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## LWVVC January Meeting

### The Need for Considering Alternatives to Incarceration For the Mentally Challenged

By

**Risdon Slate, Ph.D.**

*Professor of Criminology, Florida Southern College*

Holiday Inn LPGA  
137 Auto Mall Circle, Daytona Beach

January 12, 2013  
Lunch--\$15  
12 noon – 1:30 p.m.

RSVP Jeanne Tanke by January 8, 2013

[Jeanne622LWVVC@cfl.rr.com](mailto:Jeanne622LWVVC@cfl.rr.com)

Cancellations after Jan 8 will be invoiced

Check in 11:45 a.m., speaker 12 noon, lunch 12:45 p.m.

## LWVVC February Meeting

**Speaker: Dinah Voyles Pulver**

*Journalist- Daytona Beach News- Journal*

Holiday Inn LPGA  
137 Auto Mall Circle, Daytona Beach

February 9, 2013  
9:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.  
Breakfast--\$15

RSVP Jeanne Tanke by Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2013

[Jeanne622LWVVC@cfl.rr.com](mailto:Jeanne622LWVVC@cfl.rr.com)

Cancellations after Feb 5 will be invoiced

Check in 9:15 a.m.; Breakfast 9:30 a.m.; Speaker 10:15 a.m.

**January Speaker: Dr. Risdon State, Ph.D.,** *Professor of Criminology, Florida Southern College*



Risdon N. Slate received his Ph.D. from the Claremont Graduate School in Claremont, California, and he is Professor of Criminology at Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida. His books include *Criminalization of Mental Illness: Crisis and Opportunity for the Justice System* and *The Decision-Making Network: An Introduction to Criminal Justice*. He served as a gubernatorial appointee to Florida's Mental Health and Substance Abuse Commission. Dr. Slate has testified before the Florida Senate subcommittee on Health Care and before a U.S. House of Representatives judiciary subcommittee on the impact of mental illness on the criminal justice system. Slate has prior work experience as a United States Probation Officer and as assistant to the warden at a medium/maximum, death row, prison in Columbia, South Carolina. He and his wife, Claudia, an English professor, reside in Lakeland.

**February Speaker: Dinah Voyles Pulver,** *Journalist, Daytona Beach News-Journal, Environmental Writer*

Journalist Dinah Voyles Pulver is a 21-year veteran of the Daytona Beach News-Journal, where she has covered environmental issues for the paper for more than 15 years.



Ms. Pulver has counted alligators at midnight, posed for photos with bloodthirsty mosquitoes and written about the sex lives of fireflies and whales. She writes about preservation of wildlife and conservation lands, water issues and the St. Johns River, as well as weather, wildfires and natural disasters.

Ms. Pulver is a two-time recipient of the Waldo Proffitt Award for Excellence in Environmental Journalism, Florida's highest award for environment writing. She has received an award of special merit from the Grantham Prize for Excellence in Reporting on the Environment and a Biff Lampton Communicator of the Year Award from the Florida Wildlife Federation.

A sixth-generation native Floridian, Ms. Pulver and her husband have three children and four grandchildren.

**Note from President Gadbow:**

I hope your holiday season has been most enjoyable with family and friends and a bit of change from the mundane.

Two of my 4 children graduated from Newtown High School, so I am grieving with the rest of the world in a personal sort of way. I pray that at long last we can bring sanity back to our gun laws.

The Legislature energized us by trying to suppress poor and minority votes. You all were awesome in your voter registration and amendment presentations. Imagine how great our Democracy would be if it was run by the League of Women Voters; intelligent, hard working non-partisan individuals studying the issues and making decision un beholden to moneyed interests. We are a force to reckon with. Let's turn that energy into continuous influence.

State Senator Don Gaetz and Representative Will Weatherford have stated that they want to bring integrity back to the Legislative body. Let's help them. Start by sending an email, phone call, post card or letter to each. Thank them for taking on this critical issue to bring trust in our elected officials to the forefront. Let each know how important this issue is to you and ask that they keep you informed of the progress they are making. Be sure to send a copy of your correspondence to your representative.

Weatherford, 420 The Capitol, 402 South Monroe St, Tallahassee 32544-1300; Phone 850-717-5038; email: [will.weatherford@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:will.weatherford@myfloridahouse.gov)

Gaetz 212 Senate Office Building, 404 South Monroe St, Tallahassee 32399-1100; Phone 850-487-5001; email; [don.gaetz@myfloridasenate.gov](mailto:don.gaetz@myfloridasenate.gov)



In addition, League of Women Voters of Florida Legislative Summit and Convention will take place in Tallahassee this year concurrently April 10-13 from 4 p.m. Wednesday until 4 p.m. Saturday. Send your reservation to Jessica Lowe-Minor [lwvfexecutivedirector@gmail.com](mailto:lwvfexecutivedirector@gmail.com) or call 850-224-2545.

Rooms have been reserved at the Governor's Inn, 209 South Adams Street, 32301. When you call be sure to state you are with the LWV for special rates. If their prices are still too steep, you can ask Jessica for a less expensive option. There is talk of renting a bus to get us there.

There is a limited amount of money set aside in our budget to help you with expenses. Let me know at [pdgadbow@aol.com](mailto:pdgadbow@aol.com) if you wish to attend. Now is the time to influence legislators on ethics and elections, women's rights, education, transportation and water issues.

*Pat Gadbow  
President*

## NATURAL RESOURCES REPORT

*By Carla Christianson, Natural Resources Chair*

### *St. Johns Water Management District meeting Dec 11, 2012*

Following a yearlong evaluation of its 600,000 acres of public lands, the St. Johns River Water Management (SJRW) District's Governing Board today voted Dec. 11 to retain and continue to protect nearly all of those lands.

During its monthly public meeting, the Board unanimously approved District staff recommendations that call for:

- Retaining 569,779 acres, which represent 92 percent of District-owned lands.
- Donating 25,091 acres to local governments and retaining conservation easements on those lands.
- Selling 6,574 acres and retaining easements to protect the lands' conservation values. Identifying as surplus to sell or exchange 3,591 acres of land (less than 1 percent) that have lower conservation value, have land management issues, or are no longer needed for the original purpose of the acquisition.
- Converting 13,388 acres to alternative uses, such as leases allowing for forestry activities or peat removal.

Under Florida law, District surplus land sales must be reinvested in new property. Revenue gained from any conservation property identified as surplus and subsequently sold can only be used for land acquisition.

The District held more than 40 meetings throughout its 18-county jurisdiction during the year-long process. These meetings included District Operations and Land Resources Director Robert Christianson leading ten public meetings and discussions with dozens of local government staff and other stakeholders.

The Board's action does not result in the selling of any land. Rather, land identified as surplus and offered for sale or exchange, must subsequently be approved by the Governing Board in future public meetings.

The county-by-county plan may be found at [floridaswater.com/landassessment](http://floridaswater.com/landassessment).

Public comment from concerned citizens was strongly against selling land near Lake Apopka and Trout Lake. The St. Johns Riverkeepers spoke against any surplus of land. An e-mail sent to the SJRW Board earlier by the North Florida Land Trust had outlined a more detailed evaluation of the lands detailing that all of the lands suggested for sale are valuable.

At the same meeting, the SJRW District staff unveiled a new Springs Protection Initiative that combines regulatory programs, science and projects to bring about long-term springs protection.

The plan was presented during the fourth and last in a series of monthly Governing Board discussions about the District's commitment to springs protection.

The District has been working with other agencies for many years on projects and initiatives to increase knowledge and understanding about the region's springs, while also working to protect springs systems. A report on the nitrate content, flow of the river and spring discharge was presented. The report implied that withdrawal was a small part of the problem.

Robert Knight of the Silver Springs Alliance, who was in the audience, then gave a report that pointed out why withdrawal is actually a very important part of the problem and that the problem is larger than the previous report stated.

It sounded like the SJRWM representative will be working with Mr. Knight to discuss these differing assessments.

LWVVC made an inquiry to LWVF about combining efforts with environmental groups to develop a Constitutional amendment for a State Land Acquisition Trust Fund. **LWVF considered our question and replied with the following:**

The League has been supportive of many environmental issues. Recently it has reviewed a proposal backed by many environmental groups for a constitutional amendment establishing a Land Acquisition Trust Fund funded by the state. After analysis of the proposal, The State League prepared the following statement on our position. We will continue to be supportive of other efforts of the Florida Conservation Coalition and the conservation community on both land and water issues.

In 1990, Governor Bob Martinez established the Preservation 2000 Fund, a \$3 billion land preservation fund to be distributed annually over the next 10 years. It was deemed the most ambitious land acquisition program in the United States. Since its inception, more than 900,000 acres of sensitive lands in 60 counties have been preserved; many local governments matched state funds in order to achieve this goal.

As P2000 drew to a close, Governor Jeb Bush signed the Florida Forever Act into law; it succeeds P2000 and allows the state to acquire and improve environmental recreational lands and water areas. The state, through a bond program, was to receive \$300 million each year for these acquisitions.

In 2011, the Florida Legislature did not vote to continue funding Florida Forever; their reasoning was based on lack of funds in a tight budget year.

Many of the environmental groups in Florida developed a constitutional amendment establishing the Land Acquisition Trust Fund and requiring the state to provide funding for land acquisition.

The League of Women Voters of Florida has supported Preservation 2000 and Florida Forever. However, neither of these programs was introduced as a constitutional amendment.



The U.S. Constitution has been amended 27 times since its ratification in 1788. In the past twelve years, there have been 49 proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution. Most of these have been proposed by the Legislature and should have been handled through legislation during their annual sessions. Some have been proposed by citizens frustrated by the Legislature's unwillingness or inability to address certain issues. Often, these initiatives would more properly be dealt with by statutory law and are inappropriate for inclusion in the Constitution.

Our position is that the State Constitution should be a simple, understandable and integrated statement of basic law, free from obsolete and statutory detail; it should be a flexible instrument free from unsound limitations binding upon the Legislature. We also have a position stating that no tax source or revenue should be specified, limited, exempted or prohibited in the Constitution. This has been a League of Women Voters of Florida position for the past 45 years.

While we may agree with the goals of Florida Forever and the proposed Land Acquisition Trust Fund, the funding issue should be dealt with by the Legislature and governor, not through a constitutional amendment, and the Florida League will be continuing our advocacy for a citizens' statutory amendment, which would allow ideas such as these to be proposed by citizens for law, rather than inserted into the Constitution.

League members are citizens of the State of Florida, and, as individuals, may support the amendment; however, the LWVF will not be aligned with its supporters.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Deirdre Macnab, [floridaleague@earthlink.net](mailto:floridaleague@earthlink.net), or Marilyn Wills, [marilynnwills@msn.com](mailto:marilynnwills@msn.com).  
In League,

Deirdre Macnab, President  
Marilynn Wills, Second Vice President

## **OBSERVER CORPS**

### *Volusia County School Board Meeting, Dec. 11, 2012*

Budget workshops will begin in February. A schedule will be posted. These workshops are open to the public. An hour was spent on discussing the Annual Enrollment Report and the Board's concerns regarding the District Cost Differential (DCD). The Board feels that the Volusia School District's financial crisis is **partly** due to the DCD formula. A change in the DCD formula would gain Volusia approximately eight million a year and but that is insufficient to overcome the 23 million deficit. Student enrollment is 512 less than last year. Enrollment dropped last year as well and is projected to decline by 647 students next year. Volusia will receive the declining enrollment supplement from the State.

*Reported by Ann Harrell*



**LWVF PROGRAMS ARE ADOPTED AT THE BIENNIAL CONVENTION**, which will take place on April 12-13, 2013 following the Legislative Summit in Tallahassee. Where do these programs originate? How are they adopted? Here is a view of some of the steps and considerations to the process.

**HOW ARE PROGRAMS SELECTED, ADOPTED AND USED AS A BASIS FOR ACTION?**

**LOCAL LEAGUE MEMBERS**

Meet to REVIEW current program and consider new or additional topics of concern and/or Issues for Action  
These suggestions go to...

**THE LOCAL BOARD**

Develops a "recommended program" based on member input  
These Program Recommendations go to...

**THE STATE BOARD**

Compiles local league recommendations  
Develops a Recommended Program consistent with available resources  
This Proposed Program goes to...

**BIENNIAL CONVENTION**

Delegates discuss and VOTE on PROGRAM for next biennium

\*\*\*\*\*

**LWV PROGRAM can include:**

- Current Positions**
- Issues for Actions**
- Ongoing Studies**
- New Studies\* and/or**
- Concurrences**

**LWVF ACTION IS BASED ON PROGRAM AND PRINCIPLES**

The following are the types of action that the LWVF may take based on the Program that is adopted by the membership at Convention and the Principles that are contained in Issues and Actions:

**Proposed State Legislation:**

- Board Approved Legislative Advocacy
- Board Approved Testimony
- LWVF Action Alerts

**Other Issues:**

- Board Approved Litigation
- Op/Ed Articles\*\*
- Letters to the Editor\*\*
- Citizen Education
- Public Forums

\* Due to limited resources, no new study will be approved unless the Local League agrees to take responsibility for its achievement.

\*\* Local League action on state issues is encouraged, but both Op/Ed articles and Letters to the Editor concerning state legislation and issues that affect the entire State must be approved by the LWVF before submission to ensure that the LWV speaks with one voice.

## WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR SELECTING LEAGUE PROGRAM?

### ELEVEN QUESTIONS

1. Does the proposal fall within League principles (see *Study & Action* 2011-2013, Pg. 78)
2. Is the problem one that state government can help solve or one that needs state government action?
3. Is this the crucial time for the issue?
4. Do political realities permit effective action?
5. What is the present attitude of the state toward the problem? If it is unpopular, does the League have the strength and know-how to handle it successfully?
6. Will all sections of the state be interested in the problem? Will it bring together diverse groups?
7. How much member interest has been expressed for the issue?
8. Will League involvement make an impact?
9. Will League involvement increase the League's political influence and credibility?
10. Has the League sufficient knowledge, members, power, and funds to carry out the proposal? When it is added to the local League's responsibility for local and national program, will the program load be too heavy?
11. Will the League be able to leverage this issue to attract allies and build coalitions to help share the workload?

### WHAT IS THE SCHEDULE FOR THE 2013-2015 PROGRAM PLANNING PROCESS?


January, 2013	Local League meetings to review current program as outlined in <i>Study and Action 2011-2013</i> .
	Local League boards compile and evaluate member suggestions for 2013-2015 Program <b>Issues for Action</b> and new <b>studies</b> and/or <b>concurrences</b> .
February 1, 2013	Local Leagues suggest 2013-2015 Program <b>Issues for Action</b> and new <b>studies</b> and/or <b>concurrences</b> to LWVF using Local League Profile Form and Program Recommendation Forms Part 1 & 2.
	LWVF board determines recommended 2013-2015 program based upon local League suggestions and resource availability.
March, 2013	LWVF presents board approved list of recommended and not recommended items to local Leagues.
April 12-13, 2013	State Convention delegates adopt 2013-2015 Program.





**WELCOME!  
TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!!**

**Nancy Epps of Ponce Inlet  
C.R. Mitchell of DeLand  
Eula Ossofsky of Ormond Beach  
Beatrice Schemer of Daytona Beach  
Deborah Stoekel of Port Orange**



**Thank you for your  
generous contributions!!**

**C.R. Mitchell  
USA Track & Field Association**

# HOLIDAY PARTY TIME DECEMBER 4, 2012—VINCE CARTER'S



Ann Smith & Helen Scott



Lani Van Petten & Prema Nayyar



Noreen Brownson & Pat Gadbow



Carla Christianson & Nancy Scherr



Lynn Lempel & Larry Moore



## LWVVC Schedule 2013

Date & Time	Event	Location	Organizer	Contact
<b>January</b>				
<b>12<sup>TH</sup></b> <i>noon- 1:30 p.m.</i>	<i>Alternative to incarceration Dr Risdon N Slate, Professor of Criminology</i>	<i>Holiday Inn Across from auto mall DB</i>	<i>Paula Buck</i>	<i>Jeanne Tanke</i>
16 <sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:30 p.m.	Board Meeting	Indigo Professional Ctr 2670 W International Spdwy		All members welcome
<b>February</b>				
<b>9<sup>TH</sup></b> <i>9:30-11:15 a.m.</i>	<i>Natural Resources: Dinah Voyles Pulver</i>	<i>Holiday Inn Across from auto mall DB</i>	<i>Carla Chris- tianson</i>	<i>Jeanne Tanke</i>
<b>20<sup>th</sup></b> 5:30-7:30 p.m.	Board Meeting	Indigo Professional Ctr 2670 W International Spdwy		All members welcome
<b>March</b>				
<b>20<sup>th</sup></b> 5:30 -7:30 p.m.	Board Meeting	Indigo Professional Ctr 2670 W International Spdwy		All members welcome
<b>23rd</b>	<i>Transportation Update Ken Fischer?</i>	<i>Holiday Inn Across from auto mall DB</i>	<i>Carolyn West</i>	
<b>April</b>				
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b> <i>Annual Meeting*</i>	<i>Deirdre Macnab, President LWV Florida</i>	<i>Holiday Inn Across from auto mall DB</i>	<i>Gadbaw/ Smith</i>	<i>Jeanne Tanke</i>
10-11 <sup>th</sup>	LWVF Legislative Summit	<i>Tallahassee, FL</i>		
12-13 <sup>th</sup>	LWVF Convention	<i>Tallahassee, FL</i>		
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b> 5:30-7:30 p.m.	Board Meeting	Indigo Professional Ctr 2670 W International Spdwy		All members welcome

- **Please note: Annual Meeting will be on April 6, 2013.**