



The League of Women Voters of Polk County
VOTER

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***** Nov 2 - General Election - *Vote* *****



Make a Tax-Deductible Donation to LWV Polk

The League's message is simple. Free and open access to information is as important today as it ever was. Educating people about the issues of the day, the political process, and how to make informed choices is a job the League takes very seriously.

Your *tax-deductible donation* to the League will help us sustain our voter education work in Polk County.

Make checks payable to LWVF Education Fund. On the memo line show: "for LWV Polk Accrual Fund."

Mail to: LWV Florida
540 Beverly Court
Tallahassee, FL 32301-2506

Calendar

Tuesday, Nov 2: General Election

Wednesday, Nov 10, noon
LWV Polk County BOARD Meeting
United Way, Highland City
(bag lunch)

Thursday, Nov 11: Veterans Day

Friday, Nov 12
FREE Field Trip (bus & boat) from Bartow
Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center
Free lunch, snacks & presentations (see p 2)

Thursday, Nov 25: Thanksgiving Day

Wednesday, Dec 15: Bill of Rights Day

Saturday, Dec 25: Christmas Day

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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.

President's Message:

The work of the League of Women Voters does not end with Election Day and is not limited to candidate forums. While the political issues and candidates change with the passage of time, the basic ingredients for a healthy and effective democracy remain the same: *an engaged and informed electorate and fair election process*. As such there is no end to our non-partisan campaign to engage individuals in the democratic process.

We facilitate community discussions on issues of public concern and advocate for fair and responsible public policy.

The League as a national, state, and local grassroots organization continues to be involved in activities with the vision of making our system of democracy work for all.

Inspired and paraphrased from the writings of Kay Maxwell, past president of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

In League, Mary Jo

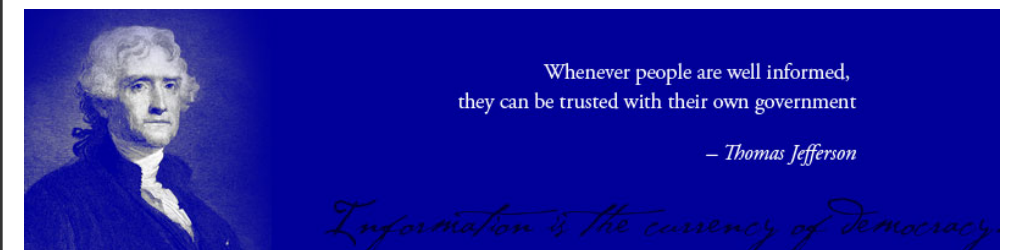
This Issue

- President's Message
- Quote
- Board (p. 2)
- FREE Field Trip
- Politics in Park
- Pictures (p. 3-4)
- Sue Schultz (p. 5)
- Donation (p. 6)
- Calendar

Quote of the Day

American youth attributes much more importance to arriving at driver's-license age than at voting age.

~Marshall McLuhan



Whenever people are well informed,
they can be trusted with their own government

~ Thomas Jefferson

Information is the currency of Democracy

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
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FREE Field Trip!!! November 12



All-day event - catch a FREE bus ride from Bartow down 17 along the Peace River to Shell Creek Water Treatment Facility, where the city of Punta Gorda receives its drinking water. Then catch a FREE boat trip on Charlotte Harbor with discussions about estuaries, mangroves and sea grasses. FREE transportation, lunch, snacks and a wealth of information on our water resources is provided.

This program is offered by the Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center once a year and provides education for the folks in the upper river basin (us) on why it's so important to protect the river for the down river folks.

Contact: Chris @ 941.575.5435



Politics in the Park



Sue, Ann & Jerry



'YES on 5 & 6' Display

On October 7, the LWF of Polk County hosted a table at Lakeland's Politics in the Park.

Along with information on the League, Sue Schultz, Mary Jo Jarrett, Joan Verret, Ann and Jerry Weeks provided materials on statewide ballot initiatives and candidates. They especially emphasized and supported Fair Districts Florida on Amendments 5 and 6, to set standards for redistricting.

They were particularly encouraged by the number of young people who stopped by the table and asked questions.



Member Spotlight: Sue Schultz, Voter Service Chair

The League of Women Voters of Polk County has benefitted greatly from the biennial enthusiasm of our Voter Service Chair, Sue Schultz. Sue plans, organizes and facilitates the candidate forums for the election season. She describes her tenure as "forever."

Sue joined the local league in 1982. She had recently moved from Tallahassee, the State Capitol, to Lakeland with her journalist husband, David. While in Tallahassee, issues of government and policy filled the air that everyone breathed. The League filled her interest in staying up with government policy and issues and made the transition to the middle land of Polk County easier.

Sue became interested in education during the Johnson Administration and the War on Poverty. In 1982 when Head Start began in Polk County, she was on the ground floor as Head Start Education Coordinator. She became Director in 1985 and stayed with the program for 15 years.

She serves now as a consultant for Head Start for Polk District Schools and offers training and technical assistance. Her interest in education and children has lead her to volunteer as a Staff Advocate for the guardian Ad-litem program.

As Voter Service Chair, she moderates the candidate forums and sets the decorum of the question and answer sessions.

Sue will tell you that the Strength of the League of Women Voters is that it is non-partisan. Asked what is the best thing about joining the League of Women Voters she replies "It's the best place to go to be involved and informed so that you can make up your mind about issues."

Having served FOREVER in the position of Voter Service Chair, She is able to see the progress of the forums from The Lakeland Library, and being carried on radio, to the broadcast of the Candidate Forums on cable and the internet through the efforts of Polk Government TV.

by Mary Jo Jarrett





Pictures from October 5 Forums



Timekeepers, questioners & moderator ready to begin (Note PGTV top right)



Celeste Deardorff, Moderator



Mary Jo Jarrett, President



Barbara Stampfl & Mary Thomas, questioners



Audience entering behind timekeepers



Florida Legislative Candidates



US Congressional Candidates



October 12 & 13 Forum Pictures

October 12: County Commission Forum



Janet Stevens & Pete Wesley, Timekeepers



County Commission Candidates



Mary Jo & Mary, questioners

October 12: School Board Forum



Sue, Moderator



School Board Candidates



Janet, Pete, John Arthur, Sue

October 13: Ballot Amendments Forum



Ballot Amendments Panel



Paula Mims



Marsha Faux



Mary Jo



Jerry Weeks



Ann Weeks