

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

LWV

OF ALACHUA COUNTY/GAINESVILLE

THE VOTER - April 2006

Official Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Alachua County/Gainesville

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings fellow Leaguers from your new president! In March, Jane Boles resigned as President due to increased professional responsibilities, and as former 1st Vice President, I have assumed responsibilities as President, according to League bylaws.

After being elected LWV president last May, Jane was promoted to Executive Director of TNA, the Trigeminal Neuralgia Association. TNA is a support organization for TN (Trigeminal Neuralgia), a pain that is described as among the most acute known to mankind. TN produces excruciating, lightning strikes of facial pain, typically near the nose, lips, eyes or ears.

We thank Jane for her work with the League and wish her the best of luck at TNA.

Over the past few years with League involvement, I have met many of you. To those I have not met, I look forward to meeting you and learning from you. A great opportunity for us to get together would be at the upcoming Annual Meeting.

Yes, it's that time again - for Annual Meeting. Please join us! We will elect the board of directors, adopt the local program, and the proposed budget for 2006-07. We are already gearing up for a busy and exciting year, especially with the upcoming major fall election. Come hear about upcoming plans and how you can get involved.

I am happy to serve as president for LWV Alachua County/ Gainesville, and I look forward to this next year.

Crystal Goodison
President, LWV Alachua County/ Gainesville

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

Save the Dates

Thursday, April 20 - Natural Resources Committee Meeting, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, Books Inc., 505 NW 13th Street

Wednesday, April 26 - Local Government Committee Meeting, 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM, Books Inc., 505 NW 13th Street

Wednesday, May 17 - Annual Meeting & Dinner, 6:00 - 7:30 PM, The Oak Room at Oak Hammock, 5100 S.W. 25th Boulevard. Hot Buffet Dinner - \$15. Reservations required.

Wednesday, May 24 - Local Government Committee Meeting, 11:30AM - 1:00 PM, Books Inc., 505 NW 13th Street

Correction from Last Newsletter

We apologize for not crediting Helen Kornblum as the author of the article Naturalization Ceremonies in Gainesville, which appeared in February's newsletter. Thank you Helen for the enlightening article and your invaluable work with the naturalization ceremonies!

LOCAL LEAGUE POSITIONS

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM (2004)

The League believes that the filing of campaign finance reports should ensure the public's right to know the amount and source of contributions in a timely manner. Therefore, we support a date for filing of reports early enough to provide sufficient time for their publication prior to the election. To facilitate timely filing, electronic filing should be required with the provision of technical assistance if needed.

The League believes that making the source and amount of contributions transparent to the public reduces the need to place further restrictions on contributions. Therefore, we do not recommend imposing a contribution limit less than the \$500 state limit or limiting contributions to Alachua County citizens or natural persons.

In the interest of increasing public awareness and participation, the League recommends that the local government TV station provide air time for candidate forums.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (2002):

The League recommends:

1. A restructuring of government as follows:
 - A strong executive elected by the voters, responsible for initiation of policy and administrative control over all governmental departments.
 - A representative policy determining body or council of manageable size, elected by the voters and responsible to them for the general conduct of governmental affairs.
 - Adequate and equitable revenue sources with tax in proportion to services needed.

- The ability to serve the needs of the growing urban area, along with the responsibility to supply these services within a reasonable time limit.
2. Elimination of duplication of services.
 3. Comprehensive, county-wide land use planning.
 4. A single, county-wide detention and correction system headed by a trained penologist.
 5. A consolidated, county-wide law enforcement agency, which includes the implementation of a central communications network and record keeping system.
 6. A county-wide transportation system with adequate public control and subsidized if necessary.
 7. Clearly defined lines of authority and responsibility.

The League continues its support of Gainesville annexation of the urban areas contiguous to the City of Gainesville. The League supports the following checklist for evaluating the merits of annexation proposals from any municipality in the County:

1. The area is urban in character or likely to be so in the near future. Urban in character will be determined in part by population densities, units per acre and lot size.
2. There is a need for efficient delivery of urban services such as fire hydrants, street lights, mosquito control, more rapid emergency fire/police response, water, sewer, electric, gas, and mass transit.
3. Economic consequences will be considered, e.g. the annexation's effect upon the County's ability to provide essential services.

4. Issues of equity and fairness will be considered. The annexing municipality is able to provide needed services in a timely manner without compromising the service levels of its own constituency.
5. The area to be annexed will be compact and contiguous. It will be an enclave.

HEALTH CARE:

Maternal Care (1983): We agree with the concept of free-standing birthing centers as alternatives to hospitals for both indigent and non-indigent patients. To be acceptable, a birthing-center must meet the guidelines of the American Public Health Association. In view of safety records by such centers in this and other states, and because of the advantages (cost containment, continuity of care, less medical intervention in the birth process, etc.), parents facing a low risk birth should be able to choose a birthing center if they so desire.

As far as indigent patients are concerned, we believe that they should not be forced into a birthing center. Because of intangible reasons, such as the personality of the mother, some low-risk births should take place in a hospital. The women should be allowed to have hospital care if that is their choice.

We believe pregnant women should contribute to the cost of their care according to their ability to pay. However, since the importance of pre-natal care far overshadows the payment factor, treatment in some cases should be free of charge. Every effort must be made to keep pregnant women in the program.

We believe that a board-eligible obstetrician should be the required medical back-up for a birthing center, and he/she should have admitting privileges at a local hospital.

LWV 2006-07 BOARD NOMINATIONS

PresidentCrystal Goodison
1st Vice PresidentJennifer Springfield
2nd Vice PresidentSue Dudley
SecretaryRosalie Bandyopadhyay
TreasurerBillie Staff

Directors:

Frank Martin, Jean Martin, Jerry Kidder, Tom Barnes

Nominating Committee, 2006:

Chair, Chris Flagg, Kathy Dilcher, and Deanye Overman

Respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee, 2005:

Chair, Liz Jones, Marcia Davidoff, Chris Flagg, Jean Martin, Chris Randall

PROPOSED LOCAL PROGRAM 2006-07

Natural Resources

To monitor and study local environmental issues and to take action based on national and state positions with emphasis on promoting the education and marketing of energy conservation.

Local Government

To find and understand the flows of money into and out of our county, looking at how these flows work, and what that money buys the community. The Local Government Committee will present the league with a report and a power point presentation on our civic adventure program, Follow the Money, and will make this information available to the community.

Also, to identify and study current issues affecting the City of Gainesville and Alachua County, organize relevant informational programs about such issues, and when appropriate, advocate on these issues, based on current positions.

Social Policy

To identify and study important and timely local social issues, present relevant informational programs, and when appropriate, act on current positions.

Privatization of Statewide Government Services

To study the privatization of government services now occurring in the local area and to propose a state-wide program of study to the LWVF leading to consensus on the proper policies for privatization.

Education

To study public schools at all levels, including charter schools, community colleges education and higher education; to identify problems and plans for improvement; to continue to monitor charter schools, home schooling, the voucher program, the inclusion of more special education students in mainstream classes and take action to correct civil rights violations in special education.

JANE WALKER, 1933-2006

Jane was an active, valuable member of the League of Women Voters. Her interests included local government, environment issues, tax law and election laws.

Jane took her interest in government to heart, serving on the Alachua County Commission from 1982-1986. During her commission term, she continued to help the League. Jane promptly answered requests for budget and other documents, and was especially helpful to the League Library Committee during the formation of the local library district.

Jane served as our local League President from 1987-1989 and then moved to the board of the League of Women Voters of Florida, serving from 1989-1995. From 1993-95, she was 1st Vice President of the state League, holding the program/action portfolio.

Jane had a talent for seeing right to the heart of a problem and getting to a solution. She was the ideal League member - believing you should know your material, and that study should lead to action. The League and the community have lost a valued friend.

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...



Congratulations to our past President (2002-04) Odetta MacLeish-White for receiving the 2006 Ida B. Wells Award from the Gainesville Commission on the Status of Women. Odetta was presented the award on March 29 at the 2006 Women's History Month Awards Reception at the UF President's House. The LWV Alachua County/ Gainesville for nominated her for the award.

FLORIDA SUPREME COURT RULES AGAINST REDISTRICTING AMENDMENT FOR NOVEMBER 2006 BALLOT

The League of Women Voters and Common Cause are deeply disappointed by the decision of the Florida Supreme Court to prohibit voters from considering an initiative on November's ballot that would have reformed the redistricting process to make politicians more accountable, ended the practice of politicians choosing their voters and stopped the unfair splitting of communities for partisan political advantage.

On March 23, the Florida Supreme Court ruled that the proposed Amendment 5 to the Constitution, upon which voters would have voted in November 2006, did not contain a single subject as required by the amendment process to the Florida constitution.

"More than 930,000 Floridians have already expressed support for redistricting reform by signing petitions to get this proposal on the ballot. It is tremendously disappointing that so many citizens care so deeply about creating a fair system and that the measure won't be on the ballot," said Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti of the League of Women Voters of Florida.

Committee for Fair Elections Chairman and Common Cause Florida Executive Director Ben Wilcox said "Passage of Amendment 5 would have ensured that Florida would have compact districts that represent existing communities and it would have removed politicians from the process of drawing their own districts. Common Cause will continue to push for meaningful redistricting reform to create a fair process that holds politicians accountable to the voters."



www.lwv.org

2005 – 2006 Board of Directors

Jane Boles, President
Crystal Goodison,
1st Vice Pres./Web site
Chris Flagg, 2nd Vice Pres./
Phone Membership Co-chair
Deanye Overman, Treasurer

Elected Directors

Tom Barnes, Membership Co-chair
Marcia Davidoff, Dues Treasurer
Sue Dudley, Local Government
Jerry Kidder, Natural Resources
Elizabeth Reyes, Voter Production

Appointed Directors

Harriet Ludwig, Education
Jennifer Springfield, Voter Service
Jeanne Weismantel, Literacy Network

Off-Board Directors

Nancy Sever, International Relations
Yvonne Rawls,
Latino Community Outreach



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LWV OF ALACHUA COUNTY/GAINESVILLE BUDGET PROPOSAL 2006-2007

INCOME

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Local Dues | 1,200.00 |
| Interest | .300.00 |
| Contributions | 1,000.00 |
| In-kind Contributions | .100.00 |
| Fund Raising Events | 4,340.00 |
| TOTAL LOCAL | 6,940.00 |
| National Dues | 3,000.00 |
| State Dues | 1,800.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | \$11,740.00 |

EXPENSES

OPERATING EXPENSES

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| General Supplies | 50.00 |
| Printing: | |
| Voter | 1,200.00 |
| Member Directory | 50.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 50.00 |
| Postage/Bulk Mail | 350.00 |
| Postal Permit | 160.00 |
| P.O. Box Rental | 80.00 |
| Liability Insurance... .. | 210.00 |
| Corporation Annual Fees | 80.00 |
| Telephone | 370.00 |
| Website | 125.00 |

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| President | 75.00 |
| Secretary | 40.00 |
| Dues Treasurer | 100.00 |
| Membership | 100.00 |
| Treasurer | 50.00 |
| Office and Board Tools | 100.00 |
| Public Relations | 50.00 |

CONVENTIONS AND SEMINARS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| National Convention/Council | 1,000.00 |
| State Convention/Council | 500.00 |
| Legislative Days | 400.00 |

MEETINGS AND PROGRAMS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Annual Meeting | 100.00 |
| Elected Officials Reception | 150.00 |
| Annual Awards | 100.00 |
| Program Committees | 300.00 |
| Voter Service | 500.00 |

FUNDRAISING

OTHER

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| LWV of Florida for Legislative Action | 100.00 |
| Co-sponsorship (UN/USA, FOSBA) | 50.00 |
| TOTAL LOCAL | \$6,940.00 |
| NATIONAL DUES | 3,000.00 |
| STATE DUES | 1,800.00 |
| TOTAL | \$11,740.00 |

A SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks to all who have contributed to the League this past year. Your support is greatly appreciated. This list includes all contributions from July, 2005 through early March, 2006, including donations sent in with dues, birthday contributions and memorial contributions for Rosemary Tosi and Jane Walker.

Aden, Estelle
Bandyopadhyay, Rosalie
Boles, Jane & Gene
Boyce, Wanda
Chalmers, Jean
Conway, Margaret
Davidoff, Marcia
Davis, Jeanne
Dietrich, Edward P.
Dilcher, Kathy
Doughty, Polly & Paul
Ehninger, Flo Beth
Eitzman, Mary Lou

Farber, Ellen
Flagg, Christina
Gerencser, Allison
Gilbert, Nancy
Goodison, Crystal
Griffin, Nancy & Wayne
Herstmann, Barbara
Huskins, Faye
Jones, Liz
Laitinen, Marjorie
Littler, June
Martin, Jean & Frank
Overman, Deanye & Allen

Porter, Colleen
Rand, Colleen
Randall, Christine
Ryschkewitsch, Wuni
Scott, Barbara
Sever, Nancy
Sherman, Beverly
Smith, Halbert & Ruth
Staff, Billie
Testrake, Carolyn
Warnock, Pat



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Please Join Us!

LWV ALACHUA COUNTY GAINESVILLE ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER

Date: Wednesday, May 17, 2006 • Time: 6:00 - 7:30 PM • Hot Buffet Dinner: \$15 per person
Meeting in the Oak Room at Oak Hammock • 5100 S.W. 25th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32608

We will elect 2006-07 Board of Directors, adopt the 2006-07 Proposed Budget and Local Program. All current and prospective members are encouraged to join us to hear about the past year's League's activity in 2005 and upcoming plans for the year ahead. For questions or information, call 375-6960 or e-mail: membership@lww-alachua.org

Please bring the following materials to Annual Meeting

(materials are included in this edition of the VOTER):

- Proposed Budget 2006-07
- Proposed Local Program 2006-07
- Local Positions
- Slate of Board Nominees

RESERVATION FOR 2006 LWV ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER

Wednesday, May 17, 2006, 6:00 - 7:30 PM

Reservations Required by Thursday, May 11

Cut here

RESERVATION FORM – 2006 LWV ANNUAL MEETING & DINNER

Please make _____ dinner reservations at \$15 each for a total of \$ _____

_____ regular and _____ vegetarian

My check is enclosed I will pay at the door

Name(s) of attendee(s): _____

Please send reservation and check to: Deanye Overman
1925 NW 46th St • Gainesville, FL 32605