



TO PROMOTE POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH INFORMED AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS IN GOVERNMENT AND TO ACT ON SELECTED GOVERNMENT ISSUES

THE VOTER
 THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TALLAHASSEE
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Mark your calendars!

**Holiday Luncheon and Fun'raiser
 Saturday, Dec. 15
 11:00-1:00**

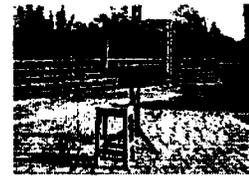
CALENDAR

03 Saturday
 9:00--11:30 a.m.
 Meet & Greet local candidates at the Downtown Market on Park Avenue

Hot Topics Luncheon

Arts in Civic Life & Public Funding of the Arts

The Tallahassee League is proud to host a panel of three experts who will explore the role of the arts in civic life and argue for public funding of the arts. Joining us for the discussion are:



The Artist's Easel

Karen Wendland, Community Outreach Coordinator for the Florida Center (seeking to build a regional Performing Arts Center on Gaines Street); Peggy Brady, Executive Director of the Council on Culture & Arts (established by Florida statute, COCA serves as a cultural affairs department for Leon/Tallahassee); Portia Hills, Development Director of the South Side Arts Complex (providing space for rare African American art forms, performance, education, and collaboration).

After a brief presentation of the mission and status of each institution represented, we will engage in a moderated discussion about the potential benefits (economic and aesthetic) of public funding of the arts as well as the politics of choosing which artists and whose cultural expressions merit public support.

All are welcome, please invite friends!

Date & Time November 14, 2012 Wednesday
 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location Capital City Country Club
 1601 Golf Terrace Dr., Tallahassee 32301

Lunch \$20 Buffet of seasonal fish or roasted pork loin, salad bar, vegetable, starch, fresh rolls, coffee and iced tea. Vegetarian entree upon request.

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

Please RSVP by Saturday morning, November 10

Because the League must pay for reservations cancelled after Saturday Nov. 10; those who cancel late should reimburse the League for their reservation's cost.

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

10 Saturday 9:00 a.m.
America Recycles Day
at Leon Co. Solid
Waste Management
Facility

13 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.
Leon Co Commission
Leon Co Courthouse
5th floor

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

13 Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Local Gov't Committee
Ruth O'Donnell
3509 Trillium Court

14 Wednesday
Hot Topics Luncheon
11:30 a.m.--1:00 p.m.
Capital City Country
Club

15 Thursday 3:00 p.m.
Health Care
Committee
Theresa Chase
2302 Trescott Drive

19 Monday 2:00 p.m.
Education Committee
Margie Thomas
808 Wilmon Court

20 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.
Leon Co Commission
Leon Co Courthouse
5th floor

20 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
Leon County School
Board, Howell Center

President's Message

The phone has been ringing off the hook, and I look forward to every call from voters looking for information. What a pleasure it is to help people who care so much about making their vote count. The experience has left me truly heartened at the strength of our democracy. Two calls have stood out most. The first, was Mr. Tizio. He called knowing the League's "just say no" position on all of the amendments, but that wasn't good enough for him. I stepped him through each of the amendments; he listened studiously, asked questions, then made his choice. At the end of the call, he expressed his gratitude for the League. When I told him the reward for me was to meet people like him with such a passion for voting, he said something that resonated so profoundly that I wrote it down verbatim as it rolled off his lips. He took his vote so seriously, he said, because "I have a passion for people to get a fair deal."



Another caller had internet access. So I asked him to look up Vote411Leon.org-our online voter guide-and then I directed him to our explanation of the amendments. "Did you find it?" I asked. "Yes! This is AMAZING!" He exclaimed, "You should advertise this thing!" (I had to just laugh, because so many of us have been working our tails off to advertise "this thing!")

This has been a great election season for the Tallahassee League. We put on five big voter service projects in the primary and another four for the general. In our Be Ready campaign, we have distributed 12,000 voter outreach flyers (that advertise Vote411Leon.org on the back), helped innumerable voters with questions and registration updates, dispelled ubiquitous disenfranchising myths (your ID does not have to show your current address!). We have given educational presentations on the amendments to more than a dozen groups, including presentations that aired on both Cumulus and WFSU radio. Every time the League has been asked to do something to help voters, we have had the volunteer forces and the leadership to be able to say "yes! we'll be there." We can feel great pride in ourselves.

While serving voters this election, the League has benefited from being more visible. We've been places we've never been before, meeting many potential new members, making new friends and building partnerships with like-minded organizations in our community. Our local membership has grown to over 140 while our volunteerism has probably doubled. Over 40 members (and nearly every new member) have actively volunteered for voter service projects this season; many repeatedly and

3955 W. Pensacola
26 Monday 1:00 p.m.
CRTPA Meeting
City Hall, 2nd floor

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

faithfully answered the call. I've heard from all corners of the community that the League's work is admired and deeply appreciated.

Come November 7th, the work of the Tallahassee League will turn to nurturing these new relationships and consolidating our gains. But first, let's have a party and celebrate a really big job very well done!

-Rebecca Sager

A Word of Caution

We need to reiterate that while the League encourages its members to be active supporters of campaigns, it is imperative that they never wear a League button or identify themselves as League members while engaged in partisan activities.

The League has never supported or opposed candidates or political parties. We've worked very hard to maintain a highly respected reputation for treating all candidates with complete equanimity and fairness. The candidate's belief in our fairness is critical to their continued participation in our voter service work.

-Rebecca Sager

Welcome New Members

Gayle and William Manley

Hannah Linqanti

Juanita Greene

Reactivated Members

Commissioner Jane Sauls

Representative Alan Williams

A Thank-You Note for a Job Well Done

Drs. Baker and Sager,

This note is written to thank the League of Women Voters and Dr. Baker for extending to us your time and knowledge in discussing the complex amendments on the 2012 Florida Ballot.

Dr. Baker's analysis of the pros and cons for each amendment was informative and insightful. In addition, the handouts were great educational tools for participants to take with them. The turnout was great with close to 170 persons in attendance.

Thanks again for all of the great work you do!

On behalf of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, we look forward to working with you on mutual social action issues in the near future.

Elsie B. Cowell, PhD

My League Story -- Terry, Anne Kant-Rauch

Terry Anne Kant-Rauch, Broker and owner of Kant Realty of North Florida
(former psychotherapist)

I joined the league this past year having heard of it for many years. My motivation was both social and political. Socially I thought it would be fun to go to the luncheons (had no idea how interesting the speakers would be) and reconnect with former acquaintances and meet new people. But the early motivator came after the 2000 election fiasco. During the 2004 presidential election, I participated in poll observing to help ensure that every voter got their vote counted. I went to an outlying county and observed a couple of different places with my now 23-year-old son David, who at 15 was already quite politically astute. I was surprised at how difficult it was for several people to vote, even though they had voter cards and IDs. They somehow weren't on the rolls...and were only allowed to "provisionally" vote after what must have been embarrassing experience to them. I still to this day wonder if their votes were counted.

As more and more laws have been introduced making it even more difficult for citizens to vote, I have become concerned about this issue of fairness. When I was invited to attend one of the League's luncheons, I knew while sitting there with others committed to voting rights that this was the place for me. While my time is limited, voter registration is my priority with fair and accessible voter laws the next step. (email: terrykant@aol.com)

-story gathered by Martha Stewart

WFSU Fund Drive

A big thank you to all the Leaguers who helped with the WFSU fund drive on October 16: Jalma & Stuart Baker, Jenny Brock, Theresa Chase, Anita Davis, Janet Findling, Mimi Jones, Peggy Ramsey, Rebecca Sager, Marilyn Wills, and Kathy Winn.

-Marilynn Wills

Local Government Study and Action Group

City & County Commission Meeting Observations are the Local Government Group's Goal.

For many years the Local Government Committee, now known as the Local Government Study & Action Group, had two members who attended City of Tallahassee and Leon County Commission meetings and reported back to the Committee. We have not been able to do this for the last three years and are currently working on another approach for keeping in better touch with commission activities and decisions. At our most recent meeting on October 23rd a new group member, Dr. Cynthia Cook, a faculty member at FAMU, provided valuable advice to help us kick-start what was a somewhat stalled project.

We will be continuing the effort to develop a group of university and community college students who will attend commission meetings as League volunteers rather than as interns. This approach is much less complicated than establishing internships that require formal job descriptions and more than the observations we had planned. A list of contacts on all three campuses was developed and

various ways of contacting students in academic clubs and journalism classes were identified at our meeting. We plan to have a lot more to report in the next issue of The Voter!

Like everyone else interested in government, we are all keeping up with national, state and local campaigns. At our meeting we bemoaned the unfortunate negative campaign advertising we are seeing on television and agreed we are about ready for this election season to be over. Join us on November 13 for our next meeting to discuss the local government results and help us move forward with our latest project.

-Ruth O'Donnell

Health Care Action and Study Group

Education, action and change were the themes of the 2nd Annual Youth Symposium on Food and Hunger: Opportunity for Policy & Change and Parent Mini-Conference held on October 20th. The symposium included presentations by youth groups working to educate themselves and their peers on food choices, vegetable/fruit gardening, physical activity, and other health and wellness strategies. Inspirational messages from adult leaders along with great music and movement offered lively opportunity for interaction and entertainment for all in attendance. Tallahassee Youth For Change project, a vision of Drs. Tonetta Y. Scott and P. Qasimah Boston, with support from the Distinguished Young Gentlemen of America, Inc., and The Tallahassee Coalition on Childhood Obesity Prevention Education (COPE), engage the youths' voices to prevent childhood obesity, improve child health and wellness, and promote youth leadership development. The program of the symposium, underwritten by the LWVT, includes the contact information for the groups and community organizations involved in these endeavors. We would be pleased to provide this information if you are interested in learning more.

Food Day (<http://www.foodday.org/>) and World Food Day (<http://www.worldfooddayusa.org/>) are also celebrated in October.

Many national health observances take place each month of the year. Among those in October, National Breast Cancer Awareness is very prominent. Throughout the month, the Tallahassee Democrat, with their Go Pink initiative, shared some of the personal stories of many women and men who have been a part of this challenging battle. You may have recognized or have a personal connection with some of these brave individuals--we certainly do. May we continue throughout the year to remember and support our community members in their struggle, healing, and cure.

In November, Alzheimer's and diabetes are just two of many diseases and health conditions that will have the spotlight. You can find links to the 2012 National Health Observances, National Health Information Center, at <http://healthfinder.gov/nho/nho.asp>.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 15th at 3:00 p.m. (This is a change from November 30th.)

May your Thanksgiving holiday be healthy and happy!

-Theresa Chase

Education Committee

Members present at our October meeting were Shirley Ellis, Marty Monroe, Margie Thomas, Dolores Valdez, Cynthia Williams, and Marilyn Wills.

We discussed the proposed half-cent sales tax extension for Leon County Schools. The unanimous consensus was to recommend that the Board of Directors of the Tallahassee League openly support the measure, and to urge its passage by Leon County voters. Margie Thomas agreed to draft a letter to the editor of the Tallahassee Democrat to this end.

The second item of business for the group was to consider possible individuals and/or groups representing differing points of view for the two 2013 Hot Topics luncheons (dinners, etc.) to focus on education topics and issues of local and statewide import:

1. Curriculum and Assessment.

A. This discussion will focus on the Common Core Curriculum; Student Assessment and Testing (including NAEP, Iowa Battery); Early Childhood Education; Graduation Rates and Dropout Prevention; and Teacher Recruitment, Training and Retention.

B. Possible participants are:

James Madison Foundation
Institute for School Innovation
Leon County Public Schools
Florida Virtual School
SAIL

2. Funding and Privatization.

A. This discussion will focus on the privatization of Pre-K--12 public schools, including vouchers and charter schools; state funding of public schools; local funding of public schools.

B. Possible participants are:

Foundation for Florida's Future
Florida's Next Foundation
Leon County Public Schools
Leon County Chamber of Commerce
Florida State School Board Association
Florida DOE Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice

The committee also drafted the following letter to be sent to The Tallahassee Democrat:

At the very end of a very long ballot this election, you will find a REFERENDUM asking approval to continue a 1/2 cent sales tax that funds school buildings, equipment and technology in Leon County. When you vote, the League of Women Voters encourages you to find the referendum first, then vote YES. Voting YES will keep our sales tax at the current rate it is now while going a long way to meet our school district's projected infrastructure needs of over \$600 million in the next 15 years.

A vote YES will maintain safe buildings and buses as well as improve equipment and enhance technologies that our students need in order to receive outstanding educational opportunities required to compete in a global economy.

The League of Women Voters supports a free public school system with high standards for student achievement, with equality of educational opportunity for all, and that is adequately financed. Unfortunately, state funding for public schools has steadily declined since 2002. And if Amendments 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, & 10 (also on your ballot this year) all pass, public school funding will be dramatically reduced even further. (For details, visit Vote411Leon.org.)

Begin your voting at the end of your ballot, and vote YES on the REFERENDUM.

Rebecca D. Sager,
President
League of Women Voters of Tallahassee

- Margie Thomas

margie.thomas2010@comcast.net
270-9750

Sustainable Thinking

From the "Good Green News" of Sustainable Tallahassee:

The Community Carbon Fund (CCF), a project of Sustainable Tallahassee, is making funding available to non-profits in the Tallahassee/Leon County area for energy efficient projects. Funding will facilitate cost effective energy improvements that reduce energy use/fossil fuel use and decrease utility expenses, allowing the organization to redirect cost savings into additional services.

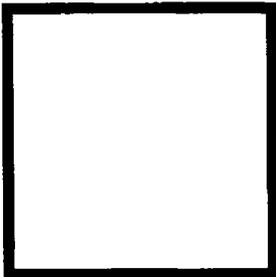
Organizations that serve low income, disadvantaged or disenfranchised individuals and families may utilize the CCF to enhance, replace or extend improvements to their physical facility that will result in energy savings. These improvements can include, but are not limited to, replacement of equipment or improvements to the infrastructure of a building (installing insulation, replacing thermostats or water heaters, light bulbs and fixtures or other retrofits).

In order to participate, organizations will be required to participate in an Energy Audit through the City of Tallahassee or Talquin Electric. Applications are available through Sustainable Tallahassee. The Project's launch will be featured at the upcoming Leon County Sustainability Summit on Oct. 31 and at the November meeting of Leon County's United Partners for Human Services Network. The Community Carbon Fund is supported by donors, including the City of Tallahassee, Leon County Board of County Commissioners and individual citizens who donate to offset their carbon emissions via the Carbon Calculator.

Try our Carbon Calculator at <http://sustainabletallahassee.org/calchome>. For more information contact admin@sustainabletallahassee.org.



League of Women Voters of Tallahassee
 P.O. Box 10216
 Tallahassee, FL 32302-2216



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Please Print Legibly)

Name _____ Phone (home) _____

Address _____ Phone (mobile) _____

_____ E-mail _____

Please Circle Annual Membership Level
 (May 1, 2011 - April 30, 2012)

- \$100.00 Susan B. Anthony membership _____
- \$ 90.00 Household membership _____
- \$ 60.00 Individual membership _____
- \$ 30.00 Student membership _____

I am enclosing \$5.00 for LWVF Lobby Fund _____

Additional gift to LWVUS Education Fund _____

Please circle any topics
 that interest you:

- Voter Services
- Local Government
- Fundraising
- Health Care
- Lobby Corps
- Sustainability/Natural Resources
- Publicity
- Membership
- Hot Topics
- Education
- Hospitality/Events

Please make all checks payable to LWV of Tallahassee. Mail to LWVT, P. O. Box10216, Tallahassee, FL 32302-2216. You may also renew/join at www.lwvtallahassee.org. There is a \$2.00 charge for using PayPal.