



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF ALACHUA COUNTY/ GAINESVILLE, FL

# THE VOTER

February 2017

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## LWV Events

*Mon, Feb 27*

**LWVAC Gainesville City  
Comm. Candidate Forum**

Districts 2 & 3 and

At Large 2

LifeSouth Community Blood  
Center

4039 W. Newberry Road

6:30 p.m.

*Tue, Feb 28*

**Education Committee Mtg.**

## President's Message

### Powerful Leaders Demanding Action

*By Sue Legg*

Over 80 Leaguers met in Orlando January 28-29th. Two powerful leaders opened the evening festivities: Former legislators, Republican Senator Paula Dockery and Democrat Representative Mark Pafford. They showed that they could work together even though they were party leaders.



It was refreshing to hear how bargains were struck and sobering to know the controls put on the rank and file members to vote the party line. Nevertheless, the business of the people got done.

The following day was highlighted with remarks by LWVUS CEO Dr. Wylecia Wiggs Harris. She gave an articulate overview of changes at the national office. They will focus like a laser on voter issues.

The remainder of our day was filled with workshops on everything from media training, new member orientation, networking, and fund raising.

There is always something to learn and someone to meet. I visited with Maribel Balbin who is now on the U.S. Board. She asked me to join a national task force on revising LWVUS study policies and practices. It is an opportunity filled place!



## Get Acquainted with League Members

Santa Fe College Downtown  
campus  
Conference Room  
11:30 a.m.

*Tue, Feb 28*

**Oak Hammock Unit Mtg.**  
Presentation: Sabal Pipeline  
Prof. Liz Scream  
UF GeoScience  
Acorn Room  
7 p.m.

*Wed, Mar 1*

**Natural Resources  
Team Mtg.**  
CIED, Rm DB120  
Downtown Santa Fe  
5:30 p.m.

*Sat, Mar 4*

**Education Forum**  
Gainesville High School  
Multipurpose room  
1900 NW 13th St.  
9:30-Noon

*Thr, Mar 16*

**Naturalization Ceremony**  
Downtown Federal  
Courthouse  
11 a.m.

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## Save The Date

*Tue, Mar 21*

**Oak Hammock Unit**  
Presentation: State  
Constitution  
Acorn Room  
7 p.m.

*Tue-Thr, Mar 28-30*

**Tallahassee Legislative  
Summit**

*Thr, May 18*

**LWVAC Annual Meeting**  
Trinity Methodist Church

*Fri-Mon, Jun 9-12*

**LWVF Biennial  
Convention**  
Ft. Lauderdale



Come and bring a friend to hear what's new around town from Mayor Lauren Poe. Enjoy some food and your favorite beverage. It's a time to socialize and get acquainted with new members.

**What:** League of Women Voters Happy Hour with Mayor Poe

**When:** Thursday, February 23

**Time:** 5-7:00 p.m., (Mayor Poe speaks @ 5:30)

**Where:** Public & General Restaurant

1000 NE 18 Avenue- Bldg H, Gainesville, FL 32601

**Topic:** Gainesville Development into the Future

- LWV Event, Open to not-yet members
- Bring a friend, invite him/her to join LWV
- Food & Drink available for purchase [here](#)



## Candidate Forum Gainesville City Commission Election Districts 2 & 3 At Large District 2

Monday, February 27

6:30 p.m.

LifeSouth Community Blood Center  
4039 W. Newberry Road

Contact Gail Sasnett at [gsasnett@yahoo.com](mailto:gsasnett@yahoo.com) if you are interested in helping with this Forum.



**REALLY!**

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**2016-2017  
Leadership Team  
LWVAC**

Pres: [Sue Legg](#)  
VP: Janet Allen  
Secretary: Arlene Brummer  
Treasurer: Karen Seabury

Elected Directors:  
Diane Dimperio  
Barbara Glass  
Gail Sasnett-Stauffer  
Wes Wheeler

Oak Hammock Unit:  
[June Girard](#)

The Village Unit:  
Rosalie Bandyopadhyay

Advocacy:  
Katy Burnett

Citizenship Ceremonies:  
Mary White

Communications:  
[Barbara Glass](#)

Dues Treasurer & Roster  
Manager:  
Carole Fernandez

Education:  
Jean Robinson

Events:  
Billie Staff

Health Care:  
Diane Dimperio

Hot Topics:  
Mitzi Austin &  
Harvey Goldstein

Internships:  
Katy Burnett

Local Issues:  
Sue Hatch

Membership:

From the comfort of your home YOU could help our League with keeping the community and members up to date with our activities.

There are tasks (One hour/month to mail the Voter).

Got more time? There's FaceBook management.

But wait ----there's MORE. Contact [Barbara Glass](#) to learn about endless opportunities!!! REALLY!!!!

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## Natural Resource Committee Meeting

*By Julia Reskind*

The Natural Resources Committee met February 1st to discuss restoration of the Ocklawaha River. Jim Gross presented a history of the various initiatives aimed to create E/W access across Florida's



peninsula. These initiatives began with the Spanish and continued into the 1950's with approval of the Cross Florida Barge Canal. The original plan was to dig a canal 35' deep to accommodate large ships, but both the railroad and agricultural interests objected, and the canal depth was reduced to accommodate only barges. The project began with construction of the Rodman Dam, damning the Ocklawaha. Environmentalists, such as Marjorie Harris Carr, saw how destructive the plan was to the surrounding natural habitat and began to voice objections.

They were successful and in 1971 President Nixon stopped construction of the canal, and in 1992 Congress deauthorized the project. The St. Johns River Water Management District recently removed the remaining hurdles for restoring the river, and every governor since Reuben Askew, except Governor Scott, has publicly endorsed restoration of the Ocklawaha. The surrounding lands have been acquired, thus the cost of restoration is low making this economically a good deal. There is some suggestion now that perhaps with a convincing economic argument, Scott will endorse restoration.

What can we do to help? We discussed the economic and social issues in Palatka and surrounding communities, and the fact that residents think that the fishing potential in Rodman Lake accounts for a significant portion of their livelihood. But how true is this? It is a hot button issue in Putnam County and no one wants to touch it. The argument that restoration and the subsequent ecotourism, as an economic engine, should be raised. Will the local paper run a series of articles?

In the late 19th/early 20th centuries boat trips from Jacksonville to Silver Springs via the St. Johns/Ocklawaha/Silver Rivers were a huge tourist industry. This could happen in the 21st century. Within 3 to 5 years, the Ocklawaha River could be restored sufficiently to make trips pleasant. Within 20 years the tree canopy seen along the Silver River could be seen along the Ocklawaha.

An article in the fall/winter 1999/2000 Florida Voter indicates that the

Kathy Kidder &  
Mary Monahan

Natural Resources:  
Julia Reiskind

Social & Criminal Justice:  
Bennett Brummer

Speakers Bureau:  
Donna Waller

Unit Coordinator:  
Rosalie Bandyopadhyay

Voter Service:  
Gail Sasnett-Stauffer

Update contact information  
or obtain a current  
membership directory:  
[Carole Fernandez](#)

## Quick Links

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

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

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

LWV Education Blog  
<http://lwveducation.com/>

LWV FL has long supported restoration of the Ocklawaha. The Committee feels that it should take a proactive stand in working towards restoration and that it must make the economic argument.

For additional information, see SUN articles of May 24th, 2016 by Jim Gross and February 5th, 2017 by Lu Vickers. There are numerous others in addition: search for restoration of the Ocklawaha.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 1st at 5:30 pm in room DB-120 of the CIED building, 530 W. University Ave, program TBA.

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## Social and Criminal Justice Committee Report

*By Bennett Brummer*

Our local committee has met with the chiefs and representatives of the Gainesville, Alachua, and High Springs Police Departments. We are primarily focusing on promoting the continued use of civil citations as an alternative to arrest for specific misdemeanor crimes. Civil citations are issued to juveniles who accept responsibility for their behavior and agree to the terms of a civil citation (e.g. community service, restitution, etc.). Working with the police we are exploring how to build upon existing community programs to provide wrap around services/support that ultimately reduce the flow of children into the criminal system.

We are also coordinating with the Southern Legal Counsel, a statewide public interest advocacy group situated in Gainesville, to reduce the school to prison pipeline, increase funding for the System of Care, and promote trauma-responsive approaches in our schools and community.

At the state level, we have joined the Florida League in coordinating a state-wide Juvenile Justice committee and identified three priorities: to expand the use of civil citations (in lieu of an arrest); eliminate direct file (the transfer of children from juvenile to adult court by prosecutors without judicial approval), and increase funding for (juvenile) indigent defense. All of these priorities face an uphill battle in the legislature.

In addition, the Florida League is participating in the Campaign for Criminal Justice Reform and is promoting legislative establishment of a Criminal Justice Reform Task Force to review a wide range of subjects.

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## Reduce Pollution at the Source

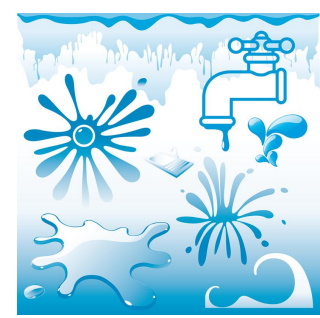
*By Julia Reiskind*

Alachua County residents care about water. But water doesn't care about city limits; it flows freely between jurisdictions into creeks, sinkholes, lakes, swamps and the underground aquifer from which we draw our drinking water.

There are obvious advantages to regulations that establish a



baseline minimum of protection over hydrologically connected watersheds that don't change with every municipal annexation. The League of Women Voters explored controversies over how these regulations are to be implemented. [More...](#)



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## **Advocacy Workshop: A Walk Through History with Deirdre Macnab**

*By Sue Legg*

Deirdre, past president of LWV Florida, told stories of people who helped to correct our country's course. She began with the transformation of Eleanor Roosevelt as a shy inept public speaker. The League took her on and she became one of the nation's most beloved advocates. Her motto became: It was better to light one candle than to live in the darkness. Deirdre told the story of Harry T. Moore and his wife who were early members of the NAACP who lost their lives when their home was bombed on Christmas. Their crime was to mount a campaign to bring a fair trial to young black men accused of rape and about to be lynched.

There were other stories of people who learned to stand up for what is right regardless of the cost. It reminded us of the need to be clear, succinct and relentless in advocating for what we believe.

About fifty people came to hear the stories and share some of their own. It was time well spent.

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## **Education Committee February Report**

*By Jean Robinson*

The Education Team met on January 24th at the SFC downtown campus. Our speaker was Tom Logan, League member and early childhood education advocate. Tom serves as chairperson of the Children's Services Advisory Board. The Alachua County Commission approved a proposal that would have nurses do post partum visits with young families in order to help these families access any services that they may need. There will also be additional training for child care workers. He told us about another group, the Children's Alliance that will advocate for a referendum in 2018.

Sue Legg and Khanh-Lien Banko described the Education Forum, Schools of the Future, which will take place on March 4th. This will be an interactive program that should bring together many viewpoints. Everyone is invited to attend.

The next Education Team meeting will be on Tuesday, February 28th at 11:30 at the Santa Fe College downtown campus.

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## **Local Issues Committee Meeting**

*By Sue Hatch*

Need help with your taxes? Have an elderly neighbor who could use a meal? Want to know who fills the potholes on your street? Who you gonna call? 2-1-1

At a recent meeting of the Local Issues Committee, Norinda Yancey, Director of Community Impact for United Way of North Central Florida filled us in on why 2-1-1 is the number to call to find help in Alachua County for everything from utility bills to suicide prevention.

2-1-1 goes beyond what the old telephone directory of services offered. 211 has trained staff available to help callers problem solve. Offering aid in English or Spanish, the staff at 2-1-1 do more than just hand out phone numbers; they walk you through a problem to help you find the best possible local resource.

Ms. Yancey told us that United Way found that offering a clearing house for phone numbers was not enough. Often the telephone numbers of agencies have changed, or services discontinued. 2-1-1 works hard to continually add to their list of resources and update the information on the existing ones. Furthermore, the staff at 2-1-1 realize that often people need more than a number; these callers benefit more from a discussion that reveals related issues for which staff provide additional resources.

2-1-1 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for FREE by the United Way. The only problem seems to be--getting the word out to people to let them know it exists!

So, the next time you need information on housing, food, child care, healthcare, mental services, and so much more, just pick up the phone and try calling 2-1-1. Don't like to talk on the phone? Then TEXT your zip code to 898211. Prefer to CHAT? Visit [Unitedwayncfl.org/211](http://Unitedwayncfl.org/211) and let your thumbs do the talking. Like EMAIL? Shoot off a note to [UW211help@gmail.com](mailto:UW211help@gmail.com). Pick your favorite channel of communication and get connected!

For more information, contact Sue Hatch at: 352-226-5336 or [dramalady@gmail.com](mailto:dramalady@gmail.com).

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## **Education Forum: Schools of the Future**

*By Alachua County Schools*

Parents, teachers and other local citizens are invited to attend an upcoming education forum to learn more about and discuss the opportunities and challenges facing schools.

The forum is being organized and sponsored by the Alachua County League of Women Voters, the Alachua County Council of PTAs, The Education Foundation of Alachua County and Alachua County Public Schools.

The keynote address will be given by Peggy Brookins, CEO of the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards and a member of the President's Advisory Commission on Education.

Following the presentation, a panel of parents and educators will respond to questions and comments from the audience about education in general and local schools in particular. The discussion will be moderated by Sue Legg, president of the League.

"We want to talk about the kind of environment that's necessary for high-quality teaching and learning" said Legg. "That includes everything from monitoring student progress to empowering teachers and parent."

Panelists include Deputy Superintendent Karen Clarke, the new Teacher of the Year Lauren Marlowe, President of the Alachua County Council of PTAs Khanh-Lien Banko, Executive Director of Secondary and Elementary Curriculum Donna Jones, and curriculum specialist Kevin Barry.

The event will take place Saturday, March 4th from 9:30 to noon in Gainesville High School's multipurpose room. The school is at 1900 NW 13th St.

Forum is open to the public.

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## **In Memoriam: Polly Doughty**

Mary "Polly" French Doughty, who seems never to have spent an idle moment, died Jan. 18 at UF Health Shands Hospital from heart complications.

After living in Lima, Peru, Doughty and her husband moved to Gainesville in 1971, where she founded and supported numerous community organizations. She was a long time League member and served as president for four years.

League members remember Polly fondly for her support and guidance. Through her active community involvement, she epitomized what being a part of a community was about.

To see her obituary [visit](#)

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