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
Health Care Study and Action Group
League Collecting Medicaid Expansion Petitions
Kickoff to the Centennial!
League Lobby Days comes to Tallahassee April 9-10
Race, Poverty, and Environmental Hazards
Local Government Study and Action Group
Poll Working for the League -- Elections 2018
An Invitation to Join the Education Committee
Thanks to Lobby Corps Volunteers!
Tallahassee Marathon 2019
Climate

Mayor Dailey to Speak at the March Hot Topic!

You don't want to miss this one! On March 27th, Mayor John E. Dailey will talk about all the latest City events and plans for making Tallahassee the most exciting, progressive city in Florida (perhaps in America!). You will have an opportunity to ask him questions too. Watch for more information about this important event to come.

Date            March 27
Time            11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Location        Four Points by Sheraton
                316 West Tennessee Street
Menu            Chicken Piccata or Toasted Orzo with Broccoli
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 23, 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

This is a busy time for the League, with our study and action committees meeting and carrying our message into the community. Your board has been working to develop our program of work for the next year in advance of our Annual Meeting on April 24th. This issue contains our slate of candidates and proposed program
for your consideration. I am always impressed by the energy and passion our membership brings to important public policy issues, and we are respected in the community for that reason. Thank you for the role you play in this.

Our board has been trying out some new ideas for meeting the diverse interests of members. For instance, we’ve scheduled some Hot Topic events at different locations free of charge, and scheduled both daytime and evening meetings to increase attendance, with mixed results. We’ve also reached out to all three college campuses this election season and will offer free student memberships until January 2021 to introduce young people to the League. We continue to consider ways to increase diversity and inclusion and welcome your ideas.

This year, we will ask our membership to adopt the League’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy, which is included in this issue. It is an important part of the Transformation Roadmap to revitalize the League and carry it into its second century of service. The Roadmap is an interesting assessment of the League’s current challenges and opportunities to move forward. One key is to create a welcoming and inclusive culture that is attuned to the needs of today’s volunteers, so that we can widen the reach of our mission.

With our Centennial approaching, there will be celebration as well as examination of the fight to win the vote for women. The suffragist movement and the League were not always welcoming to diversity—we didn’t even admit men as members until 1974! This concern continues to this day. The New York Times has published several thought-provoking editorials in this regard: here’s one. As we move from Black History Month to Women’s History Month, I am taking time to learn more and to appreciate all the good things that diversity brings to our organization, and to our nation. We welcome all who are drawn to our mission and wish to make a positive impact.

In League,

Teri Cleeland, President
League of Women Voters of Tallahassee
The League of Women Voters of Tallahassee will hold its annual business meeting and dinner this year on Wednesday April 24, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Four Points by Sheraton. The membership will vote on the following items of business:

1. 2019-20 Candidates for the LWVT Board
The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of candidates for election at the April 2019 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 newly elected board members after their election. Current board members with terms ending in 2020 will remain on the board: Liz Holifield, Margaret Boeth, and Sabrina Hartley. Thank you to everyone who offered their talents and time for board service.

Officers:
- President: Teri Cleeland
- Vice-President: Sally Butzin
- Secretary: Kathy Winn
- Treasurer: Peggy Ball

Board Members (2019-2021):
- Trish Neeley
- Joan Kanan
- Sandra Kendall

February 14, the 99th Birthday of the League

LWVT's Annual Business Meeting in April
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.

The Tallahassee League of Women Voter's priorities are:

* voter registration,
* voter education,
* advocacy for free and fair elections.

We will monitor local issues and educate voters on the merits of the issues by conducting Hot Topics and public forums with the goal of increasing access to our events by the general public. We will advocate for League issues by meeting with county and city officials to educate them on our priorities. Our League has an ongoing goal of increasing diversity within our membership.

Voter Services
Register voters at all available opportunities such as the Saturday Downtown Market, college and school sites, etc. Participate with the New Citizen Initiative by providing information about the League and our issues. Educate the public on voter registration changes, voter systems and voter rights. Work with the Leon County Supervisor of Elections to advance election reform.

Ethical Government
Support and monitor the work of the local Ethics Commission. Hold public officials to high ethical standards.

Local Government
Monitor City and County Commission agendas and minutes to be alert to evolving issues. Promote efficient and responsible local government.

Education
Support the Leon County School Board's efforts to assure equity in funding and accountability between traditional public schools, charter schools, and private schools receiving vouchers. Monitor and educate the public on the re-segregation of Leon County Schools.

Health Care
Advocate for expanding access to health care with the goal of universal coverage. Support Medicaid expansion and proposed legislation providing access to health care, mental health, substance abuse and dental care services. Advocate for continued county planning and funding for health care services for the uninsured and initiatives such as mental health courts and crisis intervention training. Support women's reproductive rights and access to women's health services.

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 and electric vehicles.
Social and Economic Justice
Promote existing League positions and activities that address economic disparity. Seek to enhance educational and economic opportunities throughout the community and promote social justice. Adopt and support the League of Women Voters Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy.

Lobby Corps
Continue to support the state League's legislative advocacy effort at the Capitol by training volunteers in citizen advocacy, including monitoring and reporting on state legislative actions of specific interest to the LWV Florida.

Gun Safety
Support local government's right to enact ordinances to require background checks, closing gun show loopholes and banning assault weapons. Join effort to gather signatures for the BAWN constitutional amendment (Ban Assault Weapons Now).

Non-Recurring Projects
Plan and conduct appropriate activities to celebrate and commemorate the Centennial of the 19th Amendment and the founding of the League of Women Voters.

Support League efforts regarding the NPV (National Popular Vote interstate compact.

3. Proposed Policy

The Tallahassee League proposes to adopt and support the League of Women Voters Policy on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion:

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

4. The proposed 2019-2020 Budget will be published in the April issue of The Voter.

Health Care Study and Action Group

The Health Care Study and Action Group is continuing to work on the "homework" assignments given to the League by Stephanie Moody-Geissler as a part of her presentation on the opioid epidemic at the last Hot Topic luncheon. We are following two bills filed in the Florida Legislature, HB 171 and SB 366, that propose to expand the pilot needle exchange program operated in Miami-Dade County. We plan to encourage CVS and Walgreens to expand their pilot programs that accept unused/outdated prescription drugs for disposal. The date for a drug disposal event by the Tallahassee Police Department will be announced when available.

The group had a successful visit to the Leon County Office of Human Services and Community Partnerships to hear about the $1.7 million dollars spent on the CareNet Program that provides primary care and mental health, prescription drugs and referral to specialty care services to uninsured, low income residents of Leon County. We will be encouraging the county to report unduplicated numbers of residents who are served by the program so that we can assess how well the county is meeting the need.

Medicaid expansion petitions are available for members who would like to sign a petition calling for a constitutional amendment mandating the State to
expand Florida's Medicaid Program.

The group is planning to visit the newest clinic operated by Planned Parenthood of North Florida. We are interested in looking at the availability of vaccine protecting young people against the human papilloma virus.

The next meeting of the group is scheduled for March 18 at 11:30 a.m. in a location to be determined. Contact Chair Kathy Winn for further information.

*Kathy Winn*

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**League Collecting Medicaid Expansion Petitions**

The League of Women Voters of Florida recently approved participation by local Leagues in a petition drive to place an amendment on the 2020 ballot requiring the State to expand Florida's Medicaid Program. Expansion of state Medicaid Programs to serve low income adults aged 18 to 65 was a key measure designed to improve access to health care under the federal Affordable Care Act. Over 700,000 Floridians would gain access to healthcare coverage under program expansion.

Encouraged by successful ballot initiatives in Maine, Utah, Idaho, and Nebraska, an informal coalition of groups has begun collecting petitions for an amendment that would require Medicaid expansion in Florida. Blank petitions have been provided to the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee and are available from Kathy Winn. She will be coordinating the collection of signed petitions which can be dropped off at the same location that is used by the League to pick up supplies and equipment.

Your help is needed to collect petitions! If you know a group or an organization that would like a short presentation on the initiative or who would welcome petition gathering at an upcoming event, please contact Kathy with this information. She will be happy to deliver blank petitions to you or you can pick up and drop off petitions at the League supply room.

*Kathy Winn*

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**Kickoff to the Centennial!**

A small group toasted the League's 99th Birthday and brainstormed ideas to celebrate the Centennial of the League and the 19th Amendment. We can expect to see many organizations commemorating a century of women's voting rights in 2020--the League's birthday is a bonus--so new partnerships could be fun and rewarding.

There are many exciting ideas on possible activities--limited only by our willingness to invest time and funds in them. Ideas include oral histories of our veteran members, archiving historic materials at FSU, a book club, special showings of suffragist-themed films, highlighting important women in history on social media, develop themed merchandise to raise funds, sponsor a video contest at local schools, and have forums or panel discussions in various formats. Interested? Send a message to Teri Cleeland at tcleeland@embarqmail.com to find out about the next Centennial Happy Hour get together.

**League Lobby Days comes to Tallahassee April 9-10**

State league members will come to Tallahassee soon to visit with their legislators and learn more about the issues of the day. It's a great opportunity to network with other...
Leaguers and sleep in your own bed! Our members always assist the activities, which includes a dinner and a gala event. Here is the event website to register. The registration fee is $145.00 but scholarship opportunities are available. Please email Teri Cleeland at tcleeland@embarqmail.com to learn about those scholarship opportunities.

Race, Poverty, and Environmental Hazards

What's the Connection?

Dr. Robert Bullard will tell you Wednesday, March 5, 6:00 p.m., at Ruby Diamond Concert Hall in Westcott Auditorium, 222 S. Copeland Street.

Dr. Bullard, often called "the father of environmental justice," will speak on "Building Just and Sustainable Communities in the era of Climate Change." Dr. Bullard is the Distinguished Professor of Urban Planning and Environmental Policy at Texas Southern University, the co-founder of the Historically Black College and Universities Climate Change Consortium, and an award-winning author of 18 books on race, equity, and environmental justice.

This event is sponsored by FSU's College of Social Sciences and Public Policy, Sustainable Campus Program, Union Productions, and Office of Student Sustainability.

Don't miss this very informative lecture. Read more about it here in the article which appeared in The Tallahassee Democrat and was written by Jamie Valentine.

Linda Davis
League volunteers Laura Rush and Gemma Sunnergren helping students to pre-register to vote and sign up for the Voter newsletter at the Career and Information Fair at Ghazvini Center, Friday, February 22nd.

**Local Government Study and Action Group**

**Next Meeting**

Our next meeting for the LWVT Local Government Committee is Thursday, March 7, at 6:30 pm. All are welcome; these are public meetings. Generally the meeting dates will be the first Thursday of the month from 6:30 to 8:00. Our meetings are held in Room B of the Leroy Collins Public Library. Bring a friend! The next couple of meetings are listed below. Our Committee goal is for at least 1 speaker quarterly. There will be no speaker at the March meeting but it will be filled with good updates and discussion on current local issues. I hope to see you there!

- March 7, 2019
- April 4, 2019

_Danielle Irwin, Chair_

*Local Government Study and Action*

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**Poll Working for the League -- Elections 2018**

Adopt-A-Precinct is a fundraising effort by the LWV of Tallahassee that began with the 2008 elections. League members volunteer as poll workers and donate their earnings back to the League. In the past, our adopted precinct has been at the Community of Christ Church; however, members are also able to work at other precincts and send their earnings to the League.

In the 2018 election cycle, the following members contributed to this fundraiser: Sandra Kendall, Kathy Winn, Margaret Boeth, Peggy Ramsey, Erin Edwards, Marilyn Wills, Doris Partridge, and Sanford Safron, adding a total of $2,780.00 to the LWVT treasury! (If I missed anyone, please let me know.)

Thanks to all for your long hours and hard work to make democracy work and the treasury a bit fatter! If this project is of interest to you, please let us know in 2020! Email me at ramsey020@comcast.net

_Peggy Ramsey_

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**An Invitation to Join the Education Committee**

The Education Committee is up and running and inviting more participation. If you are interested in joining the League’s efforts to support public education, please contact Sally Butzin who is chairing the committee. Contact her at sally.butzin@gmail.com.

_Sally Butzin, Chair, Education Committee_

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**Thanks to Lobby Corps Volunteers!**
This past week was very busy for the League and the Lobby Corps. Our state president and three state board members were in Tallahassee meeting with legislators, promoting our major issues. Today, in a conference call, they complimented the Lobby Corps on our great turnout at the press conference on guns and, in particular, the large number of us who were present at the Senate Education Committee meeting concerning allowing classroom teachers to carry guns at school. And they said other groups had mentioned to them that it seemed that League members were everywhere in the halls of the Capitol. I felt proud of the effort made by so many of you to get to the Capitol and cover the committee meetings. I can't thank you enough!

Jan Rubino,
Lobby Corps

Tallahassee Marathon 2019

It was another fast and fun morning at the League's 4th Tallahassee Marathon on February 3. We had a new cast of characters with Rosie the Riveter joining our traditional Suffragists, Lady Liberty, Uncle Sam, and a Teddy Roosevelt lookalike. They all roared "You Can Do It" to over 1,000 runners descending on our water station at mile 8.

There is a lot to do to help the runners out, mainly pouring water and Gatorade into hundreds of cups and smoothly handing them off to runners who don't want to skip a beat. It was truly an awesome sight to see hundreds of runners coming toward us and trying to keep up with the crowd. Then the cleanup crew had to pick up all the hastily discarded cups and make sure the runners made their turn on the route. We offered snacks and bandages along with upbeat music, hugs and cheers.

Later, social media lit up with comments like: "You all have the best water station!" and "You all were amazing!" and "I super loved seeing the League of Women Voters who, by the way had by far the tidiest aide station I've ever seen! They are lovely and I hope they are there again next year." We hope you'll consider joining the fun with us--costume or no costume--next year.

And here's the best part: for the 4th year in a row WE WON the top prize of $500.00 as voted on by the runners! These funds help us with our mission of registering and informing voters.
Thanks to our hale and hardy volunteers, led by runner and Leaguer extraordinaire Dot Skofronick: Jim Skofronick, Sarah Tyson-Alfano, Erin Edwards, Peggy Ramsey, Marty Quinn, Teri Cleeland, Steve Urse, Steve Carter, Joanna Novey, Jane Parsons, Courtney Carpenter, Frances Wager, and Beth Hollister.

**Climate Change/Sustainability Action & Study Group**

**The City of Tallahassee commits to 100% renewable energy by 2050!**
On Wednesday, February 20th, the City of Tallahassee Commission met to discuss a resolution supporting clean and renewable energy. Citizens from around the community attended the meeting and spoke out in favor of the city transitioning to 100% clean renewable energy. The City of Tallahassee unanimously passed a resolution to move the city to 100% renewable energy by 2050, with several milestone goals at 2035, and more to come!

**Adopt-A-Street Initiative!**
The League of Women Voters of Tallahassee will be committed for two years to pick up litter on a very visible, diversely populated, and needy street! We will have our own sign provided by the City of Tallahassee, and all materials participants need will be provided. All we need to begin is YOU! If interested in this fun and productive activity, please e-mail [Meta Calder](mailto:meta.calder@lwvtal.org) for more information.

**Tallahassee Solar Celebration**
Save the date: March 29, 6 p.m. The place for this event has not been finalized, but will be announced soon. Solar United Neighbors will bring food, have an open tab and invite everyone who expressed interest in the solar co-op, whether or not they went solar! Once the event is sealed up, we encourage you to invite anyone you would like as well. It is a great gathering for networking and discussing what is going on in the community.

**Recycle Tip of the Month**
As part of our commitment to the State & Local Leagues’ priority of clean water, PLEASE do NOT flush any drugs down the sink and/or toilet! It will go into our sewer system and eventually into our water supply. So what do you do with these drugs? There are multiple solutions: Take them to CVS Pharmacy at 5466 Thomasville Rd North (across from Walmart) or the Police Station on 7th st. You can also dispose of them in the trash. Follow the FDA Recommendations: First, mix the meds (do not crush) with an unpalatable substance such as dirt, kitty litter, or used coffee grounds. Then place in a sealable plastic bag and throw in trash. Don’t forget to scratch off your personal information on the empty pill bottle before recycling.

Linda Lee, Chair
**Climate Change/Sustainability Action & Study Group**

Kenn Bass
Annette Pearce
Jessica Yeary
Elizabeth Miller
Da’Juh Sawyer

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 28. Please e-mail your material to sbaker@fsu.edu

### Membership Form

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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
- $0.00 Student membership (Now Free)

Optional $5.00 for LWVF Lobby Fund

Additional gift to LWVUS Education Fund

Please Circle:

- 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:**

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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](http://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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