OUR PURPOSE:
To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected government issues

In This Issue
LWVT's Annual Business Meeting in April.
Candidates for the Board of the LWVT
Proposed Program for 2018-2019
Proposed Budget
Visit to the Historic Grove
We Win Again at the Marathon
More About Solar
2018 LWVF Legislative Summit
Rally in Support of Gun Safety
Welcome New Members
Board of Directors

Legislative Round-Up

The 2018 Florida Legislative Session is scheduled to drop the hankies (signifying "Sine Die" or adjournment) on March 9. It's early this year so our annual Legislative Round-Up hot topic dinner will be early as well. Please plan to attend the March Hot Topic dinner and find out what the Legislature has accomplished and the contributions of our legislative delegation.

Our very special guest at this event will be Stephanie Owens, our LWVF lobbyist, and we are lucky to have her represent us. Ms. Owens has spent over 20 years in public service, as an appointee of both President Barack Obama and President Bill Clinton. She held senior official positions in the White House, and the Departments of Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Commerce and the Environmental Protection Agency.

Stephanie, a native of Detroit, Michigan, has in lived in Florida for the past 18 years. In 1996, she was appointed by President Clinton and HUD Secretary Cisneros to lead a Presidential Task Force, formed in response to civil unrest in St. Petersburg FL. She directed the collaborative efforts of nine federal agencies providing $46 million in federal assistance programs. Ms. Owens also engaged state and local elected officials and business leaders in creating an economic development plan for community revitalization.

Owens is the principle of Dolphin Strategies LLC, a community engagement and strategic partnerships firm specializing in creating corporate social responsibility and public participation strategies that create impactful civic engagement and foster healthy communities.

Date: Wednesday, March 28
Time: 5:30 p.m.--7:30 p.m.
Location: Four Points by Sheraton
316 West Tennessee Street
Menu: Marinated Mahi Mahi or Grilled Vegetable Lasagna
MARCH CALENDAR

The 2018 Theme for National Women's History Month is "Nevertheless, She Persisted: Honoring Women Who Fight All Forms of Discrimination Against Women."

01 Monday 3:00 p.m. **City/County Blueprint 2000 Intergovernmental**
Agcy. Board of Directors Meeting
City Hall 2nd floor

06 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
Tallahassee/Leon Co. Planning Commission, 2nd fl. Renaissance Center, 435 N. Macomb St.

11 Sunday 2:00 p.m., New Member Orientation, Program Room B, Leroy Collins Public Library, 200 West Park Ave.
Monday 1:30 a.m.

19 Monday 1:30 a.m.
CRTPA Meeting, City Hall 2nd floor

21 Tuesday 4:00-7:00 p.m.
Tallahassee Ethics Board Meeting, City Hall 2nd Floor

21 Wednesday 6:00 p.m.
LWV Tallahassee Board Meeting

21 Wednesday 4:00 p.m.
City Commission Meeting, City Hall 2nd floor, 22 Thursday 9:30 a.m.

26 CRTPA Meeting, City Hall 2nd floor, 20 Tuesday 4:00-7:00 p.m.

27 Tuesday 3:00 p.m., Leon County Commission, County Courthouse 5th floor
27 Tuesday 6:00 p.m., Leon County School Board, Howell Center, 3955 W. Pensacola Street
27 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
**Solar United Neighbors** solar co-op information session
Eastside Branch Library
1583 Pedrick Road

28 Wednesday 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Hot Topics Dinner, Four Points-Sheraton Hotel, 316 W.

---

Cost
---

Members - $22
Nonmembers - $25

FOR RESERVATIONS please call 309-3005 and leave a message or email LWVTallahassee@gmail.com.

Because the League must pay for reservations cancelled after Saturday, March 24, those who cancel late must reimburse the League for the cost of their reservations or find someone to take their places at the Hot Topic.

---

**President's Message**

I've had a really hard time putting any sort of coherent message together. The past several days have caused a roller coaster of emotions - extreme lows and extreme highs.

First, the horror and revulsion at the realization that a mass shooting has occurred again, in our state. But why wouldn't it? Nothing has been done to stop them from happening, absolutely nothing.

Then, the extreme sadness and despair, as we fully empathize with the parents who lost their children and others who lost loved ones. And chilling fear, as we think, "That could have been my child or grandchild."

Anger. Red hot anger directed at our elected leaders who are addicted to NRA money that keeps their campaign coffers full. The same leaders who think an eighteen-year-old can't handle a beer, but is capable of handling a military grade assault rifle.

And then, a bit of wonder when we hear that, in the midst of their grief, busloads of survivors are coming to Tallahassee to confront those elected leaders. We are amazed at these sturdy souls who are still children, but are showing us the way.

There is a flicker of hope as we read more and more about the anticipated gathering at the Old Capitol. But at the rally, that flicker burst into a full-blown conflagration, as those children, one by one, made their voices heard. They were joined by students from TCC, FAMU, FSU, and our high schools. Together they were loud, determined, intelligent, and articulate and they will not be denied.

These kids need and deserve our help and we should do all we can to see that they get it. Each one of us can start by signing the two petitions noted below. There will be other opportunities to help but this is a good way to start right now.

SIGN the two gun safety petitions found below,

1) for the Legislature and
2) for the Constitution Revision Commission:

---

Click to:

*Petition the Governor and Florida Legislature*
*Petition the Constitution Revision Commission*
LWVT's Annual Business Meeting in April

The League of Women Voters of Tallahassee will hold its annual business meeting and luncheon this year on Saturday, April 21, at 11:00 a.m. at Four Points by Sheraton. The membership will vote on the following items of business:

1. Candidates for the Board of the LWVT

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for election at the April 2018 Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee. In addition to the candidates for election listed below, the Nominating Committee will present six nominees for appointed positions to the new board following their election. Thank you to everyone who offered their talents and time for board service.

Officers: Board Members (2018-2020):

President: Teri Cleeland
Vice-President: Sally Butzin
Secretary: Carol Weissert
Treasurer: Peggy Ball
Margaret Boeth
Sabrina Hartley
Liz Hollfield

Members of the Nominating Committee: Teri Cleeland, Jan RuBino, Steve Urse, Carol Weissert, Marilynn Wills

2. Proposed Program for 2018-2019

Article X, Section 2, of the Bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee provides that the Program of the LWVT shall consist of those local governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action. The Program arises from the suggestions of members. The Board of Directors is responsible for reviewing and discussing these suggestions, formulating them in appropriate language, and recommending all, none, or some of them for adoption by the membership. The following is the Program recommended for adoption at the annual meeting in April. Additions are indicated by underlining; deletions are indicated by strike-through.

Voter Service
Register and educate voters during the Saturday Downtown Market, at League activities, and by tabling at allied organization functions and community events. Educate the public on voter registration changes, voter systems and voter rights. Work with Leon County Supervisor of Elections to advance election reform. Support efforts to restore voting rights of convicted felons who have completed their sentences.

Promote Political Responsibility
Coordinate and engage with nonpartisan efforts to restore, improve and strengthen democratic election rights and an informed fact-based electorate. Continue to inform members and the public about civic responsibilities and issues through monthly Hot Topic meetings as well as through a variety of community events. Promote League positions taken on proposed constitutional amendments. Support anti-corruption legislation, campaign finance reform and other efforts to reduce money in politics. Hold workshops on how to advocate with elected officials using the speakers’ bureau. Encourage citizen participation at Constitutional Revision Commission hearings.

Local Government
Engage with elected and appointed officials and staff members of local governmental entities in order to be
informed of and investigate issues related to the League program that are of interest to members. Continue learning and sharing information on how best to communicate citizens' concerns to our local governments by having officials and staff members address our group meetings, and then sharing that information with all LWVT members and our neighbors. Monitor City of Tallahassee and County Commission agendas and minutes to be alert to evolving issues and to promote efficient and responsible local governments. Participate in related state and national League studies. Study the current city and county land use and zoning planning criteria and process to determine the impact on quality of life in Leon County. Sponsor the local government candidate forums.

Education
Continually monitor Leon County Schools to determine the extent to which students in the county have access to a free public school system, in keeping with LWVUS and LWVF policy and position statements. This would include monitoring standardized testing reduction efforts, the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship Program (vouchers), the privatization of public education, early childhood education, and de facto segregation in our county school system.

Health Care
Support, monitor, and take action for ongoing national, state, and local physical and mental health care policies with educational and legislative initiatives that promote socio-economic, racial, ethnic, age and disability equity in accessing affordable, quality health care for all and control of costs. Provide information on the Affordable Care Act and potential changes to the Act. Advocate for the expansion of Florida’s Medicaid Program. Support funding for providers of health care for the uninsured and initiatives to reduce infant mortality and food insecurity. Support accreditation of local hospitals and birthing centers as Baby Friendly. Advocate for mental health courts and crisis intervention training. Support women’s reproductive rights.

Climate Change and Sustainability
Educate League members and the community on climate and environmental sustainability issues. Promote local and regional initiatives to ameliorate climate change and enhance long-term sustainability. Support increased use of solar energy.

Social and Economic Justice
Promote existing League positions and activities that address economic disparity. Seek to enhance educational and economic opportunity, education reform, progressive taxation, children and families, juvenile justice and access to health care and affordable housing in the local area. Promote the expansion of the City of Tallahassee's digital canopy to low-income areas including South City and Frenchtown. Support initiatives to identify and prosecute human trafficking.

Lobby Corps
Continue to support the LWVF’s legislative advocacy effort at the Capitol by training volunteers in citizen advocacy, including monitoring and reporting on state legislative action of specific interest to the LWVF, such as health care, women's health and reproductive rights, gun safety, education, energy, land use, natural resources (especially water), taxation, and election law.

3. Proposed Budget:
A Learning Journey

On February 17, the League enjoyed a tour of The Grove, a historic site occupied by Florida Governors in two very different centuries. Mary Fernandez from the Florida Department of State wove a fascinating story of its occupants, showing that the evolution of civil rights for enslaved persons and women was not always simple, never easy, but moved toward justice. It was inspiring to learn about the courage of Governor LeRoy Collins and his wife Mary as leaders during desegregation, and the political price they paid to further civil rights. If you haven't been, it's worth a visit. See TheGroveMuseum.com.

If you have any ideas for membership activities or would like to lead a trip yourself, please contact TeriCleeland@gmail.com.
The League Wins Again at the Marathon! ---
(But not by Running)

For the third year in a row, the League of Women of Voters of Tallahassee, dressed as Suffragists, Lady Liberty, and Uncle Sam, won first prize (and $500.00) in the water station contest of the Tallahassee Marathon!

This is a fun event for us, but it also promotes our worthy work. One runner took the time to write to us to say: "Thank you for the awesome race volunteers at the Tallahassee marathon this morning! Your group was amazing—loved the costumes, the signs, the support—oh yeah, and the drinks. I spent the next two miles thinking of all the work out there left to do for women’s issues and thankful that there are groups like this doing the hard work. Thank you for all you do!"

What a great reminder that what we do really matters. Thank you for all that you do every day to Make Democracy Work!
Kneeling, left to right: Linda Davis, Kathy Winn, and Linda Lee. Standing, left to right: Maggie Lawrence, Teri Cleeland, Dot Skofronick, Peggy Ramsey, Marilynn Wills, Marty Quinn, Steve Urse, Jim Skofronick, and Steve Carter. Photo by Richard RuBino

More About Solar

The City Solar Farm is a huge success! It is fully operational, serving approximately 3,400 homes. The waiting list for the second solar farm is close to being full. It will be twice as big, serving 6,800 homes. If you have City of Tallahassee Utilities and you want to be a part of this excellent way of reducing CO2, better hurry and sign-up.

If you live outside of the City you can still help the environment by putting solar on your roof! There is plenty of time to join our first Rooftop Solar Co-op. Our next information meeting will be March 27 at 6:00 pm at the Eastside Library, located at 1583 Pedrick Road, Tallahassee 32317. You can sign up on the website and get a lot of information at Solarunitedneighbors.org. There is absolutely no obligation. Remember, the more people who join the co-op, the better the price for the entire cost.

One of our League members, Steve Carter, has a 10KW rooftop solar installation and will host our first county wide Solar Coop open house on March 17 from 1 - 3 pm. His home is located at 6480 Tracy Lane, which is off Velda Dairy Road. Come and talk solar with Steve!

Linda Lee, Chair
Climate Change/Sustainability Study and Action Group

2018 LWVF Legislative Summit

On February 6 and 7, the League of Women Voters of Florida held its most successful Summit ever! The largest number of members ever attending a Summit (about 200) came to Tallahassee to learn how to advocate, visit their Legislators, and meet members from other areas. The League of Women Voters of Tallahassee also had a larger number of its members attending (14) than at previous summits.

LWVT was honored and recognized for several accomplishments this past year. Here is a message from our Lobby Corps leader, Jan RuBino:
"The Lobby Corps was lauded at the Gala banquet and an accolade to the group, mentioning all of our names, was printed in the program. The names were read aloud and those LC members present stood to receive applause from the 200 attendees for our work. To quote, in part, from the program: 'The LWVF would be unable to accomplish all that we do during each Legislative Session without the hard work, commitment and tenacity of some extraordinary Lobby Corps volunteers, members of the LWV of Tallahassee. We want to thank you all!'

"I add my praise and thanks for the willingness of each of you to accept assignments at the legislative meetings, giving much needed assistance to our lobbyist, Stephanie Owens. What you do is invaluable to League members all over this state who cannot get up here to keep tabs on what is happening in the legislature."

LWVT was also the recipient of a "Light the Fire Award," which recognized our efforts in collecting 2,390 signed petitions which was 92 percent of our assigned goal. We were the third highest League in percentage of goal attained. These petitions put Amendment 4, which will restore certain felons' voting rights, on the next ballot. See photo of certificate below.

And finally, the Climate Change & Sustainability Group received a Solar Champion Award, which is an award for solar energy advocacy. The group was recognized for helping to persuade the City of Tallahassee to build its solar farms, for launching the Solar C-Op project, and for promoting ride-sharing among League members with Meta Calder's computerized map. See photo of certificate below.

Please consider attending Summit next year. I promise you will learn a lot and have fun doing it!

_Linda Davis,  
President, LWVT_
The Legendary Lucy Morgan at the Banquet

Linda Lee and Phelicia Stiell made some new friends at Summit

One of the Press Conferences

**Rally in Support of Gun Safety**

Members of the League of Women Voters from Tallahassee and throughout Florida showed up in force at the Rally to Support Gun Safety Reform at the State Capitol on February 21. A huge crowd demanded action from legislators, carrying signs and speaking out against gun violence. It was inspiring to hear the voices of so many young people---students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School as well as from the local high schools and universities. Their voices have given momentum to some of the legislative measures advocated by the Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence and the League. May these young people continue to defend democracy through action! Thank you to everyone who came to register voters, get petitions signed, and add your voices to the cause.
Remember the Next Car Pledge

Transitioning to electric vehicles will also save you money in reduced maintenance and fuel costs, and support local economies through job creation and increased income. To find out more go to: [https://www.nextcarpledge.org/](https://www.nextcarpledge.org/)

Christine Reilly
Dennis Reilly, Jr.
Makisha Cheeks
Judy Jones-Colston
Dwight Slater
Peggy Sanford
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 April Voter. The deadline for submission of material is March 27. Please e-mail your material to sbaker@fsu.edu

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.)

Linda Davis, President
Communications
878-7320(h), 559-0935(m)
lgdavis75@gmail.com

Teri Cleeland
Vice-President
Membership Chair
703-201-1391m/668-6383h
tcleeland@embarqmail.com

Margaret Boeth, Secretary
Voter Services Chair
504-8492h/508-4800m
rmbt1947@gmail.com

Peggy Ramsey
Treasurer
386-7589(h)
ramsey020@comcast.net

Liz Holifield (E 2016-18)
574-2792h/556-8548m
lizholifield@yahoo.com

Margie Thomas (E 2016-18)
Public Education Chair
270-9750h
margie.thomas2010@comcast.net

Erin Edwards (E 2017-19)
Webmaster
615-419-5546
erinedwards22@comcast.net

Joan Kanan (E 2017-19)
294-7763m
joankan03@yahoo.com

Sandra Kendall (E 2017-19)
251-421-5663m
fitzkendall841@gmail.com

Sabrina Hartley (A)
559-2027m
sabrinhartley878@yahoo.com

Linda Howard (A)
216-2108m
lschaden@comcast.net

Steve Urse (A)
385-2864h
surse2@comcast.net

Carol Weissert (A)
297-0111h
carolweissert@gmail.com

Off-Board Specialists

Kathy Winn
Public Health Care Chair
766-2612(m)
kathywinnclan@embarqmail.com

Linda Lee
Climate and Sustainability Chair
894-0080h
leelindaLWV@gmail.com

Ramona Abernathy-Paine
Local Government Chair
656-6182
Rapweaver@embarqmail.com