

The League of Women Voters of Polk County



VOTER

A monthly publication of the League of Women Voters of Polk County, P.O. Box 934, Lakeland, FL 33802

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

May 2008

Volume 08, Issue 4

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WORDS OF WISDOM:

**"Believe those
who are
seeking the
truth.
Doubt those
who find it."**

~Andre Gide

Call to Annual Meeting of

The League of Women Voters of Polk County

Date: May 20, 2008

Speaker: David Carmichael, Esq.

Topic: "Threats to Our Judicial System"

Time: 11:30 am - Social

12 noon - Lunch

12:30 pm - Speaker

Place: My Cottage Garden Tea Room

325 N. Kentucky Avenue, Lakeland

(Tea Room Reserved for the League)

Cost: \$25.00 includes tax and tip

Invitations sent out separately: 📞 RSVP by May 11

Please call (863) 648-4127 with any questions or for assistance in traveling to the meeting.

Guests and prospective members welcome.



To the wrongs that need resistance. To the right that needs assistance.
To the future in the distance. Give yourselves.

— Carrie Chapman

To the future in the distance. Give yourselves.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
POLK COUNTY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

(Vacant), President

Sue Schultz, Vice President and
Voter Service—Elections
646-4634
sueschultz1@verizon.net

Susan Lee, Secretary
324-4517
Suezq11@verizon.net

Mary Thomas, Treasurer
859-7560
maryalicet11@aol.com

Judy Walker, Voter Service—Guide
299-9285
judywalker@polkelections.com

Gail Auger
686-6203
gaaug81@aol.com

Helen Sears
619-2199
bobhelenfla@aol.com

Off-Board Specialists:

Membership, Joan Verret, retaining
682-7724
JoanClaireV@aol.com
and Ann Weeks, recording
bonaire37@yahoo.com

Fundraising and Government, Lisa
Parks
686-6482
lparksaicp@aol.com

Library, Barbara Stampfl
687-2787
stampfls@tampabay.rr.com

Civics Education, Susan Lee
324-4517
Suezq11@verizon.net

US Immigration, Robert Sears
619-2199
bobhelenfla@aol.com

VOTER Editor and Website, Jerry
Weeks
2weeks@tampabay.rr.com

Website:

www.lwvpolk.org

“Betwixt and Between” on April 24

The Southwest Florida Water Management District presented its strategy for meeting water demands and achieving environmental recovery. The presentations as well as the refreshments were enjoyed by all.



Ann Weeks introduces Bryon Armstrong



The Happy Audience



Mary Thomas, Susan Lee, Sue Schultz



Bryon and Audrie (SWFWMD)

Annual Meeting Materials

Your Annual Meeting materials are included on this page and page 4. **Please bring these materials with you to the Annual Meeting.**

Program

The LWV Polk County Board of Directors recommends retaining all existing local positions and not starting any new studies.

Bylaws

The LWV Polk County Board of Directors recommends no changes to the current Bylaws.

Policy

The LWV Polk County Board of Directors has adopted a revision to the local Non-Partisan Policy. See page 4.

Proposed Slate of Officers

President	Ann Weeks
Vice President	_____
Secretary	Susan Lee
Treasurer	Mary Thomas
Director 2008-09	Sue Schultz
Director 2008-09	Martha Wesley
Director 2008-10	Paula Mims
Director 2008-10	Jerry Weeks

Nominating Committee for 2009:
Bob Sears (Chair), Gail Auger

Joan Verret, Nominating Chair

Proposed Budget

Fiscal Year: April, 2008 - March 31, 2009

INCOME:	FY 08-09	FY 07-08
1. Dues	2500	3250
2. Contributions	1557	2092
3. Annual Meeting	625	725
4. Voter Sponsor	600	500
5. Website	0	0
6. Education Grant	600	500
Total Income	5882	7067

Expenses:	FY 08-09	FY 07-08
1. Telephone	600	550
2. Postage	350	350
3. Supplies		
a. Administration	0	0
b. Membership Comm.	50	0
c. Program Comm.	0	0
d. Fund Raising	0	0
e. Tokens of Apprec.	25	25
4. Conferences/Meetings		
a. FL Council	250	500
b. Legislative Seminar	280	300
c. Annual Meeting	500	700
d. Topics Meetings	25	25
5. Printing and Publications		
a. Voter	500	800
b. Election Guides.	600	500
c. Membership Dir.	35	50
d. Pub. Purchases	0	50
e. Annual Meet. Prog.	40	25
f. Website	100	0
6. Dues		
a. LWVUS PMP	1340	1742
b. LWVF PMP	650	845
c. LWVF Donation	250	0
7. Fees and Licenses		
a. Solicitation License	10	10
b. Bulk Rate Permit	175	160
c. P.O. Box Fee	72	72
d. Miscellaneous	30	38
Total Expenses	5882	7067

Mary Thomas, Treasurer



League of Women Voters of Polk County, Florida NON-PARTISAN POLICY



Adopted by the Board of Directors April 22, 2008

1. **General.** The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. The League's non-partisanship gives the League credibility and effectiveness. As such, it is the responsibility of each League member to guard the League's non-partisan reputation to ensure that the League can continue to render valuable and effective community service.

2. **Members.** The League recognizes that participation in the activities of the political parties is an essential ingredient of citizen responsibility. While the League urges its members to actively participate in political parties and support their choice of candidates, certain constraints are necessary in order to maintain the League's non-partisanship. No discussion of political candidates or parties or dissemination of partisan information may be made at League meetings and functions, except in Voter Service meetings held for the purpose of informing the public.

3. **Who Speaks for the League.** Only the President (Co-President) or designee is authorized to speak, whether orally or in writing, for the League. All written material released in the name of the League must have prior approval by the President (Co-President).

4. **Board Members.** The Board of Directors is responsible to carry out the League's Non-Partisan Policy and to ensure that there is public awareness and membership understanding of this policy. The following positions are sensitive Board positions: President, Co-President, and Voter Service Chair.

• **All Positions:** All Board members may

- a. Attend political meetings or other events as long as the primary purpose of the event is not fund raising.
- b. Serve on public commissions or committees and hold office in other organizations; provided that entity does not support or oppose candidates, nor oppose League positions.
- c. Express publicly their personal views, designated as such, about non-League issues. Note: Board members may not state or indicate opposition publicly to any League position.
- d. Sign petition cards for candidates attempting to qualify to run for election.

• **Sensitive Positions:** Board members who hold sensitive positions may not

- a. Sponsor or host coffees, hold other meetings, give fund-raising dinners for incumbents or candidates for public office.
- b. Work at a political party's or candidate's headquarters, or distribute party or campaign literature.
- c. Publicly indicate political preference such as displaying bumper stickers, buttons or writing personal notes.
- d. Attend political rallies where only one party or candidate is represented or fees are charged. Note: this does not prohibit attending meetings where two or more candidates and parties are represented.
- e. Contribute financially to political parties or candidates.

• **Non-sensitive Positions:** Board members who do not hold sensitive positions may

- a. Hold office in other organizations or entities.
- b. Sponsor or host coffees, hold other meetings, give fund-raising dinners for incumbents or candidates for public office.
- c. Work at a political party's or candidate's headquarters, or distribute party or campaign literature.
- d. Contribute financially to political parties or candidates.

• **Resignation from the Board.**

- a. Any Board member who officially declares her or his candidacy for public office shall resign from the Board.
- b. Any Board member who holds a sensitive position shall resign such position before actively working for a political party or candidate.
- c. The Board shall publicize any such resignation in the news media and in the Voter.

5. **Non-Board Members.** Non-Board members may run for election to political office.

6. **Spouses and Relatives.** The political activities of a non-member spouse or relative shall not be governed by this Non-Partisan Policy. A League member shall not use a spouse or relative to avoid application of this Non-Partisan Policy



LWVUS Position on Immigration

The official League position on immigration reform policy was reached after a lengthy and comprehensive study in which LWV Polk participated. Our hard work and time spent resulted in the coherent and realistic position below.

The League of Women Voters believes that immigration policies should promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; and be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises. Provision should also be made for qualified persons to enter the US on student visas. All persons should receive fair treatment under the law.

The League supports federal immigration law that provides an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlogs) for legal entry of immigrants into the US

To complement these goals the League supports federal policies to improve economies, education, job opportunities, and living conditions in nations with large emigrating populations.

In transition to a reformed system, the League supports provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

The League supports federal payments to impacted communities to address the financial costs borne by states and local governments with large immigrant populations.

Criteria for Legal Admission to the US

The League supports the following criteria for legal admission of persons into the US:

- Family reunification of spouses or minor children with authorized immigrants or citizens;
- Flight from persecution or response to humanitarian crises in home countries;
- Economic, business and employment needs in the US;
- Education and training needs of the US;

- Educational program opportunities; and
- Lack of a history of serious criminal activity.

Administration and Enforcement

The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and right to humane treatment.

The League supports:

- Improved technology to facilitate employer verification of employee status;
- Verification documents, such as status cards and work permits, with secure identifiers;
- Significant fines and penalties for employers who hire unauthorized workers;
- Improved technology for sharing information among federal agencies;
- More effective tracking of individuals who enter the United States; and
- Increased personnel at borders.

The League also supports programs allowing foreign workers to enter and leave the US to meet seasonal or sporadic labor needs.

Unauthorized Immigrants Already in the US

In achieving overall policy goals, the League supports a system for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status, including citizenship, by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics and meeting other relevant criteria. While policy reforms, including a path to legal status, remain unachieved, the League does not support deporting unauthorized immigrants who have no history of criminal activity.

From LWVUS website



The League of Women Voters Of Polk County **VOTER**

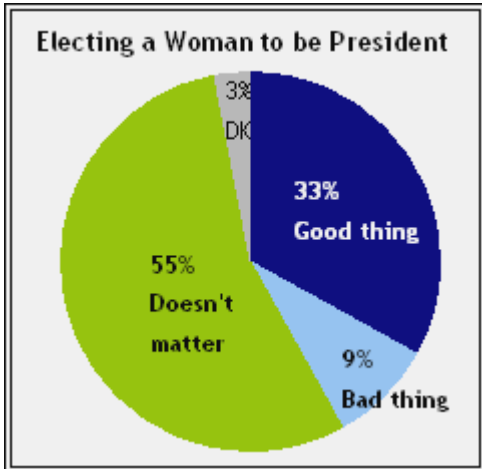
PO Box 934, Lakeland, FL 33802
863-683-2328
www.lwvpolk.org

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***** LWV Polk County Annual Meeting - May 20 *****



Is it a Good or Bad Thing to Elect a Woman to be President?



A solid majority of Americans (55%) say they do not think the gender of the president matters. 33% say it would be a good thing to elect a woman as president, while just 9% believe it would be a bad thing.

"A Year Ahead" Pew Research Center, Oct 31, 2007.

Calendar

Friday, May 2: Legislative Session ends

Sunday, May 11: Reservation deadline for Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 20, 11:30 am
Annual Membership Meeting
My Cottage Garden, 325 N Kentucky Ave,
Lakeland (see page 1)

Tuesday, May 20
LWV Polk County BOARD Meeting
Immediately after Annual Meeting

Monday, May 26: Memorial Day

Tuesday, August 26: Primary Election

Tuesday, November 2: General Election