

MESSAGE FROM THE STATE PRESIDENT

# Building our League, Preparing for 2010

by Deirdre Macnab

**BREAKING NEWS:** I'm pleased to announce that the League reached agreement with the Florida Secretary of State ensuring that the League and other third party groups will be able to conduct voter registration drives without fear of prohibitive fines and penalties. This was following two lawsuits that the League engaged in to sue the Secretary of State. The first suit found the voter registration laws unconstitutional. The second suit was filed to enjoin enforcement of the Florida voter registration law because of the possibility that its strict deadlines and fines would chill voter registration efforts and dampen voter turnout. **This is a victory for voters and third party groups across the state of Florida.** I want to thank and recognize Marilyn Wills and Dianne Wheatley Giliotti, our two past presidents for their persistence and hard work in securing this victory for Florida voters.

That noted, I want to state that it is a privilege to serve as president of the growing Florida League. Please pardon me as I toot the horn of our fantastic state board for the accomplishments of their first three months, which includes a new state website ( www.TheFloridaVoter.org), this new VOTER format, a new League (Member at Large) in Sanibel Island, and significant membership growth across the state. We are benefitting from increased communication including monthly Conference calls with your Local League Presidents, and expanded use of email for action alerts and news (If you're not getting them send an email NOW to your membership chair).

We are also heavily involved in the launch of a corporate underwriting effort and have our heads together regarding collaboration with Local Leagues to expand our voter education to increase our impact in 2010.

If it sounds like we are in high gear, we are: 2010 will be a pivotal time for our state. From the Governor's race, US Senate race, to complex ballot amendments like Fair Districts which are a potential game changer for the state,

see **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**, continued on page 8



# THE FLORIDA VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF FLORIDA

www.TheFloridaVoter.org

Volume 57, Issue 2, Fall 2009

## Florida is a Troubled State but Where There is Crisis There is Opportunity

by John C. Hall, Executive Director, Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy

There is a cure for Florida's troubled economy and the state's failure to meet the needs of its residents and businesses. It's called TAX REFORM. Like other states, Florida has been hurt by the worst national recession in memory. Across the nation, state tax revenue is plummeting to unprecedented levels.

But Florida has some serious problems of its own that make matters worse. One is that population growth that historically supported much of Florida's economic gains and stability has significantly declined and may not return to past levels.

Second, Florida's tax structure is outdated, inadequate, and unfair. The wealthy pay a smaller portion of their income on taxes than those in the lower and middle income groups. There are tax loopholes, exemptions and exclusions that must be examined and repealed.

Finally, the state has failed to invest enough in the right priorities. For instance, Florida spends a smaller share of its state budget on elementary, secondary and higher education than most states, and spends a greater portion on prisons and corrections than all but two states.

It should not go unnoticed that without the stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Restoration Act, the inadequacy of funding in the state budget passed in the

last legislative session would have been even worse. Florida state government spends less per person than 48 other states. This is not to say that a higher level of spending in state government is necessarily a good thing, but the need to do more is evident considering that:

- Florida's high school graduation rate is ranked 45th in the nation - and thousands who do graduate have been turned away by the state's colleges and universities for lack of space;
- A national nonprofit organization recently ranked Florida's health system 45th in the country; and
- Tens of thousands of Florida residents — many of them elderly and disabled, people with substance abuse and mental health challenges — are on "waitlists" for needed healthcare and services, due to insufficient funding.

The 2009 legislative session did adopt some revenue increases, but they fell short of the modernization of the tax structure that is needed for Florida's economy to turn around. It is critical to get these revisions done before the stimulus dollars run out and the state sinks further behind in its ability to meet the public's needs. Changes must move our economy from one primarily fueled by

see **FLORIDA TROUBLED**, continued on page 8

Florida spends less per person than 48 other states.



Valerie Christian and Chrissy Barton at Orange County Hot Topics Luncheon

### Save The Date:

**You are Invited To a VERY Special Legislative Seminar**

**Monday, March 22 — Wednesday, March 24, 2010**

Join us for a the 2010 Legislative Seminar in Tallahassee, as we celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the LWV and women 's suffrage with

**Cocktails On Top of the Capital!**

**A Proclamation for the League from Governor Crist and the Cabinet!  
Meet with Legislators and Make OUR Voice Heard!**

Plan NOW and watch for more exciting news and updates!

# Taking the Pulse on Health Care Reform

by Ann Campbell

Do YOU know where the League stands on the critical issue of health care reform and what our positions are?

Will you, as an individual member of the League of Women Voters, step up in the coming weeks and help to steer Congress in the direction of real health care reform? For a two-minute refresher course to bring you up to speed, please read on.

Local Leagues throughout the U.S. participated in a study of the financing and delivery of health care in America from 1990 to 1993. After consensus was achieved, a LWVUS Health Care position was adopted and announced by the national board in April, 1993. Action in support of the position undertaken since then is well outlined in the LWVUS publication, "Impact on Issues – a Guide to Public Policy Positions" at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

Now, sixteen years later the need for reform of the United States health care system is finally a priority issue – some call it a "crisis." The Obama Administration is insisting that health care reform take place this year and Congress has been given a mandate to take action. Special interest groups are pelting the American people with opposing views on every aspect of the proposed plans coming out of House and Senate committees, especially now that the plans have been narrowed down to three or four. With the arrival of the August recess, our congressmen will have time to seek input from their constituents on important parts of the House's America's Affordable Health Choices Act, HR 3200, (supported by LWVUS in a July 16 letter from President Mary Wilson to Members of the House of Representatives) as well as bills coming out of Senate committees.

League members would probably like to see where any proposed legislation corresponds to the goals that we

established in the early 90s. As we get the details of the plans that are rising to the top of the national discussion, use these questions to determine how they meet the needs identified by the LWVUS:

*Is there access to a basic level of care for every U.S. resident that includes:*

- Disease prevention?
- Health promotion and education, including sex education?
- Primary care including prenatal and reproductive health?
- Acute care/Catastrophic care?
- Long-term care?
- Mental health care including access to substance abuse programs?

*Does the plan provide for administration of the U.S. health care system either by a combination of the private and public sectors or by a combination of federal, state and/or regional government agencies?*

*Does the plan provide for tax increases to finance a basic level of health care for all U.S. residents balanced by effective cost control strategies?*

*Does the plan provide for more equitable distribution of services?*

*Does the plan allow for allocation of limited resources based on the following criteria considered together:*

- Urgency of the medical condition?
- Life expectancy of the patient?
- Expected outcome of the treatment?

Perfection being the enemy of the good, League is not advocating for a single payer plan at this time...



- Cost of the procedure?
- Duration of care?
- Quality of life of the patient after treatment?
- Wishes of the patient and family?

The 1993 LWVUS position statement reads, "The League favors a national health insurance plan financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums."

However, an "employer-based system of health care that provides universal access is acceptable" while the U.S. moves toward a national plan. Perfection being the enemy of the good, League is not advocating for a single payer plan at this time (because the Obama Administration is not supporting it nor is Congress considering it) but LWVUS is lobbying for a strong public option to be included in health reform legislation.

According to President Wilson, "All Americans must have health care coverage, including the choice of a quality, affordable insurance plan. It is universal coverage that will determine the humanity of our system."

*Ann Campbell is the Off-board Resource for Health Care for LWV and is currently the Social Policy Chair for LWV/Collier County. She lives in Naples with her husband, Charlie.*

...but LWVUS is lobbying for a strong public option to be included in health reform legislation.

2

## SAVE THE DATE: Sandhill Cranes on the Prairie Take time to enjoy the environment that you work so hard to protect. Weekend of Jan. 30-31, Gainesville, FL

Winter in Gainesville attracts 1,000 to 2,000 sandhill cranes, which roost at night in the waters of Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park. During the winter of 2008-2009, nearly 5,000 cranes descended upon Gainesville, due to ideal water depth in Paynes Prairie. These beautiful birds have a unique trumpet-like call, which can be heard from over a mile away, and they are a joy to watch fly, land, and dance. Stay tuned for more details.



## The Census is Coming

# “Ten Minutes Every Ten Years”

by Margaret Wolter, Director, LWVFL & Broward County LWV

Are you (and your community) ready to take THE COUNT? The goal of the 2010 Census is to count all residents living in the United States on April 1, 2010. We should all take time NOW to become informed and involved in the 2010 Census. Workers are being recruited, flyers are being designed, the word needs to get out. Perhaps your Local League can help with the effort.

The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years and is one of the largest operations the federal government undertakes. By 2010, there will be an estimated 310 million people residing in the United States. Nearly 3.8 million people will apply for jobs as Census workers and about 1.4 million employees will be hired.

Census forms will be mailed to every household in March 2010. Actual Census Day is April 1, 2010, however, residents should fill out their census form wherever they are on the day they receive it, regardless of where they live at other times of the year. This is an important point to note in Florida where many of our residents divide their time between two homes.

It should only take ten minutes to complete the form, which asks for name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship and whether the householder owns or rents their home. Questions about how we live as a nation — our diversity, education, housing, jobs and more — are now covered in the American Community Survey, which is conducted every year and has replaced the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

## Census NOT based on citizenship

No documents? No problem! It is critical that we reassure our immigrants that it is safe to complete the question-

naire. The U.S. Census Bureau does not ask about the legal status of respondents in any of its surveys and census programs. Census forms are completely confidential for 72 years and cannot be shared with anyone, including welfare and immigration agencies.

An undercounting of just 1,000 residents equates to a loss in funding of \$1.3 million or more!

## Important 2010 CENSUS Dates

Feb-Mar 2010: Census Questionnaires are Mailed

**Apr 1, 2010: Census Day**

Apr-July 2010: Census Takers Visit Households That Did Not Return a Questionnaire by Mail

Dec 31, 2010: Census Bureau Provides Final Report to the President for Apportionment

March 2011: Census Bureau Completes Delivery of Redistricting Data to States

No court of law, not even the President of the United States, can access individual responses. Census workers are highly motivated to protect respondents' answers, as they are subject to a \$250,000 fine and/or a five-year prison term for disclosing any information that could identify a respondent or household.

## What is the purpose?

Federal and state governments use census data to allocate billions of dollars in funding for local community programs, including education, public safety, housing and community development, libraries, transportation, roads and bridges, job training, health care and other human services. Funds flow to communities that conduct the most complete and accurate count. The loss in funding for just one uncounted person was estimated at \$1,300 by the 2000 Census Monitoring board. An undercounting of just 1,000 residents equates to of \$1.3 million or more!

Community organizations use the census data to develop social service programs, community action projects, senior lunch programs and child care centers. Businesses use the data to identify where to locate factories, shopping centers and other offices — activities that can ultimately lead to new jobs.

And, of course, our population determines our representation, including which states gain or lose representation in Congress, and

our representation in the legislatures. Undercounting results in under-representation.

*Margaret is a past President of the Broward County League. In addition she serves as a Board Member for Kids Voting Broward and is a representative to Broward's Fair Campaign Practices Committee.*

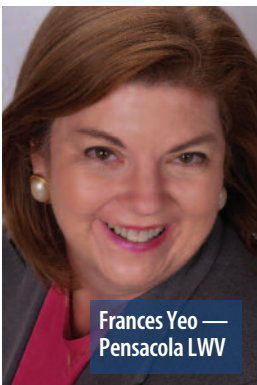
## Tidbits from Tallahassee

by Peg McGarity, LWVFL Executive Director

If you've called the League of Women Voters of Florida State Office recently, you may have heard a new voice answering your call. On July 17th Candace Weaver, our part-time Office Assistant, embarked upon a leave of absence to study at the Kings College London for the fall term. In her absence her duties have been undertaken by Felisha Reyes. Felisha is currently working toward a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice at FSU. Felisha brings to our part-time position excellent experience as an office administrator with extensive knowledge in Microsoft Office programs that has allowed her to take right over in performance of the duties of her position. Next time you call the office, please extend a warm welcome to her.

The mission of the League of Women Voters of Florida State Office is to provide prompt and courteous service to local Leagues, LWVFL Board of Directors, Off-Board State Chairs, citizens, businesses and other organizations. The office is the administrative center of the Florida State League, serves as liaison to the LWVUS, and with activities in the state capital. **State Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. We can be reached at 850-224-2545 or by e-mail at lwvfl1@comcast.net.**

Please contact the office with any suggestions on how we may better serve you.



Frances Yeo — Pensacola LWV



Orange Hot Topics, Ybeth Bruzual (CFN13 anchor and Hot Topics moderator, LWVOC Co-President Ann Hellmuth, Orange County School Board member Joie Cadle, LWVOC Board Member Andrea Kobrin, LWVOC Co-President Charley Williams

## Need your League photos!

To see your League featured in our upcoming editions, please forward high resolution photos to

[newslettereditor@pepperheid.com](mailto:newslettereditor@pepperheid.com)

Thanks for including information for a caption.

## The 2009 Legislative Session

# Not much to show for the effort!

by Marilyn Wills, LWVF Director

During the 2009 session, the LWVF focused on bills relating to government, education, and health. A good deal of legislators' time had to be devoted to finding the funds to balance the state budget, and as a result many of the bills relating to education and health never even made it out of committee.

## Defeating a bad elections bill

The Secretary of State, early in the session, presented his priorities; when an elections bill finally was produced in the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee, *it did not address any of the Secretary's issues, but, instead, contained many provisions that would make it more difficult to register voters and increase the use of provisional ballots.* There were other provisions that would make it more difficult for citizens to get amendments on the ballot. The League, along with forty-one other organizations, led a successful effort to defeat the legislation, one of the worst anti-voter bills we've seen in decades.

## Campaign Financing Act

In 1998, the League worked with Common Cause to get the Florida Election Campaign Financing Act on the ballot; the amendment passed and public financing became available for the races for governor and cabinet offices. During the 2009 session, the legislature passed a joint resolution that would repeal this amendment; the amendment to repeal will be on the 2010 ballot.

## Referendum issues and local government influence

Another bill that passed both Houses and was sent to the Governor will prohibit the use of public funds by a local government to take a position on any issue that is subject to a vote by electors. Educational materials are exempt from the restriction, and local government officials are free to take a position on such issues.

## Schools: So much to do, so little money

During the past two sessions, some legislators have attempted to reduce the influence of FCAT scores on the grading of schools and requirements for graduation. However, the lack of adequate funding for Florida schools became the focus of the 2009 session. In order to qualify for federal stimulus funds, the Governor had to ask for a waiver from the federal government; Florida had not maintained state funding levels at 2006 levels and did not qualify for the funds. In May, the state received the waiver and the legislature relied on those funds to avoid deeper cuts into the education budget. According to LWVF lobbyist Heather Walker, the amount spent on public education in 2009-2010 is less than the amount spent in any school year since 2002-2003.

## Additional Disappointments

In addition, sprawl protections were decimated by the passage of new bills that cut back significantly on the ability of local government and citizen to impact government decisions regarding massive construction projects and water use.

While several bills requiring expansion of civics education were filed, they never made it out of committee.

A bill to abolish the Medicaid Low-Income Pool Council and a bill to redefine the term "health facility" to allow additional types of health facilities to receive assistance from a health facility authority are the only bills that were passed by both chambers. On a positive note, a bill that will raise the cigarette tax by \$1.00 and levy the tax on smokeless tobacco products was passed by both the Senate and the House.

*Marilynn Wills is currently a director of the Florida League of Women Voters and serves as Action Chair. She is president of the Tallahassee League and is the immediate past president of the League of Women Voters of Florida. She taught mathematics at Leon High School for 28 years before retiring in 2000.*

# BE SAFE — GET THOSE VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS IN WITHIN 10 CALENDAR DAYS

## 90-Year Tradition/Modern Rules

by Chris Straton, Voter Service Chair & Second VP

One of the first acts of the League of Women Voters was to register the newly enfranchised women to vote. For almost 90 years, this has been a major effort of the League, with our focus being on all eligible voters, regardless of gender.

Today in Florida, that job is still important but Florida's Legislature has imposed rules that make it important that we abide by the rules. The safest thing for every League to do when they register voters is DELIVER THE COMPLETED VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS TO THE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS WITHIN 10 CALENDAR DAYS OF WHEN THE FORM IS SIGNED. FAILURE WILL RESULT IN FINES.

Any League member, who solicits or collects voter registration forms from persons other than their immediate family (parents, spouse or children), is subject to the third party voter registration rules. Failure to follow the rules can result in a fine. INDIVIDUALS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO FILE WITH THE STATE OF FLORIDA TO ENGAGE IN VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVES. HOWEVER, fines will be reduced by 75% if the applicant has filed with the state.

Any League member, who solicits or collects voter registration forms from persons other than their immediate family (parents, spouse or children), is subject to the third party voter registration rules.

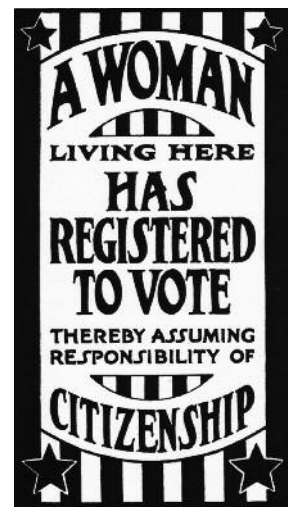
FINES: A fine in the amount of \$50 for each application received more than 10 days after the applicant delivered the completed voter registration application to the third-party voter registration organization. The fine is \$100 per application if delivered after book closing and \$500 per application if not delivered at all. If the third-party registration organization or person, entity, or agency acting on its behalf acted willfully and submits after 10 days the fine is \$250, \$500 if filed after book closing and \$1000 if never submitted.

The aggregate fine, which may be assessed against a third-party voter registration organization, including affiliate organizations, for violations committed in a calendar year, shall be \$1,000. The fines provided in this subsection shall be reduced by three-fourths in

cases in which the third-party voter registration organization has complied with registering with the State of Florida.

FILING: Any third-party voter registration organization, which files with the State of Florida, is required to name an agent, list the name of those individuals who are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the organization, including the names of board of directors and file quarterly reports. The quarterly reports should include the date and location of any organized voter registration drives.

*Chris Straton is Second Vice President of League of Women Voters of Florida and lives in Naples, FL.*



*This poster was placed in windows by the proud families of women who first registered to vote in the United States of America in 1921. The Palm Beach League of Women Voters currently sells 8x10" framed reproductions, and puts that money to work registering and educating voters. To order contact Natahalie Schnir, 561-495-9728.*

# THANK YOU!

Your tax-deductible contribution to the **Education Fund** supports our non-partisan education activities, including our voter services programs, our conferences, our publications and our assistance to local Leagues.

Your contribution to the **Lobby Fund** supports engaging a professional to represent and advocate league program priorities to the Florida Legislature and Administration. The strength of our voice at the Capitol depends upon our finances.

**We've heard your voices as you call for effective, open and accountable government.**

**Your contributions help bring the meaningful changes that we all know are critical to Florida's future.**

## Give Today!

Donations can be made to either fund by credit card at our secure website: [www.lwwfla.org](http://www.lwwfla.org) or submitted by mail to **540 Beverly Court Tallahassee, FL 32301**

**Your contributions help ensure that Florida's voters are armed with reason, thoughtfulness and knowledgeable perspectives as they make the important decisions that shape Florida's future.**



## Education Fund Donors

March 27- August 12, 2009

Estelle Aden	Ira Daitzman	David S. Hays	Doris Lindsay	Marjorie Coons Sagman
Anna Urban Allen	Mary Davison	Rosemary Hays-Thomas	LWV Tallahassee	Virginia Saltzman
Mary Wyatt Allen	Gloria Dawson	Marjorie Head	LWV Jacksonville	Abraham Savitzky
Stasia Arcarese	Norma Neilen Dayton	Barbara Herbstman	LWV Space Coast	Ruth & David Schechter
David Aronson	Annette Delisle	Sarah E. Houck	Deirdre Macnab	Nancy Rogers Sever
Lois Austin	Sarah Bingham Dickinson	Virginia Howie	Charles And Carole Martin	Sulochana Sherman
Ruth Babski	Martha & Herb Donald	G. Hunt	Paula & Tom Mckay	State Farm Mutual Auto.
Marilyn Badessa	Mary F Doughty	Claudia Isom	Judith E. Meissner	Insurance Company
Charles H Bartlett	Maureen Dowd	Sharry F. Israel	Georgianna Miles	Marie C. Shively
Robert A. Batting	Antoinette Emch	Mary W. Jacobs	Laura Movachine	Frances Skovlund
Patricia A. Bays	Annette Evans	Jill Jefferies	Dorothy R Muise	Jean Slocum
June Beford	Gene Feicht	Doris Jordan	Robin Murphy	Pauline Sonenshine
Helen Berk	Raymond Fields	Carolyn Johnson	Ruth Nachar	Elizabeth Sugalski
Claudia A Binter	Judy Freeman	Rena Kameron	Carmen I Nelson	Christine D. Straton
Charlotte Blitt	Carol Fuechsel	Rosella B. Kelley	Robert M. Nied	Marilyn S. Stobie
Joan Borders	Ruth A. Fugmann	Mary Kelsh	M.O. Pasches	Eugenie Suter
Wanda Boyce	Louise Geffner	Marion Kenton	Kit Pepper	Wilma R. Vogt
Janet W. Bradley	P.A. Gilberg	Viola M. Keskinen	Ellen Platt	Evelyn Walborsky
Kolman W. Brand	Anne D. Gorenstein	Kathy & Jerry Kidder	Jane Plitt	Vera Walker
Carole Broome	Violet Goldman Trustee	Elizabeth King	Janet Potter	Joan West-Hirsch
Pamela C. Brown	Esther Goldstein	Frances S. Kliene	Gloria Priest	Jodee Wilfong
Queen Bruton	Priscilla Griffith	Judith Auritt Klein	Jean Prokopow	Nelson G. Williams
Lee Burns	Marilyn Lowe Hairston	Carolyn Kolb	Colleen Rand	Elinor Williams
Ann R. Campbell	Frankee Hallinger	Jeanette Kopelman	Dick And Pat Richardson	Carol Wisler
Mary Ann Clark	Beverly Hammer	Joseph C. Kraus	Dr. & Mrs. M. Rosenfeld	Lucy Wistreich
Helen M Collings	Rosemarie Hammond	Fay Law	Sandra J. Ryan	Norma Wood
Sandra Colyer	Katherine Harris-Inman	Arthur Levin		
Paula Creed	Jeanette Hartzell			



## Lobby Fund Donors

March 27- August 12, 2009

Susan Landis Arkin	Victoria Dinardo	Mimi Jones	Lennon Moore	Gerda Shay
Frances Aronovitz	Simone Eiseman	Ruth Kagel	Lynda Mutch	Kathleen Slebodnik
Gwen Azama-Edwards	Marian Elliot	Mary Kelsh	Gwen Murphree	Sulochana G Sherman
Lindsay Ball	Pearl M. Elrod	Kathy Kidder	Robin H. Murphy	Ann Smith
Mae-Louise Baker	Caroline Emmons-Schramm	Andrea Kobrin	Linda Olbrych	Cynthia Smith
Rosalie Bandyopadhyay	Vivan Faircloth	Shirley Knox	Deanye Overman	Ellen Smith
Barbara Barry	Lloyd & Patricia Fish	Lucille Lane	Kit Pepper	D. K. Singer
Barbara Bashford	Shirley Foss	Fay Law	Beatrice C. Perkins	Nancy Soderberg
Betty-Jean Batchelder	Judy Freeman	Santiago Leon	Barbara Perkins	Patricia Southward
Stanley Berg	Glorida Gay	Robert Levinson	Mary Barrett Phelan	Mark & Barbara Stampfl
Annie Betancourt	Dianne Wheatley Giliotti	Michelle Levy	Gloria Priest	Betty Anne Staton
Mary Berglund	Patricia L. Gill	Robert M. Levy & Associates	Christina Purinton	Mary Stauffer
Mary Blackwell	June Girard	Terry Lianzi	Peggy Ramsey	Christine D Straton
Phoebe Bowers	Harvey Goldstein	Doris P Lindsay	Kenneth H Rand	Patricia Susa
Queen Bruton	Pamela Goodman	Jean M. Lynn	Richard & Helen Redfern	Eugenie Suter
Laurette Bryan	Elayne Goodman	LWV Bay Co	Cecil Rice	Corie Tanenholz
Jean Burgdorff	Clara Anne Graham	LWV Palm Beach	Pat & Dick Richardson	Kathe Thompson
A. L. Burns	Nancy Granda	LWV Pensacola	Bev & Bernie Rosenthal	Judith Thompson
Janna Campbell	Susan Harris	LWV Tallahassee	Katherine Ross	Jean W Tweed
Betty Castor	Rosemary Hay-Thomas	LWV Space Coast	Katie Ross	Charlene Walker
John Chamberlain	M. M. Headdy	Margaret Macleod	Carol Roth	Vera W Walker
Marjorie Chapin	Jane Hiers	Deirdre Macnab	Eileen Rowe	Marilyn Weaver
Mary Ann Clark	Ann Hellmuth	Karen & James Maguire	Janice Rubino	Maxine Weinberg
Joanne Coen	Beverly Hill	Jean Martin	Mary Russell	Dorothy Weiss
Bruce & Heather Cohen	Jane Holland	Janet R Mcalliley	Nancy Ryan	Karen S. Willis
Mildred Cook	Sandra Horikami	Josephine Mercado	Virginia E. Saltzman	Elinor Williams
Laura & Barnett Cook	Jane Horton	Susan Metzger	Ruth & David Schechter	Helen Williams
Elizabeth Costa	Virginia Howie	Corinne Miller	Lynda Van Scoyoc	Marilynn F. Willis
Victor Crist	Carol Hurd	Mary Ola Miller	Deana Schott	Theodore W Winsberg
Marilyn Daly	Barbara Jagrowski	Nancy Vaughan Miller	Martha Shannon	Barbara A. Zdravecky

## APPROVED LWVF PROGRAM 2009 - 2011:

# What we're fighting for!

These are the approved action items, as recommended by the LWVF Board and approved by at the May 2009 State Convention.

### GOVERNMENT IN FLORIDA

Promote an open government that is responsive to the people of the state

**Florida Constitution:** Support basic law that assures a government responsive and accountable to the people of the state. Issues for action:

- Support a citizen statutory initiative process
- Support an independent reapportionment process (Fair Districts)
- Promote amendment language that is understandable at the fifth grade reading level

**Finance and Taxation:** Support a state fiscal structure that is equitable in its distribution of the tax responsibility and responsive to public needs. Issues for action:

- Promote equitable tax policy reform that provides adequate funding for state services
- Support repeal of tax exemptions that do not fulfill a public purpose

**Election Law:** Support measures to protect, extend and encourage the use of the franchise and to advocate fair methods of financing political campaigns. Issues for action:

- Promote election audits which are based on a statistically significant sample size and which are completed prior to certification of results.
- Support expansion of early voting and greater flexibility in the selection of voting sites.

### EDUCATION IN FLORIDA

Support for a free public school system for Florida with high standards for student achievement and with equality of educational opportunity for all that is financed adequately by the state through an equitable funding formula. Issue for action:

- Support review of funding sources to provide adequate, equitable and quality education

### JUSTICE IN FLORIDA

Support a judicial system that provides a unified court structure, improved provisions for judicial selection and merit retention and equal access to legal services. Support a criminal justice system that emphasizes rehabilitation and alternatives to incarceration. Issue for action:

- Promote reform of the juvenile justice system

### SOCIAL POLICY IN FLORIDA

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice, and the health and safety of all Americans. Issues for action:

- Promote the creation of jobs that provide a living wage in industries that sustain an acceptable quality of life in Florida.
- Support equal pay for equal work

### FINANCING & DELIVERY OF HEALTHCARE

Support measures to implement Florida health care in a manner consistent with the LWVUS position on health care reform. Issue for Action: Promote a health care system that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all Florida residents and controls health care costs

### SUSTAINABILITY

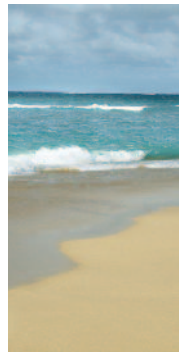
Support governmental action that results in sustainability: Meeting the needs of the present without endangering the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Environment, society and the economy must be integrated and balanced to achieve a sustainable Florida. Issue for action:

- Support public transportation



### NATURAL RESOURCES IN FLORIDA

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest by recognizing the interrelationship of air quality, energy, land use, waste management and water resources.



**Land Use:** Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government. Issue for action:

- Promote preservation of Florida's natural lands

**Energy:** Support state legislation for energy conservation and greater use of renewable sources such as solar energy. Issue for action:

- Support expansion of renewable energy sources
- Promote strengthening state and local energy conservation policies and regulations

**Freshwater Resources:** Support public policies that promote conservation of freshwater and its availability for environmental, public supply, agricultural, industrial and mining uses on a priority basis. Issue for Action:

- Support protection & management of freshwater resources.

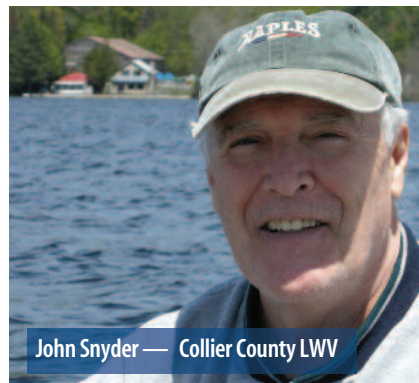
### APPROVED STUDY ITEMS

**SUSTAINABILITY:** In transportation planning, do State and/or local governments fulfill the policies of the LWVUS and the LWVF, and so State and/or local government consider the impact transportation planning has on the environment, on citizen needs, and on land used for transportation needs? Goal of study: To provide positions on which to advocate for comprehensive transportation and impacted land use planning and implementation.

6



Mary Russell — Pinellas County,  
LWVF Off-Board Education Chair



John Snyder — Collier County LWV

## THE VOTER

Editor and Creative Director: Kit Pepper

Please contact me with your newsletter suggestions,  
photos and article ideas!

407-628-5449

NewsletterEditor@pepperheid.com



# Testify!

by Ruth Schechter, Director

To borrow a line from one of my favorite, if dated Broadway musicals – you have to testify!

In the production *Guys and Dolls*, the discussion was about how to get to heaven and was followed by a rousing song, with a commanding message to “testify!”

Now I’m not suggesting LWV Membership chairmen should be recruited for singing ability; but they must know and understand the value of testifying. Everyone I’ve ever quizzed as to why they joined League has begun their response by “(a friend, relative, someone) said she was a member and that I should join.”

Looking at that statement – (it’s not even good testimony, much better can be found under Member Stories on the National website) you can see the power of a personal touch in recruiting new members.

If every one of our members would just invite each of his or her friends to become a League member and testify as to why League is important and how every member can make a difference, we would have marvelous membership growth! But I’ve found we often categorize friends and acquaintances as work friends, church friends, card-playing friends, book club friends, boating friends, AAUW friends, etc. What we have to do is invite each and every one of our friends to become League members because it’s important. Testify!

**Join LWV’s Member get a Member campaign. Find a new member before Dec. 31.**

Go to the National League website and read the stories, you’ll be inspired! This is the best and easiest recruiting tool we have – testify! Tell why you joined League and how much League has to offer its members; then invite everyone you know to become a member. You don’t even have to sing!

*Ruth is currently a director of the LWV and President of the Space Coast LWV. She and her husband live in Satellite Beach.*



# An Unforgettable Encounter with Middle Eastern Women

by Annie Betancourt

Growing up in a Caribbean island I would have never dreamed of having contact with a group of women from the Middle East. When the opportunity to serve as their escort and local expert during their visit to Miami last October, it was a temptation I could not resist.

I met them as part of the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) a U.S. State Department sponsored program designed to develop women in public leadership.

I was immediately attracted to their strength and exotic beauty. The group of eight women was inquisitive and well informed about our form of government. They were open to learn and asked tough questions during the many scheduled visits, with faculty from Middle Eastern Studies at FIU, the Sun Sentinel Editorial Board, Miami-Dade County Commission on the Status of Women and even a political debate at the University of Miami.

Obviously they were carefully selected to participate in the MEPI program because of their accomplishments as women leaders in their countries. They were from Morocco, Algiers, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Lebanon, and held high positions in their government such as Member of Parliament, Head of the Ministry of the Economy, Senior Attaché to the House of Representatives, etc. They were thrilled to witness first hand a presidential election campaign in full swing in the swing state of Florida.

As a former Member of the Florida Legislature, and active with the League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade, I instantly connected with these trailblazers because we shared common experiences in a field primarily dominated by men: politics.

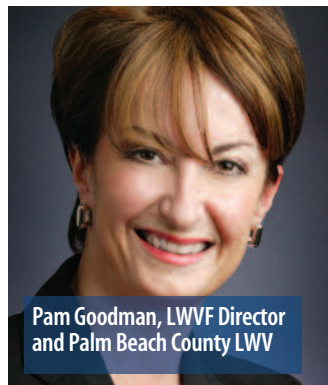
I engaged in conversations in Spanish, English and was able to brush up my French. I just wished we had more time together to share experiences related to our work and the many obstacles that we had to overcome to reach our dreams, increase women participation in the political process and strengthen civil societies. The world has changed and so have I, for a short period I entered the mysterious world of *Shahrazad*, a unique experience I will never forget.

*Annie Betancourt is currently a Director of the Florida League of Women Voters and a former State Legislator. She lives in Coral Gables and enjoys the outdoors.*

They were thrilled to witness first hand a presidential election campaign in full swing in the swing state of Florida.



Mercedes Bermejo — Seminole County LWV Event Planning Chair



Pam Goodman, LWV Director and Palm Beach County LWV



Stuart and Gladys Warshauer — Collier County LWV

**FLORIDA TROUBLED**, continued from page 1

population growth and tourism, to one that promotes and supports more businesses that create jobs with good wages. A greater investment in education, especially in higher education, will support this new foundation.

Here are some ways to make Florida's tax system fairer and more productive:

- **TAX SERVICES:** Reform the sales tax system to reflect that in today's economy people spend more on services — most of which are exempt from taxes — than on goods. Re evaluate all exemptions and exclusions to the sales and use tax. Where there is no reasonable economic value to the broader public, repeal them.
- **TAX INTERNET SALES:** Join the multi-state agreement to simplify sales tax reporting and collection to make it easier to collect sales taxes on purchases made on the internet and from catalogs. This is needed because many major companies do not pay their fair share of sales tax which is revenue the state needs, and it also creates an unfair business advantage for Florida only businesses.
- **ELIMINATE SPORTS SUBSIDIES:** Subsidies to sports teams are already very profitable and can easily afford to exist without support from tax dollars.
- **LEVEL CORPORATE SALES TAX:** Remove loopholes and unwarranted exemptions in the corporate income tax:
- **IMPLEMENT "COMBINED REPORTING":** Prevent multi-state corporations from shifting their profits into subsidiaries to make it look as though they are earning less than they are.
- **REQUIRE LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES AND SUBCHAPTER S CORPORATIONS TO PAY THE CORPORATE INCOME TAX** so that all businesses contribute their fair share for the cost of public services they benefit from.

We can choose to raise the money needed to invest in meeting Florida's needs and do it in a fair and reasonable way.

• **DECOUPLE THE STATE FROM THE FEDERAL "DOMESTIC PRODUCTION DEDUCTION"** so that those large corporations with production activity and jobs in other states get no advantage over Florida-only businesses.

• **ADOPT THE "THROWBACK RULE":** Businesses that produce their wares in Florida with sales nationally but have insufficient presence in those other states and are thereby not subject to their corporate income tax, are left with "nowhere income" which under the "throwback rule" would be apportioned back to Florida for taxation.

If these proposals are adopted, Florida would have more resources and a fairer tax system. *It might even be possible to lower businesses tax rates and still bring in more revenue than the state gets today.* Analysis shows that it may also be possible to lower the sales and use tax rate in the future if sufficient progress is made on broadening the base and eliminating unwarranted subsidies should economic conditions improve.

**The choice is ours**

We face a critical choice. We can stay on our current path and continue to suffer the consequences of poorer education, inadequate health care, and higher costs resulting from the unmet needs of our vulnerable residents. If we fail to meet these needs early, we will pay more later. This would perpetuate a weaker economy, with fewer opportunities for people to improve their standard of living.

Or we can change course. We can choose to raise the money needed to invest in meeting Florida's needs and do it in a fair and reasonable way. By making this choice, we can provide for an excellent educational system, create a better, more effective health care system and meet the needs of our vulnerable residents. This will bring Florida a stronger economy on a new foundation that works better for both businesses and families.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**, continued from page 1

make no mistake: **The League will play a pivotal role in helping an informed electorate cast their votes.** And if that isn't enough, the hopefully only temporary but painful loss of Common Cause, and the cutbacks on the news desk in newspapers across the state only emphasizes the League must be ready to fill the need for voter information.

Our state's future: education, tax reform, open government, preservation of the environment, increase in public transportation, and so many other issues depend on us . . . one of the few and one of the strongest citizen activist groups in the state.

We are busy building our Florida League so we can make an impact on our three main issues: **Passage of Fair Districts, Effective Tax Reform and Protection of Voter Rights!**

**Will your League be ready?**

Only if each of you help. Please can you commit to the following?

1. **Launch of the Member get a Member Campaign:** We are asking every League member to bring a guest to a HOT TOPICS or info forum and invite them to join. Our goal of adding 750 new members with help us to become the fourth largest league in the US, as the fourth largest state should be! Deadline: December 31? Can we count on you?
2. **Help with the Fair Districts Petition drive:** Two more months to go!... Have you signed your TWO petitions? Will you help on this number one issue for the League?

3. **Volunteer!** Ask your local league president how you can help — build up a HOT TOPICS program, put a VOTERS GUIDE together on your local candidates or ballot

*Deirdre Macnab*

**In League,**



*Deirdre Macnab is president of the Florida League of Women Voters and is a former president of the Orange County League of Women Voters. She lives in Winter Park.*



# Spotlight on Florida Leagues

compiled by Adrienne Katz Katz

Adrienne Katz Katz, a LWVOC Board member, lives in Orlando with husband, Bill, a fellow Leaguer. Adrienne is a writer, enjoys League activities, cooks and travels as much as possible.

## Collier County

The LWV of Collier County is officially on hiatus for the summer, but many of our members have remained active! Kathleen Slebodnik and Joyce Fletcher have been speaking to civic groups and holding petition drives for redistricting reform. Jen Marquis is representing our League on the Collier County Healthy Teens Coalition, working to require comprehensive, medically-accurate sex education in our schools. Jen has also been editing a film taken by Deana Bess of the speaker portion of our April General meeting and hopes to post it on YouTube soon. Deana also set up an LWVCC Facebook Page and keeps it current and lively; we have 77 Facebook Fans so far, most of whom are not League members! Ann Campbell and members of her Social Policy Committee attended two county commission meetings in support of a new Senior Resource Center and health clinic. Joyce Fletcher has represented League in "Project Innovation - Economy Building for Collier County," whose goal is to "create a prosperous and sustainable business community in Collier County."

Thanks to Chris Straton's outreach to the Hispanic community, she and Sandy Parker were interviewed by a local Spanish-language magazine. Asia Rial Elsbree translated the article that appeared in the May issue. We received two grants from the Community Foundation of Collier County, helping us to create a VOTER Archive of all the past issues any one could find dating back to 1979, implement Google Search on the website, and fund a Training Workshop for our Board in the Fall.

## Manatee County

Pat Arends, longstanding active League member, will be doing presentations to student government classes this fall.

Our first Board meeting will be October 12, to be followed by Hot Topic presentation and discussion of Amendment 4 and Growth Management (Rosalie Shaffer); November--Healthcare, (Peg Haynes and Mary Mohammed); Holiday Party in December and (probably) Redistricting (Karen Carpenter) in January 2010.



Manatee County League...new Board...from L to R: Marcia Roger (Membership), Lee Levine (Hot Topics Chair), Val Fisher (Secy/Treas),

Susan Schoenwald (Membership), Nancy Horne (Co-Prez), Ilse Moon (Editor of The Voter), Hannah Honeyman (Co- Prez), Rosalie Shaffer (Environment) and Jo Williams (VP)

## Martin County

The LWV of Martin County has attracted six new members in the past six months. Our monthly programs and speakers were of great interest to them and a major reason why they joined. Our programs included a County Commissioner, Sen. Nelson's District Office Manager, the County Administrator and the Sheriff's Dept. Victim's Advocate, among others. We are preparing for our public Candidates' Forum which we conduct prior to each General Election.

## Orange County

LWVOC's Fran Pignone made headlines in June and July as a member of a blue-ribbon panel on the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority. Pignone was appointed to the Citizen's Advisory Committee at the urging of the League, which challenged County Mayor Rich Crotty to put a truly independent voice on the panel investigating the scandal-ridden expressway authority. The authority was branded corrupt in a February grand jury report and accused of shaking down vendors for election contributions.



Co-president Anne Geiger has been appointed to the Orange County school district's Bi-Racial Committee, an advisory group that helps monitor the desegregation order under which the county still operates. Three new members were elected to the LWVOC Board - Nancy Rudner Lugo, Tezlyn Figaro-Turner and Leah Shepherd.

The June Hot Topics luncheon at which Florida Secretary of State Kurt S. Browning spoke on Florida Election Trends attracted a large crowd. Future Hot Topics range from a look at the tough road ahead for Orange Schools in August, the state of newspapers with Orlando Sentinel Editor Charlotte Hall in September and a panel on health care in October. Meanwhile, members have been diligently collecting signatures on Fair Districts petitions.



## Sarasota County

Sarasota County LWV members volunteered to hand-address notes to 300 people from our community who have had a history of supporting the League. We invited them to attend our Hot Topics or Food for Thought programs and/or become involved with our League committees and activities.

## Volusia County

We finished up the year in June with an exciting General Meeting featuring the Volusia County Council Vice Chair, Joie Alexander. Ms. Alexander spoke to us about how the County Government works with the State and the Municipal Governments.

In July our Board had an invigorating Retreat to plan our upcoming year--and it appears to be coming to fruition slowly. We will be celebrating Women's Equality Day with our local League's 60th Anniversary in September. (Since it is still in the works, we don't want to give it away.) We do have a few municipal elections this fall, so we are beginning our candidate information/questionnaire project to provide candidate information to voters on our Website.

## In Memoriam

### Jeanne Malchon, 1923-2009

#### Former LWVF President

Former Florida Senator Jeanne Malchon, an outspoken advocate for the elderly and environmental causes, died Sunday. She was 86. She was a past president of the Florida League of Women Voters.

Born Jeanne Keller in Newark, N.J., she was trained as a draftsman and worked as a civilian employee for the Army in Hawaii during World War II. She married Richard Malchon in 1946 and the family moved to St. Petersburg in 1952, where Mrs. Malchon became active in the League of Women Voters. In addition to being president of the League of Women Voters of Florida, she served as a lobbyist for the organization.

"She was very focused, and she had an attitude that when she decided that something needed to be done, she didn't quit until she had accomplished it," said her son, Richard H. Malchon Jr., 59.

A communications consultant, Mrs. Malchon was appointed to the Pinellas County Commission in 1975 in the wake of a bribery scandal.

She ran for the state Senate in 1982, where she was a key sponsor for the Florida Clean Indoor Air Act. She was re-elected twice, including the same 1986 race that temporarily derailed the hopes of a young Charlie Crist. Mrs. Malchon stepped down in 1992 after her legislative district was redrawn.

Mrs. Malchon also succeeded in pushing for tougher penalties for driving under the influence and for making employers declare any toxic chemicals used in the workplace. She championed funding for teen runaway shelters and environmental causes.

Mrs. Malchon's political career came to a crossroads in 1992, after her district was redrawn to make it more attractive to minority candidates. Because she supported the redistricting, Mrs. Malchon said it would be hypocritical to run against a minority candidate.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the St. Petersburg Free Clinic or the **St. Petersburg League of Women Voters**.

10



Dena Gross Leavengood — LWV Hillsborough, Community Advocate, Facilitator/Listserve Moderator



LWV Orange County co-president Charley Williams and member Dana Thomas



Graciela Noriega Jacoby — LWV of Orange County

# Three Ways to Give to the League

by Marina Nice, Senior Vice President and Client Advisor with the Private Wealth Management division of SunTrust Bank, and Orange County League member

Third and fourth quarters are the time when many individuals assess their tax situation and determine whether and how much to donate to charitable organizations. Did you know that the League of Women Voters welcomes many types of contributions?

While most of our support comes from membership dues, we also accept other gifts. Cash (by way of a check payable to League of Women Florida Education Fund) is the easiest and fastest way to make a gift to support our work. As you think about upcoming special occasions and the people you know "who have everything," you might consider making a gift to the League in their honor. In this way, you celebrate them and you encourage the work of this important organization.

With the stock market moving north again, you might want to consider making a gift of stock to the League. The deduction for gifts of appreciated stock (and there is some out there!) is based on the value of the stock on the day you make the gift. The mean between the high and low trading prices on the date of gift will be the amount the IRS allows to be deducted. We have a brokerage account and can arrange to get you instructions on how to make this type of gift.

**Finally, please consider naming the League in your will or estate plans.**

This is called a bequest – and it is the most traditional way to make a meaningful and lasting contribution to the work we do. It will likely require the assistance of an attorney and we would be pleased to work with you on the appropriate language. Sandra Colyer can assist you with this matter.

We know you are committed to the League and its work. Your charitable gift is much appreciated – now more than ever!

## Ways to Give

Cash today!

Gift of stock!

Name the League in your will or estate

Call Sandra Colyer at 305-496-9794 or sbcolyer@mac.com.

## Squeeze the last drop out of summer . . .

See Florida, hike, swim, explore a new historic site, and consider reading two wonderful books about Florida: "A Land Remembered" by Patrick Smith, (the winner of the best historical fiction) which will take you back in time to when Florida was just getting settled after the Civil War, and "The Swamp" by *Time Magazine* reporter Michael Grunwald, a compelling story about the Everglades, including a riveting story of how Chief Osceola was captured, and the history and description of Florida's birth and development through the ages till today.

# www.TheFloridaVoter.org

Alachua County/Gainesville | Bay County | Broward County | Charlotte County | Collier County  
Flagler County | Hillsborough County | Jacksonville/First Coast | Lake County | Lee County  
Manatee County | Martin County | Miami-Dade County | North Pinellas County | Okaloosa County  
Orange County | Palm Beach County | Pensacola Bay Area | Polk County | Sanibel | St. Lucie County  
St. Petersburg Area | Sarasota County | Seminole County | Space Coast | Tallahassee  
The Villages | Tri-County Area | Volusia County



## Member Spotlight: Betty Castor League Trailblazer!

By Katie Ross

Betty Castor, long-time LWV member and Florida stateswoman, is a native of New Jersey and a graduate of its public school system. After graduation from college in 1963, she began teaching in East Africa, eventually settling in Miami, Florida, where she first became involved in the League of Women Voters. Her husband suggested she join the organization and she has been a member ever since. Betty has served as the Hillsborough County LWV President and continues to live in Tampa. When asked to comment on what inspired her to take on a leadership role in the League,

In response to what sparked her commitment to public service, Betty responded: “My commitment to public service began at a young age when I had an opportunity to observe my father, Joseph Bowe, who was mayor of the town of Glassboro where I grew up. I thought public policy and politics was an honorable practice.”

With respect to women’s role in politics, this experienced and successful individual believes that involvement in LWV can inspire women to run for office. Betty advises young women with an penchant for public service to pursue any public interests and to become involved in school activities.

### Legislature Needs Backbone To Deal With Fiscal Problems

When asked to comment on strategies the Legislature can use to guide Florida’s economic recovery, Betty says “The Legislature needs to take a close look at the State’s fiscal resources.” The tax code leaves much to be desired with its sales tax loopholes. In fact, Betty is of the opinion that elected officials are frightened to address the issue head on. It will take some strong-minded legislators to really examine out tax code. Betty feels that citizens should be proactive and examine the importance of services, while being willing to fund them.

With respect to the most recent legislative session, Betty comments, “Children’s health services should have been expanded. Likewise public education funding is a major concern. We can’t keep going back and raising tuition.”

Betty feels that unless we can pass Fair Districts, legislators will be reluctant to make a change. “Change starts with Fair Districts.”

### Stay as Active as Possible!

League members play an extremely important role in helping Florida persevere in helping Florida persevere in turbulent times. We must stay involved and continue to be outspoken with our positions on the crucial issues. We must continue to build membership within our own ranks as well as forming coalitions with other organizations that share our passion for good government. Betty emphasizes, “League members must stay as active as possible.” This long-time League member encourages all of us to get involved!

*Katie Ross is the Secretary for Florida League of Women Voters and also serves as the Publicity Chair for League of Women Voters Jacksonville First Coast.*

Betty says “It was easy. I was intensely interested in the topics in which the LWV was engaged. I was very young and the League wanted to recruit younger women.”

### First Women Elected to Hillsborough County Commission

As a member of the League, Betty was exposed to public policy issues that sparked her interest in running for office. The first woman elected to the Hillsborough County

Commission in 1972, she eventually served as the Commission’s chair. Betty served three terms in the Florida Senate and ran for Lieutenant Governor. In 1986, she served as Florida’s Commissioner of Education and went on to be appointed President of the University of South Florida for six years. She also served as President of the National Board of

Professional Teaching Standards. Most recently, Betty was the Director of the Patel Center for Global Solutions at the University of South Florida.

Betty advises young women with an penchant for public service to pursue any public interests and to become involved in school activities.

## INTERESTED IN SPONSORING FUTURE ISSUES OF THE VOTER?

For more information on sponsoring this newsletter and other advertising possibilities, contact Pam Goodman, [pamelasgoodman@aol.com](mailto:pamelasgoodman@aol.com) or call 850-224-2545.



Kathleen Maloney Skambis — Orange County LWV



Patti Lynn — LWV of the Space Coast



Patty Myers, Andrea Samson, LWV Orange County

# INSIDE this issue of THE VOTER

Building our League, Preparing for 2010 .....1  
 Florida is a Troubled State but . . . .....1  
 Taking the Pulse on Health Care Reform .....2  
 The Census is Coming .....3  
 Tidbits from Tallahassee .....3  
 The 2009 Legislative Session .....4  
 Voter Registration Form Rules .....4  
 Donor Recognition .....5  
 LWVF PROGRAM 2009 - 2011: What we're fighting for! .....6  
 Testify! .....7  
 An Unforgettable Encounter with Middle Eastern Women .....7  
 Spotlight on Florida Leagues .....9  
 Three Ways to Give to the League .....10  
 In Memoriam: Jeanne Malchon, 1923-2009 .....10  
 Member Spotlight: Betty Castor, League Trailblazer! .....11

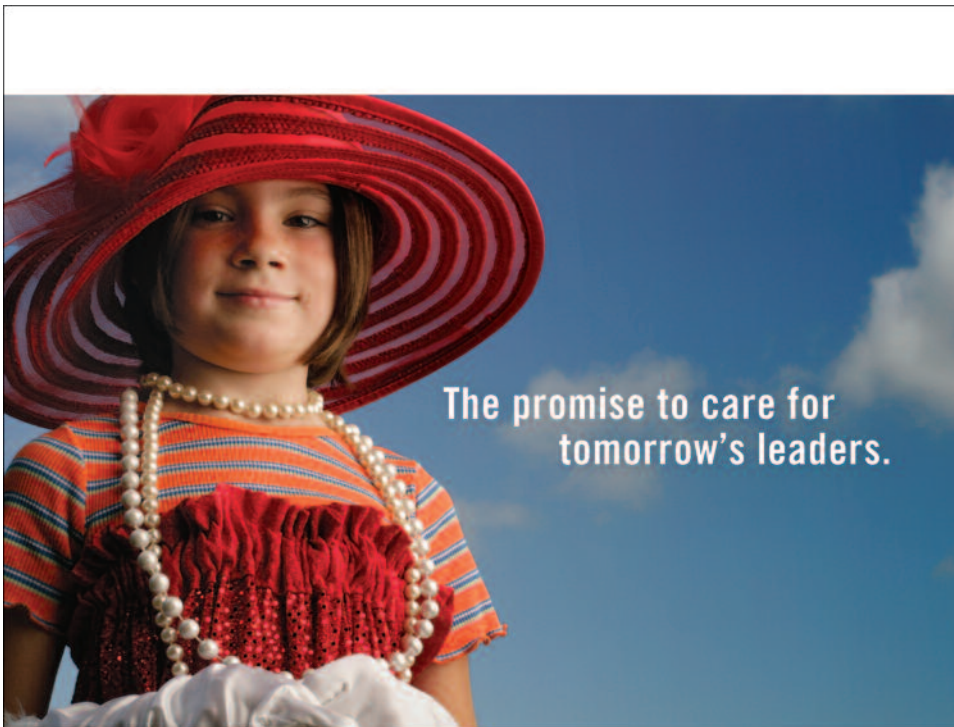
For additional news, visit [www.TheFloridaVoter.org](http://www.TheFloridaVoter.org)!



NON-PROFIT ORG  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Mid-Florida, FL  
 Permit No. 475

## Recycle this newsletter!

Share it with a neighbor.  
 Or take it with you to an appointment and  
 leave it behind in the lobby or waiting room.  
 You can educate another Florida voter  
 and maybe recruit a new member!



Nemours is a proud sponsor of the League of Women Voters of Florida. Nemours. Your child. Our promise.



©2009, The Nemours Foundation. Nemours is a registered trademark of the Nemours Foundation.



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF FLORIDA

- PRESIDENT**  
 Deirdre Macnab
- FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**  
 Nancy Ryan
- SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**  
 Chris Straton
- TREASURER**  
 Sandra Colyer
- SECRETARY**  
 Katie Ross
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
 Annie Betancourt | Pam Goodman  
 Kit Pepper | Ruth Schechter  
 Marilyn Wills | Margaret Wolter
- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
 Peg McGarity

850/224-2545 | [lwvf1@comcast.net](mailto:lwvf1@comcast.net)  
 540 Beverly Court | Tallahassee, FL 32301-2506

- OFF-BOARD CHAIRS**  
 Sara Au (CapWiz and Media Liaison)  
 Ann Campbell (Healthcare)  
 Caroline Emmons Schramm (Fair Districts)  
 Mary Russell (Education)  
 Enid Sisskin (Natural Resources)  
 Kathleen Slebodnik  
 Charlene Walker, Lennon Moore (Transportation)  
 Charley Williams | Leah Shepard  
 Kathy Roberts (Webmaster)