THE VOTER

LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area ◇ April 2009 ◇ Vol. 3 Issue 9
http://lwvtri.googlepages.com/
Nationally recognized! Locally active!

LWV OF THE VILLAGES/TRI-COUNTY AREA

Officers

Joanne M. Coen
President
750-1366

Maureen Sullivan Iannitelli
2nd Vice President
259-7692

Carolyn Johnson
Treasurer
751-4103

Judie Brown
Secretary
259-6228

Directors
Sally Bard
Richard L. Coen
Bernice Cozewith
Helen Gozdanovic
Sylvia Jones
Frances Spedding

ANNUAL MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2009

11:00 A.M.
JITTERZ CAFÉ
11783 HWAY 27/ 441, BELLEVIEW

NOMINATIONS FOR 2009-2011 BOARD

Joanne M. Coen	President	2009-2011
Barbara Cope	1st VP	2009-2010*
Richard L. Coen	2nd VP	2009-2011
Carolyn Johnson	Treasurer	2009-2011
Betsy Brody	Director	2009-2011
Sharon Kaplan	Nominating Committee	2009-2010

UNEXPIRED TERMS

Judie Brown	Secretary	2008-2010
Bernice Cozewith	Director	2008-2010
Helen Gozdanovic	Director	2008-2010

*FILLING UNEXPIRED TERM OF SYLVIA SPITZER

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization. We do not endorse political parties or candidates. We encourage informed and active participation in government and work to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

It is hard to believe that we have arrived at another Annual Meeting. Seems like we just had one! The proposed Budget, the Financial Statement and proposed Program are on pages 3 and 4. Luncheon reservation information is on page 5. Please bring this information with you to the Annual Meeting. Many thanks to **Carolyn Johnson** for working on the Budget and Financial Statement.

March was a busy month for the League both on the local and state levels. We had a good turnout for our 2nd Annual Women's History Month Luncheon. Much to our regret, **Emogene Stegall** had to cancel at the last minute. **Dee Brown** and **Karen Krauss** spoke to the guests about their starts in government and the changes they have seen in their offices since they were first elected. Dee Brown recalled sitting on the floor and working on precinct redistricting using crayons. As she said, this was before the days of magic markers! Of concern to all those in attendance was funding. Other elected officials in attendance were **Com. Linda Steward, Lake County, Com. Barbara Fitos, Marion County, School Board Member Jackie Porter, Marion County, Gloria Hayward, Clerk of the Court, Sumter County, and Christine Norris, School Board member, Sumter County**. A much deserved thank you to **Sharon Kaplan** for her work on this luncheon.

League member, **Charlene Walker**, attended the LWVF Legislative Seminar in Tallahassee and I urge you to read her report on pages 5 and 6. As you will see, it was a busy time, but very productive.

I hope you will make every effort to be at the **Annual Meeting** on **Monday, April 20**. We have officers and directors to elect and a budget for the coming year to be passed. We can't do it without you.

Joanne

I don't make jokes. I just watch the government and report the facts.
Will Rogers (1879-1935)

CALENDAR

APRIL

Mon., April 13, 10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting at the home of Joanne M. Coen. All members welcome.
Mon., April 20, 11:00 a.m.	Annual Meeting, Jitterz Café, CR 27/441, Belleview.

MAY

Mon., May 11, 10:00 a.m.	Board Meeting at the home of Joanne M. Coen. All members welcome.
Fri., May 15, to Sun., May 17	32nd LWVF Biennial Convention, Jacksonville Florida.
Mon., May 18, 10:00 a.m.	Planning Meeting at the home of Joanne M. Coen. This is in place of the May General Meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

Get well wishes and speedy recovery to **Gladys Corbin** and **Janet Duncan**. We hope to see you both back at League meetings real soon.

DUES

Just a reminder--we ask that you ***send your dues renewal check to our treasurer*, Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Dr., The Villages, 32162.** Your dues check can be made payable to either the **LWV of Florida** or **the LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area.** In addition, we are also asking that you continue to make a separate **$10** contribution to our League. This contribution helps to defray expenses that are incurred on the local level, such as printing and mailing.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE VILLAGES/TRI-COUNTY AREA
PROPOSED BUDGET 2009-2010

INCOME

A. Dues			
1. State Individual (33@$50)	$ 1650		
2. State-Family (3@$25)	75		
3. Local (36@$10)	360		
	Subtotal	$2085	
B. Contributions			
1. Non-Member	0		
2. Member	125		
3. In-Kind	250		
	Subtotal	$ 375	
C. Fundraising		$ 200	
	TOTAL		**$2660**

EXPENSE

A. Operating Expenses	0		
B. Board and Administrative Committees			
1. Officers			
2. Board tools and expenses	$100		
3. Administrative Committees			
a. Fundraising	0		
b. Membership	75		
c. Public Relations	0		
		$ 175	
C. Delegates, Travel & Meetings			
1. LWVUS/LWVF Convention/Council	200		
2. Workshops/Meetings	0		
3. Annual Meeting	25		
		$ 225	
D. Assessments			
1. LWVF 33@$50 3@$25		$1775	
E. The Voter			
1. Supplies	50		
2. Postage	25		
		$ 75	
F. Educational Activities			
1. Publications	100		
2. Program Committees	100		
3. Voter Service	260		
a. Voters Guide	TBD		
b. Candidate Forums	TBD		
c. Citizen Education	TBD		
d. Website	TBD		
		$ 460	
	TOTAL		**$2660**

*TBD—To be determined

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE VILLAGES/TRI-COUNTY AREA
FINANCIAL REPORT
June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009

Brought forward June 1			**$ 701**
Income			
Compulsory Contributions		**$345**	
Fall luncheon		**380**	
AAUW (Forum)		**40**	
Christmas Auction		**260**	
Non-member Contributions		**25**	
LWVF Pass thrus		**100**	
March luncheon		**666**	
	TOTAL		**$1816**
Expenses			
Fall Luncheon		**$345**	
Candidate Forum		**63**	
Temple Shalom Fair		**25**	
Printing costs		**42**	
LWVF Pass thrus		**100**	
LWVF contribution		**50**	
March luncheon		**684**	
VOTE pins		**65**	
	TOTAL		**$1374**
Balance as of April 1, 2009			**$1143**

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2009-2010 PROPOSED LOCAL PROGRAM

- **Local Government** – follow actions of county and local governments.
- **Healthcare** – continue to advocate for an equitable healthcare system based on LWVUS positions.
- **Education** - research school district governance and funding for the tri-county school districts.

ANNUAL MEETING RESERVATIONS

Reservations for the **Annual Meeting** at **Jitterz Café** can be made by contacting **Joanne Coen, 750-1366** or **joannejon@aol.com.**

Our luncheon selections are:
Quiche-with a choice of soup or salad
or
Three's Company-scoop of chicken, tuna and pasta salad on a bed of greens, tomato and cucumber
or
Philly Cheese Steak- served on a hoagie roll, topped with your choice of cheese.

Cost is **$15** per person and this includes soft beverage, dessert, tax and gratuity.

Reservation deadline--
Wednesday, April 15!

2009 LWVF LEGISLATIVE SEMINAR

March 22 – 24, 2009

Sunday: Check-in and receive notebook; do not lose, it is your guide to everything!

3:00 PM The first workshop launched one of the best Seminars I have ever attended. Health Care with Kenneth Brummel-Smith, MD, provided an overview of the existing problems and some of the most logical solutions available. His workshop alone was worth coming to Tallahassee to hear, but this was only the beginning.

4:30 PM The workshop on education followed immediately with standing room only just as the first one had. Dr. Francis Haithcock, Chancellor FL Public School System, and Dr. Willis N. Holcombe, Chancellor FL Community College System, addressed needs and possibilities in today's public schools.

6:00 PM Dinner at nearby Paradigm was a treat. The presentation by League lobbyist, Heather Walker, covered LWVF priorities, what to expect from legislators and where our efforts need to focus. She gave us our marching orders and they were greatly appreciated.

You would think the day was complete. Think again.

8:30 PM Deirdre Macnab, LWVF board member, offered her expertise on the recruitment, retention and recognition of membership. Local Leagues always need help in getting and keeping new members.

Time to retire.

Monday, 8:30 AM Meet in the Capitol Cabinet Meeting Room to hear legislators speak on the important issues of the day. (Reps. O'Toole, Rehwinkel, Randolph, Pafford, Fitzgerald, Skidmore; Sen. Gelber and Karen Woodall) It was a very impressive turnout of officials.

We were moved out of the meeting room while the Sec'y. of Agriculture read to school children – a regularly scheduled event. A legislator even spoke while we were waiting in the hall. Then we moved back in.

12:15 PM Break for lunch – and it was a quick one.

1:00 PM Met with Rep. Marlene O'Toole. She graciously gave us over an hour of her time. One of her major concerns is education.

4:00 PM Met with Rep. Alan Hayes (a portion of district covers Lake County). His main interest is abolishing public financing of elections.

6:00 PM Reception and dinner. Another outstanding speaker, Dr. Carol S. Weissert, Director of the LeRoy Collins Institute, spoke to us about public policy and Florida's finances. It is no wonder, from what she said, that Florida is in the dire financial straits that we are in.

We, again, retired with our brains overflowing with an extraordinary amount of information.

Tuesday, 8:30 AM Breakfast Buffet at The Governors Club. At the risk of overwhelming repetition, our final speaker, Secretary of State

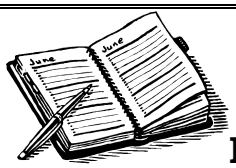
Kurt S. Browning, shared his vision for this Legislative Session and Election Laws.

11:00 AM Attended the Senate in Session – and that is an experience that you must see to believe.

From beginning to end, the LWVF office in Tallahassee, Seminar organizers and the State Board exceeded all expectations. A final comment: The thread running through every discussion or speech was the budget and fiscal policy.

When you have the opportunity to attend next year's Seminar, please do it.

Charlene Walker



MAY PLANNING MEETING

In place of a General Meeting in May, we are asking League members to attend a planning session on **Monday, May 18, 10:00 a.m**., at the home of **Joanne Coen**. The purpose of this meeting is to explore topics for our general meetings for the coming League year. There are many issues in the headlines, so come with your ideas and suggestions. RSVP to **Joanne** at **750-1366**, or joannejon@aol.com.

FROM LWVF

THIRD PARTY VOTER REGISTRATION UPDATE

The new rules for 3rd party voter registration have gone into effect and forms are available from the state League for registering with the Secretary of State.

Whether or not local Leagues are registered, the maximum fines assessed to LWVF in any one year cannot exceed $1000. The only benefit of registering with the state is that the fines are reduced by ¾ if you break the rules.

Local Leagues **are not** required to register with the state. However, if a local League does register, one of the requirements is that once a local League does register, they **must** file quarterly reports, whether or not they have registered any voters. Once again, filing with the state in **not** compulsory. The state action chair has check with the League's counsel on this matter.

32ND LWVF BIENNIAL CONVENTION

League members from around the state will be convening in Jacksonville from **Friday, May 15,** to **Sunday, May 17, 2009.**

The purpose of this Convention is to elect officers and directors; approve the budget for the coming year and adopt a program for the next two years. In addition to all the "busy work" of Convention, there are workshops and other events planned so that delegates can meet and share their ideas.

Hotel reservations can be made directly by contacting the Hyatt Regency Jacksonvillle Riverfront Hotel, 225 East Coast Line Drive, Jacksonville, Florida 33607, 1-904-588-1234 or 1-800-233-1234. Reservation deadline is April 15, 2009. Room rate is $149+ applicable tax (single or double) per night (City View) or $179+ per night (River View).

REGISTRATION FEES:

-$198 for delegates/auditors received by April 20 (Early Discount)
-$213 for delegates/auditors received April 21 to April 30
-$220 for delegates/auditors received after April 30 or at the door.

The delegate and auditor registration fee includes Friday reception/ banquet, Saturday breakfast & luncheon, all convention materials and admission to all convention sponsored activities.

On the local level, we have allocated money for use by delegates to help defray some of the cost of attending the convention. If you are interested in attending, please contact **Joanne** at joannejon@aol.com. It is a great experience!

JOIN THE LEAGUE

- **Be a Voice for Citizens! Be a Force for Change!**
- **Be Involved in the Process!**

Become a member of the LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area MAL Unit.

Name_____ **Phone No.**_____

Address_____ **Email** _____

_____ **Zip Code**_____

Village, if applicable_____

Community, if applicable_____

Former League Member: Yes____ **No**____ **Where:** _____

Interested in:
Government in Florida _____ **Education in Florida**_____

Justice in Florida _____ **Social Policy in Florida**_____

Natural Resources _____ **Sustainability** _____

Dues are paid annually:

Individual	**$50.00**	_____
Household	**$75.00**	_____
Contribution to MAL Unit	**$10.00 or more**	_____

Checks should be made payable to
LWV of Florida
and mailed to
Carolyn Johnson, 2615 Caribe Drive, The Villages, FL 32162.

Your dues include a subscription to *The Florida Voter* from the state League.