Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy

This is the second of our new Weekly Voters. We continue to introduce you to our new Board Members. This week, meet our Secretary and our Treasurer, two officers who are not much in the spotlight but are absolutely vital to the functioning of the organization.

We are still experimenting with this new format, so if you have suggestions about how to improve, let us know at 850-309-3005 or lwvtallahassee@gmail.com.

Please submit your articles to editor Stuart Baker by the end of each Thursday at sbaker@fsu.edu for inclusion in the next weekly Voter.

Our Secretary and Treasurer

Kathy Winn, Secretary

As a former program administrator with the State, I had the opportunity to see how elected officials and the people who work for the government can affect people’s lives. I also witnessed first hand the influence of the League of Women Voters as they advocated for issues related to voting and inclusive and ethical government. I support the League of Women Voters because I believe that everyone should have a say in decisions that affect their lives. The League provides avenues for people to influence public officials at the local, state and national level by voting, becoming educated on issues, and advocating when decisions affect people’s lives. I enjoy participating in League activities like manning a table at the Downtown Market and following proposed legislation as a Lobby Corps member.

As Secretary of the Board, I take seriously the responsibility to accurately report decisions made on behalf of the members. The League’s work is particularly challenging right now, as we must try to figure out how to reach people without being able to contact them in person. There is room for everyone to participate and a lot to do, especially during an election year when we work to encourage people to vote and provide information that helps them to make informed choices.
Peggy Ball, Treasurer

Peggy Ball is the Treasurer of the LWV Tallahassee. She has lived in Tallahassee for over 30 years having come here to graduate school. She has 3 lovely children and works full time for the Florida Clerks of Court Association. (And don't forget a really cute retired husband!)

What I care most about, is educating voters and registering voters. I am constantly amazed at our organization's reach in the community. The education programs are creative and ambitious. The lobby program is another aspect that is important. The energy that the effort requires from our volunteers can be only steered by their passionate views. It is a privilege to serve such an outstanding organization.

New Members and Renewals

Susan Robinson
Ross Ellington
Laurie Dughii
Tim Grobe
Mary Ann Lindley
Susan Walden
Denise Walker

And a Special Thank-You to the Many Who Renewed at the SBA Level!

Carol and Bill Weissert
Trish Neely
Kris and Ross Ellington
Marilynn Wills
Peter and Sally Butzin
Mary Anne Price
Steve Urse
Christine and Dennis Reilly
Casey Laurienzo
Meta and Fred Calder
Elaine Bryant
Deb Burr
Rhonda Work  
Laurie Dughi  
Kathy and Tim Grobe

Emily Millett  
Linda Stalvey  
Marleen Ahearn  
Gwendolyn Waldorf  
Mary Anne Lindley  
Ed and Liz Holifield  
Karen Dix  
Rebecca Sager

Jan James  
Ermine Owenby  
Teri Cleeland and Larry Lesko  
Jessica Lowe and Rick Minor  
Kenn Bass and Annette Pearce  
Richard and Jan RuBino  
Meghan and Stephen Everett  
Peggy Ramsey and Erin Edwards

Request Your Ballot

Why Now?

In last week’s Voter, we recommended that all registered voters request a vote-by-mail (VBM) ballot NOW even though the next election isn’t until August 18th. So what’s the rush? Requesting your VBM ballot now ensures that your Supervisor of Elections will have time to process the surge of requests. It also should protect you if there are any future limits placed on VBM.

Importantly, requesting a VBM ballot does NOT mean you are required to vote by mail. When it is time to vote, you can exchange your VBM ballot for an in-person ballot either during early voting or on election day. Requesting your VBM ballot now ensures that regardless of what happens with COVID-19, hurricanes, or anything else, all voting options will be available to you.

VBM ballots will be mailed to voters beginning in early July for the August 18 election. In future weeks, we will address other VBM issues (updating signature, tracking ballot, post...
office issues, and more). Thus, when it is time to complete your ballot, you will know how to ensure it will be counted.

If you have questions about VBM or registering/updating to vote, please submit your questions to Voter Services at voterserviceslwvt@gmail.com. We will address your questions in upcoming issues of the Weekly Voter.

**Memorial Day**

**Remembering Those Who Served**

Today is Memorial Day. It means a lot more than trips to the beach, discount sales, and cookouts with friends and family. It originated from the practice by local communities of decorating the graves of fallen soldiers during and after the end of the Civil War. The first national celebration of Memorial Day (originally Decoration Day) took place May 30, 1868, at Arlington National Cemetery. General James Garfield gave a speech and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there.

For more than 50 years, the holiday was used to commemorate those killed only in the Civil War. It wasn’t until America’s entry into World War I that the tradition was expanded to include those who perished in all conflicts. Memorial Day was not officially recognized nationwide until the 1970s, with America deeply embroiled in the Vietnam War. Today, we remember and honor all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, as well as the Gold Star survivors and family members they leave behind.

Maybe this Memorial Day, in the age of Covid-19, we can't host the family reunion or the neighborhood barbecue. At this time, we are asked only to refrain from gathering in groups, to wear a mask, and to wash our hands. But we can and should fly the flag and reflect on the many who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our democracy and ensure the freedoms we usually enjoy every day.

For a different take on the history of Memorial Day, click here.

**Another Honor for the League**

**Congratulations to LWVUS & VOTE411.org!**

The Webby Awards are presented annually to websites in over a hundred categories among all four types of entries which are Advertising & Media, Online Film & Video, Mobile Sites & Apps, and Social. A website can be entered in multiple categories and receive multiple awards.

In each category, two awards are handed out: a Webby Award selected by The International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences and a People's Voice Award selected by the general public.
The League of Women Voters of the United States is proud to announce that this year the indispensable website Vote411.org won a Webby People’s Voice Award for Government & Civil Innovation! It’s nice to be recognized for the hard work of empowering voters and defending democracy!

More League Rocks!

Kris and company have been painting rocks again. Linda took them to Tallahassee Nurseries and they were happy to let them be scattered about their property.

![Rock](https://example.com/rock1.png)
![Rock](https://example.com/rock2.png)

What's Happening this Week

25 Monday. **Memorial Day**.

26 Tuesday. 2:00 p.m. **Real Estate Committee Meeting**
City Hall - Room 4G. 300 South Adams Street
26 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency
Virtual Meeting. Contact: 850-219-1060

26 Tuesday. 6:00 p.m. Joint City/County Transmittal Hearings on 2020 Cycle Comprehensive Plan Amendments
Virtual Meeting

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

27 Wednesday. 4:00 p.m. CRTPA Meeting
Virtual Meeting

28 Thursday. 9:30 a.m. CRA Board Meeting
City Commission Chambers, City Hall

1 June, Monday. 12 p.m. Tallahassee Downtown Improvement Authority Meeting. Virtual Meeting.

1 Monday. 6:00 p.m. Greater Frenchtown/Southside (GFS) Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting. Renaissance Center.

Click Here for our Website

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