

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF VOLUSIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

THE

VOTER

September/October 2005

Visit our Web site at: <http://www.stetson.edu/~bjohnson/LWVVC.html>

LWV Purpose: To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected issues.

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BETTY CASTOR BRUNCH - SEPTEMBER 10, 2005

**An Invitation:
Brunch with Betty
Saturday, September 10th**

Time:
10:00 a.m. to Noon

Place:
Ivanhoe Plaza,
just off I-4 at Ivanhoe Blvd. Orlando

Cost:
\$20, includes free ride to
Orlando

If you want to view for yourself the curious shapes of the current legislative and congressional districts, please go to:
www.committeeforfairelections.com

If you want to learn how to bring reason and fairness to the redistricting process in Florida, attend this meeting with Betty Castor, Committee for Fair Elections.

RSVP for Brunch by Sept. 5: Chris Moseley,
LWVVC@cfl.rr.com or 386-248-0511.

RSVP for Ride to Orlando by Sept. 5: Judy Moore,
LWVVC@cfl.rr.com or 386-248-0511.

(See related article on page 4.)

60th UN Anniversary Celebration

Voices of the World's Children: Do We Listen?

**Saturday, October 22
10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
DBCC**

**Daytona Campus,
Bldg. 110, Rm. 112
Lunch: \$15**

**(Limited seating without lunch
is also available.)**

RSVP for Lunch by Oct. 19:
Chris Moseley,
LWVVC@cfl.rr.com or 386-248-0511.

Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters, Sister Cities, the American Association of University Women, LINKS, and other community organizations.

This presentation of the local UNA/USA Chapter commemorates the 60th year of the United Nations with speakers, films, displays, and discussions.

(See related article on pg. 7)

President's Column: What We Did on Our Summer Vacation

During the summer, the League of Women Voters has the reputation for slowing down a bit. Actually, your local League has not slowed down one bit this summer. Board members, off-board directors, study committee chairs, and the Observer Corps have been incredibly busy the past few months, gearing up for coming events and programs.

***June 8:** Two former LWVVC presidents, Helen Johnson and Pat Drago, conducted a training session for new and continuing board members. In an effort to draw more members into active League participation, Helen and Pat outlined and demonstrated how the committee system works to get members involved and at the same time provides the so important training for soon-to-be leaders.

***June 25:** LWVVC environmental activists Rosemarie Gore, Jeannie Ball, and Sandy Horikami organized a well attended meeting with Randy Brewer who explained the concept behind the formation of the Water Authority of Volusia (WAV) and also voiced some of his concerns.

***July 30:** The LWVVC Board, off-board directors, study committee chairs, and members of the nominating committee met in an all-day retreat to plan for the coming League year. We are most fortunate to have four new directors join our board: Sandra Horikami and Katrina Bell (2005-2007) and appointed directors Rachel Sieg (ERA) and Linda Sullivan (VOTER editor). Furthermore, one of our past presidents, Chris Moseley, was elected as treasurer at the Annual Meeting.

***August 8:** LWVVC board members Chris Moseley, Treasurer, and Ann Smith, Voter Service Chair, were guests on Jim Rose's radio show from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. Jim, also a League member, interviewed Ann and Chris about League priorities and actions for the coming year.

***Throughout the summer,** the LWVVC Board communicated with members of the Leagues of Orange and Seminole Counties regarding their **Brunch with Betty** program on **Saturday, Sept. 10**, which will concentrate on the need for redistricting reform in Florida. Eight LWVVC members are driving to this event in Orlando, and their cars are filling up fast with our members.

***Celebrating the UN's 60th Anniversary:** The League of Women Voters is a long-time supporter of the United Nations. This summer Chris Moseley and I have met with the local UNA/USA President Shahla Evans to plan what we hope is a well attended program on **Saturday, Oct. 22**, that supports the UN's efforts to confront and eradicate the woeful circumstances of the world's poor children. Please join us to learn and to help.

Judy Moore



CHARTER REVIEW COMMISSION REMAINING PUBLIC LISTENING SESSIONS

Council District	Date	Location	Time
3	Mon., Aug. 29	Brannon Center 105 S. Riverside Drive NSB	6:00 p.m.
4	Wed., Aug. 31	Casements, 25 Riverside Dr. Ormond Beach	6:00 p.m.

Reminder: When the 15-member Charter Review Commission concludes the public "listening sessions," they will hold their second meeting on September 6, 5:30 p.m., Thomas C. Kelly Adm. Center, Training Rm., 123 W. Indiana, DeLand.

Observer Corps

We are off to a very good start in re-vitalizing the Observers Corps after many many years of inactivity. Our ambitious plan is to observe every city council meeting in the county as well as the Volusia County Council, Volusia County School Board, Charter Review Commission, Metropolitan Planning Board, and Smart Growth. We're awfully close to meeting that plan. We need a few more volunteers. I'm asking that you call me with suggested names of people who may be willing to observe the meetings, noted in the table as "open", which are not now being covered. *Pat Gadbaw, Coordinator Observers Corps*

South Daytona

South Daytona is going vertical. For properties extending from the river west to US 1, height maximum is 18 stories; all other areas in lesser parcels. For parcels extending east of US 1 but not to the river, maximum height is 5 stories. The FPL franchise expires 5/08. The City Manager and City Attorney will study the feasibility of exercising the option to purchase the utility in South Daytona.

Marcia Lewis, Observer

Port Orange

Firefighters will again offer flu vaccines. There will be a small shortage this year and only high risk people can get the vaccine. There will be a slight increase in cost. Port Orange will initially have 20,000 doses and possibly another 20,000. Port Orange will ask the St. John's Water Management District for matching funds for the storm water improvements for the Cambridge basin properties. Port Orange is proceeding with the creation of a charter school that will emphasize the construction trade. *Summer Clayton, Observer*

Lake Helen

There was a discussion about the flooding problem on Pennsylvania Ave. Approved joining the Chamber of Commerce to help develop "downtown" businesses in Lake Helen. Lake Helen is currently a member of the DeLand Chamber of Commerce. The City of Lake Helen would like to build a Trailhead facility for the trailway. The trailway is an environmental project that is meant to invite participants to use the trail for hiking, biking and other outdoor activities. The City of Lake Helen has twice put out requests for bids, but they fear the project is too small to interest anyone. A member of the community recently showed interest in the project, but has not developed a bid yet.

The Council agreed to allow this individual to pursue developing and placing his bid for the project. *Sandra Horikami, Observer*

Daytona Beach Shores

They are involved in two things that are of interest to the League. A small rezoning question (a personal property that wants to become a multi-family set up -- for their family) -- but it would require a zoning change and a need to annex property. Both of these issues support the initiatives of the LWVVC local study on the Volusia County Comprehensive plan. The good news is that most of their meetings are no more than 1 - 1 1/2 hours long and run twice a month. *Jean Snyder, Observer*

Charter Review Commission

The Organizational meeting was held 8/8/05 to a fairly large audience. John Graham, Jr of International Speedway Corporation was elected Vice-Chairman of the Commission. William (Bill) Scovell, retired former City Manager, was elected Chairman. No future meeting dates were scheduled pending the outcome of the public hearings. The Commission set a goal of holding six (6) public hearings; one in each of the 6 Districts; within four to six weeks. A tall order indeed, considering they will have to find meeting places and advertise these meetings in advance.

Vacancies If possible we need to find observers for all the cities of Volusia County as well as many of the commissions and committees. One of the most important groups left open is Growth Management. *Rosemarie Gore* presented the following information to help you decide if you could cover this vital committee.

Growth Management Committee

Contact for this Commission is: Merry Chris Smith

Office hours: Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m. to 2 pm (386) 947-1875 - vgmc@co.volusia.fl.us

Loosely, the Commission is an intergovernmental body that studies proposed amendments to the comprehensive plan and how those amendments might affect adjacent jurisdictions. The Commission is not involved with zoning. It is made up of 23 members, 21 voting members (16 cities and 5 reps from unincorporated) and 2 non-voting (school board and SJRWMD) Membership appointments are made through the various jurisdictions. VGMC meets once monthly at 7:00 P.M. Meeting location varies, changing between east and west sides of the county. The following is a list of scheduled meeting dates:

Aug. 24, (Merry mentioned this might not occur), Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 23.

Welcome to our newest member Lynne LaBombard, DeLand. We look forward to working with you.

I've updated <http://www.stetson.edu/~bjohnson/LWVVC.html> to include a section on the main page for county government, with a link to the Charter Review Commission and to the form requesting to speak.

Betty Johnson, Web Master

FLORIDA

Not a single incumbent in Florida's State Legislature or in Florida's U.S. Congressional delegation was defeated in 2004. In that cycle, 72.5% of state legislative races had only one major party candidate. Of the 142 seats up for re-election, 103 were uncontested by a major party. That made Florida the second least competitive state behind Arkansas.

How could this be? The answer is redistricting.

Redistricting Basics

Redistricting is the process of redrawing state legislative and congressional district boundaries. Historically, the primary goal was to adjust political boundaries to account for changes in population. However, as new developments in computer technology have become more sophisticated, the original intent of redistricting has been lost. Instead of drawing districts that ensure elections are fair, data are manipulated to create districts that favor political parties and incumbents. As a result, competitive elections are now the exception, rather than the rule.

Redistricting in Florida

Currently, Florida's Constitution gives the Florida Legislature the authority to draw state legislative and congressional boundaries. This system permits Florida's elected officials to choose their voters, instead of the voters choosing their officials. The result is bizarrely shaped, uncompetitive districts that senselessly separate Florida's cities, counties and neighborhoods.

Allowing legislators to draw their own districts is like having "the fox guard the henhouse". Consequently, Florida citizens are left without a voice - without opposition and competitive elections, politicians have little incentive to be responsive to their constituents.

It is clearly a conflict of interest to vest the legislature with redistricting responsibilities. By doing so, we allow partisan politics to be put ahead of Florida's needs.

It's Time To Act



Need a Ride to Orlando on September 10?

The following LWVVC Board members will be driving to Orlando on September 10 for the **Brunch with Betty** program. Call the one closest to you for a ride.

Judy Craig	DeLand
Rosemarie Gore	NSB
Sandra Horikami	Cassadaga
Judy Moore	Daytona Beach
Chris Moseley	Ormond Beach
Cecile Rice	Daytona Beach
Nancy Ryan	NSB
Ann Smith	Ormond Beach

**LWVF ISSUES THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE
2006 FLORIDA LEGISLATURE**

Legislative priority setting is an important step toward LWVF influence on the direction of the legislative process. What are the priorities of the legislature? What should ours be?

Please return the Proposed Legislative Priority form no later than **October 1, 2005**:

Marilynn Wills, Action Chair
LWVF, 540 Beverly Court, Tallahassee, FL 32301
Fax: (850) 222-4485

Rank the following issues in order of importance with 1 as the most important.

___ **Fiscal Policy & Tax Reform:** This continuing and timely state priority affects virtually all other issues of League concern. Continue to support a state fiscal structure that is equitable in its distribution of the tax responsibility and responsive to public needs. Several years ago, the league decided to focus on secure sources of revenue for the benefit of all Floridians. Other groups may opt to advocate for increased or retained spending for a specific cause: health, education, safety, the environment, culture etc. All may be worthy. All probably need support. However, the league's approach does not pit one cause against another when the revenue stream is finite or declining.

___ **Campaign Finance Reform:** This issue, like fiscal policy and tax reform, broadly affects concerns of the public and public interest community. The governor has just signed a bill, which will allow candidates for the governor's office to spend up to \$20 million on the race; the previous cap was \$6.34 million. Cabinet officers will be allowed to spend \$10 million, up from \$2.5 million. A candidate will also be eligible to receive \$1.00 from the state for every \$1.00 his/her opponent raises over the cap.

___ **Election Administration Reform:** This includes redistricting, restoration of rights for former felons, HAVA implementation, application of the National SARA (secure, accurate, re-countable, and accessible) to Florida's voting systems and processes, protection of the existing citizen's initiative process and the ability of citizens to initiate the statutory amendment process in the state. A bill was passed in 2005, which will limit the number of hours, that polls will be open for early voting. Some states are experimenting with alternate voting processes and the establishment of several polling centers in the county rather than many polling places spread throughout the county. The legislature authored a constitutional amendment for the 2006 ballot, which would require a 60% yes vote on future citizen initiatives versus the current 50%. Statues restricting the citizen's initiative process failed.

___ **Growth Management:** This is a big issue since the governor just signed a bill which will exclude northwest Florida from environmental resource permitting for the next five years. Also, no legislation was passed which would raise the millage cap on the northwest Florida water management district to bring the millage into conformity to the rest of the state. There is disagreement among the senators who represent districts in the panhandle; they are to reconsider the legislation next session.

___ **Education:** Promote civic education in public and private schools. While the league supported a social studies bill in the legislature this spring, support was dropped when the bill was replaced by a bill we did not support. Should this matter be brought up again in the next session we would be guided by our partners' initiatives.

___ **Social Policy:** Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

___ **Resource Management:** This should be a big issue, especially in northwest Florida where citizens are trying to stave off some of the environmental problems plaguing south Florida. The protection of water resources, public policies which provide for cooperative, coordinated planning for land use in Florida, preserving the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the ecosystem, and promoting public understanding and participation of citizens in decision making on these issues will certainly arise in the next session.

___ **Judicial Independence:** Groups on the right and the left are mounting efforts to constrain the independence of our judiciary as witnessed by the Terry Schiavo scenarios.

Film Schedule for *Voices of the World's Children: Do we listen?*

Poor, unprotected children are indeed among the most vulnerable of all people. Because they have no power, status, or money of their own, they are considered voiceless. However, who among us is so indifferent that we do not hear their cries of pain and hunger, that we do not perceive their diseases and afflictions, that we do not shamefully acknowledge their lack of education and opportunity? While they may be silent, their needs speak loudly, and it behooves us to amplify their message.

UN General Secretary Kofi Annan emphasizes that *“healthy mothers and children are the bedrock of healthy and prosperous communities and nations.”*

“Lack of resources is not, and cannot be, an excuse...We should not view the eradication of poverty among children as simply a matter of self-interest. It is a question of what is morally right.” Joseph Stiglitz, Nobel Prize-winning economist.

“Health is the core of human development.” Gro Harlem Brundtland

“We must make significant efforts to lift children and their families out of poverty. We have the know-how, the experience, the tools, and resources to end child poverty and suffering. And we have the responsibility as mothers, fathers, grandparents, and concerned and sensible citizens to act now.” Marian Wright Edelman, President and Founder, Children’s Defense Fund.

To further our understanding, the local UNA/USA chapter has scheduled a series of films that address child health and survival. They will be shown at various locations prior to the October 22 luncheon:

City Island Library, Daytona Beach, Wednesday, October 5, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Daytona Beach Community College, 10-11 a.m., October 22

Stetson University, 7-9 p.m., October 20

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Deborah Pappas
Ormond Beach, FL
Debbie is a former member of NOW and has joined the League to help with the current drive for ERA ratification.

Margaret H. Yager
Daytona Beach, FL
Margaret is a returning member with extensive League experience. She has been the LWVVC treasurer and budget chair for the LWV-Florida.

Lynne LaBombard
DeLand, FL
Lynne works at the Child Care Resource Network, and is interested in advocacy.

Jackie Minnick
Port Orange, FL
A returning LWVVC member, Jackie serves on the Environmental Advisory Board for Port Orange. She’s an active advocate for League issues who appreciate the LWVVC Directory

Linda Sullivan
Port Orange, FL
Although a new member, Linda has already joined the LWVVC Board as the Voter editor. She is also a poll worker.

Doris Jordan
Daytona Beach, FL
A long-term LWV member in other states, Doris is interested in the environment, voter registration drives and advocating for LWV issues.

August-December 2005 LWVVC Calendar

- Aug.** 26 Women's Equality Day, DeLand Courthouse steps, 4:00 p.m.
- 27 Voter Registration Drive, Our Lady of Lourdes, 201 University Blvd., Daytona Beach, 4:30 p.m.
- 28 Voter Registration Drive continued on Sunday at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.
- Sept.** 1 Dept. of Elections Advisory Committee Meeting, Braille & Talking Books Library, 420 Platt St., Daytona Beach, 5:30 p.m.
- 8 Qualifying period ends for municipal elections.
- 10 "Brunch with Betty" Ivanhoe Plaza, Orlando, 10:00 a.m.-Noon, \$20
Fair Elections Committee: Redistricting Reform in Florida
- 12 Book closing for Primary Elections
- 12 Fair Elections Committee Speech and Petition Signatures Gathering, Ormond Beach BPW, Tomoko Oaks Golf Course, 2nd Floor, 6:00 p.m.
- 14 LWVVC Board Meeting, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. VCOG/MPO/WAV Offices, 1190 Pelican Bay Dr., Professional Village, Daytona Beach
- 22 Daytona Beach Mayoral Candidate Forum, Tiger Bay, Noon, Location TBA
- 25 Fair Elections Comm. Talk & Petition Signatures Gathering, Unitarian Church, Ormond Beach, 10:30 a.m.
- 26 New Smyrna Beach Municipal Elections Forum, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Place: Utilities Commission - Canal St.
- Oct.** 1&2 Port Orange Family Days: Redistricting petition. Come help the League gather signatures for redistricting reform. Call Lynn Lempel to help, c/o LWVVC@cfl.rr.com or 386-248-0511.
- 5 UNA/USA Film, City Island Library, 2:00-4:00 p.m. These films are directly related to the UNA/USA Celebration Luncheon on Saturday, Oct. 22 and are so important to see.
- 11 Book Closing for General Elections
- 11 **Primary Election**
- 12 LWVVC Board Meeting, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
VCOG/MPO/WAV Offices, 1190 Pelican Bay Dr., Professional Village, Daytona Beach
- 20 UNA/USA Film, Stetson University, 7:00-9:00 p.m. These films are directly related to the UNA/USA Celebration Luncheon on Saturday, Oct. 22 and are so important to see.
- 22 UNA/USA Celebration Luncheon, DBCC-Daytona, Bldg. 110, Room 112, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- Nov.** 8 **General Election**
- 9 LWVVC Board Meeting, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
VCOG/MPO/WAV Offices, 1190 Pelican Bay Dr., Professional Village, Daytona Beach
- Dec.** ? **Annual LWVVC Holiday Get-together**

Water Authority of Volusia Update

Rosemarie Gore

There are four issues contained in the interlocal agreement which give rise to concern on the part of the City of Daytona Beach. It was agreed upon at a July 19th Daytona Beach workshop each of these issues would be addressed one at a time over possibly a four month period. At the regular WAV board of directors' meeting on July 20th Chairman Apgar drafted language which stated the Master Facilities Plan, including identification of capital projects, should be completed. The other task also currently under way is to establish a Mid-term Funding source. Both of these tasks are to be in place before a unitary rate can be calculated. Commissioner Rick Shiver, WAV board member representing the City of Daytona Beach, took this information to the city commission meeting that same evening. According to WAV Executive Director Bruce Mowry present at that meeting, Commissioner Shiver's report was brief. A fellow commissioner asked whether Shiver was satisfied with the direction of WAV to which he expressed his support in the concept of WAV with reservations on the issues in question.

Currently under the WAV interlocal agreement modifications through board action are allowed without the review and approval of each member government. This being another of Daytona's objections, it was addressed at the August 17th WAV board meeting. It was decided with dissent that the vote on a proposed amendment to the interlocal would not occur until 60 days following the proposal date. The original intent was to eliminate the necessity of returning documents to local governments, giving each government veto power which was not considered advisable.

During the period local governments were organized under the Volusian Water Alliance, cities principally on the east coast began planning for water line interconnects. Plans were expanded to include the west side, and now nine interconnects form the anticipated network, two of which are in place between New Smyrna Beach and Port Orange. It is now in order to call in bids for the project. However, Daytona Beach is not prepared to go forward without knowing the dollar value of its share in the project. The interlocal allows participants to opt out after the bids are called in. At that time the members' cost share would be determined by the total bid amount filed by the successful bidder. This option had no influence in Daytona's decision to withdraw from participation.

Orange City is forced to ask for postponement until the service area dispute with the county has been settled. Meanwhile substantial funding is in jeopardy should this interconnect project not be in place by the end of this year.



VOTER SERVICE

Petition drives, voter registration, and candidate forums: They are all happening now! The League of Women Voters is known for its ability to moderate forums in a fair and impartial manner, facilitate voter registration in a knowledgeable and non-threatening atmosphere, and energize others to see that fairness and honesty are right for choosing our representatives. Come take part and volunteer to help with our petition drive, voter registration, and candidate forums. Important dates to remember as of August 17, 2005, are August 26th and 27th-Voter Registration at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Daytona Beach, September 22-Candidate Forum for mayor of Daytona Beach at Tiger Bay, and September 26-Candidate Forum for the municipal elections in New Smyrna Beach. Volunteers are needed for all confirmed functions, so call Ann Smith if you can help. If you hear of any group or organization that would like help in any voter service area, have them contact Ann.

Smart Growth Implementation Committee

Rosemarie Gore

On August 8th the Smart Growth Implementation Committee held its final meeting. Its report covering some fifty pages is scheduled for presentation to County Council on September 8th. In conclusion the Committee will have held 17 meetings which commenced August 31, 2004.

Four Work Groups representing areas of concern, namely development, economy, agriculture, and environment, were organized and composed of interested parties from the public. These groups formulated recommendations and implementation strategies which were passed up to the Committee. The Environment Group was provided with a detailed mapping system that aided in identifying lands which are currently a part of the environmental core as well as areas needed to enhance the core. The Committee made recommendations to appropriately direct development, lending protection to that sensitive core.

As a smart growth tool "cluster" development has come into being as a means to conserve green areas. When areas of land are considered for development, smaller lots are allowed provided at least half of the remaining land remains open space. This results in reducing the number of roads and contributes to green space. The use of incentives are urged to promote infill development which cuts demand for additional infrastructure. In order to satisfy the demands of growth, the school system should be recognized participants during the planning stages of development. This, along with other problems of the school system were addressed.

The report contains over fifty recommendations nine of which are identified as "keystone" recommendations vital to achieving smart growth results. Among the Keystone Implementation Recommendations is one that suggests the Volusia Growth Management Commission be restructured and renamed. It is temporarily and begrudgingly referred to as the Volusia Growth Arbitration Board.

Following presentation to County Council, the smart growth principles embraced in this initiative will be introduced to local governments, civic groups and the general public. A request to present the report to the Charter Review Commission has been filed also.

In passing judgment on the Committee's report, it should be understood it was produced under the constraints of the inevitability of growth.



JUST A REMINDER

LWVVC MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE

Individual Membership	\$50
Family Membership	\$70
Student Membership	\$25

Name(s)

Street Address, City & Zip

Home Phone

Work Phone

Email

() Renewing Member
() New Member

**Make your check payable to LWVVC
and send to: P. O. Box 9418
Daytona Beach, FL 32120**