

THE VOTER

December 2011

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LWV Events

Tue, Dec 13
Voter Services Meeting
5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
Books, Inc.
505 NW 13th St.

Wed, Jan 4
LWVAC Board Meeting

Sun, Jan 8
City Commission Candidate Forum
2:00 p.m.
Downtown Library

Tue, Jan 24
Hot Topic: Unauthorized Immigration
7:30 p.m.
St. Augustine Church

Thu, Feb 16
Hot Topic: Virtual School lunchtime
The Warehouse
502 S. Main St.

Sun, Mar 18
Fundraiser for Florida LWV Archives

Voter Services Update: Candidate Forum, January 8

By Marjorie Alexander

A Forum has been scheduled for **Sunday, January 8 at 2 p.m.** at the Downtown Library, Meeting Room A (large upstairs room).

There are two city commission races:

Gainesville Commission District 1: Armando Grundy; Yvonne Hinson-Rawls; Ray Washington

Gainesville Commission At Large 1: Dejeon Cain; James Ingle; Donna Lutz; Darlene Pifalo; Lauren Poe; Harold Saive; Richard Selwach; Nathan Skop; Mark Venzke.

The Voter Service Team will meet on **Tuesday, December 13 from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.** at Books, Inc on NW 13th Ave. We will be making plans for the Forum, composing questions for the candidates, and discussing ways to publicize the forum. Please attend.

The Voter Service team will be working on the "Be Ready to Vote" campaign. The campaign is a major new strategy to reach voters in anticipation of the 2012 elections. The project goal is to make voting as accessible and convenient as possible for Floridians. It connects Florida citizens to their county Supervisor of Elections office via Microsoft Tag technology in order to ensure their voter registration information is current and complete. Microsoft Tag is a 2D barcode designed to be scanned by the camera on a smartphone.

Holiday Social: Fun, Food, Lively Conversation

Thanks to June & Jerry Girard for hosting our holiday social last Sunday. Wonderful food and drink were supplied by members, and there seemed to be lots of good conversation going on as well as connections made. (And our newest future leaguer even put in a guest appearance in grandma's arms.)

January Hot Topic: Unauthorized Immigration

Mark your calendars for our next Hot Topics program at **7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 24** at St. Augustine Church.

Recent legislation in Alabama and Georgia has brought the issue of unauthorized immigration to the forefront in our area again, and the 2011 Florida legislature proposed various "solutions." We don't know whether we will see similar initiatives in the upcoming session but, as

4 p.m.
UF Smathers Library
(Library East)

Community Events of Interest

Tue, Jan 31
Presidential Preference
Primary and
Gainesville City
Elections

2011-2012
Leadership Team
LWVAC

Pres: Kathy Kidder
VP: Jean Robinson
Secretary:
Reba Bandyopadhyay
Treasurer: Jerry Kidder

Elected Directors:
Sue Dudley
Billie Staff

Voter Service:
Marjorie Alexander &
Janet Jamieson

Communication/VOTER:
Colleen Porter

Quick Links

Webpages for

Alachua
County/Gainesville
League of Women
Voters
[http://www.lwv-
alachua.org/](http://www.lwv-alachua.org/)

League of Women
Voters of Florida
www.lwvfla.org/

League of Women
Voters of the United
States
<http://www.lwv.org/>

always, Leaguers like to be prepared with facts and objective information to bring to the discussion.

We are fortunate to have knowledgeable local resources in UF professors Philip Williams (Latin American Studies) and Manuel Vasquez (Religion), co-authors of a recent book, *Living "Illegal": The Human Face of Unauthorized Immigration*. They have agreed to anchor a panel, followed by the opportunity for plenty of questions and comment.

St. Augustine Church and Catholic Student Center is co-sponsoring the event, which will take place at Hurley Hall on the church premises at 1738 West University Avenue. Free parking provided.

February Hot Topic: Virtual Schools

The Education Team is sponsoring a lunchtime event on **Thursday, February 16** at the Warehouse restaurant on South Main. The speaker will be Charley Wise of the Alachua County School District. Watch the January VOTER for more details, and a fact sheet with background information on this important issue.

LWV Century Project: March 18th Fundraiser at UF Library East

By Jean Robinson

Last year was the League's 100th year. At that time, the Florida LWV donated many documents to the Smathers Library at the University of Florida to be kept as a history of women and voting rights in Florida. We now must support that donation with some money to restore and archive the documents. The Florida LWV in conjunction with our local League will be having a fundraiser on **Sunday, March 18th**. We will have an entertaining speaker, an opportunity to view the documents and a social hour. Please mark your calendars and join us for dessert at 4 p.m. on March 18th at the library.

Money Matters Overview

By Jerry Kidder, Treasurer



When you send your annual League of Women Voters dues to us, you are paying national, state, and local dues. In essence, the local league serves as the dues collection agent for the League of Women Voters of the U. S. and LWV of Florida to support them in their valuable work of advocacy and education that provides us with resources. Since single-member national dues are currently \$30 and Florida dues are \$15, our Alachua County/Gainesville dues are just \$5.

How does our League accomplish so much in our community with such a meager budget (about \$5,200 in FY2011)?

- in-kind contributions (\$1,500)
- voluntary contributions included when paying dues (\$1,300)
- tax deductible contributions of our League to the Education Fund (\$1,000)

- special local appeals (\$700)
- dues (\$700)

Most importantly, it is the generous contributions of time and work from our members that makes our organization the force it is.

The Good Government Bus Rides Again

By Rosalie Bandyophadyay



At the City Commission with Mayor Lowe

For the fifth year, our local League has partnered with the City of Gainesville and the Alachua County School Board to present the **Celebrate City Government Week Field Trip** for "5th Grade Good Citizens of the Month" for September. League members Chris Flagg and Debbie Gallagher made the special event happen on October 18. The funding for the charter bus needed for the trip is made possible by the financial donations of League members. Additionally we have secured a grant for the project for several years from the 8th Judicial Circuit State Attorney Bill Cervone (from victim restitution funds), and this year Deborah Butler of Butler Enterprises joined our efforts with a generous donation.

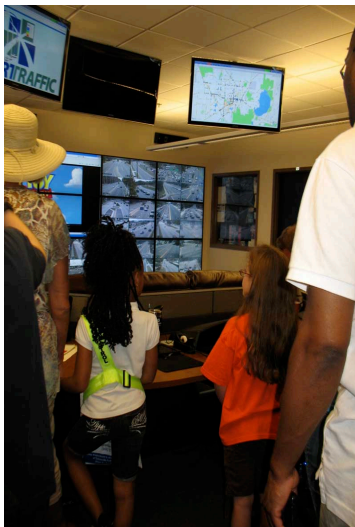


First stop was Gainesville Fire Rescue Station 3. Personnel showed the children the station and the inside of the trucks.

The twenty-five 5th grade students and their parents and chaperones visited Gainesville Fire Rescue Station 3, saw a K9 demonstration from the Gainesville Police Department, visited the public works facility and saw the incredible "Smart Traffic" management system, and finally visited the City Hall Commission Chambers where Mayor Craig Lowe invited the children to participate in mock City Commission session. Every child received a packet provided by LWV with materials provided by Congressman Cliff Stearns on "The Flag," "Declaration of Independence and The US Constitution," an informative booklet on how the U.S. government works, and League voting information.



Meeting K-9 Officer Argos



In the traffic control room

The children and parents enjoyed a "capture" demonstration by K9 Officer Argos and his partner. Each child—and parent—got to meet Argos personally.

Our League has been recognized by the School Board for our continuing support of the City Government Day. Enjoy the photos of the children learning a real life CIVICS lesson and thank you to our donors Bill Cervone, Deborah Butler, and League members.

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The League members accompanying the trip : Debbie Gallagher, Rosalie Bandyopadhyay, Chris Flagg, Kathy Kidder, Jerry Kidder

The VOTER is the official newsletter of The League of Women Voters of Alachua County/Gainesville

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