

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

LWV

OF ALACHUA COUNTY/GAINESVILLE

THE VOTER – August 2006 Official Newsletter of the League of Women Voters of Alachua County/Gainesville

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you are ready for a busy year! In June, at our board planning retreat, we set out our goals for the year ahead. One of the most prominent goals was to focus on increasing and diversifying our membership.

Our local League has been carried on the backs of the same women and men for decades. Many members are rightfully tired; want to retire, or just move on to other activities. It's time to seek out new sources of energy and leadership.

Many people, particularly young people, are looking for an outlet to participate in our democracy, but they don't know where to focus their energies. The League, with its established structure, solid reputation, and decades of experience, is an excellent vehicle to drive this desire for civic participation.

So this year, we will focus on reaching out to the community and partner organizations, in an effort to rebuild this League's membership. But the work does not stop there. We need the guidance and mentorship of experienced Leaguers to grow our new leadership. The next time you see a new member at a League event, actively take time to engage them in conversation.

Our board has set a goal to increase our membership by 15%, or approximately 23 members. This goal is attainable, but we do need you to help our community understand the importance of the League's work.

With increasing political polarization in our country, the League's role in the community is more important than ever. The League makes a promise and a commitment to the community - to provide non-biased, non-partisan, balanced information. It is important that we continue to uphold this promise.

Even if you are not an active League member, simply paying your dues supports our work and helps carry us into the future. Thank you for keeping our local League a strong contributor to democracy in Alachua County.

Crystal Goodison
President, LWV Alachua County/ Gainesville

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

Save the Dates

Saturday, August 19 – Primary Election Candidates Forum, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Doyle Conner Auditorium, 1911 SW 34th St.

Tuesday, September 5 – Primary Election. Get out and VOTE!

Tuesday, September 26 – Fall Luncheon, 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Sweetwater Branch Inn, 625 E. University Ave. Speaker: LWV of Florida Lobbyist Jeanne Zokovitch. Topic: Summary and Implications of 2006 Legislative Session.

Saturday, October 21 – General Election Candidates Forum, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Savannah Grande Reception Hall, 301 N. Main St.

Tuesday, November 5 – General Election. Get out and VOTE!

www.lwv-alachua.org

FOLLOW YOUR MONEY

National PMP Increase

At 2006 National Convention, delegates voted to raise the National Per-Member-Payment (PMP) according to the following schedule:

- PMP for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 – \$26.30 (Increase of \$2.50 over current rate)
- PMP for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 – \$26.80 (Increase of \$3.00 over current rate)

Although the above PMP increases were approved, LWVAC will not raise dues this fiscal year. LWVAC will consider a motion to increase local dues at our 2007 Annual Meeting.

LWVAC Dues: Where does your money go?

Below is a breakdown of how your LWVAC dues are distributed. Your LWVAC dues support League activities at all levels. As you can see below, after National and State PMP is paid, not much is left for our local funds to support LWVAC operations. When paying your dues, adding an extra few dollars can help LWVAC greatly.

LWVAC Individual Membership – \$45

National PMP	\$26.30
State PMP	\$13.00
Local	\$5.70
Total Dues	\$45.00

LWVAC Family Membership – \$68

National PMP	\$35.70
State PMP	\$19.50
Local	\$12.80
Total Dues	\$68.00

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT: LWVAC PRIVATIZATION COMMITTEE

There's nothing new about governments purchasing goods or services from private vendors. Certainly, there are terrible examples of corruption and waste, but there are many more examples of efficient and effective performance. What matters is careful management of public business.

LWVAC has begun an examination of privatization of government services and will make a report to the

community on what has been done well and what has been done badly; on what has worked and what has failed; and on what course we should take in the future.

We welcome involvement of League members. Anyone who wishes to participate should contact Tom Barnes, Privatization Chair, at: Tom_Barnes@dcf.state.fl.us.

LWVAC BIDS FAREWELL AND GOOD WISHES TO FLOBETH EHNINGER!

Flora Beth Ehninger has lived all over the country in her long and productive life. During World War II, she lived in Washington, DC and worked for four years at the National Security Agency (now the CIA). To this day, FloBeth continues to honor her vow of secrecy regarding her "classified" job.

FloBeth joined the Gainesville League of Women Voters when she and her husband moved to Gainesville in 1955. As a League member, FloBeth was active in Local Government issues. She was also instrumental in developing a finance plan for our league, drawing on contributions from local businesses and banks to support the work of the League.

FloBeth and her family left Gainesville in the 1960's for the University of Iowa, where her husband taught rhetorical criticism and communications for 24 years. While in Iowa, FloBeth edited her husbands' eleven textbooks and worked as a proofreader at the graduate level.

After her husband's death, FloBeth returned to Gainesville for her "retirement". Anyone that knows FloBeth, knows she will never retire. She continued her work in our league and was instrumental in its success. Her tireless work in registering new voters and explaining the voting process has made a huge difference in our community. During her time at The Village Retirement Center, FloBeth was synonymous with voter education for the residents.

At almost age 91, FloBeth left Gainesville on June 1st to move to New Hampshire to be near her daughter. FloBeth looks forward to observing the US presidential candidates this fall and winter as they campaign in New Hampshire. New Hampshire's gain in FloBeth is our loss here in Gainesville. We will miss her tremendously.

PLEASE JOIN US!

PRIMARY ELECTION CANDIDATES FORUM

Saturday, August 19, 2006
10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Doyle Conner Auditorium
1911 SW 34th St, Gainesville

All candidates on the primary ballot have been invited.

Schedule of Events:

10:00 AM – 10:10 AMIntro/ Welcome
10:15 AM – 10:45 AMCircuit Judge, Circuit 8, Group 4
11:00 AM – 11:50 AMSchool Board, Districts 1, 3, 5
12:00 PM – 1:15 PMAlachua County Sheriff
1:30 PM – 2:45 PMState Representative, Districts 11, 23
3:00 PM – 3:50 PMState Senator, District 14

This forum will be recorded and rebroadcast by Bill Beckett of WUFT/
Classic 89.

FREE and Open to the Public!
Light refreshments will be served.

For questions or more information, please see our Web site (www.lwv-alachua.org), or call Jennifer Springfield at 352-371-9909.

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

Congratulations to **Marcia Davidoff** and **Christina Flagg**, for receiving the 2006 Pillar of the League Awards. Both women were recognized at Annual Meeting for their outstanding volunteer work for LWVAC. Our League is indebted to them for their countless hours of work.

LWVAC CLASSIFIEDS

LWVAC is looking for assistance in the following areas:

GOOD WITH MONEY?

LWVAC needs someone to help with fundraising/ development. Please contact Crystal Goodison at cgoodison@gmail.com or 870-2907.

GOOD WITH WORDS?

LWVAC needs a VOTER editor. (This does NOT include Voter Production – we already have production covered). Monthly commitment: 2-5 hours. Duties include collecting articles from members, minimal editing, coordinating with Voter Production person. Please contact Crystal Goodison at cgoodison@gmail.com or 870-2907.

PUBLICITY & PRESS RELEASES

LWVAC needs someone to help with Publicity and Press Releases for our events. This can be a year-long position, or on an event-as-needed basis. This position would entail writing press releases, contacting the media, submitting our events to calendars, etc. Please contact Chris Flagg at atrchris_flagg@yahoo.com or 376-3634.

MAKE YOUR OWN DIFFERENCE: GO FROM GOOD INTENTION TO ACTION

You've seen the lists of energy conserving tips. Now commit to acting on at least one of those.

Here are some reminders:

- Raise your thermostat setting when air conditioning
- Lower your thermostat setting when heating
- Set your hot water heater at the lowest comfortable temperature
- Turn off lights and TVs when not being used
- Use timers and motion detectors on security lights

More complete listings:

www.gru.com/YourHome/Conservation/Energy/energysavers.jsp and <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/FY801>

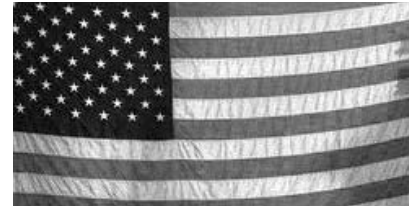
(Brought to you by your friendly Natural Resources Committee. Contact: Jerry Kidder, 378-0562, gkidder@cox.net)

HELP REDUCE VOTER PRINTING COSTS: ADVERTISE WITH US!

We are now selling advertising space in our newsletter. To start, all ads will be business card size, 2" high by 3.5" wide. The rates are as follows:

- \$65/mo. for 6 month contract
- \$85/mo. for 3 month contract
- \$95/mo. for one time ad

Please contact Chris Flagg at chris_flagg@yahoo.com or 376-3634, if you are interested.



www.lwv-alachua.org

2006 - 2007 Board of Directors

Crystal Goodison, President
Jennifer Springfield,
1st Vice President/
Voter Service Chair
Sue Dudley,
Second Vice President/
Local Government Chair
Billie Staff, Treasurer
Rosalie Bandyopadhyay, Secretary

Elected Directors

Jean Martin, Membership Chair
Frank Martin, Dues Treasurer
Tom Barnes,
Privatization Committee Chair
Jerry Kidder,
Natural Resources Chair

Appointed Directors

Elizabeth Reyes, VOTER Production
Whitney Untiedt

MEET YOUR 2006-2007 LWVAC BOARD!

Crystal Goodison, President

Crystal moved to Gainesville in 1994 to attend UF. Two degrees and many years later, she still can't find a reason to leave. Crystal is currently a Project Manager and Data Manager at the UF GeoPlan Center, a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) research facility within the Department of Urban & Regional Planning. Since joining the League just over 2 years ago, Crystal has built the League Web site, helped organize candidates' forum, and served as 1st Vice President. In her spare time, you can probably find her outside, riding a bike, running, or hiking.

Jennifer Springfield, 1st Vice President/ Voter Service Chair

Jennifer is an attorney and mediator who practices primarily in the areas of environmental and land use law. She is married to Emory Springfield. They have two sons, Blaise, 15 and Frazier, 12.

Sue Dudley, 2nd Vice President/ Local Government Chair

Sue Dudley was on the LWVF State Board where she carried the Natural Resources Director & Growth Management Portfolios from 1987 to 91. She resigned LWVF to run for, and win, county commissioner of Charlotte County. Sue came to Gainesville to go to UF and graduated in 2004 with a B.A. in Environmental Science from the School of Natural Resources and Environment.

Billie Staff, Treasurer

Billie joined the League of Women Voters in Charlotte, NC in early 60's, and has been a continuous member ever since. She moved to Miami in 1978 and was active in Dade County League serving as Voter Service Chair, Vice President, and President. Billie moved to Gainesville in 1991 and immediately joined the Alachua County League. During the past few years, she has enjoyed attending luncheons, seminars and committee meetings and is now happy to be taking a more active role as Treasurer.

Rosalie Bandyopadhyay, Secretary

Rosalie has been a member of the League for 32 years. She joined the LWV in Syracuse, New York in 1974, where she served as Voter Service Chair, Board member, and Vice-President. Rosalie moved to Gainesville in 1980 and immediately joined the Alachua County League. During the 1980s, she again served on the Board, as Treasurer, Vice President and other portfolios. Rosalie has continued her membership, but has been less active since becoming Executive Director of the Florida Diabetes Camp, a not for profit agency, in 1991. She has two daughters: Reba, an astronomer on faculty at UF, and Sheila, an actor and dancer in New York City.

Jean Martin, Elected Director/ Membership Chair and Frank Martin, Elected Director/ Dues Treasurer

Frank retired as Professor of Statistics from IFAS in 2001. He has been active in church and officiating track events. He is looking forward to trying something new being on the League Board. Jean retired from teaching math at SFCC in 1999 and has been active in League off and on since 1971. This will be "Bring a Friend to League" year. We need to involve our young people. Are you children members of the League? We are working on ours.

Tom Barnes, Elected Director/ Privatization Chair

Tom is currently an Operations and Management Consultant for the Department of Children and Families, District 3, where he has worked since 1977. He has been active in numerous community organizations, such as the Florida PTA, National PTA, Prevent Child Abuse Florida, Prevent Child Abuse America, United Way of North Central Florida's Success by 6 Steering Committee, and Planned Parenthood of North Central Florida. Tom is married to Marilyn Barnes, and has two children, Katie and Jim.

Continued on page 6

The logo for the League of Women Voters, featuring the letters 'LWV' in a bold, serif font. The 'L' and 'W' are connected, and the 'V' is separate. The letters are white and set against a dark purple square background. A white swoosh underline is positioned below the letters.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALACHUA COUNTY/GAINESVILLE

August 2006

THE VOTER – Newsletter Insert 1

Continued from page 5

Jerry Kidder, Elected Director/ Natural Resources Chair

Jerry continues his interest in natural resources since retiring from UF as a professor of Soil and Water Science. His wife, Kathy, signed him up when she joined the League. They have lived in Gainesville since 1980. He enjoys fishing, small household repairs, travel, and pondering life's recurring questions.

Appointed Director, Whitney Untiedt

Whitney is an attorney with the Public Defender's Office. She joined the League because she believes in citizen access to the government and in educating voters about their rights and responsibilities, and she is especially excited about the Candidate Forums this fall. Whitney has lived in Gainesville for four years. She really, really likes Gator football.

Appointed Director/ VOTER

Newsletter Production, Liz Reyes
Elizabeth D. Reyes, APR, CPRC is an 11-year veteran of the communications and public relations field. She is the founder and president of Focused Communications, a full service public relations and marketing agency offering strategic planning and execution of comprehensive campaigns that include print, radio, television, and online media as well as special events with a public relations focus. The agency has been in business for 6 plus years and holds local, regional, and national accounts.

Ms. Reyes has received numerous Image Awards and Grand Image Awards issued by the Florida Public Relations Association. She travels the country as a speaker on varied public relations and marketing topics,

including diversity issues and multicultural marketing. Ms. Reyes is a strong proponent of civic involvement and carries this out through her personal and professional involvements.

CIVICS EDUCATION COMMITTEE: BUILDING THE FOUNDATIONS OF DEMOCRACY

The Carnegie Corp. of New York and McKnight Foundation of Miami did a national study exploring the reasons for low-voter turnout. The results traced the issue back to high stakes tests, such as the FCAT, crowding out social studies and civics education.

In response, the two corporations called a meeting of national organizations with an interest in voting and civic participation, and then formed a national Campaign for Civic Mission in Schools. Leagues all over the country are involved in this campaign and LWVAC Education Committee seeks volunteers to work on the civics campaign here.

Harriet Ludwig, committee chair, reports that League members Bev Hill (retired Alachua County Elections Supervisor) and Estelle Aden have joined the committee. The committee welcomes other volunteers to map out a local project with the schools.

Call Harriet at 378-1138 or email, ludwigh@bellsouth.net. She plans a committee meeting the first week in August.

ADOPT-A-PRECINCT FUNDRAISER: JOIN THE LEAGUE WORKING AT THE POLLS THIS FALL!

LWVAC will participate in the County's "Adopt-a-Precinct" program whereby local LWV volunteers would be assigned to an understaffed precinct as a group. The minimum number of persons needed to staff a polling place is seven. The required training would need to be completed within the next several weeks.

Please consider donating a portion of your day's pay to the League. This is a great way to help both the League and the Supervisor of Elections!

Instructions for Participating:

Please read the information below provided by Assistant Supervisor of Elections, Jeannene Mironack. If you are interested in participating, let Jennifer Springfield know ASAP by e-mailing her at mediatjen@espring.cfcoxmail.com or leave a message on the League phone (375-6960).

Each League member participating in the Adopt-A-Precinct program will need to complete a pollworker application which will be mailed after contacting Jennifer Springfield. Once we know how many members are committing to this effort, the Supervisor will assign a precinct to the League of Women Voters.

Qualifications for Participating

- Must be registered to vote in Alachua County
- Must not be a candidate whose name appears on the ballot
- Must be available and physically able to work at the polling place from 6:00 AM until after the polls close at 7:00 PM.

Duties And Responsibilities

- To arrive at 6:00 AM to prepare the polls for 7:00 AM opening, and close the polls at 7:00 PM.
- To endeavor to prevent all fraud, deceit or abuse in conducting the election
- To verify voter identification, address, signature and issue the correct ballot
- To give instructions regarding the operation of the voting machines
- To provide assistance to voters as needed
- To set up and pack all voting booths, signs, and supplies on election day
- To attend pollworker school for training

Available Positions

- CLERK - is in charge of the polling place and responsible for all documents and voter changes.
- ASSISTANT CLERK - assists the Clerk and is trained to take over for the Clerk.
- BALLOT SCANNER- trained to assist voters in scanning their voted ballot on the Accu-Vote machine.
- TSX OPERATOR - trained to assist voters with the audio-enhanced TSX voting equipment.
- DEPUTY - is responsible for maintaining order at the polls and is sworn in by the Sheriff.
- INSPECTOR - checks the poll register for the voter's name, verifies ID, and issues ballots.

Training

The Supervisor of Elections will provide training sessions prior to each election. These training sessions are three to four hours in length. You are required by Florida Law to be trained before you are eligible to serve.

Pay Rates

All pollworkers are paid according to their area of responsibility.

Election Dates

Primary Election: September 5, 2006
General Election: November 7, 2006

YOUNG MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS FIND THEIR VOICES AT NATIONAL CONVENTION

The young members of the League of Women Voters found their voices on the final day of the LWVUS National Convention when, before the more than 700 assembled delegates, they gave the following direction to the newly elected LWVUS Board of Directors: “As the next step in the membership recruitment initiative, we the undersigned direct the board to address the recruitment, mentoring, and retention of younger league members 35 years old & younger.”

The direction was signed by members of the newly created Youth Membership Caucus, which was convened for the first time on Sunday night of the Convention. The caucus was a chance for younger League members to enjoy drinks and live music, while sharing their experiences, concerns and ideas about the League of Women Voters.

The Youth Membership Caucus was sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Alachua County/ Gainesville, through the generous donations of its board and members.

LWVAC President, Crystal Goodison, and LWVAC Appointed Director, Liz Reyes, along with LWVUS Board Member Odetta MacLeish-White led the group of youth members in a conversation about what brought them to the LWV, what keeps them involved, and what challenges they find in being a young member.

Answering these questions is a good first step in attracting more young members to the LWV.

The turnout for the event was fantastic. Over 50 delegates joined the caucus. Though the caucus was scheduled to end at 10:00 PM, the room was not emptied until nearly 11:30 PM. These young women had plenty of ideas, experiences, and stories to share.

Members of the caucus will be seeking to promote a national network of active members who can support League activities across the country and provide the League’s national office with ideas and recommendations for recruitment and mentorship.

An email list, including almost 50 young members nationwide, has already been created. In addition, a website account on MySpace.com, is in the development process. Both of

these communication outlets will allow younger members to stay in touch with one another as we develop our messages and support each other in making the League great.

Our most sincere thanks to the sponsors of the LWVUS Youth Caucus:

Marlene MacLeish
Frank Martin
Rosalie Bandyopadhyay
Phyllis Tannen
Carolina Puente
Barbara Scott
Estelle Aden
Billie Staff
LWV of Alachua County/ Gainesville

Submitted by Odetta MacLeish-White



Photo (left to right): LWVAC members, Crystal Goodison, Liz Reyes and Odetta MacLeish-White organized the Youth Caucus at the 2006 LWVUS National Convention.