



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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HOT TOPICS -- It's Dinner for a Change!

Please join us for dinner followed by a panel presentation on the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act from the Florida perspective. The presentation will provide an update on the first year of health insurance signups under the Healthcare.gov Marketplace and information on the upcoming open enrollment period. This information will be provided by Athena Smith Ford, Advocacy Director with Florida CHAIN. Florida CHAIN is a statewide consumer health advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health of all Floridians by promoting access to affordable, quality health care.



Athena Smith Ford

Panel members will also address another key measure included in the Affordable Care Act – the provision allowing states to expand



Jabari Paul

their Medicaid programs to cover individuals with incomes below the federal poverty level. So far, Florida has resisted this expansion and presenters will discuss the status of efforts to encourage the Florida Legislature to support expansion. Jabari Paul of PICO (People Improving Communities through Organizing) will join us to provide the moral argument for the Medicaid expansion.



04 Tuesday
7:00 a.m.--7:00 p.m.
ELECTION DAY!

04 Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
Charter Amendment
Celebration
Duval Hotel Level 8
415 N. Monroe Street

- Date November 19, 2014 Wednesday
(**THIRD WEDNESDAY**)
- Time **6:00 p.m.--7:30 p.m. Hot Topic Dinner**
(buffet followed by panel)
- Site Capital City Country Club, 1601 Golf Terrace Drive
- Menu Roasted pork loin or pasta primavera, 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!!

05 Wednesday 1:00 p.m.
quality of Life Target
Issues, Tallahassee City
Commission
City Hall, 2nd floor

11 Tuesday 6:30 p.m.
Local Gov't S & A Group
meeting
Joan Kanan's house
2974 Bayshore Drive

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

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

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

18 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
Leon County School
Board, Reorganization/
Business Meeting
Howell Center
3955 West Pensacola
Street

18 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
LWVT Board Meeting
Eastside Branch Library
1583 Pedrick Road

19 Wednesday 11:30 a.m.,
Hot Topic luncheon
Capital City Country Club
1601 Golf Terrace Drive

20 Thursday 9:30 a.m.
CRTPA meeting
City Hall, 2nd floor

21 Friday 6:00--8:00 p.m.
Tallahassee City
Commission
Reorganization Meeting
City Hall, 2nd floor

FOR RESERVATIONS

please call 309-3005 or e-mail
LWVTallahassee@gmail.com

Please RSVP by Saturday morning, November 15.

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

**HEADS UP, EVERYBODY! The December Holiday Hot Topic will be
Saturday, December 13. Details TBA.**

President's Message

Well, the 2014 election season is finally winding down. I thought you might want to celebrate some of our many Voter Service activities with me:

2014 Local Candidate Forum: This event in July, organized by the Local Government Study and Action Group, featured candidates for contested City and County Commission seats. Co-sponsored by eight other organizations, the event was well attended and candidates were present to answer questions developed by the committee and gathered from the audience. Kudos to Linda Davis and other League members who organized this successful event.



Kathy Winn

Bandwagon: Working with WFSU, Janet Findling and other League volunteers engineered our most successful Bandwagon events to date. Candidates and their supporters (by the droves!) came to give stump speeches on television and wave signs. Primary candidates and their supporters were treated to tasty meatballs made by Cornelius Floyd-Lucas and other yummy food donated by League members. We also provided refreshments and voter education along with other environmental organizations at Environmental Forums for the Primary and General Elections.

Voter Education: A big thank you should go out to Marilyn Wills, who distributed copies of the State League's Voter Guide to locations throughout Leon and Gadsden Counties. We gave out over 2000 copies of this great publication which provided voters with information on the three proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution and candidates running for statewide offices. From tables at the Downtown Market and the Tallahassee Flea Market, we gave out Voter Guides along with information on the Sales Tax Extension Referendum, the proposed City Charter Amendment concerning ethics and campaign finance reform, and flyers for our VOTE411Leon.org website.

Voter Registration: Rebecca Sager, Voter Services Co-chair, Cynthia Gardner-Williams, and Angie Raines got their picture taken with Elmira Mangum, FAMU President, at her first inaugural event at Cascades Park. We were there registering voters at her request! Voter registration and education activities also occurred on FAMU and Tallahassee Community College

25 Tuesday 4:00 p.m.
Tallahassee City
Commission
City Hall, 2nd floor

03 December
Rhana Bazzini arrives in
Tallahassee



campuses as well as at our weekend visits to the Downtown Market and the Flea Market organized by Marty Monroe.

Amendment Presentations: Working with the State League and with Village Square, we participated in organizing or directly provided six presentations concerning proposed amendments to the State Constitution and local referendums. Over 200 individuals attended these events with many more potentially reached through television.

The Hot Topics luncheon in August featured the State League's PowerPoint on the amendments given by Jessica Lowe-Minor. On October 22, Joan Kanan and the Local Government Study and Action Group members organized a great panel presentation on the Sales Tax Extension Referendum featuring Leon County and City Commissioners and their staff. Peter Butzin gave a powerful presentation on arguments against the tax.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED IN MAKING THESE EVENTS A SUCCESS!

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

*Stacy R. Miller
Jeanette (Jan) S. James
Daryl Nall*



Voter Registration at FAMU

LWVT was invited to register voters at an event celebrating Dr. Elmira Mangum's inauguration as FAMU's new president. Participating were Cynthia Gardner-Williams, Rebecca Sager, Dr. Mangum and Angie Raines.



History Lesson

Who was the incumbent Senator who won re-election as a write-in candidate after

losing the primary? The answer is somewhere in this newsletter.

Bandwagon 2014

Thank you so much for volunteering for Bandwagon (General Election) 2014. I'm grateful to everyone for publicizing Bandwagon and helping produce Bandwagon on 4fsu Cable live, on live webcast wfsu.org/bandwagon2014, and later on telecasts and online. Those who worked at the WFSU-TV studio on October 8 are:

Linda Davis (took photos of candidates for WFSU and candid shots for WFSU and LWVT), Erin Edwards (served as liaison between professional staff and candidates), Frederick Findling, Dan Hendrickson (agreed to purchase most of the refreshments for the League so those coming to volunteer did not have to cook or buy like they did in August), Liz Holifield, Ruth O'Donnell, Peggy Ramsey, Dot Skofronick, Marilyn Wills (set up LWVT exhibit), and Kathy Winn. Many set out the food for the candidates, supporters, etc., and made sure we did not run out. Other volunteers made sure that the candidates and supporters signed in, that candidates gave us biographical info if they had not done so before, and made sure no more than 15 signs per candidates were taken into the studio. Everyone helped packing up the leftovers, dishes, etc., leaving WFSU cleaner than when we arrived!

If anyone's name is left out, please let me know, so I can add your name later. Thanks so much to both the August and October Bandwagon 2014 volunteers!

Janet Findling
Bandwagon 2014 Coordinator
Voter Services Co-Chair



Janet Findling



Liz Holifield, Ruth O'Donnell, Peggy Ramsey, Marilyn Wills



Erin Edwards

Big Bend Environmental Forum 2014

Sponsored by the Big Bend Environmental Forum (a coalition) and the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee

The second Candidates' Environmental Forum was again at City Hall on Thursday, October 9. Those who attended discovered the candidates' knowledge and opinions regarding environmental, energy, sustainability, and growth management issues. Although we did not have an audience as large as we had hoped, the people who were there had really excellent questions. Everyone stayed until the very end. I hope those who did not attend were able to see the videotape on FAMU (Cable 20) or FAMU online. Again, thank you to everyone.

Thanks to Dan Hendrickson for purchasing odds and ends and Marilyn Wills for setting up our LWVT exhibit, and numerous others for helping to set up our food/drink tables and the member organizations of BBEF for bringing food and other necessities. The League was able to use some of the great leftovers from Bandwagon 2014. Again, the Moderator was Tom Flanigan of WFSU-FM, who also helped host Bandwagon 2014 with Producer Suzanne Smith.

Janet Findling
Voter Services Co-Chair



LWVT Table



Dan Hendrickson serving



Tom Flanigan & Brian Lee

Rhana Bazzini's Historic Walk

Mark your calendars for December 1st through the 3rd.

That's when Rhana Bazzini will be walking into Tallahassee on her trek from Sarasota to draw attention to the simple facts that corporations are not people and money does not equal free speech. The campaign is supported by dozens of organizations, including the League of Women Voters.



Rhana Bazzini is 81 years old. She's overcome cancer and has adjusted to living with a colostomy. These challenges have not slowed her down. Right now she's walking from Sarasota to Tallahassee because she could not afford to buy TV ads or pay for the media blitz needed to counter "big money" efforts to take control of our democracy.

Her supporters have an idea for drawing more attention to her endeavor. We want to form "Rhana's Billboard Brigade" with millions of people wearing the same red shirt, on the same day, from coast to coast. The day is December 3rd, this is when she will arrive in Tallahassee.

Most individuals don't have the money to combat companies and deep-pocketed individuals that work to protect their best interest and, in too many cases, undermining ours. By coming together to undertake this one small unified action we have the ability to send a visible message that can't be ignored. This will be far more effective than any outreach or advertising campaign.

Here's what you can do:

Buy a T-shirt to wear at the events. It's available for \$15 on line at <http://ingrannyfootsteps.org/t-shirts/>.

Plan to walk with Rhana during her triumphant entry into Tallahassee. Details will be provided closer to the time of the event.

Attend the documentary film "Pay to Play," which will be shown on December 2 at 7:00 p.m. at the Tallahassee Film Society, 918 Railroad Ave, Tallahassee, for \$5 admission.

Join Rhana, Harvard Law Professor and campaign finance expert Larry Lessig, and friends for a pot-luck dinner at the Unitarian-Universalist Church Tallahassee, 2810 N Meridian Road, at 6:00



p.m. on December 3rd. Please RSVP Peter Butzin by calling [850-524-9946](tel:850-524-9946), or sending an email to PButzin@gmail.com. Plan to bring a dish to share.

Peter Butzin
Secretary

An Invitation From Zonta Club of Tallahassee

Legions of your friends and colleagues will unite on December 2 at 10:30 a.m. at the FSU College of Law Rotunda & Green, 425 W Jefferson Street, to mark 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women and to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the Violence Against Women Act. As a community leader, your voice is important! If you are a woman or a father, brother, son, nephew, partner or spouse of a woman you care about, show your support and join us December 2nd!

SAY NO AND UNITE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

www.zonta-tallahassee.org www.zontasaysno.com



My League Story by Liz Holifield

Education is the foundation of a progressive, productive, well-informed people and society. Education provides the basis for exercising our political responsibility in local and national government participation. The policies and procedures that impact every aspect of existence for citizens and non-citizens require an enlightened application.

Knowledge of health and mortality rates, education, employment, community, environment and economic disparities are mandatory for an efficient, non-discriminatory administration. This is the premise of a democratic society. The League of Women Voters supports representative government and the individual liberties established by the Constitution of the United States. I strongly support the efforts and fundamental tenets of the League.

My concern is the membership composition of the LWV. Women of color are under-represented. Their voices, perspectives and experiences can add validation and enhanced credibility to the League. Recognizing this, I am committed to assisting the League in its efforts to serve all members of the community in which we live.

Peace to you.

Story gathered by Martha Stewart

Local Government Study and Action Group

The October Hot Topic Lunch presentation on the extension of the One Percent Sales Tax was quite a success. The Local Government Committee was in charge of the program and worked hard to have qualified persons provide pertinent information to League members. We had over 50 persons attend the lunch at the Capitol City Country Club. Those present heard a comprehensive presentation by a knowledgeable panel consisting of County Commissioner Kristin Dozier; City Commissioner Scott Maddox; Wayne Tedder, Director of PLACE; and Cristina



Paredes, Intergovernmental Affairs and Special Projects Coordinator for Leon County. Our own Peter Butzin gave a spirited presentation on why some people oppose the sales tax due to its regressive nature.

The next meeting of the Local Government Committee will be held on November 11, 2014. We will meet at the home of Joan Kanan, 2974 Bayshore Drive, starting at 6:30 p.m. We will be discussing and hopefully selecting the issue for the February Hot Topic presentation.

Answer to history lesson question: Lisa Murkowski (R) of Alaska

*Joan Kanan
Local Government S & A Chair*

Climate Change and Sustainability Study and Action Group

This month we had a scheduled meeting with Mayor-Elect Andrew Gillum to exchange ideas on the extended use of solar power installations in Tallahassee. Much of the discussion centered on the merits of community solar gardens. We felt it was a good exchange of thoughts along with some education concerning the possibilities of community shared panels.

In attendance were Kim Ross and Dot Skofronick of LWVT and Anthony Gaudio of Sustainable Tallahassee.

Contact Dot Skofronik at dsjs@embarqmail.com or 222-8544 for details about the next meeting.

Dot Skofronik

Climate Change and Sustainability S & A Group, Chair

VOTER DEADLINE

The next Voter will be the December Voter. The deadline for submission of material is Friday, **November 21**. I know this is early but our normal deadline would be the day after Thanksgiving. Please e-mail your material to lgdavis75@gmail.com.
