



The Voter

LWV of The Villages/Tri County Area ♦ November 2007 ♦ Vol. 2 Issue 5

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750-1366

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Well, it certainly does pay to hold a “koffee klatch” at Panera’s. In addition to our members, we had several people come to find out what we are all about! I am happy to say that we gained five new members and one transfer member. As I write this, I would like to say **Welcome** to our newest members and how happy we are that you found us, and I hope that you will become actively involved in our group.

As I mentioned last month, we will be trying some new things and won’t be meeting at the Marion County Sheriff’s Office each and every month. We are going to have some “**Hot Topic**” meetings and these usually involve a speaker and food (what else is new in these parts). Our November meeting will be devoted to the topic of water which is a very timely and important subject. If you have been reading the *Star-Banner* or the *Sentinel*, you have seen articles relating to the possible diversions of water to support the continued growth in our tri-county area. This is a very important meeting for all of us so make a reservation and invite a friend to come along. Also, please note information about our December Holiday Party as well as our January Immigration Consensus meeting in this issue.

It is time for our legislative interviews, and for those of you who were League members in your previous life, you know how important these interviews can be. For our area, the two senators we would be

interviewing would be **Sen. Carey Baker, District 20** and **Sen. Evelyn Lynn, District 7**. Representatives to be interviewed are **Rep. Larry Cretul, District 22**, **Rep. Hugh Gibson, District 42**, and **Rep. Kurt Kelly, District 24**, who replaced Rep. Dennis Baxley in a special election. Background information relative to the questions is provided by the state legislative action chair. I know that time is valuable, but your help is needed. Please let me know if you would be willing to team up with another League member and interview either the senator or representative from your area.

I know that we are all getting ready for the holidays which are fast approaching. Some of us will be traveling, others staying in the area. Whatever the case, I hope you will try to attend our November and December meetings if you are able to do so.



Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours,
Joanne

NOVEMBER

Mon., Nov. 12, Board Meeting at the
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 home of Joanne M.
noon Coen. Meeting
open to all members.

Mon., Nov. 12, Meeting of
immediately following Immigration Study
MAL Board Meeting Committee at the
home of Joanne M.
Coen.

Mon., Nov. 19, Hot Topic Lunch,
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Japanese Steak
House, Lake Sumter
Landing, The
Villages. See flyer.

Tues., Nov. 13, LWV of Lake County
5:30 p.m. Dinner Meeting.
Topic: Head Start
Program. See
article in this issue.

DECEMBER

Thurs., Dec. 13, Holiday Party with
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Chinese Auction. .
Stonecrest County
Club, Summerfield.

JANUARY 2008

Mon., Jan. 14, 2008 Board meeting at
10:00 a.m. the home of Joanne
M. Coen. Meeting
open to all members.

Mon., Jan. 21, LWVUS Immigration
10:00 a.m. Consensus Meeting
Marion County
Sheriff's Office, CR
42 and Buena Vista
Dr., The Villages.

Membership



Continued get well wishes to **Thelma Kuperberg** and **Betsy Brody**. We hope to see you both back with us soon.

Please welcome the following new members to our Member at Large Unit:

BERNICE COZEWITH
307-9065
9065 119th St.
Summerfield 34491
berncoz@yahoo.com

ANNIE GREWE
430-1553
869 Barrymore Loop
Ashland, The Villages 32162
anniemac@charter.net

DIANE JACOBSON
750-0032
755 Mallory Hill Drive
Mallory, The Villages 32162
chasanddi@embarqmail.com

ELLEN SCOTT
259-9350
857 Dowding Way
Polo Ridge, The Villages 32162
ecs828@embarqmail.com

MAUREEN SULLIVAN-IANNITELLI
259-7692
1686 Mount Croghan Trail
Mallory, The Villages 32162
rickiannitelli@hotmail.com



DUES NOTICES

Just a reminder that dues notices come from the state League office in Tallahassee. When you receive this notice, please make your check payable to **LWVF** and send it to **540 Beverly Ct., Tallahassee, FL 32301**. Because we do not keep any of the annual dues, we also ask that when you renew your dues, you also make a \$10 contribution (or more) to the **LWV of The Village/Tri-County Area MAL Unit**. This contribution stays in our treasury. Contributions should be sent to **Carolyn Johnson** who is filling in for our treasurer, Thelma Kuperberg.

NOVEMBER HOT TOPIC LUNCHEON

Water, water, everywhere, and will there be enough to drink? That is the question we hope to gain some answers to at our November Hot Topics Luncheon on **Monday, Nov. 19, 11:30 a.m.** at the **Japanese Steak House in Lake Sumter Landing, The Villages.** Our guest speaker will be Nancy Lopez, a retired hydrologist.

The price for the luncheon is **\$15** and that includes beverage, tax and tip. Please let **Carolyn Johnson, 751-4103,** cgljohnson@comcast.net, or **Joanne Coen, 750-1366,** joannejon@aol.com, know if you will be attending and whether you prefer sushi or hibachi. Reservations should be made by **Friday, November 16.**

This is an issue that affects us all and one in which we have a vested interest. Please plan to attend and bring a friend.

DECEMBER HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

A festive **Holiday Lunch** is planned at the **Stonecrest Country Club** (just north of Wal Mart on 441) on **Thursday, Dec. 13th** beginning at **11:00 a.m.** At this point, we are hoping that our guest speaker will be an aide to Rep. Hugh Gibson who will be giving us an overview of the upcoming legislative session beginning in March 2008 and property taxes.

In addition to a delightful lunch, we are planning a Chinese Auction as a fund raiser. Please bring a new or really nice desirable used item to be "auctioned." (One member is bringing grapefruit from her farm; another, a watch.) You can let **Carolyn Johnson, 751-4103,** cgljohnson@comcast.net, know if you will be attending and what you might be donating. If you can get the donated item to Carolyn before the luncheon, that would be great.

For those of you unfamiliar with the "Chinese" auction format you purchase tickets; put your name on all your tickets

(those address stickers you get in the mail work really well for this); you then place your tickets in a cup in front of the item or items you would like to win. One ticket is drawn from each cup and they are the winners.

In addition, if you would like to bring a new toy, we will deliver them to Haven. Haven is the organization that helps abused women and children in Sumter and Lake Counties. They would, of course, also welcome cash.

NEWS FROM LWV OF LAKE COUNTY

The following is an invitation from our sister League in Lake County. If anyone is interested in going, we could carpool. Let **Joanne Coen, 750-1366,** joannejon@aol.com know:

"We invite you to join us in a presentation from Porcha Green, Director of Head Start/Early Head Start programs for the Lake Community Action Agency (LCAA).

LCAA is responsible for the Head Start/Early Head Start Centers located throughout Lake County. These centers provide developmentally appropriate programs for economically eligible children three, four and five years old. Assistance is made available to Head Start families and they are actively encouraged to participate in their child's educational growth. Early Head Start enrolls pregnant mothers, infants and toddlers to focus on early intervention for children and family health, resource access and family self-sufficiency. It incorporates a comprehensive child development approach.

As Director for this multi-faceted program, Ms. Green brings us a unique perspective regarding these opportunities for our children. She will share with us the mission, goals and achievements of these programs in Lake County. Please join us to hear about her accomplishments with these children.

When: 13 November 2007
Registration: 5:30 pm
Dinner: 6:00 pm
Keynote Speaker: 7:00 pm
Where: Venetian
Gardens Community Center, East Room,
109 E. Dixie Ave, Leesburg

Event is \$15.00 per person.

**RSVP by Nov 9th, to Gail Burry: 328
Sunnyside Drive, Leesburg FL 34748, or
call 352 787.6744.**

IMMIGRATION CONSENSUS MEETING IN JANUARY

On **January 21st**, LWVTRI will be meeting to reach **consensus or “sense of the group”** on the **Immigration Study**. This will be our first consensus as a League and to further add to our responsibility, we are the study arm for the LWVF. So it is important that we come prepared to our January meeting.

For our new League members, “consensus” is the way that the League reaches a position after studying an issue. After all the information is received from Leagues across the country, the Board of the LWVUS will determine based on the responses whether or not the League has arrived at a position. It could very well be that no position will be reached.

We know you do not want to come to the meeting without some preparation. The national study committee has prepared the consensus questions and background discussion material. Go to the website, www.lwv.org to projects, immigration, and a preview of Consensus Kit including the questions which you can download and print out for the January meeting. Click “educating members to find brief immigration articles and an immigration video from the LWVUS 2007 Council. Some areas to think about for the January meeting are:

- Are immigrants needed to supplement the current and future U.S. work force?
- Should priority be given family reunification in immigration reform?
- Should immigrants with specialized training and strong academic credentials receive priority admission?
- To control more effectively unauthorized immigration, should all persons residing in the U.S. have a social security card or other national identification card?
- Are physical barriers such as fences the most effective way to stop unauthorized immigration?
- Should employers be burdened to verify employee visa status? Should employers be fined?

In addition to the LWVUS website, www.lwv.org, other websites of interest might be the American Friends Service Organization-www.afsc.org; for information re Visas (immigration)-<http://travel.state.gov/visa/>; Migration Policy Institute-<http://www.migrationinformation.org/>. An additional source might also be some of the church groups.

Carolyn Johnson and Helen Gozdanovic
Immigration Study Chairs

The LWV, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed & active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

REDISTRICTING PETITIONS

A few years ago, the LWV of Florida participated in the nonpartisan Florida's Committee for Fair Elections during the citizen's initiative campaign to establish an independent redistricting commission.

Many local Leagues and numerous League members actively supported and participated in collecting signed petitions to reform the redistricting process. League members were instrumental in the successful collection of over 990,000 signed petitions. Of these, 689,000 signatures were verified. In addition, the campaign qualified in 15 congressional districts. These results garnered more than the numbers required to make the amendment eligible for the ballot.

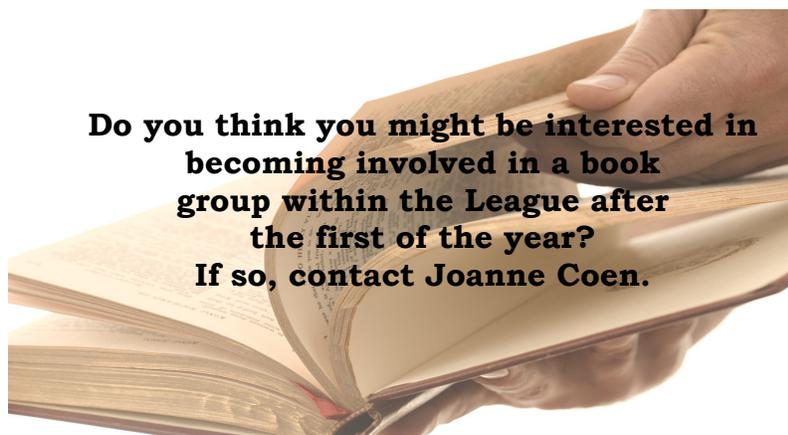
On March 23rd, 2006, the Florida Supreme Court struck the proposed amendment from the ballot, ruling that the wording of the proposal did not comply with technical legal requirements for ballot initiatives.

However, the Supreme Court decision clearly established a roadmap for compliance, and individuals and organizations active in redistricting reform have interpreted that as a positive sign.

On October 30, 2006, the campaign for redistricting reform was reborn in Florida and the LWV Florida is a partner in this effort. **FairDistrictsFlorida.org** has drafted two amendments to the Florida Constitution which it plans to put on the 2010 ballot through the citizen initiative process. These amendments would establish fairness standards for use in creating legislative and congressional district boundaries. While protecting minority voting rights, the standards would prohibit drawing district lines to favor or disfavor any incumbent or political party. Districts would have to be compact and utilize existing political and geographical boundaries. In other words, natural competitiveness and fairness would be required.

Under Florida law, these proposed amendments can be placed on the ballot after Supreme Court approval and the collection of approximately 611,000 signed petitions for each amendment. Court approval can be requested after about 61,000 signatures have been collected and verified for each. Once on the ballot, a sixty percent majority is necessary to pass the amendments.

Please click on www.fairdistrictsflorida.org to find out more about redistricting in Florida and sign the online petitions. Encourage your friends and neighbors to do the same.



Do you think you might be interested in becoming involved in a book group within the League after the first of the year? If so, contact Joanne Coen.

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** _____

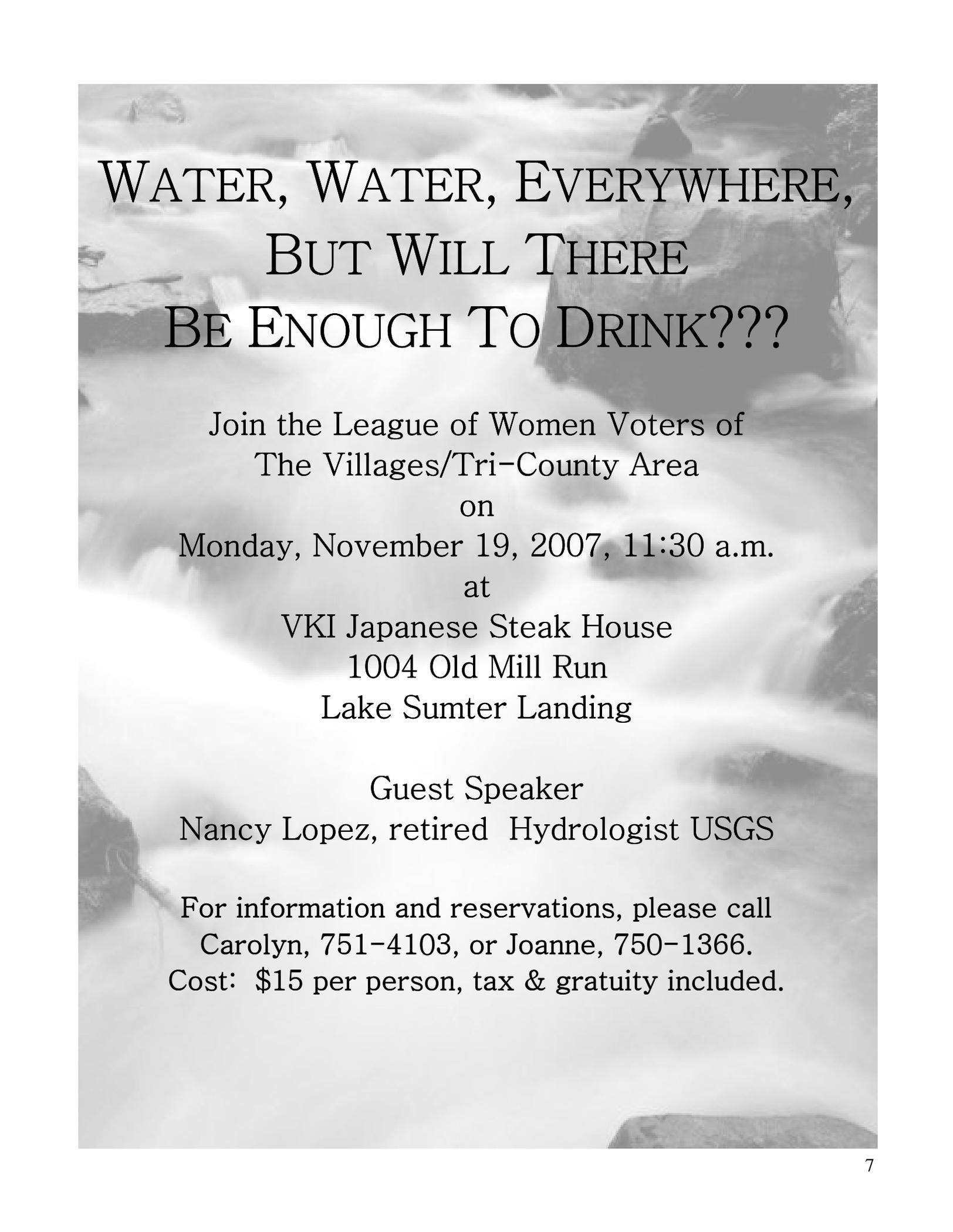
Natural Resources _____ **Sustainability** _____

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 Joanne M. Coen, 1960 Ardmore Way, The Villages 32161.

Your dues include a subscription to *The Florida Voter* from the state League (LWVF) as well as *The National Voter* from the national League (LWVUS).



WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE,
BUT WILL THERE
BE ENOUGH TO DRINK???

Join the League of Women Voters of
The Villages/Tri-County Area
on
Monday, November 19, 2007, 11:30 a.m.
at
VKI Japanese Steak House
1004 Old Mill Run
Lake Sumter Landing

Guest Speaker
Nancy Lopez, retired Hydrologist USGS

For information and reservations, please call
Carolyn, 751-4103, or Joanne, 750-1366.
Cost: \$15 per person, tax & gratuity included.