

The Alachua County League of Women Voters Annual Meeting

The State of Our Local League: A Report to the Membership, May 12, 2016

Organizational Structure. The Board has voted to expand to two league units: one at Oak Hammock and a new unit at The Village. All members are invited to attend unit programs.

League Student Interns: Five interns from Santa Fe College and the University of Florida met regularly, attended League events, and participated in the League Summit in Tallahassee.

Membership. Our local membership has increased to 284 members.

Forums. The League has sponsored or co-sponsored (with the U.F. Bob Graham Center) five public forums: Testing; Education and Politics; Constitution Revision Commission; School to Prison Pipeline; Unintended Consequences of the Criminal Justice System and Redistricting.

Hot Topics. Events included: GMOs and the Future of Food; Juvenile Justice; Re-Envision Alachua, and the Pros and Cons of Moving the City Election.

Speakers Bureau. League presentations for: Altrusa, Kiwanis, AAUW, The Village, Oak Hammock, and the North Pinellas League of Women Voters, and the Gainesville Senior Center.

Social and Criminal Justice. Community Conversations. The League launched a new outreach program in which city and county agency representatives were invited to participate in conversations, facilitated by the League, about needed reforms in the criminal justice system. Our league joined the *Right to Counsel National Campaign*.

Consensus Study. Members participated in a LWVUS study of the role of Money and Politics.

Voter Services. Voter registration events were held at the downtown library and The Village. The League co-sponsored, with Santa Fe College, a Legislative Wrap Up event with members of the local legislative delegation. The Mayoral Debate candidate forum was co-sponsored with the Graham Center and WUFT.

Gainesville Sun Articles. Topics included: Quality Matters in Early Childhood Education; Testing: When is Enough, Enough?; Criminal Justice; Mail-in ballots; Constitutional Revision; Minimum Wage is not a Living Wage; Presence and Power of Money in Politics; Term Limits, Medicaid Expansion; Paynes Prairie State Park, and the Citizens for Strong Schools lawsuit.

Education. Presentations included local school district programs, preschool education, online learning, and funding issues. The Education Issues blog (<http://lwveducation.com>) has reached 48,000 hits.

Health Issues. The committee participated in the Medicaid Expansion campaign.

Natural Resources. The committee focused on water legislation, solar energy, and the Florida Aquifer.

Citizenship Ceremonies: At 12 ceremonies, June and Jerry Girard, Sharon Faris, Lisbeth Kent, and Sally Ryden gave a brief history of the League and helped register new citizens.