Our Purpose:
To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected government issues.

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Future Growth in Leon County and Tallahassee

How is growth for Tallahassee and Leon County being planned and implemented? How does the planning process work and how can citizens make their voices heard? Those questions and more will be discussed at the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee's Nov. 15 Hot Topic luncheon.

Presenters will be:

Diane Williams-Cox, a member of the Leon County Planning Commission. Williams-Cox, a onetime candidate for the Florida House of Representatives, is an accountability and compliance officer for the Voices for Florida Open Doors Outreach Network. She is active in many community and national organizations, including the newly formed Southside United Citizens Action Alliance.

Pam Hall, a longtime advocate concerned with our community's land use and environmental policy and regulations and their impact. She is also a founder of Citizens United for Responsible Growth.

Michael (Mike) Brezin, president of the Betton Hills Neighborhood Association. He played a role in recent efforts to retain the Myers Park parcel as a park, to protect neighborhood interests under the revised Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance, and in forming a coalition of in-town neighborhoods.

Date: Wednesday, November 15
Time: 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
President's Message

HAPPY NOVEMBER TO ALL!
November is a wonderful month! It's the beginning of our annual winter holiday season. Or, as it's known in our house, the "catalog season." I really don't do a lot of online shopping, but every day from now through New Year's our mailbox will be full of colorful recyclable paper products. I know I should do the environmentally-friendly thing and stop them, but I actually enjoy flipping through most of them. If you are plagued with catalogs and don't want them, go to www.catalogchoice.org.

November usually brings a reason to get out the warm blankets and cozy sweaters, make soup, and take a walk in the woods (sans bugs!). If the preceding weather has met certain criteria, we might see leaves change color right here in Tallahassee.

And November is the month of Thanksgiving, when we plan too much, cook too much, and eat too much. Those are all things we should be grateful to do and have, in addition to the family and friends we share them with.

One of the things near the top of my grateful list is the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee. I am so happy to be a part of an organization made up of such friendly, smart, giving people dedicated to the betterment of our government and society as a whole. What the League gives to its members is priceless. It provides education and friendships, opens doors you might otherwise never walk through, and maybe most important of all, a sense of purpose. So come join the League and volunteer with the League. A feeling of accomplishment or success will ensue, get the endorphins going, and make you feel good.
League of Women Voters Florida Supports HB 367 to Enact National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) in Florida

Rep. Joseph Geller (D-Adventura) has filed HB367 which, if passed, would allow Florida to join the states that have already enacted the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. The Compact is designed to ensure election of the President and Vice President by popular vote. Because of the Electoral College formula Floridians’ votes count only a third as much as those of residents of less populous states. The League encourages other leagues around the state to educate legislators in their districts about the benefits of NPVIC for their constituents. Additional sponsors for HB367 in the House and Senate are desired. Most public officials are elected by popular vote, so why shouldn't the President and Vice-President be subject to the same standards as governors, senators, congressmen, and state legislators? The Compact complies with the Constitution and requires no amendment. The League has supported the NPVIC for over 40 years.

Restoration of Felons' Voting Rights

Many of you know about and have participated in the current petition drive to place an amendment to the Florida Constitution on the ballot in 2018 that would automatically restore voting rights to felons other than those convicted of murder or sex offenses.

Each of the 30 local leagues in Florida is to strive to collect ten petitions for each member. LWVTallahassee had 302 members when the goals were determined, so our goal is 3,020 petitions.

LWVT has the fifth largest number of members in Florida, behind Orange County, Palm Beach County, St. Petersburg Area, and Alachua County. But LWVT is third in percentage of petitions toward goal collected! This is a remarkable achievement, but we're not done. We have until December 15th to reach our goal. We're just about halfway there.

What's also remarkable is that none of the four leagues larger than LWVT are first or second in petitions collected. The two ahead of us are Bay County and Broward County.
Kim Simpkins, Jordan Scott, Kathy Winn, Barry Munroe, & Darwin Gamble doing the right thing.
At the Jazz & Blues Festival–In the Rain!

Kudos to Barry Munroe and Kathy Winn for the outstanding job they have done and will continue to do in managing this petition drive. They and their merry band of volunteers deserve a big high five for standing in the hot sun, sitting under a leaky tent in the pouring rain, and enduring a cold wind (soon to come) with their clipboards and making the case for automatic restoration of felons' voting rights. And they do it with smiles on their faces because it makes them feel good to be part of an organization that does the right thing (see President's message above). Call or email Barry (munroe.barry@icloud.com, 850-228-8379) to volunteer and help us reach our goal!

_Linda Davis_

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**Tavern Talk November 6 at the Backwoods Bistro, 5-7 pm**

**Limited Space Left!**

We've had great response for our upcoming talk with Democrat Columnist Bill Cotterell and only a few spaces are left. Please contact Teri Cleeland at TeriCleeland@gmail.com to reserve your seat. The program will begin at about 5:30, with food and drinks available from the menu.

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**Seen at the October Hot Topic**
Nominating Committee Members Wanted

Interested in how the Tallahassee League is led? You are invited to become a member of the Nominating Committee, which will receive nominations for officers and directors beginning in January 2018. Help us continue to grow members into leaders by volunteering for this short-term committee. Please contact Teri Cleeland (TeriCleeland@gmail.com) or Steve Urse (surse2@comcast.net) if you are interested in serving.

Guns

One simple word, yet such a complex and emotionally charged issue. The League of Women Voters seeks to enact responsible gun laws, defeat those that are a threat to the public, and firmly establish that gun violence is a public safety issue. Following the June 2017 tragedy at the Pulse Night Club in Orlando, only one of too many tragedies in our own backyard, the League formed the Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, a broad-based alliance made up of over 125 state and national partners.

This partnership was preceded in 2014 by six Gun Safety Action Teams in local Leagues across the state, but Tallahassee was not one. It's high time that we join the ranks of those championing gun safety and responsible legislation. Sabrina Hartley, appointed board member, is creating a team to ensure that we are engaged in this critical issue. The group's primary purpose is to educate the community through the Speakers Bureau, hold topical events, and engage with Legislators.

If you would like to serve your state, your community, and the League in this effort, join the team. The more team members, the more organizations/groups we can reach. Email sabrina.hartley878@yahoo.com if you would like to join, want more information, or just want to be apprised of the team’s actions.

As a member, you know that the League of Women Voters seeks to make a positive difference. Whether you feel a calling to join the Tallahassee Gun Safety Action Group or not, get involved in a League issue/team that does call to you, and be a part of that positive difference.

Sabrina Hartley, Chair, Gun Safety Action Team

Lessons Learned from Schiavo

November 9, 2017 – 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
FSU College of Law Rotunda
308 M. L. King Boulevard S, Tallahassee, FL

Dr. Jay Wolfson, Professor of Public Health and Medicine, University of South Florida, will discuss the case of Theresa (Terri) Marie Schiavo that has contributed as much
as any other to our national debate on death and dying. Dr. Wolfson was Special Guardian Ad Litem for Ms. Schiavo, reporting to Gov. Jeb Bush and the Florida Courts.

Planned by the Community Advance Care Planning Encouragement Task Force of Tallahassee facilitated by Big Bend Hospice.

Who of What Pays the Bills?

When you join the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee, you become a member of the LWV of Florida and the LWV of the US.

As you might know, the state and national leagues see and work on the bigger picture and need funds for this. Each new or renewed member’s dues of $60 per year results in $32 for national and $15 for state. Of the second member of a household or student dues of $30.00, $16 goes to national and $7.50 goes to the state League. My math says that LWV of Tallahassee ends up with $13 for an individual and $6.50 for the second member or a student!

Seems like a little fundraising might be needed!

You may have noticed that LWVT does NOT send you fundraising letters. Those come from the state and national leagues!

However, we do have fundraising activities to keep us in the black!

1. Our Susan B. Anthony level memberships are $100 for individuals and $150 for households. This includes dues, plus a donation to the Board of Directors Fund ($40 for individuals and $60 for households). The Board of Directors Fund is used for special voter service projects that must be approved by the Board.

2. Another fundraising activity occurs during each election year, when LWVT "Adopts A Precinct". Members register with the Supervisor of Elections to serve as poll workers and then donate their earnings to the League.

3. Each December, we have a "funraiser" during our Holiday Brunch. Members are invited to bring used or new items ($20 or less value), which are raffled off during the event.

Donations to defray expenses of educating voters are welcome anytime!

Peggy Ramsey, Treasurer

Heather Hernandez
Karla Schmitt
Florida Trend Magazine Highlights Deirdre Macnab

Many of you will be interested in reading an article about Deirdre Macnab, president of the Florida League of Women Voters from 2009 to 2015. This essay, one in their "Women in Leadership" series, is in the October issue of Florida Trend magazine. It attributes both increased membership and the heightened activism of the Florida League to her leadership. The full article can be found here.

Let's Carpool!

Anyone needing a ride or seeking to drive less, reduce their carbon footprint, or just get to know their fellow League members better can sign up for carpooling to Hot Topics or other League events by sending their name, address, phone number and/or email address to metaorleans@gmail.com. We need sufficient numbers to make this work. Thanks. You would be amazed at how many members practically live next door to each other, but we need your permission to put you together.

Holiday Heads Up!

There will be no December Voter. Our Holiday Luncheon will be December 9. You will receive an invitation with details later, but mark your calendars now!

Voter Deadline

The next Voter will be the January Voter. The deadline for submission of material is December 28. Please e-mail your material to sbaker@fsu.edu

Membership Form
Name ___________________________
Phone (home) __________________
Address___________________________
Phone (mobile)___________________
E-mail__________________________

Please Circle Annual Membership
Level:
(May 1–April 30)

$150.00 Susan B. Anthony household
$100.00 Susan B. Anthony individual
$ 90.00 Household membership
$ 60.00 Individual membership
$ 30.00 Student membership
Optional $5.00 for LWVF Lobby Fund
Additional gift to LWVUS Education Fund

Education: Advocate for public education
Health Care: Seek better health care for all
Local Government: Keep an eye on local issues
Sustainability/Natural Resources: Climate change and more
Communications: Get the message out!
Lobby Corps: Work with the League lobbyist
Membership: Recruit and nurture members
Voter Services: Register and educate voters

TOTAL:_______

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.

LWVT Board of Directors 2017-2018
(Board members are either elected or appointed. Those elected are so indicated by “E” and their term of office. Appointed members (A) serve one year but may be re-appointed. Officers are elected for one year.)

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