



# The **VOTER**

**July 2008**  
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*The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization dedicated to promoting political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to acting on selected government issues.*

2008-2009  
Board &  
Committee  
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## A Message from your President

Greetings – I hope everyone is having a great, relaxing summer. Your Board is busy planning events for the upcoming election season. They will include a Candidates' Fair for the primary election, at Gulf Gate Library co-sponsored by the Friends of Gulf Gate Library (See the notice in this newsletter.) and two October Candidate Fairs, one in north county and one in South County, for the general election. These affairs are meant to be informal opportunities for members of the public to talk, one-on-one, with the candidates. "Food For Thought" and "Hot Topic events will offer more formal question and answer candidate forums throughout the fall. We are also planning a panel discussion of the tax referendums that will be included on the general election ballot. Susan MacManus has been invited back in October to give us her always astute and entertaining overview of the general election.



Other topics the League will be focusing on this year include public transit, the status of health care and sustainability including "going green." If you have any other ideas for topics that you think our members would be interested in becoming better informed about, please do not hesitate to let us know. We are looking forward to seeing you.

I would also like everyone to welcome our newest member of the Board, STAR student, **Alexandra Barber**. She is a junior at Booker High School and attended our first meeting. She brings a lively, enthusiastic energy to the table and will be a great asset for us. We are very fortunate to have her! Do introduce yourselves to her when you see her at our events.

Yours In League,

*Cindy Guest*

## Upcoming Events—Save the Date



**September 22**  
Candidates for  
State Senate District 23  
and  
State Rep Candidates for  
District 69 & 70

**October 2**  
Dr. Susan MacManus

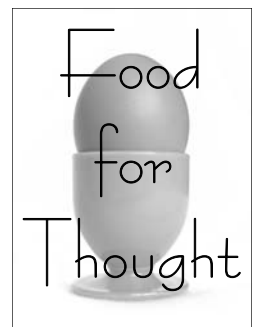
Location: Community  
Foundation of Sarasota,  
Fruitville Road

Details to follow

LWV WILL BE HAVING  
TWO  
CANDIDATE FAIRS

TUESDAY OCTOBER 9  
5:30 TO 7:30 P.M.  
JACARANDA LIBRARY

THURS. OCTOBER 16  
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.  
THE SOUTHGATE  
COMMUNITY CENTER



**August 13**  
Hospital Board  
Forum

Watch for details

**Focus on a Board Member Corky Pezzati**



Stepping into the second year of the office of secretary that the previous secretary could not complete was precipitous in putting Corky in a position to become involved in the LWV, something she always planned on but never took action.

Corky was born and raised in Chicago. She graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in Occupational Therapy. She worked for several rehabilitation facilities and married. After the birth of her first child, the family moved to Naperville IL. whose schools were rated best in the Chicago area. Starting as a room mother for each of her 3 children she went on to hold every position in the Home and School organization from kindergarten through high school.

As president of the YMCA Women's Auxiliary she helped in fund raising and joined in the ground breaking of a 2 million dollar addition to the local YMCA. Her daughter became involved in the Camp Fire Girls and Corky, remembering fondly her Camp Fire days, volunteered to be a leader and eventually became the president of the Salt Creek Council of Camp-fire Girls where she served for 4 years and helped to implement boys being incorporated into the programs. In the 70's you could find Corky sorting colored glass, aluminum, and paper at the recycling center in Dupage County, IL.

Youth organizations held her attention until her children were out of college. She was given the mission by her church Pastor to start a much needed Ecumenical Adult Daycare Center. She worked with 5 other religious denominations and persuaded the City of Naperville to release part of the original empty city library for the Adult Daycare Center. Since this was a new concept in the 1980's, she was invited on numerous occasions to speak to various local organizations to explain the concept and visited other communities to educate specific leaders on how to start an Adult Daycare Center. She served on the board and as president for many years. This position put her on the board of the Naperville United Way.

Presently, she serves as president of her Church's Women's Club and vice president of the Women's Auxiliary of The Knights of Columbus. The League of Women Voters has many paths for Corky to follow. She enjoyed working at the League's adoptive precinct and finds registering voters a worthwhile service. She finds joy working in the League's booth wherever it is set up. She looks forward on becoming more involved after her stint as secretary is finished. She loves Sarasota with all of its foibles and wants to become active in the arts community because she received much enjoyment being "picture lady" for the Naperville grade schools and active member and president of the Community Associates of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Our CYD Star Student and new Board Member...(Alexandra Barber)

**A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY**

Being a student in Sarasota County is not all that difficult, but being a student and making your mark by being a leader in Sarasota County is an overwhelming task. Thankfully, the CYD STAR program has given me the training and encouragement to step out into the community and make the difference I want to see in Sarasota.

Launched in 1996, CYD (Community Youth Development) gives middle and high school students activities in protected, drug-free environments and has prospered ever since. They created such events as Teen Scene and Battle of the Bands. They also provide a course known as the STAR program which offers high school students a chance to learn about government in Sarasota county and acquire leadership skills that are needed when sitting on boards or conducting a community event. The program also makes students work together and cooperate which isn't the easiest thing for a group of rowdy teenagers, who had to spend 7 hours together every Saturday for a month and a half, during their summer vacation.

Through this, students have the chance to meet County Commissioners, the individuals seated on the Sarasota County School Board, and many others. Without the STAR program I would not be seated on the League of Women Voters Board for Sarasota County and make the difference I am today in our community, so for that I am thankful.

**Look !**

**NONPARTISAN POLICY  
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**



The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in governments. The League of Women Voters does NOT support or oppose any political party or candidate; it is political in that it takes positions on selected governmental issues after members study and come to an agreement.

Recognizing that the League experience uniquely equips members for public life and wishes to encourage members to utilize their knowledge and abilities, non-board members are urged to participate fully in partisan activities (on an individual basis). Board members' activities must be limited to preserve the League's nonpartisan position.

If you have any questions, contact Cindy Guest, President.

## Greetings from your League's new Membership Chair! (Andrea Rogers)

First, let me start by saying that it is an honor and privilege to be appointed to the SCLWV Board of Directors. As Membership Chair, I hope to continue to foster growth within our local league, not only in our numbers but in member enthusiasm and commitment as well.

Membership in the League not only provides a deeper understanding of issues, and an opportunity to meet the people making the news, it connects you with an organization that can help you leverage your passions, interests and concerns. From helping to coordinate candidate forums, registering voters, studying and taking action on critical issues, to teaching students about the origins and demands of democracy, there are numerous ways to get involved that will fit your time and interest.

Our League has some exciting and innovative programs planned for the coming year. If you regularly attend our events, thank you! If you are a member, but have yet to sit in on one of our forums or connect with others in our organization, the up-coming Summer Social is an excellent way to meet and greet fellow members, local officials and candidates for election. I hope to see you there . . . and bring a friend!

# Join Us !

## Update on the Sarasota County Housing Authority (Millie Headdy)

The Janie Poe Housing unit has been demolished and construction of the new mixed income development has started. The development will contain some public housing units as well as low income and market rate housing. The Federal Housing and Urban Development agency has returned local control to the Sarasota



County Housing Authority. The following were appointed to the SHA Board: Judy Levy, Valerie Buchand, John Colon, Veavie DeLaughter, Duanne Finger, Richard Martin and Joseph Miller. The Janie Poe Task Force continues in operation.

## McCain, Obama Camps Promise to Disclose More Donor Information (From the New York Times Politics Blog 7/11)

By [Michael Luo](#)

The campaigns of Senators Barack Obama and John McCain moved Friday to provide additional information on their Web sites about their top money collectors, who bundle millions of dollars in campaign contributions, after revelations they had been lax in releasing the names of their bundlers.

Mr. McCain's campaign issued a letter, signed by Rick Davis, the campaign's manager today, to a group of campaign finance watchdog groups, announcing it would publish on its Web site the names of all of his elite fund-raisers who bring in \$50,000 or more for his campaign, instead of the \$100,000 and \$250,000 thresholds it had used before.

The campaign also said it would provide the occupation and employer of its fund-raisers on its bundler list, in addition to disclosing the bundlers' cities and states that had been previously provided. In another step to illustrate the campaign's commitment to transparency, Mr. Davis said the campaign would seek to update its list of bundlers monthly.

Meanwhile, the Obama campaign said it would begin furnishing the cities and states of its bundlers on its Web site — the campaign currently publishes the names of all of its bundlers who raise more than \$50,000, \$100,000 and \$200,000 but provides no other information. This has been a frustration for campaign finance watchdogs because of how difficult it can be to track down information about people with only a name to work with.

The promises of additional disclosure came after an article in today's New York Times detailed how both candidates, who have each been outspoken critics against the influence of money in politics, had failed to live up to their promises to fully disclose the identities of their bundlers. A coalition of eight groups — Campaign Finance Institute, Center for Responsive Politics, Common Cause, Democracy 21, **League of Women Voters of the United States**, Public Citizen, Sunlight Foundation and U.S. PIRG — had sent letters last month to both Mr. McCain and Senator Barack Obama asking for additional details about their elite fund-raisers and making similar complaints. After an inquiry from The Times about how complete the bundler list was, the Obama campaign scrambled on Thursday evening, adding 181 new entries to its existing list of 328 fund-raisers who had brought in more than \$50,000 to the campaign.

Previously, the campaign had added just two names to its list since November, despite taking in more than \$180 million during that time. The campaign first posted its bundler list early last year.

The McCain campaign did not release a list of his bundlers until April, despite promising early on to do so, and had added just one name to it since then. The campaign said it would be updating its list in the next week.

The campaign also said in its letter that it would do more to offer a picture of where its smaller contributions were coming from, allowing visitors to its Web site to use an existing tool that accesses a database of McCain donors to search by zip code and country.

Nevertheless, watchdog groups remained dissatisfied, pointing out, for example, the campaigns still were not willing to be any more specific about how much money each bundler had raised.

Mr. Davis said it was impossible for the campaign to list the amounts each fund-raiser had collected because it was "changing on an individual basis almost daily."

But Massie Ritsch, a spokesman for the Center for Responsive Politics, said that the campaigns must report their fund-raising information to the Federal Election Commission every month, so it should not be difficult to provide a more specific update on a regular basis.

"A snapshot every month shouldn't be too difficult," he said. In a joint statement about the McCain campaign's letter, the groups challenged the Obama campaign to take the same steps.

# UPDATE

League of Women Voters National Convention Highlights  
Nancy Ryan  
LWVF 2nd Vice President, LWVF Voter Service Chair

The LWVUS 2008 convention has convened and adjourned in June, in Portland, Oregon. Twenty Florida delegates attended. The highlight of the convention for the Florida delegation was receiving two of the eight awards given out by the leadership: one went to the State League, in the Reform category, for the continuing litigation against Florida's Secretary of State regarding third-party voter registration. The second award went to the Orange County League in the Voter Education category, for its "Stay Home and Be Counted!" initiative in which it partnered with an Orlando television station, resulting in a 300% increase in absentee balloting.

The LWVUS before convention announced a new proposed rule for conducting the convention; it would have required any floor resolutions introduced by the membership to be reviewed by a LWVUS panel ahead of time. The proposed rule was denounced from the floor in no uncertain terms and was defeated. The consensus of commenting delegates was that the rule (Convention Rule 10.1) was essentially undemocratic in that it would operate to filter excessively the substance of proposed resolutions.

There were no nominations from the floor for LWVUS national officer and director positions, and accordingly the slate proposed by the LWVUS Board was approved. That slate includes LWVF's immediate past president Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti as a director, and LWV-Palm Beach's president Pamela Goodman as a member of the National Nominating Committee.

One of the LWVUS principles was amended at the convention. The change reflects the League's belief that the powers of the U.S. government should be exercised within the framework of balance between all three branches of government. A proposed study of the National Popular Vote, as an alternative to the Electoral College, was approved. Another proposed study, of climate change, was also approved.

An unsuccessful movement to amend the LWVUS program was spearheaded by the Oregon and Virginia Leagues; it would have amended the current position on redistricting to add specifics to the kind of redistricting efforts the State and Local Leagues can support in their home states. The current LWVUS position on redistricting dates to 1966 and is very general. The movement toward more specificity was opposed by the California delegation, which was supporting a detailed redistricting-related constitutional amendment which will appear on that state's ballots in the fall of 2008. The sense of the comments opposing the proposed program change was that the states must be free to redistrict in whatever lawful manner is dictated by local political realities.

An unsuccessful resolution would have required the LWVUS to support paper ballots and random audits, and to establish an internal listserve for election-related discussion. The amendment was rejected after discussion suggested that the amendment dealt with more than one subject and that the amendment should be reintroduced at a later convention as three separate program amendments, or possibly as directions to the Board.

Another unsuccessful resolution would have required the national Board to set program priorities for each biennium at the convention; it was rejected after arguments that the national Board needs to be flexible in the face of changing events. Resolutions that would have created a national task force for nuclear arms control, and would have required the LWVUS to support a plan for a national Department of Peace, also failed.

Five bylaw changes were made. They will allow for electronic interim Board meetings; allow for MAL units to be represented at Convention; allow the national Board as well as state and local Leagues to introduce resolutions at Convention; reduce the size of the nominating committee; and make more consistent the time limits for the call to Council.

Speakers at Convention included two former Oregon Governors, Barbara Roberts and John Kitzhaber; the former spoke on women's history in American politics and the latter on health care reform. The dinner speaker was a former Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court, Rebecca Love Kourlis, who spoke on civil litigation reform. Heather Kaplan, Oxfam America representative, V. (Ram) Ramanathan, of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC-San Diego, and Daniel Kammen, of UC-Berkeley's Goldman School of Public Policy served on The State of Climate Change Panel discussion during the Monday Plenary Session.

**Note: Special congratulations from LWVSC to Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti and Pam Goodman on their new positions, and to Marilyn Wills, who will complete Dianne's term as LWVF President**

**In Appreciation...**(Pat Price, Voter Service Chair)

Chris Pfahler joined the league early this year (thanks to Ann Hardy for bringing her to us). Within a month or so she was asked to serve as editor for the Voter Guide and she agreed (I am not sure she knew what she was getting into!) She has done a fabulous job. As always there were a few bumps (ours not hers) along the way and she was always gracious and a good sport. She actually received all the responses, but one, by the deadline!

My thanks and the thanks of the league and community are owed to Chris.

**The Voters Guide...**(Pat Price, Voter Service Chair)

The Voter's Guide produced by LWVSC and funded by the Supervisor of Elections, should be available soon.

This Guide lists the candidates on Sarasota's Primary ballot, along with background information on the candidate and an answer to a league generated question It also contains a page of "Tips for Voters" including important dates, absentee ballots and other helpful information.

The League has been producing this guide with funding from the Supervisor of Elections for many years and it has always been appreciated by the voters. This valuable tool was produced through the hard work of Chris Pfahler, Chair and her able committee, Marilyn Boyle, Nanci Babigian, Barbara Bain, and Millie Headdy. You may pick up copies at all county libraries, municipal offices, senior centers, the Supervisor of Elections office and their website and various other locations. We also hope to get it on our web site as shown below:

[www.lwv-sarasota-fl.org](http://www.lwv-sarasota-fl.org)

and the Supervisor of Elections web site  
[www.srgelections.com](http://www.srgelections.com)

For further information email Kim at [lwvsc@comcast.net](mailto:lwvsc@comcast.net) or call 921-9778



Pat Price doing voter's registration at the Granary



LWV Member Marilyn Boyle snapped this picture of a restaurant called "Food For Thought" in London recently. As you all know, Food For Thought is the new name of our breakfast meetings, picked by member Roy Ingham.

**Voter Registration**

Voter Registration has always been a large part of LWV voter service activities.

Anyone who would be willing to participate in this worthwhile activity, please send me your name. I realize your ability to do this will depend on time and place.

Pat Price Voter Service Chair [patt52@comcast.net](mailto:patt52@comcast.net)

**In passing....**



Our deepest sympathy goes to Board member, Helen Janssen. Her husband, Dick, passed away recently. Dick was very involved in our community and was a League member. He will be missed.

Our best to you Helen....

## Special Contributors

### Operating Fund

Evelyn (Lyn) Good

### welcome new members

Judith Pond

### Have you sent in your dues?



## Eco Tips

- **Simplify:** Simplify your life as much as possible. Only keep belongings that you use/enjoy on a regular basis. By making the effort to reduce what you own, you will naturally purchase less/ create less waste in the future.
- **Reduce Purchases:** In general, think before you buy any product - do you really need it? How did the production of this product impact the environment and what further impacts will there be with the disposal of the product (and associated packaging materials)?
- **Avoid Trash:** Avoid creating trash wherever possible: when ordering food, avoid receiving any unnecessary plastic utensils, straws, etc. (ask in advance), buy ice cream in a cone instead of a cup, don't accept "free" promotional products, buy products with the least amount of packaging, etc. Every little bit of trash avoided does make a difference!
- **Shopping Bags:** While shopping, if you only buy a few products, skip the shopping bag. For larger purposes, bring your own!

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