



VOTER

Dec/Jan 2007
Volume 56, Issue 5

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD	1
PRES. MESSAGE	2
AFFORDABLE HOUSING FORUM	4
CITY FORUMS	5
LOCAL BILLS	6
LEG. SEMINAR	7
CALENDAR	7

Sam Gibbons to be Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award



2007 League Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient was announced at the November 30, FYI Luncheon. The recipient is Sam Gibbons, pictured above center with Mike McKinney (left,) president of the Hillsborough County League of Women Voters, and Linda D'Aquila (right) president elect.

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 or call (813)831-9774.

LWVHC President Mike McKinney announced the recipient of the League's 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award:

Sam Melville Gibbons represented Tampa and Hillsborough County for over 40 years. First in the Florida House of Representatives (1953 - 1958), then the Florida Senate (1959-1962), and most recently in the Unit-

ed States House of Representatives (1963-1997).

Congressman Gibbons was born in Tampa on January 20, 1920. As an officer during World War II with the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division, he led parachute infantry forces in the D-Day invasion of Normandy, the invasion of Holland, and the Battle of Bastogne winning a Bronze Star.

While in Tallahassee he was instrumental in the establishment of the University of South Florida at Tampa. In Congress he served as Chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee.

The United States Court House in downtown Tampa and the Alumni Center at the University of South Florida are named in the Congressman's honor.

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

OFFICERS

President *Mike McKinney*
 President Elect *Linda D'Aquila*
 Vice President *Shirley Arcuri*
 Secretary *Rich Brown*
 Treasurer *Mary Mahoney*

DIRECTORS

Voter Services *Greg Vawter*
 Membership *Jan Platt*
 Development/ Fund Raising
Betsy McFarland, Katie Ross, and Lora Bernard
 FYI *Lisa Leslie*
 Public Relations *Sandy Frye*
 Action Chair *Patrcia Moran*
 VOTER Editor *Cathy Teti*

Next Board of Directors Meeting:

Jan. 17 4:00 p.m.
 LifeLink Building



President's Message

Happy New Year and Greetings to all our LWV Members from your President and the Board of Directors. WOW! What a way to start off the new year; announcing that the honorable Sam Gibbons will be awarded our League's highest recognition, the Lifetime Achievement Award. Plan now to join us for a special tribute on Friday, March 9th at the Center Club of Tampa. Members will have three different reservation options to choose from, but don't overlook the special LWVHC Membership package priced at only \$100.00 and includes your luncheon ticket, your name in the Commemorative Program Book, and your 2007 LWV Membership. We will need your reservation in by February 5th in order to include your name in the program. Help us celebrate this monumental occasion by honoring the Congressman.

Welcome Aboard! Welcome to all our new League Members. Thanks to you, we are on track for being the fastest growing League in Florida. We also welcome our newest LWVHC Board Member, Dr. Richard Brown. Richard is taking over the position of Board Secretary for the remainder of the year.

Regional LWV Opportunities. . . Don't miss the upcoming Affordable Housing Summit being sponsored by the Leagues in Hillsborough, Manatee, North Pinellas and St. Petersburg. See the details in this edition of the VOTER and make plans today to attend. We will have a carpool leaving on Feb. 24th from Westshore Mall. Respond to LWVNEWS@msn.com if you are interested.

CONT. on page 3

CONT. from page 2

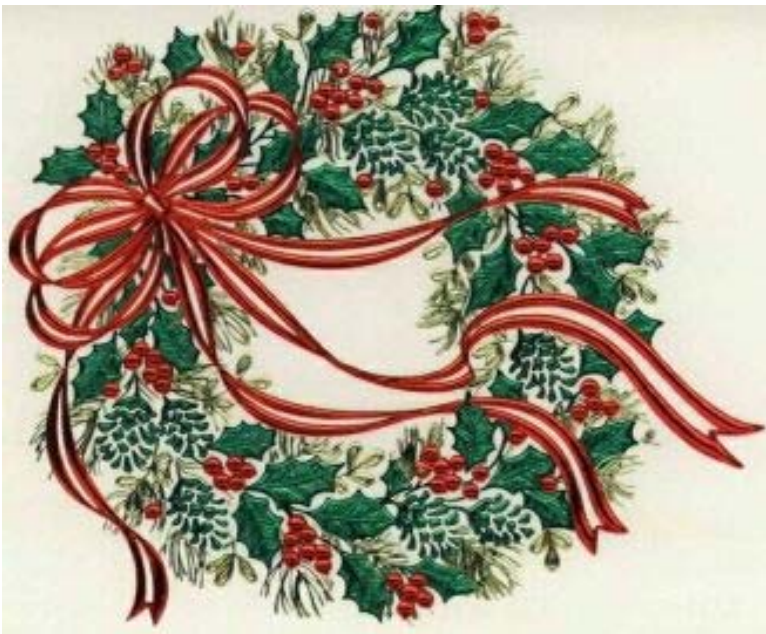
2007 LWVHC FUNDRAISER...Our major fundraiser of the year will be the Sam Gibbons Commemorative Program Booklet. We're counting on our total membership to help solicit and sell ads. Both the Lifetime Achievement Luncheon Reservation form and Commemorative Program form are included in this edition. PLEASE help us in this effort. Deadline for all copy is February 5th, so that just leaves us January to get the job done.

May the peace, love, and joy of this Season be yours through the year.

Sincerely,



Michael McKinney
LWVHC President



Dr. Rich Brown Joins LWV Board

Dr. Rich Brown has joined the Hillsborough County League of Women Voters Board of Directors as secretary. Except for his education and military service he has been a resident of Tampa since 1961. Dr. Brown attended the US Naval Academy and received a degree in engineering. He is a retired captain in the Navy Reserve. He obtained a Ph.D from the University of Miami and has been a psychotherapist in Tampa for 20 years. In addition to the League he is involved in the VFW, DAV, Florida Engineering Society, The Spring, the Florida Prostate Cancer Network, and Friends of the River.

Special thanks to the people and organizations that have made donations to this year's League:

Julie Immanuel-Brown

Betsy Hapner

Mary Lou Harnkness

Cathy Teti

The Temple Terrace Chamber of Commerce

Did Your Vote Count?

November FYI Luncheon



ABOVE: The speaker, Dr. Robert Kerstein, is interviewed by Roxanne Escobades of WMNF Radio, following his presentation to the League on shifts in voter loyalty demonstrated in the 2006 election.



LEFT: Mike Foerster and Jan Platt seem confident that their votes counted.

Four League Forum on Affordable Housing

The Hillsborough, Mantee, North Pinellas and St. Petersburg Leagues are joining together over a major issue in Florida's growth: Affordable Housing.

When: Saturday, February 24, 2007 from 10:00 a.m. 'til 1:00 p.m.

Where: Feather Sound Country Club, St. Petersburg, Florida

Speakers: Odetta MacLeish-White, LWVUS board member and director, Florida's Affordable Housing Study Commission plus comments from local affordable housing experts.

Cost: \$15, includes brunch and materials. Mail check to: Susie Rodenbeck, 2228 Harbor View Dr., Dunedin, FL 34698.

Car pool: from Westshore Mall, contact LWVNEWS@msn.

Partially funded by a grant from LWVUS Global Democracy Program



**2007 Lifetime Achievement
& Community Support Awards Luncheon**
Honoring

Congressman Sam Gibbons

Friday, March 9, 2007

Noon

Center Club

Luncheon Reservation Form

Luncheon Only **\$ 35.00** **# Reservations:** _____

Lunch and Name in Program **\$ 50.00** **# Reservations:** _____
(Your name will be added to the Commemorative Program Booklet)

**Lunch, Name in Program &
2007 LWV Membership** **\$100.00** **# Reservations:** _____
(This membership package is open to all members and potential members)

Reserved Table (seating 8) **\$280.00** **# Tables:** _____

* Make checks payable to: LWVHC Reservation Deadline: March 5, 2007
(Checks must be received to guarantee a reservation)

** Please mail to: League of Women Voters c/o Linda D'Aquila @ LifeLink,
409 Bayshore Blvd. Tampa, Fla 33606

Name: _____ **Organization:** _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Telephone#: _____ **Email:** _____

We **MUST** have your reservation in by **Feb. 5th** to include your name in the booklet.

Commemorative Program

Honoring Congressman Sam Gibbons

Place your personal or corporate tribute to the Congressman

Platinum Level: Full page back cover (5"x8") (Includes a table of 8)	\$2,000	_____
Gold Level: Full page inside (5"x 8") (Includes 4 Luncheon tickets)	\$1,000	_____
Silver Level: Half page inside (5"x4")	\$500.00	_____
Bronze Level: ¼ Page inside (2 ½ X 2 ½)	\$250.00	_____
Business Card	\$100.00	_____
Name on Friends Page (Donation \$25.00 to \$99.00)		_____

* Copy DEADLINE: Monday, February 5th. Photo quality required.

** Email ad copy to: Linda.daquila@lifelinkfound.org Mail Check to:
League of Women Voters c/o Linda D'Aquila @ LifeLink, 409 Bayshore
Blvd. Tampa, FL 33606. Direct questions to Ms D'Aquila at 813-253-
2640

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

City of Tampa Candidate Forums Set for Late January

by Greg Vawter

The City of Tampa holds elections every four years during March after the federal midterm election. All city elected positions are included in the election, the mayor and all seven council seats. Historically, with no national or state-wide elections, the Tampa city election has a poor turnout. As members of the League we should encourage voter turnout and that those voters be well informed on the candidates.

Please check your calendar for these dates: Friday, January 26, and Monday, January 29. That's when we plan to record our City of Tampa Candidates Forum programs. They will be taped in the CTTV Studio located at 202 West 7th Avenue. Then, City of Tampa Television will schedule presentations on channel 15 (both Bright House and FiOS).

The production process will be exciting from two perspectives. First, we are bringing people together to show the voting public their options for the upcoming election. More than campaign literature or media sound-bites, our forums run long enough to give viewers a feel for the people behind the

campaigns. Each office-seeker offers an introduction and closing statement, addresses several questions from our panel, and often has the chance to ask a question of their opponents. We cannot cover every possible issue, but our panelists usually zero in on the most pertinent ones.

Secondly, we will be involved with excellent studio productions. CTTV provides professional equipment and operators to record these programs and they take them very seriously. (After all, the "winners" of these contests will be deciding their budget for the next four years!) CTTV understands the need to avoid even the appearance of any conflict. We won't just be watching these productions; we will be in charge!

That doesn't mean that you have to know TV production to be involved. We keep hands off that equipment, but we control the content and the production environment with LWVHC volunteers in each of these important roles:

Associate Producer - running the program behind the scenes from the con-

trol room, tracking the run time, making the decisions and telling the moderator when more questions can be asked and when to go to the next segment;

Moderator - running things in the studio, representing the League on camera and assuring fair interactions of candidates and panelists;

Timekeeper - using the stop-watch and providing time cues to Moderator and Candidates with cards in the studio; and

Greeter/Guides - meeting participants (and friends) at the door and assuring they find (and stay in) the appropriate rooms during the production.

We need volunteers for each of these task assignments for two shifts (8-noon; 1-5) each day (1/26 & 1/29). In case we don't finish in those two days, we also need a set of backup volunteers who would come in Tuesday morning (1/30) only if needed.

While I certainly can (and will) contact people about volunteering, I cannot know who is interested unless you contact me! So please give me a call or send an email soon.



Greg Vawter

LWVHC Voter
Services, Chair

813.985.0538

LWVHC@
tampabay.rr.com

Legislative Delegation to Consider Eight Proposed Local Bills

More information about the local bills, the adoption process, and input from citizens is available at:

www.hillsboroughcounty.org/legislative-delegation

In addition to considering laws that affect all of Florida, the state legislature enacts bills that apply to a single county, city, special district or agency. Called "local laws," hundreds are proposed statewide each year. While any local government, organization or individual may propose a local bill, it must be sponsored by a member of the legislature in the jurisdiction where the local bill would apply to be considered by the local legislative delegation.

The date for filing a local bill has passed. The full legislative delegation will consider the proposed local bills in January. Eight local bills have been proposed for the 2007 legislative session. A brief synopsis of the bills follow:

01 Aviation Authority Award Of Contracts

Increases from \$15,000 to \$30,000 the values of contracts that the Authority may award without a formal bid process. The change would expand the ability of small companies to compete and address the effect of inflation since the last change in 1996. Proposed by the Aviation Authority

02 PTC Wheel- chair Accessibility

Authorizes the Public-Transportation Authority

(the agency that licenses taxicabs, limousines, etc.) to adopt a rule requiring taxicab companies to equip a percentage of their permitted fleet to be wheelchair accessible. Proposed by the City of Tampa/Hillsborough County Alliance for Citizens with Disabilities.

03 Tampa Sports Authority Governance

Currently the Eleven member TSA board of Directors is made up of one member of Tampa City Council and four appointees of the City, one member of the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners and four appointees of the County plus one appointee of the Governor. The proposed bill would have an additional member of the Board of County Commissioners serve on the Authority and eliminate one appointee of the City. The rational for the change is the shift in populations since the original establishment of the Authority. Proposed by Representative Kevin Ambler.

04 Planning Commission Governance

The Planning Commission currently has ten members: four appointed by the County, four by Tampa and one each by Plant City and Temple Terrace. The proposal would create an eleven

member Commission. Six appointed by the County, three by Tampa and one each by Plant City and Temple Terrace. The rational for the change is the shifts in population since the original establishment of the Commission. Proposed by Representative Kevin Ambler.

05 History Center Alcoholic Beverage License

Allows alcoholic beverages to be served at the Tampa Bay History Center for Special Occasions. Proposed by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners.

06 Civil Service Board, Information Technology Professionals

Would allow agencies under the Civil Service Board to designate IT positions within their agencies that are exempt from the classified service. Proposed by Sheriff David Gee.

07 Tampa F&P Pension - 13th Check

Authorize a change in pension benefits as negotiated by the unions representing Police Officer and Firemen. Proposed by City of Tampa.

08 Tampa Gen Emp Pension Investment Options Multiplier

Expand City of Tampa General Employee Pension Plan investment options. Proposed by City of Tampa.

League Accepts Apology

Sandy Frye reports hearing an interview on WMNF with Neil Gabler, the author of a new biography of Walt Disney entitled Walt Disney, The Triumph of the American Imagination. He related an incident involving Walt Disney and the League.

During the twenties or early thirties Disney's animation studio experienced a very bitter strike by the cartoonists (i.e. the first animators of Disney classics.)

Disney was furious at what he considered the treachery of these employees, because, first, he had constructed what he considered an idyllic work environment with many amenities, and second, he was inclined to be paternalistic anyway.

He got it into his head that the communists had somehow targeted him for destruction. He could not identify the head of the cartoonists' union as a communist (he clearly

wasn't), but in later speeches, he told people he was being targeted by the League of Women Voters, a communist group. He misspoke this several times, until he realized (or was informed) that he had misidentified the group he was thinking of--which was called The League of Women Shoppers--so he had to publicly apologize to the LWV, which he did.

Obviously, the League survived the incident.

47th Annual Legislative Seminar - a state of involvement

Although the Hillsborough County League of Women Voters is unable to pay the way for members to attend the annual LWV Legislative Seminar in Tallahassee, members are encouraged to attend.

The 2007 Legislative Seminar will be held in Tallahassee at the Holiday Inn Select, the state capitol and the Governor's Club from March 18-20.

Your voice and attendance is needed to interact with and lobby your legislative delegation and hear elected officials from across the

state present their views on the issues coming before them in the 2007 Legislative Session.

The seminar is tailored to help you become better educated on the LWVF program positions and legislative priorities. Jeanne Zokovitch, the LWVF professional lobbyist, will bring you up to date on the issues of importance to be track during the 2007 Legislative Session.

The cost of registration is \$140, if made by March 1 and includes seminar materials, participation in all seminar activities,

reception/dinners on March 18 and 19, and breakfast on the 20th. A \$25 Cancellation fee will be charged for cancellations received after March 13

Single and double rooms are \$125 per night plus tax at the Holiday Inn Express..

Contact Cathy Teti (813-835-4146 or teticatherine@yahoo.com) for more information. If there is enough interest we will schedule a meeting to discuss car pools and roommates. If interested contact Cathy by January 10, 2007.

League Calendar

2007

January

17: 4 pm Board Meeting, LifeLink

19: Legislative Delegation Public Hearing

26-29: Tape Tampa Candidate Forums (page 5)

February

20: 4 pm Board Meeting LifeLink

24: Affordable Housing Forum (page 4)

March

6: City of Tampa Elections

9: Lifetime Achievement Luncheon, Center Club

18-20: 47th Annual Legislative Seminar, Tallahassee (page 7)

May

18-20: Annual Meeting Florida LWV Tampa

June

2: LWV of Hillsborough, Annual Meeting

Phone: 813-831-9774
Email: lwvh@yahoo.com

PO Box 13186
Tampa FL 33681-3186

The League of Women
Voters of Hillsborough
County



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HILLSBOROUGH CO.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2006-2007

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I enclose: ___\$60 Individual ___ \$85 Household ___\$40 student

Please consider an additional amount
for the League Revitalization Effort ___\$60, ___ Other amount \$___

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

Make checks payable to the LWVHC and mail to:
League of Women Voters
P.O. Box 13186
Tampa, FL 33681-3186