

The League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County



Officers

- > President—[Greg Vawter](#)
- > President Elect—[Miki Castor](#)
- > Vice President—[Joan Pynes](#)
- > Secretary—[Shirley Arcuri](#)
- > Treasurer—[John Teti](#)

Board Members

- > Development—[Lillie Samuels](#)
- > Membership — [Patricia Moran](#)
- > Voter Editor—[Nick Strippoli](#)
- > Voter Services— [Mark Hart](#)
- > FYI/Hot Topics—[Sandra Sroka](#)
- > Study and Action— [Patricia Hall](#)
- > Past President — [Linda D'Aquila](#)
- > Public Relations — [Vacant](#)

**New Board Elected; Leadership Orientation Held**

On June 20, 2009 the annual membership meeting was held at the Life Link Center on Bayshore Blvd. The meeting started with a sumptuous buffet and a hearty welcome from the then President Linda D'Aquila. Linda proceeded with the State of the League address that noted highlights such as the dedicated Board, the steady financial picture and the great activities held. However Linda also noted some challenges including steadily declining membership numbers, a five year "boom and bust" cycle of trying to keep the League alive, and a realization that we are not alone in this as most volunteer organizations are currently struggling.

After this sobering address, the

meeting continued on to business as usual approving both the minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting and the Proposed 2010 Budget. This was followed by committee reports from the Action Committee, the Voter, FYI Committee, the PR Committee and the Voter Services Committee.

The membership then turned to discussion of Proposed Programs. Though only New Media/Outreach was initially recommended by the Program Committee, all the proposed programs, (Fair Districts, Green Living/Sustainable Communities, Natural Resources, Health Care, and Charter Review), except Transportation were eventually approved. While the

Transportation Study was left unapproved at the meeting there is an ongoing statewide study. It is expected that our League will be asked to participate in the State Study and will benefit from it.

The Nominating Committee then presented recommendations for the 2009-2010 Board and Committee Chairs. The complete slate, seen in the adjacent column was elected by the membership. Congratulations to the new Board.

Greg Vawter, our new President, gave a short speech in which he outlined his visions for year: return to strength, a commitment to the League and a focus on issues important to it's members. (continued on Page 2)

**President's Message**

**On New Members and Membership**

Summer starts a new year for the league; our budget and calendar run 7/1 to 6/30. As a result, we are processing lots of member renewals (hopefully including yours!) and we've been adding new members, too. Who wants to join the Hillsborough

County League this year? Let me introduce a few of our new members:

Ginnie Carlson is a management consultant with a public television background. Her husband, Al, is a librarian and computer specialist. The Carlson's have



been politically active for several years, but want to contribute as League members, too, because they believe in taking every opportunity to be involved in our government. (cont'd page 2)

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**Our New Members have chosen to get involved.**



**The Voter**

**President's Message, from Cover page (concluded on page 7)**

Nick Strippoli is a management consultant with a background in franchising and corporate contracts. Already deeply involved as editor of The Voter, starting with this issue, Nick joined to find ways to give back to the community.

Kevin Gilds is a recent graduate from the USF masters program in Public Administration. His membership was a gift from fellow USF alum (and former LWVHC board member) Katie

Ross, now in Jacksonville, Florida. Still, at his first annual meeting Kevin volunteered to lead our league's Fair Districts Florida committee. You'll see more about those efforts in the article below.

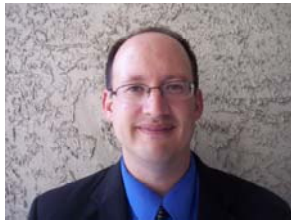
David and Anita Long are proprietors of Business Ink Printers and David is past president of the Greater Temple Terrace Chamber of Commerce. Attracted by the League's stance on fair elections, David is now

involved with both the Fair Districts and Fundraising committees.

Cheri Donohue is retiring soon as executive director for the Greater Temple Terrace Chamber of Commerce. She plans to be involved only with her grandchildren for the next several months, but wants to support the League's work on fair voting and other issues important to her.

Rosemary Goudreau is well-known to most Hillsborough

**Fair Districts Florida**



**Kevin Gilds  
Chairperson, Fair  
Districts Study**

The Florida Fair District Committee had its first meeting August 5, at the Jimmy B. Keel Library in Carrollwood.

Our strategy is to seek speaking opportunities with civic organizations to educate the public and to collect petitions.

We are specifically targeting the local colleges to collect petitions once classes start. Both USF and Hillsborough Community College begin classes August 24.

On August 7, Greg and I met with Jackie Lee the campaign director for Florida Fair Districts Campaign. Statewide the petitions are going well and we can anticipate reaching our November goal.

Fair Districts Florida is looking to the League to educate the public and encourage local politicians to endorse the Amendment.

To learn more or become involved contact Kevin Gilds at

[kevingilds@gmail.com](mailto:kevingilds@gmail.com).

Home Page for Fair District Florida Campaign:

<http://www.fairdistrictsflorida.org/home.php>.

LWV-State of Florida has the best resources including a PowerPoint presentation, Talking Points and Visual Aids.

[http://www.lwvfla.org/pdf\\_files/TALKING%20POINTS%20-09.pdf](http://www.lwvfla.org/pdf_files/TALKING%20POINTS%20-09.pdf)

**Cover Story**



**Charlene Walker provides Leadership Training to the Board**

Greg's first official Board meeting as President was held on July 18 at the Jimmie B. Keel Library. Greg opened the meeting with the sad news that newly elected Voter Editor Ginnie Carlson was resigning due to health reasons. In her place Nick Strippoli would be moving from the PR chair to Voter Editor. PR will remain vacant temporarily. On a more

upbeat note Greg announced that Linda D'Aquila had agreed to serve on the Board as Past President.

The bulk of the meeting however, was spent with our guest Speaker Charlene Walker conducting Leadership Orientation. Charlene is the Past President of the Lake County League and is currently heading the Statewide

Transportation study.

Charlene was a very impressive speaker, using few words to convey a powerful message. That message is that our local League is very much in the hands of its members. Leaders can suggest direction, but will only be successful if we can develop consensus among our members so they are moved to participate.

### New Media / Outreach

The New Media / Outreach Committee has been meeting weekly since mid July. Their stated purpose is to research new methods of communicating with LWWHC members and the community at large using internet and worldwide web technologies. In addition they want to develop effective methods of informing and educating citizens about government and how to participate in it.

Some of the things that they are

looking into include a variety of Social Media including Facebook, Linked In, Twitter, U-Tube, Blogs, and texting. Areas of concern include uses of these media, the opportunities they present, and the challenges they represent. Of particular interest will be developing internal policies for the League in communication with members, the media, government, and others that provide the best benefits of these new media, while trying to steer clear of potential pitfalls.

Along with Social Media, the group is looking at the League website. Features such as members voting on line and counting visitors to the site were discussed along with email blasts, list serves, and redesigning the web pages.

This is a very active and fast paced group. Those interested in learning more or joining the committees should contact Dena Leavengood at [dleaveng@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:dleaveng@tampabay.rr.com)

### Health Care

Still in its infancy, the health care committee is thankful to intrepid volunteers Dena Leavengood and Brenda Menendez for attending, monitoring and contributing to the work of the Hillsborough Health Care Plan Advisory Board, which is pouring over the county's indigent health plan with the goal of making recommendations to keep the program solvent.

To contain costs, the advisory

board is reviewing financial eligibility requirements and the spiraling costs of specialty care. It is worth noting that when this board was last convened a couple years ago, behind-the-scenes efforts were made to outsource the program to a for-profit middleman. While such an option is not under consideration this year, the League's dedicated members are keeping watchful eyes open.

The health-care committee expects to hold its first meeting in September, once vacationing members have returned home. At that point, we will set goals for the year, with the county's health plan at the top of our agenda.

If any member is interested in joining our effort, please contact Rosemary at [rgoudreau.tampa@gmail.com](mailto:rgoudreau.tampa@gmail.com).

### Green Living/Sustainable Communities/Natural Resources

With a renewed focus on the environment, the LWWHC voted at the annual meeting to re-establish the Natural Resources/Sustainability Committee. The committee is chaired by new member CJ Reynolds and supported technically by long-time member and environmental expert Sally Thompson.

Reynolds and Thompson encour-

age members who are concerned about local government efforts impacting the environment - from water, energy conservation, land use to sustainability and climate change to get involved.

The committee will have its first meeting in late September and determine key goals and programs.

Date and location TBD.

For more information, contact [cjreynolds@solutions-insight.biz](mailto:cjreynolds@solutions-insight.biz)



**Dena Leavengood Chairperson of the New Media / Outreach Study**



**Rosemary Goudreau Chairperson of the Health Care Study**

**CJ Reynolds Chairperson of Green Living, Sustainable Communities, Natural Resources**





## Membership

As of early August, the League had received 72 membership renewals until June 2010. If yours is among these, we thank you very much. We especially thank our first five *Susan B. Anthony* members who paid donations of more than half their 2009-2010 dues along with their renewals:

Charlotte Anderson  
Betty Castor  
Mickey & Don Castor  
Annette Delisle

Renee Warmack

In addition, please welcome these 20 new members to LWVHC:

Ginnie & Al Carlson  
Holley Conte  
Peter Dawson  
Cheri Donohue  
Joel D. Fyvolent, M.D.  
Rick & Eugiania Garrity  
Kevin Gilds  
Rosemary Goudreau  
Heidi Grogan  
Lucy Griggs

Judy McAfee  
David & Anita Long  
Jerry Noland  
Mike McNaughton  
CJ Reynolds  
Lillie Samuels  
Nick Strippoli

For more information on membership, or to become a member contact Patricia Moran at [membership@hclwv.org](mailto:membership@hclwv.org).

**Patricia Moran, Membership Director**

**Members sustain us and help us grow.**

## FYI/Hot Topic

We are developing a panel representing TBARTA, the MPD, and the Hillsborough County Transportation Task Force to address what is being recommended to enhance the bus, light rail, and roads from a regional, multi-county and county perspective. They are also looking at how are we going to get there and how

will it be funded.

At a later date we plan to have a program on the high-speed rail initiative between Orlando and Tampa which apparently is something that Ed Turanchik is involved with.

For late September we are looking at recommendations for a

panel on healthcare reform.

For more information contact [fyi@hclwv.org](mailto:fyi@hclwv.org).



**Sandra Sroka, FYI / Hot Topics Chairperson**

## Development

The Development Committee will have our first meeting on Saturday, August 22, 2009. The meeting will be held the John F. Germany Public Library in Downtown Tampa. We will meet in the Martin Luther King room on the second floor from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM.

We are organizing to insure that the LWVHC has adequate fi-

nances to operate and achieve the league's goals.

The Development Committee consists of members that have expressed an interest in developing funds for the LWVHC.

If you or someone you know are interested in joining the LWVHC Development Committee you can contact Lillie Samuels, Finance

and Development Director, by sending an email to [development@hclwv.org](mailto:development@hclwv.org) or calling 813 889 0522.



**Lillie Samuels, Development Chairperson**

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY**



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

Add my voice! I'm joining the League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County for the membership year ending June 30, 2010.

I am enclosing: (Please check one)

- \$60 Individual
- \$85 Household
- \$39.50 Student

- Sponsoring Levels of Membership*
- \$100 Susan B. Anthony (Individual)
  - \$200 Carrie Chapman Catt

Name(s)	
Mailing Address	City, State, Zip
Secondary Address	City, State, Zip
Primary Phone (home/mobile/work/other _____)	Secondary Phone (home/mobile/work/other _____)
Primary Email	Secondary Email

Please check box  to permit your primary contact data to appear in the 2010 Membership Directory (in print and/or password protected on the LWV of Hillsborough County website).

For your access to the Membership Directory (either printed or on-line), please initial and date \_\_\_\_\_ to acknowledge that membership data may **not** be used for non-LWV purposes or provided to any outside individual or organization. To protect the privacy of our members, the content, format and distribution of information using LWVHC membership data must be pre-authorized by the LWVHC President.

How would you prefer to participate?  Inactive Member/Supporter

- Study & advocate LWV positions; circulate petitions for League causes such as FairDistrictsFlorida; interview elected officials regarding their positions on pending issues
- Identify potential LWVHC angels; develop sponsorships for League activities
- Educate members and the public by hosting speakers and panelists about Hot Topics
- Track & report members progress toward recruitment goals
- Write news stories, releases, letters to the editor and op-ed articles around League positions
- Photograph, videotape & edit, or write about LWVHC events; proof-read *The Voter* newsletter and LWVHC.org
- Facilitate community candidates forums & issues forums; register voters; develop voter information about candidates and/or issues for web site, print or TV distribution
- Develop non-traditional communication using web & other "new media" technologies
- Prepare presentations, host events or advocate LWV positions about Green Energy & Sustainability
- Prepare presentations, coordinate events or advocate LWV positions about Health Care
- Develop an informed member consensus on Transportation and contribute to the state study

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose a check payable to **LWVHC** with your completed application. Mail them to:

**LWVHC Membership  
P.O. Box 1801  
Tampa, FL 33601-1801**

If you will help the LWVHC save money by receiving your LWVHC *VOTER* on the web (with email notices), please check here.

August 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 New Media	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 New Media	12	13	14 Board Meeting	15
16	17	18 New Media	19	20	21	22 Development/ Fair Districts
23	24 SOE Open House, Busasky Clerk's Academy	25 New Media	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Schedule of Events

- > August 4, New Media Outreach committee Meeting
- > August 5, Fair Distracts Florida Committee Meeting
- > August 11, New Media Outreach committee Meeting
- > August 14—Board Meeting life Link Center
- > August 18, New Media Outreach committee Meeting
- > August 22, Development Committee Meeting, 1-2:30 pm John F. Germany Public Library
- > August 22, Deadline for action, Fair Districts Florida petition
- > August 24, Supervisor of Elections open House, Busasky Clerk's Academy
- > August 25, New Media Outreach committee Meeting

Important Contact Information

**National League**

League of Women Voters U.S.  
1730 M. Street, NW Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20036-4508  
202-429-1965  
202-429-0854 (fax)  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

**State League**

League of Women Voters of Florida  
540 Beverly Court  
Tallahassee, FL 32301-2506  
850-224-2545  
850-222-4485 (fax)  
Email: [lwvfl@comcast.net](mailto:lwvfl@comcast.net)  
[www.lwvfla.org](http://www.lwvfla.org)

**Hillsborough  
County League**

Greg Vawter, President  
PO Box 1801  
Tampa, FL 33301-1801  
Email: [president@hclwv.org](mailto:president@hclwv.org)  
[www.hclwv.org](http://www.hclwv.org)



Take the time to get involved!

**Next Board Meeting**

August 14, 2009  
Life Link Bldg  
11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

**Deadline for Action**

Fair District Florida  
Petitions – 10 per  
member by October 22,  
2009

**Development Meeting**

August 22, at John F.  
Germany Public Library,  
in the Martin Luther  
King room from 1:00 PM  
to 2:30 PM.

**Transportation FYI**  
TBD

## THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY NONPARTISAN POLITICAL POLICY

**A. The League, as an organization, takes political action on selected governmental issues.**

**B. The League encourages its members to be politically active.**

**C. The League, as an organization, shall not support or oppose:**

**1. Any political party, candidate, or office holder for elective public office.**

**2. Any Group that supports or opposes political parties or candidates.**

**D. Situations not specifically covered by these guidelines shall be reviewed on an individual basis as they arise and in compliance with the intent of this policy.**

To see the complete policy and guidelines please log on to <http://hclwv.org/Nonpartisan.pdf>.

League of Women Voters  
of Hillsborough County

...A meaningful voice in local  
government.



For more information  
contact us at  
[president@hclwv.org](mailto:president@hclwv.org),  
or visit us on the web  
at [www.hclwv.org](http://www.hclwv.org).

## President's Message (concluded)

Leaguers as the former editorial page editor for the Tampa Tribune. She was guest speaker at our 2006 annual membership meeting. In 2009, realizing the threats to open government in cut-backs of local news staffing, Rosemary joined the League to see what we could do to help. She volunteered to lead a league program, Health Care, at this year's membership meeting.

You see, people have lots of reasons to join the League.

If there is someone you don't know at a League activity, please introduce yourself and share

why you joined LWVHC. New people have lots of questions about the League's way of doing things, so refer any stumbers to a board member. (We'll find out and get back to both of you!) If you'd like to help introduce new people to the League, please contact our Membership director, Patricia Moran, about joining her committee.

You don't have to be on the committee to talk with people about joining LWVHC. If we hope to do more to improve the way government works, then we need every member to promote the League and help it grow.

One good way to recruit people for the League is to ask for help with something that matters, like our Fair Districts Florida campaign. While you are talking with friends and family about signing these important petitions (see Kevin Gilds' article on page 2), explain that this is a program for the League. When someone asks more about us, invite them to our next FYI event. Members are our most influential resource. Please influence a friend to join the League!



**Members are our most influential resource.**

The League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County



# VOTER

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## Hillsborough County League

Greg Vawter, President  
PO Box 1801  
Tampa, FL 33301-1801



visit [www.hclwv.org](http://www.hclwv.org)

For more information contact [membership@hclwv.com](mailto:membership@hclwv.com), or

Do you want to get involved, but don't know how?  
Want to learn more about how *your* government works?  
Join the Hillsborough County League of Women Voters to  
learn more about the things that are important to you.