



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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In This Issue

- [President's Message](#)
- [Welcome New Members!](#)
- [Susan B. Anthony](#)
- [My League Story](#)
- [Thanks from Janet](#)
- [Volunteer for Saturday Market](#)
- [Local Government Update](#)
- [Health Care Update](#)
- [LWVF News](#)
- [LWVT at the Polls](#)
- [Alzheimer's Project](#)
- [Board Contacts](#)

HOT TOPICS LUNCHEON

**Financing Campaigns:
 Money & Political Speech**

Election spending in 2012 will reach \$9.8 billion (\$4.76 billion of this will be spent by Super PACs), according to Borrell Associates' research. As voters, what chance do we have of tracing such vast sums and its influence on candidates and public policy?

Helping voters in this endeavor is our featured speaker, Ron Meyer, a respected lawyer and founding partner of a local law firm renowned for practicing in the trenches of campaign finance, ethics, and election law.

Drawing from his vast professional experience, Mr. Meyer will shed light upon how voters can learn who is backing a candidate or party, super PACs, "bundling," and how fundraising prowess can bring party leaders to greater power and influence.

You are encouraged to bring your toughest questions for an enlightening discussion on one of the hottest topics of the year.

All are welcome!



Calendar

- 04 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
Leon Co School Board
Howell Center
3955 W. Pensacola
- 05 Wed. 4:00 p.m.
Tallahassee City
Commission
City Hall, 2nd floor
- 10 Monday 2:00 p.m.
Education Committee mtg.
Margie Thomas'
800 Wilmon Court
- 11 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.
Leon Co Commission
Leon Co Courthouse
5th floor

Date & Time	September 19 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 jerk roasted chicken and baked ziti, full salad bar, chef's vegetable & starch, fresh baked rolls with butter, coffee & iced tea

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

please RSVP by Saturday morning, September 15

(If you would like a vegetarian entree or to be served at your seat, please request this when you make your reservation.)

Because the League must pay for reservations cancelled after Saturday May 12, those who cancel late should reimburse the League for their reservation's cost.

11 Tuesday 7:00 p.m.
Local Government Meeting
Ruth O'Donnell's
3509 Trillium Ct.

13 Thurs. 3:00 p.m.
Health Care Committee
Theresa Chase's
2299 Trescott Drive

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

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

19 Wed. 11:30 a.m.
Hot Topics Luncheon
Capital City Country Club

19 Wed. 4:00 p.m.
Tallahassee City
Commission Meeting
City Hall, 2nd floor

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

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

President's Message

Perhaps if I were a political scientist, I wouldn't feel guilty, as I do, for indulging in watching the Republican and Democratic national conventions on CSPAN, then poring over the myriad commentaries and fact checkers, and fact-checker checkers on the web. I've been asking myself why I would spend so much time educating myself on the ins and outs of policy and campaign promises. But isn't informing ourselves on the issues of the day quintessentially "League"?

While the League provides hands-on ways to promote active participation in our government, the League is foremost a way to educate ourselves and the electorate. Listening to League members this summer, I've heard repeatedly that ***we join the League because we want to learn*** more about our government.

Isn't the spirit of League membership essentially being intentional about paying attention, taking a moment out of a busy day to learn more, to parse a fact we've heard in the news, to delve a little deeper?

That said, you'll probably notice a lot of hands on ways for you to get directly involved (this Voter is brimming with opportunities). Whatever way you can be an active League member, even if it is reading an educational email, we're glad to have you with us.

-Rebecca Sager



Welcome New Members!

Zana Raybon
Lisa Rutledge

Karla Schmitt
Linda Fairbanks

SUSAN B. ANTHONY MEMBERS

Thank you to Susan B. Anthony level members who have paid membership dues plus made a \$40.00 donation to the Board of Directors Fund for special Voter Service projects in our current 2012-2013 financial year:

Marilynn Wills
Doris Partridge
Ruth O'Donnell
Dot Mann
Erin Edwards
Peggy Moore
Christy Crotty
Laura Cook

Carmen Nelson
Fran Campbell
Rebecca Sager
Kay'd Selden
Peter Butzin
Linda Williams
Marty Monroe
Zana Raybon

Gaynell Waldo
Peggy Ramsey
Linda Davis
Janet Findling
Natholyn Harris
Mary Ann Price
Tabitha Frazier

Starting in this issue, League member and intrepid story-gatherer Martha Stewart will share with you a fellow League member's story so that we can better know each other and our League. -Rebecca

MY LEAGUE STORY - STUART BAKER

Sometimes an accident has a positive result.

Stuart Baker joined the League in November 2000, four years before retiring as a Professor of Theatre at Florida State University.

Recently, Dr. Baker was asked: "What motivated you to join the League?" He answered:

"Actually, I joined by accident. You see, for many years I had admired the work done by the League, in particular its work educating citizens about their rights and duties, the process of voting, and the function of democratic government. So wanting to support this admirable work, I sent some money. I had no thought of joining as I was unaware that the League admitted male members (I clearly did not know as much as I thought I did.) I was rather startled when I received a phone call congratulating me on becoming a member! And I am very glad I did, as it has given me the opportunity to do more than contribute cash. It has also been an amazing education; I have learned more about politics and the functions of government than ever before in my rather long life."

Now that Stuart has retired, he plans to continue his education in many ways, including participation in League activities.

-story gathered by Martha Stewart

A BIG THANK YOU TO MANY LEAGUE MEMBERS

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all the League members who helped with the Candidates Environmental Forum on July 26th at City Hall and Bandwagon 2012 on August 1st and 2nd at WFSU!

At both events you contributed, made or bought food; helped unpack and pack the dishes, napkins, food, tablecloths, etc.; arranged and refilled attractive platters and pitchers; set up and staffed the League display table. You contributed questions for candidates at the Environmental Forum. At Bandwagon you made sure that candidates, their supporters with signs, and observers all signed the appropriate form so we knew which candidates had arrived and how many signs supporters had (limited to 15 each); stood in the hall to make sure nobody took food downstairs and directed people to the stairs and elevator; made sure candidates were in their waiting room and gave them directions as to how and when each should proceed to the podium; and directed people downstairs to the studio, candidates' waiting room, the restrooms, and the water fountain

Those who helped with the Candidates Environmental Forum were Queen Bruton, Linda Davis, Sue Gross, Amy Mann, Dot Skofronick, Martha Stewart, Marilyn Wills, and Kathy Winn.

Those who gave their time for Bandwagon 2012 either one or both evenings were Norene Chase, Tom Chase, Mary Cortes, Linda Davis, Laura Jernigan, Mimi Jones, Rebecca Sager, Lisa Sprague, Martha Stewart, Rachel Sutz Pienta, Margie Thomas, Gaynell Waldo, Carol Weissert, Marilyn Wills, and Kathy Winn. If I have forgotten anyone for either event, please let me know. I will recognize you in a later Voter.

For the same events before the November election, we need many volunteers again. I would love to have some new members, those who cannot be active on a committee or on the board, but can give one, two, or three evenings during election year, not-so-new members who have not volunteered recently, and anyone else.

If you do not drive at night, don't let this keep you from helping. We will try to match you with a member who lives or works nearby. If you are going to be out-of-town on those dates, you may make or buy some refreshments. We will

(Cont'd next page)

figure out to whom you can deliver your contribution before you leave town. The more food donated by members or restaurants or food stores, the less money leaves our treasury.

Bandwagon 2012 will be Wednesday, October 3rd, and Thursday, October 4th, at the WFSU headquarters of Orange Avenue and on Pottsdamer Street. Volunteers need to be there at 5:30 p.m; broadcast starts at 7:00. The Big Bend Candidates Environmental Forum will be Thursday, October 18th at the Tallahassee City Hall, City Commission Chambers. Volunteers should arrive at 4:30 p.m., reception and exhibits start at 5:45 p.m. followed by the forum at 6:30 p.m.

I am looking forward to hearing from you about volunteering. Voter Service is the League's major service, done by the entire League membership, not merely a committee. Again, thank you to all who helped in July and August.

-Janet Findling

DOWNTOWN MARKET VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We're back in full swing at the Downtown Market, registering and educating voters. If you'd like to volunteer to work the Downtown Market on a Saturday in September or October, then please contact Marilyn Wills at 893-4104 or marilynnwills@msn.com.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STUDY AND ACTION GROUP

At the August meeting of the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee Local Government Study & Action Group, we began a conversation about where our energy and attention should next be focused. Now that the very successful candidate forum we put on in July is over, we are ready to take on some new activities. We also established the second Tuesday of each month as our meeting date. Our next meeting will be September 11th at 7:00 p.m.

The LWVT 2012-13 Program provides this guidance on the role of our group:
"Engage with elected and appointed officials of local government in order to be informed of and investigate issues related to the League program and that are of interest to members and suggest related Hot Topics speakers and issues for discussion."

The Program also lists positions adopted by our local League which we must consider as we make decisions about our activities. You may also be interested in looking at the state League Program - <http://www.lwvtallahassee.org/201113programs.html>.

Listed below are activities we have pursued in the past and suggestions for new activities that were discussed on Tuesday. We are in the process of deciding which ones we will focus on in the coming months.

1. Attend County and City Commission meetings

We discussed contacting appropriate departments at FSU, FAMU and TCC to look for a few "interns" who would attend the meetings, wearing a League pin. Our thinking is that students interested in government could earn community service credit or whatever else their school might be willing to give them in return for doing this. We might find a faculty member willing to use this as a Directed Individual Study for which the student would write a term-end paper. We would ask that the students come to our meetings and report. If possible, we could offer the students a year of free membership in the League. This could build membership as well as meet our needs.

2. Continue to follow and be involved in local land-use planning such as the Rockaway property owner's request for a text amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. Some of our members expressed our concerns to a

few local government elected officials before the proposed amendment was withdrawn. Richard RuBino provided a report for our Tuesday meeting.

3. Continue to follow the City's proposed transportation plan, Moving Tallahassee: Cars Optional. We met with City Commissioners and others in support of this plan as part of the state League transportation study in which we participated last fall and winter.
4. Pursue opportunities to participate in City (and other local government) discussions regarding ethics.
5. Continue to participate in Sustainable Tallahassee through our representative on that group's recycling committee and other opportunities as they are available.
6. Attend candidate forums in September and October to ask some of the questions from the VOTE411Leon website <http://www.vote411leon.org/>.

-Ruth O'Donnell

HEALTH CARE STUDY AND ACTION GROUP

We look forward to gathering on Thursday, September 13th, after our summer hiatus. And, we need your participation to share your knowledge, passion and energy for health care issues! The Affordable Care Act continues to be a topic of debate and focus of attack in the political campaigns following the Supreme Court decisions announced last June. Our Health Care Study and Action group has taken part in educational efforts to inform our League and the public about the law. There is more to come. Additionally, Medicaid, women's health rights, children's health insurance, health disparities, as well as local health policy initiatives, are subjects of our meetings.

Please join us at our next meeting (3:00 p.m. at 2299 Trescott Drive) when we learn from Dr. Qasimah Boston about the next Youth Symposium and local projects evolving from the Unnatural Causes initiative. Our members will also discuss the reports of the findings of the Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida and Leon County Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) committee about the Community Health Improvement Plan. In the weeks ahead, we will learn about the Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition's service delivery planning process.

If you have a health care policy concern you want to share or learn about, please attend and help us to achieve the goals for the LWVT Health Care Program in the year ahead:
Support, monitor and take action for ongoing national, state and local health care policy with educational and legislative initiatives that promote socio-economic and racial/ethnic/gender equity in access to quality health care for all and control of costs.

We welcome you!

Contact Theresa Chase at 383-1348 or chasetheresav@yahoo.com

-Theresa Chase

LWV of FLORIDA NEWS

and a request for volunteers to answer the phone

Just days ago, Judge Robert Hinkle issued a permanent injunction in LWVF vs Browning. League members have ten days in which to return voter registrations to the Supervisor of Elections. Also, many of the onerous rules involving registering with the state and keeping track of those registering voters have been dropped.

Special Edition Voters that cover the amendments are available; if you would like copies for other organizations you belong to, please contact Marilyn Wills at marilynnwills@msn.com.

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Every election cycle, the State League Office gets many calls from citizens who have questions about voting. A second phone line will be installed to handle these queries, and Tallahassee League members are needed to help these voters. Informing voters is one of the most important things we do as League members. We will be taking two hour shifts during the next five weeks. If you are able to help any time during the next few weeks, please let me know by email or phone: marilynnwills@msn.com or 893-4104.

-Marilynn Wills

LWVT AT THE POLLS - Adopt A Precinct

Every election for the past several years, LWVT has manned Precinct 5501, located at Timberlane Community of Christ Church.

Pictured at the end of the long 14-hour day, from left to right, are League members Marilynn Wills, Sanford Safron, Peggy Ramsey, Rebecca Sager, Bill Weissert, Carol Weissert and Doris Partridge. Also helping at this location are Rob Weissert and Katie Hayden. Linda Davis, Janet Findling and Kathy Winn also participated in the fundraising project at other precincts.



A big thanks to everyone for a nice gift to our treasury! The work is an enlightening view of our election process.

-Peggy Ramsey

ALZHEIMER'S PROJECT

Alzheimer's Project, Inc., has been present in the Big Bend community for 20 years. Started as an outreach ministry of Saint Paul's United Methodist Church, the Project's main focus is to "help local families find their way through support, respite and education."

Services include support groups and counseling for caregivers, which allow them to learn more about the disease and how to work through difficult situations from their peers and other professionals. Caregivers have opportunities for respite, when they can leave their loved one with trained staff and volunteers who provide socialization, while the caregiver gets a much needed break.

Education is provided through an annual conference at the FSU College of Medicine and a six-week course entitled "Powerful Tools for Caregivers," which teaches caregivers how to take care of themselves, while providing care to their loved one.

Alzheimer's Project, Inc., also provides the Project Lifesaver Program, in association with Leon County Sheriff's Office

and Pilot Club of Tallahassee. This proactive recovery system is for Alzheimer's patients, and children with autism and Down syndrome, who are all prone to wandering from the safety and security of their guardians. Clients wear a transmitter that has a unique FM frequency that can be picked up by special equipment used by LCSO. When a client is missing, their family calls LCSO, who then initiates a search. Project Lifesaver International is utilized throughout the Land and boasts a 99 percent recovery rate within 30 minutes to an hour.

The two greatest points about Alzheimer's Project, Inc.: we help LOCAL families with FREE services.

Please call 386-2778 for more information.

-This article submitted by James Smith, MSW, Clinical Director of the Alzheimer's Project, Inc. It is printed here as a community service.

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.

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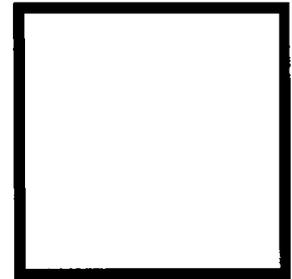
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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. Box 10216, Tallahassee, FL 32302-2216. You may also renew/join at www.lwvtallahassee.org. There is a \$2.00 charge for using PayPal.