

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

OF ALACHUA COUNTY/GAINESVILLE

LWV



THE VOTER - April 2008

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

League members at every level of our organization keep going and going and going! Leaguers tackle issues from the unglamorous policy reports to the hottest topics of the day. Look through this issue of the Voter to will see a cross section of the impact and work of the League of Women Voters.

This issue includes a brief summary of the National League's grass-roots consensus and survey on immigration, a hot topic at the local, state, and federal level this year. The League will be on the forefront of advocating for a sensible and humane immigration policy in Washington, D.C.; a little closer to home, LWVAC Board members Kathleen McKee and Crystal Goodison represented our local League in Tallahassee at the Legislative Seminar. You will find their reports on Florida election laws and pending water legislation inside this Voter issue.

On the home front, LWVAC has dedicated members who attack issues of importance in Alachua County. Under the leadership of Tom Barnes and Carolyn Testrake, members of our Privatization Committee have been studying the effect of the privatization of government services in Florida. As they conclude their research, the committee will be present a final report at the Annual Meeting, and we will recommend to the State League that it consider studying the outcomes of this policy on a statewide level. Our Natural Resources Committee, lead by Jerry Kidder, has been outstanding in monitoring environmental issues and presenting programs to educate the public. Even the summer months won't stop them – see details about the committee's upcoming events in this Voter!

Like democracy itself, the League operates at every level of our society – monitoring, witnessing, advocating, testifying, and speaking out. I am excited to set the course for 2008-2009 at this year's Annual Meeting. With a big election season and important policies in the making, we are looking forward to an important year ahead. We need your input – so plan to attend the Annual Meeting and participate in League activities at whatever level you can this year. See you on May 22!

Yours in League,

Rosalie Bandyopadhyay, President
LWV Alachua County/ Gainesville

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Save the Dates

Monday, May 5 – Voter Service Committee Meeting, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM, Book Lovers Cafe, 505 NW 13th St. Please arrive early if you plan to eat.

Thursday, May 8 – Hot Topics Breakfast, 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM, 43rd Street Deli, 3483 SW Williston Rd. Discussion will cover Florida's 2008 legislative session.

Thursday, May 8 – Natural Resources Committee Meeting, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Book Lovers Café, 505 NW 13th St.

Tuesday, May 13 – LWVAC Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM, D'Acosta House, 703 NE 1st St.

Thursday, May 22 – LWVAC Annual Meeting, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM, UF Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Institute Conference Room, 3450 Hull Rd.

Tuesday, June 10 – LWVAC Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM, D'Acosta House, 703 NE 1st St.

Saturday, August 23 – Friends of Susan B. Anthony Luncheon, Paramount Hotel, 2900 SW 13th St.

The LWVAC Natural Resources Committee will sponsor a forum on Gainesville tree issues this summer – stay tuned to our website www.lwv-alachua.org for date and location information!

Please check www.lwv-alachua.org for up-to-date event information.

A PRIMER ON SUPERDELEGATES

By Clifford A. Jones, Center for Governmental Responsibility, University of Florida Levin College of Law

“Superdelegates” is a buzzword bantered freely about as politicians debate this year’s Presidential race – but what exactly is a superdelegate? And more important, how super are they really?

First things first: there are no Republican Party superdelegates. The system is a creation of the Democratic Party following the 1968 Democratic Convention scandal, where party bosses awarded the nomination to Hubert Humphrey even though he couldn’t win a single state primary—after which, DNC reformers drafted new rules aimed at opening the political process.

Or were they? The new rules providing for more primaries, proportional representation, and affirmative action in delegate selection were used by George McGovern to clinch the 1972 Democratic nomination with only 25% of the popular vote. Richard Nixon won by a landslide that

year, causing Democrats to revamp the superdelegate system yet again.

A few revisions later, and the DNC settled on the 1982 superdelegate system, which governs 20% of the delegates seated at the party’s convention. Superdelegates are not required to support the candidate with the most pledged delegates or the popular vote (although historically they have done so). They are supposed to support the candidate they feel is in the best interests of the party, but the term “best interests of the party” has no defined or legal meaning.

Some think the DNC’s solution to rectifying past cronyism is super duper; others are super confused by the process. One thing is for sure: we’ll have to keep a super close eye on the Democratic superdelegates, who may well exercise super power over the party’s 2008 Presidential nomination.

FLORIDA LEGISLATORS TACKLE WATER ISSUES

The 2008 legislative session has fostered several bills proposing to affect Florida’s most precious natural resource: our water. Two of these proposed laws would directly impact the springs systems of North Central Florida.

The Springs Stewardship Bill, sponsored by Senator Steve Oehlich (R-Gainesville/Ocala), would create the Florida Springs Stewardship Task Force to evaluate existing data, identify zones of influence, and make recommendations with public input for protection of Florida’s first magnitude springs. The Task Force would exist from August 2008 to January 2009.

A related bill, sponsored by Senator Burt Saunders (R-Naples), specifies management strategies within the springs sheds, where surface water seeps into the spring system. Pilot programs would begin in Rainbow and Silver Springs of Marion County. The bill emphasizes inventorying and managing on-site sewage systems and stipulates the creation of a Springs Stewardship Task Force.

Florida has over 700 springs, and 33 are first magnitude springs, having flows of 100 cubic feet per second. The ecosystems at these springs are shifting, many with visibly stressed, lower quality environments. Florida’s Department of Environmental Protection has invested in a project with UF researchers to summarize existing research on the shifting ecosystems and how nutrients affect biodiversity in our springs systems.

Our spotlight on the environment will continue with a focus on energy and climate change in the next issue of the LWVAC Voter.

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE TO HOST SUMMER FORUMS ON GAINESVILLE TREES

The Natural Resources Committee of the LWVAC has elected to present public forums on the topic of Gainesville trees during the summer months. Although the planning process has just begun, committee members are already well into working out the details of the series, which aims to educate the public on the importance and abundance of our native trees and shrubs.

Potential topics include:

- How tree canopies naturally protect homes from damaging winds
- Evaluating urban tree health and soundness
- Understanding Gainesville tree protection ordinances

The committee has set tentative dates in June for the forums. Stay informed through the LWVAC website, www.lwv-alachua.org, for more information as plans are finalized.

To become an active member of the Natural Resources Committee, contact committee chair Jerry Kidder via email at gkidder@cox.net.

SPRINGFIELD LAW, P.A. ATTORNEYS AND MEDIATORS

AREAS OF PRACTICE:
SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY
PERSONAL INJURY
WORKER’S COMPENSATION
NURSING HOME NEGLIGENCE
ENVIRONMENTAL
LAND USE

605 NORTHEAST FIRST STREET
GAINESVILLE, FL 32601
(352) 371-9909

LWVUS ANNOUNCES IMMIGRATION POSITION

After 850 local Leagues participated in an 18-month study, the League of Women Voters has reached a national position on Immigration Policy. The League supports:

- Immigration policies that promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and are responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises;
- Programs allowing foreign workers to enter and leave the U.S. to meet seasonal or sporadic labor needs;
- A system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics, and meeting other relevant criteria. The League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity;
- Federal policies to improve economics, education, and job opportunities in nations with large emigrating populations;
- Due process for all persons, including the rights to a fair hearing, legal counsel, human treatment, and access to the appellate process.

Details are available at www.lwv.org.

LWVAC Welcomes Our Newest National Members!

Georgia Rolfe

Liselotte Hof

Grace Wagner

DID YOU KNOW?

Florida's 2007 Kitchen Sink Election Bill:

The One that Changed the Date of the Presidential Preference Primary

After lengthy debate, both the House and Senate passed the 2007 House Bill 537, which was signed into law by Governor Crist. The bill's most famous provision was moving the date of Florida's Presidential Preference Primary up to January 29, 2008. Along with that provision, many other election-related issues were addressed in HB 537. The bill also:

- Solidified Governor Crist's plan for voter-verifiable paper ballots with state funding.
- Included recount and audit requirements for elections.
- Imposed new restrictions on the citizens' petition process that could impact initiatives across Florida, including changes to a number of deadlines and election procedures

that LWV feels will benefit incumbents, and creation of a petition "signature revocation" process.

- Implemented third-party voter registration provisions – fines for "late" delivery reduced and capped at total \$1000. Political parties registration are exempt from these potential fines. LWV has a pending court challenge to a similar law passed in 2006.
- Removes two of the photo identification documents previously accepted for voter identification.
- Modified the "resign to run" law, allowing Florida politicians to keep their state positions while simultaneously seeking federal office.

LEAGUERS ARE READERS!

Welcome to the LWVAC book recommendation column! Have you read an interesting, insightful or intriguing book on any non-fiction topic you think would be of interest to your fellow League members? The column will depend on submission by League members and friends. Submit the title, author and a few lines about the book to Voter Editor Whitney Untiedt at wuntiedt@gmail.com.

Mirage: Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern U.S.

By Cynthia Barnett

In her recent book, author and native Floridian Cynthia Barnett gives us comprehensive and objective insights into our vanishing water resources. With facts and real life examples, Barnett scares the stuff out of any reader concerned with protecting our vital, life giving water. Such fright may be our best motivation toward water conservation.

Recommended by David Flagg

Dinner at Mr. Jefferson's

By Charles A. Cerami

Do you ever despair at the political wrangling in Washington and wish for the days of our "perfect" founding parents? This account of the mysterious dinner between Jefferson, Madison and Hamilton – when there was not even a District known as Washington – chronicles the development of that great political art of compromise. Just when you thought you knew it all about our founders!

Recommended by Rosalie Bandyopadhyay

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY/GAINESVILLE PROPOSED LOCAL PROGRAM 2008-2009

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 promote the understanding of our county budget and tax dollars, by making the Follow the Money program information available to the community through presentations and printed materials.

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.

EDUCATION

To promote and encourage more adequate and comprehensive civic education programs within Alachua County schools at all levels.

The Privatization Committee has completed its local research regarding privatization of government social services. The committee will present a report of its work at the Annual Meeting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Nominating Committee Members

Elected: Marcia Davidoff and Odetta MacLeish-White

Appointed: Jennifer Springfield and Chris Flagg

The nominating committee agreed to present the following proposed slate of officers and elected directors for consideration by the membership. Elections will be held at the LWVAC Annual Meeting on May 22, 2008.

PROPOSED SLATE FOR 2008-2009 LWVAC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President (2nd year of two year term) - Rosalie Bandyopadhyay

1st Vice President (2nd year of two year term) - Jennifer Springfield

2nd Vice President and Voter Service (one year term) - Crystal Goodison

Treasurer (2nd year of two year term) - Billie Staff

Secretary (2nd year of two year term) - Kathleen McKee

ELECTED DIRECTORS

Membership and Dues Treasurer (2nd year of two year term) - Frank Martin

Natural Resources (2nd year of two year term) - Jerry Kidder

Board Member - Harvey Goldstein

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY/GAINESVILLE

PROPOSED BUDGET 2008-2009

ITEM	Proposed 2008-2009 Budget
INCOME	
Local Dues	1,200.00
Annual Meeting	200.00
Interest	300.00
Contributions	1,500.00
Fall Luncheon	500.00
Voter Service (Ed Fund)	600.00
Fund Raising	1,000.00
Sponsorships/Underwriters for Voter & brochures etc	1,500.00
Sponsor for School Bus for Civics Trip	650.00
Carried forward (CD)Brochure	500.00
TOTAL LOCAL INCOME	7,950.00
National Dues (PMP)	3,200.00
State Dues (PMP)	2,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 13,150.00
EXPENSES	
Operating Expenses:	
General Supplies	50.00
Printing:	
Voter	1,200.00
Member Directory	200.00
Miscellaneous	50.00
Postage/Bulk Mail	400.00
Postal Permit	160.00
PO Box Rental	80.00
Liability Insurance	215.00
Corporation Annual Fees	80.00

ITEM	Proposed 2008-2009 Budget
Telephone	390.00
Website	125.00
Subtotal	2,950.00
Administrative Board	
President	50.00
Secretary	40.00
Dues Treasurer	100.00
Membership Development	100.00
Treasurer	50.00
Office and Board Tools	50.00
Public Relations	50.00
Subtotal	440.00
Meetings and Programs:	
Annual Meeting	100.00
Programs and Seminars	360.00
Awards	50.00
Voter Service	600.00
Fundraising Expenses	200.00
Subtotal	1,310.00
Conventions	
National Convention/Council	1,100.00
State Convention/Council	800.00
Legislative Days	500.00
Subtotal	2,400.00
Other:	
LWV of FL Legislative Action	100.00
Co-Sponsorships – Local UN/USA, FOSBA, ASW	100.00
School Bus for Civics Trip	650.00
National Dues (PMP)	3,200.00
State Dues (PMP)	2,000.00
Subtotal	5,400.00
TOTAL ALL EXPENSES	\$ 13,150.00

Please join your fellow League members for Dessert Buffet, Coffee & Tea, and League Business at

ANNUAL MEETING

**Thursday, May 22, 2008
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM**

**UF Orthopedic and Sports Medicine Institute,
Conference Room: 3450 Hull Road (Directions Below)**

COST:\$10 to cover meeting costs
RESERVATION REQUESTED BY MAY 20

We will elect the Board of Directors, adopt the Proposed Budget and Local Program for 2008-09. All current and prospective members are encouraged to join us to hear about the past year's League activity and the upcoming year's plans for the League.

For questions or information, call 375-6960 or email: info@lwg-alachua.org.
Please bring the materials included in this newsletter to Annual Meeting.

Directions: From UNIVERSITY Ave, turn SOUTH on 34th St. Proceed to 3rd traffic signal (Hull Rd). Turn right at that light onto Hull Road. Institute is on the right across from the Hilton UF Conference Ctr.

From ARCHER Rd, turn NORTH on 34th St. Proceed to 3rd traffic light (Hull Rd). There is a left turn lane. Turn left onto Hull Rd. The Institute is on the right across from the Hilton.

Parking: There is ample free parking in the evening and a large designated handicapped parking area. Enter through main doors. There should be signs directing you to the elevators on the left. Take Elevator to 3rd floor. Conference Room is opposite the elevator.

NEED A RIDE? WILLING TO GIVE A RIDE?

Contact Rosalie Bandyopadhyay (332-3865) or Chris Flagg (376-3634) and we will help to make some car pools!

RESERVATION FOR 2008 LWV ANNUAL MEETING
Reservations can also be emailed to info@lwg-alachua.org

Please make _____ reservations at \$10/each for a total of \$ _____

My check is enclosed _____ I will pay at the door _____

Name(s) of attendee(s): _____

Please send reservation and check to: Billie Staff, 5526 NW 25th Terr, Gainesville, FL 32653

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Why Join? Educate, Advocate, Activate!

Promote voter education, study current issues with other League members, and make your voice heard at the local, state, and national levels.

Membership Dues: Individual: \$48 - Family: \$71 - Student: \$24

Membership with the LWV Alachua County also includes membership to the LWV of Florida and LWV of United States.

HOW TO JOIN: Mail this completed form, along with dues check to:

LWV Alachua County/ Gainesville
P.O. Box 15285
Gainesville, FL 32604-5285

Please make checks payable to: LWV Alachua County/ Gainesville.

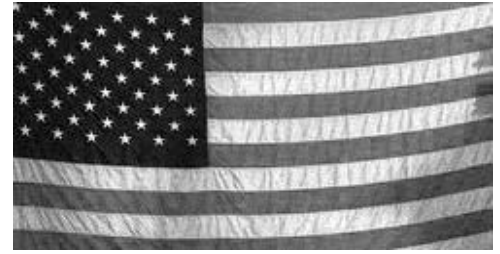
Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Email Address:** _____

Additional membership forms are available on our website: www.lwv-alachua.org



www.lwv-alachua.org

2007 - 2008 Board of Directors

President.....Rosalie Bandyopadhyay
First Vice Pres.....Jennifer Springfield
Second Vice Pres..... Whitney Untiedt
Treasurer Billie Staff
Secretary Kathleen McKee
Dues Treasurer Frank Martin
Natural Resources..... Jerry Kidder
Voter Service..... Crystal Goodison

Off Board Directors

Publicity, Phone, Mail Christina Flagg
EducationHarriet Ludwig & Bev Hill
Privatization.....Tom Barnes
& Carolyn Tetrake