

The League of Women Voters of
Volusia County, Florida



THE **VOTER**

February 2008

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.

Climate Change

Saturday, February 9, 2008

Palmetto Club

1000 South Beach Street, Daytona Beach

Breakfast Buffet, \$11.50

RSVP

Rosemarie Gore, gorers@bellsouth.net

Summer Clayton, summer_c2@bellsouth.net

by Saturday, February 3, 2008

Check in 9:15 a.m.

Breakfast. 9:30 a.m.

Announcements. . . . 10:00 a.m.

Speaker 10:10 a.m.

Adjourn 11:30 a.m.

“Science Debate Ends, Solution Debate Begins”

Speaker

Sue Dudley



Sue Dudley is truly a seasoned and valued member of the league. She graduated cum laude, with a BA from the University of Florida School of Natural Resources and Environment.

For a number of years she has been building on her knowledge of this hot topic which we will be exploring in February. She was privileged to participate in the Global Warming 2000 in St. Petersburg, the Second North American Conference on Preparing for Climate Change in Washington, D.C. Sue served as Natural Resources Director of LWVF (1987 to 1991) during this period the League co-sponsored the Global Warming Leadership Forum on Public Policy & Greenhouse Effect in Tallahassee.

Sue will lead us through 2007 highlighting broadly on global conditions down to focusing on more locally. What did the UN Climate Change accomplish and to where did the Bali Roadmap take us? Can we rely on the recently enacted Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to contribute solutions? You will depart from this meeting knowing what the state is doing; what the LWV is doing, and what we can as citizens should be doing.

To quote Sue, “The data is bad, but there is a certain amount of excitement and hope out there. To do nothing is unacceptable. Our life styles may change. But it will be a real adventure.”

Please join us on February 9th for a journey into a worthwhile study.



Happy New Year Leaguers!

I hope you had a wonderful holiday and are ready to go forward towards a productive 2008!

In December we had fun at our Holiday Party graciously hosted by Pat Gadbow. As usual, the Board members brought scrumptious food items and we were very happy many of you came to share this merry time together. Thank you all for making the event a fun and memorable one!

We had a very successful Immigration Study thanks to Judy Moore, chair and her committee: Mary Derr; Chris Moseley; Maritza Patterson; Claudia Roth; and Carolyn West. After having the unit meetings in September where the background papers suggested by LWVUS were discussed, we had our November Immigration Panel discussion—a joint meeting with AAUW at the LPGA Clubhouse. The excellent panelists were very informative and we learned so much about different aspects of immigration at that meeting. After the holidays, we started the New Year with a bang having our Immigration Consensus meeting at the Piccadilly Cafeteria on the 12th. We had very lively discussions as the questions posed by the LWVUS study kit were analyzed. The immigration issue is so complicated; and there is much to learn...we could go on and on with this issue. LWVUS will collect all the consensus results from the local leagues throughout the nation. We look forward to their report which will provide the League's position on the issue of Immigration. To our Immigration Committee: Thank you so much for all the dedicated and exceptional work that you did!

This is an interesting year for us. As you all know, it is an election year. The presidential primary election and Amendment 1 is upon us.

LWVUS has voter information available on the presidential candidates posted on it's Web site [www.VOTE411.org, candidate information]

and LWVF has Amendment 1 information as well as the League's position on it on it's Web site [www.lwvfla.org, election info, press releases]. BE INFORMED AND VOTE!

There will be more voting opportunities later in the fall. We will do our best to inform you of the candidates in our local elections as we did last fall. Stay tuned!

Speaking of voting, one of our own Volusia County leaguers is now on the LWVF State Board! Nancy Ryan is Voter Service chair on the State Board!! Congratulations Nancy!!

Be on the lookout for February's general meeting. LWVF has put together a Climate Change Committee and our own Rosemarie Gore is a member of the committee! Now that it is generally accepted that our global climate is changing, what can we do about it? Find out from Sue Dudley of the Alachua County league on February 9, 2008 (see details in this VOTER).

The LWV Florida State Council meeting will take place on May 17-18. WE ARE HOSTING IT!! It will be at the El Caribe Resort in Daytona Beach. Jean Snyder is leading the committee in charge of working with LWVF to arrange this meeting. And we will need your help. Continue to stay tuned!

More events are in store for this year (see updated calendar). Legislative Seminar will take place in March in Tallahassee; Politicos on Parade in May; as well as our Annual Meeting in April and general meetings in March and June. Stay tuned for more information. I look forward to seeing you at our events! Let's have a very productive 2008!!

Sandy Horikami
President

2008 PRIMARY ELECTIONS SCHEDULE

Primary Election - January 29, 2008

Early Voting – January 7 - January 24

LWVVC 2008 Upcoming Calendar

This calendar schedule is tentative and is subject to change

Date	Event	Where	Time	
Wednesday January 23, 2008	Politicos Committee Meeting	Barnes & Noble	4:30 PM	
Thursday, January 24, 2008	Amendment 1 Information	NW Democratic Club Meeting	7:00 PM	
Tuesday January 29, 2008	Florida Presidential Primary		7:00 am-7:00 PM	
Thursday January 31, 2008	LWVUS deadline to update membership roster for 2007-2008 year			
Friday Feb 1, 2008	LWVUS deadline to submit Immigration Consensus results			
Saturday February 9, 2008	February General Meeting- Climate Change, Ms. Sue C. Dudley	Palmetto Club, 1000 S. Beach Street, DB	9:15 AM- arrive 9:30 AM breakfast buffet 10-11:15 speaker, Q&A	Breakfast Buffet: \$11.50
Wednesday February 13, 2008	LWVVC Board Meeting	Indigo Profess. Ctr. 2570 W. ISB, DB	5:30-7:30PM	All members welcome!
Monday February 18, 2008	Sunshine Law Seminar	Advanced Technology Center, Daytona Beach	1-5 PM, set up starts 11:30 AM	Sponsored by State Attorney Office, News-Jrnl, DBC, ATC
Wednesday March 12, 2008	LWVVC Board Meeting	Indigo Profess. Ctr. 2570 W. ISB, DB	5:30-7:30PM	All members welcome!
Saturday March 15, 2008	March General Meeting Ms. Lynn Kennedy from One Voice: How are the Children?	TBA	TBA	
Sun-Tues March 16-18, 2008	Legislative Seminar	Tallahassee, FL		
Wednesday April 9, 2008	LWVVC Board Meeting	Indigo Profess. Ctr. 2570 W. ISB, DB	5:30-7:30PM	All members welcome!
Saturday April 12, 2008	Annual Meeting- Janet Miller, Director of ACT Corp. on Mental Health Issues	TBA	TBA	
Saturday May 10, 2008	Politicos on Parade	Palmetto Club, 1000 S. Beach Street, DB	10:30 A-12:30 P	
Wednesday May 14, 2008	LWVVC Board Meeting	Indigo Profess. Ctr. 2570 W. ISB, DB	5:30-7:30PM	All members welcome!
May 17-18, 2008	LWVF Council Meeting	El Caribe Resort,	TBA	
Wednesday June 11, 2008	LWVVC Board Meeting	Indigo Profess. Ctr. 2570 W. ISB, DB	5:30-7:30PM	All members welcome!
June 13-17, 2008	LWVUS Convention	Hilton Portland, 921 SW Sixth Ave., Portland, OR		
Saturday June 21, 2008	June General Meeting- Observer Corps Report	TBA	TBA	

Immigration Study Update

The local LWV-Volusia County Immigration Study Consensus has been filed? Our responses will be available on line by September 2008, along with the LWV-US consensus for our perusal and comparison.

On Thursday, January 17, the LWV-Volusia County Immigration Study Committee presented the scope of the study to the New Smyrna Beach AAUW. Over 60 AAUW members gathered for the good and lively discussion. They are a very well informed group.

Water Concerns

Commitments to remain with WAV have been received from Daytona Beach, DeBary, Deltona Edgewater, Holly Hill, Ormond Beach, South Daytona and Volusia County. This will allow WAV to move forward with budgeting and planning, especially for its commitment to developing conservation programs. A one year contract was entered into with the school board to share space for promoting conservation programs on the school board's annual calendar. This calendar is an excellent vehicle to place notices of school year events in the homes of our Volusia County school children. It promises to provide frequent opportunities for broad exposure.

It continues to be a concern on the part of both the board and TAC that the District's model should not be used in decision making. It has been noted year after year Volusia County is not reaching the demand levels set by the District's model. The Deltona board representative has expressed his city's willingness to join others in supporting the expense of refining the data. With the cities coming back on board it is expected they will follow Deltona's lead.

The year 2007 was another dry one. Total rainfall of 46.56 for the year ending in December left the area with a deficit of 6.60 inches. Normal expected annual rainfall is 53.16 inches. Rainfall for the month of the current month is forecast to be well below normal with above normal temperatures. Rainfall for January through March is forecast to be well below normal with above normal temperatures expected. Tom Carey of Volusia County Environmental Management was not pleased with such an unfavorable report. During the coming dry months, he urged the observance of the best level of conservation practices.

WAV voted unanimously to request that the Volusia County Council consider changing the water irrigation rules in the county to coincide with the water irrigation rules set forth by the SJRWMD. Currently the water irrigation rules in Volusia County are from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. for automatic systems and from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. for manual systems. The District's current basic water irrigation rule states irrigation is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

With Deborah Green, Water Conservation Coordinator, having left WAV, the interim Executive Director, Mary Swiderski, was asked to advertise with the intension of filling a possible dual role position of Water Conservation Coordinator/Executive Director.

In response to the District's proposal to withdraw up to 261 *mgd* from the St. Johns and Ocklawaha Rivers, the Northeast Florida Regional Council will conduct a meeting on January 25th, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the St. Johns County Convention Center in St. Augustine. The intention of the District's proposal is to supply the potable water needs of central Florida in the year 2013 and beyond. The purpose of the meeting is to become further educated on the issue, to determine if there is a common position that can be developed for the region and to plan for next steps. The chairman of WAV requested that board members make every effort to attend this meeting.

Rosemarie Gore

YOUR LEAGUE NEEDS YOU!!

Keep your weekend of May 17-18, 2008
free

to help your LWVVC host the
LWV of Florida biennial Council Meeting
at the El Caribe Resort!

SAVE THE DATE
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS POLITICOS ON
PARADE

A Fashion Show and Luncheon

Sponsored by
Florida Power and Light Company

Saturday, May 10, 2008

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Location - Palmetto Club

1000 North Beach Street, Daytona Beach

Tickets: \$15.00

VOTER SERVICE

If January 29, 2008 has passed, we have each voted our choice in the presidential primary and our passion for or against Amendment 1. The League was asked to speak to a couple of groups explaining Amendment 1, and we were represented at an open forum in Ormond Beach giving the position of the League.

Now it is time to really get serious about the upcoming election season. The first item on the agenda is our biannual fundraiser, Politicos on Parade. We thank Florida Power & Light for being one of the sponsors of this event. This is loads of fun as our elected officials model fashions from Target and help us raise funds that we will in turn use to help educate the citizens of Volusia County about ballot issues and positions of candidates running for office. Mark your calendars so you don't miss this fun-filled event, sell tickets to your friends and neighbors, and ask businesses you frequent to support the League by purchasing an ad in our program booklet. Anyone with questions can contact Ann Smith.

Observer Corps

Port Orange City Commission:

During the next two years, major changes will be made in commercial construction. The Pavilion open-air shopping plaza will be built on Williamson Boulevard, close to the I-95 exit. The Pavilion will include a park-like promenade, a 14-screen movie theater, restaurants, and retail stores including Circuit City and Barnes and Noble.

In the same area, Summer Trees Road will be extended from Taylor Road to Williamson, and will flow into The Pavilion entrance. Along the extension, there will be commercial development including Kohl's department store.

The extension of Yorktowne Road from Dunlawton to Taylor Road is still in the planning stage. Designs for offices and a shopping plaza have been submitted for this area.

Riverwalk is the city's CRA project. Property has been purchased and rezoned along the Halifax River. Plans include a riverside park, mid-rise condominiums, retail shops, restaurants, and a marina. Port Orange is still growing. Summer Clayton

Ponce Inlet Town Council:

Acting as planning commission the Ponce Inlet Town Council has been grappling with storm water issues and attaching \$6.00 per month per equivalent unit, the same as Port Orange. Ponce Inlet gets its water source from Port Orange but has not until now attached impervious surface fees to the bill. In reality it will be just a reduction from the general fund by an equivalent amount, but it will be a more honest appraisal of where the tax revenue is spent making it an incentive for new construction builders to take impervious driveways, parking lots, et al into consideration before laying down asphalt, concrete or other impervious materials.. The average impervious area is higher in Ponce Inlet due to larger homes.

Daytona Beach Shores City Council:

The bids are finally being awarded for the long anticipated burial of utilities on A1A.

The Council voted unanimously to forward the plan to rezone 3704 Cardinal Ave from URBAN low to medium density RESIDENTIAL to over the objections of residents in the area. Councilman Don Large made the motion to approve then proceeded to state that in the future more consideration should be made for the impact such moves had on the neighborhood. Despite this, he voted to approve and send the measure to the Volusia Growth Management Commission justifying his vote by stating it was too late to change this project.

Council member Ron Brown has finally opened the discussions for more information clarifying the "legalese" jargon of ordinances for benefit of the audience before the passage. This observer is very grateful. Patricia Gadbow

Oak Hill City Commission:

After negotiating with FEMA following the hurricanes of 2004, Oak Hill has finally convinced FEMA that instead of Oak Hill owing FEMA \$150,000 for the clean up, FEMA owes Oak Hill \$24.64. In December Oak Hill finally passed school concurrency agreement with the School Board, under protest. Nora Jane Gillispie

Ormond Beach City Commission:

In their November meeting, Commissioner Lori Gilooly requested that the city explore other firms for law firm representation. Currently Allen, Norton and Blue have been representing the city without bid since 1994. However her request was denied and the firm's request for a \$10 per hour increase was approved after the firm agreed to return \$13,000 in unapproved charges. At the November meeting the city suggested an informative forum concerning Home Town initiatives was suggested. The writer believes the LWVVC should be able to provide that service.

January 15. The Audience remarks section was longer than it usually is: 1- a young man with a service dog who had been escorted out of Burger King because he was not blind. A second person spoke against fluoride in the water a third regarding the forum on Amendment 1 she deemed it to be of poor quality due to the radio broadcast- The fourth was a presentation of a proposal for a parade 5-I read Sandra's letter from the LWVVC. The Mayor remarked that he was impressed the League was so knowledgeable and had done such an excellent job researching the issue.

Three items from the consent agenda were pulled due to monetary concerns:

I-Additional money was requested for structural safety features in the new water treatment plan. The controversy here was a disparity of opinions made regarding its need. Tabled for further information.

II-\$307,000 was requested for the replacement of water meters. Purchasing of new meters for new construction was approved. Replacement tabled until further study is completed III-\$34,000 was requested to replace one 15 passenger van with two 7 passenger vans due to safety issues. This did not pass as the other two vans available hold 12 passengers and have a similar safety concern.

Maritza Patterson

History of Volusia County's struggles with conserving water.

This was written in response to the LWV Florida's request that we submit a 200 word summary of our experiences with the Observer Corps. Due to word constraints I was unable to include this, but felt it deserved our Voter inclusion in its entirety. (pdgadbow)

The current observer began just after the Volusian Water Alliance evolved from the Water Co Op (1994-5). The Volusia Water Advisory Board was created in 1997 by county council at the recommendation of the Charter Review Commission. The advisory board was dissolved after it delivered its final report to county council on March 15, 2001. These bodies all met monthly during their existence. In 1996 the charter was amended to include section 1313, Water Policy Review Commission. The charter called for the county council to appoint the commission by May 1, 2001. The Commission was to make recommendations for action by the council or amendments to the charter by June 30, 2002. In the meantime the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) remains one of the five districts covering the state which meets in Palatka once monthly. The District is responsible for ensuring a sustainable water supply together with providing flood protection and surface water protection. The SJRWMD Coalition members observe two or three District meetings during the year.

The Water Authority of Volusia (WAV), its Executive Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) all meet once each month.

In addition, there are public meetings and workshops which are attendant to all bodies and are equally important to follow. All observers are consistent in their effort to maintain near perfect attendance.

Rosemarie Gore

New Smyrna Beach City Commission:

The last two meeting under the new mayor, Sally Mackay, have seen much more camaraderie among the commissioners, many unanimous votes, and great civility in the room. The Commission stood firm and upheld their own Comprehensive Plan along with state and county regulations by denying a condominium's request to build a seawall east of the Coastal Construction Setback Line. The vote was unanimous.

They also approved a first reading of an ordinance amending the Land Development Regulations to establish a tree mitigation fund. They discussed coming up with strict rules for developers to discourage damaging trees during building, to encourage preservation, and when necessary to establish a substantial amount the developers have to pay into the fund per tree they destroy. The hope is to discourage loss of trees and to establish a fund for more plantings. There is considerable concern in NSB that the city has, for years, allowed the Chamber of Commerce and the Anglers Club to use city owned buildings for \$1.00 a year rent. Now that state funding to cities and property tax money is expected to be lean, many citizens feel these entities should not be rent-free on the public dole.

Carolyn Creech