	400	500
TOTAL EXPENSES:	26220	26870	30210

Marathon Day and the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee

When we first arrived, the area was dark and cold, but it was soon to be warm and bright with LWVT energy at our designated water table at mile 16 on the Tallahassee Marathon course February 7, 2016.

The Leaguers arrived including our well-dressed Susan B. Anthony and two impressive suffragists. Soon all the "Burma Shave" type signs, (most jingles rhyming with voting or running) were in place. Water and Gatorade cups were filled; Lady Liberty and Uncle Sam, looking very patriotic, were positioned on site!

When the high energy patriotic music started we were ready for the marathoners. So many streamed by; we had cheers, words of encouragement, water, energy treats for all. It was fun for all of us and most importantly, the Marathoners. We were voted BEST of the 26 water tables which earned us a sizable monetary prize! It will be a nice addition to our Voter Education Fund.

Many, many thanks to all who helped and promoted the League spirit. It was so much fun we are almost ready to do it again! We are extremely grateful for all who enthusiastically participated in this event: Marilyn Wills, Peggy Ramsey, Erin Edwards, Jake Edwards (Peggy's grandson and Erin's nephew), Miryam Rubinstein, Marty Monroe, Ann Lucas, Carlos Boueres, Janet Findling, Jessica Lowe-Minor, Rick Minor, Madeline Minor, Linda Davis, Teri Cleeland, Maggie Lawrence, Steve Urse, Richard RuBino, Jim Skofronick, Rebecca Sager, and Dot Skofronick.

Dot Skofronick

Marathon Water Station Chair

P.S.: I had to add this -- Dot did a tremendous job organizing this endeavor. She got the costumes together, had the idea for the Burma Shave signs, requested the music, and taught those of us who have no knowledge of marathons what to do. She's a real winner!

Linda



LWVT's water station





Marty, Maggie, Linda, Richard, Teri



Jessica, Rick, Maddie



Check out LWVT's Facebook page for more pictures.

Voter Deadline

The next Voter will be the April Voter. The deadline for submission of material is March 25, which is earlier than usual because our April luncheon is so early in April. Please e-mail your material to lgdavis75@gmail.com.

Membership Form

Name _____ Phone (home) _____
 Address _____ Phone (mobile) _____
 _____ E-mail _____

Please Circle Annual Membership

Level:

(May 1, 2015- April 30, 2016)

Please circle all topics
that interest you

\$150.00 Susan B. Anthony household membership _____

\$100.00 Susan B. Anthony membership _____

\$ 90.00 Household membership _____

- Voter Services
- Hot Topics
- Local Government
- Publicity
- Communications
- Education

\$ 60.00 Individual membership _____

\$ 30.00 Student membership _____

I am enclosing \$5.00 for LWVF Lobby
Fund _____

Additional gift to LWVUS Education Fund _____

Health Care

Membership

Lobby Corps

Program

Hospitality/Events

Fundraising

Sustainability/Natural

Resources

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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