



# VOTER

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### *The League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County*

*is a non partisan political organization of men and women that encourages citizens to play an informed and active role in government. The League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy at the local, state and national levels. The League does not endorse or support political candidates or parties. For more information about the League of Women Voters see [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) or call (813)831-9774.*

## VOTER SERVICE COMMITTEE READIES CANDIDATE FORUMS

Elections are just ahead and the Hillsborough County League of Women Voters has swung into action to provide candidate forums to allow voters to see and hear the candidates for local offices. The Hillsborough League is preparing televised Candidate Forums for both primary and general elections this year.

Television recording and cable playback will be coordinated by local public, educational and government access organizations, but the forums will be entirely produced by LWVHC volunteers.

Even before the last date to qualify, postcards have been sent to those candidates registered with the Supervisor of Elections asking them to save the date for League of Women Voter forum taping. Following the last date to qualify, the candidates will be contacted by phone. This will be followed by a registered letter inviting the candidate to attend a forum. The candidates have until July 29 to respond.

Only contested elections will have televised forums. If a candidate chooses not to appear, the forum will proceed so long as any candidate appears. The forums are live-to-tape and once the forum begins it will proceed to completion. Each forum requires greeters, a time keeper, a moderator, and panelists.



Greg Vawter, Voter Services Chair

The following tapings are scheduled: Thurs., 8/3, 3-5 p.m.: School Board Members; Mon., 8/7, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.: State Senators & County Commissioners (1-Dem; 3-Dem); Tues., 8/8, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.: State Rep. (House) & County Commissioners (4-Dem; 1-Rep); and Mon., 8/14, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.: 13th Circuit Judges & Representatives to US Congress.

The forums will replay on our media partners until the primary election. Then the League must gear up again for the general election in November. To become involved in this public service contact Greg Vawter at [vawterg@mac.com](mailto:vawterg@mac.com).



## President's Message

The Hillsborough County VOTER is a publication of the Hillsborough County League of Women Voters.

### OFFICERS

President	Mike McKinney
President Elect	Linda D'Aquila
Vice President	Shirley Arcuri
Secretary	vacant
Treasurer	Mary Mahoney

### DIRECTORS

Voter Services	Greg Vawter
Membership	Jan Platt
Development/ Fund Raising	Betsey McFarland and Katie Ross
FYI	Lisa Leslie
Finance:	Sandy Rowe Walters
Public Relations	Sandi Frye
Action Chair	Patrcia Moran
VOTER Editor	Cathy Teti

### THANK YOU!

*First, I wish to thank the membership for their vote of confidence in electing me for a second term. In doing a little research I found that two term presidents were the norm prior to the 1990's. I think Helen Gordon Davis holds the record serving as League President from 1966 to 1969. I look forward to serving you again this year in our quest to bring back the League to its former greatness. Special thanks to those members who attended and participated in our Annual Meeting on June 17th.*

### GREEN AND GROWING:

*Last year at this time the jury was still out deliberating the fate of the League. Well, we not only survived the year, but thanks to the efforts of a wonderful Board of Directors, we celebrate the fact that our Hillsborough County League is the second fastest growing chapter in Florida. And, with your help, we are committed to be #1 in 2007. If you have not renewed for the coming year, please complete the Membership Form and send your check today. Remember, July 1st started the new fiscal year. Special thanks to those members who attended and participated in our Annual Meeting on June 17th.*

### DISCLOSURE: (Elected County Mayor)

*Many active LWVHC Members are engaged on both sides of the issue regarding the elected county mayor. The League of Women Voters will not endorse either side, however, we do feel it is our responsibility to educate the citizens on this issue. We encourage our members to get involved and I personally salute those who are actively engaged in this debate.*

### LOOKING FORWARD WITH A DEDICATED BOARD:

*Normally the Board takes a vacation during the summer months. Not this Board! They are moving forward at a rapid pace. This will be an extremely busy year for the League, especially with this being an election year. The Voter Services Committee is busy developing the televised and community candidate forums for both the primary and general elections. Our FYI Chair, Lisa Leslie, is busy planning some great "Hot Topic" FYI programs for the fall and winter, and our Finance and Fund Raising Committee is off and running. And finally, our LWVHC Members will be receiving additional Voter Newsletters this year in an effort to keep you more informed.*

*Thank you for your dedication to the League of Women Voters. This is a great organization that can only get better with your active support and participation.*

Sincerely,  
**Mike McKinney**  
 LWVHC President

# ANNUAL MEETING

June 17, 2006 forty dedicated members of our "revitalized" Chapter met in the historic "Latam at the Centro" restaurant in Ybor City for the FY 2005 - 2006 Annual Meeting. After a delicious breakfast and plenty of time for renewing old acquaintances and meeting new friends President Mike McKinney called the meeting to order. A brief announcement by Mr. Greg Vawter concerning the upcoming televised and live candidate forums, a request by Ms.

by Linda D'Aquila  
 ndRenee Warmack for the League's endorsement of her Women Government Leaders project, and an update by Ms. Diane Wheatley-Giliotti concerning Voter Registration and the LWVF lawsuit followed.

Our keynote speaker, Ms. Rosemary Goudreau, Editorial Page Editor of the Tampa Tribune was so engaging and informative that the audience was reluctant to let her go! The main theme of her discussion, "... an

absence of leadership and discussion on issues and events that held importance to the community . . . " was underscored by her observation that out of a Chapter membership of 180 only 40 members were in attendance at our most important meeting of the year. She challenged the League to step forward, become more of a presence in the community, and to continue to provide a forum for non-partisan discussion.

cont. page 4 ... Meeting



Linda D'Aquila will serve as President -elect for 2006-2007.

**Officers and Directors installed at the annual meeting** include, front row from left: Katie Ross, development and fund raising co-chair; Linda D'Aquila, president-elect; Mike McKinney, president; Mary Mahoney, treasurer. Back row: Greg Vawter, Voter Services Chair; Betsey McFarland, development and fund raising co-chair; Cathy Teti, VOTER Editor; Sandi Fry, public relations chair; and Patricia Moran, action chair.

### Meeting ...from page 3

During the business meeting the following items were reviewed and approved: 1.) The 2005 Annual Meeting Minutes, 2.) The FY 2005 - 2006 Financial Report, 3.) Recommended Programs for FY 2006 - 2007, and 4.) The FY 2006 - 2007 Budget. The Election and Installation of Officers and Directors followed a Task Force Update and The STATE of the LEAGUE Message.

In his final comments, Mr. McKinney noted that although our Chapter had a very successful year, we continue to face membership and participation challenges. He asked everyone to support the League's activities and to encourage family, friends, and colleagues to become members.

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### DUES ARE DUE!

The League's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. Dues for 2006-2007 are now due.

Annual dues cover the per member payments due to the state and National Leagues and support their activities in addition to those of our local chapter. Our power is our members! Encourage others to join.

Member Application is on page 7.

## President Awards Outstanding League Service



President Mike McKinney presents State Representative Faye Culp with a Political Courage Citation at the June 17 annual meeting, which took place at the Latan Restaurant.

President Mike presented the following Presidential Citations at the June Annual Meeting. The citations were given to recognize League Members for their dedicated and exemplary service to the League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County.

Member of the Year, Ms. Patricia Hall. New Members of the Year, Don and Pat Tabone

Outstanding Young Member, Ms. Katie Ross

The Extra Mile Award, Board Members Mary Mahoney and Linda D'Aquila.

A citation was also presented to Ms. Annette DeLisle for her leadership as president in 2005. State Representative (and LWVHC Member) Faye Culp received the Political Courage Citation for putting her personal family values ahead of politics. A Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to LifeLink Foundation for their contributions to the League. LifeLink has graciously provided their facilities for all Board functions.

We heartily congratulate these individuals for their leadership and commitment.

*COMING  
THIS FALL:*

*PRETZELS  
AND  
POLITICS*

*MEET AND  
GREET THE  
CANDIDATES*

# League of Women Voters in Action

## State League Suspends All Local Voter Registration Activities and Sues State over Florida's New Voter Registration Law

The Florida League of Women Voters and its local chapters have been registering voters since 1937. By a unanimous vote of its Board of Directors the Florida League of Women Voters suspended all voter registration operations of its 27 local Leagues across Florida. This action was made

necessary by a new Florida law that places "strict liability" on organizations registering voters.

Political parties are exempt from the new law. There are 25 registered political parties in Florida including the British Reform Sectarian Party and the Surfers

Party of America.

The Florida League has joined with other public interest and labor groups to challenge the law in court on the grounds that its onerous and unconstitutional fines represent a "Tax on Democracy."

## League Fights for District of Columbia Voting Rights

Americans living in the Nation's Capitol do not have the right to representation in Congress. Citizens of the District of Columbia pay United States taxes, fight and die for the United States and are governed by the laws Congress passes.

Although there is a non-voting District of Columbia observer in the House of Representatives, citizens of the Dis

trict have no voice in Congress. In response to an action alert from the National League, Patricia Moran, Action Chair, wrote Representative Jim Davis asking him to vote for H.R. 5388, the District of Columbia Fair and Equal Voting Rights Act.

If this bill passes it will provide one voting member in the House of Representatives for the District of Columbia.



PATRICIA MORAN  
ACTION CHAIR

## State Seeks Local Review of Alternative Voting Study

At the 2005 Bi-Annual League of Women Voters of Florida Convention, the Alternative Voting Processes Study was approved by the delegates.

The LWVSPA Study Committee determined that the state of Minnesota, among other

State Leagues, already had done an in-depth study. They were given permission to use the Minnesota study as the basis of the Florida study.

This and additional information is posted at [www.lwvfla.org](http://www.lwvfla.org), click on "Alternative Voting

Study."

Each local League is being asked to study the material, meet, and complete a consensus questionnaire and return to the LWVF Board of Directors before December 15, 2006.

*"Let us never forget that government is ourselves and not an alien power over us. The ultimate rulers of our democracy are not a President and senators and congressmen and government officials, but the voters of this country."*

Franklin D. Roosevelt

*“In 2005 37,730 individuals were admitted for drug and alcohol treatment in Florida compared to 74,150 in 2004. Again, is this due to lack of funding, substantially increased success rate in recovery or both?”*



Lora Bernard is Chair of the Drug Funding Study Committee

## *September is National Recovery Month*

### *Substance abuse treatment and law enforcement funding priorities study*

Recent studies show that 22.9 million people are in need of treatment for addiction in our country and only 1.9 million are actually getting treatment, 33% of who can't afford it. Is this really a lack of funding or inefficiency in making people aware of what resources are available or both?

Did you know, according to a research study done by UCLA, every **\$1,583** spent on drug treatment services is offset by **\$11,487** in monetary benefits to society?

This study of funding resources and applications for substance abuse treatment and law enforcement prevention is an

effort to aid our community in increasing the success rate on this issue.

In 2005 37,730 individuals were admitted for drug and alcohol treatment in Florida compared to 74,150 in 2004. Again, is this due to lack of funding, substantially increased success rate in recovery or both?

Seventy percent of prisoners are incarcerated due to addiction related crimes and without treatment will more than likely recommit crime.

Tampa Cares. There are great programs and initiatives regarding the issue of substance abuse in our local community so let's aid our community's

efforts on drug and alcohol awareness and prevention by conducting these studies to ensure sufficient funding is available and that funding for treatment and law enforcement is utilized efficiently in order for us to be successful.

LWVHC members are encouraged to join this committee. If you have knowledge on this subject or just a passion to make a difference in this area, please let me know via email at [lora@fasttrackprofessionals.com](mailto:lora@fasttrackprofessionals.com) or Lora Benard 813-732-6195 or 813-383-4672.

Details of first meeting are below.

## **Kick-off Meeting Drug Funding Study**

**Where: John F. German Library  
900 N. Ashley Drive  
Martin Luther King Room**

**When: Tuesday, September 12, 2006,  
6:30 p.m.**

## WE NEED YOUR SPECIAL TALENTS:

**WANTED:** League Member with experience in designing and/or managing a Web Page. Please contact the League Office. 813-831-9774.

The pay is lousy, but the rewards are great!

We also need volunteers to serve on the following Committees: Membership, Publicity & PR, Voter Services, and Fund Raising. Call today!

## DO WE HAVE YOUR CURRENT EMAIL ADDRESS?

The Voter and other written communications will be coming to you this year via e-mail. It is essential that we have your current email address. If you are not currently receiving information or if you have recently changed carriers, please call the League Office (813-831-9774) and give us your new address. We also realize that some of our members do not have computers. We need to know which members need to receive a mailed paper copy.

2006-2007

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Add my voice to yours. I'm joining the League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County.

I enclose:(please check one)

\$60.00 Individual                       \$85 Household                       \$40.00 Student  
 Please consider sending an additional amount toward the League Revitalization Effort  
 \$50.00 additional amount                       \$ Other amount for Revitalization

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (FAX)

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_ (month/day)

Your contact information may appear in our directory.  Check here to prevent publication.

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# League Date Book

## July

- 21 Last day to qualify as a candidate for 2006 Election

## August

- 3-14 Taping of candidate forums for primaries - various locations. See pg 1.
- 7 Registration closes for '06 Primary
- 15 4:00 p.m. Board Meeting - LifeLink Building
- 18-Sept 4 Broadcasts of candidate forums for primaries.

## September

- 5 Primary Election
- 12 6:30 p. m. Kick-off Meeting for Drug Funding Study - John F. German Library. See page 6.
- 20 4:00 p. m. Board Meeting - LifeLink Building

## October

- 10 Registration Closes for General Election
- 17 Board Meeting - LifeLink Building