Climate Action through Solar: Two Solutions

After Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, what could be a Hotter Topic than taking Climate Action steps? Solar Energy is a key solution!

Citizens of Leon County will soon have two solar options: FL SUN, a solar co-op, and the City’s Solar Farm Customer Program, which together will provide for more community resiliency during storms.

FL SUN will launch in Leon County in January. It is a partnership between the Florida League of Women Voters and the Community Power Network. The Florida League has worked to make Florida #1 in solar for more than two years by increasing rooftop, yard and parking lot solar and making it more affordable. Heaven Campbell, Program Associate for the Co-op initiative, will describe how our community will join the program that has been so successful in central and south Florida.

Joining Ms. Campbell will be David Byrne, Assistant General Manager for the City of Tallahassee Electric Utility. He will report on the installation progress for the 20 MW 120 acre Solar Farm that is expected to be completed by early December. He will also discuss the progress of its Customer Participation Program. Enrollment ends December 31 and is about 80% full for residential customers.

The City customer program, Power Up with Solar (a result of the Community Solar advocacy by LWVT and others), is great for those who want solar but are unable to install a system themselves, such as apartment dwellers.
**President's Message**

In the summer, your Board of Directors drafted new policies and amended some old ones. Our plan is to reprint them in *The Voter*, as a situation arises requiring the implementation of a policy. Hence, the following is reprinted here:

**Policies for Member Reimbursement of Educational Events**

The LWVT budget has an appropriation (or funding source) to send members to LWV State and National meetings.

Depending on funds available, registration fees will be paid for approved delegates (appointed by the President) attending the meeting. Priority will be given to members who have not previously received reimbursement for attending a meeting in the current fiscal year.

The President shall submit a list of delegates for registration so that the League treasurer may pay the fee to the meeting registrar by the deadline to receive a reduced rate registration.

The President and delegates should discuss and determine what hotel will be used, how many rooms will be needed, and who will make the reservations prior to the deadline.

In the event funds are available, LWVT may opt to pay additional costs for hotel and travel.

After the cost of registration fees, the Board of Directors will consult with the treasurer, as to the amount of money remaining in the budget for educational opportunities.

If the Board feels that there is more than enough money for the remaining educational conferences/ conventions, then the Board can approve a further amount for the current educational meeting. The Board will decide through a motion, what the further amount will be, the category of expenses, and any other relevant
stipulations of reimbursement to the delegates (toward hotel rooms, mileage, or per diem for meals).

To receive reimbursement, the member will submit a reimbursement form with a hotel bill or mileage from their home to the event, and an agenda. Mileage will be based on the current IRS approved rate for business purposes. **Per diem** for meals will be determined in advance by the Board; i.e., $7.00 for breakfast, $15.00 for lunch, $25.00 for dinner.

Acceptance of this reimbursement requires prior agreement by the member to follow the agenda and attend all planned meeting functions. The member also agrees that after returning from the training event, he/she will write a summary of the activities attended which will be used for publication in *The Voter*.

The Board will have final approval of the funds to be reimbursed to the member.

July 15, 2017

The educational opportunity coming up is the October 2017 LWVF Leaders’ Conference. It will take place October 20 and 21 in Maitland, Florida. For details, including the list of workshops and presenters, [click here](#).

I've been to a few of these conferences and can attest to the fact that they offer valuable workshops. I always come away with at least two or three, sometimes more, ideas. And it's equally beneficial to meet people from other Leagues and find out how they do things.

Our Treasurer, Peggy Ramsey, informed the Board of Directors that LWVT can pay the discounted registration fee for five members. If you would like to be one of the five, please email me at lgdavis75@gmail.com and let me know. I'll put you in touch with other people who want to go so you can arrange ride-sharing and hotel room-sharing if you want.

The deadline for discounted registrations is October 13. For League members there is a special hotel room rate in effect till October 6. The special rates are $115 for double occupancy and $125 for triple occupancy. Just ask for the League rate when you reserve your room.

*Linda Davis, President*
*League of Women Voters of Tallahassee*
Climate Change and Sustainability Study and Action Group

The next meeting of the Climate Change/Sustainability Study and Action Group will be held at Beans at Betton & Thomasville Road on October 12, at 10AM. Some of the topics will be the new community roof top solar co-op project, how to improve business recycling and an update of the Wakulla Waste Water initiative. All are welcome!

A Request from the Local Government Study & Action Group

The following is a list of open house meetings on the city-county comprehensive plan initiative (i.e., revision). This is an opportunity for League members and other citizens to learn about this initiative and to comment on it. It is very IMPORTANT for the League to be represented by a number of members (wearing buttons) at every one of these meetings. In one way or another, the comp plan affects almost every interest of the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee. It is more effective to learn and comment now than it is to learn and complain later. Please do your best to attend as many of these meetings as possible.

All meetings are scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. and end at 8:00 p.m.

* Monday, October 2 - Lake Jackson Community Center, 3840 North Monroe Street
* Thursday, October 5 - Community Room at Amtrak Center, 918 Railroad Avenue
* Monday, October 9 - Jack L. McLean Park Community Center, 700 Paul Russell Road
* Thursday, October 12 - Dorothy Spence Community Center in Chaires, 4768 Chaires Cross Road
* Monday, October 23 - Bradfordville Community Center, 6808 Beech Ridge Trail
* Monday, October 30 - Fort Braden Community Center, 16387 Blountstown Highway

Richard RuBino
Thanks to our wonderful volunteers, we registered 4 new voters and had several petitions signed.

Margaret Boeth, Sabrina Hartley, and Barb Licht

Citizens Signing Petitions
Ribbon Cutting at the New Supervisor of Elections Office
Ion Sancho, retired Leon County Supervisor of Elections, cutting the ribbon at the new Ion Sancho Leon County Voting Operations Center.

County Commission Chair John Dailey is on the left and new Supervisor of Elections Mark Early is on Sancho’s right. Property Appraiser Akin Akinyemi is on the far right.

Diane Scheiner
Lora Chapman
Robert Clark
Jerrie Lindsey

Future Hot Topics
For your convenience, all the hot topic meetings for the next several months are listed below. If the time and/or topic for each is decided, it will be indicated. You can put these on your calendars now!
November 15  1:30 a.m.  Growth Management
December 9  11:00 a.m.  Diane Roberts
January 24  6:00 p.m.  Chief De Leo & Sheriff Walt McNeil
February 28  Not yet determined
March 28  Not yet determined
April 21  11:00 a.m.  Annual Meeting
May 23  Not yet determined

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.

Voter Deadline
The next Voter will be the November Voter. The deadline for submission of material is October 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

TOTAL: __________________

Want to help the League make a difference? Please circle all areas where you want to help.

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

Please make all checks payable to LWV of Tallahassee.
Mail to LWVT, P.O. Box 10216, Tallahassee, FL 32302-2216.
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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You may also renew/join at www.lwvtallahassee.org.