



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

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*** **Happy Holidays** ***



Volunteers Needed for Nominating Committee

The Board of Directors is seeking members to serve on this year's committee.

The duties encompass identifying members for nomination for officers, directors, and the next nominating committee. The committee's report is to be ready for publication one month before next spring's Annual Meeting

Suggestions for nominations for officers and directors may be sent to the committee by any member.

If you are willing to volunteer for the committee, please contact:

Mary Jo Jarrett at 644-8527 or president@lwvpolk.org

Calendar

Monday, December 7, 12:30 pm
LWV Polk County BOARD Meeting
United Way, Highland City
(bag lunch)

Tuesday, December 8: **Special Election Day**

Friday, December 11: **Hanukkah Starts**

Tuesday, December 15: **Bill of Rights Day**

Friday, December 25: **Christmas Day**

Saturday, December 26: **Kwanzaa Starts**

Friday, January 1: **New Years Day**

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.



December 2009
Volume 09, Issue 9

This Issue

- [President's Message](#)
- [Quote](#)
- [Board](#)
- [Board Pictures](#)
- [Membership Card](#)
- [Fair Districts](#)
- [Sustainable Polk Growth](#)
- [Nominating Committee](#)
- [Calendar](#)

Quote for the Holidays

A hug is a great gift.
One size fits all,
it can be given for
any occasion and
it's easy to
exchange.

--- *Anonymous*

President's Message:

There has never been a more important time than NOW to become informed about important issues - at all levels of government -- and to become a participant in our local League of Women Voters. Our membership continues to grow. Remember to ask others to join us as we seek to become better informed citizens in this representative democracy.

Next year, the League of Women Voters will be celebrating our **90th Anniversary**. The State League is planning a Celebration during the Legislative Seminar March 22-24 in Tallahassee beginning with a Welcome Reception at the top of the Capitol and a Proclamation from Governor Crist and the Cabinet highlighting the League's achievements and mission.

Great Plans are in the works. If you are not getting e-mails from the Florida LWV, please be sure **Ann Weeks** has your current e-mail to update the National Membership List.

I am looking forward to attending this event. I hope a lot of our membership joins me there.

In League,

Mary Jo, President



November Board of Directors Meeting

The meeting was hosted by Paula Mims at her home.

Mary Jo Jarrett, President
644-8527
president@lwvpolk.org

Ann Weeks, Vice President
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TBA

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www.lwvpolk.org



(l-r) Sandy Sheets, Jessie Thrasher, Lisa Parks, Sue Schultz, Paula Mims, Mary Jo Jarrett (President), Pete Wesley, Ruth Weitzenkorn, Joan Verret



Paula

(l-r) Sue, Lisa, Paula, Ruth, Mary Thomas, Sandy



(l-r) Pete, Ruth, Joan, Mary, Ann Weeks, Lisa, Sandy

What am I to do with That Membership Card?



Let your fingers do the walking. Your membership is your key to information on National's website (www.lwv.org).

To establish access, select "Log In" at the top right of the page. On the next screen, select "Register (for new users)." Once the screen appears, fill in the required information. You can then access current information such as:

- 2010 Convention in Atlanta on June 11-15
- Join other activists online by choosing from discussion lists. Choose the lists that fit your interests and/or your role within the League.
- Express your area(s) of interest.
- Manage Your Account
- Oh, unless I forget, make donations to the League of Woman Voters.

Under the section "For Members" you will find general information for members and officers. And, do not forget to review information about the League of Women Voters' 90th Anniversary.

Fair Districts Update

There are three polls showing 70% of Floridians will vote "yes" on the Fair Districts amendments. We have collected the 1,650,000 signatures we need to get on the ballot. We have three weeks to get the petitions handed in to be absolutely sure the state has enough time to process them, but we don't have enough money to hand in the entire batch.

We need to raise \$25,000 online, fast. Please. Give Every Penny You Can Afford. Now! There is no limit to how much you can give. www.fairdistrictsflorida.org/donate

Ellen Frieden, Campaign Chair, FairDistrictsFlorida.org

Sustainable Polk Growth Management Initiatives

This meeting was well attended by Polk County League members (Joan Verret, Ann Weeks and Beverly Sidenstick) and County Commissioners.

There were no shocking new proposals. To comply with legislative laws of '08 in order to control urban sprawl, more complementary land uses are planned and higher densities will be used near transportation corridors with transfer of development rights to implement this.

Bright spots included: require developers to use a larger percentage of native plants and the planners encouraged local governments to lead the way. Where suitable, bus shelters and bike racks will be required. Availability of mass transit can be used to help offset concurrency requirements.

A discussion of low-impact development brought out that less disturbance of soil and preservation of existing trees was not only aesthetically pleasing, but would lower future energy and fertilizer needs.

By Beverly Sidenstick