



THE VOTER

LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area ♦ March 2009

Vol. 3 Issue 8

<http://lwvtri.googlepages.com/>

Nationally recognized! Locally active!

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

Celebrate Women's History Month!



JOIN WITH THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

AS WE RECOGNIZE OUR TRI-COUNTY

SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS

DEE BROWN, MARION COUNTY
KAREN S. KRAUSS, SUMTER COUNTY
EMOGENE W. STEGALL, LAKE COUNTY

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2009

11:00 A.M - 1:00 P. M.

LOPEZ LEGACY RESTAURANT
THE VILLAGES

RESERVATIONS CAN BE MADE BY CALLING SHARON KAPLAN, 351-9810.

COST OF THE LUNCHEON IS \$18.00.

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 was good to see everyone at the February meeting. Our speaker, James Argento from the State Attorney's office, gave us an overview of juvenile justice in our area. For the most part, he believes that only a minority of our juvenile (10 to 17-year olds) population ever comes face to face with the justice system. He is seeing an increase in the southern part of Lake County, especially in the Clermont area. This is due to the population growth in that part of the county as well as its closeness to Orlando. The increase in violent crimes is worrisome; he believes there are many factors involved. Because of his involvement with the Teen Court in Lake County, he stressed the importance of community involvement. During our meeting with Rep. O'Toole in January, she spoke to us about the "Take Stock in Children" program in Leesburg. This program is the nation's leading mentoring and scholarship program. The mentors are not "...tutors but social mentors, who share life experiences, set good examples, and, and listen to their students." Material about this program will be available at all meetings. Please think about participating!

Thank you to Luth Tenorio, Barbara Cope, Betty Keller and Carolyn Johnson for their work on the Nominating Committee. This is not an easy job and their time and effort are greatly appreciated. Please see the proposed slate of officers and directors elsewhere in this issue.

The legislature will be in session beginning Tuesday, March 3. Each week, our lobbyist will be sending out the "Capitol Report" which will keep you up-to-date on what is happening in Tallahassee over the course of the 60 day session. In addition, Action Alerts will be sent out during the session, and I hope you will respond.

I hope you are planning to join us as we celebrate Women's History Month. Our honorees deserve our thanks and respect for their dedication to the tri-county community.

See you on Monday, March 16 at Lopez Legacy Restaurant.

Joanne

CALENDER

MARCH/WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

**Mon., Mar. 9,
10:00 a.m.** Board meeting at the home of Joanne M. Coen. All members welcome.

**Wed., Mar. 11,
7:00 p.m.,
Savannah Center,
The Villages** World Affairs Forum presents Dr. Dennis Jett. Contact Nancy Bell for more information.

**Mon., Mar. 16,
11:00 a.m., Lopez
Legacy
Restaurant, The
Villages** 2nd Annual Women's History Luncheon.

**Sun.-Tues.,
Mar. 22-24, 2009** LWVF Legislative Seminar, Tallahassee.

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.

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.

Dues for **April** are: Judie Betz, Beverly Epstein, Sharon & Joel Kaplan, Luth Tenorio and Linda Thomas.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH LUNCHEON

In observance of Women's History Month in March, we are pleased to announce that the LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area will be hosting our **Second Annual Women's History Month Luncheon**. Our honorees this year will be **Dee Brown**, Supervisor of Elections, Marion County; **Karen S. Krauss**, Supervisor of Elections, Sumter County and **Emogene W. Stegall**, Supervisor of Elections, Lake County. The League is very happy to recognize these women for their work and dedication to the citizens of the tri-county area.

Join us for lunch on **Monday, March 16, 2008, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** at the **Lopez Legacy Restaurant, The Villages**. The cost for the luncheon is **\$18** (check payable to **LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area**) and that covers your entrée, beverage (coffee, tea or soda), tax and tip. The deadline for reservations is **Wednesday, March 11, 2009**, and no refunds will be made after that date. Reservations can be made either 1) by email to Sharon Kaplan, jsk35@embarqmail.com or 2) by completing this form and sending it to **Sharon Kaplan, 16934 SE 96th Chapelwood Circle, The Villages, 32162**. If you have any questions, please call **Sharon at 750-3810**.

Member Name _____

Phone Number _____

Guest Name(s) _____

Phone Number(s) _____

The entrée selections are:

The Legacy: *Fresh Sea Scallops and Gulf Shrimp Grilled over Oakwood and Drizzled with a Warm Lemon Sauce, Served over Tender Baby Spinach with Artichoke Hearts, Olives, and Roasted Red Bell Peppers, Tossed in a Homemade Balsamic Vinaigrette and Sprinkled with Feta Cheese.*

Or

Legacy Club: Grilled Chicken Breast Topped with Applewood Bacon and a Roasted Red Pepper Mayonnaise, Blanketed with Aged Swiss Cheese and Served on Sourdough Bread and accompanied by Homemade Chips and Coleslaw.

Or

Oriental Chicken Salad: A Blend of Bok Choy, Snow Peas, Julienne of Japanese Cucumbers, Diced Tomato, Mandarin Oranges and Baby Lettuce Tossed in a Ginger Dressing and Served in a Crispy Birds Nest, Topped with Tempura Battered Chicken.



HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

The date has been set: **January 21, 2010**. The Place: **Temple Shalom**. Committee members, **Sally Bard, Richard Coen, Frances Spedding**, and guest, **Carol Balbes** met early in February to lay plans for a health care forum. Although it is

too early to announce who will be our guest health care speakers, I can say that we are looking at federal, state and local representation for a 2-hour forum. And from what we all have been observing in the media, there will be a lot to address. We thank the Sisterhood of Temple Shalom for agreeing to cosponsor this program with the League. Stay tuned for more information.
Sally Bard, Chair

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee, **Luth Tenorio, Chair, Betty Keller, Barbara Cope** and **Carolyn Johnson** have been meeting and have submitted a slate of officers and directors for the 2009 Annual Meeting.

As you see, there are still some vacancies, and I would ask that you seriously consider volunteering to fill one of these spots. Our League can only continue with participation from our members. Time involvement is one board meeting a month. Generally, we do not meet during the summer.

Thank you to those members who agreed to be slated and thank you to the committee for their work.

The proposed slate:

President:	Joanne M. Coen, 2009-11
1 st V.P.:	Barbara Cope, 2009-10
2nd V.P.:	Open 2009-11
Treasurer:	Carolyn Johnson, 2009-11
Director:	Linda Thomas, 2009-11
Director:	Betsy Brody, 2009-11
Director:	Open 2009-11

Nom. Committee: Sharon Kaplan – Two more elected members of this committee are needed.

Again, please think about serving on the Board!

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.

In addition, at the February Board Meeting, the Board reviewed State Program Planning and voted to recommend the following as Issues for Action: 1.) Finance & Taxation: promote equitable tax reform. 2.) Education in Florida: review all sources of funding to provide equitable, adequate education. 3.) Natural Resources: support protection and management of fresh water resources.

In addition, League member, Charlene Walker has prepared a proposal for a transportation and land use study for presentation to the delegates at the State Convention in May. Specifically, Charlene is proposing a study of Florida's processes and procedures for choosing and funding transportation and land use projects in order to provide factual data by which to measure how Florida state and local governments actually provide for the public need. Our board supports this proposal, and we have asked the other local Leagues to support this study when making their recommendations to the state board.

2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



As the legislators get ready to begin the legislative session on Tuesday, March 3, this is just a reminder that during the session, the League's lobbyist in Tallahassee will be sending out a weekly edition of the "Capitol Report." This report will give an update on proposed legislation as it relates to the League's priorities. In addition, local League members will be asked, via Action Alerts, to contact legislators to lobby for or against proposed legislation. Please read the weekly "Report" and respond to the Alerts when asked.

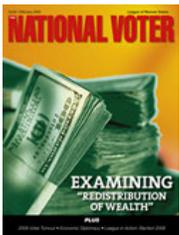
The session lasts 60 days and the only mandated responsibility of the legislature is to pass a balanced budget. Unlike the Federal government, the state of Florida cannot operate with a deficit. For those League members who are new to Florida, there is a website that can provide an excellent overview of Florida's fiscal situation. The website is <http://www.fcfe.org>, the Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Responsibility. They have prepared two reports

on Florida's fiscal problems as well as a prescription. They point out that the "sweeping federal stimulus plan signed into law last week will direct as much as \$12 billion into Florida state government over the next two years. These funds will provide some support in balancing the state budget and should reduce severe budget cuts during the legislative session that begins March 3.

However, the additional federal money is non-recurring, which means that it will not be available to plug holes in Florida's budget after the 2010 - 2011 fiscal year."

The LWV Florida's position on finance and taxation is to "support a state fiscal structure that is equitable in its distribution of the tax responsibility and responsive to the public needs." Will our legislators be able to accomplish this?

From LWVUS



Just a reminder--the February 2009 issue of the "National Voter" which is now online is the last issue to be published. In an effort to control expenses, the national Board voted to suspend publication in

both forms-- hard copy and online copy. You can go to www.lwv.org; click on the link on the left hand side to read this last issue.

DC VOTING RIGHTS BILL CLEARS CRITICAL SENATE HURDLE ***League of Women Voters*** ***Congratulates Senate on Cloture Vote***

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters today congratulated the U.S. Senate for invoking cloture on the motion to proceed to consider S. 160, the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009.

"Today's victory is particularly sweet," said Mary G. Wilson, national president of the League of Women Voters. "This is a critically important step toward final passage in the Senate," she said.

"The U.S. Senate's vote to debate the bill moved us closer to rectifying a long-standing civil rights injustice against American citizens living in the District of Columbia," Wilson stated. "Now we have to defeat any amendments that will sidetrack or kill the legislation," she said.

"There is more work to be done but this is a hopeful sign that lawmakers are taking seriously their duty to provide voting representation for all citizens of this country," said Wilson. "We intend on ensuring they see this effort through."

"For two hundred years, Americans living in our nation's capital have been denied their right to elect a voting member to the body that taxes them, makes their laws, and sends them to war," concluded Wilson. "Citizens living in our nation's capital are treated uniquely and the League has been working tirelessly to end this discrimination."

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Habla Español? Do You Speak Spanish?

The League is looking for League members who speak Spanish to work on a project leading towards the 2010 Census. Contact zarguedas@lwv.org or sespana@lwv.org by March 5, 2009

LWVUS United Nations Wrap-Up 2008 (NEW)

To read LWVUS UN Observer Doris Schapira's annual report, "UN Wrap-Up 2008 – A Summary of 2008 at the UN" go to http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=International_Relations&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=12932

Happy St. Patrick's Day



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, LWVF.