



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

PO Box 934, Lakeland, FL 33802  
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www.lwvpolk.org

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\*\*\* **Happy Holidays** \*\*\*

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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.*



## Holiday Celebration



The League of Women Voters of Polk County Invites its membership & friends to gather together to celebrate the seasonal holidays

**Wednesday December 15  
4:30-6:00 PM**

Home of Paula & Tom Mims  
1524 Easton Drive, Lakeland

**Bring a friend & holiday treat to share**  
R.S.V.P. (863) 686-0356 or [pmmims@aol.com](mailto:pmmims@aol.com)

Our members who also serve as Guardian Ad Litem volunteers are accepting gift cards for children's holiday presents. Contact Sue Schultz, [voterservice@lwvpolk.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvpolk.org), for more information.

## Fair Districts Victory !!!

Dear League Supporters,

Floridians sent a clear message to Tallahassee through their passage of Amendments 5 & 6. By a decisive victory of over 62%, the voters claimed the right to pick their elected officials instead of allowing those officials to claim their own re-election. The League has worked on this issue for thirty years and, to paraphrase Susan B. Anthony, "failure was not an option"!

On behalf of our board and the citizens of Florida, I extend my heartiest thanks to you for your persistence, your passion, your endless volunteer hours, and your contributions to make this dream a reality. We can all be proud of our efforts!

But make no mistake...the battle is not over. We must remain vigilant to ensure the public is involved in the redistricting process, and that these new rules are followed. With your help, we will press ahead for a Florida government that is truly 'for the people.'

In League, Deirdre Macnab, President, LWVF

December 2010  
Volume 10, Issue 10

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### Quote for the Holidays

"Remember  
This December,  
That love weighs  
more than  
gold!"

~ Josephine Dodge  
Daskam Bacon



## 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](mailto:president@lwvpolk.org)

## Calendar

Wednesday, December 1: Hanukkah Starts

Wednesday, December 15: Bill of Rights Day

Wednesday, December 15, 4:30 - 6:00 pm

**LWV Polk Holiday Party**  
Home of Paula & Tom Mims  
1524 Easton Dr, Lakeland

Saturday, December 25: Christmas Day

Sunday, December 26: Kwanzaa Starts  
\*\*\*

Saturday, January 1: New Years Day

Wednesday, Jan 12, 12:30 pm  
LWV Polk County BOARD Meeting  
United Way, Highland City  
(bag lunch)

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

Mary Jo Jarrrett, President  
644-8527  
[president@lwvpolk.org](mailto:president@lwvpolk.org)

Paula Mims, Vice President  
686-0356  
[vice-resident@lwvpolk.org](mailto:vice-resident@lwvpolk.org)

Pete Wesley, Secretary  
682-2578  
[secretary@lwvpolk.org](mailto:secretary@lwvpolk.org)

Ann Weeks, Treasurer  
648-4127  
[treasurer@lwvpolk.org](mailto:treasurer@lwvpolk.org)

Sue Schultz, Voter Service—  
Elections  
646-4634  
[voterservice@lwvpolk.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvpolk.org)

Mary Thomas  
859-7560  
[maryalict11@aol.com](mailto:maryalict11@aol.com)

Joan Verret  
682-7724  
[JoanClaireV@aol.com](mailto:JoanClaireV@aol.com)

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648-4127  
[2weeks@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:2weeks@tampabay.rr.com)

Jessie Thrasher  
868-5870  
[Jt331@aol.com](mailto:Jt331@aol.com)

**Off-Board Specialists:**

Membership, Joan Verret, retaining  
682-7724, [JoanClaireV@aol.com](mailto:JoanClaireV@aol.com)  
and Ann Weeks, recording  
[membership@lwvpolk.org](mailto:membership@lwvpolk.org)

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Fundraising and Government, Lisa  
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**Website:**

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

## President's Message:

As we approach the New Year and you are making your Resolutions, remember to include your resolve to be informed about important issues.

The League's Florida Legislative Priorities chosen for the year are: Government, Education and Natural Resources. These issues include concerns in finance and taxation, ethics, Sunshine Law, education funding, offshore drilling ban, preservation of fresh water resources, and reauthorization of Department of Community Affairs. The implementation of Amendments 5 & 6 will be important to prevent gerrymandering with interpretation of the census results.

At the local level, we are looking for members to serve on the nominating committee to recommend next year's officers, board and committee chairs. Membership on the nominating committee is open to members. If your resolutions include becoming more involved in the League and you would like to serve in positions of leadership and responsibility, please let an officer or board member know of your interest.

I wish to thank our membership for their participation and support of activities of the Polk League of Women Voters throughout the year. I am looking forward to seeing you at our holiday gathering!

Best Wishes for a Safe and Joyful Holiday Season!

In League, Mary Jo, President

## Coming in mid-January - a Field Trip

Birds of a Feather are invited to flock together with the League of Women Voters at Polk's Nature Discovery Center at the Circle B Bar Reserve Ranch in Highland City. Circle B Bar Reserve Ranch is an environmental highlight of Polk County that our environment committee leadership--Joan Verret and Beverly Sidenstick -- are looking forward to sharing with all of us.

The Tram Tour will be an exciting trip into nature discovering our feathered friends as they fly in for the winter. You may know some bird watchers who would like to join our tram tour that day. Invite them to join with us. We will also explore the plant life and trails such as Eagle Roost and Banana Creek Marsh. There is a lot to learn about and includes the Exhibition Hall. Circle B is part of the Environmental Lands Program.

The Field Trip is tentatively scheduled for the 18th of January. Check the website [lwvpolk.org](http://lwvpolk.org) in January for update on date and time.

## Save The Date!

**When:** Wednesday March 23, 5 pm thru Saturday March 26, 5 pm

**What:** TWO League Events in ONE!!!! **Legislative Seminar** (March 23, 24)  
And **Convention** (March 25, 26)

**Where:** Tallahassee, Florida

**Who:** YOU...the MOST important, influential and intelligent people in Florida!!!

**Why:** Many of you look forward every year to attending our terrific Legislative Seminar and lobbying as a group during Legislative session for our issues. Many of you, ALSO, look forward to our bi annual State Convention where we do the very important League work of electing new officers, passing our budget and setting program items for the coming year. We know your time and resources are valuable! We don't want you to have to choose which event you have the time and resources to attend. We want everyone to have the opportunity to do BOTH in 2011!

### Work and Fun!!

- Welcome Dinner on the 22nd Floor of The Capitol overlooking Beautiful Tallahassee! (A very important guest speaker to be announced soon!)
- Reception in the Historic Old Capitol Senate Chambers with all newly elected officials!
- Fun and Informative Convention Surprise Dinner Friday night! (Another great speaker and League activity!!)
- Optional Tours and Activities to make your time as action packed and busy as YOU want it to be!

We are pleased to announce that we will be returning to The Doubletree Hotel as our central location for these two events at a SPECIAL room rate of \$105/night. FREE Parking, FREE Breakfast and walking distance to all ACTIVITIES!!!!

Mark your calendars TODAY! If you have never attended one or both of these events, this is the year!!!



A big welcome to 2010-2011 New Members:

Nancy and William Futch

Polly Parent

Janet Steven

Gioia Harrel

