

**THE VOTER**

April-May  
2020

[www.LWVVC.org](http://www.LWVVC.org)

P.O. Box 9695, Daytona Beach, FL 32120

**Remarks from our President**



Greetings to all! I hope that during these trying times, you and your families are safe and looking after each other. As I was preparing these remarks, I reflected on how different my message would have been only a few weeks ago. As recently as early March, we were eagerly preparing for our Politicos on Parade fundraiser, continuing our Library displays, voter registration events, and many other activities. Those events, of course, have all been put on hold. We do hope to reschedule many of them once we are given the word that it is safe to do so. To learn more about Politicos' future, be sure to check out Ann Smith's Politicos update.

Despite this setback, our work continues. Prior to the beginning of our new fiscal year which commences on July 1<sup>st</sup>, we need to elect new officers, approve a budget, and decide if there are changes to our by-laws. Those decisions are made by vote of LWVVC members during our annual meeting. Originally this year's annual meeting was scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup>. It is unclear whether we will be able to hold an in-person meeting prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> so we are exploring the possibility of a virtual meeting. We will inform all members as soon as we have finalized our plans. While the annual meeting date is uncertain, this edition of The Voter contains committee recommendations for the new slate of officers, the 2020-2021 budget, and a change to our by-laws. Note that this year's budget includes a recommendation for a membership fee increase which is explained in a memorandum from our Board of Directors. Please take time to review these documents so you will be prepared for our annual meeting.

On a positive note, the state League has had two "wins" with regards to election sites and Amendment 4. To learn about those exciting developments, see Carla Christianson's Voter Service report. While our Observer Corps is not able to attend local government meetings, several have been able to participate virtually. Many thanks to them for their diligence and commitment to keeping us informed. Our media team is also committed to keeping our message front and center through Facebook and we will continue to post new information on our webpage [lwvvc.org](http://lwvvc.org) as it is available.

I cannot thank our members enough for supporting the League of Women Voters of Volusia County and the League's mission to register, educate, and inform the citizens of Volusia County. The future for all of us is uncertain, but we pledge to stay vigilant in our mission.

In League,  
Nicki Junkins, President

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN APRIL AND MAY 2020

Due to the seriousness of the COVID-19 epidemic, the League of Women Voters of Volusia County Board has cancelled all League events through April. We are hoping to re-schedule our Politicos on Parade fundraiser and the "Backpack Full of Cash" program later this year. We will post updates as more information becomes available.

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2020 at the Palmetto Club, 1000 S. Beach Street, 10 a.m to noon. This Voter provides members with meeting information before the scheduled meeting as required by LWVVC by-laws. Further information about the meeting will be forthcoming via e-mail.

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Sandra Horikami, *Voter Editor*

## PROPOSED 2020-2021 BUDGET

The LWVVC Board approved this recommended budget at the March 18, 2020 Board Meeting for submission to the General Membership for approval.

Description	YTD	19/20 Budget	% Spent	20/21 Proposed
<b>INCOME:</b>				
LWVVC-DUES RETAINED	245.00	8,000.00	50.94%	460.00
LWVVC-DUES INCREASE				1,570.00
LWVFL-DUES	2,535.00			2,355.00
LWVUS-DUES	5,680.00			5,024.00
Contributions/Donations	745.00	1,000.00	74.50%	600.00
Honoraria-Speakers Bureau	-	350.00	0.00%	100.00
Interest Income	402.17	-	0.00%	300.00
Meeting Income	322.81	-	0.00%	-
Politicos Income	2,000.00	10,000.00	20.00%	-
Politicos Reserve	-	-	0.00%	2,000.00
Social Fundraising Income	225.00	575.00	39.13%	250.00
DB Housing Authority Grant	-	3,000.00	0.00%	-
Investment Fund Transfer-Special Project 1	-	1,500.00	0.00%	2,500.00
Investment Fund Transfer-Special Project 2	-	3,500.00	0.00%	300.00
Investment Fund Transfer-Special Project 3				200.00
Refunds	-	-	0.00%	-
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>7,769.98</b>	<b>27,925.00</b>	<b>27.82%</b>	<b>15,659.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>				
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>104.54</b>	<b>1,735.00</b>	<b>6.03%</b>	<b>1,690.00</b>
Annual Dues Notice Mailing				350.00
Bank Fees	5.98	50.00	11.96%	50.00
Constant Contact	-	180.00	0.00%	180.00
CPA & Legal	-	-		-
D&O Insurance	-	200.00	0.00%	-
Equipment				150.00
FL Incorporation Fee	-	70.00	0.00%	70.00
PO Box	-	120.00	0.00%	140.00
Postage	22.00	115.00	19.13%	75.00
Printing	31.02	150.00	20.68%	50.00
Supplies	45.54	100.00	45.54%	75.00
Website Maintenance Expense	-	750.00	0.00%	550.00
<b>Action Committee Expense</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>200.00</b>
<b>DB Housing Authority Expense</b>	<b>727.03</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>72.70%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Delegate Expense--&gt;To Leadership Development</b>		<b>1,700.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>-</b>
LWVF State Convention	-	-	#DIV/0!	-
LWVF Leadership Conference	-	700.00	0.00%	-
LWVF Legislative Summit	-	500.00	0.00%	-
LWVUS Conference	-	500.00	0.00%	-
<b>Meeting Expense</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>270.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>220.00</b>
Programs-Handouts	-	70.00	0.00%	70.00
Speaker	-	200.00	0.00%	150.00
<b>Membership Expense</b>	<b>23.19</b>	<b>700.00</b>	<b>3.31%</b>	<b>400.00</b>
Annual Dues Notice Mailing--> Move to Operating Exp.		350.00	0.00%	
Orientation		150.00	0.00%	200.00
Member Outreach	-	200.00	0.00%	200.00
<b>Online Voter Guide Expense--&gt; Move to Voter Services</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>#DIV/0!</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Per Member Payment</b>	<b>7,011.25</b>	<b>7,600.00</b>	<b>92.25%</b>	<b>7,379.00</b>
LWVF PMP	1,331.25	2,100.00	63.39%	2,355.00
LWVUS PMP	5,680.00	5,500.00	103.27%	5,024.00
<b>Politicos Expense</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,500.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Promotion/Advertising Expense</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>300.00</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>350.00</b>

<b>Student Award Expense</b>	-	200.00	0.00%	200.00
<b>Special Projects Expense</b>	2,332.52	5,000.00	46.65%	3,000.00
Anniversary Expense	1,532.52	3,500.00	43.79%	-
Website Build & Design Expense	800.00	1,500.00	53.33%	-
Leadership Development Funds				2,500.00
Membership Scholarship Funds				300.00
Student League Funds				200.00
<b>The Voter Expense</b>	-	120.00	0.00%	120.00
Printing	-	80.00	0.00%	80.00
Postage - 6/yr * 10	-	30.00	0.00%	30.00
Mailing Supplies	-	10.00	0.00%	10.00
<b>Voter Services Expense</b>	451.29	2,200.00	20.51%	2,000.00
Advertising	-	-	#DIV/0!	-
Candidate Outreach				200.00
Event Registration	250.00	350.00	71.43%	450.00
Equipment	-	250.00	0.00%	-
League Promotional Items	-	200.00	0.00%	-
Shirts	-	450.00	0.00%	-
Speakers Bureau	-	-	#DIV/0!	-
Supplies	201.29	750.00	26.84%	1,000.00
Voter Registration Tablet	-	200.00	0.00%	-
Voter Advertising				250.00
Voter Guide				100.00
<b>Workshop Expense</b>	-	100.00	0.00%	100.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>10,649.82</b>	<b>25,925.00</b>	<b>41.08%</b>	<b>15,659.00</b>

<b>LWVVC-DUES INCREASE</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Rate</b>	<b>Total</b>
Primary Members	139	10.00	\$1,390.00
Additional Members	36	5.00	180.00
Student Membership	5	0	0.00
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>180</b>		<b>\$1,570.00</b>

## Budget Memo to Membership:

**TO: LWVVC Membership**  
**FROM: LWVVC Officers and Board of Directors**  
**DATE: April 6, 2020**  
**SUBJECT: Budget Recommendations**

In accordance with League of Women Voters of Volusia County by-laws, membership is provided with budget recommendations 30 days prior to our annual meeting and the proposed 2020-21 budget follow this memorandum. After a complete financial review, the LWVVC board voted to recommend a budget proposal that includes a \$10 increase in single membership and a \$15 increase in family membership. The board has resisted raising dues for more than a decade but after years of cost cutting and dipping into reserves, the board concluded that to be fiscally responsible, a dues increase was in the best interest of our organization. The budget proposal will be presented during the annual meeting at which time members will have the opportunity to ask questions prior to voting on the recommendation. If approved, the new membership fees will be effective as of July 1, which is the beginning of our 2020-21 fiscal year. Below is an overview of the analysis by our budget committee that was the basis for the board's recommendation.

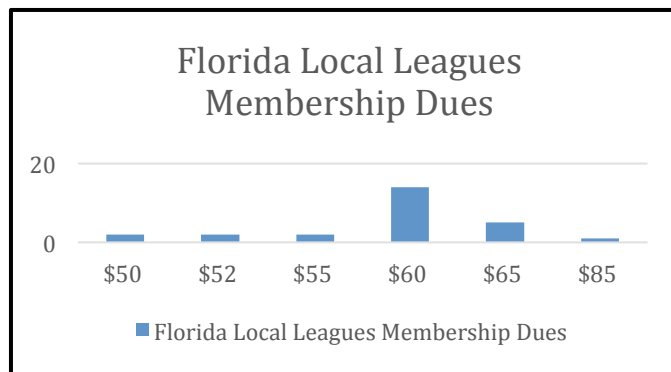
The Budget Committee met on March 11 to discuss the League's financial position and the 2020-2021 budget. The committee approached the budget allocation and financial position based on the fiscal philosophy adopted by the board to align expenses and income into the three broad categories of (a) operational expenses derived from membership dues, (b) voter services from fundraising, and (c) membership/leadership development and special projects from endowment funds. With this philosophy, the committee conducted a review of League's revenue and spending pattern over the last decade to bring clarity to understand the complete financial picture. In the proceeding sections, the committee as prepared some basic information that informed our recommendations to the board including review of spending of investment funding and comparison of LWVVC membership dues.

A few key highlights from the historical review

- Over the past decade, the League has transferred around \$7,000 from Investment funds to cover operational costs.
- Around 2008-2009 the Education Fund totaled around \$5,640 but today stands at \$211.
- \$3,081 in Education Funds were used to cover state PMP from 2013-2015.
- Politicos funding was dedicated for Voter Services but due to changes in the tax law. Income from Politicos has dropped significantly with an expected profit of \$2,000 this year.
- Over the past 3 years, many general meetings have been held at local libraries rather than restaurants to eliminate the cost of meals paid by attendees. This change saves approximately \$20 per person per meeting and will continue to be a recommended practice.

#### Membership Dues

- LWVVC dues have been set at \$50 for over a decade.
- During the same period, the national and state Leagues have increased membership costs which reduced the funds remaining at the local level. There is also the unknown question of when will the national and state league raise their dues again.
- Today, LWVVC collects around \$3 per individual membership in dues (only \$1.25 if paid via PayPal).
- Our membership is tied with Bay County as the lowest in the state with most local leagues set at \$60.
- Those members who join our local League through the LWVFL website are required to pay \$60 which is the fee set by the state.



A few key highlights within the proposed budget

- \$1,690 has been budgeted for Operational Expense to ensure LWWVC can operate. Unfortunately, LWVVC membership dues are estimated to bring an income of **\$462** leaving a budget deficit of \$1,228
- \$3,000 has been budgeted for leadership development with funds supporting sending members for LWVFL Lobby Days and other LWV events, student development funds, and membership scholarships. The Committee proposes using Endowment funds to cover these expenses for membership and leadership development.

- \$2,000 has been budgeted for Voter Services with funding coming from Politicos. Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Politicos has been moved to the 2021 calendar year. Since Voter Service is essential to our mission, any shortfall to the Voter Service budget this year will be covered using our Investment dollars. This unexpected situation reinforces the need to have sufficient reserves available so we are able to continue our important work when emergencies arise.

The Budget Committee has carefully cut back on expenses to align with the Board’s goals while not affecting our primary mission. These cuts include ending monthly postcards, phone services, insurance, and other items saving thousands of dollars. **Unfortunately, after careful consideration and review of LWVVC’s resources, the committee has concluded that the League is not bringing in enough revenue from membership dues to cover our basic operational needs.** Thus, we must make up the deficits by tapping into income from the endowment and fundraising to cover the expenses, leaving fewer resources available to meet LWVVC’s goals. Eventually, LWVVC’s endowment will be depleted like the Education Fund, leaving future boards without resources to meet their needs and goals. We have an obligation to be good stewards of limited resources and leave the League on a solid financial foundation for future boards. .

Thus, we would like to propose an increase in membership dues to \$60 for individuals and \$90 for families to cover LWVVC’s operational needs, leaving endowment funds and fundraising revenue dedicated to voter services and membership development. The proposed membership dues will bring LWVVC’s membership dues in alignment with other leagues within the state of Florida and would provide an annual operating income of \$2,030, which covers all projected needs.

Note: the budget analysis was prepared by LWVVC Budget Team  
*Wes Lewis, Budget Chair*  
*Carla Christianson*  
*Mary Anne Connors*  
*Nicki Junkins*  
*Deb Noah*

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## LWVVC POSITIONS

Although non-partisan, The League of Women Voters of Volusia County studies many local issues. For state-wide and national issues which the LWVVC also supports, see the LWVF and LWVUS websites. Below is the current list of positions we have taken on these local issues.

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### COUNTY CHARTER *(revised position, adopted April 6, 2013)*

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County:

- Supports protections of the County Charter and its principles, to include monitoring County Council to ensure that the principles are implemented.
  - Supports an appointed (rather than elected) sheriff, property appraiser, supervisor of elections, and clerk of courts, all with professional qualifications.
-

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT *(revised position, adopted April 6, 2013)*

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County is concerned about the negative consequences of rapid growth throughout the region. These positions address the goals and processes of comprehensive planning and require coordination among the governments of Volusia County. In order to preserve the quality of life in Volusia County:

- LWVVC supports Volusia County and the municipalities within its borders working together to protect the environment while providing reasonable use of the land and restricting the use of wetland mitigation.
- LWVVC supports buffering of environmentally sensitive land and water bodies and encourages developing open, recreational, and green spaces to enhance and maintain quality of life within the county and its municipalities.
- LWVVC supports giving public interest priority regarding the conservation of our natural habitats in Volusia County.
- LWVVC supports increased consideration to potable water issues, including the assurance of clean water, in the Comprehensive Plans of Volusia County and its municipalities.
- LWVVC supports development of effective drainage systems to improve recharge and retention areas and reduce flooding in Volusia County and its municipalities.
- LWVVC encourages Volusia County and its municipalities to work together to direct regional growth in a responsible manner.
- LWVVC supports measures to ensure that any comprehensive plan amendment or rezoning that permits increased residential density may be approved only if adequate public schools can be timely planned and constructed to serve the projected increase in student population.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

**Water**: The League of Women Voters of Volusia County supports efforts to conserve and protect our water supply as an essential part of ecosystem management. These efforts include:

- The County Council's continued implementation of Volusia County's stormwater management ordinance.
- LWVVC's continued participation in the LWV Coalition to monitor the St. Johns River Water Management District.
- LWVVC supports coordinated management to protect Volusia County's aquifer and the recharge area.
- Establishment of a county-wide entity to govern water usage.

### **Storm water**

- Recognizing that stormwater basins and sub-canal systems cross city/community boundaries, LWVVC believes that Volusia County should be primarily responsible for their maintenance.
- LWVVC supports both county and local stormwater fees.
- LWVVC supports continued and expanded use of re-claimed water.
- Local municipalities should include streetsweeping in their stormwater management plans to minimize pollution by debris in collection systems and basins.
- In addition to preventing flooding, effective stormwater management plans must provide for:

- a) reduction of pollutants entering the waterways.
- b) reduction of desalination of salt water tributaries in the county.
- c) reclamation of stormwater to reduce the demands on the aquifer.
- d) reduction of runoff pollution entering the aquifer.

### **CHILDREN'S SERVICES** *(revised position adopted 4/24/2010)*

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County supports making children's services a top priority in Volusia County with an emphasis on:

- Prenatal health care that includes screenings for maternal and fetal wellbeing; maternal screenings and treatment for social- emotional health and for addictions.
- Comprehensive healthcare for children that includes preventive screenings and timely treatment of physical, emotional and behavioral problems.
- Age appropriate educational programs for children that include access to factual programs in sex education, parenting, child development and addictive substances.

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County supports the following recommendations for local legislative or community action:

- Create a resource center to collect, coordinate and disseminate information about services to children available in Volusia County, that will be made available to parents and professionals working with children.
- Require training of all childcare personnel in child development and behavioral interventions.
- Require licensure of all family childcare homes.
- Encourage employers to provide or subsidize childcare for employees.

### **TRANSPORTATION** *(position adopted 1/10/2015)*

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County supports the following recommendations regarding local transportation systems in Volusia County.

- LWVVC supports apportioning sources of land transportation revenue to all forms of transportation and believes it is the responsibility of cities, county, state and federal governments to fund mass transit for Volusia County.
- LWVVC supports safe access to schools, shopping, and neighborhoods through the establishment of well-connected walking and bicycling networks as an important component for livable communities.
- LWVVC supports extending and improving public transportation in order to create better local and regional connectivity.
- LWVVC supports requiring that all public transit stops adhere to Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- LWVVC supports land-use changes that will encourage the use of efficient public transportation.



## LWVVC BY-LAWS CHANGES

The following changes were recommended by the By-laws Committee (Jeanne Tanke, Mary Anne Connors) chaired by Wes Lewis. The changes were approved by the LWVVC Board at the February 2020 Board Meeting for submission to the general membership for approval. Changes are indicated as follows: deletions are in red bold and crossed out; additions are underlined in red bold.

These changes provide clarification for the quorum for the annual meeting.

The LWVVC By-laws currently reads:

**Article VI- Meetings**

**Section 3. Quorum. ~~A minimum of 20 percent of the membership shall constitute a quorum at the meeting of the LWVVC to conduct business.~~**

Discussion: Due to the increase in membership and the number needed for a quorum, current language was is becoming a challenge for LWVVC to conduct official business at the annual meeting. Therefore the Board felt that removing a required percentage of members allows LWVVC to conduct business while still providing ample notice to membership of details concerning the meeting and a forum for them to participate.

The Board recommend the change:

**Article VI- Meetings**

**Section 3. Quorum. Business shall be conducted by a majority of the members present.**

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### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The LWVVC Board of Directors present the Nominating Committee’s slate of officers was approved by the LWVVC Board at the February 2020 Board Meeting and submitted for approval by the General Membership.

#### Current Elected LWVVC Officers and Directors

President	Nicki Junkins (2019-2021)
First Vice-President	Carla Christianson (2019-2021)
Second Vice-President	Monique Fischer (2019-2020)
Secretary	Betty Johnson (2018-2020)
Treasurer	Deb Noah (2018-2020)

<u>Directors (2018-2020)</u>	<u>Directors (2019-2021)</u>	<u>Nominating Committee (2019-2020)</u>
Sandra Horikami	Nancy Vaughn	Libby Hilderbrandt, chair
Wesley Lewis	Linda Lenk	Susan Bayley
Ann Smith		Suze Peace
		Ann Smith
		Pat Drago

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#### Nominated Officers and Directors

Second Vice-President	Cathy Egley (2020-2022)
Secretary	Betty Johnson (2020-2022)
Treasurer	Deb Noah (2020-2022)

<u>Directors (2020-2022)</u>	<u>Nominating Committee (2020-2021)</u>
Mary Ann Connors	Jeanne Tanke, chair
Wesley Lewis	Monique Fischer
Susan Bayley	Suze Peace



*Monique Fischer, Membership chair*

### **Education Action Team Report**

This year started out with energy and focus. The latter part of the year is as much about what we planned to do as actually completed.

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT REGISTRATIONS:** As we resumed activity in the fall education team members partnered with Voter Services to register high school students throughout the district. In addition to the benefit of registering students, it gave us a window into each high school and its culture. We gained a great deal of insight which influenced our approach to the subsequent search for a new school superintendent.

**SCHOOL VISITS:** On Nov. 5, a group of 8 committee members (Pat Drago, Ann Smith, Monique Fischer, Elizabeth Albert, Kim Short, Jeanette Duerr, Jeanne Tanke and Pat Cosby) visited New Smyrna Beach High School's career education programs, thanks to arrangements by Rachel Rutledge, CTE coordinator for Volusia County. It was a welcoming and informative visit beginning with a continental breakfast served by the high school and a welcome from Tim Egnor, acting superintendent, and Matt Krajewski, principal. Denise Johns, Career and Technical Education Coordinator, thoroughly explained the program – with great enthusiasm – and introduced the committee members to the four student ambassadors who acted as guides to visit several of the programs: child care, engineering, medical, fresh- and saltwater aquaculture, marketing, and game simulation. LWV guests were surprised to find the variety of academies and to see students who were so enthusiastic about their opportunities in these classes. The group concluded that it was a well organized program that met the needs of students and the community. More should be known about the good work that is being done.

After lunch to review our visit, five members toured the recently completed Chisolm Elementary with Saralee Morrissey, facilities director. This is a rebuild on an existing campus in a predominantly minority community. The school was a welcome investment in the neighborhood.

**SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH:** Members met and discussed the leadership traits that we felt were critical to the success of an educational leader for Volusia County. These were drafted into a letter that was disseminated at the citizen committee meetings and to the school board members for their consideration. Several members also participated in the community discussion groups.

As the search process continued action team members attended the board interviews of the applicants. We have been watching the changes as Dr. Fritz has taken the leadership role this year. A meeting had been scheduled with him for April 8, but cancelled at this time.

**EDUCATING THE EDUCATOR:** Team members had a session with Dr. Chris Colwell, the head of Stetson University's education program and a former assistant superintendent for Volusia Schools in academics, to understand the future of teacher training. We also learned the indicators of effective schools and what to look for in our subsequent school visits.

**SCHOOL VISITS:** In our effort to understand the real world impact of state education policy, team members visited two contrasting schools. Palm Terrace Elementary is high minority, high poverty and a "D" school at risk of closure. Sweetwater Elementary is majority white, high income and a consistent "A" school. We observed highly effective school leaders in both schools and committed staff.

The take away from these visits is that state education policy has misplaced emphasis in a way that undermines education at schools with a low letter grade. Every study of the topic reports that household income is the predictor of test scores, so punishing school leadership and teachers is a way to insure repeated failure. If a teacher receives a low assessment score for his/her classroom, it may indicate a lot more than ineffective teaching.

Penalizing a teacher by relocation or pay cuts will not insure a test improvement; it does, however, insure that teachers will avoid these classrooms and students if they can.

**ACTIVITIES ON HOLD OR CANCELLED:**

1. Planned showing of the film "Backpack Full of Cash."
2. Meeting with superintendent Dr. Fritz
3. School board candidate forums
4. Future team meetings held the first Monday of the month at 3:00 pm at Barnes and Noble. We will resume as soon as practical.

*Pat Drago, Education Action Team Chair*

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## **Natural Resources Action Team Report**

The 2020 Legislature finished their session on March 13<sup>th</sup>. This session was better than those in years past for the environment, with \$100 million earmarked for LATF, not as much as it should be, but progress was made. We will continue to monitor which bills the governor signs into law.

Here are some of the environmental bills that the League supported and have passed:

**SB 0712/HB 1343** - Water Quality Improvements (Mayfield). Titled the "Clean Waterways Act" this was THE omnibus water bill of the session. Although multiple amendments hindered progress on several fronts there were some successes.

**H5003/HB0489/SB332/SB7024 /722**– Land Acquisition Trust Fund (Stewart) after years of Florida Forever being underfunded it was finally passed with a budget of \$100M.

**HB1091/ SB1450** – Environmental Accountability Environmental Accountability. Encouraging counties and municipalities, respectively, to establish a sanitary sewer lateral inspection program. To learn more about these bills please visit the [senate](#) and [house](#) websites for detailed information.

Because of the Covid-19 virus we needed to cancel our general meeting at the Sandra Stetson Aquatic Center. We were greatly looking forward to hearing Gabbie Milch speak about water conversation and native plants. We will definitely be rescheduling this topic as it is a great way to have a proactive impact in our own backyards.

Additionally we needed to cancel our tour of Tiger Bay State Forest, which we will reschedule. This tour will help highlight the importance of protecting this land and the recharge areas within that are crucial to our water quality.

In the future we will tour Tomoka Recycling Center to better understand the transition local cities need to take with the recycling changes. This election season we will also be helping to recycle the candidates' signs. This is an enterprise we have assisted in during the midterms and it worked very well.

Please stay safe and feel free to contact me with questions.

*Nancy Vaughn, Natural Resources Action Team Chair*  
nancyvaughn411@msn.com

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## **Voter Service Action Team Report**

I hope this Voter finds each of you in good spirits and in excellent health. We live in very interesting times. I know many of our members were participating in our Presidential Primary as poll workers. I especially hope you came through that with no issues. Thank you again to all of you who volunteer for this important work.

We have very exciting news. It was part of the article from our State President Patti Brigham in the Florida Voter that came out April 3. Patti wrote that “as a result of an ongoing legal battle, a settlement has finally been reached with the State of Florida, which will fully allow early voting sites on our college and university campuses.

This fight began during Governor Scott’s administration when early voting was prohibited on these campuses. After winning the first round of the legal battle in 2018, the LWVFL worked with Supervisors of Elections and college/university presidents around the state to make sure these voting locations were provided. As a result, approximately 60,000 students were able to vote early on their campuses!”

The other good news affects Amendment 4. “A U.S. appeals court denied a request from Gov. Ron DeSantis’ office to reconsider a ruling that temporarily blocked Florida’s law requiring ex-felons to pay all outstanding fines and fees before registering to vote.” This is not over yet According to Katrina Elwood, writing for NPR on March 31, 2020, “the lawsuit is set for trial April 27 before U.S. District Judge Robert L. Hinkle in Tallahassee. Attorneys in the case plan to conduct the trial remotely because of the pandemic. “

Our last voter registration event was the very festive Dog Parade in Deland. We had several members march in the spectacular parade and others helped man our booth along with the Natural Resources Action Team members. What a fun event. It was a chilly day but certainly ended up a fun one. Thanks to all who came out to make this a great event and to Cathy Egley for organizing the march.

We will be waiting to see how things play out for registration events in the future. In the meantime.

Suggest you use your social media, snail mail or email to suggest using VOTE411.org This website will allow citizens where ever they live an opportunity to update their voter registrations. They can use the site to change address, change party or name. They can print out the form and mail it in if they do not have a signature on file or if they want to update the signature. It will get a voter to their Supervisor of Elections so they can register on line. If a Florida citizen has a signature on file because they have a driver's license or Florida ID they can register on line. They can use the site to change address, change party or name. They can

print out the form and mail it in if they do not have a signature on file or if they want to update the signature.

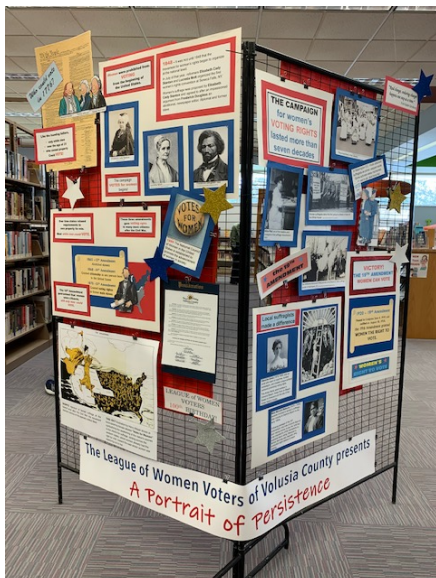
We will continue to watch those things that affect our elections as the virus continues and the state and federal government debate changes. Stay healthy and stay home.

*Carla Christianson, Voter Service Action Chair*

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### LWV Centennial Celebration Events

Our Centennial Events were a huge success in February and March. We had great displays in our libraries. March was a great time to have displays telling the story of Suffrage and the League of Women Voters. Thanks to Ann Harrell for leading the installation in New Smyrna and Suzy Peace for The wonderful job of covering the west side libraries!

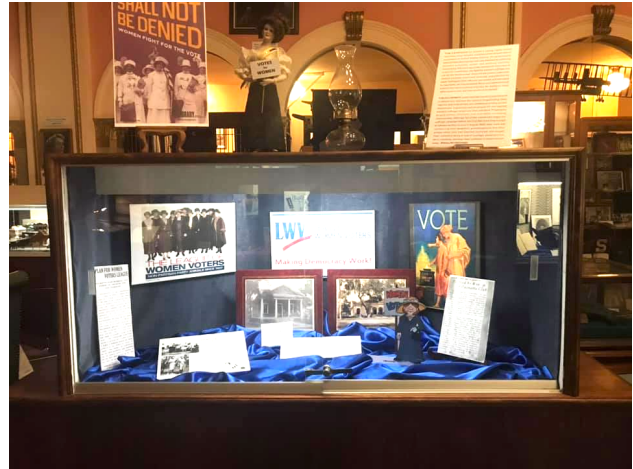


New Smyrna Library Display



Deltona Library Display

The event and display at the Halifax Historic Society was absolutely wonderful. The display is so very informative as well as lovely! The reception which was organized by Social Events Action Team Chair, Cathy Egley, could not have been more delightful. Thank you to all who helped make that night and the display so fabulous. Great teamwork produced great results.



Jeanne Tanke, Lynn Lempel, Gloria Sigmann, Jean Snyder, and Pat. Drago enjoy the Museum display



Cathy Egley, Social Events Chair, serves Carolyn West



Nicki Junkins, Carla Christianson, and Ann Smith.

*Carla Christianson,  
Celebration Action Team Chair*

## Politicos on Parade Postponed!

Due to the Coronavirus and the uncertainty of not only the next month, but into the fall, Politicos on Parade has been postponed until April 24, 2021. Thank you to everyone who worked to get advertisers, sponsors, and sold tickets.

For questions regarding tickets, please contact Jeanne Tanke at [jeanne622lwvvc@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jeanne622lwvvc@cfl.rr.com). We are hoping that everyone retains his/her ticket and we'll see you in 2021, but please direct all questions regarding tickets to Jeanne.

Direct all questions regarding advertisers to Ann Smith at [ahsmith5@bellsouth.net](mailto:ahsmith5@bellsouth.net). Our plan is to list all of our advertisers on our website this year, thank them for their support, and still include them in the program booklet on April 24, 2021.

Models have been contacted and asked to "Save the Date" for April 24, 2021. We will adjust as this new world evolves for all of us.

The most important thing now is for everyone to stay safe and protect yourself and your family. We will continue to do all we can to promote our mission of registering, educating, and informing voters in whatever way we can.

Again, thank you for your support.

*Ann Smith, Politicos on Parade Action Chair*

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## Observer Corps Report

**The following are key issues reported by League Observers at local meetings. We need additional Observers for Volusia county city meetings not currently represented. Please contact Susan Bayley, [susancbayley@gmail.com](mailto:susancbayley@gmail.com) or Ann Harrell, [aharrell595@aol.com](mailto:aharrell595@aol.com) or Nancy Nusbaum, [nusbanh@gmail.com](mailto:nusbanh@gmail.com) if you can help.**

**NOTE: MANY MEETINGS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED ONLINE OR HAVE NOT BEEN OBSERVED DUE TO PUBLIC HEALTH PRECAUTIONS**

### Edgewater City

Linda Mojer, Observer

<http://www.cityofedgewater.org/bc/page/agendas-minutes>

Prior to emergency suspension of all public meetings, the City had continued to address an ongoing debate surrounding its solid waste management, several added public meetings and workshops were scheduled to seek citizen input on the decision-making process. City Hall is also an official polling station for Volusia County Elections, and was prepped and sanitized for March 17 voting.

March 16: In emergency session, City Council reviewed the Covid-19 essential services plan to allow remote work for administration, limited physical plant management, public park closures, structural maintenance, EMS/Fire/Police response, curfew & policy protocols and adoption of social distancing measures. Given the information available at the time regarding school district closures, along with county, state and federal mandates, all immediate action was implemented in the short term (through March 31; subsequently extended). [Mayor Thomas absent, excused]

March 2: Conservancy/Healthy Lagoon, wastewater, treatment and mosquito control actions were adopted by consent. The preliminary report by the Charter Review committee was reviewed and challenged in the subject area of restricting future bridge construction, as well as other debatable items. In citizen comments discussion, it was noted the Vice-chair/councilman Gary Conroy had become the first to announce his intention to run for County Council, District 3, after Councilwoman Deb Denys vacated the seat per the state's resign-to-run rules. [Mayor Thomas absent, excused]

February 3: Continued focus on environmental issues is brought before the dais, including water asset management and partnerships with neighboring New Smyrna Beach. The City continues to move ordinances through staged approval for development, and defend against litigation surrounding a contentious Marina project. Heightened citizen's concerns and comments have been recorded on multiple fronts, as the City continues to work through its budget and limited resources. [Mayor Thomas absent, excused due to broken leg requiring extended treatment and limited mobility]

January 6: City Council addressed issues of City Impact fees, multiple zoning amendments to permit increased levels of planned development. The offices of Glenn Storch continue to hold the highest profile among development interests that have focused on the "Space Volusia" region. Multiple new appointments were reviewed and approved to fill vacancies on Planning & Zoning, and Economic Development boards.

#### **Daytona Beach**

Keturah Thompson, Observer

[www.codb.us/577/Agendas-Minutes](http://www.codb.us/577/Agendas-Minutes)

#### **Daytona Beach Shores**

<https://www.dbshores.org/289/Agenda-and-Minutes>

Pat Gadbow, Observer

#### **March 2020**

Ordinance 2020-04 addresses tree removal changes quoting a new statute 183.045. This Statute exempts all residential lots, including multifamily and planned unit developments (PUD) properties from needing a permit for tree removal providing the owner has a certified arborist or landscape architect approval. In addition the statute exempts the property owner from having to replant the removed trees. DB Shores ordinance 202004 amends their permitting process in compliance with this new Statute. Unfortunately the statute is open to potential abuse by unscrupulous professionals.

Under the city's new business incentive plans, Beach Bagel Café has applied for the incentive grant to expand to a full service restaurant including out door tables to be renamed High Tide Restaurant.

#### **Deland**

<http://www.delandfl.iqm2.com>

Mara Whitridge, Observer

#### **Halifax Health Board of Commissioners**

Susan Pate, Observer

#### **March 11, 2020**

Management Report:

An exciting new technology was presented that is used for ischemic strokes (87% of strokes are due to ischemia- lack of blood supply to the brain). The technology is called RAPID and has significantly



improved stroke recovery. The technology can find brain areas that are at risk within two minutes by looking at circulation. This results in more accurate and faster clot extraction. This is cutting edge technology found only at Halifax hospital in this area. (This observer was very impressed.)

The Quality Team reported mortality rates were well below the hospitals benchmark. The number given was 1.96. I assume that is a percentage. The patient ambassador program is underway and hoping to expand especially to the emergency room. Each ambassador is a patients personal “concierge” who is the first and the last person to see the patient, Presently there are only 10 ambassadors but plan to have 30. The program has been well received by patients and nurses

The hospital has a task force dealing with preparation for COVID19 patients.. CDC recommendations have been implemented, patient isolation plans are complete. If the hospital is overwhelmed and needs more rooms there are patient tents that can be utilized. The task force will also coordinate with long term facilities.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 13

Those were the highlights of the meeting. Everyone stay safe and healthy!

### **Holly Hill**

Susan Pate, Observer

#### **March 10, 2020**

The meeting began with a proclamation that April is Holly Hill Arts Festival Month. This was before all the cancellations began. The plan was to have a festival of Art and Music that was free to all.

A public comment was made that praised Holly Hill for bringing Pictona to the city. This is the complex that contains Pickle Ball and a restaurant among other recreational entities.

After completing a workshop the commissioners approved the second reading of the Food Truck Ordinance with one dissenting vote. The ordinance changed the number of days that a food truck may stay in one place from one day to three days and changed the fee from five dollars a day to twenty-five dollars a month. The ordinance will be up for review after one year.

A special meeting was held March 16th in order to declare a local state of emergency for Holly Hill. The next meeting scheduled for March 24th was cancelled due to COVID-19.

### **New Smyrna Beach**

[www.cityofnsb.com/315/Agendas-and-Minutes](http://www.cityofnsb.com/315/Agendas-and-Minutes)

Nancy Nusbaum, Observer

**February and March** meetings focused on issues of local traffic control in residential neighborhoods, local event planning, funding for special projects for repairs, purchase of equipment, future land use proposals , annexations and other routine city business.

### **Ormond Beach City**

[www.ormondbeach.iqm2.com/citizens](http://www.ormondbeach.iqm2.com/citizens)

Susan Bayley, Observer

#### **February 18, 2020**

The auditor reported sound fiscal health for the city, noting that it is now 27 consecutive years that such has happened. Noteworthy comments in reports at the end of the meeting;

City Manager Shanahan reported outstanding reimbursements for past hurricanes: 2017/Irma (\$733,000), 2018/Michae (\$129,000) and 2019/Dorian (\$65,000).

Persis will begin to institute monthly coffees with her constituents at Peace Valley West, emulating what Kent has been doing for years now and what Partington has just begun to do.

Partington reported that there has been less new development in Ormond Beach than in DeBary, Daytona Beach, DeLand, Deltona and New Smyrna Beach, seemingly to counteract resident criticism of development in the city.

### **March 3, 2020**

Commissioners spent a lot of town dealing with a resolution about the Boot Hill Saloon, a popular biker bar on Route 1. This resolution would provide exceptions for recognized special events (Bike Week and Biketoberfest): the number of itinerant vendors (up to 12) and the hours for live loud music. Because this bar is open year round, this resolution allows for live outdoor music up to four times per month. Six residents who live near this bar want the city to tighten regulations on this bar. Commissioners decided to have this resolution would be reviewed in one year, not three as originally proposed.

Partington is frustrated with the Florida legislature; again “dictating” what the city can and cannot do regarding its trees.

### **Pierson Council Meetings**

[www.townofpierson.org](http://www.townofpierson.org)

Susan Bayley, Observer

### **February 25, 2020**

Another informal meeting where a resident participated in the discussion of purchasing a scanner for the Town Clerk: the council eventually approved the \$1,000 scanner, thanks to some gentle nudging of the council members.

Town Planner Mark Karet reported that the town had been awarded a grant to improve two of its wells. He noted that an area less than one mile from the wells could contaminate these wells. Legal counsel will investigate this matter.

### **March 10, 2020**

There was routine business for this meeting, with the new legal counsel sitting at the table with commissioners. A representative from the census informed commissioners that there is strong outreach to immigrant communities, including immigrants who aren't citizens who must be counted. They were enthusiastic about the 2020 census because they know how important it is for Pierson: the town needs federal funding and there was an under-count in 2010. Interestingly, commissioners learned that there is federal funding for charging stations, while they noted that Pierson really needs more gas stations!

### **Ponce Inlet Town Council**

<http://www.ponce-inlet.org/315/Town-Council>

Pat Gadbow, Observer

### **March**

All Board and Town Council Agenda packets are available by contacting Peg Hunt, Town Board Secretary at 386-236-2180 or email [phunt@ponce-inlet.org](mailto:phunt@ponce-inlet.org)

Vice Mayor Hoss noted that sea level rise and flooding are of urgent concern for Ponce Inlet.

Jennifer Rupert, Regional Disaster Resilience Coordinator of the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council explained the goals of the Collaborator is to identify and reduce the carbon footprint risks, vulnerabilities and to increase efforts towards sustainability. She recommended that all local governments within the eight counties in the region to become partners in the Regional Resilience Collaborative.

The 2nd Reading of Ordinance establishes procedures making it more difficult to dispose of town-owned real property.

Passed Resolution 2020-03– which establishes uniform procedures for the supervision and safety of volunteers.

## **River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization (TPO)**

**Ann Harrell, Observer**

<https://www.r2ctpo.org/board-committees/tpo-board/>

The meeting of the River to Sea Planning Organization (TPO) was called to order promptly at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Rob Gilliland.

### **Public Comment/Participation**

Mr. Big John thanked the Volusia County Council members for the new bus service to the Tanger Outlet Mall area. He made mention that there is no funding available for roads in the county's Five Year Work Program. He concluded by stating there is no available funding for LPGA Boulevard in the next five years, either. Mr. John stated he is forming a Citizen's Selection Committee with Ms. Maryam Ghyabi to get a proposed sales tax passed.

### **Presentation and discussion of the TPO 2020 "Tell the TPO" survey campaign**

To get input from the public on areas such as safety, technology, transit and funding, a survey will be launched March 30, 2020 and be live for two months. The survey helps to provide insights for the TPO as it make decisions on transportation priorities. Hard copies of the survey will be distributed at public libraries and Votran as well as online.

### **Volusia County School Board**

**Vickie Presley, Observer**

[www.vcsedu.org/school-board/agendas-minutes](http://www.vcsedu.org/school-board/agendas-minutes)

### **Volusia County School Board**

**Ann Harrell, Observer**

[www.vcsedu.org/school-board/agendas-minutes](http://www.vcsedu.org/school-board/agendas-minutes)

Board members shared their mutual appreciation and personal stories of working with Denise Dietrich, who will be retiring from the Superintendent's Office after 30 years of service with Volusia County Schools.

### **Value Adjustment Board**

Dr. Fritz stated Volusia County has made a request for appointments of a School Board Member and Citizen Member to serve on the Value Adjustment Board for the 2020 session. The Board appointed Mrs. Linda Cuthbert (School Board Member) and Mr. Ross Janke (Citizen Member) to serve on the Value Adjustment Board for the 2020 session.

### **Public Participation**

Elizabeth Albert, President, Volusia United Educators, spoke concerning the importance of communication within the district.

### **Human Resources Update**

Mr. Mark West, Chief Human Resources Officer, distributed a document titled "February 25, 2020, HR News Corner." He stated there are still several vacancies that they are working on filling, and this time of the year is not only difficult to not have teachers in front of students, but to hire teachers as well. He stated, to keep teachers onboard, his department is looking into offering teachers in DROP the option of extending their contracts up to three additional years. Mr. West stated the Annual Hiring Fair will be on April 16th.

The School Board Attorney, Mr. Ted Doran, stated that the superintendent's contract requires that the Board create an addendum to his employment agreement to set out the goals the Board is establishing for him from the time period February 11, 2020, to August 15, 2020. To fulfill this requirement, the Board established one goal, for accomplishment by the Superintendent, the creation of a strategic plan that has measurable, obtainable, smart goals, with key performance indicators. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

**2019-2020 LWVVC Board Members:**

*Nicki Junkins.....President  
Carla Christianson .....1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Monique Fischer.....2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Deborah Noah.....Treasurer  
Betty Johnson.....Secretary*

*Directors:  
Nancy Vaughn  
Linda Lenk  
Pat Drago  
Jeanne Tanke*

*Sandra Horikami  
Wesley Lewis  
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\*\*\*\*\*

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P.O. Box 9695  
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