



TO PROMOTE POLITICAL
RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH
INFORMED AND ACTIVE
PARTICIPATION OF CITIZENS IN
GOVERNMENT AND TO ACT ON
SELECTED GOVERNMENT ISSUES

THE VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF TALLAHASSEE

www.lwvtallahassee.org

850-309-3005

TALLAHASSEE

VOLUME 18–NUMBER 9

NOVEMBER 2010

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

02 Tuesday

Election Day

08 Monday 7:00 p.m.

Local Government Committee
Ruth O'Donnell 3509 Trillium Ct

09 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.

Leon County Commission
County Courthouse 5th floor

09 Tuesday 6:00 p.m.

Final Public Hearing on
Development of New Private
Subdivisions
County Courthouse 5th floor

11 Thursday

Veterans Day

15 Monday 1:00 p.m.

CRTPA Meeting
City Hall 2nd Floor

16 Tuesday 3:00 p.m.

Leon County Commission
Installation of New Commissioner
County Courthouse 5th Floor

16 Tuesday 6:30 p.m.

LWVT Board Meeting
LWVF Office, Beverly Court

17 Wednesday 11:30 a.m.

Hot Topics
Holiday Inn & Suites
2725 Graves Road

23 Tuesday 4:00 p.m.

Tallahassee City Commission
City Hall, 2nd floor

27 Wednesday 4:00 p.m.

Tallahassee City Commission
City Hall, 2nd floor

HOT TOPICS LUNCHEON

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

MEET YOUR NEW COUNTY COMMISSIONER



What is Sustainable
Tallahassee? What is the Knight
Creative Communities Institute at
TCC? What is Green Building?
What is LEAP?

Kristin Dozier, newly elected to the Leon County
Commission, will be here to answer your questions and
give us some insight on her goals for Leon County.

Ms. Dozier spent her early years living in the
Miccosukee Land Co-op., graduated from FSU and has
been a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental
Design) Accredited Professional since 2007. She is
Vice-President and Green Building Advisor at Mad Dog
Construction Company.

Time: 11:30 a. m. – 1:00 p. m.

Place: Holiday Inn and Suites
2725 Graves Road
(Just north of I-10 on N. Monroe)

Lunch: London Broil, Marinated & Sliced with Wild
Mushrooms, Red Bliss Horseradish Mashed Potatoes,
House Salad, Rolls, Butter, Dessert, Iced Tea &
Coffee

Cost: \$20.00 payable at the door.

Reservations: Please call the LWVT Voice Mail (309-3005) by
Friday, November 12.

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**Since the League has to pay for all meals ordered, cancellations  
received after the deadline will be billed for the cost of the lunch.**  
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By the time you receive this *VOTER*, all of the election frenzy will have abated; now everyone will be analyzing what went wrong and what didn't. The Tallahassee League worked with other organizations like the Village Square, and Zeta Phi Beta to inform the public about the constitutional amendments. League members Ben Wilcox and Jessica Lowe-Minor did a radio program on the amendments; Janet Findling, along with all the work she did on Bandwagon and the Big Bend Environmental Forum, also spoke on barriers to voting at the September meeting of VOICE (Volunteers Organizing & Initiating Change Everywhere). Rebecca Sager updated our www.Vote411Leon.org website for the general election, and Erin Edwards lent a much needed hand to help. We had several interviews about the redistricting amendments on local TV stations and met with several organizations and groups to discuss all of the amendments.

We had people at the Downtown Market every weekend passing out the Special Election *VOTERS*, registering voters, and answering questions. Of course, we will continue to work at the Downtown Market until it closes for the winter; so, if you've never spent a Saturday morning at the Market, you still have some time to do it. It's a rewarding experience, and can also be fun.

Election day found some Tallahassee League members working at the polls; while it is a long day, it is truly a satisfying task.

Our October Hot Topics was well attended; we discussed the constitutional amendments that were on the ballot. Thanks to Ben Wilcox, Ruth O'Donnell and Barbara Sterling for their excellent presentations.

Somehow, we still found time to answer phones at WFSU 88.9 for the semi-annual fund drive. Thanks to Gaynell Waldo, Dixey Teel, Marilynn Wills, Faye Mayberry, Theresa Chase, Beverly Hand, Gale Workman, Ruth O'Donnell, Doris Partridge, Florence Wills, Anita Davis, Kathy Winn, Carmen Nelson, Janet Findling, and Barbara Sterling for volunteering. And, extra kudos to Gale Workman who worked the "mike" on Sunday morning.

Legislative Seminar and Convention will be combined and held in March, 2011; you should have received information from the state office through emails. We will need volunteers to help with convention; please consider volunteering.

We also have a transportation study which will be getting underway shortly; look for additional information in future *VOTERS*.

One last item—if you have questions you would like our legislators to answer during legislative interviews, please send them to me at marilynnwills@msn.com.



HEALTH CARE COMMITTEE

Health Care Reform

In two recent community events, sponsored by the local (Tallahassee) chapters of Physicians for a National Health Plan, LWV, and Center for Inquiry, some of the myths, misunderstandings and rhetoric we face in sorting through health care reform and health care systems were addressed. We wish to express a special thank you and note of appreciation to Dr. Kenneth Brummel-Smith, Charlotte Edwards Maguire Professor & Chair, Department of Geriatrics at The Florida State University, for his presentation “Health Care Reform: 2010 The GOOD, the BAD, and the UGLY,” and a book discussion of *The Healing of America* by T.R. Reid.

In September, Dr. Brummel-Smith, presented the good, the bad and the ugly facts and figures about the new Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) to an attentive audience in the FSU School of Medicine Auditorium. With the help of students, PowerPoint and an engaged assembly, he skillfully explained the data and jargon associated the US health care system in understandable terms. We hope to have a Hot Topics presentation on this theme, so I will not go into great detail. “No proven cost controls, individual mandates that do not work, greater administrative complexity, no real tort reform, no attention to improving end-of-life care, reduced payments to teaching hospitals and doctors, not to mention the reliance on private insurance companies and pharmaceuticals” are a few the bad or ugly aspects.

It is important to remember that many Americans wanted some aspects of health care reform. They have been educated to the fact that without reform rising health care costs will bankrupt our nation or their households (if it hasn't already). And there are some positive aspects to the new law. As Brummel-Smith (power)points out “the law extends dependent coverage until age 26, prohibits placing lifetime limits on coverage, prohibits rescinding coverage, prohibits denying coverage of children with pre-existing conditions, requires free preventive services, limits Medical Loss Ratio to 85% (at least 85% of every health insurance dollar must be spent on health care and improving quality) as well as controls out-of-pocket charges, limits deductibles, limits waiting periods, and expands Medicaid eligibility with federal funding support. The law also benefits the older adult workforce, increases

Medicaid and Medicare payments for primary care,” and more. It is unfortunate that it is an unwieldy piece of legislation; which was one of many reasons for its negative reception. However, you can go to healthcare.gov for details on the law and a timeline on implementation.

Dr. Brummel-Smith supports a national single payer health care system (as many of you already know) which includes, under the heading Real Change, plans for “the elimination of for-profit hospitals, hospices and nursing homes; reorganizes care into pre-paid multispecialty interprofessional group practices; and provides for national determination of specialty need including subsidization of medical education and a national service requirement.” Our membership has been well informed on the single payer system as we've worked toward health reform over the years. It just “wasn't on the table” during the national health care political negotiations in 2009.

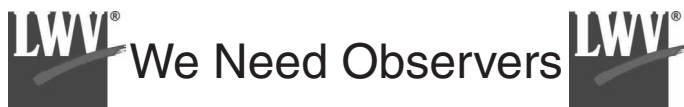
However, the national LWV adopted the “Improved Medicare for All” resolution at the June convention and it continues to be a goal we advocate.

As a continuation on the health reform theme, Dr. Brummel-Smith presented in October at the Leroy Collins Public Library an overview and discussion on the book *The Healing of America: a global quest for better, cheaper and fairer health care* by T.R. Reid (Penguin Books, 2010 and Penguin Press, 2009). This very readable book is an overview of healthcare models and the health care systems of France, Germany, Japan the UK, Canada, Switzerland, Taiwan and the US, with some introductory discussion of India. A major point, which should be understood by Americans, is that our system includes many models of health care delivery, so examples of how they work are not foreign to us. We have the military/veteran government model, federal employee insurance, Medicare/ Medicaid, privately insurance paid and delivered, and millions with no insurance who could be on the precipice of a medical and financial disaster. Americans must concur that health care is a right and work toward the goal of covering everyone in our society to keep it healthy and strong.

Due to time and space considerations, we will continue this book review in the December *LWV Voter Newsletter*.

cont'd **HEALTH** p.5

LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE



Wondering what the City and County Commissions are up to? Find out as a League of Women Voters local government observer. It's easy – all you do is select one or more of the meeting dates below, let the Local Government Committee know which date you chose, attend the Commission meeting(s) wearing a League button, sit and listen, then send any interesting information and your comments to the committee.

You will get more information and a button to wear after you sign up.

Dates and Times

City of Tallahassee Commission

4:00 P.M., 2nd floor of City Hall (all meetings are at this time and location)

- November 23,
- December 1
- December 8
- January 12
- January 26



Leon County Commission

3:00 pm, 5th floor, LeonCounty Courthouse (all meetings are at this time and locations)

- December 8
- December 14
- January 12
- January 26



Send an email to ruth.odonnell@comcast.net to let the LWV Local Government Committee know what meetings you can attend.

Ruth O'Donnell

VOTER SERVICES

Thank you to the many League members and member Dr. Rachel Sutz Pienta's students from her FSU Women's Studies classes for bringing much tasty food to serve the candidates, their supporters, and the to public who attended Bandwagon 2010 at WFSU on Monday, October 4 and/or the Candidates Environmental Forum at City Hall on Thursday, October 7. These volunteers also assisted in setting up and taking down the attractive serving tables, filling cups with the drinks, refilling empty platters at both events, and working at the sign-in tables for Bandwagon. I hope all of the volunteers and all of the League members had the opportunity to view both events either live on television or on your computer. Bandwagon 2010 was replayed 18 times, a record for our replays.

The Leaguers who performed so well at these events include Ron Bunting, Theresa Chase, Anita Davis, Sue Gross, Silvina Jover-Cirillo, Betty Kozumplik, Carmen Nelson, Wilbertine Philpot, Rachel Sutz Pienta, Jane Quinton, Peggy Ramsey, Marilyn Wills, and Kathy Winn. Non-League members, Ron Bunting and Ken Palmer also helped out. If I accidentally have left your name out, please contact me so I can mention you in the next VOTER. If I have your name listed but you actually did not assist, you owe me during our next election cycle!

LWVT has also co-sponsored various other events such as The three Village Square meetings educating the public on the proposed constitutional and charter amendments. Marilyn Wills did a great job speaking to various groups on the amendments, too. I know that many of you have distributed our various documents explaining the amendments and containing answers by candidates to our questions. Thank you so much for helping to educate our voters.

Janet Findling, Voter Services Co-chair



“Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane.”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

HEALTH *cont'd*

Unnatural Causes/HEAT (Health Equity Alliance of Tallahassee)

M. Miaisha Mitchell, HEAT Co-Chair, reported to our committee that they continue to address the Food Environment in various locations and groups, having recently addressed the Whole Child Professional Network to engage them in the neighborhood food environment/community gardening/ childhood obesity discussion along with other partners such as the Leon County Health Dept., CDC ACHIEVE, and FAMU Blue Foundation. A meeting was planned at the Lincoln Neighborhood Service Center to call all interested parties together to lay out the strategy for building a coalition in Leon County to address childhood obesity. A report to the community will soon highlight the work done this past summer on the Neighborhood Food Environment. Commissioner Thael as well as City Commissioners have taken keen interest in the community gardening project and have assigned staff from the planning department to provide needed assistance. Work has begun on looking at policies to sustain these efforts.

HEAT is planning a training for "Undoing Racism" as a continuation to *Unnatural Causes* and an invitation is forthcoming.

Members of HEAT and their research on health inequities specifically related to high blood pressure in African-Americans have been recently featured in the national media and *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. LWVT May 2010 Hot Topics guest speaker M. Miaisha Mitchell, and guests Qasima Boston of FAMU and Dr. Melvena Wilson of FSU were featured with Dr. Lance Gravlee of the University of Florida, Department Anthropology and his colleague. Please see the following links to this media.

The Pressure of Race Sept. 12, 2010

<http://chronicle.com/article/To-Battle-a-Plague-an/124337/>

Is Race Really Linked to Hypertension? NPR's Tell Me More Show

<http://www.npr.org/player/v2/mediaPlayer.html?action=1&t=1&islist=false&id=130212972&m=130212962>

For more information on HEAT please go to the following website:

healthequityalliance.org

BOCC Healthcare Advisory Board

Last April, the Leon County Commissioners voted to dissolve the county's existing Healthcare Advisory Board effective October 1, 2010. The new Community Health Coordinating Committee is being created in its place. We will follow-up with a report when it becomes fully active. To see the basic framework and responsibility of the committee go to:

www.leoncountyfl.gov/bcc/committees

Florida CHAIN (Community Health Action Information Network)

Because of their statewide work advocating for health care, our committee has taken an interest in the mission of Florida CHAIN and the information provided by them. One focus area is on promoting the Affordable Care ACT by "provid(ing) public education and monitor(ing) State implementation to maximize coverage through the new health law." For more information, please see:

www.FLORIDACHAIN.ORG

*** Calendar ***

There will be no Health Care Committee meeting in November. Our next meeting will be Thursday, December 16 at 3:00 P.M. at 2299 Trescott Drive. We will enjoy potluck light hors d'oeuvres to celebrate the holidays after the meeting.

Theresa Chase

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The LWVT Education Committee met last month to go over the strategic plan that won the State of Florida \$350,000,000.00 grant from the Race to the Top fund for its schools. This money comes with a commitment to follow certain guidelines: 1)teacher evaluations must be at least partially based on student learning gains, 2)Florida must encourage the creation of more charter schools, 3)Florida must agree to adopt the Common Core Standards as proposed by the National Governors' Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), 4)low performing schools must consider an increase in hours of instruction. There are other restrictions but these looked particularly interesting on first reading. Leon County schools will get \$3,445,701.00 as their share of the Florida's federal money.

Leon County School Board met Tuesday, November 26. Principal Donna Calloway reported that the League of Women Voters November 2010 5

Raa Magnet School for the Performing Arts continues doing very well. This program has been recognized at the state level and is invited to perform throughout Florida and the Southeast. And the students in the program continue to do well academically and as citizens of the school community.

Patrick Madden reported for the District Advisory Council. The council is watching best practices and will keep abreast of the legislature and the budget and staffing committees. Their next meeting will be on November 4.

Dr. Barbara Wills reported that in 2009-2010 1,906 students were not in compliance with the class size amendment; in 2010-2011 that number fell to 168 students (99.5% compliance).

To pay the penalty for 170 students requires \$129,000.

Alternative compliances to the class size requirements other than paying penalty:

- Spend \$4 million for teachers and infrastructure
- Reassign students to other schools
- Establish combination classes
- Make massive scheduling changes

Superintendent Pons restated that he believes that choosing to pay the penalty was the best choice for students in Leon County.

Some useful websites if you would like to pursue some of the topics related to Race to the Top and other issues in the Leon County Schools.

U. S. Department of Education

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/programs.html>

Common Core State Standards

<http://www.corestandards.org/>

National Center for Education Statistics

<http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/index.asp>

Florida Department of Education

<http://www.fldoe.org/>

Leon County School Board

<http://www.planning.leon.k12.fl.us/lcsbdates.htm>

National Center on Performance Incentives

<http://www.performanceincentives.org/about-ncpi/index.aspx>

Council of Chief State School Officers

<http://www.ccsso.org/>

National Governors Association

<http://www.nga.org>

M. L. Baker

YOU ARE INVITED!

What: Two League events in one - Legislative Seminar (March 23-24) & Convention (March 25-26)

When: Wednesday, March 23, 2011, at 5 P.M. – Saturday, March 26, 2011, at 5 P.M.

Where: Tallahassee, FL

Who: All of YOU, the MOST important, influential, and intelligent people in the state of Florida.



Why: Many of you look forward every year to attending our terrific **Legislative Seminar** and lobbying as a group during Legislative session for our issues. Many of you also look forward to our biannual **State Convention** where we do the very important League work of electing new officers, passing our budget and setting program items for the coming year. We know your time and resources are valuable! We don't want you to have to choose which event you have the time and resources to attend. We want everyone to have the opportunity to do **BOTH** in 2011!

🌿 HIGHLIGHTS 🌿

Welcome Dinner on the 22nd floor of the Capitol overlooking beautiful Tallahassee, including a very important guest speaker to be announced soon!

Reception in the Historic Capitol Senate Chambers with all newly elected officials!

Convention surprise dinner Friday night, fun and informative with another guest speaker and League activity!

Tours and activities to make your time as action packed and busy as you want it to be. (Optional)

We are pleased to announce that we will be returning to **The Doubletree Hotel** as our central location for these two events at a special room rate of \$105 per night. FREE parking, FREE breakfast. And walking distance to all activities.

Make your reservations **TODAY!** If you have never attended one or both of these events, this is the year!!!!

Watch for more exciting details to come!!!!!!!!!!!!



DOWNTOWN MARKET

Here is your final (for 2010) chance to participate in this fun Voter Service event!

The Downtown Market closes the end of November and will reopen March 1, 2011.

The November dates are:

Nov. 6
Nov. 13
Nov. 20
Nov. 27

Many thanks to the Leaguers who came down in October:

Anita Davis, Marilynn Wills, M.L. Baker, Cheryl Cole, Silvina Jover-Cirillo, Ruth O'Donnell, and Gwen Durham

Call me at 386-7589 or ramsey020@comcast.net, and let me know when you are available to help out. Thanks so much!

Peggy Ramsey



From National

Water—Let's Use This Precious Resource Wisely!

By Eleanor Revelle (LWVIL and LWVUS Climate Change Task Force Member)

Water is an increasingly scarce resource. Many parts of the United States already face serious water shortages and even drought. Population growth and the changing climate are putting additional stresses on water supplies. Even in areas where water seems to be abundant, careful management of this precious resource is essential if we are to ensure a reliable supply for future generations.

Moreover, using water efficiently also saves energy. For most municipalities, the biggest use of electricity is associated with treating and distributing drinking water and then collecting, treating, and disposing of it after it has been used.

Water conservation is clearly an important component of sustainability. How can we, as individual consumers, help?

Check the National website: http://www.lwv.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Global_Climate_Change&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&CONTENTID=12481 or go to lwv.org Take Action: Global Climate Change for some suggestions on how to do this.

BE SOMEBODY-HELP STILL WANTED

- MEMBERS FOR EDUCATION COMMITTEE
- DOWNTOWN MARKET
- WATCHERS FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS OF INTEREST TO THE LEAGUE

To volunteer, contact:

Marilynn Wills President: marilynnwills@msn.

com

Rebecca Sager, Vice President: rsager@music.org

Peggy Ramsey, Secretary/Treasurer: ramsey020@

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF TALLAHASSEE
 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Phone (home) _____
 Address _____ Phone (cell) _____
 _____ E-mail _____
 (please, print legibly)

\$100 Susan B. Anthony Membership	\$ _____	
\$75 Household Membership	\$ _____	
\$50 Individual Membership	\$ _____	
\$25 Student Membership	\$ _____	
I am enclosing \$5 for the LWVF Lobby Fund	\$ _____	
Additional Gift to the LWVUS Education Fund	\$ _____	(tax deductible)
TOTAL	\$ _____	

Please make all checks payable to LWV of Tallahassee.
 Mail to: LWVT, P.O. Box 10216, Tallahassee, FL 32302
 (You may also renew/join online at www.lwvtallahassee.org. (There is a \$2.00 charge for using PayPal.)