



VOTER

April 2007
Volume 56, Issue 8

Sam Gibbons Honored At Annual Luncheon

Former Congressman Sam Melville Gibbons was honored by the League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County at the second annual Lifetime Achievement Awards Luncheon, held at the Centre Club of Tampa on Friday, March 9, 2007. Close to two hundred well wishers crowded into the banquet hall to honor one of Florida's most outstanding citizens. Accolades were given by his longtime friend, Mr. John Germany, former Congressman Jim Davis, former state Senator Helen Gordon Davis (last year's recipient), and tributes from County Commissioner Mark Sharpe, City Councilwomen Mary Alvarez and Linda Saul-Sena and representatives from Tampa Bay Estuary, Hillsborough County Democratic Executive Committee, and SWFWMD. Sam was praised for his community leadership and commitment to education and the environment.

In addition to the Lifetime Achievement Award, the League also presented their Community Partner Awards. LifeLink was named the Corporate Partner while the City of Tampa CTTV15, Hillsborough County HTV22, Tampa Tribune, Tampa Bay Community Network, and the Tampa Educational Cable Consortium all shared the Partners in Communication Award for their assistance with the November and March candidate forums produced by the Voter Services Committee of LWVHC. The United States CentCom Color Guard was present to present the colors.

Sam represented Tampa and Hillsborough County for over 40 years, both in the Florida House and Senate and most recently in the United States House of Repre-

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Congressman Sam Gibbons Received the League's Lifetime Achievement Award at a Luncheon at the Centre Club on March 9th.



Alex Sink

**Florida's CFO on
Homeowners Insurance**

FYI Lunch
April 13

\$12.00
11:30 a. m.

Hillsborough Co.Extension
5339 County Road 579
Seffner

RSVP: 744-5519 x137
buckt@hillsborough
county.org

**SEE INSERT
Between pages 4 & 5**

The League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County is a nonpartisan 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.

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Contact the League

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President's Message

A Job Well Done! Hats off to everyone for making this year's Lifetime Achievement Luncheon such a fantastic success. It was a great occasion that honored an even greater American. Special thanks to our Program sponsors: LifeLink, Bank of Florida, Tampa Bay Realty Resource, Inc (Katho Kampfe), Moffitt, Sky Train Corp., Historic Hyde Park Neighborhood Association, 21st Century Innovations (John Teti), The Simon and Lieber Families, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay, Tampa Bay Estuary Program, and the forty-three individuals who signed the Friends Page in the program booklet. The electronic version of the Commemorative Program Book is available upon request. Send request to LWVNEWS@msn.com and the book will be e-mailed back as an attachment. A complete financial report will be given at our upcoming Annual Meeting on June 2nd.

Hats Off: To LifeLink staff members Heidi Grogan and Lana Powell for assisting the League with registration and seating assignments for the Luncheon and to Paula Backman who designed and produced the beautiful luncheon program. We would also like to thank the Tampa Library Special Collections Department at the University of South Florida for providing historical photographs for the Commemorative Program Book.

Congratulations Helen! Former LWVHC President, Helen Swisshelm was recently honored by having a room named in her honor at the Lutz Library. Helen was president in 1992 and 1993.

Join A Winning Team. LWVHC Members are being asked to get involved in the coming year. If you would like to be a part of a winning team, volunteer to join next years Board of Directors. Just e-mail Nominating Committee chair, Christine Smith at: christine.smith@mosaicco.com.

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FYI Moving Locations. Did you ever wonder where the center of Hillsborough County is geographically located? Come to the next FYI and you will find out. Lisa Leslie, our FYI Chair, will be hosting the next luncheon featuring Alex Sink, Florida's Chief Financial Officer, at the new conference center of the Cooperative Extension Service located in Seffner. As an added special treat, those interested will be given a guided tour of the landscaped gardens following the luncheon. Seating is limited, therefore, I encourage our LWVHC Members to call now and make reservations. See insert for directions and RSVP instructions.

Share your "HOT" Issue at the upcoming Program Planning Meeting: Here's your opportunity to share with fellow League members the programs and issues you feel are most important for the League's consideration. This is an excellent opportunity to get involved in the planning process for shaping the future of **your** League of Women Voters here in Hillsborough County. We will be serving salad and snacks starting at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 25th at LifeLink.. Please RSVP by emailing: LWVNEWS@msn.com prior to the event.

WANTED! We need LWVHC Volunteers to help with the hosting duties for this year's LWV Florida Convention. Volunteers can attend the convention free of charge and participate in workshops, but will not have voting privileges. Volunteers will have three different time slots in which to assist. Friday afternoon, May 18th, Saturday morning, May 19th, Saturday afternoon, May 19th and Sunday morning, May 20th. You can also attend meal functions for the cost of the meal. Please call the League office at 813-831-3186 or email the president at: LWVNEWS@msn.com. We can also use drivers to shuttle delegates to the evening out event we are hosting on Saturday evening.

Sincerely,



Michael McKinney
LWVHC President



April 27, 2007

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

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- VOTER Editor *Cathy Teti*

Next Board of Directors Meeting:
April 25, 4:00 p.m.
LifeLink Building

Contact Your FL. Legislators

12th District Sen. Victor Crist

crist.victor.web@flsenate.gov
(813)-975-6658

18th District Sen. Arthenia Joyner

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16th District Sen. Charlie Justice

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47th District Rep. Kevin Ambler

kevin.ambler@myfloridahouse.gov
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57th District Rep. Faye Culp

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62nd District Rep. Rich Glorioso

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60th District Rep. Ed Homan

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63rd District Rep. Seth McKeel

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55th District Rep. Frank Peterman

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(727)552-1370

67th District Rep. Ron Reagan

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59th District Rep. Betty Reed

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(813)241-8024

58th District Rep. Michael Scionti

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(813)673-4673

56th District Rep. Trey Traviesa

trey.traviesa@myfloridahouse.gov
(813)740-7655

61st District Rep. Will Weatherford

will.weatherford@myfloridahouse.gov
(813)558-5115

Legislative Seminar

The Hillsborough County League was represented by Patricia and Tim Moran at the Florida League 2007 Legislative Seminar in Tallahassee March 18-20. The Sunday workshop featured the League's lobbyist, Jeanne Zokovitch on lobbying, Adria Harper on Florida's Open Sunshine Law and Laren Burns on election systems.

Monday morning featured presentations by legislators including local Senator Charlie Justice. He has filed a bill to outlaw the use of public funds to lobby voters on issues on the ballot. Working with position papers provided by the League lobbyist, attendees spend the afternoon lobbying their local legislators.

Monday evening's speaker was Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp. He spoke on the Governor's support for the League's position on paper trails for ballots. He also affirmed the Governor's support for automatic restoration of voting rights for former felons. The League supports this initiative and the cabinet has the ability to authorize automatic restoration without amending the state constitution.

Craig Waters, Communications Counsel for Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis gave an account of his 20 years with the court. He saw great improvement with the passage of merit selection of judges. (LWV was active in the passage of the merit retention constitutional amendment.)

Equal Rights Amendment

This year the League supports a concurrent resolution pertaining to Equal Rights for Men and Women. A concurrent resolution, signified by SCR or HCR, is a resolution (a bill that is not subject to action by the Governor, to the constitutional one-subject limitation, or to the constitutional title requirements) that is adopted by both the House and the Senate. If passed the ERA Concurrent Resolution will be forwarded by the Secretary of State to the United States Congress.

Please do your part right now while the time is ripe. Contact and/or visit your Florida legislators (e-mails and local phone numbers are at left; add them to your e-mail address book, program them into your speed dial) to ask them to "cosponsor and vote for the ERA bill".

The League is supporting the push to approve the Equal Rights Amendment this year. Check the web sites: www.RatifyERAflorida.net and www.eraflorida.org for more information.



CONT. from Page 1

sentatives from 1963 to 1997. Prior to his political career, the Congressman was a decorated officer during World War II with the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division.

The League is proud to call Sam a friend and patriot. To commemorate the occasion, we made Sam an honorary lifetime member of the League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County.

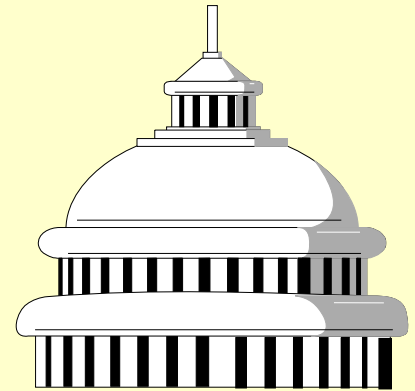


Corporate Partner Award: Lana Powell, Dr. Dana Shires and Heidi Grogan of LifeLink pose with award.



Recipients of Communications Partners Awards at the March 9 Lifetime Achievement Luncheon: L to R Mindy Snyder, Manager - Cable Television Services, City of Tampa; Mary Geraci, Production Manager - Tampa Bay Community Network; Tammy Peralta, Station Manager - HTV22, Hillsborough County Communications Dept.; Donna McCallister, Community Relations Specialist - The Tampa Tribune; Ann Goldenberg, Executive Director - The Education Channel (TECC.)

VOTER



Capitol Reports

During the Legislative Session the Leagues of Women Voters of Florida publishes "Capitol Reports" written by the League's lobbyist, Jeanne Zokovitch .

Capitol Reports follow the ups and downs of the League's legislative priorities through committees, amendments and votes.

Formerly available only by subscription, Capitol Reports is now available to everyone at the State League Web site: www.lwyfla.org.

LWVFL CONVENTION 2007 IN TAMPA

by Shirley Arcuri

League Welcomes New Members:

Marvin Aronovitz

Carol Balkcom

Mary Adams Castor

Janet Cruz-Rifkin

Paul D'Agostino

C. Lee Essrig

Lynn McChristine

Josephine Pizzo

Frank Sanchez



The state league convention will convene in Tampa Friday noon, May 18 and run till Sunday noon, May 20, 2007 at the Tampa Westshore Marriott, 1001 N. Westshore Blvd. The delegates will adopt the state program for 2007-2009; elect officers and directors; and adopt budgets for 2007-2008. All members, even if not official delegates, are welcome to attend. There is a registration fee. Details are available on the state league website at

www.lwvfla.org.

LWVHC is the "Host League" this year and volunteers are needed to assist with registration and credentials and to serve as monitors, time keepers, ushers and tellers. Volunteers do not have to pay a registration fee. There are five time slots available: Friday morning, Friday afternoon, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. To volunteer, contact Shirley Arcuri at 813-857-4081 or sarcuri3@tampabay.rr.com.

An Evening Out

The League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County will sponsor an event on Saturday evening May 19, 2007 for delegates to the state convention as well as local league members. A glass of wine and a private tour of the Henry B. Plant Museum will be followed by Spanish cuisine served on a patio overlooking the waters of Tampa Bay. The Henry B. Plant Museum contains furnishings original to the Tampa Bay Hotel when it opened in 1891 as a posh Victorian winter resort. Cost for the event is \$35 per person. Checks should be made payable to League of Women Voters and mailed to League of Women Voters c/o Linda D'Aquila @ LifeLink, 409 Bayshore Blvd., Tampa, FL 33606. For questions, please call Shirley Arcuri at 813-857-4081.



2007-2008 Program

The Hillsborough County League of Women's Voters program for 2006-2007 was all about the elections. Over the four elections: primary, general, City of Tampa and Tampa run-off, the League, under the leadership of Voter Services Chair, Greg Vawter, produced a total of 24 hours of candidate forums for broadcast and moderated live forums for various groups. These activities provided the only opportunities for many voters to see and compare candidates for various offices. The drug funding study adopted at the 2006 annual meeting is on-going and an FYI on the subject is planned for May. With no elections scheduled for the 2007-2008 League Year (July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008) we have an opportunity to take on new projects and issues.

Do we wish to participate in the national immigration study?

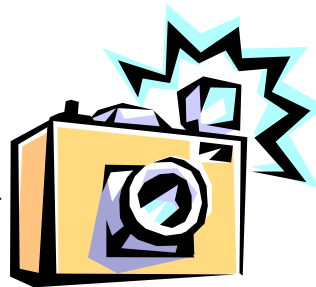
Do we wish to study local hot topics? mass transit? water conservation?

The items put up for adoption at the annual meeting will be determined at the planning meeting. Only local issues can be adopted for study. The items identified at the planning meeting will be presented at the annual meeting as either recommended or not recommended by the Board.

The decision is yours. Make your desires known. Come to the program planning meeting to be led by Patricia Moran and Dena Leavengood: Wednesday, April 25 at 5:30 p. m. , at the LifeLink Building, 409 Bayshore Boulevard, Tampa. The program developed at this meeting will be presented to the membership at the June 2 Annual Meeting. Snacks will be served, RSVP to: LWVNEWS@msn.com

Say Cheese!

Attention League Members. Circle Saturday, June 2nd on your calendars. Those attending the 2007 Annual Meeting Breakfast will get their pictures taken for the new Membership Directory. We are currently planning a pictorial directory to highlight the League and its members. Plan now to be included in this important League document.



This year's Annual Meeting will kick off with a breakfast starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Dr. Alfano Conference and Banquet Center located at 11606 N. McKinley Drive (south of Fowler Avenue across from the USF campus). Reservation information will be in the May edition of the VOTER, but reserve the date now.

League Calendar

2007

April

2: Pascua Florida Day, anniversary of the discovery of Florida in 1513 by Juan Ponce de León.

3: Plant City Elections

13: 11:30 a.m. : FYI Lunch
Alex Sink
H.C. Extension Service
(see insert)

25: 4:00 p.m. Board Meeting
LifeLink Building

5:30 Planning Meeting
LifeLink Building

May

18-20: Annual Meeting
Florida LWV
Tampa (See page 6)

19: An Evening Out in Tampa!
A party for our LWVHC
members and delegates
attending the Florida LWV
State Convention. (see page 6)

June

2: 9:00 - 11:30: LWV of Hillsborough 2007 Annual Meeting,
Alfano Conference Center
11606 McKinley Drive, Tampa,
(just south of USF.)

The League of Women
Voters of Hillsborough
County
PO Box 13186
Tampa FL 33681-3186
Phone: 813-831-9774
Email: lwvh@lwhoo.com



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HILLSBOROUGH CO.
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2007-2008

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