

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County, Florida



The VOTER

June 2007

Visit our Web site at www.LWVVC.org

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

Observer Corp Presents

Saturday, June 16, 2007

Palmetto Club

1000 South Beach Street, Daytona Beach

Breakfast, \$11

RSVP Judy Moore, 386-238-7361 or mail@lwvvc.org

By Wednesday, June 13, 2007

Check in: 9:15 a.m.

Breakfast: 9:30 a.m.

Speaker: 10:00 a.m.

The Cities' Current Plan For Controlling Suburban Sprawl

Greg Northrup, Mayor of Daytona Beach Shores

Panel: 10:30

Annette Parker and Larry Moore: Daytona Beach

Pat Gadbow: Daytona Beach Shores and Ponce Inlet

Bonnie McMillan and Natalie Williamson: Holly Hill

Carolyn Creech: New Smyrna Beach

Bob Miller: Orange City

Ann Harrell: School Board

Adjourn: 11:00

GREG NORTHRUP has served as Mayor of Daytona Beach Shores since 2001. He is a retired beach concessionaire who has lived and/or owned a business in Daytona Beach Shores for almost 35 years. A native of Mt. Vernon, NY, he came to this area as a third grader and was educated in the Volusia County school system and at Daytona Beach Community College. He is a former Volusia County lifeguard captain whose ocean rescue of a visitor made national headlines during his current term of office.

Former chair of Beach Trust, Past President of DB Shores Chamber of Commerce, member of the Citizens Emergence Response Team, VCOG Executive Committee, current President of the Volusia County League of Cities.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

31ST CONVENTION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FLORIDA
18TH JOINT CONVENTION WITH THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FLORIDA EDUCATION FUND
MAY 18-20, 2007---TAMPA, FLORIDA

LWVF STATE CONVENTION REVIEW

Nineteen local leagues were represented at the 31st Biennial Convention of LWVF with 67 delegates and seven state board members. It was an occasion to carry out league business, visit fellow leaguers and meet new league members. It is also a time to learn new strategies and become better informed via the outstanding workshops and speakers. It was exhilarating and exhausting. And I for one was happy to be there.

We were five from the Volusia County LWV: Judy Moore, Rosemarie Gore, Maritza Patterson, Kitty Garber and Sandy Horikami. The roll call of the local leagues is always an exciting event where a representative from each league has one minute to "brag" about their accomplishments over the past year. We had quite a bit to "brag" about.

Excellent speakers were lined up for our convention. The first was Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis who spoke on Justice Teaching: a program that he developed where lawyers voluntarily provide civics lessons to public school students throughout Florida. At breakfast on Saturday, Rosemary Goudreau, editorial page editor of the Tampa Tribune spoke on how the league can engage the community by engaging the media. A panel consisting of Mike McKinney [Hillsborough County], Stasia Arcarese [Lee County] and Kay Burk, [Space Coast league] presented fundraising strategies that they have used: selling event tickets + hosting a dinner; Lifetime Achievement in Community Leadership Event; Politicos on Parade; letters to corporations; used book sale; re-gifting sale; and cookie decorating competition among community leaders. Your delegates took careful notes!

Two other speakers were Senator Helen Gordon Davis, who spoke about experiences while in the Florida Legislature and the need for leaguers to run for office, and Judith Davis, LWVUS Board, who spoke about the national recruitment effort, legislative priorities, and the commitment of the national board to open communication at all LWV levels.

More inspiration and ideas were presented in the workshops on Saturday afternoon. We dispersed our delegates to "cover" all workshops, which included: LWV 101; Membership Recruitment/Retention; Kids Voting; Websites; Grant Writing; and Voting Technology. There were also two caucuses. At the Former Felons' Rights Restoration meeting, leaguers brainstormed how to help former felons regain their civil rights. At the Redistricting caucus, Caroline Emmons-Schramm updated delegates on the progress of Floridians for Fair Elections.

Many aspects of the league were discussed at convention: sustaining the league; recruitment and retention; legislative priorities; and voter issues, to name a few. It felt like a whirlwind of concerns and activities, but at the same time it was energizing. Your delegates have returned informed, energized, full of ideas and concerns and ready for activity. Be ready to get involved!

Finally, LWVF Council in June, 2008 will be in Daytona Beach! So keep your calendar free next June and let's show state and local leagues a wonderful Council meeting!

Sandra Horikami
In-coming President

More About LWVF Convention 2007.....

Recruitment & Retention Workshop

Presented by Pam Goodman, Palm Beach County, and Crystal Goodison, Alachua County

Palm Beach County LWV is one of five pilot leagues that are currently participating in the 12-month LWVUS Membership Recruitment Initiative (MRI). LWV's program to increase membership is targeting the 50-65 years old, newly retired civic-minded educated females [there are ~ 45 million of them]. These are baby boomers that are near retirement and may suddenly have more time available. LWVUS provides guidance to the local pilot leagues and more importantly, the local leagues must report to LWVUS regularly, which mandates accountability and provides a push in performance.

In general, to increase membership, the local league must increase its visibility and be available.

Suggested strategies include:

- Create a Membership Recruitment Committee whose sole purpose is recruitment-separate from the Membership Chair/ Membership Orientation/ Membership list person
- All members of the local league is an ad hoc member of the Membership Recruitment committee-every member receives a bifold folder that holds information flyers and application forms-give each out to any prospective member
- Place a newspaper ad "Save A Day to Reconnect with LWV" to entice former members, including those that have recently moved [retired] to Florida
- Attend other organization's social events / buy an ad in their program booklet

Encourage members to contribute to Storybank, testimonies of one's LWV experience and publish these in Voter, on the website, or compile into a book.

The pilot leagues experienced up to a 20% increase in membership. Control leagues established recruitment programs without the help of LWVUS experienced ~5% increases with one having a decrease in membership. [For comprehensive information about MRI, go to www.lwv.org, click on MRI under "members" droplist]. The LWVUS MRI provides an immediate increase in membership but in the long term, other groups should also be targeted and membership retention must be addressed.

Crystal Goodison reported on recruiting younger league members. At LWVUS Convention 2006, Crystal was involved in having a Youth Caucus where a survey of younger members was taken. The actual survey and summary of the results can be found at www.lwv-alachua.org. The survey results suggests having new members initially participate in "small" but important roles in league events instead of having them leap into major roles with no "training." It was suggested that one way to retain members is to have a new member orientation training program in place. This type of program would also increase membership involvement and help increase league productivity.

Recruitment efforts should have an important place in any local league. Increased membership gives LWV an increase in grass-roots manpower which also increases funds required for work at all levels: local, state and national. Be on the look out for our up coming recruitment efforts in the next year.

Sandy Horikami

Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis: Justice Teaching

Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis told LWVF Convention delegates at Friday night's dinner that there were two basic concepts that guided his implementation of the Justice Teaching program in Florida's schools: (1) Who we are and (2) Who we're becoming.

Chief Justice Lewis began by citing specifics that indicated that young people are not exposed to who we are as a people. For example, when asked to name the three branches of government, a frequent answer among high school students is "Republicans, Democrats, and Independents." Only 53% believe that the President of the United States has to abide by the Supreme Court's rulings, while 62% believe that the courts favor the wealthy and powerful. A startling 51% did NOT know that the U.S. does not have a national religion. Moreover, the average college freshman can answer correctly only 52% of the civic literacy questions. (Colleges surveyed: Yale, Duke, Cornell, Georgetown, and Brown)

(Continued on the next page)

Children are indeed our most precious resource, and our children today are the most technologically competent ever, the chief justice noted. However, he is concerned about what tomorrow is going to look like because he believes that each generation makes its own democracy. "I don't want to live to be 150 years old if we can't live together," he concluded. The overall goals of the Justice Teaching program are to correct misconceptions, explain the function and structure of the courts, and reinforce the rule of law. "We measure what we care about," Justice Lewis emphasized as he explained the need to help promote understanding of Florida's justice system and laws and to develop critical thinking abilities and problem solving skills for those in the program's target audience: elementary, middle school, and high school students.

These goals are accomplished by pairing a legal professional, such as a judge or a lawyer, with every elementary school, middle school, and high school in Florida. These professionals cultivate relationships and maintain regular contact with their respective schools where they oversee, distribute, and implement model curricula for use in the schools. The curricula are designed to educate students about the function and purpose of the judicial branch through the development of age-appropriate publications and lesson plans.

If you'd like a League meeting about how this program is being implemented in Volusia County schools, please contact your LWVVC Board of Directors. *Judy Moore*



Redistricting Update: Floridians for Fair Elections

After our tour of the Henry B. Plant Museum and dinner overlooking the bay Saturday evening, LWVFC Convention delegates returned to the hotel to take in at least one last workshop. The room where the redistricting workshop took place was packed.

Caroline Emmons-Schramm, LWVFC Off-Board Director for Floridians for Fair Elections, provided an update regarding redistricting. A new improved and significantly different redistricting effort will target the 2010 election. In order to comply with the single subject rule, there will be four separate petitions, and personal information will be required for all four. However, the final wording has not yet been determined. Caroline will keep us all informed from this point on.

This redistricting campaign is not going to be cheap! Recent legislation aimed at petition gathering has made it more difficult and therefore much more expensive. Volunteers with the motivation and determination of LWV members will be sorely needed to make this drive successful. *Judy Moore*



Rosemary Goudreau, Seasoned Journalist, and Editorial Page Editor for The Tampa Tribune, "Engaging the Media – Engaging your Community."

Rosemary Goudreau was quick to admit she shares the same civic engagement she admires in the League of Women Voters, and that voting on name recognition alone is not an acceptable practice. We need to grow the number of engaged voters. She is worried about "connective tissue," the engagement. She calls attention to the decline of newspapers and economic conditions. At one time Tampa had three newspapers and that "Look" and "Life" magazines are now dead. Digital is transforming journalists into living newspapers because of how the media has changed. Writers are the videographers of today. She urged the public to work closely with the news media to keep that connective tissue alive. She would like to see the current lack of the investigative gene restored. In conclusion she declares, "We do it [our job] better than anyone else." *Rosemarie Gore*

Nancy Ryan Secures \$1000 Constitution Day Grant for LWV-Volusia County

Back in April when Nancy Ryan first learned that the LWVUS was offering grants to help celebrate Constitution Day on September 17, she asked the LWVVC Board's permission to apply for one of the \$1000 grants. Her proposal included the involvement of high school students in an essay contest on the topic of federalism, using the Federalist and Anti-Federalists papers.

A panel of local lawyers, League members, and a state-court appellate judge will judge the essays. The grant will be used for a \$500 scholarship for the essay winner, the purchase of the Federalist and Anti-Federalist papers, and a small administration fee for the LWVVC.

Congratulations, Nancy, and Thanks!

**VCOG: Volusia Council of Governments
Volusia Smart Growth Series**

How Shall We Live in Volusia?

Saturday, June 16, 2007

8:45 a.m. – 3:50 p.m.

Registration 8:00 – 8:45 p.m.

**Embry Riddle Aeronautical University
600 Clyde Morris Blvd., Daytona Beach
Willie Miller Instructional Center Auditorium, Bldg. 11
(Come in main entrance—next to library)**

Open to Public – Limited Seating

RSVP by Monday, June 11, 2007 – (386) 238-7361

Several LWVVC members are planning to attend this workshop AFTER our general meeting that morning featuring the Observer Corps and Daytona Beach Shores Mayor Greg Northrup. JM

Coming in the Fall → LWVUS Immigration Study

The tentative schedule below is pending an okay from the LWVVC Board of Directors at their annual retreat in July.

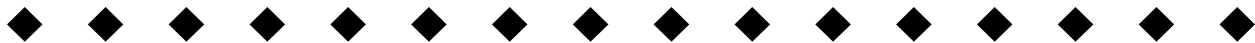
September: Four unit meetings will be scheduled to discuss the *eight background papers prepared specifically for the LWVUS Immigration Study. Two different articles will be discussed at each of the following locations:

Ormond Beach	Daytona Beach
New Smyrna Beach	DeLand

November: The general meeting this month will include presentations on immigration by a panel of area leaders representing business, education, government, and social services.

December or January: Using questions from the LWVUS Immigration Study Committee, our local League will conclude the study and reach **consensus**.

Summer Reading: *All eight background articles can be found online, www.lwv.org Click on the Immigration Study. Or, you can call Judy Moore, (386) 238-7361, who will send you copies of the articles you want to read for only 50 cents each.



LWV-Florida's Plan to Hold Down Costs

Are you aware that the Per Member Payment (PMP) that is levied by the LWV-Florida on all its local Leagues is the lowest of all 50 state Leagues, by \$6.00?

In an effort to keep the state PMP at its current low rate and still raise funds for needed expenses, the LWVFL Board of Directors voted NOT to raise its PMP; instead it would ask local Leagues to pledge \$5.00 per member, on a voluntary basis—upon ability to pay, to preempt a local League member dues increase.

When this request was made at our Annual Meeting on April 28, “the hat was passed,” and \$168 was collected and sent to LWVFL. If you are interested in helping the state League keep its PMP low, please use the form at the conclusion of this article for making your voluntary contribution.

✂

Enclosed is my \$_____ voluntary contribution to the LWV-Florida PMP.

Signature

Send to: LWV-Florida, 540 Beverly Court, Tallahassee, FL 32301-2506

Transitional Organization of WAV

The May 16th WAV board meeting addressed action items which would put WAV in a position to carry out its new responsibilities under the Fourth Amended Interlocal Agreement. One theme rings clear; plans for the immediate future are all classed as tentative, refraining from commitments beyond one year.

In a memo to the board legal counsel described the many ways WAV could serve its member governments. Under its purpose and mission most obvious was assistance in providing a reliable and sustainable supply of high quality water. WAV has the potential to make valuable contributions as a neutral third party in helping any utility with any aspect of providing water.

Upon the dismissal of Dr. Mowry as Executive Director, tentatively the board charged the Executive Committee with providing direction on issues of staffing, leadership and mission. The board also has requested that the committee prioritize the nine recommendations legal counsel made in her memo to the board.

Jack Hayman agreed to serve as Executive Committee Chairman, Bob Apgar as Vice Chair, and Judy Lichter as Secretary. Three additional appointments to the committee were made by Jack Hayman: Patrick Fulton of DeBary, Ted Irwin of Orange City, and Rick Shiver of Daytona Beach. This slate will go before the board at its June meeting.

Its most prominent activity will be in the area of conservation. WAV's Water Conservation Coordinator, Deborah Green, has designed the framework for the formation of the WAV Conservation Action Group (WAVCAG.) Recommendations of this action group will be brought forward for approval by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) with final presentation to the WAV board. Budgets will be a critical topic of discussion at this point.

Member governments will each designate a representative. Other agencies such as the Volusia County Environmental Management, SJRWMD, Volusia Soil and Water Conservation District, University of Florida Extension, Volusia County Department of Health and the League of Women Voters will all be asked to serve.

It is questionable whether some members will exercise the new opt out clause which will be in effect by the June board meeting. WAV supporters are hopeful imposing no member assessments for the coming year will be an incentive to remain with WAV.

Rosemarie Gore

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