



VOTER

August 2008
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THE HCLWV CANDIDATE FORUM TEAM pause to pose for the camera during forum rehearsals. Each forum requires a producer, moderator, time keeper, and greeter. League members also serve as panelists.

Candidate Forums Under Way

Once again the League is filming candidate forums to be replayed of cable TV in order to inform the voters regarding the upcoming elections. During the last week in July thirteen forums were taped for contested primary elections to be replayed on TBCN (Verizon Channels 30 and 36, Bright House Channels 949 and 950, and Comcast channel 20) ; HTV (Bright House Channel 22 and Verizon and Comcast Channel 22); and CTV (Bright House 615 and Verizon 15) until the August 26 election. As soon as a schedule is available it will be posted on our web site hclwv.org.

Following the primary, work will begin on forums for the November 4 general election. To volunteer e-mail Mark Hart at voterservices@hclwv.org.

August 26: Women's Equality Day

On August 26, 1920, after a 72-year struggle, the 19th Amendment to the United States was formally ratified, giving women the right to vote nationwide. The anniversary of that date is celebrated annually as Women's Equality Day. The League of Women Voters is an outgrowth of the suffrage movement dedicated to encouraging full participation in the election process and an informed electorate



President's Message

Well where do I begin? As my beloved Dad would have said, "Our League is busier than three cats in a creamery." The LWVHC is on the move and your Board of Directors has been busy! Let me bring you up to date on what's going on.

Voter Services Chair, Mark Hart, and band of loyalists (Brenda Menendez, Dena Leavengood, Liana Fox, and Mike McKinney) did everything in their power to make sure that one of the League's signature events, the Televised Candidate Forums for the Primary Elections, were taped on July 21, 22, and 25. We are so fortunate that these League members stepped up to the plate. The League is also in debt to Tampa Bay Community Network, CTTV, and County Central for agreeing to co-sponsor the forums.

CO-SPONSORSHIP seems to be the key word for the League's activities during this election cycle. Here are just a few of the initiatives we have in the works . . .

1. On June 20 we partnered with Tiger Bay of Tampa and provided a forum for the public to hear League members Mary Figg and Jan Platt discuss the pros and cons of the Elected County Mayor issue. What a success! We had over 120 people in attendance. We will partner again with Tiger Bay of Tampa on their August 15 luncheon featuring candidates for Hillsborough County Board of County Commission (Districts 2 and 6), Hillsborough County School Board, and Hillsborough County Property Appraiser.
2. We are partnering with the Kiwanis Club of Tampa (the oldest Kiwanis Club in Florida) on a number of luncheons in August and September. We have already confirmed a September 10 co-sponsored luncheon featuring Mary Ann Stiles and Jan Platt presenting opposing views on the Elected County Mayor issue. More on this initiative in the very near future.
3. Plans are underway for a "Candidate Hob Nob" on October 14. This fun event will be co-sponsored by our League and the South Tampa Chamber of Commerce. This event will be held at Channelside - - more details to follow.
4. The League has been asked to co-sponsor a "Meet the Candidates" event by the Brandon Chai group of Hadassah. Hadassah, the largest women's group worldwide, is non partisan and encourages citizens to vote and to know candidates' positions before doing so. This event is planned in October after the primaries

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5. On July 16 we sent Letters to the Editors of the Tampa Tribune and the St. Petersburg Times voicing our opposition to a last minute initiative that threatened to weaken the Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission's Hybrid Plan for Wetlands Protection. President Elect, Dr. Rich Brown, spoke on behalf of the League before the Environmental Protection Commission.

6. On July 18 I met with representatives of the Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center to discuss developing a League fundraising event around the performance of Embedded, an audacious and often hilarious satire-drama about the start of the Iraq War and the role "embedded" journalists. The League of Women Voters of St. Petersburg has voiced interest in co-sponsoring this event.

And most importantly . . . while all this work has been going on . . . we have had 56 membership renewals and added 13 new members since May. Let me know if you want to join in on the fun . . . we have got a lot of work to do!

Linda D'Aquila
President

Barbara Streidemann Joins Board of Directors

Barbara Streidemann was elected Secretary of the Hillsborough County League of Women Voters at the Annual Meeting and brings a wealth of experience to the post.

Barbara grew up in Webster Groves, a suburb of St. Louis, MO. She went to Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she received a B. A. degree with a major in Sociology in 1965. She worked in Kansas City, MO, as an Investigator with the Missouri Commission on Human Rights and the Kansas City Dept. of Human Relations. She was then hired by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) as an Investigator and investigated complaints of employment discrimination. She subsequently transferred to EEOC's Tampa Office in 1980 and was a Supervisor of Investigations in Tampa for over 20 years. She retired from EEOC in 2006.

How to contact the League

| | | | | | |
|----------|-------------|---|-----------|------------------|--|
| OFFICERS | President | <i>Linda D'Aquila</i> president@hclwv.org | DIRECTORS | Action | <i>Patricia Moran</i> action@hclwv.org |
| | Pres. Elect | <i>Rich Brown</i> president_elect@hclwv.org | | FYI | <i>Liana Fox</i> fyi@hclwv.org |
| | Vice Pres. | <i>Greg Vawter</i> vicepresident@hclwv.org | | Membership | <i>Shirley Arcuri, Mike McKinney</i> membership@hclwv.org |
| | Secretary | <i>Barbara Steidemann</i> secretary@hclwv.org | | Public Relations | <i>Sandy Frye</i> publicrelations@hclwv.org |
| | Treasurer | <i>Tina Ray</i> treasurer@hclwv.org | | VOTER | <i>Cathy Teti</i> voter@hclwv.org |
| | | | | Voter Services | <i>Mark Hart</i> voterservices@hclwv.org |

Early Voting Locations

Hillsborough County voters may decide to vote early at thirteen convenient locations around the county. Early voting for the August 26, primary election will be between Monday August 11 and August 23. You may vote early for the November 4 general election from October 20 to November 1, 2008.

Early Voting locations:

County Center
601 E. Kennedy Boulevard,
16th Floor
Hours of Operation: 9am - 5pm

Robert L. Gilder Elections
Service Center
2514 N. Falkenburg Road
Hours of Operation: 9am - 5pm

Plant City, City Hall
302 West Reynolds Street
Hours of Operation: 9am - 5pm

College Hill Branch Library
2607 East Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
Hours of Operation: 10am - 6pm

Bloomington Regional Public Library
1906 Bloomington Avenue
Hours of Operation: 10am - 6pm

Upper Tampa Bay Regional Public Library
11211 Countryway Boulevard
Hours of Operation: 10am - 6pm

Jan Kaminis Platt Regional Library
3910 South Manhattan Ave
Hours of Operation: 10am - 6pm

SouthShore Regional Library
15816 Beth Shields Way
Hours of Operation: 10am - 6pm

Temple Terrace Public Library
202 Bullard Parkway
Hours of Operation: 10am - 6pm

Riverview Branch Library
10509 Riverview Drive
Hours of Operation: 10am - 6pm

West Tampa Branch Library
2312 West Union Street
Hours of Operation: 10am - 6pm

New Tampa Regional Library
10001 Cross Creek Boulevard
Hours of Operation: 10am - 6pm

Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library
2902 West Bearss Avenue
Hours of Operation: 10am - 6pm

Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots may be requested from the Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections by mail: Buddy Johnson, Supervisor of Elections, County Center, 16th Floor, 601 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, 33602; by phone: 1-813-612-4180 or toll free within the United States 1-888-297-4362. Absentee ballots may also be requested on line at www.votehillsborough.org. Absentee ballots must be received (not merely mailed) by 7 p.m. on election day at the Supervisor of Elections office in County Center or Robert L. Gilder Elections Service Center, 2514 N. Falkenburg Road, near Brandon.

For more information absentee ballots visit the Supervisor of Elections' web site: votehillsborough.org.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

.... The 3 “C's”

By: Mike McKinney
Voting Delegate and
Caucus Moderator

The City: The beautiful city of Portland, Oregon greeted the 1200 LWVUS delegates with open arms and warm hospitality even if the temperature was a little on the cool side. This pedestrian friendly city, with all its downtown shops and light rail, was the perfect backdrop for the convention. The official color of the city is green, both in its environmental planning and with its tree-lined streets.

The Caucus: Men and Other Minorities in Today's Modern League . . . This caucus explored how unintentional gender discrimination could discourage men and other minorities from full participation in the League and how traditional League values may be in conflict with today's working men and women.

Caucus Sponsor: The League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County (Tampa, Fl.)

It was a tremendous honor to represent our local League at a national convention and to share programming ideas and tips to other convention delegates. Caucus attendees were amazed at our success in attracting men into the leadership tract of the League along with our programming successes with our Lifetime Achievement program and our televised candidate forums. One of the attendees was Norman Turrill, who was installed this year as the first man ever to be voted onto the LWVUS Board of Directors.

The Convention: This was an awesome learning experience and I only wish I had attended prior to my tenure as your president. My hope is that we can send future president-elects to LWVUS conventions. I took my responsibility as a voting delegate very seriously as I knew I was representing our entire LWVHC membership. I have to admit that I was extremely disappointed with the prevailing attitude of the convention that defeated every motion and proposal that would have expanded the inclusion of “grass-roots” participation, especially with adopting both the 2008 and the 2009 PMP (Per Member Payment). Those of us in the minority argued that many smaller leagues that could not afford to send representatives to the convention were excluded from the process...kind of like taxation without representation. The '09-'10 PMP will be up to \$29.20 per member. The current Board argued that increased PMP was not a deterrent to membership, but those of us from retirement states vigorously objected to that line of thought. The national LWVUS has lost 7,225 members since 2005.

The convention voted to improve the lines of communication between local Leagues and LWVUS with issues of fund raising and membership. The convention also took strong positions in regards to Health Care in the United States and Global Warming issues. An effort will be launched this year to once again host a Presidential Debate sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

Thank You: I wish to sincerely thank our Hillsborough League for assisting in defraying some of the costs for me to attend this year's LWVUS Convention.



Florida League Opposes Marriage Protection Amendment

The League of Women Voters of Florida opposes the so-called Florida Marriage Protection Amendment, which will be included in the ballot for the November 2008 election, because it would:

- (1) Prohibit all domestic partnerships (between opposite sex and same sex partners), as well as gay marriage;
- (2) Discriminate against life partners who wish to enjoy the legal, economic and administrative benefits of a legally recognized relationship but cannot or do not wish to marry;
- (3) Contravene accepted League of Women Voters principles of social, economic and health justice.

The language of the “Marriage Protection” amendment precludes recognition of any legal union that is “treated as marriage or the substantial equivalent thereof” other than heterosexual marriage. By its terms, this language prohibits legal recognition of both gay marriage and any form of domestic partnership, whether between persons of the same or opposite sex.

President Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti states that “The League of Women Voters has long held that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination. The League of Women Voters of Florida believes that all life partners in Florida should be able to advocate for their loved ones in health care settings and participate in end-of-life decisions. By prohibiting recognition of any legal union that is treated as marriage or its substantial equivalent, the so-called ”Marriage Protection“ amendment would prevent this.”

The impact of this proposed constitutional prohibition would be far-reaching in its social and economic impact because of the many legal, economic and health benefits conferred by legally recognized marriage and domestic partnerships. For instance, invalidation of domestic partnerships affects the right of individuals to include life partners in health care insurance coverage, to advocate for loved ones in a hospital setting and to be consulted in health care and end-of-life decisions.

Said Vice-President Terry A. Coble, “The League believes that our government should promote social and economic justice. Both marriage and domestic partnership confer significant economic and legal benefits. The ”Marriage Protection“ amendment would prevent people from entering into private relationships that protect them economically and legally.”

Hillsborough County League Now Available on the Internet



Check out our new webpage at: <http://www.hclwv.org>.

Individual officers and directors may be e-mailed by entering their title followed by “@hclwv.org” with no spaces. The president may also be e-mailed from the web site.

CALENDAR

- August 1-2 Florida Rights Restoration Coalition Annual Meeting. Stetson Law Center, Tampa. See www.restorerights.org.
- August 8 Board Meeting, LifeLink, 12 noon
- August 13 Joint Luncheon with Kiwanis: Speaker Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio. Time and place TBA.
- August 15 Joint Luncheon with Tiger Bay Club o: Primary candidates. Noon, Maestro's (TPA C) Members \$25, guests \$30. Reservations:(813) 741-0004.
- August 26 Florida Primary (early voting August 11 to August 23)
- September 10 Joint luncheon with Kiwanis: County Mayor pro & con with League Members Mary Figg and Jan Platt. Time and place TBA
- October 14, Candidate Hob Nob with South Tampa Chamber of Commerce. Time and place TBA.
- November 4 General Election (registration closes October 6)

The League Welcomes to New Members

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

Sydney and Thalia Potter

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Candace Bowers

Phyllis Busansky

Lorraine Duffy-Suarez

Doretha W.Edgecomb

Patricia B. Moll

Elaine W. Newman

Jeanette Scotton

Edith M. Stewart

Gwendolyn Tillotson

STUDENT MEMBER

Melissa Ann Wilson

NATIONAL MEMBER

Mark Hart

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.

Tampa, FL 33601-1801
P. O. Box 1801

The League of Women Voters
Of Hillsborough County



**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM
2008 - 2009**



Add my voice to yours. ***Please check appropriate box***

- I'm joining the League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County.
- I'm renewing my membership League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County

I enclose: (please check one)

_____ \$60.00 Individual

_____ \$85.00 Household

_____ \$39.50 Student membership

Please consider sending an additional donation.

_____ Amount

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ (H) _____ (W) _____ (FAX)

email Address _____

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

Your areas of interest: _____

Please make your check payable to the LWVHC and mail to: LWVHC Membership
PO Box 1801, Tampa, FL 33601-1801. For more information, please call 813-831-9774.