



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF ALACHUA COUNTY/ GAINESVILLE, FL

THE VOTER

January 2017

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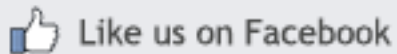
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LWV Events

Tue, Jan 24

Education Team Meeting
Santa Fe College Downtown
Campus Board Room 11:30
a.m.

Tue, Jan 24

Advocacy Workshop
Deirdre Macnab Speaker
LifeSouth Community Blood
Centers Corporate
Headquarters
4039 W Newberry Rd
Gainesville, FL 32607
6:30-8:00 p.m.

President's Message

1948: Dewey Defeats Truman-Not So
Perhaps no presidential election outcome was a bigger surprise than this year's unless you count Dewey vs. Truman. "Give 'em Hell Harry" proudly held up the Chicago Tribune headline that said "Dewey Defeats Truman".



Truman campaigned against what he called a do-nothing congress. As we know, political winds ebb and flow, and the same charges are levied today. As we face a new year and a new administration, the League's responsibility for public education and advocacy is at the forefront of our minds and hearts. We have a duty to study policy issues and communicate alternative strategies. Then we must swing into action when needed.

A ground swell of queries about how to get involved has reached us. We will start the year with a workshop on effective advocacy. With our ever increasing membership, over 330 at the last count, we are creating more ways to help members contribute however they are able. Our buzzword is 'engage'.

None of us knows what lies ahead, but we do know that vigilance, fairness, and involvement are the keys to a better future. The League will do its part. Join us.

Advocacy Workshop

By Sue Legg

From passage of a local commuter rail system, to recycling initiatives, Leagues from across the state of Florida have been in the forefront of positive change in our communities. On **Jan. 24 at 6:30 p.m., former Florida League of Women Voters' President Deirdre Macnab** will share lessons learned from these and other campaigns as well as discuss some of those that are in motion (FL SUN).

Mon, Jan 30

**Alachua County Legislative
Delegation Meeting**
SF College NW Campus
Fine Arts Hall, E-127
3000 NW 83rd St
2-5 p.m.

Thr, Feb 9

**Local Issues Committee
Meeting**
Conference room Downtown
Santa Fe College
Blount Center, 401 NW 6th
Street
4:00 p.m.

Mon, Feb 13

LWVAC Board meeting
CIED Bldg, Santa Fe
Downtown
6 p.m.

Mon, Feb 13

Oak Hammock Unit
Presentation: Immigration
Acorn Room
7 p.m.

Mon, Feb 27

**LWVAC Gainesville City
Comm. Candidate Forum**
Districts 2 & 3
LifeSouth Community Blood
Center
4039 W. Newberry Road
6:30 p.m.

Mon, Mar 20

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

Save The Date

Sat, Mar 4

Education Forum
TBD

Tue-Thr, Mar 28-30

The interactive workshop is designed to help participants brainstorm effective strategies for communicating issues and ideas that they are passionate about. Macnab will give a brief presentation on the power of public speaking, and then participants will be invited to fine-tune their public speaking skills. These 'elevator speeches' will be used to help create example advocacy campaigns.

Ms. Macnab led the League in its campaigns to strike down the 48-hour turn around on voter registration, defeat 9 amendments to the constitution including the Tax Payers Bill of Rights, and limit early voting and Sunday voting. Macnab is campaign chair of Make Florida Number One in Solar Energy. She holds a M.B.A. from Columbia University and has worked in the private sector, served on several non-profit boards and was elected to the Board of Education in Nashville, Tennessee. Her honors include 2012 Orlando Sentinel Woman of the Year and the Florida Commission of Women Achievement Award. Macnab is the first non-Latina to receive the La Prensa Community Champion award.

She currently serves as a Fellow in-Residence at the University of Florida's Bob Graham Center for Public Service.

[Visit our Upcoming Events](#)

Let YOUR Voice Be Heard DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY....

Alachua County Legislative Delegation Meeting
PUBLIC testimony on Issues facing the State of Florida
Monday, January 30th*

Do you care about.....

- Election Reform and Voter Protection?
- Sensible Gun Legislation?
- The BEST Education possible for our youth?
- Protection of our land and water resources?
- Healthcare for ALL Floridians?

*Time: 2-5 p.m.

Santa Fe College , NW Campus Fine Arts Hall
3000 NW 83rd St.,
E0127

Tallahassee Legislative Summit

Sat, Apr 1
Chili Cookoff, O'Leno

Thr, May 18
LWVAC Annual Meeting

Fri-Mon, Jun 9-12
LWVF Conference
Ft. Lauderdale

GET UP-TO-DATE
CALENDAR information:
www.lwv-alachua.org

**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

Solar Cooperatives Launch 2017

By *Wes Wheeler*

The Alachua County League of Women Voters is proud and excited to be launching a solar cooperative in 2017. We currently are forming a steering committee whose members will guide us in outreach and education to recruit local resident and business cooperative members. We expect this committee to be up and running in mid-to-late February.



We encourage you and your family, friends, neighbors, colleagues and local businesses - anyone who uses power- to join our cooperative. To get started right away, and to be kept informed as plans develop, please sign-up (non-binding) at flsun.org [here](#).

What is a solar co-op?

A solar co-op is a group of local home and business owners who use their combined bulk buying power to save on the total cost of going solar. Solar installers face significant costs finding solar customers. By forming a group of interested buyers, co-op members can receive a significant discount because the group has done some of the work for the installer.

Our cooperative will be organized by Florida Solar United Neighborhoods (FL SUN), in partnership with the Florida League of Women Voters. Alachua cooperative members will benefit from working in a group and with FL SUN to help educate and guide them through the installation process.

How does the co-op purchase work?

Upon reaching critical mass (roughly 30 good roofs), co-op members, led by FL SUN, will discuss their criteria for solar power installations. These criteria become the basis for a Request For Proposals (RFP). The RFP will be published and available to any interested installer who wishes to submit a bid.

Each installer's RFP bid will contain a set price per the amount of solar to be installed on each co-op member's home or business. The co-op members, with the technical support of FL SUN, review all submitted bids to select an installer. That installer, based on that bid award, contracts to install solar individually with each member.

Link [here](#) to the Gainesville Sun article.



Natural Resources Committee

Health Care:
Diane Dimperio

Hot Topics:
Mitzi Austin &
Harvey Goldstein

Internships:
Katy Burnett

Local Issues:
Sue Hatch

Membership:
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/>

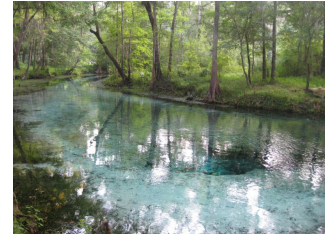
LWV US website
<http://www.lwv.org/>

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

January Report

By Julia Reiskind

At our December meeting Wes Wheeler, the local Chair of the state LWV solar co-op program, reported that a meeting of the steering committee will be held February 13th in Gainesville. Angela DeMonbreun of FL SUN (Florida Solar United Neighborhood), partner of the state League program, will speak on the elements of solar energy and on setting up and coordinating a co-op. Her job will be essentially to "get the ball rolling" on this initiative in Alachua County. The local League will coordinate meetings of local groups with the hopes of forming a co-op in Alachua County. Once a co-op is formed, FL SUN will work with it to find an installer, who will match the wants of the co-op. The installer with FL SUN will work with individual households on their solar energy needs. The advantage of joining a co-op is that the various elements of a solar system can be purchased in bulk, and thus will be less expensive to the individual homeowner.



The establishment of solar co-ops is mushrooming throughout the state with several co-ops up and running (Pinellas and Orange Counties), and a dozen getting started (Brevard, Sarasota, Volusia, Dade, Palm Beach, etc.). There is a question about the 30% tax rebate and possible sunset, and if the % rebate will decrease over its lifetime. There will be a decrease but the information received is confusing and needs clarification. Related to solar is legislation to put Amendment 4 (approved last August) into play. We must follow that to make sure that the tenets of the amendment are not modified. At this point there is no action on the Florida Solar Choice amendment.

The state NR Committee has divided its tasks between Deirdre Macnab and Chuck O'Neal, with the former in charge of energy, and the latter water issues and wildlife. Chuck described three initiatives for the upcoming legislative session: the establishment of a reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee and the pluses and minuses of that, fracking and proposed statewide banning bills, and Amendment 1 expenditures.

The committee also discussed the wording of the resolution asking for Board approval of the county's updated storm water management plan. The Board endorsed the resolution at its December meeting. The committee also decided, once the storm water matter is resolved, to take on the restoration of the Ocklawaha River issue. The next meeting is scheduled for February 1st, 2017. I plan to step down as Chair of this Committee as of May 2017. I will remain a committee participant and will help in any way I can.

Local Issues Committee Meeting

By Sue Hatch

It's never dull at a meeting of the local issues committee and the December 8th meeting was no different! Conversation jumped from Town and Gown relations, to the Friendship 7, to racial and economic inequities, and the League position on the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

Consensus is growing for a two-pronged approach in the future, which will focus on gathering information to create a guide to local government help for citizens, and educating ourselves and the public

through a series of educational forums.

We meet from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in the conference room of the downtown campus of Santa Fe College (Blount Center, 401 NW 6th Street, Gainesville, FL 32601) We welcome your voice and your presence! For more information, contact Sue Hatch at: 352-226-5336 or dramalady@gmail.com.

Meet and Greet: Depot Park, December 8th

By Barbara Glass

What a wonderful experience! Walking up to the Park we saw a vibrant community resource. Walkers, runners and kids enjoying the playground. Several of us walked the paths and even wanted to get on the swing set! We reconvened at the Pop A Top for libations AND we were able to socialize with some of our League's newest members! Our visit was capped off in the refurbished Depot for a brief history of the Park and its transformation by former Gainesville City Mayor, Pegeen Hanrahan. We learned that:



The Depot Park Project was an effort to clean up brownfield sites in the south downtown area of East Gainesville, FL, and restore them to productive use. The centerpiece of the project is Depot Park, a centrally located stormwater park near Depot Avenue and Main Street. Once the industrial hub of Gainesville, the park land hosted numerous rail corridors and industries such as coal gasification and manufacturing. The new park features walking paths, boardwalks, interpretive exhibits and native vegetation to recreate a natural North Florida wetland landscape. On-site ponds naturally treat stormwater and reduce contaminants entering Paynes Prairie.

The City's Community Redevelopment Agency worked to develop a manual of design and technical standards for Depot Park that help guide the development of the park, promoting consistency and quality of the built environment. The manual contains illustrations that convey the design intent for Depot Park as a whole as well its relationship with the Cade Museum and to the adjacent community.

Depot Park is worth a visit! Thanks to Rik McNeill for organizing this.

For more information on the Park visit [Depot Park](#)



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

Monday, February 27
6:30 p.m.
LifeSouth Community Blood Center
4039 W. Newberry Road

Please send **questions YOU would like posed to the Candidates** to [Carole Fernandez](#)

Contact Gail Sasnett at gsasnett@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping with this Forum.

Help Needed!

Are you interested in helping the League but don't have much time or can't get out? We need someone who can spend an hour or two each month to send out welcoming letters to new members. If you can help, contact the membership chair [Kathy Kidder](#).

In Memoriam: Jane Hiers

We remember Jane Hiers who passed away in December. She was a 50-year member of our League. During the 1980s, she was a pioneer for criminal justice advocacy and chaired the League's Criminal Justice Committee. Several members remember her generosity in taking them 'under her wing' and being inspired by her knowledge. In 1987 the League acknowledged her significant contributions by awarding her the Outstanding Citizen Award. For her full obituary: [Visit](#)
