



The VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE PENSACOLA BAY AREA

Volume 57, Issue 6
February 2008

Planning Time for 2008-2009

Saturday, February 9, 9:00 am

Home of Carolann Holmes, 9743 Creek Bridge Circle (Fox Run subdivision)

Join the members of the League for breakfast on Saturday to plan our national and local programs for next year. Leagues throughout the state and the nation are participating in this important activity. We'll meet, eat, and look at what positions we have, what we have done, what we need to do, and also look at what we want to do. This meeting will help to develop a better understanding of how the League works. **If you want to know what the League can do, if you think that the League should be involved in a certain issue, or if you are ready for action, this is the time and place for you!** And we'll do it over breakfast. Every two years Leaguers participate in the LWVUS Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues. This is how we remain a grassroots organization.

The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study. It gives members and Leagues a chance to balance the pros and cons, assess possible support, and consider the viability of issues. During the process, members have the opportunity to organize support based on factual materials.

Program, a three-part process that is a core component of the League's mission, is composed of program planning, study and consensus, and advocacy. At the planning meeting on Saturday, Leaguers will be thinking about possible national and local issues not covered by current positions. One should evaluate possible issues by asking, for example:

- * Is there widespread member interest?
- * Is this a timely issue?
- * Is government action the most effective way to address the problem?

Why is it necessary to plan program now? We will be preparing ourselves for our local annual meeting in May, when our members decide on program for the next year. Also, we will be ready to submit proposals to the LWVUS to be discussed at the June national convention in Portland, Oregon.

Enjoy breakfast with us on Saturday at Carolann's home. In order to have an indication of attendance, **please call Bea Belous at 476-0994 or send an email to lwpba@Gmail.com.** Please bring your Membership packet or the 2007 Annual Meeting booklet for reference. See you there. ♦

Recycling Initiatives

Saturday, February 16, 2008

Institute of Human & Machine Cognition (IHMC)
40 S. Alcaniz St, Pensacola

Speakers: *Jim Howe and DeeDee Green*, Escambia County and *John Tonkin*, Santa Rosa County



At last year's Annual Meeting, our members adopted a local program item to review and update the Solid Waste and Garbage Collection positions of League. Last month's Voter included an update of Escambia County's Landfill operation. On February 16, representatives from Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties will present an overview of recycling and information that will hopefully enable members to consider consensus questions following their presentations.

League Program Positions

In January 1991 the LWVUS adopted positions on solid waste and recycling in response to reauthorization of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). **The Waste Management position promotes policies to reduce the generation and promotes the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes. LWVUS supports those positions and, specifically, supports increased recycled content in newspaper and packaging to spur markets for recycled products and to reduce the amount of waste produced.**

Continued on page 2, Recycling

President's Message

Immigration Study

As the immigration study wrapped up and the tax amendment vote approached, January was certainly a busy month for the League.

A good number of members turned out for our Immigration Study meeting, helping us reach local consensus on the national League study. The Immigration program's success is largely thanks to the hard work and organizational skills of our Immigration Study Committee. Presentations at the November and January meetings were well-planned and executed forums that touched on all the key points of the study.

Committee members Rosemary Hays-Thomas, Gene Feicht, Don Freeman, Gloria Dawson, Nancy Lake and Bea Belous have worked diligently over the past few years to research and analyze a wide range of information on this very timely and controversial topic. I'd like to extend a special thank you to Rosemary Hays-Thomas for her outstanding management of the complex and broad-reaching process of consensus building.

I was pleased to see a healthy member turnout for the consensus process. Although opinions sometimes conflicted, the process itself remained cordial and, in the end, worked just as it was designed to.

As a group, we narrowed a host of immigration-related topics down to our key priorities. The final results focus on such disparate elements as the impact of immigration on the economy and employment needs; humanitarian and family issues; and the nuts and bolts of Federal Immigration Law. Our Pensacola Bay Area input has been forwarded to the National League, for incorporation into the study as a whole.

Tax Amendment

Later in the month, the League hosted Property Appraiser Greg Brown in a Santa Rosa forum on the tax amendment. Mr. Brown's presentation was very thorough, and I think guests and members alike learned much from it. By fostering meetings to educate citizens about how the tax process works and about how the Amendment would affect them, we fulfilled a key League goal of helping voters make informed decisions.

I also had the chance to speak at a separate tax amendment meeting hosted by the Santa Rosa Democrats. Following an overview by Mr. Brown, I emphasized the



League position that budgetary details belong in statutes, not the constitution. The meeting gave south Santa Rosa voters a chance to get to know the issues, and allowed us the opportunity, again, to educate citizens on important electoral topics. I'd like to thank all the members who braved January's chilly temperatures to participate in the Immigration consensus and our tax reform forums. This month, we'll host a February 16th meeting on recycling, and I would encourage interested members to come and learn about local waste management issues. ◇

Carolann, 477-6141

Recycling Initiations from page 1

From earlier studies, our local League positions on recycling include:

- Support recycling of reusable materials;**
- Support legislation against non-returnable bottles;**
- Support use of all-steel or all-aluminum cans.**

Following the presentations by our speakers, the membership will consider the following consensus question:

Does the League support curbside recycling in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties?

Agree Do not agree

Background on Recycling in Florida

In 1988, the Legislature first passed a law requiring counties to recycle and became the second state in the country to set state recycling goals. Florida's recycling volume increased from four percent and leveled out at 25 percent in the late 90s.

Recycling has become a routine part of our lives. In a 2006 Columbia University study, Florida generated in excess of 29 million tons of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), ranking the state as the 5th largest generator of solid waste in the US.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) states that Floridians have maintained a steady individual waste generation of 5.6 pounds per person per day since 1990. Commercial versus residential waste contributions have remained at 55 to 45 percent of the waste stream respectively. Construction and demolition waste was the only material exhibiting a noticeable increase in the waste stream. ◇

Welcome New Members

Cheryl Talbot

(Representative of 100 Black Women)
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Cantonment, 32533 C-529-5073
cheryltalbot@att.net

Kathleen (Kathy) Kerr

3023 Cedarwood Village Lane 32514
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May Lee Brown

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James P. Hamilton, III

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Great Decisions 2008

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The February 18 discussion will be on Iraq. A recurring question found in most public opinion polls and on the 2008 presidential campaign trail: What will be the end-game for the U.S. in Iraq? How will U.S. decisions about continued engagement affect Iraq itself, and the Middle East?

Calendar



February

- 5 Tuesday, 5:30 pm **Board Meeting** at Tryon Branch Library, 9th Ave.
- 7 Thursday, 4 pm **Education Committee**, Terrace 1 Azalea Trace. Impact of retention of third graders study. Contact Barbara Goggins, gog@att.net.

Planning Breakfast

Saturday February 9, 2008 9:00 am

Carolann Holmes, 9743 Creek Bridge Cir., Fox Run

(Enter on Fox Run Road, make first right on Creek Bridge Road and first right on Creek Bridge Circle. RSVP B Belous, 476-0994 please.)

- 14 The League will celebrate its 88th birthday with a renewed commitment to making sure more Americans vote in 2008!

General Meeting at IHMC

Saturday, February 16, 2008, 9:00 am coffee, 9:30 am program

Recycling Initiatives and Consensus

Speakers: *Jim Howe* and *Dee Dee Green*, Escambia County and *John Tonkin*, Santa Rosa County

- 18 Monday, 10 am **International Relations Committee**. Azalea Trace, **Great Decisions** leader Kathy Kerr, formerly of the State Department with knowledge of Iraq.
- 19 Tuesday, 5:30 pm **Natural Resources/Growth Management Committee** meeting at Caldwell and Associates Architects Inc., Interior Designers's Conference Room, 116 North Tarragona Street

This is a reminder to contribute to the **League Lobby Fund Challenge**. Twelve League members have donated a total of \$334 toward our \$800 goal in response to the challenge. Your donations will ensure that League positions will be presented during the upcoming legislative session in March. The League's goal of Good Government in Florida can be enhanced by your contributions. Please send your check to, LWVPBA Treasurer, P.O. Box 2023 Pensacola, FL 32513 or make a cash donation.

The VOTER Volume 57, Issue 6 February 2008

Established in 1949, the Pensacola Bay Area League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages citizens to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a member. All members receive the *National Voter*, the *Florida Voter* and this publication.

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LWV Florida Website: www.lwvfla.org LWVUS Website: www.lwv.org

P.O. Box 2023 Pensacola, FL 32513

League Statement made to City of Pensacola Environmental Advisory Board Regarding the Tree Ordinance.

The Natural Resources policies of the League of Women Voters are based on the belief that governmental action should result in sustainability. The needs of the future must not be sacrificed to the demands of the present.

Recently, several large developments in the city have caused public outcry, because of wholesale leveling of trees. This destruction has called in to question the ability of current regulations to protect our local natural resources for future generations.

When compared to other cities in Florida, our regulations rank as some of the weakest. Many other cities have managed to preserve and prosper. The time has come for the City of Pensacola to seriously address tree preservation by revision of the city tree/landscape ordinance. It is also imperative that the city stringently enforce the regulations it adopts.

The League of Women Voters supports changes to the regulations that include:

- Increased public notice of tree clearing prior to issuance of permits.
- Designation of "heritage tree" status for mature trees.
- Increase in the diameter size required in the tree replacement formula.
- Required natural vegetative buffer zones (particularly near waterways).



League of Women Voters ®
of the Pensacola Bay Area
P.O. Box 203 Pensacola, FL 32513

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
\$50 Individual membership ● + \$25 each additional household member ● \$25 student membership
Here's my extra contribution to the League \$ _____

My contribution to the Lobby Fund Challenge \$ _____
 I'm renewing my membership

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Business Phone _____

Email Address _____

- Meaningful increases in fines and penalties to discourage violations .
- Disallowance of "site conditions" as a primary criteria for tree removal.

The League Women of Voters requests that these changes be included in any revisions made to the current tree/landscape ordinance. (January 30, 2008)

Carolann Holmes, President
LWV Pensacola Bay Area

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Address correction requested