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

Annual Legislative Round-Up

The 2019 Florida Legislative Session is scheduled to drop the hankies (signifying "Sine Die" or adjournment) on May 3.

Our annual Legislative Round-Up Hot Topic dinner will feature the Leon County delegation to discuss what the Legislature has accomplished and their contributions. We have invited Senator Bill Montford, Representative Ramon Alexander, and Representative Loranne Ausley.

Date: Wednesday, May 22
Time: 5:30 -- 7:00 p.m.
Location: Four Points by Sheraton
316 West Tennessee Street
Menu: Salmon or Pasta Primavera
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, May 18, those who cancel late must reimburse the League for the cost of their
**Welcome New Members**

**Board of Directors**

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**President's Message**

Happy New Year--new membership year, that is! At our April 24 annual meeting the membership approved our 2019-2020 Budget, Program, and elected Officers and Board Members. Thank you for supporting me in another year as President of our League.

It's been an eventful year and we have accomplished many things that we can be proud of: informing voters during a historic election season (despite a hurricane), working to increase the youth vote, making dedicated efforts to register re-enfranchised citizens and others, bringing and expanding solar power to homes, developing interesting and engaging meetings, keeping a watchful eye on the Legislature, advocating for the many things we believe in--even winning the Marathon (water station, that is). It all happens because of YOU.

We now have over 400 members, a testament to our leadership in local civic engagement. I hope that all our members find something meaningful in their membership. From reading this newsletter to attending Hot Topic events, to taking action for something you believe in, there is plenty to look forward to in the coming year.

Speaking of membership, I hope that you will renew yours today if you haven't already. To save postage and process, the Board encourages you to renew online with your credit card. You don't have to sign up for Pay Pal to do this, just click on the "pay with debit or credit card" under the Pay Pal symbol here.

We will have one more Hot Topic evening on May 22 to hear from our legislators about the session, and then we will enjoy a hiatus until the August newsletter. I wish you a restful summer while you recharge your batteries.

In League,

*Teri Cleeland, President*  
League of Women Voters of Tallahassee

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**CALENDAR**

07 Tuesday 6:30 pm-8:00 p.m.  
Environmental Variance Board Meeting  
Renaissance Center 1st Floor  
435 N. Macomb Street

14 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.  
Leon County School Board Meeting  
Howell Center  
3955 W. Pensacola Street

14 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.  
County Commission Meeting  
County Courthouse 5th floor

14 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.  
Joint City-County Adoption Hearing, Comp Plan Amendments  
County Commission Chambers

15 Wednesday 4:00 p.m.  
City Commission Meeting  
City Hall 2nd Floor

15 Wednesday 6:00 p.m.  
Tallahassee Human Relations Council  
City Hall Florida Room

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

21 Tuesday 1:30 p.m.  
CRPTA  
2nd floor of City Hall
Annual Meeting

Our annual business meeting was well attended and a lot of fun. The membership approved the budget, program of work, policy, and slate of candidates that were presented in previous issues of this newsletter. We enjoyed an update from national League Treasurer Jessica Lowe-Minor, who discussed the national Transformation effort and answered many questions from a curious crowd.

I am thrilled that most of the board will be staying on for another year and pleased to welcome former President Kathy Winn back as Secretary. Our elected board also includes Teri Cleeland (President), Sally Butzin (Vice-President), Peggy Ball (Treasurer), Liz Holifield, Margaret Boeth, Sabrina Hartley, Joan Kanan, Sandra Kendall, and Trish Neely. The board reappointed our one-year board members: Barry Munroe, Katie Bohnett, Phelicia Stiell, and Sarah Tyson-Alfano. At our May meeting we will consider appointing two new board members. We are excited about the year to come.

Members weighed in on their memorable moments of the past year: the Supervisor of Elections office tour, the Party at the Polls on campuses, getting the City to sign the proclamation of 100% renewable energy by 2050, the Education Hot Topic at the Frenchtown Community Center, Lobby Corps advocacy, registering returning citizens, the Tallahassee Marathon water station, registering voters at FAMU, and seeing policy as a vision become reality. What was your memorable moment?

Members also shared what they are looking forward to next year: exploring a ban on single-use plastics in the local area, Centennial Events (mentioned several times), and an amazing 2020 election year! What are you looking forward to?
New Citizens! New Voters!

The next Naturalization Ceremony is May 16 at 10:00 am at the Federal Courthouse. If you would like to attend this impressive ceremony as a representative of our League, please contact Sandra Kendall at fitzkendall841@gmail.com.

Our Speakers Bureau Is Still Active!
Jessica Lowe-Minor on the 19th Amendment

Jessica Lowe-Minor spoke to the Federal Highway Administration on April 1 about the history of the 19th Amendment in anticipation of the amendment's centennial next year. She also spoke about the League and our founding during the fight for suffrage, as well as our current work.

If you know of any groups that would be interested in hearing from the League, write to Stuart Baker sbaker@fsu.edu. Popular presentations include the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, Gun Safety in Florida, and Healthcare in America.

Photos courtesy of Linda Davis.
Education Committee News

The Education Committee met on April 16 at the Backwoods Bistro Restaurant with our special guest, Rosanne Wood, Chair of the Leon County School Board. The focus of the meeting was to learn about issues of concern and how the Tallahassee League might get involved. The key issues covered were:

- Kindergarten Readiness
- Bullying and Anti-Semitism
- School Re-Segregation
- School Choice and Magnet Programs
- Options for Low-Performing Schools

The Education Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet next on Wednesday, May 15 at 11:30 AM. If you would like to join the committee, please contact Sally Butzin, Committee Chair, at sally.butzin@gmail.com. You are cordially invited.

Sally Butzin,
Chair, Education Committee

Prepare for Hurricane Season!

Ahead of the 2019 hurricane season, which begins on June 1, the City of Tallahassee will offer a series of workshops to help residents and neighborhoods prepare. The Neighborhood PREP (Plan for Readiness and Emergency Preparedness) Workshops will be held:

- May 2 at Lincoln Neighborhood Service Center, 438 West Brevard Street
- May 9 at Sue Herndon McCollum Community Center, 501 Ingleside Ave.
- May 21 at Jack McLean Community Center, 700 Paul Russell Road
- May 23 at Jake Gaither Community Center, 801 Bragg Drive.
Each workshop will take place from 6-8 p.m. Residents and neighborhood leaders interested in attending should register.

At the workshops, participants will receive a Neighborhood PREP Toolkit, which is also available year round at Talgov.com/PREP. The toolkit features four modules and downloadable forms and templates that residents and neighborhood leaders can use to organize their neighborhoods. The modules present a suggested framework that can be customized to best fit the needs of each neighborhood. Through the toolkit, participants will better understand the tools and resources needed and/or available within their community.

*Marilynn Wills*

**Two Hundred Years of the History of Women's Suffrage**

Sandra Kendall recommended the following book to the OLLI Book Club and she thought our members might be interested in it, too, in light of the 19th Amendment and the League's upcoming centennial:

*The Women's Suffrage Movement* by Sally Roesch Wagner is composed of historical texts spanning two centuries and is a comprehensive volume with a distinctive focus on incorporating race, class, and gender, and illuminating minority voices. This one-of-a-kind intersectional anthology features writings of the most well-known suffragists, such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony, alongside accounts of those often overlooked because of their race, from Native American women to African American suffragists like Ida B. Wells and the three Forten sisters. The editor, Sally Roesch Wagner, is a pre-eminent scholar of the diverse backbone of the women's suffrage movement, the founding director of Matilda Joslyn Gage Foundation, and serves on the New York State Women's Suffrage Commission.

*Linda Davis*

**Another Lobby Days Success**

Our League was proud to once again host nearly 100 fellow Leaguers from around the state at Lobby Days April 9-10. We learned about advocating to our legislative representatives, and issues regarding the census. We caucused within study and action committees, got the latest on legislation we're following, toured the Capitol, heard about the struggle and triumph of passing Amendment 4, and held a press conference on the steps of the old Capitol about implementing the amendment. The closing gala at the Women's Club featured recognition for our Lobby Corps leader Jan RuBino along with members of the corps, and an award given to Senator Bill Montford for his work on education matters. It was a fun and fulfilling two days.
Girl Scouts at Lobby Days--Future League Members?

A Girl Scout color guard presented the flag and led the Pledge of Allegiance at the Lobby Days Gala at the Women's Club on April 10. They are from Troop 117, a multi-level troop, and are led by Phyllis Papka and Jennifer Yoshiokaic.
An Invitation

Congratulations to League Member and County Judge Stephen S. Everett on his appointment by Governor DeSantis to the office of Circuit Judge of the Second Judicial Circuit of Florida. He has invited all League members to attend his Investiture Ceremony and reception on Friday, May 17 at 3:00 pm in Courtroom 2-E of the Leon County Courthouse.

Bus Boycott Anniversary

The National Education and Empowerment Coalition, Inc. has announced the 63rd Anniversary Observance of the Tallahassee Bus Boycott with this invitation on its website:

May 26, 2019 marks the 63rd Anniversary of two female students from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, Wilhelmina Jakes and Carrie Patterson, sitting down in the "whites only" section of a segregated bus in the city of Tallahassee. When they refused to move to the "colored" section at the rear of the bus, the driver pulled into a service station and called the police. Tallahassee police arrested Jakes and Patterson and charged them with "placing themselves in a position to incite a riot."

In the days immediately following their arrests, students at FAMU organized a campus-wide boycott of city buses. Their collective stand against segregation set an example that
propelled like-minded Tallahassee citizens into action.

Through courageous nonviolent protest, boycotters in Tallahassee achieved an important victory in the struggle for civil rights. The case of Tallahassee proved that a commitment to nonviolence could achieve significant results towards equality.

There will be a number of events to observe this occasion on May 22 and 23. The 2019 schedule has not yet been posted, but check out their website for more information.

**Census Workers Needed**

We are hearing a lot about the 2020 Census in the news, but did you know that they are offering jobs to assist with this year's effort? They offer good pay, flexible hours, and pay for training. Check it out at this website.

**Convention**

The 37th Biennial Convention for the Florida League of Women Voters will take place in Naples on June 7 and 8. You can register for Convention by clicking here. We may have slots open for voting delegates from our league. Please contact Teri Cleeland at tcleeland@embarqmail.com if you are interested in attending as a delegate.

Whether or not you attend, under League bylaws, it is mandatory to send the following information to all members prior to State Convention. Please see the links below to access the various items that will be voted on by our membership.

2019-2020 Budget: ([ED Fund Proposed Budget](#), [ED Fund Narrative](#), [Fl Fund Proposed Budget](#), [Fl Fund Narrative](#) and [Pie Chart Overview of Both Funds](#)

**Recommended program changes**

**Slate**

**Centennial Planning**

Several members enjoyed another Centennial Happy Hour on April 17, sharing and refining ideas. There is consensus to have an entry in the Springtime Tallahassee parade on March 2020 showing 100 years of progress for women's rights, from suffrage to the present. We are also looking into developing a calendar for 2020 featuring inspiring women. Both the House and Senate passed bills establishing a state commission to commemorate the centennial of women's suffrage, so that is one product of the legislature we can really cheer!

The League has developed a new landing page for the Centennial with new information on what's happening at the national level. Read it here.

Our next scheduled Centennial Happy Hour will take place at the Florida Historic Capitol Museum, which will have a "Sips and Stories" event on Tuesday May 14 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. The event will be an opportunity to explore the exhibit One
Half of the People about the fight for suffrage and equal rights, on display only until May 25. The museum does not yet have this event page up but check out their Facebook page or their website for details. The price is $20 for members, $25 for non-members.

If you can't wait for that, the museum is having a trivia contest on women's history on Thursday May 2. Two Leaguers are set to go and up to four can be on a team, at $5 per person, including drinks and snacks. To register, call the museum at (850) 487-1902 or sign up through Eventbrite.

Local Government Committee

The LWVT Local Government Committee meets the first Thursday of the month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in Leon County public libraries around town. All are welcome; meetings are open to the public. Speakers are brought in at least quarterly. The upcoming schedule is set through June.

Our topics shift over time depending on what activities are going on in city and county government. The past few months have been focused on local government comprehensive plan updates to the land use and mobility sections. The City has finished a public outreach push and now needs to assimilate the information, finish drafting the comp plan language and metrics, and release the update later this year. They are considering contracting this part out to a planning firm. We'll wrap up this topic this month.

Our local penny sales tax initiative, expected to generate revenues estimated at $756 million from 2020 to 2040, is funding a slew of projects. As those projects get underway, public interest in them is bound to go up. It is empowering to know who is administering the projects -- Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency -- and where the opportunities are for meaningful public input on shaping these projects for the widest mutual benefits to our community. This month, we'll prep for next month's speaker, Autumn Calder, Blueprint Director and daughter of a local Leaguer, by learning more about the organizational structure of the agency and their project list.

New this month!! I'll introduce a county-wide public health initiative focusing on prescription drug disposal. The goals and actions will be laid out for committee consideration. See you Thursday evening.

May 2 - Leon County Main Library, 200 W. Park Ave., Magnolia Room (2nd Floor)

June 6 - Leon County Eastside Branch Library, 1583 Pedrick Road
Speaker: Autumn Calder, Blueprint Director

Thank you for your participation,

Danielle Irwin, Chair
Local Government Committee

Health Care Study and Action Group

If you are a League member interested in Health Care, please consider attending the Open House for the FSU PrimaryHealth, a comprehensive care center in southwest
Tallahassee operated by the FSU Medical School. FSU PrimaryHealth is expected to be a great addition to the existing primary care clinics serving our community. The Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony is scheduled for Friday, May 10 at 12:30 p.m. Open House is on Saturday, May 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Both events will be held at the clinic located at 2911 Roberts Avenue.

Members of the group continue to work on increasing the opportunities in our community for individuals to dispose of unused medications and used hypodermic needles. Plans are also underway to meet with representatives of the Florida Department of Health in Leon County to discuss the status of HPV (human papilloma virus) vaccination. And we continue to collect petitions for a 2020 ballot amendment to expand Florida’s Medicaid Program. YOU are welcome to join us! Contact Kathy Winn, Chair of the Group.

Kathy Winn, Chair
Health Care Study and Action Group

Medicaid Expansion Petition

Good news! The Medicaid Expansion Campaign has recently reported that 122,000 petitions have been collected statewide! This is enough petitions for the language to go before the Florida Supreme Court for review. Then the real work starts: Collection of the 900,000 petitions needed to get the proposed amendment on the 2020 ballot. Thank you to all who contributed to the petition collection effort!

Of course, we will continue to collect petitions while waiting for the decision of the Supreme Court. Voter Services is giving us great opportunities in May to collect petitions at League tabling events. Hope to see you at one of those. Or you can contact Kathy Winn, Chair of the Health Care Study and Action Work Group about picking up petitions if you want to get a few family members and friends to sign.

Kathy Winn

Petitions

You may have encountered a petition-gatherer recently, as there are a lot of them making the rounds right now. The League has been gathering signatures at our Voter Services events for two Constitutional Amendment petitions: to expand Medicaid in Florida and for an assault weapons ban in Florida. We’ve just learned that the State League is endorsing two additional petitions on Open Primaries, one for state elections and one for electing Federal Senators and Representatives, both sponsored by the organization All Voters Vote, Inc. These are the only ones that the League endorses. We thought you’d like to know in case you are approached to sign one.

You should be aware that there is a dedicated petition signing effort by a group called "Florida Citizen Voters.vote" which purported to deny non-citizens the right to vote through the "Florida Citizen Voters Amendment". It is currently unlawful for non-citizens to vote. The League does not support placing this item on the ballot.

Thank You to All SBA Members!

Thank you to the following "gold star" members who so far have joined or renewed at the Susan B. Anthony level, providing needed funds for your League’s work. (If you renewed
by mail, your name may not appear here yet due to the usual delays.)

Donna Hayes-Austin
Elizabeth Miller
Kenn Bass and Annette Pearce
Teri Cleeland and Larry Lesko
Kris Ellington

Linda Davis
Stephen and Meghan Everett
Lisa and Thomas Hall
Marilynn Wills

Ronald Greer
Rachel Stevens
Ana Cook
Marleen Ahearn
Valerie Scoon

**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 August Voter. (There will be no Voter for June or July.) The deadline for submission of material is July 27. Please e-mail your material to sbaker@fsu.edu

**Membership Form**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone (home)</th>
<th>Phone (mobile)</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
<th>Want to help the League make a difference? Please circle all areas where you want to help.</th>
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<td>Education: Advocate for public education</td>
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$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

TOTAL:

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, 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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Off-Board Specialists