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.

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The Opioid Epidemic

With over 130 American deaths per day in 2017, the opioid crisis has contributed largely to the downward trend in the life expectancy in the U.S. for the second year in a row. Here in the Sunshine State, an increasing number of Floridians have had their lives interrupted or lost to opioids -- but there are real solutions that can help us save lives both locally and across the state. During the first Hot Topic luncheon of the New Year we will explore the numbers behind the opioid epidemic in Florida with a discussion of practical harm reduction and treatment solutions to help end the crisis, such as naloxone, a life-saving opioid reversal drug.

Our presenter will be Stephanie Moody-Geissler, MPH, an epidemiologist who for over a decade has worked in various fields of public health, from mosquito disease in Florida to Ebola in West Africa. For the past several years Stephanie has been focusing on local and statewide efforts to address the opioid epidemic while based here in Tallahassee.

Come join your fellow Leaguers and guests in learning about this important issue!

Date: Wednesday, January 23
Time: 11:30 a.m. -- 1:00 p.m.
Location: Four Points by Sheraton
316 West Tennessee Street
Menu: Marinated Pork Loin or Spinach over Penne Pasta
Cost: Members - $22 Nonmembers - $25

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

Happy New Year! I hope that you and yours had a restful holiday. Did you make any resolutions this year? I have some ideas for moving democracy forward that I hope you'll consider.

First up is helping ex-felons—"returning citizens"—register to vote. The Leon County Supervisor of Elections is planning a registration event on January 8, when Amendment 4 goes into effect. Our Voter Services team will again be registering voters across the area, and they always welcome assistance. Contact them at voterserviceslwvt@gmail.com. There will be at least one special election for Florida House Seat 7 soon, so it's important to get everyone who is eligible ready to vote.

Next up is the League Rising convention in Orlando on January 18-19, a gathering of Leaguers from across the state. There will be workshops, informal gatherings, and inspirational presentations, including from new CEO Virginia Kase. Registration is still open at the link above and the agenda is at this link.

Lobby Corps gears up again this month, as a new Governor and Legislature are sworn in. We'll be at the Capitol to keep an eye on things, proudly wearing our League buttons so that our elected and appointed leaders know we are watching. It's interesting to track an issue as it winds its way through committees, and we have a new lobbyist to work with, Katia Saint Fleur. If you want to be part of this effort, contact Lobby Corps coordinator Jan RuBino at rubinojan@yahoo.com.

Consider serving on our League Board of Directors. Our nominating committee is looking for members willing to help lead our organization (see their article in this newsletter). I have found service on the board to be rewarding: working with inspiring people, learning new things and feeling a sense of accomplishment.

One of my resolutions is to begin planning for the League's Centennial in 2020, "Creating a More Perfect Democracy." This is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our history, showcase our current role as leaders in democracy, and set the stage for growth over the next century with a diverse new generation of leaders. The League already has an online toolkit with ideas to get started. If you would like to be a part of the planning, please contact me at tcleeland@embarqmail.com, or leave a message on the League phone line at 850-309-3005.

What a great start to the New Year! I'm looking forward to making good things happen this year, and I hope you'll resolve to join me.

Teri Cleeland, President
League of Women Voters of Tallahassee
A Special February Hot Topic:  
Different Date, Time, and Location!

Citizen Access to the Courts

Ever wonder how everyday citizens gain access to the Courts? The difference between a County Judge and a Circuit Judge? The vital role of Court Clerks? What questions do you want answered?

Your chance to find out is coming up during our February 22, 2018 Hot Topic meeting at the Leon County Main Courthouse, 301 South Monroe Street.

This will be an exciting and informative event as you hear from:

- The Honorable J. Layne Smith, Leon County Judge;
- The Honorable Dawn Caloca-Johnson, Circuit Judge, Second Judicial Circuit of Florida; and
- The Honorable Gwen Marshall, Leon County Clerk of The Circuit Court and Comptroller.

We have scheduled this for a Friday to accommodate the court schedule, and it will be at the downtown courthouse, not our usual place, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (shuttle service before and after that time). We will have box lunches available for purchase, or you can bring your own. Please plan to join us for this unique opportunity to learn more about our local justice system.

Additional Details Will Be Provided in February's edition of the The Voter, but

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Phelicia Stiell

Climate Change/Sustainability Study & Action

We recommend that our State League Environmental priorities should include:

1. A statewide Climate Change Action Plan
2. A push for Electric Vehicles and more easy access to charging stations
3. Local control of recycling and sustainable practices (paper straws, plastic bag usage, etc.)
4. Solar third-party leasing
5. Enforce full funding for the Florida Forever Amendment

Save the Dates:

- Sunday, February 3: LWVT water station at the Tallahassee Marathon
- Saturday March 23: The Leon County 2019 Sustainable Community Summit
- Wednesday, March 27: Hot Topic Lunch speaker will be our new Mayor Dailey
- Monday, April 22: Maya Van Rossum, author of The Green Amendment, will have a public lecture.
Next CC/S Meeting: 11:15 am on January 17, 2019 at the Paisley Cafe, 1123 Thomasville Rd.

Environmental Tips:

- Most wrapping paper can not be recycled because of the dyes, glitter, etc. Please do not contaminate your recycle container with ribbons either.
- Don’t buy dryer sheets! Instead replace those sheets, loaded with smelly chemicals, with earth-friendly wool dryer balls. Wash dries faster too. Available at Walmart & online.

Linda Lee
Chair, Climate Change/Sustainability Study and Action

Health Care Study and Action Group

On November 5, members of the Health Care Study and Action Group visited the FSU Medical School to learn about the FSU PrimaryHealth Facility planned for Southwest Leon County. Sherri Swilley, FMPP Head of Clinical Operations, described the services the Medical School is currently providing for the children enrolled at Sabal Palm Elementary using a renovated portable classroom under an agreement with Leon County Schools. Ground has been broken for the permanent 10,000 square foot clinic that will provide primary care and behavioral health services to residents of Southwest Leon County beginning in the spring of 2019. League members asked a lot of questions, most related to how the new facility will help with efforts to serve the uninsured and underinsured in our county. We were informed that the clinic will implement a sliding fee scale for services to the uninsured. Laboratory and basic radiological services are a part of the plan. During the two-hour visit, we were also provided with a tour of the Medical School by John Beidler, Director of Facilities and Operations. A big thank you for Chrys Ivey Goodwyne who arranged the meeting for us!

The next meeting of the Group is scheduled for January 14 at 11:30 a.m. at the Uptown Café across from Tallahassee Memorial Hospital. We will grab lunch while we make final preparations for the January League Hot Topic luncheon on the opioid epidemic. Please feel free to join us. Contact Kathy Winn, Chairperson, for further details.

Kathy Winn, Chair
Health Care Study and Action Group

Community Remembrance Project

You may remember that we had a wonderful collaborative effort with Justice850 presenting our talk on the Constitutional Amendments. Rev. Sheldon Steen, the President of Justice850, shared the following information about the Community Remembrance Project with us:

There will be an informational meeting involving the Community Remembrance Project on January 12th at 10:00 a.m. at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church. Discussion will be facilitated by Evan Milligan, a member of the Equal Justice Initiative’s Memorial Monument Placement Initiative Team in Montgomery, Alabama. Mr. Milligan works closely with the Race and Poverty Initiative and assists with public education, community outreach, and research efforts around EJI’s Community Remembrance Projects. This will be a great opportunity to learn more about EJI’s
Happy New Year from League of Women Voters of Tallahassee

work and how that might inform our work going forward. You can RSVP to the event here. Please share it on social media and invite your friends!

The Next Best Thing to Running a Marathon!

Calling all fun loving Leaguers. We have an opportunity to win prize money doing something really fun. We have been asked to participate in the water table contest for the 2019 version of the Tallahassee Marathon on February 3rd. Our group has been top choice of the marathoners for 3 years. Let's continue our winning streak!

We have had fun in the past as Suffragists, and we'll have some Votes For Women sashes for you to wear if you want to be one. But if you'd like to switch things up this year, you can also join us as Rosie the Riveter! That will be an easy costume to put together. We have authentic music to play and lots of enthusiastic cheering, but our mission will be to get the water cups out quickly to the passing runners.

Come join us February 3rd for a morning of fun and a chance to win a monetary prize for the League. Uncle Sam and Lady Liberty may again make an appearance.

Contact Dot Skofronick
dsjs@embarqmail.com to sign up and to answer any questions.

New Citizen Initiative

LWVT will become one of the organizations hosting a reception following the Naturalization Ceremonies in 2019. The first ceremony for 2019 will be on January 16 at 10:00 a.m. in the Federal Courthouse. The staff of the Supervisor of Elections Office will be registering voters. The League will be educating new voters about the nonpartisan services that we provide to the community to assist them in becoming educated voters. Margaret Boeth and I will be there with a table about the League on January 16. If you are interested in joining me at any of these ceremonies, you can contact me, Sandra Kendall, by text at 251-421-5663 or at fitzkendall841@gmail.com.

Sandra Kendall

Looking for Leaders:
Board Nominations are Open Until Monday, February 11

We are looking for candidates who are interested in joining the Board of Directors. Three Board members will be elected at our Annual Meeting in April, and after that, the Board will consider appointing up to six additional members for one year. Do you know someone who you think would be a good addition to the Board? Don't be shy about nominating yourself! We have many new members, and this is a great way to really contribute to the League's success.

Our nominating committee will provide a slate of candidates for election in the March Voter. Please contact any or all committee members (listed below) if you have a question about what being on the Board is like, or to submit a name in nomination. All that is required is that the nominee be a voting member of our League and that you have their permission to nominate them. Information on how they might contribute to League leadership is also
Happy New Year from League of Women Voters of Tallahassee

You can also leave a message on the LWVT phone line at (850) 309-3005. Nominations must be received by 5:00 p.m. Monday, February 11, 2019.

Liz Holifield (850) 556-8548, Kathy Winn (850) 766-2612, Steve Urse (chair) (850) 385-2864.

Steve Urse, Chair, Nominating Committee

**Scenes from Our Holiday Luncheon**

Our annual Holiday Luncheon was a great success. Mark Hinson, a great favorite with Tallahassee readers of the Democrat, was his usual entertaining self. Mimosas put guests in a holiday mood, and the "Fun'Raiser" was a great success.

Mark Hinson entertained us with his mordant wit.

Several lucky guests went home with lovely poinsettias

Donna O’Neal
Linda Alexionok
Mark Lazarus
Jane Parsons
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 February Voter. The deadline for submission of material is January 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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Want to help the League make a difference? Please circle all areas where you want to help.</th>
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<tr>
<td>$150.00 Susan B. Anthony household</td>
<td>Education: Advocate for public education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100.00 Susan B. Anthony individual</td>
<td>Health Care: Seek better health care for all</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ 90.00 Household membership</td>
<td>Local Government: Keep an eye on local issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ 60.00 Individual membership</td>
<td>Sustainability/ Natural Resources: Climate change and more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$ 0.00 Student membership (Now Free)</td>
<td>Communications: Get the message out!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optional $5.00 for LWVF Lobby Fund</td>
<td>Lobby Corps: Work with the League lobbyist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional gift to LWVUS Education Fund</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Happy New Year from League of Women Voters of Tallahassee

TOTAL: _______

Membership: Recruit and nurture members
Voter Services: Register and educate voters

Please make all checks payable to LWV of Tallahassee.
Mail to LWVT, 1400 Village Square Blvd, Suite 3, Box 115, Tallahassee, FL 32312-1231.
You may also renew/join at www.lwvtallahassee.org.

LWVT Board of Directors 2018-2019

(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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