



The Voter

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Amending the Constitution

Saturday, November 21, 2015

Tryon Library, 1200 Langley Ave. – Program 10:30 am

Article V Amendments to the U.S. Constitution

League members Melinda Beckett, Connie Brown and Janet deLorge, study chairperson, will present the November program of the League of Women Voters. The membership will discuss aspects of the US Constitution and determine views of the membership on the Article V Constitutional Convention.

The Article V Constitutional Convention was included in the original Constitution but has never been used in our nation. Join us as we discuss aspects of such a Convention and determine whether or not this is an appropriate method of amending the US Constitution.

A copy of the study material was sent to you on October 24th. Please review this information and bring it to the League meeting on Saturday, November 21, at the Tryon Branch Library. If you would need another copy, click [here](#). Additional information and bibliography will be found on the LWV website [here](#).



FYI Meeting: Money in Politics

December 5, 2015 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Downtown Library, N. Spring Street

The League is now updating our position on campaign finance through study and consensus to consider First Amendment-political speech issues. Accomplishing this requires member understanding and agreement about these issues. The *Money in Politics Committee* has been tasked with providing members and the public with information on these issues and facilitating member study and consensus.

We are focusing on the extent to which political campaigns are protected speech under the First Amendment.

Join us at the Downtown Library Meeting, Room B, at 10:30 am to learn more about this issue. Background and consensus questions will come to you a couple of weeks in a separate package. Watch for it.

Join the League Board at the Holiday Social December 6, 2 - 4 pm



Haley Richards

Co Presidents' Message

As some of our new members may not know, the vital work of our League is done by our committees. They are hard at work.



Ellen Roston

- The Education committee, assisted by the Social Policy committee, had a very successful meeting on the School to Prison Pipeline in October. Education members are currently assembling teaching materials for the 7th grade teachers of government for Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties.

- Amending the US Constitution** through Article V will be led by a local committee who will present information and consensus questions at the November 21 monthly meeting.
- The local committee working on the LWVUS study of **Money in Politics** is preparing for the upcoming Hot Topic membership meeting on December 5.
- The Natural Resources Committee met in Destin with Chuck O'Neal, the LWVF chair of Natural Resources. The group is working on issues ranging from deepwell injection to the ban on plastic bags. **Currently our emphases is on collecting the Solar Power initiative petitions.**
- The Voter Service committee is registering voters on Veterans Day and needs volunteers to assist. Various projects are planned for the upcoming 2016 presidential election cycle.
- The local committee working on the statewide study of the open primary issue is meeting with Supervisors of Elections across Northwest Florida. Data are being collected in preparation for presentation to the membership.

We urge all members, especially those who have joined recently, to join a committee because that is where the real work of the League is done. You can work on an issue with fellow members whom you may not have had a chance to meet previously. It is an intellectually stimulating and very rewarding experience. JOIN A COMMITTEE! We need you!

Ellen & Haley

Have you checked out our Facebook page lately?
See it [here!](#)

Voter Services Committee

by Charlyle Parrish, 932-0854 or ccparrish@usa.net

Have you been wanting to find another source for issues related to voting reform? If so, I recommend [Brennan Center for Justice](#). I have found this newsletter invaluable. This source along with the Florida League's web site, [thefloridavoter.org](#), and LWV Florida Ed Fund site, [BeReadyToVote](#), should keep you up to date as to what is going on throughout the US as well as with the Florida issues.

Locally, we had the opportunity to have an orientation/update from representatives of the Supervisor of Election Offices in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Their comments included:

- Presidential Preference Primary: March 15, 2016 (NOTE: books close February 16, 2016)
- Absentee/Vote by Mail ballots: Latest date to request an absentee ballot for the Presidential Preference Primary is Wednesday, March 9th, at 5:00 P.M. The completed ballot is then returned my mail to the SOE offices or can be hand carried to the main offices in Escambia or Santa Rosa counties or to the South annex in Santa Rosa County on the day of the election.
- In Escambia County, early voting for the PP Primary is tentatively set for 8 days (March 5 - 12, 2016). There will be seven polling places for early voting.
- In Santa Rosa, early voting for PP Primary is scheduled for February 29 - March 12, 2016 (2 full weeks, 9 hours a day) in four voting places: Main office in Milton, Tiger Point Community Center, South End Annex and Pace Community Center.
- Primary: August 30, 2016 (NOTE: Registration books close August 1, 2016)
- General: November 8, 2016 (NOTE: Registration books close October 11, 2016)

NOTE: If a person marks "No party affiliation" on the voter registration form the individual will not be able to vote in the PP Primary and will have limited items to vote on in the Primary in August. It is not too late to change your party affiliation if you wish.

Certified voter registrants will be available at each monthly League meeting for those who have moved, want to change party, update your signature, etc. Don't hesitate to ask.

Our next event will be on Veterans Day, November 11, 2015 when we will be registering voters and sharing space with the Social Policy committee at the Veterans Memorial Park on Bayfront Parkway. Come out and support our veterans and the League.

Next Meeting: All League members are invited to attend.
DATE: Monday, November 16, 2015 **TIME:** 1:30pm - 3:30pm
PLACE: Downtown Library **Contact:** Charlyle Parrish

Join the League
as we celebrate the Holidays



When: Sunday, December 6
Time: 2:00 to 4:00 PM
Where: Riviera Party Room
615 Bayshore Dr,
Pensacola, FL
Hosts: LWV Pensacola Bay
Area Board Members
Contact: 937-7769

Bring: Finger food and/or wine
to share with League friends.

You and your guests are welcome!

Directions: Heading West from downtown on Barancas Avenue, pass St. Thomas More Church and Turn **Left** on PALEO Street, just past the white picket fence. Follow Paleo to Bayshore Drive. Turn **LEFT** on Bayshore to 615. The **Riviera** is on the right. Park on the far right or on the roof of the garage. For additional information or directions call: 937-7769.

Help Bring Sunshine to Florida

The Solar Ballot Initiative was introduced by Floridians for Solar Choice. It is an effort to allow citizens and businesses to purchase electricity from sources other than a utility. Florida is one of four states that prohibits such purchases. If passed, the constitutional amendment would allow for these purchases.



In Northwest Florida, some businesses have already arranged for solar panels to be erected to generate electricity from the sun. The "Sunshine State" seems to be an ideal location to harness the rays from the sun.

Some organizations, including the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Earth Ethics, the League of Women Voters and numerous other groups, are collecting signatures to put this proposal on the 2016 ballot. There is only a two month period for collecting signatures as all petitions must be submitted for verification. The League needs them by THANKSGIVING. Time is short and the need is urgent.

Additional petitions can be picked up from the front porch at 216 W. Jackson Street, 32501 and completed forms can be returned to the same address. Petitions you have received from LWV Florida should be returned to the same address. For additional information, call 549-7472.

Panel on Deep-Well Injection Report

October 17, 2015
by Andrea Walker 723-2112

Panelists *Mary Gutierrez*, Executive Director of Earth Ethics Inc., *Dr. Enid Sisskin*, UWF professor, and *Linda Young*, Director of Clean Water Network, discussed the consequences of deep-well injection in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties at the October meeting at Tryon Library.

"The Department of Environmental Protection's Aquifer Protection program consists of a team of geologists and engineers dedicated to protecting Florida's underground sources of drinking water (USDW) while maintaining the lawful option of disposal of appropriately treated fluids via underground injection wells. The program implements regulations and is dedicated to preventing degradation of the quality of other aquifers adjacent to the injection zone. Subsurface injection, the practice of emplacing fluids in a permeable underground aquifer by gravity flow or under pressure through an injection well, is one of a variety of wastewater disposal or reuse methods used in Florida." (<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/Water/uic/index.htm>)

In 2014, the Natural Resource and Growth Committee compiled a report from which much of the information in this article is taken.

An injection well is a device that places fluid deep underground into porous rock formations, such as sandstone or limestone, or into or below the shallow soil layer. The fluid may be water, wastewater, brine (salt water), or water mixed with chemicals. Deep-well injection of partially treated waste has been practiced in the United States since the 1930s because it is more economically feasible for industries to "store" the waste water than to treat it. However, these storage methods are not permanent: the pressure can fracture the rock or cement; the wells develop leaks, and the waste permeates aquifers which provide drinking water.

Injection wells are ranked from Class I to Class VI. Class I wells are used for waste in Florida although they have been banned for hazardous waste since 1983. However, the effects of long-term storage, as well as the danger of broken down chemicals, has not been determined. Also, the pressure used to inject the waste into the wells is enormous, causing possible water movement of groundwater even though the wells are monitored before reaching drinking water. In Escambia and parts of Santa Rosa counties, our water comes from the Sand and Gravel Aquifer. The lower zone is the main producing zone, and according to Gutierrez, "It is not unreasonable to expect leakage."

Industries with permits for deep-well injection include Ascend (formerly Solutia), Gulf Power, Sterling Fibers and Tamico.

Young stated she does not have answers but wants to raise questions about the safety of the local drinking water. According to Young, "In 2013, the most recent year on file, Ascend Performance Materials released 30,457,122 pounds of pollutants. . . ECUA operates 32 wells within the county that draw water from the Sand-and- Gravel Aquifer." Also, in Northern Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties, there are 62 active wells producing oil/gas.

Continue on page 4, Deepwell ..

School to Prison Pipeline II

by Paula Montgomery, 438-8891

Thanks to Hurricane Patricia, the October 26th meeting was wet, windy and generally unpleasant. Despite the weather, more than 65 interested citizens turned out for the discussion of the School to Prison Pipeline.

Members of the panel were: *Greg Marcille*, Assistant State Attorney; *Marjorie Anders*, State Attorney Juvenile Division; *Kelly Richards*, Assistant Public Defender; *Rick Branch*, Minister of Music, First United Methodist Church; *Tania Galloni*, Florida's Chief Attorney of the Southern Poverty Law Center; and special guest, *Spencer Wease*.

The *School to Prison Pipeline* describes what happens when young people are arrested. The important word here is "arrested." Once he or she is in the justice system, the State Attorney alone has the responsibility of looking at the child's previous offenses, his age and the seriousness of the crime in deciding if this case should be tried in juvenile or adult court. If the decision is made to "direct file" the case in adult court, the child is no longer in the juvenile justice system. His hearings and his sentencing, including incarceration, will be done as if he or she were an adult. The adult system does not focus on school attendance or otherwise prepare the child to re-enter society.



When the individual is released he or she is labeled a felon for a lifetime. Following incarceration, the label of felon, the lack of education and the lack of needed social skills handicap them. Often they are on their way to either a life of repeated offenses and incarcerations or abject poverty. Generally it is a broken life that is given to a young person. In my opinion, it is a broken system that would do this to its children.

Escambia County tries more juveniles as adults per capita and sometimes in real numbers than many of the more populous counties, such as Miami Dade. According to Keyontay Humphries of the ACLU, Escambia County incarcerates more children per capita than any other place in the free world. The numbers are so skewed that it cannot be that we are doing the right thing.

One potential remedy for this injustice is to permit a judge to hear all the information about a case and make the decision about whether the child should be direct filed to the adult system. **This possible correction is in bills under consideration in the Florida House (HB129) and the Florida Senate (SB314). You are urged to contact your senator and your representative and advocate for the passage of these bills.**

This series of programs is being co-sponsored by the *ACLU*, the *Southern Poverty Law Center*, the *Escambia Youth Justice Coalition*, the *Coffee Party*, and by the *League of Women Voters of the Pensacola Bay Area Education and Social Justice Committees*. Funding was provided by the *League of Women Voters of Florida Education Fund*.

The next program will be held in January and will focus on the role of the schools and their interface with law enforcement. The members of the steering committee are Ray Hudkins of the Coffee Party, Keyontay Humphries of the ACLU, Lisa Nellesen-Lara of the Pensacola News Journal, and Paula Montgomery and Shirley Lewis-Brown of the League of Women Voters Education and Social Policy Committees.

Special thanks to *Franco's Restaurant* for opening up on a dark night and making us welcome with good food and excellent service. Also special thanks to *Bill Caplinger* for coordinating the visual parts of the presentation, *James Scamanaci* for the videoing and the blog and *Bob and Carli Wilson* for the sound production

Video: School to Prison Pipeline II, Should our Youth Spend a Lifetime behind Bars? (October 26,2015) [View I and II here.](#)

Welcome New Members!

Samuel Mathews
Elizabeth Major
Ann Tidmore

Members' contact information is contained in the Membership Roster only. If you wish to receive the latest list, contact Cathy Scott at [basketbabe at mchsi.com](mailto:basketbabe@mchsi.com).

Continued from page 4, **Deepwell...**

Sisskin addressed potential public health risks, stating we don't know what waste is injected and if wells are capped; it's a question of degree. Sisskin listed many of the chemicals that are found in drinking water and also raised the concern of mixtures of said chemicals. Independent studies are better than studies conducted by the industries that hire them. The data show that the chemicals do not stay where they are injected and will eventually be found in the aquifers and surface waters. She insists the public must be educated and suggests we check the DEP web site. The public must pressure the local government to challenge this practice.

In closing, Gutierrez stated, "Deep-well injection is in direct conflict with the League's position." Sisskin reiterated that the Natural Resource Committee opposes deep-well injection as a way for industries to dispose of wastes.

What can we do?

1. Educate ourselves.
2. Educate the public.
3. Study the web sites.
4. Pressure local government.

http://water.epa.gov/type/groundwater/uic/wells_class1.cfm

Voices of the League

LWV Florida

Chuck O'Neal, First Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Florida, won the \$10,000 **Cox Conserves Heroes Award** for helping lead the fight to conserve the Sunshine State's natural resources. The money will go to the League's Education Fund and be used to educate Floridians about the environment, Chuck said.

Chuck joined the Orange County League in 2012 and immediately put together the Natural Resources Committee, turning it into a major environmental conservation force. One of the committee's first major events was *Speak Up Wekiva*, dedicated to cleaning up the springs. The committee also drafted *Save Our Springs* legislation, stopped land in state parks from being chopped up and sold off and helped pass *Amendment One* to fund the *Florida Forever* program. *Florida Forever* pays for land to create and expand state parks.

"Natural land is important to preserve for recreational enjoyment, as habitat for wildlife and as recharge area for the aquifer that provides 90% of us with drinking water," Chuck said. Immediately after the awards ceremony, held at WFTV's studios, Chuck left for Tallahassee to work on an emergency motion seeking a temporary injunction to stop black bear hunting.

LWVUS

League Commends President Obama on Decision to Reject Keystone XL Pipeline: "The League applauds the historic step made by the Obama Administration to fully reject the Keystone XL pipeline," said Elisabeth MacNamara, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States. [Read more...](#)

Obama administration violating Voting Rights Law : The League and our partners delivered a letter to the President asking for voluntary compliance and alerting the Administration to our intent to sue, if necessary. The ball is in the President's court. With so much at stake for our democracy, it is essential that every eligible voter be protected by every available means. The National Voter Registration Act is an important voter protection that the League worked hard to get. Voters deserve a chance to use it. [Read more...](#)

Screening Suffragette: Differences in Media Coverage of the British and American Suffrage Movement. Read LWVUS President Elisabeth MacNamara's review [here](#).

LWVPBA

Leaguers Jo and Sam Mathews will travel with the LWV Florida to Cuba: "Sisters Across the Straits".

Calendar



Floridians for Solar Choice

November

- 7 Saturday, 2:30 Education Committee at Paula Montgomery's home, 641 Connell Drive, 438-8891, Committee members will making packets of information for government teachers.
- 9 Monday, 5:30 pm **Board Meeting** at the Downtown Library on Spring Street in the Conference Room. Members are always welcome.
- 16 Monday, 1:30 -3:00 pm, **Voter Service Committee** Downtown Library Spring Street,. Contact Charlyle Parrish, 932-0854.
- 16 Tuesday, 3:30 pm, **Natural Resources Committee**, Main Library downtown. Contact Mary Gutierrez, 549-7472.
- 17 Tuesday, 10:00 am Azalea Trace, **International Relations**, Great Decisions discussion on *Counties near Russia*, led by Vete Senkus. For further information contact Gene Feicht at 479-3352.
- 19 Thursday, 3:00 pm **Money in Politics Study Committee**, Azalea Trace in Terrace One, For information, contact Elizabeth King, chairperson, at 920-246-0904 or kinge3324 at gmail.com

21 Saturday, 10:30 am program. **General League Meeting**, New Tryon Branch Library, 1200 Langley Ave. **Amending the Constitution Study and Consensus Study**. Bring the information and consensus packet you received.

- 26 Thursday, **Thanksgiving. Time to turn in Solar Choice petitions**. 126 West Jackson Street, Call Mary Gutierrez, 549-7472, for information.

December

- 3 Thursday, 5:30 pm, **Paper Tiger** documentary at the Pensacola News Journal, 2 N. Palafox. Contact Paula Montgomery, 438-8891 or montpns@aol.com for information or to RSVP.

5 Saturday, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm, FYI program, Downtown Library Spring Street, **Money In Politics Study Part I**, general background meeting for all members. For information, contact Elizabeth King, 920-246-0904.

- 6 Sunday, 2-4 pm **Holiday Social**, Riviera Party Room, 615 Bayshore Dr, Pensacola, FL. Contact: 937-7769

January 2016

- 16 Saturday, 10:30 am program, **General League Meeting**, New Tryon Branch Library, 1200 Langley Ave. **Money in Politics Review and consensus**. For information contact Elizabeth King, 920-246-0904.



It is Cheaper to Heal than to Punish.

The award winning documentary, *Paper Tigers*, will be shown at the Pensacola News Journal Community Room, 2 N. Palafox Street on December 3, 5:30 pm. This is co-sponsored by the LWV Pensacola Bay Area and the National Association of Social Workers.

"An Intimate look into the lives of selected students at Lincoln High School an alternative school educating traumatized youth. The film examines the inspiring promise of Trauma Informed Communities -a movement that is showing great promise in healing youth struggling with the legacy of Adverse Childhood Experiences ACES.

There are doctors, researchers, teachers, nurses, social workers and law enforcement officers turning the tide against the cycle of trauma and abuse. It is cheaper to heal than to punish. *Paper Tigers* takes a look at what is possible. "

Paper Tigers is an award winning documentary set in an alternative school for traumatized youth in Walla Walla Washington. It examines the hope and the promise of *Trauma Informed Communities*, a movement for healing of traumatized youth. This documentary shows the strength of the possible in turning the tide against the cycle of trauma and abuse, using the energy the interest and the expertise of doctors, nurses, social workers, teachers and law enforcement officers.

For more information or to **RSVP**, contact Paula Montgomery 438-8891 or montpns@aol.com.

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

Name _____ Birth date _____ New Mbr? Yes/No

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone () _____ Other () _____ E-mail _____

Add Family Member(s): _____

DUES: \$55.00 _____ Additional Mbrs @ \$27.50 _____ Contribution _____ TOTAL _____

Dues are \$27.50 for a student enrolled in a certificate or degree program.

I'm renewing my membership.

I am interested in the following areas (Circle all interests)

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Education | Natural Resources | Social Policy | Speaker's Bureau |
| Voter Service | Growth Management | Website | Observer Corps |
| Membership | Legislative Action | Hospitality | Naturalization |
| Newsletter | Voter Registration | Publicity | Social Media |

Membership dues and gifts to the League of Women Voters are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes. (Tax deductible contributions require a separate check written to the LWV Florida Education Fund and should be sent to our local treasurer.)



League of Women Voters
of the Pensacola Bay Area
PO. Box 2023
Pensacola, FL 32513

Mail or drop off your signed **Solar Choice petitions** at 126 W. Jackson Street, (NE corner of Spring & Jackson Streets) or call 549-7472.