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YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

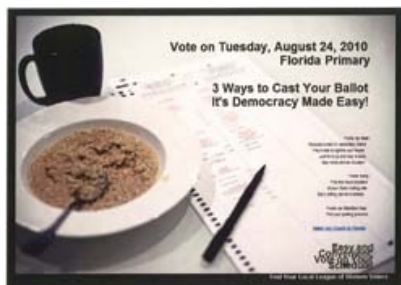
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- Rosemary Hays-Thomas, 2nd V.P
- Marilyn Badessa, Treasurer
- Haley Richards Secretary

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www.lwvpba.org
lwvpba@Gmail.com
 (850)937-7769
www.lwvfla.org
www.lwv.org



Vote by mail
Vote early
Vote at the polls on Election Day
August 24, 2010

Aquarium Proposal for Pensacola Bayfront

Wednesday, July 28, 2010 5:30 pm

New Tryon Branch Library on Langley Ave.

Bill Young, President, Aquarium for Pensacola

The Emerald Coast Utilities Authority (ECUA) is replacing its downtown wastewater treatment plant with a new plant under construction north of Pensacola. The ECUA plans to demolish the plant and sell the property once the new plant is completed within the next few months. According to a non-profit advocate, Bill Young, President, Aquarium for Pensacola, “this presents a unique and enormous opportunity for conversion of the plant to a world class walk-through aquarium. Connecting the plant’s tanks with clear acrylic tunnels and enclosing the tanks with an architecturally designed building will transform the plant to a world class aquarium.” Young will present his vision for retaining the property in the public domain and constructing an aquarium on the site.

Please join League members on Wednesday, July 28 at 5:30 pm for this presentation and discussion on the feasibility of such a project for downtown Pensacola.

“Rally 2010”

August 9 - 11 from 7 pm to 9:30 pm

WSRE, PBS for the Gulf Coast, presents “Rally 2010,” a primary and general election television candidate forum. These specials will feature local candidates from the races for Escambia, Santa Rosa and Okaloosa Counties as well as candidates for State Senate and House seats. The program will be moderated by Dee Dee Sharp, Lloyd Patterson and Sandra Averhart. The first installment of “Rally 2010” will air on WSRE on Monday, August 9 through Wednesday, August 11 from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. nightly and will focus on the August 24 primary election. The second installment featuring candidates for the general election will take place October 11 and 12.

“Rally 2010” is co-sponsored by WSRE and the LWV of the Pensacola Bay Area and LWV Okaloosa County. The purpose of “Rally 2010” is to give citizens an unbiased look at the candidates vying to represent them and learn where they stand on the important issues that affect them. WSRE provides the program as a public service and encourages all citizens to participate in exercising their constitutional right to vote.

VoteAnywhere.org Unveiled

Take advantage of the 3 ways to cast your ballot for the August 24 Florida Primary. The League has made it simple with our award-winning website: www.VoteAnywhere.org. Vote by mail, vote early at designated sites or vote at the polls on Election Day. Don't miss a single election. Vote on your schedule. It's democracy made easy.

President's Message



President Deborah Nelson

Greetings! I hope you're enjoying our hot summer "vacation!"

Although our League is officially on summer "hiatus," we're moving ahead with some important election year projects prior to the fall voting season. The untiring Voter Services Committee has been hard at work writing questions for WSRE Rally 2010, to be televised on August 9, 10 and 11. As you probably know, our League is honored to participate

with WSRE in developing salient, nonpartisan questions for candidates in contested races prior to the Primary Election. Be sure to tune in to learn the positions of state and local candidates before you vote on August 24!

You will recall that through the petition process, Amendments 5 and 6 met the requirements as proposed Constitutional Amendments for the November ballot. The League joined Fair Districts Florida, a coalition of organizations supporting the proposals. The two amendments would force state lawmakers to draw future elections districts according to population, geography, and minority group protection, rather than political reelection considerations.

In response to Amendments 5 and 6, the Legislature placed Amendment 7 on the ballot and, if passed, would override 5 and 6. **HOWEVER, A TALLAHASSEE CIRCUIT JUDGE HAS ORDERED AMENDMENT 7 TO BE STRICKEN FROM THE BALLOT!** Of course this decision will be appealed, so Fair Districts Florida will await a final decision from the Supreme Court.

We are working on a comprehensive voter education program to speak to civic organizations in Escambia and Santa Rosa, advocating League support of the proposals. Volunteers are needed to assist with this project. Please contact Vivian Faircloth at 291-1534 or email at vfaircloth@iname.com.

Speaking of voter education, the League needs speakers to visit community groups to present the pros and cons of all 9 proposed amendments. This voter service activity is strictly educational and does not include League positions on the proposals. Details of the amendments will be available to you and if you're willing to make presentations, please contact me at 449-1746.

On a timely topic this summer, the League will host a public forum on a local proposal to build an aquarium at the old Main Street wastewater treatment site. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 28 at 5:30 at the new Tryon

Library on Langley Avenue. It should be an interesting and thought provoking discussion, and I hope to see you there with lots of questions.

In League

Deborah, 449-1746



October 14th Debates Announced

What ought to be called "The Good Government Coalition" — the League of Women Voters of Florida and Florida Public Broadcasting Stations, including both TV and radio — has announced a gubernatorial debate on Thursday, Oct. 14.

Florida Public Broadcasting Stations and the League of Women Voters of Florida plan to present an Historic Gubernatorial Debate Focused on Healthcare.

The "exclusive sponsor" is the Florida Hospital Association, which will host the event during its annual convention at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando. That will likely mean a bunch of questions about health care policy, including Medicaid and the state's challenge (filed by Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum,) to President Barack Obama's health-care reform plan.

The GGC is also promising a debate among the U.S. Senate candidates, but no date, site or format has been selected. ♦

LWV 90th Anniversary Tribute Video Series Now Available

Did you know that Eleanor Roosevelt served as a League vice president for legislative affairs in the 1920s? [Watch this and other short videos on the LWVUS website to learn how League membership leads to real change.](#)

The League extends sincere condolences to the family of **Sylvia Blount**, a long time League member.

Report of LWVUS Convention Action

- A study of the federal role in public education. The study will focus on the role of the federal government in education policymaking, with possible consideration of funding, common standards and/or governance relationships among all levels of the government. The scope will be dependent on available resources, including committee and LWVUS staff time.
- A study on privatization: the policy agenda to transfer government functions, services and assets to the private sector.

Convention also adopted the following positions by concurrence on the convention floor:

- An updated Arms Control Position.
- An addition to the LWVUS position on selection of the president: "We support the use of the National Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote for election of the president until the abolition of the Electoral College is accomplished."
- An addition to the LWVUS Equality of Opportunity position: "The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. The LWVUS supports legislation to equalize the legal rights, obligations and benefits available to same-gender couples with those available to heterosexual couples. LWVUS supports legislation to permit same-gender couples to marry under civil law. The League believes that the civil status of marriage is already clearly distinguished from the religious institution of marriage and that religious rights will be preserved."

Convention also supported the following resolutions:

- To support lifting the travel restrictions for Americans going to Cuba.
- To call upon the Board to use the resources of the League to support and lobby for significant strengthening of appropriate regulation, oversight, inspection, and penalties associated with the development of fossil fuel resources. (Read details at LWVUS website, Convention..)
- To call upon the Senate to change its rules to limit the use of the filibuster.
- To add the principle of TRANSPARENCY to the SARA Resolution, as adopted by the LWVUS Convention Of 2005. Revised to include the following Principles: Security; Accuracy; Recountability; Accessibility; and Transparency.
- To call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for bills that promote improved Medicare for all.
- To call upon the LWVUS to highlight the need for those responsible for the oil spill to be held accountable. (Read details at LWVUS website, Convention.) ◇

SUSAN B. ANTHONY MEMBERSHIP



The Board voted recently to establish the Susan B. Anthony Membership of the League of Women Voters of the Pensacola Bay Area. This special designation recognizes

members annually who donate \$100 to the local League or to the Education Fund. The contribution is in addition to the annual dues of the organization.

Donors will be recognized in the Voter and will be identified on the League Roster. Please send your check to:

LWVPBA Treasurer, PO Box 2023 Pensacola, FL 32513. (For more information, call Janet deLorge at 607-9170) ◇

Will Spill Help Ignite New Florida Energy Policy?

Excerpts from editorial by LWVF President Deirdre Macnab, guest columnist
Orlando Sentinel July 5, 2010

Like the "shot heard 'round the world" that helped ignite the Revolutionary War, will the ever-worsening Gulf disaster ignite a more serious movement toward renewable energy and a comprehensive energy policy in Florida and the U.S.?...

Real action will be needed if we are to be a contender in the international competition for technology, jobs and energy independence. There are a host of reasons to want to end our reliance on oil, but perhaps most importantly, an energy policy for the U.S. and for Florida is critical for our national security....

This is not a column that says stop drilling. It is, instead, a call for the Florida Legislature to stop holding our energy policy hostage to drilling three miles offshore and focus on a long-term plan that will help bring new jobs and industry to our state. It is time to attract companies in the areas of renewable energy and incentivize our citizens to conserve through a combination of fees and tax deductions....

Florida citizens, in this pivotal election year, it is time for us to speak out and tell our future leaders we want Florida to join those states positioned to take advantage of the jobs and alternate-energy sources to help keep America safe and our shores clean. ◇

Welcome!

Virginia R. White
 410 Seamarge Lane 32507
 777-9826
virginia_white2@bellsouth.net

William S. Cummins
 6290 Heart Pine Circle 32504
 969-1897
cummins@bellsouth.net

Jean Hamilton
 4031 Teal Way
 Pensacola, FL 32507
 492-0376
jamespaulhamilton@cox.net

Ann W. Regan
 424 E. Government Street
 Pensacola, FL 32502-6132
 469-4758
annwregan@gmail.com

Christopher J. Lewis
 5941 Greenwood Lane 32504
 476-0617 Cell 287-0622
cjlewis0202@bellsouth.net

New Address:
Doris H. Lea
 10100 Hillview Drive, Apt 443
 32514 Tel 469-0339
kedo3927@aol.com

Correction:
Shirley Kraselsky
sgkraselsky@cox.net

Health Care Reform Update

[A new federal website was launched on July 1, 2010.](#) The website is designed to provide individuals with information on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and how it will impact consumers.

Our Purpose: To Promote Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation of Citizens in Government

LWV Florida Files Suit to Remove, "Poison Pill", Amendment 7 from November Ballot

The Florida NAACP, Florida League of Women Voters and Democracia Ahora filed suit in Tallahassee, seeking the removal of the misleading Amendment 7 from the November ballot. This "poison pill" amendment, placed on the ticket by Tallahassee politicians, is a brazen attempt by those in power to continue their absolute control of the redistricting process. Amendment 7 parades as an amendment measure to create "standards" for the legislature to follow when they draw their own district lines and those of congressional districts. But in reality, the legislature's amendment is an attempt to eliminate all rules and give the politicians free reign to draw districts that only serve to protect their own political futures. It is intentionally written to fool voters about its chief purpose and true effect. Amendment 7 was passed in direct response to the placement of two citizen-initiated amendments on the ballot, FairDistricts Amendments 5 and 6. These two amendments will create real mandatory and enforceable standards for redistricting at the legislative and congressional level. Amendments 5 and 6 will prohibit the current practice of drawing districts to favor an incumbent or political party. By placing Amendment 7 on the ballot, a majority of legislators proved beyond a reasonable doubt that they want to continue to use redistricting as their own, personal political, incumbent protection plan.

Deirdre Macnab, State President of the Florida League of Women Voters and a fellow plaintiff, says, "These legislators claim that Amendment 7 is needed to 'clarify' provisions of the FairDistricts Amendments 5 and 6, but that claim is deceptive and false. They are just trying to hold on to their power."

"Our forefathers believed in responsive government and our Constitution says that all political power resides in the people. The legislators want to continue drawing district lines to favor themselves. Their amendment should be off the ballot!" says plaintiff Nathaniel Reed, former Assistant Secretary of the Interior under Presidents Nixon and Ford. (Read full press release at www.lwvpba.org.)

Join the League of Women Voters today!

It's easy! Just send your check to:

League of Women Voters, P O Box 2023, Pensacola FL, 32513

\$55 Individual membership

\$27.50 each additional household member

\$27.50 student membership

Here's my extra contribution to the League \$ _____

My separate contribution to the Education Fund \$ _____

I'm renewing my membership

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Email Address _____

(Tax deductible contributions require a separate check written to LWV Ed Fund which is sent to the treasurer.)