MISSION STATEMENT:
The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

In This Issue

LWVT's Annual Business Meeting in April

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

LWVT at the March for Our Lives

Climate Change/Sustainability Committee

Leon County Leads in Hurricane Preparedness!

Our March Legislative Roundup Hot Topic.

May Hot Topic

Welcome New Members

Board of Directors

President's Message

I have come to believe there is little need to worry about the future of this country. Participating in the marches and rallies organized and orchestrated by kids alleviates some of the worries I had following the 2016 election. These youngsters sparked over 800 marches and rallies around the world. They are now organizing town halls to be held all over this nation. They have big plans and big goals. The country will be in
Which is not to say our work is done. It will be a little while before the kids can completely take the reins and exercise their intelligence, dedication, and passion in all aspects of American life. They will need our help and support until they are fully prepared and educated.

With a look to the future, the League of Women Voters of the United States, the League of Women Voters of Florida, and the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee have independently decided to forgo their portions of the dues, until January of 2021, from any high school or college student (minimum age is 16) who wants to join the League of Women Voters. So if you know a student in high school or college who would like to be a member of the League of Women Voters please let them know they can now become a member for free.

This is my last President's Message. I have been your President for almost a year now and it has truly been my pleasure to serve. I am very grateful for my old League friends, my new League friends, and for all the help and support I've enjoyed from all of you throughout this year full of ups and downs. Even though the leadership of LWVT will change from time to time---and that's a good thing---some things will remain constant. The principles and the mission don't change and guide us in all that we do. Remember the following and we can't go wrong:

_The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy._

In League,

_Linda Davis, President_

_League of Women Voters of Tallahassee_
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 Margaret Boeth
Vice-President: Sally Butzin Sabrina Hartley
Secretary: Carol Weissert Liz Holifield
Treasurer: Peggy Ball

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:

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!**

LWVT membership year is from May 1 through April 30. This means it is THAT time again. Fiscal Year 2018/19 will begin on May 1 and all memberships must be renewed before or at that time. Membership levels are:

- Individual membership - $60
- Household membership - $90
- Student membership - $0*
- Susan B. Anthony individual membership - $100 (dues plus $40 donation)
- Susan B. Anthony household membership - $150 (dues plus $60 donation)

* The League has just announced that it will offer FREE memberships to high school and college students age 16 and above. This initiative recognizes the energy demonstrated by young people as they use their voices to advocate for change. By engaging young people, the League can introduce a new generation to the power of
their informed vote. We can, in turn, welcome new ideas from the next generation of leaders.

Individual memberships support vital work at all levels of the League. Each $60 per year in dues is divided to pay $32 for national, $15 for state, and $13 for your Tallahassee League. Your entire Susan B. Anthony donation of $40 extra is kept locally to support our efforts here in Tallahassee. Please consider increasing your membership level, and get a gold star on your nametag!

You may renew by check, cash at the next Hot Topic, at the April annual meeting, or by using a credit card or PayPal on our website (www.lwvtallahassee.org).

The first reminder letter will be sent June 1, but it will save stamps and paper if you could forward your payment before that date. Mail to: PO Box 10216, Tallahassee, FL 32302.

Thank you so much!

**LWVT at the March for Our Lives, March 24**

Dianne Williams-Cox, Ramona Abernathy-Paine, Teri Cleeland, Carol Klopfenstein, and Linda Davis.

Thank you to all of you who attended the March for Our Lives last month. We had an exceptional turnout. All 25 T-shirts furnished by LWVFlorida were claimed and worn. Many members who did not get a T-shirt were there and all of us were handing out stickers right and left. The stickers (also furnished by LWVF) indicated where people could register online to vote. Many snapshots were taken and posted on our Facebook page. It was a proud day for the League and all who support gun safety and reasonable regulation.

Let's keep up that enthusiasm and participate in the upcoming NAN march!

**And the Marching Goes on. . . .**

On April 26 at 11:00 a.m. a march will begin at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church located at 224 N. Martin Luther King Boulevard. The march will end up at the front steps of the Old Capitol where a rally will be held at noon. This march and rally is sponsored by the National Action Network whose current focus is on reforming weak gun laws;
voter registration, participation, and education (we can help with that!), and Amendment 4 - restoration of voting rights to ex-felons.

Linda Davis, President
League of Women Voters of Tallahassee

Climate Change/Sustainability Committee

A Model Solar Home. On March 17, Steve Carter & Phyllis Thomson shared their beautiful solar home with the community. It was enormously helpful for interested home owners to actually see the Carters’ solar installation and talk to them personally about the benefits of solar. We really appreciate their generosity, time and willingness to help educate the Tallahassee community about roof top solar. A very sincere thank you from all of us!

Solar Co-Ops. If you are interested in the Solar Co-op but have not been able to attend any of the information workshops, it is not too late. Just go to www.solarunitedneighbors.org/ and follow the links to learn about the Co-op and how to join. There is no charge!

Trees Gone! We were dismayed that the City of Tallahassee allowed the ancient oak trees to be chopped down for new development downtown, just prior to the public City of Tallahassee meeting. Trees have a direct impact on the quality of life enjoyed by residents and can provide monetary, social and ecological value to the community. To help ensure Tallahassee’s tree canopy, you can make yourselves be heard by responding to the Urban Forest Plan survey, which is intended to help identify the community’s values and priorities in regard to trees. The survey is only available until mid-April: Talgov.com/TallyTrees.

Volkswagen Settlement. Volkswagen is expected to give $166 million to Florida as a settlement for falsely claiming that their diesel fleet was lower on emissions than was true. We are asking that at least part of the money will be used for EV charging stations around the state. Tallahassee only has seven available for electric cars. You have less than 50 days to take the short survey about the use of these funds: Diesel Emissions Mitigation Program Public Survey.

Linda Lee, Chair
Climate Change/Sustainability Committee

Leon County Leads in Hurricane Preparedness!

At a recent National Hurricane Conference in Orlando, Leon County was named the first #HurricaneStrong community in the nation by the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes (FLASH) in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and others.

#HurricaneStrong began by FLASH as an outreach program in 2016. FLASH stresses five messages for citizens: personal safety, financial security, family preparedness, damage prevention, and community service.

“This is big. It is a reflection of the tremendous emphasis we have placed on one of our most important responsibilities,” said Leon County Commission Chairman Nick Maddox. "Keeping our citizens safe and informed in the event of a hurricane and getting our community back to normal as quickly as possible afterwards has always been a top priority." Check here for Leon County’s press release.
Our March Legislative Roundup Hot Topic

We learned a lot from Stephanie Owens, our Florida League lobbyist, Representative Ramon Alexander, and Senator Bill Montford.

Gun Show Loophole
County Commission Meetings March 27 & April 10

To all of you who went to the March 27 Leon County Commission meeting to support the ordinance closing the gun show loophole, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! It was reported to me by Justice850 that at least ten members of LWVT were there and approximately 50 of the 300 letters presented to the Commission were signed by LWVT members.

Your presence, along with that of other supporters, was noted by the Commissioners and they all gave community support the credit for getting the measure passed. A similar ordinance was before the County Commission a few years ago, but it failed to pass due to an apparent lack of public support.

The next step is attending the April 10 public hearing to continue to demonstrate the amount of public support that exists for this very reasonable ordinance. This meeting will also be in the county courthouse, but it will be at 6:00 p.m. Please make plans to attend and wear your League buttons!

Linda Davis, President
League of Women Voters of Tallahassee

May Hot Topic

We’re giving you a heads-up about the May Hot Topic because this one is going to be really different: different day, different time, different format, different location.

On May 16 (third Wednesday of the month) we are going on a field trip to the new Leon County Elections Center located at 2990-1 Apalachee Parkway. We will meet there at 11:00 a.m. for a tour of the facilities, followed by an optional box lunch, and then we will have a demonstration of the software used by Leon County in tabulating and auditing elections.

There will be more details in subsequent emails, but mark your calendars now because you don’t want to miss this one - it’s going to be really good!
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 May Voter. The deadline for submission of material is April 26. Please e-mail your material to sbaker@fsu.edu