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The Tallahassee League's fiscal year began May 1st,
if you haven't already, then please renew now!



THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TALLAHASSEE

www.lwvtallahassee.org 850.309.3005 lwvtallahassee@gmail.com

Tallahassee

Volume 22 Number 3

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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

IN THIS ISSUE

[President's Message](#)

[Welcome New Members!](#)

[About the Name Tags](#)

[My League Story](#)

[Poll Worker Appreciation Day](#)

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

[Health Care S & A Group](#)

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

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

[Membership Committee](#)

[Join the League!](#)

[Board Contacts](#)

Another EVENING Hot Topic Addressing Infant Mortality

The news is out and it isn't good. In 2012, the rate of deaths among infants less than one year old spiked in Leon County, increasing by almost 60 percent over the 2011 rate and remaining higher than the state average. Black infants are disproportionately affected, dying at a rate almost three times higher than white infants.



Edward Holifield,
M.D.

Discussing this issue at October's Hot Topic supper will be Dr. Edward Holifield, League member and longtime activist in our community. Dr. Holifield will educate us concerning the causes of infant mortality and how access to health care, breast feeding and other cultural and community factors influence this problem.

Dr. Holifield has long been recognized as an expert in the area of infant mortality and has written extensively about disparities in health outcomes between majority and minority populations. For many years, he served on the Health Care Advisory Committee appointed by the Leon County Commission to address health problems and access to health care in our community. Dr. Holifield is adamant that our community can, and should, take actions that prevent babies from dying before their first birthday.

Please join us in learning about this important topic and what can be done to protect the lives of our youngest citizens.

Date & Time

October 16, 2013 Wednesday

6:00 p.m.--7:30 p.m. Hot Topic Dinner



08 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.

Leon County
Commission, County
Courthouse, 5th floor

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

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

09 Wednesday
7:00 p.m.
Local Gov't S & A
Group
Jan RuBino's house
726 Ingleside Avenue

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

16 Wednesday
6:00 p.m.
Hot Topics **DINNER**
Capital City Country
Club, 1601 Golf
Terrace Drive

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

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

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

Location Capital City Country Club
1601 Golf Terrace Drive

Dinner \$23 Herb roasted chicken and vegetable lasagna,
salad, vegetable, rolls and butter, iced tea and
coffee.

or FREE 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, October 12.

Because the League must pay for reservations cancelled
after Saturday, October 12, those who cancel late should
reimburse the League
for the cost of their reservations.

President's Message

You may have noticed that the Hot Topics events the last few years have consistently hit on urgent civic issues. As League members, we need to not only be informed, but to be ready to take action.

Both expert speakers at the September Hot Topic on the Voting Rights Act stressed that the right to vote is not granted in either the U.S. Constitution nor the Florida Constitution.

Should this not be the League's next big priority: amending Florida's Constitution to include a guaranteed right to vote for all citizens?

The other take away from the September Hot Topic was voiced by members of the larger Tallahassee community in attendance: there is a desire to educate an even broader range of citizens about the changes to the Voting Rights Act. Education is intended to lead to action to safeguard the positive changes that the Voting Rights Act afforded so many U.S. citizens.

It is safe to say that the September Hot Topic was not the last word on the Voting Rights Act. I hope that it was rather the inspiring beginning of a long ranging effort in which LWVT, local citizens, and like minded allied organizations will work together to ensure all citizens' right to vote is secure.



- Rebecca Sager
President, League of Women Voters of Tallahassee
[\(850\) 219-9966](tel:8502199966)
rsager@music.org

Welcome New Members

Carol Harrison

Jim Skofronik

Sharon Russell

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

My League Story by Marty Monroe



My name is Marty Monroe and I joined the League just a couple of years ago. I actually felt compelled to join the League for I am truly grateful to the incredible women whose shoulders I still stand on today. My life would be very different if the League had lost their legislative battles over child labor laws, minimum wage, compulsory education and of course equal opportunities for all women.

Most people trust and respect the LWV. My favorite activity is voter registration. It is a great way to meet interesting people who are always more willing to take the time to register when they know you are with the League.

I also joined the League to be a part of an organization of "doers"; an organization of interesting and interested people, where politics is not a spectator's sport, but civility is required. I am honored to maintain a Susan B. Anthony membership.

- story gathered by Martha Stewart

Poll Worker Appreciation Day

On September 24, the Leon County Supervisor of Elections Office held its Official Grand Opening and Poll Worker Appreciation Event at its new voting operations center. Janet Olin, Assistant Supervisor of Elections, welcomed us and County Commissioner Kristin Dozier read the County Commission Proclamation declaring September 24, 2013, Poll Worker Appreciation Day. Ion Sancho, Supervisor of Elections, spoke to us about his plans for the office and himself. And don't worry, he's not leaving us till 2017. He said he has a couple more election cycles left in him.

We were treated to guided tours through the massive warehouse where all the equipment used on election day is stored. The equipment includes a fully equipped mobile polling place in case something happens (fire, flood, etc.) that makes a designated polling place unusable. The mobile polling place is towed to the site and voting goes on as advertised. I gained a new respect for the logistical talent of the staff as the tour guides explained how they get all that equipment and supplies to 94 polling places in three days.

In addition to food, there were gift drawings for the poll workers, and a demonstration of a new voting machine which will potentially replace the two types we used in the past. It will record votes by an optical scanner, but for the sight impaired voter there is an audio component which will mark a paper ballot pursuant to the voter's instructions. Everyone will have a paper ballot.

Seen at the event were Marilyn Wills, serving hot dogs, and Jessica Lowe-Minor posing with Ben Franklin.



- Linda Davis

Study and Action Group and Committee Contacts

Study and Action Groups

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Sharon Russell, Co-Chair

Sharon Russell, Co-Chair

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Rebecca Sager, Co-Chair
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Health Care Study and Action Group

What Happened in September:

Ann Parker, Janet Findling and I had an unsuccessful meeting on September 10 with Representative Halsey Beshears to discuss expanding Medicaid in Florida. We were unable to convince Representative Beshears to change his vote against the expansion.

He feels that Medicaid is "broken" and wants to support an alternative program that helps deserving people who are attempting to help themselves. What he hears from his constituents is that they do not favor the Medicaid expansion. We sent a letter thanking the representative for meeting with us with an enclosure addressing concerns raised by the House leadership. Our next step should be identifying and encouraging people Mr. Beshears represents to speak out if they are in favor of the expansion. Theresa Chase and Ruth O'Donnell attended the workshop of the Leon County Commission on September 10 where funding was approved for the Bond Community Health Center! Bond will receive \$805,140 to continue to provide health care to the



uninsured in our community next year.

You will have to attend the Hot Topics Dinner on October 16 to find out what progress Dr. Edward Holifield and the Advisory Panel at Tallahassee Memorial Hospital made recently in addressing practices affecting infant mortality. Let's just say that the Health Care Study and Action Group is claiming Dr. Holifield as a member and hoping to bask in the warm light of his success!

What's Happening in October:

Food Day Is October 24. This is a "national celebration and a movement for healthy, affordable and sustainable food. Details about this celebration can be found at foodday.org. Locally, the food movement is celebrating with "Seven Days of Local Delights -- A Celebration of Local Food." There are events and activities for everyone during the Celebration which is scheduled for October 21-27. Part of this celebration is the 3rd Annual Youth Symposium on Food and Hunger from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 26. In the past, the LWVT has helped sponsor this event by funding the printing of the program which offers participants health messages that can be shared with the community about the importance of food to health and disease prevention. A garden tour will be led by the youth. For a complete program of events during the Celebration, contact Theresa Chase or our Action Group at kathywinncan@embarqmail.com.



The Health Care Study and Action Group is still working on a one-page handout designed to connect people with the federal Marketplace to purchase health insurance. 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



Local Government S & A Group Brings in a Crowd for September's Hot Topic Dinner

Working with multiple partners paid off for the Local Government Study and Action Group last month when it was asked by President Rebecca Sager to handle logistics for the September 18 Hot Topic Dinner. Our new partnership with Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA), an adult sorority, spread flyers about the event around churches attended by AKA members. The same flyers were given out at the SaturdayDowntown Market. We used the usual advertising opportunities - Village Square's extensive email list, a radio ad on WFSU, and a media release. Stuart Baker wrote an article that was published in the Tallahassee Democrat's "Chronicle" and the event was announced on WCTV during the noon news. Linda Davis personally invited local government officials. Our results were really big -- 70 people attended. Is this a record? Maybe not an all-time record but possibly for recent years. It didn't hurt that the topic, the U.S. Supreme Court decision regarding the Voting Rights Act, is of great interest and the speakers, Carolyn Thompson (Advancement Project) and Ion Sancho (Leon County Supervisor of Elections), were great, too. Even so, we are proud of our efforts. Thanks to Stuart Baker and Jan RuBino for the cookies and brownies and to Betty Kozumplick for the great centerpieces.

Imagine Tallahassee is Getting Closer to its Goal

Linda Davis and Ruth O'Donnell attended an open house held by Imagine Tallahassee, the grassroots public/private partnership financed with private funds and supported by county and city staff to conduct a visioning exercise under the guidance of national consulting firm Wallace,

Roberts, and Todd LLC. The next opportunities to learn more about Imagine Tallahassee's progress are November 4, 5:30 p.m. and November 5, 2:00 p.m. A location is yet to be announced; check imaginetalahassee.com/calendar-of-events for that information if you plan to go. A presentation to the Sales Tax Committee is scheduled for noon on December 12 at the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library. Local Government S & A invites you to join us at these meetings.

Trying Again for a Graduate Student Intern

Local Government S & A is trying again to have a graduate student intern, this time for the Spring semester. We are broadening the opportunity and inviting a department at FAMU as well as three departments at FSU to participate. Find out more at lwtallahassee.org/disinternshipinfo - you may know someone for whom this would be the perfect internship!

Coming Up for Local Government S & G

You may have seen articles in the Tallahassee Democrat about possible changes to canopy road ordinances. Richard RuBino of our group attended a meeting on September 18 on this topic and our group will be following the action.

The next meeting of the Local Government Study & Action Group will be October 9 at 7:00 p.m. at Jan and Richard RuBino's house at 726 Ingleside Avenue.

- Ruth O'Donnell



Climate Change and Sustainability Study and Action Group

The group has been doing research on possible options to improve the process of approval of city permits for installation of residential PV solar systems. Regarding climate change, the group will follow the upcoming actions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC is the most reliable authority on the science and the model projections of future events including global atmospheric warming, ocean warming effects and sea-level rising. The last (fourth) report of the IPCC was issued in 2007 (see www.IPCC Fourth Assessment Report). This month, the IPCC has begun the process of panel discussions that will culminate in 2014 on the release of the fifth report. Some interim data and conclusions will be available at the IPCC website prior to the full report release in 2014.



The group also wants to bring the attention of the local members to the upcoming showing of the documentary "Gasland II" at the IMAX (downtown) theater on October 6 at 3:00 p.m. This will be a free event (donations requested). The movie deals with the environmental effects of "fracking" for natural gas.

- Carlos Boueres

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 SaturdayDowntown Market to aid in educating the public on the dangers of climate change.

Membership Committee

The Membership Committee participated in two events in September: tabling at the Welcome Tallahassee event for returning and new students held on September 7, and coordinating volunteers for the Downtown Marketplace on Saturdays in September. A special thanks to all members who helped with the tables: Kathy Winn, Peggy Ramsey, Carol and Bill Weissert, Zana Raybon, Sandra Kendall, Crystal Jones and Laura Jernigan.

The committee met via JoinMe on September 19. Zana Raybon's job has changed and involves more travel, so she will be unable to continue as co-chair of the committee. Personal phone calls will be made to nonrenewing members. The committee will ask the Board to consider increasing the cost of meals for guests at Hot Topics as an incentive to become members of LWVT.



There was discussion about meeting with the social studies developer for the Leon County School district concerning middle school civics teachers and how LWVT might help them.



This committee meets virtually, saving time and travel for members. It is a fairly new committee and would love more participation in getting us off the ground. Call Marty Monroe at [850-228-8882](tel:850-228-8882) for information about the meetings and joining the committee. The next virtual meeting is October 24 at 7:00 p.m.

- Marty Monroe, Co-Chair

VOTER DEADLINE

The next Voter will be the November Voter. The deadline for submission of material is Friday, October 25. Please e-mail your articles to lgdavis75@gmail.com.

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