



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TALLAHASSEE

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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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04 Tues. 7:00--8:30 p.m.
Local Government S & A meeting at Ruth O'Donnell's house, 3509 Trillium Court

10 Mon. 1:00 p.m.
CRTPA meeting
City Hall, 2nd floor

11 Tues. 1:30 p.m.
County Commission

Choose Tallahassee for the Best of Your Life

A broad range of community leaders has joined in welcoming relocating members of the Baby Boom generation from across the nation to America's No. 1 "Boomtown" for Boomer retirement relocation destination, Tallahassee, "for the best of their life."

"In Tallahassee, Southern hospitality is more than a slogan, it's a treasured way of life," said Marjorie Turnbull, a Choose Tallahassee Action Team steering committee member. At this month's Hot Topic dinner Marjorie will show us how Choose Tallahassee came to be and what the plans and aspirations are for Tallahassee's future.



Marjorie Turnbull was elected to the Leon County Commission from 1988--1994 and the Florida House of Representatives from 1994--2000 where she served on the Higher Education, Community Affairs, Tourism and Economic Development and Education Appropriations committees, among others. She was the first woman to be elected to the Florida House of

Representatives from Leon County. Prior to her public service she was an appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health Planning for the Florida Department of Health & Rehabilitative Services, and an administrative staff member of the Florida House of Representatives.

Currently, she has a passion for working with non-profit organizations to help them thrive and when called upon, she gives advice in the areas of board and staff development and fund-raising.

Another Special Guest

We will have another very special guest this month. Abi Hatcher is a local student who will share her History Fair project with us. The subject is women's suffrage. Her project will be on display before our dinner, so come early and welcome a young future League member!

workshop on primary health care, County Courthouse, 5th floor

11 Tues. 3:00 p.m. County Commission meeting, County Courthouse, 5th floor

12 Wed. 6:00 p.m. Leon County School Board, Howell Center 3955 W. Pensacola St.

12 Wed. 4:00 p.m. City Commission workshop on Ethics Committee Report City Hall, 2nd floor

18 Tues. 6:00 p.m. LWVT Board meeting LWVF Office 540 Beverly Court

19 Wed. 6:00p.m. Hot Topics Dinner Capital City Country Club, 1601 Golf Terrace Drive

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

26 Wed. 4:00 p.m. City Commission meeting City Hall, 2nd floor

Date & Time March 19, 2014 Wednesday
6:00 p.m.--7:30 p.m. Hot Topic Dinner

Location Capital City Country Club
 1601 Golf Terrace Drive

Buffet Menu Beef bourguignon or mushroom ravioli, salad bar, vegetables, rolls and butter, coffee, tea and a cash bar.

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 Saturday morning, March 15.

Because the League must pay for reservations cancelled after Saturday, March 15, those who cancel late should reimburse the League for the cost of their reservations.

Seen at the Last Hot Topic



Teri Cleeland, Debbie Rumberger, Kathy Winn



Amber Washington, Debbie, Rebecca Sager

Program

The 2014-2015 League of Women Voters of Tallahassee Proposed Program, Nominating Committee Report, and Proposed Budget will be coming to your email inbox under separate cover. All LWVT members will have the opportunity to discuss, debate, amend, and vote on these measures at our Annual Membership Meeting on April 19, 2014.

*Elaine Prine
Donna Erlich
Carter McMillan*

*Jeff Peters
Betty J. Steffens*



New Member Coffee

LWVT welcomed six new members at a coffee on February 23 at the home of Linda Davis. We gave each new member a welcome packet containing a letter from the President, the New Member Handbook, a Know Your Public Officials brochure, a Membership Information card to give to a friend, a list of League activities and our various communications tools and a League of Women Voters button. Several veteran members gave an overview of their area of League responsibility. Participating were Ruth O'Donnell, Kathy Winn, Margie Thomas, Janet Findling, Dot Skofronick, Marilyn Wills, Marty Monroe, and Peggy Ramsey. New members attending were Lynn Parry, Sally Combs, Jim Skofronick, Jane Moyer, Karen Morris, and Ann Kimbrough.

To any of you new members who couldn't make it to this gathering, keep an eye on your inbox. We'll have another one in a few months.



- Linda Davis

Downtown Saturday Markets

It's March already! And you know what that means, right? Among other things, like resetting your clocks and watches again, like Tallahassee bursting into bloom, like getting out your shorts and sandals, it means the Downtown Saturday Markets start up again! LWVT will have a table at the Saturday Market from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Each study and action group will be responsible for a month or two of Saturdays from March through November. It's a great opportunity to spend a Saturday morning visiting with friends and neighbors and complete strangers and tell them all what wonderful work we do, like registering voters. So get a League buddy and contact Margie Thomas at margie.thomas2010@comcast.net or 270-9750) if you would like to help in March. If April suits you better e-mail Ruth O'Donnell at ruthodonnell6@gmail.com or 668-6911.

- Linda Davis

Lobby Corps

The Florida Legislative session is about to begin. We need volunteers to attend committee meetings and show legislators that they are being watched! If you can spare a few hours at any time during the upcoming 60-day legislative session, **The League Needs You!**

You do not need to commit to a specific or recurring day, time, or even issue interest. You do not need to be an expert on an issue. You don't even have to lobby. You DO need to be an interested citizen, wear a League button (provided at no charge!) and be prepared to monitor a committee meeting and send a brief report to our state organization.

Sign up by sending an email expressing your willingness to participate in the Lobby Corp to Amber Washington at LWVFoutreach@gmail.com. Then look forward to a weekly email that provides a list of committee meetings taking up issues of interest to the League. If you have the time, and see a

committee meeting that meets your schedule you can respond with an indication of your interest.

And, if you are interested in actually lobbying, please come forward. We also have a place for you!

But, the point is that you neither need to directly lobby or to be an expert in an issue to participate in Lobby Corp. The Tallahassee Chapter has the benefit of being located in the state capital, so we have a special opportunity to help advance the work of our state organization.

- Peter Butzin

My League Story by William G. Weissert, Ph.D.

The League's Voters Guide in Multnomah County (Portland), Oregon was my first encounter with the League. Very helpful, nonpartisan, and free. Then, on election night, as a college student temporary worker at the vote-counting marathon organized by the media's News Election Service, the League staffed the vote counting (with manual calculators!). As the only male in the room, I briefly assumed I was in charge -- a misimpression of which I was quickly disabused. I left impressed with the League members' dedication and capabilities. When my wife Carol joined the Tallahassee League shortly after we moved here in 2003, I was happy to join, too. I teach health policy at FSU, and I can't help but be impressed at how effective our colleagues in the Tallahassee League have been in monitoring, mastering, lobbying, and speaking out on this complicated issue. What a great bunch!

- story gathered by Martha Stewart

Women's History Month

On February 14, 1920, the National American Woman's Suffragist Association met; it was during this convening that this group became the League of Women Voters of the United States. Their primary goal at the time was to get the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed. Susan B.

Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton first drafted the language of the amendment in 1878:



"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Almost one year had passed since the U.S. Senate passed the amendment on June 4, 1919, by a vote of 56--25; the House of Representatives had already passed it by a vote of 304--89. Now, 36 states had to pass the amendment or it would not become part of the Constitution.

By August, 1920, 35 states had passed the amendment, and all eyes were on Tennessee where the legislature was meeting to vote on the amendment. Of course, many suffragists and anti-suffragists descended on Nashville; you could usually identify them by the color of the roses they wore. Those supporting the amendment wore yellow roses while those opposing wore red roses. Even the legislators had begun wearing roses, and the Suffragists were worried when they counted 47 yellow roses among the representatives and 49 red roses. During the first roll call, one of the representatives came over to the pro side and the vote was deadlocked at 48--48. On the second roll call, the vote was again 48--48.

By the time the third roll call was to be taken, nerves were pretty frayed. Unexpectedly, Harry Burn, who was the youngest member of the legislature, broke the deadlock. Although he was wearing a

red rose, he voted in favor of the bill and universal suffrage was granted to all American women. Opponents of the bill became outraged and chased Burn around the room; the story is that he escaped out a third floor window onto a ledge and made his way to the attic of the Capitol.

He later explained that while he was wearing a red rose on his lapel, he was carrying a telegram from his mother in his breast pocket in which she urged him to do the right thing and vote in favor of the amendment. Subsequently, the Governor signed the bill and on August 26, 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment became national law, 144 years after the Declaration of Independence.

In 1980, President Carter designated March 2--8 as Women's History Week. By 1986, many states had already adopted March as Women's History Month, and, in 1987, Congress declared March as National Women's History Month in perpetuity. A special Presidential Proclamation is issued every year honoring the achievements of American women.

- Marilyn Wills

Health Care Study and Action Group

Members of the Health Care Study and Action Group met to organize for the upcoming State League press conference on expanding Florida's Medicaid Program. The press conference is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5, at the Capitol. Speakers from the business community will talk about how Florida's economy would benefit from allowing low-income Floridians access to health care coverage under Medicaid as allowed by the federal Affordable Care Act. League members are encouraged to attend the press conference and to wear their League buttons to show their support. For further information, contact Kathy Winn at kathywinnclan@embarqmail.com or by calling or texting 766-2612.



The next meeting of the Health Care S & A Group will be held in the Family Care Unit Education Room at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital on March 17 at 2:00 p.m. We will have a presentation by Connie Styons, Women's and Children's Line Administrator, on the Baby Friendly initiative begun recently by TMH, due in part to the urging of League member, Dr. Edward Holifield. If you wish to join us, you can park at Kathy Winn's house (1006 Brookwood Drive) at 1:30 and walk to the hospital with Kathy or park in the Women's Pavillion/Bixler Emergency Room Parking Deck located on Medical Drive.

- Kathy Winn

Climate Change and Sustainability Study and Action Group

Solar Permitting

The Climate Change and Sustainability Study and Action Group has had a chance to further discuss the process of obtaining a solar panel (PV) permit. We met February 25th with Ms. Karen Jumonville, Director of the Growth Management Office, Tallahassee, and with several other City of Tallahassee persons who are involved.

Clean Water Rally

On February 18, some of us took part in the "Floridians Clean Water Rally" in front of the Old Capitol. The League of Women Voters was one of the sponsors and some League buttons from other counties were visible in the crowd. There were over 100 sponsors of the rally.

- Dot Skofronick

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