



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TALLAHASSEE

www.lwvtallahassee.org 850.309.3005 lwvtallahassee@gmail.com

Tallahassee

Volume 22 Number 4

November 2013

OUR PURPOSE:

To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected government issues

IN THIS ISSUE

[President's Message](#)

[Welcome New Members!](#)

[Mark Mustian to Speak at Westminster Oaks](#)

[My League Story](#)

[S & A Group & Committee Contacts](#)

[Health Care S & A Group](#)

[Local Gov't S & A Group](#)

[Public Education S & A Group](#)

[Climate Change & Sustainability S & A Group](#)

[Membership Committee](#)

[Voter Deadline](#)

[Board Contacts](#)



05 Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Local Gov't S & A Group
Ruth O'Donnell's house
3509 Trillium Court

Why Water Matters!

North Floridians consider water to be cheap and abundant, and we expect to have clean water at the turn of a faucet - yet there are huge impacts by urban and rural factors.

Do we know how water quality and quantity affect us now and into the future?



Dr. Sean McGlynn

Our speaker this month, Sean E. McGlynn, PhD, has expertise in sampling, analysis, hydrographic research, modeling, dye studies, etc. He is also the president of the Audubon Society, Director of Florida Lake Management Society, board member of Friends of Wakulla Springs and Technical director of McGlynn Laboratories, Inc.

With his extensive background, Dr. McGlynn can explain "Why Water Matters" to us in terms of economic impact, pollution, agriculture, run-off, quality of life, recreation and community health. With a resume pages long, we are pleased that Dr. McGlynn can present this program of great current interest to all.

Come hear Dr. McGlynn explain what is happening now and how we can have sufficient clean water for generations to come.

- Dot Skofronick

Date & Time	November 20, 2013 Wednesday 11:30 a.m.--1:00 p.m. Hot Topic Luncheon
Location	Capital City Country Club 1601 Golf Terrace Drive
Menu	Beef stroganoff or pasta primavera, salad, vegetable, rolls and butter, iced tea and coffee.
Cost	Members - \$17 Nonmembers - \$20 The first three student members to RSVP eat FREE

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

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

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

20 Wednesday
11:30 a.m.
Hot
Topics **Luncheon**
Capital City Country
Club, 1601 Golf
Terrace Drive

25 Monday 1:00 p.m.
CRTPA Meeting
City Hall, 2nd floor

25 Monday 4:30 p.m.
Climate Change &
Sustainability S & A
Group, ReThink
Energy Office, 565 E.
Tennessee Street

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



FOR RESERVATIONS

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

Please RSVP by Saturday morning, November 16.

Because the League must pay for reservations cancelled after Saturday, November 16, those who cancel late should reimburse the League for the cost of their reservations.

President's Message

This month, I am writing to invite you to participate in some small way in LWVT's membership efforts.

Marty Monroe, who co-chairs this effort, is a dynamic leader. She is looking for a core group of five League members who will meet up once a month for just half an hour. The meetings are easy to attend: either drive to join a nearby member who has technology chops, or login *and* phone in to the meeting from the comfort of your own home or office or car or. . . you get the idea. The agenda is to share new ideas about how to strengthen LWVT's membership. Everyone is welcome to participate; this is a particularly great way to be involved in League if your time is especially limited as it only requires half an hour a month.



We are also looking for a couple of League members who can make phone calls to other League members. Following up with new and renewing members with a phone call once a year is important to optimally engaging members. (Whenever I have a phone conversation with one of you, I learn a lot about what you would like to contribute to the League.) Helping with this outreach is a great way to be involved in League if your time is a little more ample and if getting out to volunteer in other ways is more challenging for you.

Please contact Marty if you might like to help in these or other ways. You may email lwvtallahassee@gmail.com with "membership" in the subject line, or call Marty at [\(850\) 228-8882](tel:850-228-8882).

THANK YOU!!

- *Rebecca Sager*
President, League of Women Voters of Tallahassee
[\(850\) 219-9966](tel:850-219-9966)
rsager@music.org

Seen at the Last Hot Topic



Dr. Edward Holifield



Theresa Chase, Pat Ramsey, John Winn



Dr. Remelda Saunders,
Laura Jernigan,
Commissioner
Bill Proctor

Welcome New Members

Sharon Russell

Joy Bowen

In Case You Were Wondering

Some LWVT name tags used mostly for Hot Topic events often have blue dots or gold stars. Gold stars signify a Susan B. Anthony member. A blue dot indicates a visitor. If you see a blue dot on a name tag, please welcome one of our guests!

- Peggy Ramsey

Mark Mustian to Speak on Tallahassee Local Government

The Past 10 Years and the Next 10: How to Engage?

Monday, November 11, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
in the Maguire Center at Westminster Oaks

Mr. Mustian will engage with concerned citizens of Tallahassee and Leon County in a discussion of the issues that have faced us in the past and will in the future.

Mark Mustian is a Tallahassee attorney, a graduate of the University of Florida, and a longtime resident of Tallahassee. He was elected to the City Commission of Tallahassee, serving until 2012. He is an alumnus of both Leadership Tallahassee and Leadership Florida. In 2001 he received the Distinguished Leader of the Year award from Leadership Tallahassee and is a former chair of the Tallahassee Area Chamber of Commerce.

This event, sponsored by the Forum of Westminster Oaks, located off Dempsey Mayo Road, is free and open to the public.

- *Stuart Baker*

My League Story by Marilyn Wills

I really can't remember exactly why I joined the League but, since I was the mother of three very young children back in 1968, there was a felt need for discussion of issues more complicated than the problems of Christopher Robin and his pal Winnie the Pooh. The League of Women Voters certainly filled that need.

There were many issues facing Tallahassee in those years; the schools had just been desegregated, there was an extreme need for affordable housing for low income people, and teachers had gone on strike throughout the state and locally.

I quickly learned that the League differed from other groups in the way it takes positions on issues. Members actually studied all phases of an issue before coming to consensus; this worked for me.

In recent years, I have been privileged to serve on both our local and state boards. Through my work with the League, I have learned how state government works and how the League can influence some of the decisions that are made by legislators; serving on several local government committees has made me appreciate living in Tallahassee. For me, the League experience is priceless.

- *story gathered by Martha Stewart*

WFSU Fund Drive

Thank you to Tallahassee Leaguers who helped with the WFSU Fall Fund Drive: Jalma and Stuart Baker, Anita Davis, Linda Davis, Gaynell Waldo, Marilyn Wills, and Kathy Winn.

- *Marilynn Wills*

Study and Action Group and Committee Contacts

Study and Action Groups

Ruth O'Donnell, Chair, Local Government
[\(850\) 668-6911](tel:8506686911), ruth.odonnell@comcast.net

Kathy Winn, Chair, Health Care
[\(850\) 877-0960](tel:8508770960), kathywinncan@embarqmail.com

Margie Thomas, Chair, Education
[\(850\) 270-9750](tel:8502709750), margie.thomas2010@comcast.net

Dot Skofronick, Chair, Climate Change/Sustainability
[\(850\) 222-8544](tel:8502228544), dsjs@embarqmail.com

Membership Committee

Marty Monroe, Co-Chair
[\(850\) 942-2340](tel:8509422340), martymonroe@me.com

Sharon Russell, Co-Chair
[\(850\)878-1407](tel:8508781407), [\(850\)212-7633](tel:8502127633), sharonkrussell@aol.com

Voter Service

Janet Findling, Co-Chair
(850) 942-2291, janetfindling@comcast.net

Rebecca Sager, Co-Chair
(850)219-9966, rsager@music.org

Health Care Study and Action Group



Two members of the Health Care Study and Action Group delivered a presentation on the Affordable Care Act to 17 members of the Tallahassee Council for the Blind on October 10, 2013. If you know of a group or organization that would like to hear about the federal health care law, please contact the League at (850) 309-3005 or via email at lwtallahassee@gmail.com. The League of Women Voters of Florida has developed a Speakers Bureau to offer presentations using the official League PowerPoint presentations that can be found on the state website at www.thefloridavoter.org.

The Health Care Study and Action Group met on October 21 and approved a letter to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital praising the hospital for appointing an advisory panel addressing practices affecting infant mortality. Dr. Edward Holifield gave an inspirational speech on the topic of infant mortality at the Hot Topics Dinner on October 16.

The group is finalizing a one-page handout designed to connect people with the federal marketplace to purchase health insurance and members are attending the 3rd Annual Youth Symposium on Food and Hunger on Saturday, October 26.

For further information on the activities of the Health Care Study and Action Group, please feel free to contact me (kathywinncan@embarqmail.com or 766-2612).

- Kathy Winn

Local Government Study and Action Group



Imagine Tallahassee Wraps up Its Work

We reported in the past about the work of Imagine Tallahassee, the public-private cooperative effort to identify how the community thinks the economic development portion (15 percent) of the proposed extension of our one-cent sales tax should be spent. On December 12, at noon at the downtown library, Imagine Tallahassee will present final recommendations to the Sales Tax Committee. The Local Government Group will be represented and invites all LWVT members to attend to hear the culmination of a year of community discussions.

Update on our Internship Effort

Richard RuBino continues our group's attempt to recruit a graduate student intern or directed individual study student. A flyer advertising the opportunity was sent to the three Florida State University department heads agreeing to participate. Richard also met with the leader of a student group so we continue to be hopeful that soon we will be able to report success in finding a student. Efforts are also being made to advertise on the FAMU campus.

Choose Tallahassee

On October 9, Marjorie Turnbull, well-known community activist, reported to the City of Tallahassee Commission on the progress of Choose Tallahassee, a volunteer organization founded in 2011. The organization's purpose is to encourage the growing number of retirees interested in relocating to Tallahassee. The organization has

brought together many parts of our community in this common initiative. Ninety community organizations have participated and/or contributed to Choose Tallahassee, including city and county government. The Local Government S & A Group is interested in Choose Tallahassee and thinks you will be, too. It's been in the newspaper a few times but we will keep you posted in The Voter on any major activity.

City Ethics Ordinance Decision Delayed Again

The Tallahassee City Commission was to have held an October 16 workshop on the Ethics Panel recommendations we have been reporting on for several months. Unfortunately, this Target Issue Workshop was cancelled but the good news is it is now rescheduled for November 20, 3:30-5:00 p.m., in the City Commission Chambers. Local Government will be there, hoping that the Commission moves ahead with an ordinance as was recommended by the panel.

What's up with the Trees?

It seems like we have been hearing a lot about trees in the last month -- canopy road trees and the climbing tree at Lake Ella in particular. Our man about town, Richard RuBino got the scoop and alerted us to these two tree issues early on. You will know from your reading of the Tallahassee Democrat that protection of canopy roads continues and the play structure discussed for Lake Ella Park will not encroach on the climbing tree's roots.

Volunteer for November Downtown Market

Local Government Study & Action Group is responsible for the League's November Downtown Market booth. Volunteer to spend a Saturday morning seeing friends, enjoying cool weather and promoting the activities of our League! Call 850-322-5005 or email ruth.odonnell@comcast.net to volunteer.

Coming Up

Our group meets again on November 5, 7:00 p.m., at 3509 Trillium Court. We'd be delighted to have you join us and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea, a glass of wine and something sweet!

- Ruth O'Donnell

Public Education Study and Action Group

As you know, the LWVF is conducting an education study; Sue Legg of the Alachua County League is heading up the study. In conjunction with the study, several forums are being held in Gainesville.

On October 10, former Speaker of the House Jon Mills and public-interest attorney Neil Chonin discussed the pending lawsuit filed by parents of Alachua, Duval, Orange, and Pasco counties. They are suing the state of Florida stating that the public schools are unsafe, underfunded, inefficient, and ineffective. The suit was filed in 2009, and the state has tried twice to have the suit dismissed. However, the 1st District Court of Appeals has allowed the suit to proceed to the Circuit Court.

In 1996, a suit was filed against the state but was dismissed because the Constitution only required that "adequate provision shall be made by law for a uniform system of free public schools." Jon Mills served on the Constitution Revision Committee in 1998 and was instrumental in constructing an amendment that designated education "a paramount duty of the state," and requiring state officials to provide "a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools." To those of us who are not lawyers, this amendment was drafted to specifically allow litigation. The citizens of Florida approved the amendment, and it was used in the 2006 suit that struck down school vouchers. However, there are still McKay scholarships available; there is no regulation on these scholarships and many students use them to attend religious schools.



Some facts:

- There is an achievement gap in FCAT scores. Minority students are not performing as well as majority students.

- While 72 percent of majority students graduate, only 60 percent of minority students are graduating
- Nationally, Florida is 35th in graduating students.
- In preparing students for college, ACT scores indicate that Florida ranks 45th nationwide.
- In per capita spending on public education, Florida ranks near the bottom.

The case will be heard in Tallahassee by Judge Kevin Carroll.

- Marilyn Wills

Climate Change and Sustainability Study and Action Group

The September meeting was productive with additional reports given on solar installations in Tallahassee. Carlos Boueres found more information from city employees on his return to Tallahassee. He gave notice of the upcoming IPCC report which gave a 95 percent confidence factor on climate change indicators and human interaction.

We stayed to hear the League call in conference with well-known author of water concerns, Dr. John Englander. He has a recently published book "High Tide on Main Street" available on Kindle.

Many of our group attended the movie "Gasland II", and on October 7 attended the Clean Energy Congress 2 at the Old Capitol. Another trip to the Arvah B. Hopkins Generating Station open house was educational.

Our next meeting will be November 25 at 4:30 p.m. at ReThink Energy, 565 E. Tennessee Street.

Suggested reading on water resources by Florida author Dr. Cynthia Barnett is, "Blue Revolution, Unmaking America's Water Crisis."



Arvah Hopkins Generating Station

- Dot Skofronick

Look on the [LWVT web site](#) for the sea level change flyer created by the Climate Change and Sustainability S & A Group. The group has been handing out the flyer at the Saturday Downtown Market to aid in educating the public on the dangers of climate change.

Membership Committee



The membership committee is looking for new blood and new ideas. Please join Sharon Russell and Marty Monroe, once a month for no more than 30 minutes. We meet virtually (online). Next year will be another difficult round of election issues and it would be a great opportunity to expand the LWVT base. If you are interested in joining the fun, please contact Marty Monroe at 228-8882.

- Marty Monroe, Co-Chair

OPT OUT - *go Green!*

If you would like to opt out of the traditional paper Voter (the one that arrives by regular mail), then please send an email to lwvtallahassee@gmail.com with "Opt Out" in the subject line.

VOTER DEADLINE

The next Voter will be the December Voter. The deadline for submission of material is Friday, November 29 (Yes, the day after Thanksgiving. I know, just try.) Please e-mail your articles to lgdavis75@gmail.com.

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