



THE VOTER

January 2015

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LWV Events

Sat, Jan 17
New Member Coffee
at Kathy Kidder's
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Wed, Jan 21
Citizenship Ceremony
Federal Building
11 a.m.

Mon, Feb 2
Oak Hammock Unit Meeting
2 p.m.

Tue, Feb 24
Education Team Meeting
SFC Downtown Boardroom
noon

Tue, Feb 24
Candidate Forum
Downtown Library
6 p.m.

March 10 & 11
LWV-Florida Capitol Impact Days
Tallahassee

President's Message

Happy New Year to everyone! We are beginning an exciting 2015, but I want to thank all of you for everything that you have done for the League and for our community in 2014.



Here is some of what we will do in 2015. We want to ensure that the State of Florida takes the \$55 billion in federal funds to finally help close the healthcare gap. We want to ensure that the Water and Land Legacy Amendment funding is spent wisely and distributed to help all parts of the state. We will push to reduce the expansion of a parallel system of private schools that divert funds from our public schools with no accountability. We will stop proposed legislation to allow guns in our public schools and universities.

And, as always, we we will continue to educate our citizens and inspire higher levels of informed voter participation. We are starting a new Healthcare Team. This team will inform our local citizens of the benefits of accepting that \$55 billion for Medicaid expansion. If you have an interest in this area, please contact me.

We are beginning to set appointments to see our legislators before the legislative session in March. If you would like to be part of a team to visit with one of our legislators, please contact me. There is much to keep us busy this winter and spring. I hope you will find an area that is of interest to you and become active. I look forward to hearing from you.

*In League,
Jean Robinson*

New Member Welcome Coffee: Saturday, January 17

Save the Date

May 15 - 17
The Florida League's
2015 Convention will be
in Delray Beach

Community Events of Interest

Mon, Jan 12
**Florida Free Speech
Forum**

Speaker: Harry Lee
Anstead, Former Chief
Justice Florida Supreme
Court

Paramount Plaza Hotel
11:30 - 1:00 pm

<http://floridafreespeech.org/>

Mon, Jan 19
**Martin Luther King, Jr.
Birthday Holiday**

Feb 2-7
Justice Week
[More Info](#)

Tue, Feb 3
**The Price of Poverty:
Impacts on Women
and Children**
with Dr. Nancy Hardt
UF Pugh Hall Ocora
6 p.m.

Mon, Feb 12
**Partners in Democracy:
Engaging Ordinary
Citizens**
with Cynthia Farrar,
UF Pugh Hall Ocora
5:30 p.m.

Feb 12-15
**Cinema Verde
Environmental Film &
Arts Festival**
Paramount Plaza
<http://cinemaverde.org/>

2014-2015
**Leadership Team
LWVAC/G**

Pres: Jean Robinson

It is our custom to hold a welcome event for new and prospective members several times a year. This is a casual social opportunity to meet new and longtime Leaguers and learn about the LWV mission, procedures, and activities as well as opportunities for involvement. The next orientation is scheduled for Saturday, January 17, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the home of Membership Chair Kathy Kidder. She will be sending invitations to those who joined recently, but others who haven't been able to attend before are also welcome. Please contact Kathy if you plan to attend, kkidderfl@cox.net, 352.378.0562.



City Candidate Forum February 24

Although there are only two races up for election in March, there are multiple candidates. We need timekeepers and moderators. And of course we welcome any questions for the candidates in the various races.

Please contact Gail Sasnett if you can help. gsasnett@yahoo.com

Justice Week on February 2-7

Justice Week 2015, February 2-7 is being hosted by Fight Injustice and Global Human Trafficking (FIGHT Inc.) in collaboration with the ACCAHT and the office of the Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Florida. Their aim is to increase awareness about domestic human trafficking and provide citizens in our community with the opportunity to help put an end to modern day slavery.

Two Justice Week Events:

1) Movie screening, "Eden," Monday February 2, 7 p.m., The Hippodrome Theatre.

2) 6th Annual Run Toward Justice 5k, Saturday February 7, 12-3 p.m., Haile Plantation Village Center.

For more details on the events being held during Justice Week, please visit <http://www.fightsextrafficking.org/#!justice-week/chaa>



Nominations for Board of Directors

Our Nominating Committee will begin work in February to prepare a slate of officers to be elected at our annual meeting. We welcome your suggestions of members who could fill these leadership positions, including yourself. Open positions this year are: President,

VP: Janet Allen
Secretary: Angie Choate
Treasurer: Karen Seabury

Elected Directors:
Jim Galloway
Arlene Brummer

Voter Service:
Gail Sasnett-Stauffer

Communication/VOTER:
Colleen Porter

Oak Hammock Unit:
June Girard

Update contact information
or obtain a current
membership directory:
Jerry Kidder

Quick Links

Our local League website
<http://www.lwv-alachua.org/>

Florida League website
<http://thefloridavoter.org/>

LWV US website
<http://www.lwv.org/>

Vice-President, and Team Leaders for Voter Service and Communications. These are usually two-year terms. Our bylaws allow co-leaders, so you can also consider doing it with a friend. Contact Kathy Kidder, kkidderfl@cox.net, 352.378.0562.

Education Team Update

By Sue Legg

NEXT EDUCATION TEAM MEETING

Tuesday, February 24th at noon

Santa Fe College downtown. Foundation Board Room

VISITS TO DAY CARE CENTERS

Jean Schiffbauer and Janet Allen visited four VP-K (voluntary prekindergarten) centers with the goal of testing an evaluation form Jean developed. They were pilot testing the questions to



determine the needs of center staff. The first visit was to the Baby Gator center on UF campus. Later, accompanied by Andi Lybrand, the Training and Curriculum Coordinator of the Early Learning Coalition, they visited 3 very different centers in Gainesville. Committee members accompanied by either Jean or Janet will resume making visits to other Alachua County centers at the end of January. All members with an interest in early childhood education are welcome to join. Contact Sue Legg for more information.

EDUCATION ISSUES BLOG

Jean Schiffbauer wrote a post entitled "Education for Sale" on our Education Issues blog. Jean is a curriculum specialist and worked at PK Yonge for many years. In her post, she cites examples of the manipulation of curriculum by private interests.

Sue Legg wrote a companion piece on curriculum called "Which are the Elephants in the Room?" in which she expands on an article about the creator of the Common Core Standards. The piece concerns shortcuts taken by the testing and publishing industries in generating valid critical thinking and problem solving questions. There are other interesting posts, with frequent updates.

We now have over 6,800 visits to the blog. We are beginning to generate discussion. Please join in. See: <http://lwveducation.com>. You can subscribe on the blog Home Page. Just scroll down to the posts and hit the Subscribe button.

SPEAKER SERIES AND EDITORIAL

Sue concluded her fall series of presentations on church vs state issues for the Florida Tax Credit scholarship program in early December at the Florida Free Speech Forum. A huge thank you to Jean Chalmers for organizing the series. Based on Sue's remarks about school choice funding issues and other input, Nathan Crabbe wrote an editorial in the Gainesville Sun entitled: [An Education in School Reforms](#)

In Memoriam

Member **Isadore Swerlick** died October 27. A chemist by profession, he was a supporter of various civic and political organizations. He and his wife Rhoda, also a member of LWVAC, were founding members of Oak Hammock. We extend our sympathy to her and to the family.

The obituary can be viewed at <http://www.williamsthomasfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Isadore-Ed-Swerlick/>

Please contact Kathy Kidder kkidderfl@cox.net with news of members.

Speakers Bureau: Busy Fall!

Under the leadership of Donna Waller, our League Speakers Bureau had a hectic schedule, speaking to over 400 people during the month of October. Thanks to Betty Attie and Jeanna Mastrodicasa for their participation.

- October 7- Ballot issues; Donna Waller and Betty Attie; Prime Time Speakers Program at the Senior Center-35 people in attendance.
- October 15-Amendment 1; Donna Waller-Democracy Project of the Office of Civic Engagement at Santa Fe College-45 people in attendance.
- October 19-Constitutional Amendments; Donna Waller; Candidates Corner at the United Church of Gainesville-15 people talked to me. Many more picked up Voter Guides
- October 20-Constitutional Amendments; Donna Waller and Betty Attie;The Village Retirement Community-68 people in attendance
- October 20-Constitutional Amendments; Donna Waller; Humanist Discussion group at the Millhopper Library-12 people in attendance
- October 21-Constitutional Amendments; Jeanna Mastrodicasa; The Junior League General Membership Meeting-105 people in attendance.
- October 22-Amendment 1; Donna Waller; Santa Fe College Sustainability day-approximately 50 people.
- October 28-Amendment 2; Betty Attie and Donna Waller; Democracy Project at Santa Fe College-32 people in attendance
- October 30-Local Ballot issues; Donna Waller; The Democracy Commitment at Santa Fe College-approximately 40 people in attendance.

Holiday Social, December 7, 2014

This is one of the few times that we can all get together to chat and nosh. The Bellamay Grand clubhouse made a great setting. Special thanks to Janet Jamieson for letting us have it there, to Billie Staff for her great work in putting on events, and to Liz Jones for bringing a corkscrew.



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

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