



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF ALACHUA COUNTY/ GAINESVILLE, FL

THE VOTER

November 2016

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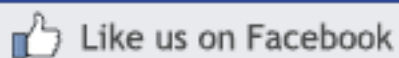
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LWV Events

Sun, Dec 4

LWV

Holiday Social

Julia and Jon Reiskind

Home

213 SW 41 St.

4- 6 p.m.

Wed, Dec 7

Natural Resources
Committee Meeting

Ideas Room (DB120)

CIED Bldg Downtown

Santa Fe College

5:30-7:30 p.m

President's Message

Some may feel deflated or empowered now that the election is over. The reality is that either way, the work of the League goes on. What we do and how we do it reflects our values. According to the LWVUS mission statement, the League believes in:



- respect for individuals.
- the value of diversity.
- the empowerment of the grassroots, both within the League and in the communities.
- the power of collective decision making for the common good.

What do we focus on while the country is so divided? The League mission states that we model the principles of good governance which is according to some "participatory, transparent and accountable. It is also effective and equitable, and it promotes the rule of law."

This all sounds high minded, and it should. When I translate it for myself, I say that we need to help people have enough information to make responsible decisions for themselves and for the community at large.



KUDOS to Our Local League!!!

By Barbara Glass

Sometimes, it is helpful to reflect on achievements that have positive outcomes. So **-drum roll please** - take pride in the fact that we all belong to something bigger than each of us. We belong to a group that collectively affects change. Recognize that our League stood with the State League in supporting and defeating Amendment 1. Locally, we saw the approval for One Mil for Schools!

Thr, Dec 8
Local Issues Committee Meeting
CIED Bldg Downtown
Santa Fe College
4 - 6 p.m.

Thr, Dec 8
Meet & Greet Social
The Daily Green
436 SW 2nd St.
Gainesville
4-5:30 p.m.
rsvp: rikteach@aol.com

Mon, Dec 12
LWVAC Board Meeting Santa Fe
College Downtown, CIED
Bld
6 p.m.

Thr, Dec 15
Naturalization Ceremony
Downtown Federal
Courthouse
11 a.m.

Save The Date

Thr, Dec 8
Election Wrap up
Prof. Emerita Donna Waller
Senior Center
5701 NW 34th St.
2:30 p.m.

Tue, Jan 26
Education Team Meeting
Santa Fe College
Downtown
Campus Board Room
11:30 a.m.

Sat, Mar 4
Education Forum
TBD

Tue-Thr, Mar 28-30
Tallahassee Legislative Summit

Fri-Mon, Jun 9-12

KUDOS to all members who volunteered to support Voter Services. The list is long and the tasks were varied: Voter registration, Candidate forums, Voter guide distribution - digital and printed!

There isn't space to list the many steps and responsibilities required to organize each of the above tasks. We will save the applause until the May dinner. Until then, sit back and feel the satisfaction of a job very well done!

Observing Alachua County Canvassing Board

By Jerry Kidder

Thanks to the fifteen LWAC members who spent a total of about 30 hours observing the Alachua County Canvassing Board, elections office staff, and elections workers process vote by mail ballots. Participant comments about the experience:



- "Had an interesting day at the Canvassing Board. Good group of folks! Made it a point to welcome 'the LWV observer with us today'."
- "I thoroughly enjoyed my 9:30 to 11 stint there this morning."
- "It was a very interesting experience and we were impressed with the whole operation."

The Canvassing Board is the legal entity that certifies the election results for the county. It is composed of a county judge, a representative of the county commission, and the supervisor of elections (Judge Tom Jaworski (chair), Tony Domenech, and Pam Carpenter, respectively).

!!! HOLIDAY SOCIAL !!!

You are invited to the

League of Women Voters Holiday Social

Sunday, December 4, 2016
from 4- 6 pm
at Home of Julia and Jon Reiskind
213 SW 41st St. *
Gainesville FL 32607



Please bring a finger food to share. Questions:
Call 352-378-8290

*If you are coming from the east, take W. University Ave. to W. 38th St. (at Royal Park Plaza) and turn left onto 38th St. (now known as SW 38th St.). Go 3 blocks to SW 3rd Ave., turn right, go to the end and turn right. Our house is on the right corner.

If you are coming from the west, take W. Newberry Rd. to W. 38th St.

**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

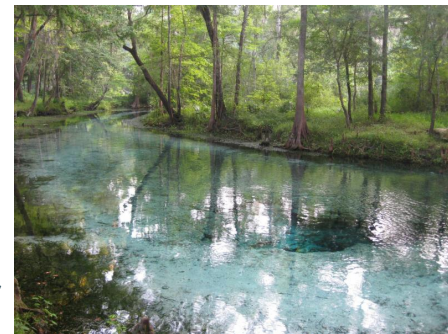
Internships:
Katy Burnett

and turn right (a 90° turn). Do not take the very sharp right at Suburban Animal that is right before the right turn onto SW 38th St. Follow the above directions.

Natural Resources Committee Meeting

By Julia Reiskind

From the committee's perspective there were two good outcomes of the November general election. Locally, the Wild Spaces Public Places half-cent sales tax passed easily; funds generated from this tax will be used to purchase land for conservation and for improvements to county public parks.



While the local League did not formally endorse this initiative, it was found recently that a similar initiative, passed in 2008, was supported by the League. Amendment 1 to the state constitution was crafted by a consortium of public utilities corporations and, if passed, would have prevented third party providers of solar energy. The public saw through the tricky language and voted it down. Wes Wheeler will have a detailed report in the next Voter on our League's participation in the state League's solar co-op program.

At the committee's November meeting, Chris Bird and Gus Olmos of the county Environmental Protection Department (EDP) presented the updated Stormwater Management Plan. Commissioner Mike Byerly was present and led the discussion. Currently the state deals with impaired, i.e., polluted, stormwater after the fact. In other words, if water is polluted, it by law must be cleaned, costing the taxpayer more than if had been protected initially. Over time stormwater quantities have increased due to growth, i.e., removal of natural absorbents.

In 2000, county residents overwhelmingly supported an amendment to the County Charter requiring improved standards for air and water quality. The local League approved of this amendment. However, the county has to date never acted on establishing regulations in accordance with citizen wishes, even though it has the legal authority to do so.

With growth continuing at a spiraling rate, it is time that the stormwater management plan is updated with more stringent regulations regarding water quality. The EPD is presently working on a plan, and a cost analysis, to establish reasonable requirements that hold developers accountable to control upstream pollution. The county's goal is to establish a baseline, which at a minimum must be met by it and the nine municipalities. The mantra is, or should be, we need to do something now to save future clean up costs.

But there is push back from the Chamber of Commerce, developers, real estate people, and the nine municipalities and their staff. And there are always those questions: how much should developers pay and how much should local governments (i.e., taxpayers) pay? And in all of this the public's interests are not well represented, i.e., the

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/>

public needs to be involved because in the end it is the public which pays through increased taxes. The bottom line is that water knows no boundaries. We are all in this together.

The committee discussed our approach. We all agreed that we would like Board approval to support the county's initiative to implement the tenets of the 2000 Charter Amendment. It was decided that our approach would be that good quality water (and air) are a policy, as set by the 2000 referendum, and that both the county and the municipalities should be in line regarding compliance with a set of uniform standards.

A workshop will be held in December to address developer concerns. This will be followed by public hearings in January with a potential vote by the County Commission in February.

The next meeting of the committee will be Wednesday, December 7 at 5:30 pm in the CIED building.

Education Team Report

By Jean Robinson

The Education Team met on October 25th at the SFC downtown campus. Our speaker was Shannon Ritter, Career and Technical Education Program Specialist from the Alachua County School Board. She described the various career academies and magnet programs at the high schools in Alachua County. The diversity of programs is amazing. There are programs that lead to good paying careers and that do not require a baccalaureate degree. This led us to our November's speaker, Tom Mason, Advisement Specialist of Construction and Technical Programs at Santa Fe College. We discussed the options for high school students at Santa Fe. Students do have many options for their future.

The next Education Team meeting will be on Tuesday, January 26th at 11:30 am. at the Santa Fe College downtown campus.



Wrap-up on the Election with The Prime Time Speakers

By Barbara Glass

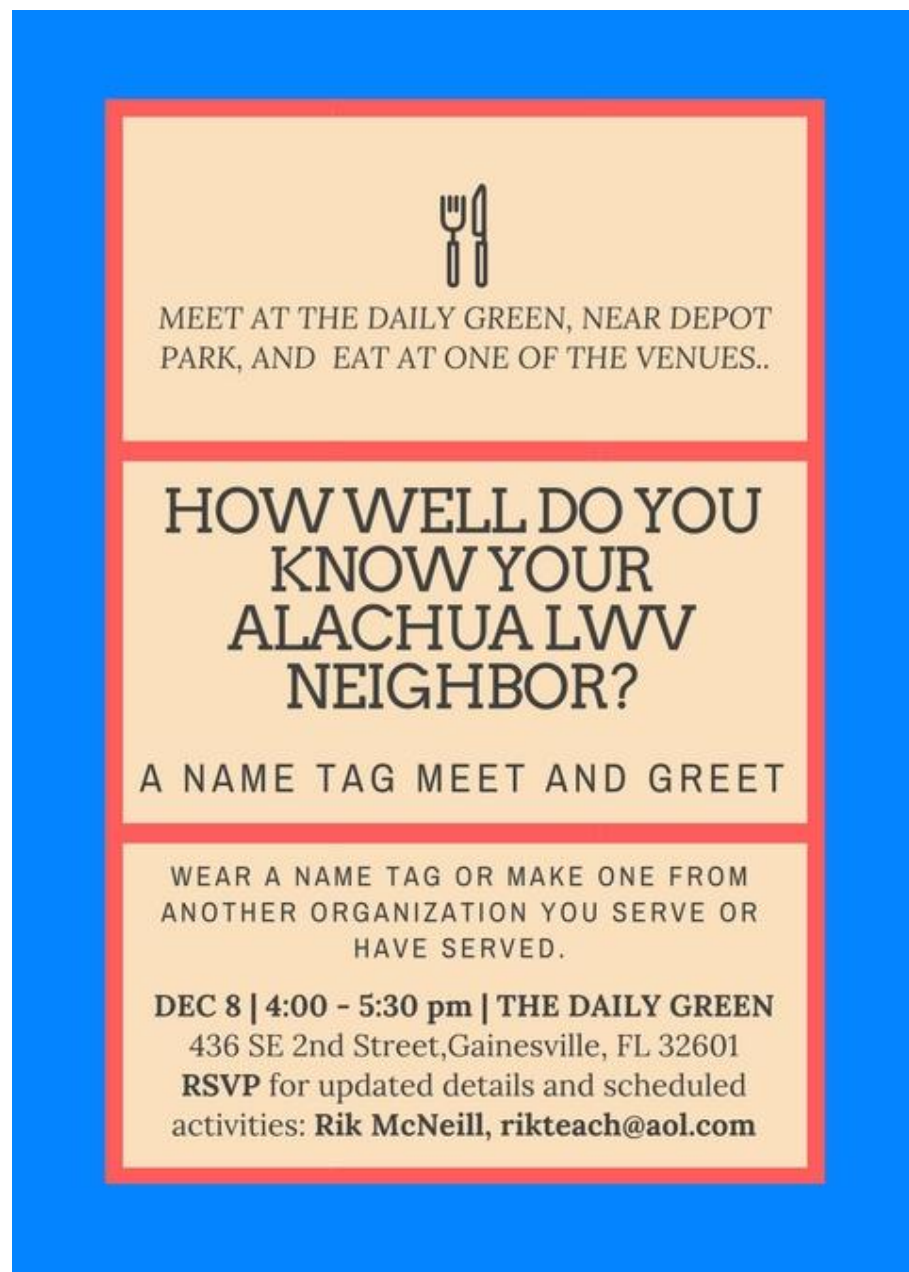
If you would like to 'tie up' loose ends following the election, why not come out to hear Donna Waller, Professor Emerita, Santa Fe College, at the Senior Center (5701 NW 34th) at 2:30 pm, Thursday, December 8th? Her insights and overview may answer some lingering questions.


Local Issues Committee Meeting

By Sue Hatch

The Local Issues Committee will meet on Thursday, December 8th at 4-6 p.m. We continue our conversation on current significant issues affecting Gainesville and Alachua County. The meeting will be in the CIED Building, Santa Fe College Downtown.

Meet and Greet





MEET AT THE DAILY GREEN, NEAR DEPOT PARK, AND EAT AT ONE OF THE VENUES..

**HOW WELL DO YOU
KNOW YOUR
ALACHUA LWV
NEIGHBOR?**

A NAME TAG MEET AND GREET

WEAR A NAME TAG OR MAKE ONE FROM ANOTHER ORGANIZATION YOU SERVE OR HAVE SERVED.

DEC 8 | 4:00 - 5:30 pm | THE DAILY GREEN
436 SE 2nd Street, Gainesville, FL 32601
RSVP for updated details and scheduled activities: **Rik McNeill, rikteach@aol.com**

We will meet December 8 at the Daily Green restaurant. If you haven't seen Depot Park, we can walk over there to view it.

Seeking Nominations for: Elizabeth Cady Stanton/Ida B. Wells Awards

By Victoria Condor-Williams

Gainesville Commission on the Status of Women

The Gainesville Commission of the Status of Women, Education Committee is seeking nominations for its annual Elizabeth Cady Stanton/Ida B. Wells awards.

The awards are designed to recognize women's contribution for women's and/or civil rights which best exemplify the values and accomplishments of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Ida B. Wells. The honorees will be recognized during Women's History Month on March.

[Please visit the website for nomination forms.](#)

We ask that all nominations be sent to: vcondor@hotmail.com. If you have questions, please feel free to contact me at 352-378-9787.