

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County, Florida



THE VOTER

April - May 2006

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.

Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 29, 2006

Speaker: Dr. Margaret Venzke
Professor of History, Stetson University
Iraq: Grand Delusion

Ruby's Restaurant on ISB
629 W. International Speedway Blvd.
Daytona Beach

9:15 a.m. Breakfast Buffet, \$10
RSVP Required: 386-248-0511
or LWVVC@cfl.rr.com

AGENDA

9:30 a.m. Breakfast
10:15 Dr. Margaret Venzke
11:15 Business Meeting
Local Program Update
Proposed Bylaws Changes
Adoption of 2006-2007 Budget
Election of Officers/Directors
12:30 p.m. Adjourn

Coming in May...

LWVVC Law Day Program Monday, May 1, 2006
UCF/DBCC Daytona Campus, Building 150, Room 101
Debate: Judicial Independence 4:30 p.m.– 5:30 p.m.

Politicos on Parade Saturday, May 27
Fundraiser featuring fashions
by Target, modeled by area politicians 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Palmetto Club
1000 S. Beach Street
Daytona Beach

President's Report: LWVVC Members in Action

How gratifying it is to be the bearer of good news! First of all, I'm so pleased to report that Nancy Ryan, LWVVC Legislative Action Chair, recently applied for and was granted a \$500 award from the LWVUS for staging a Law Day program. When Nancy announced at our last board meeting that her Law Day proposal had been accepted, we were ecstatic. Of course we are all proud of her achievement, and the best way we can express our congratulations and show our support is by attending the event on Monday, May 1. Please see pages 1 and 4 for the details. I'll see you there!

I am also pleased to announce that five LWVVC members traveled to Tallahassee in March to lobby for LWV-Florida priority issues. On Tuesday, March 14, Lynn Lempel and I were in Tallahassee for the RESTORE THE VOTE Rally, sponsored by the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, to which the LWVF belongs. In addition to participating in the rally, Lynn and I spoke with Volusia County Representatives Cusack, Hays, and Hukill about the need to restore the right to vote to the more than 600,000 ex-felons who have paid their debts to society but still can't vote. Furthermore, we pointed out that Florida is only one of three states (along with Virginia and Kentucky) that virtually bars most ex-felons from voting *for life*. We also spoke to two legislative assistants and left position letters with those Volusia County legislators with whom we could not schedule a personal visit.

Still more lobbying for LWV issues will begin on Sunday, March 19, when **four** LWVVC members travel to Tallahassee as delegates to the Annual LWV-Florida Legislative Seminar, which concludes on March 21. Gwen Azama-Edwards, Rosemarie Gore, Nancy Ryan, and I will begin the seminar by attending Sunday afternoon workshops that cover three areas: Lobbying for LWV Issues, Florida's Open Government Laws, and PR and Marketing for Local Leagues. At the dinner that evening, Jean Zokovitch, LWVF Lobbyist, will update seminar participants about the legislative progress of LWV issues and review effective lobbying techniques. On Monday morning, we will hear from Florida legislative leaders, and then use the afternoon to visit the legislators with whom we have scheduled appointments. Our keynote speaker at dinner that evening is Senator Tom Lee, President, Florida State Senate. Before continuing our appointments with our area legislators on Tuesday morning, we will meet early for breakfast where our speaker is Lance DeHaven-Smith, Professor of Public Administration, Florida State University.

All four of us would like to thank you for helping us to defray the cost of attending this comprehensive seminar. We also encourage you to continue the LWV's lobbying efforts by subscribing to the CAPITOL REPORT. Subscriptions are available through the LWVF office at lwvfl@comcast.net, (850) 224-2545, or 540 Beverly Court, Tallahassee, FL 32301-2506. *Judy Moore, President*

Politicos on Parade

Saturday, May 27
10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.
Palmetto Club
1000 S. Beach Street
Daytona Beach

Fundraiser Featuring Fashions by Target,

Modeled by Area Politicians

Contact Chris Moseley for Tickets

LWVVC@cfl.rr.com or 386-238-7361

OBSERVER CORPS

This period we lost two of our Observers. Mary Derr finds that the Volusia County Commission meeting time conflicts with another important meeting she has. Marcia Lewis has observed and reported diligently each session. Commitments to other organizations prompted her to resign from observing South Daytona. I am hoping those of you I have not heard from are observing as promised. *Pat Gadbow, Observer Corp Chair*

Daytona Beach

Most contentious was the effort to change the Land Development Code so as to grant a special use permit allowing beer and wine at a night club at the back of the Daytona Mall. Both the Planning Board and the city staff had opposed it. However, after considerable discussion that focused on the meritoriousness of the bar owner and the need to provide young people in that area a gathering place, it was passed on a 5-2 vote. The super majority was needed to overrule the Planning Board.

I did go to the March 1 meeting of the DB City Commission. Not much of note. They created a City Commission Salary Review Committee to review the salaries and expenses of the mayor and commissioners, with recommendations due by April 14.

The Council also requested that the City Manager draft a revision to the "dead tree" ordinance. The current ordinance gives the City the authority to have property owners remove dead sand pines if the tree endangers the public right-of-way. The revision would give the City the authority to have property owners remove any dead tree that endangers public right-of-way. *Lynn Lempel*

Ponce Inlet

Staged a workshop on 2/8/06 to discuss the proposed Master Facility Plan from the Water Authority of Volusia (WAV). Councilman Gary Comfort had announced at last month's Council Meeting that he was going to vote against it unless otherwise directed by the Council. This workshop was to discuss the pros and cons with Bruce Mowry in attendance to answer questions.

The debate was open and informative. Comfort's main objection seemed to be the unfairness of cities who charge more for their water and make efforts to conserve, having to bail out cities who charge considerable less and squander water. Most of this issue is found in the wording of the Interlocal Agreement which Mowry admitted needed work, but that it was the best they could get in consensus with 14 diverse communities each of whom has an equal voice in the decision process. Mayor Nancy Epps pointed out that the equal voice arrangement was favorable to Ponce Inlet. In the end the Council voted in favor of the Master Plan with only one dissenting vote. Councilman Comfort was lauded for his careful reading of the plan and was assured that he was a welcome member of WAV.

In another issue, they directed the town attorney, Ciocchetti, to send a letter to the Florida Attorney General asking for permission to have a town email openly discussing one or more issues coming before the Council. The issue(s) would be time limited with the purpose being to allow more citizen input and open discussions with Council Members. *Pat Gadbow*

Port Orange

Speak Up -- it works: The request to amend the Future Land Use Map in a residential area that is close to Halifax River from residential to office was denied. Residents from the area expressed their concerns and, while the Planning Commission recommended approval, the City Council unanimously denied the request. The Council's greatest concern was commercial zoning "seeping" into a residential area. Summer March 7 -- Once again the Council rejected the request from a developer to rezone a land parcel. There is a 10-acre parcel in the Willow Run area that is zoned for 2-4 homes per acre. The developer requested a zoning change to accommodate 4-8 homes per acre, changing from single family to townhouses. While the Council rejected this proposal, they did agree to give the developer time to submit a new proposal. *Summer Clayto*

South Daytona

Kenneth McMillen voiced objections to the WAV Master Plan at the February 14 meeting. Councilwoman Long moved to have a moratorium placed on future height and density of condominiums to give staff a chance to catch up on the projects and wait for the results of the citizen survey. The motion died for lack of a second. Council members Locke, Clifton, Long, McMillen, and Mayor O'Neal expressed concern that the citizens are confused about the condominium projects. *Marsha Lewis*

Flagler County

Nothing at the March 6th meeting about Walmart.

There is a great deal about water and water rights and in particular an ordinance to establish 4 special water districts within Flagler County. I think this is mostly a "war" between Flagler County and Palm Coast, but it seems to me that it could affect water resources in the surrounding counties.

I don't know what is on the local (or state or national) program relative to local water resources. But it is certainly a very important resource and would seem to me worthy of a local meeting.

The two other items that had Volusia County mentioned were: A request to receive a general business brief from Carrie Garnett, One Voice for Volusia on the Community Agenda Project.

The other item was to consider a "Petition to amend the boundary of the Tomoka Community Development District". Again, this has to do with water and wastewater in the Westlake portion of Plantation Bay. Part of this development is in Volusia County.

(The following was a report inadvertently left out in January.)

We have a terrible event occurring in Putnam County. After keeping a plan secret for more than a year the Putnam County Commission has voted to allow a Walmart Distribution plant in an agricultural and environmental area just south of Lake Crescent and Crescent City.

The plant will require 5,000 tractor trailer traveling down US 17 and across SR 40 and points west, east and south. THE TRAFFIC WILL BE SO HEAVY ON 17 & 40 THEY WILL BE CONSIDERED WALMART PRIVATE ROADS. Both are two lane roads. They will require widening and displace homes, businesses and trees along these routes.

The Commission passed this request in spite of apparent conflicts of interest and 8 hours of testimony protesting the event by the more than 300 people gathered. The attorney for the people, Micheal Woodward of Intrerlachen, pointed out to the politicians that their application is flawed and the action violates Florida law as he testified for 90 minutes. The protesters followed and took from 4pm to 11pm with their objections.

This is blatant abuse of power mixed in with possible corruption. It will cost the citizens all over Florida millions of \$\$\$ in infrastructure construction and maintenance.

We must exert our power and rely on the courts to save Florida from this potential abuse. It seem apparent that the citizens will mount a law suit based on the fact that there appears to be illegal involvement of real estate people and the seller is a Commissioner and voted without recusing himself. This is a call for you to get every-one you can to write the Palatka News, the Putnam Chamber of Commerce. *Lois Filipic*



Nancy Ryan Secures Grant from the LWVUS

In January Legislative Action Chair Nancy Ryan brought to the attention of the LWVVC Board members a notice from the LWV-United States about grants being available for local Leagues interested in staging "Law Day" programs. Her subsequent application was successful, as she explains below.

On May 1, 2006, Law Day will be celebrated by local bar associations across the country. The League of Women Voters of the United States is partnering with bar associations on Law Day celebrations this year, and has offered local leagues grants to put on debates or other programs on Law Day with the theme "independence of the judiciary." The League of Women Voters of Volusia County has obtained such a grant, [for \$500], and the Board is actively seeking speakers for a debate on judicial activism to be held on that date.

The program will be at 4:30, Monday, May 1, Building 150, Room 101, on the UCF-Daytona campus. For more information, visit the LWVVC Web site, www.stetson.edu/~bjohnson/LWVVC.html

LWVVC PROGRAM: PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County supports efforts to make children's services a priority in Volusia County, with the emphasis on early intervention, prevention, and prenatal care.

COUNTY CHARTER

1. The League
2. Supports protections of the County Charter and its principles, to include monitoring County Council to ensure that the principles are implemented.
3. Supports an appointed (rather than elected) sheriff, property appraiser, and supervisor of elections, all with professional qualifications.

GOVERNMENT (revised position adopted 4/23/05)

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County supports the following efforts:

1. Volusia County and the municipalities within its borders should work together to protect the Environment while providing reasonable use of land.
2. The Volusia County Comprehensive Plan should involve the means to discourage cities from extending their boundaries into unincorporated areas needed for recreation and open spaces.
3. Public interest should be given priority regarding the conservation of our natural habitats in Volusia County.
4. More attention needs to be given to the Potable Water issues in Volusia County within the Comprehensive Plan.
5. The Volusia County Comprehensive Plan must emphasize the need for effective drainage systems, in order to enhance recharge and retention, and to avoid flooding issues.

RECOMMENDATION FOR CONTINUATION OF LOCAL LEAGUE STUDY:

The Local Study Committee of the LWVVC, during 2005-06, has studied and reported on dynamic changes due to Volusia County's Charter Review and the introduction into the picture of the Smart Growth Report and its potential impact. The committee has also realized that 2006 is NOT the year for additional program statements – too much is still not finalized. Depending on interest, a continuation of this study, following the results of the charter review, may bring a final chapter to this study (for now) – and we might have additional material for members' consideration, which could result in a further revised local government policy statement in 2007. We, therefore, recommend a continuation of this study with emphasis on the enforcement components and any new pertinent issues that arise - included in Volusia County's Comprehensive Growth Management Plan during 2006-2007.

*Jean Snyder
Local Government Study Chair*

NATURAL RESOURCES

1. The League of Women Voters of Volusia County supports efforts to conserve and protect our water supply as an essential part of ecosystem management. These efforts include:
 - a) The County Council's continued implementation of Volusia County's stormwater management ordinance.
 - b) LWVVC's continued participation in the LWV Coalition to monitor the St. Johns River Water Management District.
 - c) Sound management of Volusia County's designated sole source aquifer.
 - d) Protection of Volusia County's recharge area.
 - e) Establishment of a county-wide entity to govern water usage.
2. LWVVC opposes the development of a Ponce Inlet Marina.

STORMWATER

1. Because stormwater basins and sub-canal systems cross city/community boundaries, LWVVC believes that Volusia County should be primarily responsible for their maintenance.
2. LWVVC supports both county and local stormwater fees.
3. There should be incentives for using reclaimed water.
4. Local municipalities should include street sweeping in their stormwater management plans.
5. In addition to preventing flooding, effective stormwater management plans must provide for:
 - a) reduction of pollutants entering the waterways,
 - b) reduction of desalination of salt water tributaries in the county,
 - c) reclamation of stormwater to reduce the demands on the aquifer and
 - d) reduction of runoff pollution entering the aquifer.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE – ZERO TO FIVE

1. Recommendations to the Florida Legislature:

- Clarify or pass legislation that will permit TANF monies to be used for the working poor.
- Improve pay and benefits for child care staff.
- Amend statutes to require improved ratios of adults to children.
- Provide funding to assist facilities in becoming Gold Seal facilities.
- Increase payments for subcontracted centers.

Permit child placing agencies to evaluate child care facilities and to provide information to parents to help them make informed decisions.

2. Recommendations to the Florida Legislature and the Volusia County Council:

- Require licensing of all Family Child Care Homes.
- Provide funding for additional licensing personnel.

Develop a training program for all Family Care Child Care Homes.

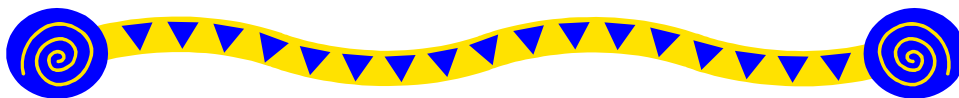
3. Recommendations for Community Involvement:

- Develop facilities for night and weekend child care.
- Develop alternative programs for ill children.

Encourage companies to collaborate on establishing quality child care for employees.

Proposed Membership Dues Change

Our local League supports both the LWV-Florida and the LWV-US with a yearly per member payment (PMP). The PMP for a Household Membership is based on 1 1/2 the Individual Membership (\$50.00) cost. The Budget Committee recommends raising our Household Membership dues, from \$70.00 to \$75.00, in order to be in line with the Household Membership PMP paid to LWV-F and LWV-US. Currently the LWVVC is subsidizing the PMP payment to both LWV-F and LWV-US by \$5.00 for each Household Membership.



Proposed Bylaws Changes

At the January 11, 2006 meeting of the LWVVC Board of Directors, Mary Derr, Nominating Committee Chair, recommended changing the number of vice-presidents from three to two, and to change the number of elected directors from six to five. The rationale behind these recommended changes is that it would be easier for the nominating committee to find members to serve as officers and directors.

The proposed changes are reflected below. A strike-through indicates deleted words, and [words in brackets] indicates added words.

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Section 1. Election/Qualifications and Term. The officers of the LWVVC shall be a President, three [two] Vice-Presidents, a Recording Secretary, and a Treasurer. These officers shall be elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting for a term of two years to take office July 1. The President, First Vice-President and Second Vice-President shall be elected in the odd-numbered years. The Third Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected in the even numbered years.

Section 3. The Vice-Presidents. The three [two] Vice-Presidents, in the order of their rank, shall in the event of absence, disability or death of the President, assume the office.

ARTICLE V - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Number, Manner of Selection, and Term of Office. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the LWVVC, the immediate past president, six [five] elected directors, and not more than six appointed directors. Three [and two] directors shall be elected by the membership at [alternating] Annual Meeting[s] and shall serve for a term of two years, or until their successors have been elected and qualified.

Current LWVVC Officers and Directors

President:	Judy Moore (2005-2007)
First Vice-President:	Nancy Ryan (2005-2007)
Second Vice-President:	Judy Craig (2005-2007)
Third Vice-President:	Ann H. Smith (2004-2006)
Secretary:	Susan Johnson (2004-2006)
Treasurer:	Christina Moseley (2005-2006)

Directors (2004-2006)
 Jeanne Ball
 Betty Johnson
 Cecile Rice

Directors (2005-2007)
 Katrina Bell (resigned)
 Rosemarie Gore
 Sandra Horikami

Nominating Committee 2006
 Mary Derr, Chair
 Summer Clayton
 Ann W. Harrell

Nominated Officers and Directors

Secretary:	Susan Johnson (2006-2008)
Treasurer:	Christina Moseley (2006-2008)
Third Vice-President:	Jean H. Bragg (2006-2008)

Directors (2006-2008)
 Betty Johnson
 Annette Parker
 Ann H. Smith

Director (2006-2007,
 filling vacated position)
 Lynne LaBombard

Nominating Committee 2007
 Larry Moore, Chair
 Ann W. Harrell
 Virginia Roche

	Budget 05-06 Actual	Budget 06-07 Proposed
INCOME:		
Membership Dues	3,825	3,750
Contributions	800	500
Membership Fund (carryover)	0	72
Fundraising	3,900	850
Interest	5	5
Meetings	1,500	1,500
Voter Sponsorship	500	750
Other Income	0	0
Subtotal	\$10,530	\$7,427
EXPENSE:		
A. Operating Expenses		
PO Box	126	65
Postage	300	300
Printing	125	125
Supplies	175	175
Telephone	490	490
B. Board & Admin.	100	100
C. Delegate Expenses		
LWVF Council/Convention	400	270
LWVF Legis. Seminar	510	270
LWVUS Convention	1,000	0
D.PMP		
LWVF	972	975
LWVUS	1,755	1,785
E. Voter Expense	1,080	1,200
F. Meetings, Pubs, Award	1,397	1,400
G. Fundraising	1,900	100
H. Miscellaneous		
Other	100	50
Workshops	100	50
Membership Fund	0	72
Subtotal	\$10,530	\$7,427

LWV-Florida Education Fund: LWVVC Accrual Account

The LWVF Education Fund is available to our local League. Money contributed to this fund can be earmarked and is fully tax deductible. We can use this fund to help to defray the cost of sending delegates to LWVF and LWVUS meetings.

Current LWVF-Education Fund Balance: \$681.85

WAV UPDATE

Early in 2006 during a WAV Board of Directors' meeting, guest Kirby Green, Executive Director of the St. Johns River Water Management District, said the District looked forward to working with WAV in the implementation of its Master Facilities Plan. He commented on one of the conclusions arising out of the planning process which projected potable water demand in 2025 will exceed current consumptive use permits (CUPs) by 22 million gallons per day. In meeting this deficit it will be necessary to resort to diversified water sources surface water, groundwater and the optimization of water sources. As we move forward, he stressed, we need to look at not only one water source as a solution, but to all of them in order to optimize and meet future water needs.

In consideration of the deficits Mr. Green reminded the board the District is now issuing short term CUPs, which stipulate conditions requiring the applicant to develop an alternative water supply resource for the future. Twenty-year CUPs are now an oddity. Adding to this was his advice to combine efforts and take advantage of economies of scale in developing these alternative water supply facilities.

There are numerous conditions which have hampered progress. The Daytona Beach Commission having voted to opt out of WAV has given rise to an insecure financial footing and a reluctance to move forward. However, as for funding, Mr. Green assured WAV he did not believe its ability to draw support from the State or District was dependent upon having Daytona at the table. The not-yet established Minimum Flows and Levels, a means of gauging aquifer drawdown, has been another uncertainty in WAV's Master Facilities planning. A reduction in the MFL would result in restricting the permitted amount drawn from the aquifer.

Dating back to the Volusia Water Alliance and transition into the Water Authority of Volusia, CUP consolidation has been resisted by most member governments. But CUP consolidation is one of the articles of the interlocal agreement. It assures the member will receive the same amount of water that it is authorized to receive under its current consumptive use permit. Each member government carries its own set of problems in this regard. Each and every member is promised assistance by the District in working through these individual concerns with each and every member.

In answer to the question: What constitutes a "regional authority?" Mr. Green suggested it should not be pre-supposed that an implementation group needs to be an authority. It has to be an agreement of participating utilities that show us how sub-regionalization will solve the needs. WAV can take that place just as well as member communities that meet a regional need, and which will be able to co-exist in the eyes and judgment of the District. What meets the most needs would be given priority.

In response to Daytona Beach city manager's letter to Dr. Mowry, requesting initiation of formal mediation, the WAV board directed staff to reach agreement with Daytona on a mediator and a time. Mediation will be entered into on March 27th in the offices of WAV's attorney. A sub-committee will be selected to attend the mediation. The attorney for WAV, Ms. Ansay, has made it clear at this point that Daytona Beach is still a member of WAV. Daytona's opt-out is not a dispute. In paraphrasing Ms. Ansay: We are talking about a disagreement on a number of items in the Interlocal Agreement, which articulated little to no legal issues. They asked to renegotiate, but WAV's position is that Daytona Beach has problems with the Agreement. Ms. Ansay does not perceive that to be a legal dispute.

Chair Apgar is not in favor of amending the agreement, but rather revising it comprehensively.

At the March meeting a motion was passed extending the date for voting approval of the Master Facilities Plan, and a second motion extended the date to June 30th an extension which was encouraged by Mr. Green. These actions attest to the security of funding expected from the District the delay is forgiven.

Rosemarie Gore

Politicos on Parade
Saturday, May 27 - 10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m.
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1000 S. Beach Street
Daytona Beach

Florida Power and Light



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April/May VOTER**



**The League of Women Voters of Volusia County thanks FPL for its
generous support.**

League of Women Voters of
Volusia County Florida
P.O. Box 9418
Daytona Beach FL 32120

