



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF PENSACOLA BAY AREA

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Note: LWV Florida has a new
website URL

www.TheFloridaVoter.org
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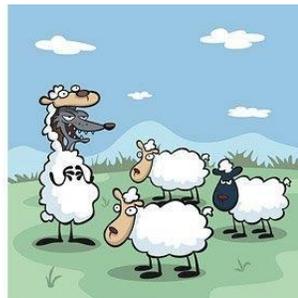
You've Earned a Say: Medicare

October 20, 2012

Tryon Branch Library, Langley Ave.
Coffee 9:15 a.m. Program 9:45 a.m.

On Saturday, October 20, Stephen Rome, Advocacy Volunteer for AARP, will provide straightforward information about Medicare proposals - the pros and cons - that are being debated in Washington and on the campaign trail. He has presented the AARP "You've Earned A Say" program throughout the area since the program's inception in January of this year.

Stephen Rome is a retired Chemical Engineer with over 39 years experience in the field. Prior to retirement, Mr. Rome was active in volunteer organizations including Presidency of his synagogue, Presidency of the Pensacola Jewish Federation, membership on the Pensacola United Way Allocation Committee, organizer for Paint Your Heart Out Pensacola and organizer for Habitat for Humanity.



Hot Topic Luncheon Amendment 3: State Government Revenue Limitations

Friday, October 12, 2012

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Portabello Restaurant,
Cultural Center, 400 Jefferson Street

Karen Woodall, co-founder of the Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy, will be the featured speaker at the luncheon. She has served as Director of Outreach and Education and currently coordinates the Coalition for Fair and Comprehensive Tax Reform. After learning of the inequities of Florida's tax structure while a member of the Service Tax Commission in 1987, Karen has been an advocate for a broad and fair system of taxes in our state.

Karen is a recognized expert in the area of health care, especially for children. She has worked with the Children's Defense Fund for years and was the recipient of the Lawton Chiles Award for child advocacy in 2007. She is a graduate of Florida State University with degrees in Psychology, Social Work and Government.

The general public is invited to attend the Luncheon. The cost is \$15.00. Reservations: Fay Walker, 453-0198 or lwvpba@gmail.com. Checks payable to LWVPBA. PO Box 2023, Pensacola, FL 32513. Deadline is October 9.



Co President Dr. Paula
Montgomery

Co President's Message

WE ARE MAKING
A DIFFERENCE.

I just turned off my TV set where the political pundits were talking and talking until my head ached. They were complaining about things that are happening in the real world where we all live. They have the staffs, the fact checkers and all the support personnel to come up with their positions. But, you know, it occurred to me that what they are reporting on is what we in the League are actually acting on!

They were talking about legitimate voters being blocked from voting by stringent laws and difficult regulations. I am so very proud of us in the League for taking the challenge, for working hard to make sure that voters can exercise their right to vote in spite of these restrictions. In our local League, this effort was set in motion by our indefatigable Voter Services chair, Janet deLorge. After getting this tremendous project rolling, when family circumstances intervened, she had two able lieutenants to pick up the project.

Locally, the Pensacola Bay Area League is out in force: on the streets, on college campuses, in schools and at events. We are following the laws and we are registering voters. Thanks to Charlyle Parrish for her skillful coordination of this tremendous effort. We are fortunate to be aided by our very helpful Supervisors of Elections, David Stafford in Escambia, and Anne Bodenstein in Santa Rosa County. As we register folks to vote it is valuable to suggest taking advantage of early voting. That goes for us Leaguers as well as for the newly registered.

We are educating the community on the ballot issues as well as presenting responses by candidates so that voters can better assess whether to support them. This information is available on the local League website, www.lwvpba.org

The constitutional amendments are long and complex. The merit retention of judges is also very important for an independent judicial branch and it is poorly understood. We are holding educational seminars at a phenomenal rate on those 11 constitutional amendments and the merit retention of judges. There are anywhere from 2 to 6 of these seminars in any given week. Thanks to Ellen Roston for coordinating our panel of speakers, who are making these presentations. That is another hard job. The requests come in multiples and almost every day.

A word about those amendments: Most of them are directed at starving the state of needed funds and, by extension, the local governments. The sympathetic appeal is to reduce taxes for the elderly, the first responders and disabled veterans. But at the same time, when taxes are reduced modestly for these groups we are robbing

ourselves of needed government services to the entire community. Those funds will not be available to pave roads, maintain schools, pay and equip firefighters, and inspect bridges for safety. By reducing funding sources, we are unable to pay for necessary services which make the state a safe and pleasant place to live and which attract businesses to move here. Vote "no" on all of them.

We are making a difference at the local level and there is something that every one of us can do to help..

On the 9th of October at 5:30 at O'Charley's Restaurant, we will be forming an *Ethics Committee* to take an in-depth look at our local government. We will be guided by the work already begun by a non-partisan group called Integrity Florida, and implemented in several cities in Florida. We will be shining a light on the processes that make our local government so unpleasantly newsworthy recently. For that effort we hope to expand our Observer Corps to include more governmental bodies. These League members are our eyes and ears who are willing to go to public meetings and see what actually is working and not working. This is more "boots on the ground" work. We will need your help.

We are making a difference at the state level through the Florida League. Their research and legal opinions provide us with tools for local actions. When any level of the government acts to benefit the few at the expense of us all, the League serves as a watchdog. When the legislature gerrymanders districts to benefit the incumbents, we are in court. And when the fix is inadequate, we are back in court, as we are now. We watch, we study, and we speak.

The National League watches the whole nation and helps us see patterns and trends that need our attention. LWVUS is our voice at the national level. One national project is advocating for truth in campaign advertising. The League and the Annenberg Public Policy Center are working to encourage TV stations to reduce deceptive information through fact-checking. In another initiative the National League sent comments to the Bureau of Land Management regarding a proposed rule regulating hydraulic fracturing on public and Indian land. We are busy watching and speaking out at every level.

Yes, we have a voice. We have a respected voice here in the Bay Area, in Florida and nationally. We use it to keep democracy strong.

I am so very proud to be a member of the League of Women Voters.

Paula

Our Condolences

to Janet deLorge on the death of her husband, John deLorge on September 11; to the families of Dr. Bill Maloy who died on September 9, Amelie Compton Blyth who died Sept. 11, and to Mary Reeber on the death of her husband, Jim Bumpus on October 6.

VOTER SERVICE

The Voter Service Committee has undertaken monumental tasks this election season in our non-partisan activities related to the November election. Members have donated long hours to register voters and make presentations on the proposed amendments. One never stops to think of the time and effort involved in finding the location and setting up equipment and displays. This is volunteerism at its best.



Charlyle Parrish and Shirley Lewis-Brown register Florida residents at Joe Patti's Seafood.

- ✓ Check out the voter information which is found on the local League [website](#) and on our [facebook](#) page.
- ✓ Postage required to mail Absentee Ballots in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties is [65 cents](#).
- ✓ Vote Early - Vote by Mail - Vote at the Polls

NOW IT IS YOUR TURN TO ACT!

The cost of printing registration forms and various printed materials used by the Voter Service members to provide information to the citizens, along with the Special Election Edition of the Florida Voter, has surpassed the amount budgeted for this election season.

Your financial help is needed. Please make a check to LWVPBA, designate it to Voter Service or a for tax deductible contribution, LWVF Ed Fund and mail to: LWVPBA, PO Box 2023, Pensacola, FL 32513.



Leaguers assist Escambia County Supervisor of Election officials with voter registration at UWF on September 26 / Tony Giberson /tgiverson@pnj.com

Donations were made to the League in memory of John deLorge by

Marilyn Badessa

Elizabeth Cook

Vivian Faircloth

Frankie Van Horn-Harris

Elizabeth and Norman Vickers

QUESTIONS ON LEAGUE VOTER SERVICE/ADVOCACY

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. This is the League's mission statement.

What is meant by Voter Service/Voter Education in the League?

Voter Service is an integral part of the League of Women Voters. It is strictly non-partisan and purely educational. It includes voter registration as well as the presentation of educational information to assist voters with non-partisan information on issues, such as the 11 proposed constitutional amendments, which are on the November general election ballot.

An example of Voter Service is the LWVF Special Election Guide, listing pro/con information on the 11 proposed amendments. Members of our local League are filling speaking requests from 30 groups throughout Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. These people want an objective explanation of the proposals. In addition, our League is distributing 15,000 Special Election Guides to these groups as well as to the public at large. Providing voters service and citizen education is a time-honored tradition dating back to the founding purposes of the League.

What is meant by League Advocacy?

Since the formation of the League more than 90 years ago, studies have been conducted on governmental issues and program positions were finalized by the membership following the studies. These positions have allowed members to lobby for or against laws, ordinances and actions of governmental bodies. This is known as League advocacy. Study is not enough, becoming experts is not enough.... Good citizenship requires not only knowledge but the ability to act.

An example of advocacy is the League opposition to the 11 proposed amendments on the November ballot. Following a detailed examination of the 11 proposed amendments, LWVF determined the proposals are not in agreement with League program.

These are the two parts of the League and each is entirely distinct. Voter Service/Voter Education activities can be funded through the Education Fund and are tax-deductible. On the other hand, the League activities promoting our program positions are not tax-deductible.

When you are asked how the League can provide education to the voters and still have opinions on government issues, you now have the rest of the story.

League of Women Voters of Florida Rejects All 11 Constitutional Amendments this Year

This November, Florida voters will see 11 of the most complex, confusing and, in some cases, misleading constitutional amendments proposed in recent memory. Voters will need to make a fundamental decision: "Do I want this in the state Constitution?"

The League of Women Voters of Florida Urges Voters to Give a "Thumbs Down" to the 11 Amendments They Will Confront on Election Day.

"Our Florida Constitution was crafted as a document that is intended to be difficult to change, and kept sacred for the purpose of identifying the structure of our government," said League President Deirdre Macnab.

Macnab also called attention to some things that all 11 amendments have in common--regardless of the issues they address: all were proposed by the state legislature within the last two years and all were placed on the ballot under new laws that allow the legislature and Attorney General to re-write summaries that do not pass court review. While legislators have steadily made it more difficult for citizen initiatives to be put to voters, they have removed safeguards relating to their own proposals.

According to Macnab, some of these amendments take aim at our fundamental rights, putting core American principles at risk in Florida. They attack the balance of power, right to privacy and separation of church and state. Consider:

- Amendment 5 (State Courts) would tip the balance of power in favor of political branches by giving them greater influence in the selection of judges appointed to serve on Florida's Supreme Court. The measure seeks to undermine the intent of our nonpartisan judicial nominating system by requiring Senate confirmation for all judicial appointments to the high court. According to former State Senator Alex Villalobos, "The major objection is that Amendment 5 puts the nominee back into a political process, with the specter of partisan lawmakers rejecting qualified appointees over ideological issues. Reduced in importance could be the honesty, competency or diligence necessary to be a successful Supreme Court Justice."
- Amendment 6 (Prohibition on Public Funding of Abortions; Construction of Abortion Rights) would allow Florida politicians to intrude on personal medical decisions between a woman, her family and her doctor. The League says that Amendment 6 is an example of big government at its worst and could potentially endanger women's lives.
- Amendment 8 (Religious Freedom) is a misnamed amendment that would allow taxpayer funding of religious institutions. It will allow public money to be

used for religious indoctrination. Saying 'No' to this amendment will not jeopardize existing funding for some religious groups' social welfare programs, which provide important services, but will continue to ensure that groups do not promote their specific religion at taxpayers' expense.

A number of the amendments (2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11) put tax limits, exemptions and loopholes in the Constitution. "With the Constitution intentionally hard to change," Macnab stated, "a better place for such tax provisions is regular statutory law, where changing conditions make modification easier. Further, our tax policy needs a level playing field. It's already riddled with loopholes and these amendments cut state revenues drastically."

Summarizing the League's opposition to all amendments, Macnab said, "The Constitution is a governing document, and should be left sacred to that purpose. We urge legislators to use their law-making power, and not weigh

citizens down with complicated amendments that do not belong in our state's Constitution. We urge all citizens to give these complex and inappropriate amendments a firm thumbs down."

Excerpts from press release of the LWV Florida President, Deirdre Macnab, September 27, 2012.

Florida League launches New Voter Hotline

LWV Florida Education Fund has moved its already active voter registration and support campaign into a higher gear with the addition of a Voter Assistance Hotline, 1-855-FL-VOTER (1-855-358-6837).

What is happening in the League on the National Level

- ★ The League joined with coalition partners in sending a letter to House Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi expressing support for the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) and urging them to ensure its uninterrupted operations in the next Congress by reactivating the agency and appointing the necessary board members.
- ★ The League joined coalition partners in asking members of the U.S. House to honor new congressional ethics rules prohibiting Members from participating in parties at the national nominating conventions that are paid for by lobbyists or lobbying organizations and are held to "honor" the Members.
- ★ In a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives, the League joined other coalition partners in opposing H.R. 5912, a bill that would repeal the presidential public financing system.

**Give a "Thumbs Down" to
the 11 Amendments**



WSRE Rally October 25-26th

Each major election year, WSRE brings you “Rally,” a primary and general election television candidate forum featuring local candidates. “Rally 2012” is co-produced by WSRE and the League of Women Voters of the Pensacola Bay Area and Okaloosa County. The purpose of “Rally 2012” 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.

Thursday, October 25 at 7 p.m.

U.S. Congress – District 1
 Escambia County Sheriff
 Escambia County Property Appraiser
 Escambia County Tax Collector
 Escambia County Superintendent of Schools

Friday, October 26 at 8 p.m.

Okaloosa County Commissioner – District 1
 Santa Rosa County Sheriff
 Escambia County Commissioner – District 1
 Escambia County Commissioner – District 3
 Escambia County Commissioner – District 5

Welcome New Members!

Marilyn Brown
 Donna Jacobi
 J.O. and Sylvia Love
 Donna Narducci
 Cathy Scott
 Jessica Simmons
 Elizabeth Smith
 Leonard Swartz
 Norman Vickers
 Frank Wood
 Lisa Wright

Contact information for members is found in the latest League roster.

Calendar



October

- 3 Absentee Ballots mailed.
- 9 **Registration Books Close**
- 9 Tuesday, 5:30 pm, **Ethics Committee Kickoff**, O’Charley’s Restaurant, for further information, contact Mary Gutierrez, mary.community at cox.net
- 10 Wednesday, **Board Meeting** - 5:30 pm at new Tryon Branch Public Library, 1200 Langley Ave. Members are welcome to attend.
- 12 Friday, 11:30 am Hot Topic Luncheon, Speaker: Karen Woodall, *Amendment 3: Should the state change the way it calculates its revenue limit?* For reservations call Fay Walker, 453-9198 or lwvpba at gmail.com. Deadline October 9, Cost \$15, Portobella Market, 400 S. Jefferson St.
- 16 Tuesday, 10 am **International Relations Committee**, Azalea Trace Auditorium; Speaker: **Jim Hunt** on *Pros and Cons of the Constitutional Amendments*. For further information, contact Gene Feicht at 479-3352 or gfl at students.uwf.edu.
- 17 Wednesday, 11:30 am - 1 pm, **Natural Resources Committee**, Tu-Do Vietnamese Restaurant, 7130 N Davis Hwy. For more information contact Mary Gutierrez, *gutmry at cox.net*.
- 25-26 Thursday & Friday, **WSRE Election Rally 2012**, 7 pm (details in column 1, page 5)
- 27 Saturday through Saturday November 3, 7:00am until 7:00 pm. **Early Voting** - Check with your Supervisor of Elections for locations.

November

- 6 **Tuesday**, 7:00 am - 7:00 pm, General Election

General Meeting

Saturday, October 20, 2012

“You’ve Earned a Say: Medicare”

Stephen Rome, Advocacy Volunteer for AARP

Coffee 9:15 am - Program 9:45 am

Tryon Branch Library, Langley Avenue

Notice: West Florida Public Library announced a reduction in operational hours due to significant cuts in their budget.

October League meetings will be held at Tryon library but alternative plans will have to be made for the future. Look for more information later this month.

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. **Reminder of 2012-13 dues are payable now.**

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

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Education | Natural Resources | Social Policy | Speaker's Bureau |
| Public Relations | Library | Voter Service | Website |
| Transportation | Growth Management | Membership | Legislative Action |
| Hospitality | Photography | Naturalization | Restoration of Felon Rights |
| County Government | City Government | State Government | National Government |
| Newsletter | Voter Registration | Publicity | Social Media |
| Ethics Study | Historian | Research | Observer Corps |

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 the treasurer.)



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