

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County, Florida



THE VOTER

June - July 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.

Observer Corps Meetings

Choose a breakfast meeting on the east side of the county, a dinner meeting on the west side, or come to both meetings.

Thursday, June 22

6:30 p.m.

Perkins Restaurant & Bakery

1405 N. Woodland Blvd.

DeLand

Special Guest: Pat Drago

Charter Commission Subcommittee

Chair, *Integrating Economic Development and Education*

Saturday, June 24

9:30 a.m.

Connect.Cafe

*1500 Beville Rd.

Daytona Beach

Special Guest: Pat Northey

Charter Review Commission

Subcommittee, *Protecting the Environmental Core*

LWVVC Observer Corps

Pat Gadbow, Chair

Katrina Bell

Summer Clayton

Lois Filipic

Rosemarie Gore

Ann Harrell

Sandra Horikami

Lynn LaBombard

Lynn Lempel

Bonnie McMillan

Linda Merrell

Bob Miller

Barbara Mills

Eleanor Montgomery

Judy Moore

Larry Moore

Annette Parker

Cile Rice

Nancy Ryan

Iris Scotland

Helen Scott

Natalie Williamson

Observers will discuss their attendance and observations at the following city commission/ council meetings: Daytona Beach City, DeLand, DB Shores, Deltona, Edgewater, Flagler, Holly Hill, Lake Helen, New Smyrna, Ormond Beach, Orange City, Ponce Inlet, and Port Orange. Also being observed are the Volusia County School Board, the Volusia County Council, and WAV. What's more, Linda Merrell is a frequent observer of the Florida Legislature in Tallahassee.

In addition, observers will discuss their attendance at the Charter Review Commission and the CRC six subcommittee meetings. Pat Drago and Pat Northey will attend the DeLand and Daytona Beach meeting, respectively, to give some insight into the work of the CRC.

*The Connect.Cafe is located at 1500 Beville Road, in the Beville Shoppes, on the northwest corner of Clyde Morris and Beville Road.

(See Page 4 for more information.)

President's Report

We all need to symbolically doff our hats to the many LWVVC members who are working to make **Politicos on Parade 2006** the most successful yet. Specifically, **Cile Rice** agreed without wincing or any coercion whatsoever when asked in February to be the board liaison and coordinator of the event. She quickly convened the committee and distributed assignments: inviting Volusia County elected officials to be models in the fashion show, soliciting TARGET as our fashion outfitters, appointing a chair to oversee ad solicitations for the program booklet, negotiating with the Palmetto Club about lunch and required special facilities arrangements, and arranging for publicity.

While this biennial fundraiser is fun and usually draws a good crowd, it is nevertheless a complex and time-consuming affair. However, LWVVC members are quick to respond to calls for help and often perform beyond expectations. As you view the list below (quickly assembled because I need to conclude my assigned **Politicos** duties), you will understand and share in my gratitude and appreciation.

Ann Smith: Once again she is in charge of the program booklet and supervising the solicitation of ads. Some of her best performers are **Pat Gadbaw, Ann Harrell, Lynn Lempel, Larry Moore, Sue Johnson, Betty Johnson, Carol Lawrence, Chris Moseley, Rosemarie Gore, Sandra Horikami, and Carolyn West.**

Cile Rice: In addition to coordinating the whole event, Cile was point person, along with **Chris Moseley**, for ticket sales. Many LWVVC members sold and/or bought multiple tickets to distribute to friends and colleagues: **Betty Johnson, Sue Johnson, Pat Gadbaw, Carolyn West, Gail Camputaro, Carol Lawrence, Cile Rice, Gwen Azama-Edwards, Mary Derr, Rosemarie Gore, Jean Bragg, Annette Parker, Sandy Horikami, Lynn Lempel, Carol Lawrence, Ann Smith, and Pam Woods.**

Cile Rice and her two best helpers, **Jean Bragg** and **Annette Parker** will arrive early at the Palmetto Club on Saturday, May 27, the day of the event, to decorate the tables and make sure dressing facilities are appropriate for our politicos models.

Finally, we thank **Lynn Lempel** for placing announcements in area newspapers and also, along with **Pat Gadbaw** and **Linda Sullivan** for requesting and collecting the many door prizes that are given out at the luncheon/fashion show.

Have I forgotten anyone? Probably. When the list of active participants is this extensive, someone may be forgotten. I offer my apologies in advance and assure you that I will not rest until I thank all who have helped to make this **Politicos on Parade** the best ever!

Judy Moore

LWV-Florida et al vs. Cobb

At the March 19-21, 2006 Legislative Seminar of the League of Women Voters of Florida, LWVF President Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti made a surprise announcement on the last day. She declared a moratorium on all voter registrations done by League members.

She cited a law, Chapter 2005-277 amending the Florida Voter Registration Act, which took effect this past January 1 as the reason to suspend one of the League's most important get-out-the-vote activities. Passed in the last minutes of the 2005 legislative session, this law, in an effort to dissuade voter registration fraud, imposes stiff penalties on volunteer registrars who make an error. Anyone turning in a form more than 10 days after completion will be fined \$250. If a completed form is not turned in, the person responsible can be fined as much as \$5,000. Given the small budgets of most local Leagues and the state League, a fine for even a few infractions could literally wipe out our operating budgets. Curiously, this law does not apply to political parties.

Just before the LWVF Council 2006, Dianne emailed all local Leagues about the suit that has recently been filed in federal court challenging the Florida law, League of Women Voters of Florida et al vs. Cobb. Joined by other affected grassroots organizations and labor unions, the League will be represented in the suit by New York University Brennan Center for Justice. Wendy Weiser, deputy director of the Brennan Center, will once again be representing the League in this case. Weiser was chief counsel in Johnson vs. Bush, the suit filed last year by the American Civil Liberties Union of Florida and the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (of which the LWVF is a member) in an effort to restore voting rights to ex-felons who have completed their sentences.

This current suit and the resulting dilemma Florida Leagues face was the main topic of conversation at Council 2006 on May 20-21. Council delegates recognized immediately their quandary: they will not be able to continue their voter registration drives as the election season fast approaches. However, there is a way around the problem. If a League member is deputized by the county department of elections, she or he becomes an agent of the state and is thereby not subject to this law.

At the LWV-Volusia County Board of Directors' meetings in the next two to three months, we will be discussing our voter service plans and how to implement them, complete with voter registration opportunities, without placing our League at risk in any respect.

To learn more go to: "The Filing of the 3rd Party Voter Registration Suit,"

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1195517,00.html>

Dianne Wheatley Giliotti
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Tallahassee, Fl 32301-2506

lwvf1@comcast.net

Observer Corps

The major agenda item for most meetings is the changing of zoning. However, with the advent of the Water Authority of Volusia (WAV) many cities regularly at least address water issues. Along with zoning, cities are emphasizing their uniqueness, such as the quaintness of Lake Helen, the fishing village atmosphere of Ponce Inlet, and the city of trees of Port Orange. In this time of breathless growth, these are positive signs.

Most cities have agenda and minutes on the internet. Some are comprehensive and easy to follow. Cities like DeLand, DeBary and Pierson give very little information and should have regular observers. Some are very user friendly such as Port Orange, DB Shores, Ponce Inlet and South Daytona.

Minutes are necessarily delayed by at least one month and frequently many more. Therefore it is critical that we review agenda items monthly if cities are not already being regularly monitored. Currently we need observers for DeBary, Ormond Beach, Oak Hill, South Daytona and the Metropolitan Planning Board.

It's been a productive year for our fledgling group and we look forward to presenting our findings at the meetings in June. Those who are observing have expressed that they have a better feeling that the cities for the most part are in good hands.

Patricia Gadbaw, Chair

WAV REVIEWED

At its May 17th board meeting the membership approved the following amendments to the Interlocal Agreement: 1) to remove the current requirement for a Consolidated Consumptive Use Permit, and 2) to extend the time for members to enter into a Master Water Supply Contract from within 3 years of the execution of the Interlocal Agreement, to within 3 years of the April 5, 2006 approval date of the Master Water Facilities Plan. In order to remain completely flexible in adopting a consolidated permit, the board further agreed to consider that action at any time during the next three years.

With the hope of breaking a stalemate on establishing a method for mid-term funding, the board authorized a contract for a feasibility study. This study will determine funding methods for special assessment and a one-half cent sales tax which could provide a solution to this long-standing mid-term funding problem.

A presentation is being prepared by the Executive Director and WAV Counsel for review by the board, which will go before the Charter Review Commission at its June meeting.

At the same time the future water supply has been under study by the CRC Sub-committee, Meeting the Infrastructure Needs of Smart Growth. In recognizing the county's obligation to ensure the public's future water supply, the Sub-committee has built a safety factor into its recommendation to the Commission. In response, it is fitting that WAV also should state its position on water management in the county.

Mediation with the City of Daytona Beach will continue, and the outstanding assessment fee will continue to be a part of the negotiations. In the interest of accelerating negotiations, prior to the next mediation meeting on June 12th, WAV will have requested for review by June 6th a draft of an interlocal agreement acceptable to Daytona. A Special Board Meeting is scheduled for June 7th for board review of the Daytona draft.

WAV faced another crucial development when the water supply provider for New Smyrna Beach, the Utilities Commission, voted to recommend the City Commission withdraw itself from the Water Authority.

Rosemarie Gore

League of Women Voters of Florida Council 2006

The League of Women Voters of Florida convenes a council of two delegates from each local League in even-numbered years to conduct the business of our state organization. Specifically, Council approves the coming year's budget and can also adopt and/or approve new program studies. LWV-Volusia delegates this year were Rosemarie Gore and Nancy Ryan. Judy Moore substituted for Nancy on the last day.

In addition to adopting the budget, the LWVF Council 2006 in Altamont Springs, May 20-21, addressed other issues of concern, such as workshops on candidate forums, membership recruitment and retention, renewed legislative and congressional redistricting efforts, and the restoration of civil rights for ex-felons.

However, the primary issue of concern was the voter registration moratorium that the LWVF Board unanimously established in March. This unprecedented action was a result of Chapter 2005-277 amending the Florida Voter Registration Act, that became law on January 1, 2006. As LWVF President Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti explained in her report, this law "creates potential financial and criminal liabilities for the League and its members as a potential 3rd Party Voter Registration group." (*See related article on p.3.*)

Council was also a time for networking with other Florida local Leagues and receiving special recognition. The LWV-Volusia County was recognized for achieving a 2% increase in membership this past year. The Collier County League made the greatest gain with a 16 % increase. Other awards presented were the Media Awards, a practice that was established by Jean Snyder when she was LWVF secretary. This year's Media Awards judges were both LWV-Volusia County members, Jean Snyder and Web Master Betty Johnson.

All three delegates would like to thank the members of the LWVVC for their contributions and support, which made attendance at this leadership-training meeting possible.



LWVUS Convention Delegate Sandra Horikami

Sandra Horikami, LWVVC Board of Directors, will be our delegate to the LWVUS Convention in Minneapolis on June 10-13. Delegates to this biennial convention will make decisions about the League's goals and operations, which include approving new studies and adopting a budget for both the LWVUS and the LWVUS-Education Fund. The event is marked by lively debate of the issues and the opportunity to learn so much at workshops, caucuses, and convention sessions.

Look for Sandy's convention report in the next VOTER.

How to Access Important LWVUS Information

Please share this note with your members to help them get signed up for the Member section of the LWVUS Web site where they will find important information about Convention and other League matters. To begin the process, go to <https://www.lwv.webmembership.org/PreRegister.asp>

1. Enter your first name, last name and e-mail address. Click "Submit." You will be prompted through the next steps.
2. After you receive an e-mail with your initial password, go back to <https://www.lwv.webmembership.org>. Enter your e-mail address in the first field and cut and paste the password that was sent to you into the second field. Click "Submit."
3. Now that you are logged in, you will need to change your password to one that you create. Click on the words "Change Password" in the left hand column. Paste the password from the e-mail into the current password field. Type your personal password in the next two fields. Remember when choosing your own password to use eight characters. This completes your registration.
4. Click "Session Sign Off." You are now able to go anywhere on the Web site using your easy-to-remember username (your personal email address) and the personal password you just set up!

Membership Dues

Very shortly you will receive a reminder in the mail about your dues. The LWVVC fiscal year (FY) is July 1 to June 30; therefore, a dues notice is sent in May or early June. If you would like to help the League save on postage, you may fill out the form below and mail it in right away. Thank you.

Membership

- Individual Membership \$50
- Family Membership \$75
- Student Membership \$25

Contributions to the League

- Friend of the League Donation, \$100.00
- Supporting League Donation, \$250.00
- Sustaining League Donation \$500.00
- Other Donation

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Contributions made to the LWV Florida-Education Fund are tax deductible. They will be deposited in the LWV-Volusia County's accrual account to be used for our education-related activities.

Please send this form, with your check payable to the **LWV-Volusia County**, to:

LWVVC Treasurer, Chris Moseley
P.O. 9418
Daytona Beach FL 32120

Welcome New Members

(for contact information, see print copy)

Yvette Giles moved to Daytona Beach from Gainesville. She was lured away from Santa Fe Community College to take the position as Senior Learning Specialist for the Daytona Beach Community College Learning Center. Her interests include the environment and human rights issues.

Bob Miller is a valued League member, first as a member of the LWV-Lake County and now as a LWVVC member. For several years, Bob has been actively engaged in observing the St. Johns River Water Management District Board, the City Council of Orange City, and Water Authority of Volusia (WAV) meetings.

Joanne Pinkston-McDuffie, a senior professor at Daytona Beach Community College, has renewed her membership after a brief hiatus to work on her doctoral degree, to assist the DBCC Spring Lecture Series Committee, and to serve as faculty sponsor for the African-American Student Organization. She is also a past secretary of the LWVVC.

Ellen Wheeler is a part-time administrative assistant and events coordinator for the Unity Church in Holly Hill. She has been attending various League functions this past year, such as the ERA rally in DeLand, the Smart Growth program in February, and the talk on Iraq in April. She is interested in local politics, unity philosophy, sociological issues, and her church.

Pam Woods is a former president of the LWV-Polk County. She moved to Daytona Beach in 1993 and became interested right away in the historic areas of the city. As a past member of the Daytona Beach Planning Board and the Main Street Redevelopment Area Board, she has been able to gain the knowledge and experience to pursue her passion for preserving historic Daytona Beach neighborhoods.

LWVVC Calendar for June-July 2006

June

- 10-13 **LWVUS National Convention**, Minneapolis, MN
- 14 **LWVVC Board Meeting**, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., VCOG/MPO/WAV Offices,
**Indigo Professional Center, 2570 W. International Speedway Blvd.,
Daytona Bch., Suite 120**
- 22 **LWVVC Westside Meeting: Reports from the Observer Corps** 6:30 p.m.
Perkins Restaurant & Bakery - DeLand (page 1 for details)
- 24 **LWVVC Eastside Meeting: Reports from the Observer Corps** 9:30 a.m.
Connect.Cafe - Daytona (page 1 for details)

July

- LWVVC Board of Directors Retreat**
- 22 **9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**
Location to be announced
- 22 **Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRC) Statewide Meeting**
Tampa



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

Join the League of Women Voters Today!

It's easy! Just send your check to:

LWV of Volusia County, P.O. Box 9418, Daytona Beach, FL 32120

\$ 50 Individual Membership • \$25 Student Membership • \$75 Family Membership

Name _____ Phone _____ Business Phone _____

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