



www.LWVVC.org PO Box 9695, Daytona Beach, FL 32120

The Voter

OUR PRESIDENT'S REMARKS—The End of an Active Year, and New Beginnings

Dear Fellow Leaguers:

The midterm elections have ended. Your local League was quite active in reaching out to various groups across Volusia County. I want to thank Nancy Nusbaum, chair of Voter Services Action Team, and her strong contingent of volunteers for seeing that county residents were registered to vote . . . and they did indeed vote. As a follow-up to the midterms, Pat Rice, retired editor the *Daytona Beach News Journal*, returned as speaker for our November 15 general meeting, this time summarizing results of our local midterm elections.



Our first two programs in 2023 will be held in January: For January 10, Saralee Morissey is arranging a program on growth management. Then, on January 21, at the Volusia United Educators building, Rachel Hazel, Deputy Superintendent for Volusia County schools, will address how Volusia Count students are recovering from the Covid learning gap.

Our state League leaders will meet in Tallahassee from March 7 to May 5 in 2023. Clay Meek, Chair of our Legislative Action Team, guided our LWVVC Board in developing a list of our legislative priorities, part of a statewide process where all Leagues submit their own list, based on those that the League of Women Voters of Florida sent us. Based on this input, LWVF will let us know which priorities we will work to support in 2023.

We are still looking for an editor for our newsletter *The Voter*. Carolyn West continues to do an excellent job in overseeing this important service of our League, but plans to serve temporarily. If you have computer and/or editorial skills, we need you! Maybe we can put together a newsletter team so one person doesn't have the full responsibility in producing our newsletter.

On a personal note, I regret to inform you that I have to step down as president effective January 1, 2023, due to a personal commitment out of the country. I deeply appreciate the support I have received from our Board of Directors as I was "learning the ropes" these past few months. I regret having to leave the Board because I have so enjoyed working with this talented group of local leaders. I want to thank you all, our members, for the tremendous work you do to support our important mission.

--Susan Bayley, President LWVVC

UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETINGS AND EVENTS**Holiday Social Event— Come Celebrate the Holidays with the Arts!**

When: Thursday, December 1, 2022 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Where: CiCi and Hyatt Brown Museum of Art, 352 South Nova Road, Daytona Beach, FL 32114

Cost: \$25.00 Hors d'oeuvres will be served with cash bar. (Cash or check only at the door). Raffle: \$1.00 per ticket, \$5.00 for 6 tickets Come celebrate with us amid gorgeous art work. Watch for your Constant Contact invitation and then please RSVP to Cathy Egley jetski49@bellsouth.net by Monday, November 28.

Hot Topic—" Storms and Flooding: Is Resiliency Enough to Protect Us?"

When: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (Check in at 515 p.m.)

Where: New Smyrna Beach Library, 1001 South Dixie Freeway, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168

Our guest speakers Tara McCue, Executive Director for East Central Florida Regional Planning Council Katrina Locke, Sustainability and Resilience Manager for Volusia County will discuss efforts at flood control. Please RSVP to Jeanne Tanke jeanne622lwvvc@gmail.com by January 7, 2023. Location to be confirmed.

General Meeting— "Recovering from the Pandemic"

When: Saturday, January 21, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. (Check in at 10:00 a.m. Coffee available)

Where: Volusia United Educators (VUE) at 1381 Educators Road, Daytona Beach, FL 32124

Dr. Rachel Hazel, deputy superintendent of Volusia County Schools, will talk about how students and teachers are recovering from the COVID pandemic. Dr. Hazel will address the assessment status for Volusia County, what remediation steps are being taken and how are the federal funds being used. Please RSVP to Jeanne Tanke jeanne622lwvvc@gmail.com by January 21, 2023.

Full December/January Calendar is on the last page.

VOTER SERVICE ACTION TEAM—Ongoing Voter Education Efforts

The Supervisor of Elections office of Volusia County reports that 55% of the 411,503 registered voters voted in the 2022 midterm election compared to 60% in the 2018 midterms. I have not found data that reports what percent of the eligible voters in Volusia are registered, but in the Volusia 2019 census, there were 564,412 people in Volusia County. Of the total, 82.5% of the population was over the age of 18, and almost all of them, 97.2%, were citizens. So, while some adults were ineligible to vote based mental status, or status as returning citizens, and more people have moved here since the census, we see that the overall rate of registration is high. At the **18 registration events** we attended this year, we actually registered or updated registration for about 50 people.

What does this high rate of registered voters mean to us? While voter registration will always be an important part of our service, and promotes our League to the public as a community resource, I think we can educate and inspire voters even more by increasing Speaker Bureau presentations on topics like critical thinking and getting ready to vote followed by registration services. With even more trained speakers, we could reach out to many groups in HOAs, churches, social and service groups, etc. all year.

--Nancy Nusbaum nusbanh@gmail.com, Voter Service Chair

SPEAKERS BUREAU SUCCESS—League Volunteers and Presenters Step Up to the Plate

Congratulations to our League of Women Voters of Volusia County Speakers Bureau volunteers and presenters! They went over and above to attend meetings in homes, coffee shops, country clubs, libraries, lodges, condos, churches, and restaurants to explain the newest laws in the state of Florida related to voting and explain the proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution. They stepped up to the plate long term and on short notice.

We worked in conjunction with the Voter Service Team so that once a presentation was completed, we were able to assist participants with updating their voter registration and/or answer questions they might have. Please say thank you to these Speaker Bureau folks when you see them: Carla Christianson, Cathy Egley, Clay Meek, Janet Nelson, Jeannette Duerr, Juanita Collins, Nancy Vaughn, Nicki Junkins, Olga Hernandez, Pat Drago, Richard Denton, and Saralee Morrissey.

We are calling any and all leaguers interested in participating in this aspect of the League to contact Ann Smith (ahsmith5@bellsouth.net or 386-235-3957). Our goal is to continue to expand our outreach with other topics of primary interest. We will hold a new training for speakers at the beginning of the year. Also, if you hear of anyone looking for a speaker for his/her group, please tell them to contact Ann Smith.

--Ann Smith ahsmith5@bellsouth.net, Speakers Bureau Chair

NATURAL RESOURCES – Planning for the New Year



The Natural Resources Team has been busy this fall. Our election sign recycling program has been a huge success! After months of hard work, the recycling team, led by Suze Peace, recycled **4,960 pounds** of signage (that's 2.48 tons!) Thus, we doubled the amount we recycled in 2020 (a mere 2,800 pounds). We look forward to continuing this effort in 2024, engaging our community, county government, and of course you—our members—in that endeavor. Thank you so much for your effort and support for keeping nonbiodegradable plastic out of our landfill.

We plan to join the Voter Service Team at their tabling events in the new year, reaching out to our littlest voters to engage them in voting for their favorite animals. In the past we have been at both the Wildlife Festival at the Lyonia Environmental Center, as well as the Dog Parade in DeLand. We look forward to these fun and educational events this spring!



We have started planning for our two meetings in April to celebrate Earth Month. Earlier in April, we will host a discussion on "How We Protect Land in Volusia County." Our guest speakers from Volusia County government will clarify the differences between Volusia Forever, the Environmental Core Overlay, the Volusia Conservation Corridor, and the Wildlife Corridor—explaining how these programs work independently and together. The second meeting later April will take place on Earth Day, April 22nd, our topic TBD. Stay tuned!

To take advantage of daylight hours, **we have shifted our meetings times to 12:00 noon on the 2nd Thursday** of the month. In conjunction with our meetings, we plan to visit local environmental venues, learning more about them. Our next team meeting will be on January 12--The location TBD. In December, we will be enjoying the LWVVC's Holiday Mix and Mingle at the Cici & Hyatt Brown Museum of Art.

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

Welcoming New Citizens



The LWVVC Voter Service Team was honored to attend Stetson University's naturalization ceremony for new US citizens. Our new citizens represented countries from around the world and expressed their excitement at becoming a citizen and their belief in the American dream. Following the ceremony, team members welcomed our new citizens, helped with voter registration needs, and distributed important election information.

EDUCATION ACTION TEAM – Greater Flexibility for Public Schools

The Education Action Team met virtually on October 24th where team members reviewed what they had learned from the Hot Topics presentation on media services by Chris Smith. The team also discussed what was happening in the classroom as students, parents and educators recover from Covid.

Members were asked to conduct an informal survey of any teachers they can. Suggested questions were provided. The survey is anecdotal in nature and meant to be completely anonymous. Members met again November 14th at 3:00 pm at the Volusia United Educators to discuss the results.

Chair Pat Drago has invited Dr. Rachel Hazel, deputy superintendent to speak to the full League of Women Voters of Volusia membership on January 21 at 10:30 am. The meeting will be at the Volusia United Educators (VUE) at 1381 Educators Road, Daytona Beach, FL 32124. Dr. Hazel has been asked to talk about student assessments for learning loss and Volusia's comparison with state and national results. Also, Dr. Hazel has been asked to report what steps the school district is taking for remediation and how federal funds allocated for this purpose will be used.

Members of the Education Action Team met virtually on November 14th and have decided to invite representatives of other groups with an education focus to develop a shared statement that can be presented to our representatives in the Florida Legislature. We believe it could be very powerful if the Moms for Liberty, the Volusia African-American Leadership Council and the NAACP all asked for greater flexibility in the classroom and fewer tests. We believe that traditional public schools should be treated just like charter schools and private schools that receive public funds.

The Education Action Team will meet in person on December 5th at 3:00 pm at the Volusia United Educators (VUE) Building.

--Pat Drago patddrago@aol.com, Education Team Chair

JOIN US FOR ANOTHER INTERESTING YEAR— Renew Your League Membership!

If you've not done so already, please renew your League membership! Thank you for your past support and continuing involvement so that we can have the impact you've come to expect from the League. Your membership supports our mission to inform and engage citizens in understanding issues that involve their local community as well as those that affect us all statewide.

Our League of Women Voters of Volusia County (LWVVC) membership year begins annually on July 1st of each year. If you have not renewed, you have several options for renewal:

- 1) You can now pay your dues on our website www.LWVVC.org Click on the upper right hand **JOIN** button on the homepage. You can renew and pay online.
- 2) No changes in your membership information? (Single membership \$60 and Family \$90) You can send in your dues check to our post office box: **LWVVC at P.O. Box 9695, Daytona Beach, FL 32120**
- 3) Want a Renewal Form? Call or send an email to Judy Gordon (386-481-4998) jbgordon@cfl.rr.com For those who do not recall whether you have already renewed your membership, just call or send an email to our Membership Chair Judy Gordon, and she will check for you.

New Member Orientation

In October, a very engaged group of new members met at Nicki Junkins' house where they were welcomed into LWVVC and learned more about the League.



After a meet and greet organized by membership chair, Judy Gordon, new members introduced themselves and discussed what drew them to the League. Each of our action chairs shared their team's focus for the year and reviewed current endeavors. It was a terrific opportunity to get to know our new recruits and we look forward to having them join our work. The next new members orientation will be held in the spring so be sure to look for more information in a future edition of *The Voter* or contact Judy Gordon at jbgordon@cfl.rr.com

--Judy Gordon, Membership Chair

OBSERVER CORPS REPORTS — The LWVVC Observer Corps needs You!**Olga Hernandez — Observer Corp Coordinator**

The LWVVC Observer Corps performs an essential function in the community. We attempt to monitor government meetings in 16 cities, the county, and the school board in Volusia. Observers are the eyes and ears that help alert us if there are issues of concern. Thank you to our current observers: Janet Babbitt, Susan Bayley, Ann Harrell, Linda Mojer, Nancy Nusbaum, Susan Pate, Karol Rainier, and myself.

Currently we have vacancies to observe the councils or commissions in Daytona Beach, DeBary, Deland, Deltona, Holly Hill, Lake Helen, Oak Hill, Ormond Beach, Orange City, Pierson, Ponce Inlet, and South Daytona. Please contact me at oah@vyndicar.com if you are interested in being an observer in one of these areas. Some localities stream their meetings, but it is better if you attend in person.

Basically, an observer accesses the agenda, wears the League's Observer badge (so they know LWV is in attendance), attends the meetings, and periodically submits a short synopsis of the meetings that will appear in *The Voter*. To ensure consistency of message, only the president speaks in the name of the LWVVC; observers do not speak for the LWVVC unless our president, Susan Bayley, gives permission. In short, the job description is listening, taking notes, then writing and submitting a short report every two months. Observers say it is a rewarding experience because they learn a lot about their local government and enjoy attending the meetings. Please come join us!

Edgewater City – Edgewater City Council Meetings**September - November (partial Q4) - Linda Mojer, Observer**

Agendas, Minutes & Playback: <http://www.cityofedgewater.org/bc/page/agendas-minutes>

Unless otherwise noted, all Council members were in attendance, with meetings called to order at 6:00 pm on the first Monday of each month (holiday dependent).

End-of-year budget appropriations, regular business, elections and emergency actions kept the seated Council busy over multiple sessions. Storm impacts complicated the work of City Council in the period, with Hurricane Ian crossing the state from the west in late September, followed by Hurricane Nicole from the east in early November. Between landfalls, numerous citizens' comments were focused on flood recovery and ongoing water management system concerns, as well as extended discussion of reclaimed water services and fee adjustments.

September 26: A follow up meeting was conducted to set and approve the final millage rate, debt service for the animal shelter and parks projects; establish new minimum pay rates for police and fire personnel and approve collective bargaining agreements. Also approved was the purchase of a new vehicle for the building department. Community items saw Boston Whaler gain approval for a temporary outbuilding on its campus to house and conduct market testing of an interactive customer experience; while the City certified its support for enforcement of State & County emergency curfews, as applied to public safety circumstances caused by Hurricane Ian.

October 3: In immediate response to storm damage, consent agenda items primarily addressed contract repairs, mitigation and planning for water mains, canals, reclaimed water services, sewage and storm drainage design; citizen comments echoed those concerns with anecdotal evidence of historical damage to flooded

structures throughout the city. Additional monies and purchase order increases were approved for related debris management; residential delinquencies were deferred from action for 30 days. Observations, proclamations, education grants and land-use ordinances were recorded, while City Management & Services were highly commended.

A major modification of the fee schedule contained within the Land Development Code had been researched and prepared for consideration, to align fees more closely with nearby municipalities, as well as with the county overall. Proposed increases to both minor and major site plans, stormwater site plans and variances were approved; with differentials factored between residential/commercial and administrative, zoning verifications, and mural projects.

Also in October, two added meetings were noticed for an emergency session on 10/6 to suspend selected building permits and fees related to hurricane recovery efforts for 60 days; and a special session on 10/17 to approve funding for repair of a major drain blockage.

Mid-term Election Results: Council did not meet during election week; however, timely voting results were able to confirm new representatives for District 1 (Charlotte Hope Willis, replacing Christine Power) & District 3 (Debbie Dolbow retaining appointed seat), and Mayor Elect Diezel Depew (replacing outgoing Mayor Mike Thomas). Each will be sworn-in at ceremonies on December 5.

Holly Hill – Holly Hill City Commission Meetings

October – November 2022 – Susan Pate, Observer

October 2022: Pictona Phase 2 is nearing completion. Phase 2 was funded by a \$2.5 million Echo grant, with \$1 million from the City of Holly Hill, \$100,000 from community donations and \$4.1 million from the Martens.

Public works has been unable to purchase pavement right now due to high demand after Hurricane Ian. There is great concern about road potholes during Biketoberfest. Public Works will try and visibly identify these areas for the bikers.

The commissioners received a multitude of complaints about debris pickup and communication cutoff after Hurricane Ian, and they addressed these concerns at the meeting: The commission wanted to let the public know that Public Works is trying to remove debris as quickly as possible, but it will take time.

The commission shared the residents concern about having no power or cell phone service so had no way to monitor the hurricane. This was expressed by many saying it was very frightening. The commission will follow up these complaints with utility and phone companies to try and ensure this doesn't happen again.

November 2022: There will be a grand opening of Pictona, Phase 2, on November 20. This phase adds a championship covered stadium along with additional courts. The stadium will also be used for local performances with seating for 1,200-1,500 people. The city hired a Director of City Events and is working with Pictona on promotion of events. The Commission approved plans for a Holly Hill RV Resort near Pictona that will provide an area for traveling pickleball players.

Ormond Beach – Ormond Beach City Commission Meetings

October – November 2022 – Susan Bayley, Observer

October 5, 2022: Commissioners addressed follow up to hurricane/tropical storm Ian. Commissioners praised city staff for its emergency support services. Although Ian hit municipalities south of the city much harder than Ormond Beach, there was flooding. The city sustained minimal damage of \$157 million that included \$120,000 to its water treatment plant and \$100,000 to its wastewater plant. These two plants continued to be operational, though. The city was able to pump lakes down in preparation for Ian thanks to federal funding a few years ago.

October 18, 2022: An almost two-hour meeting with most of the time dedicated to a review of the Southern Pines development near Airport Road. Commissioner Selby seemed to make the case for approving this plan (Commissioner Kent and Mayor Partington voted against) by citing it as an infill development, with no septic tanks and having city services already available. Almost 40% of the plan has a natural preservation. He called it an example of smart growth.

November 1, 2022: At a second reading, it took more than an hour to address a Tymber Creek and Airport Road development because six residents voiced serious concerns about flooding and storm water. However, commissioners approved it because Paytas, the developer, has a good reputation in the community. Commissioner Kent and Mayor Partington were the NO votes. Commissioners unanimously approved signage at the 95 interchange and Flagler Road for a variance with additional landscaping and a buffer. Commissioners Kent, Selby and Littleton gave farewell statements because they were leaving the commission.

Port Orange – Port Orange City Council Meetings

September 20 – November 15, 2022 – Karol Rainier, Observer

All the meetings since Hurricane/Tropical Storm Ian have mainly focused on the damage to Port Orange including Port Orange's buildings and parks, debris removal plans and pick-up activity, response to constituents, and working within FEMA's regulations such as the specific sort of debris into two distinct categories: Construction and Demolition (C & D) debris and vegetation debris. The 18 to 24 inches of rain over a 30-hour period caused significant flooding, standing water, road closures, evacuations to emergency shelters, and hundreds of downed trees.

A budget resolution (No. 22-32) passed containing a \$2 million budget amendment to fund initial repairs, insurance deductibles, damaged equipment replacement, and the debris hauling and monitoring contracts. The council refers to Ian as a 200-to-500-year flooding event. Over 1,000 homes in Port Orange had water damage. Building permits fees are waived until at least the end of the year to help residents who need permits for damage caused by Ian.

The November 15th meeting reported on the damage done by Tropical Storm Nicole. The earthen dam at the Cambridge Pump Station collapsed causing waters from the retention ponds to flow into Rose Bay and flood neighborhood streets. There is a temporary fix being built this week while city engineers and the city manager continue to investigate possible permanent solutions that will be presented to council for approval.

Some other Council activity covered the following topics:

- An ordinance passed prohibiting smoking and vaping in Port Orange city parks.

- Approval and ratification of the National Association of Government Employees (NAGE) Collective Bargaining Agreement 2022-2025.
- Council warned citizens to be aware of scams that often occur after storms.
- Resolution passed for a grant to buy cancer decontamination equipment for the fire department. This equipment will clean (decontaminate) the uniforms of the firefighters after fighting a fire.
- A presentation by Officer Wayne Jean described the annual “Cops for Christmas” campaign.
- The Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) reported that this year’s annual tree give-away was very successful as 80 people signed up at Port Orange Family Days to receive a free tree. They had a choice of three different kinds. Also mentioned was the railroad trestle dredging project at Spruce Creek so folks can kayak in the canals again.
- A slideshow presentation on the Comprehensive Plan Update for 2045 was given. Port Orange is 11.2% of Volusia County’s population. As of 2020, Port Orange population was 62,600 and Volusia County was 553,500. They are assuming the 11.2% will remain about the same so the projected population for 2045 is 75,500 for Port Orange and 674,200 for Volusia County. Basically, the only large vacant areas for growth within Port Orange city limits are Woodhaven and Westside. The Comprehensive Plan Update for 2045 will be in revision mode for the next month or so.

GOT STYROFOAM? –Recycle It!

If online shopping has got you overloaded with Styrofoam packing materials, you can get rid of it and do good at the same time. [Imperial Foam and Insulation](#) can recycle it into architectural molding and insulation. Drop it off at 2360 Old Tomoka Road, Ormond Beach 32174, or call the company at (386) 673-4177.

--Suze Peace

LWVVC Calendar for December 2022- January 2023

Check the online [League calendar](https://my.lwv.org/florida/volusia-county/calendar) <https://my.lwv.org/florida/volusia-county/calendar> for action team meetings and other events.

Thursday, December 1st from 6 to 8 p.m.— Holiday Social at the Museum of Arts & Sciences. Cocktail reception and free access to museum exhibits (\$25 for hors d'oeuvres and cash bar). 352 South Nova Road, Daytona Beach, FL 32114. Watch for your Constant Contact invitation and then please RSVP to Cathy Egley jetski49@bellsouth.net by Monday, November 28.

Monday, December 5th at 3 p.m. Education Action Team meeting. Volusia United Educators (VUE) at 1381 Educators Road, Daytona Beach, 32124.

Tuesday, January 10th from 5:30 to 7 p.m. “Storms and Flooding— Is Resiliency Enough to Protect Us?” Hot Topics meeting. Guest speakers Tara McCue (Executive Director for East Central Florida Regional Planning Council) and Katrina Locke, (Sustainability and Resilience Manager for Volusia County). New Smyrna Beach Library, 1001 South Dixie Freeway, New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168. [tentative location]

Thursday, January 12th, 2023 at noon. Natural Resource Team meeting.
Location TBD

Wednesday, January 18th, 2023 from 5:00 to 7 p.m. LWVVC Board meeting. All League members are invited to attend. River to Sea Transportation Planning Organization, Indigo Professional Center, 2570 West International Speedway Boulevard, Suite 100 Daytona Beach, FL 32114.

Saturday, January 21st, 2023, from 10:30 a.m. to noon with coffee available - “Recovering from the Pandemic” General meeting.

Dr. Rachel Hazel, Deputy Superintendent for Volusia County Schools, will address how Volusia County students are recovering from the Covid learning gap. We'll be meeting at the Volusia United Educators (VUE) at 1381 Educators Road, Daytona Beach, 32124. Watch for Constant Contact email for details.

**LWVVC Board Officers:**

Susan Bayley: President susanbayley@gmail.com
Cathy Egley: 1st Vice President Carla Christianson: 2nd Vice President
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The Voter: Interim Editor: Carolyn West; Editorial Assistants: Carla Christianson & Judy Gordon