



Volume 2005-2006 ~ Issue #5 ~ November 2005

## Hot Topics Luncheon

*League of Women Voters  
of Orange County*



Please join us at 11:30 a.m. on  
**Wednesday, November 16 for another  
 delicious luncheon at **Doc's**  
 1315 S. Orange Avenue across from  
 Orlando Regional  
 private dining room 3rd floor  
 former Kennedy family chef.**

**Citizens Review Board Panel Discussion with  
 Sheriff Kevin Beary, Captain Tina Gordon  
 (Sheriff's Professional Standards Division), and  
 Earnest DeLoach, Esq., Chair of the CRB.  
 with moderator Yvonne Opfell**

**\$20**

*Kindly note that cancellations received after 9-20-05 will be invoiced  
 Free parking in garage at rear ~ ask maitre d' for coupon*

**Sheriff Kevin Beary** is the chief law enforcement officer for Orange County, one of the largest agencies in the southeast with an annual budget of \$14 million and over 2,400 employees.

**Captain Tina Gordon** joined the Orange County Sheriff's Office in February, 1988 as a road patrol deputy. She has also worked undercover drugs, the DEA Task Force, and vice. She was promoted through the ranks to Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant and Captain, where she was first assigned to Watch Command, then to the Special Investigations Division, and now to Professional Standards. She has an undergraduate degree from USF and a graduate degree from UCF.

*(Continued on page 3)*

RSVP by Tuesday, September 20, 2005 to  
 Sarah Goodwin (407)855-5143 or  
 Lynda Van Scoyoc (407)894-7514 (lsvs1@cs.com)

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### CALENDAR

Monday November 14	Board Meeting
Wednesday November 16	Hot Topics Citizens Review Board Panel
December **	Hot Topics Arts in Orlando Holiday Party
Saturday January 14	Board Meeting Planning Breakfast
Jan.1-Feb.1	Legislative Interviews
January**	Hot Topics
Monday February 13	Board Meeting
February **	Hot Topics
Monday March 13	Board Meeting
March **	Hot Topics
March 19-21	LWVF Legislative Seminar/ Tallahassee

\*\* = Date to be determined



## *Letter from The Presidents*

*Memories of our lives, our works and our deeds  
will continue in others ..... Rosa Parks*

Friends, it is fitting to start our letter this month with the memory of American heroine, Rosa Parks. Who died at her home in Detroit recently. A black seamstress whose refusal to relinquish her seat to a white man on a city bus in Montgomery, AL almost 50 years grew into a mythic event that helped touch off the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. It is heroes like Rosa Parks who give the rest of us courage to follow in their footsteps in our desire to make our world, our country and our community a better place than we found it.

And, it is a privilege for us as your current presidents to be part of an organization where there are so many citizens, who like Rosa Parks, take time to think about wrongs that should be righted, and work to improve government for all citizens.

While the news is full today of many challenges, one upside has been an increased awareness and interest in governmental issues. We are pleased to report that in the last four months our local League has experienced over a 30% increase in membership. That is due to the enthusiasm and hard work of our members as you have brought friends and guests to our Hot Topics meetings, and they have been excited by what they have seen and heard. Please keep up the good work!

We are also pleased to report that the League of Women Voters of Florida has asked us to host the **2006 LWVF Council of Leaders**, during which time Leagues from all over the state send representatives to Council to approve the budget for 2006 -2007, share priorities and to learn new techniques of advocacy and leadership. Our board voted unanimously to accept the request, and we hope you will mark your calendars for May 20 and 21<sup>st</sup> to come and help us welcome League members from all over the state of Florida.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICERS:

#### Co-Presidents

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Deirdre Macnab 628-1766

#### Vice President

629-4929  
Caroline Emmons-Schramm

#### Secretary

Phoebe Carpenter 843-4011

#### Treasurer

Susan Simasek 671-6902

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Maria Rubin 843-0939  
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**Hot Topics** *(continued from page 1)*

**Sheriff Beary** is the fourth generation of the Beary family in law enforcement: his father was Police Chief of Winter Park; his brother is Police Chief of Lake Mary.

**Sheriff Beary** graduated from Liberty University and has a graduate degree from UCF, as well as being an honor graduate of the F.B.I.'s National Academy and National Executive Institute. He teaches criminal justice at UCF and Florida Metropolitan University. He is on boards of numerous civic organizations and has been commended many times for his service to the community. Gov. Bush appointed him to co-chair the Florida Domestic Security Task Force on terrorism (Region V).

**Yvonne Opfell** moved to Orlando in 1977 and chaired the LWV local government committee soon after. She chaired the League's 1983 and 1994 studies of Orange County advisory boards. Her memberships include the Orange County Research and Development Authority for eight years (two years as chair), Past President of the Orlando Garden Club, the Rotary Club of Orlando East, Republican Women's Club and Tiger Bay (charter member) Yvonne was on the CRB from 1997-2000.

Under the category of Local Government, the League is monitoring the CRB, an advisory committee specified in the Orange County Charter. The League has been interested in charter government since the first Orange County Charter Review Commission (CRC) was formed, with LWV representatives as members. Leaguers Yvonne Opfell and Flo Neidig were on the 1992 Charter Review Commission which added the CRB, with subpoena power, to the charter.

Formed to investigate complaints of excessive force or abuse of power by sheriff's deputies against citizens, the CRB originally was staffed and sheltered by the Sheriff who required his deputies to testify.

The Board is composed of nine volunteers appointed by the County Commissioners and Mayor (one each) and Sheriff (two.)

Early this year, administration of the CRB was moved from the Sheriff's purview to that of the County Attorney's office, with meetings held in the County Administrative Building, and televised on Orange TV. The Sheriff no longer requires his deputies to testify before the CRB.

Citizens bring cases of perceived or actual excessive force or abuse of power to the Professional Standards Department for review first and then to the CRB, if the complainant so desires. For the first time, the CRB in May issued a subpoena to a deputy to compel him to testify. A lawsuit is pending about the power of the charter to award subpoena power to the CRB, or in fact to initiate a CRB.

*~ submitted by Leecie Doyle*

**Adopt-a-Precinct  
SAVE THE 2006 DATE  
for a spirited day with LWV friends**

Primary **TUES, SEPT 5**

General Election **TUES, NOV 7**

What better place to celebrate campaigns waged and witness elections up close than at the heart of voting activity - at the polls! What better time to spend with a team of LWV friends as Election Board staff - at 1 or 2 precincts of our choice. What better way to share the excitement of a busy voter turnout and quiet moments of conversation with old and new League friends - in the **Adopt-a-Precinct** program. Make a date with a friend or someone you'd like to get to know. You will attend 1 training session (in the month before the vote) and can choose to spend a full or half day on duty. For this labor of love and fellowship, each LWV precinct team can earn about \$1,000 in needed funds for League expenses and projects.

To secure the precinct(s) of our choice and convenience, we must make our requests as soon as possible. **By signing up now as an interested, tentative or confirmed participant, you can help us determine the best locations.** Ten to twenty people are needed for each precinct team. Look to the next edition of The Voter for more specifics on this program. Meanwhile, please join the team - it's just a day's (or 2) work and play. For more information, contact **Adopt-a-Precinct** chair

**Kylen Anderson 407-647-7307  
chowderpiez@earthlink.net**

**Sara Segal 321-277-1067 slmsegal@aol.com**  
or visit the Orange County Supervisor of Elections website:

**<http://www.ocfelections.com>**

*Presidents Letter continues...*

*"Experience is a hard teacher; she tests first and teaches afterwards."*

Thanks to League Board member, **Phoebe Carpenter** and her Committee on Children, those attending the October Hot Topics were fortunate indeed to hear our speaker, **Mr. Greg Kurth**, Executive Director of the Orlando Children's Services Program. It is comforting to know that we have such good leadership for those of our community's children who are at greatest risk, our foster children, but it's troubling to hear that the state has one of the largest intervention rates per capita in the country, and some of the lowest funding.

There were many excellent questions, and Mr. Kurth, as promised, was an excellent responder. Thank you, **Phoebe**, for organizing this!

#### **LEGISLATORS BEGIN TO FIGHT FAIR ELECTIONS PEITION DRIVE**

For those of you who have time, we need you! We have many projects, big and small....**Caroline E-S** and **Anna Curran** need teams to get petitions signed at events like the Winter Park Farmers Market, we need people to work a few hours on election day in 2006 in our **Adopt-a-Precinct** Project, and many other areas. Each month we will do a short preview on some of the important and exciting projects that are beginning or going on in our League, as our members work hard to improve our government. Even if you have just an hour or two, please contact **Deirdre** to learn more and see how you can help. ([didimacnab@earthlink.net](mailto:didimacnab@earthlink.net))

In other exciting news, our League is developing a brand new website. Thanks to **Alice Moulton's** company **Avid Neo Geo**; their designers are working hard to set up one of the premier League websites in the country. Log onto it directly at [www.LWVOC.org](http://www.LWVOC.org), or go via the national website at [www.LWV.org](http://www.LWV.org) and compare it to other League websites around the country. We are seeking input from all of you to help make it as user friendly and informative as possible. In the next few months you will see changes and improvements as we put your suggestions to work.

Come, join us, bring any of your friends who are interested in issues and government, have fun and...*make a difference!*

*Deirdre Macnab & Alice Moulton*

## **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOB NOB.**

**...Your League was there!**

On October 20th, The Chamber's **Hob Nob** was hosted at Baldwin Park.

This year **LWVOC** purchased a table in order to publicize the **Fair Elections Campaign** and get petitions signed. We were assigned a very visible table, and were able to get over 60 petitions signed. League members **Caroline Emmons Schramm, Anna Curran, Sarah Goodwin, Karen Castor-Dentel, Alana Brenner, Alice Moulton**, Voter Services Chair **Maria Rubin**, and **Deirdre Macnab** were in attendance, along with several additional volunteers from the **Fair Elections Campaign**.

An enormous rain storm interrupted the proceedings part way through the evening...and while they say politics makes strange bedfellows, so does a huge deluge in the middle of **Hob Nob!**

Everyone ran for cover after hastily covering all petitions, papers and signage, and battened down the tents for about 45 minutes until the rain abated. We handed out numerous membership forms, VOTER newsletters and information about **Fair Elections Campaign**.

The outcome of the Straw Poll collected that evening (which was emailed out to our membership) showed some interesting results. With a greater number of Republicans attending, **Senator Bill Nelson** won the Senate seat, and **Mayor Richard Crotty** had one of the highest local approval ratings of politicians.

Check the Chamber of Commerce website...

[www.orlando.org](http://www.orlando.org)  
for the full results.

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## **League Comments to the Consolidation Commission** **September 27, 2005**

Good Afternoon! My name is **Deirdre Macnab**, and I am Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Orange County. It's a pleasure to be here with you, not just because we appreciate being invited to share our ideas, but also because the development of your Commission and the task with which you have been charged have been part of the League's interest and actions over the past many years.

While many of you are familiar with the League, there are some who surely need a refresher course, so a Brief "Reader's Digest" type introduction is in order:

The League of Women Voters is an 85-year-old non-partisan non-profit organization spread throughout the United States, and active in every state and many local cities and counties. While polls show it is listed as one of the single most trusted organizations in the country, you will not be alone when ask, "What does it do?"

Let me tell you what we don't do: we don't endorse or support any political candidate or party. This enables us to be composed of women (and men by the way) who comprise all parties and have wide-ranging interests in many issues. What we share is a belief in citizens being involved in their government, and in the need for government at all levels to be OPEN and ACCOUNTABLE.

Our purpose is to strengthen voter participation in the political process. We register, we educate, AND we take positions and we lobby on certain key issues after in-depth study. We do this at the federal, state and local level.

Our main areas of focus are ensuring that government:

- Is OPEN
- Is EFFICIENT
- Is ACCOUNTABLE, responsible to the people
- Is ECONOMIC
- And enhances the quality of service.

Because CONSOLIDATION OF CITY AND COUNTY SERVICES meets many of those criteria this has been a subject of interest for the League of Women Voters Orange County for years! Our League began studying this issue back in 1968.

It was in 1968 that our League first adopted a position supporting cooperation and consolidation of services between the County and the City of Orlando. This position, which I'll share with you in a moment, was revisited by the League in 1980 and approved again without change.

It reads:

**The League of Women Voters of Orange County supports the cooperation, coordination and/or consolidation of county and municipal offices and personnel where it will promote economy and efficiency in government and enhance the quality of service.**

We continue to view changes in government using these questions:

- Does it promote economy in government?
- Does it promote efficiency?
- Does it enhance the quality of service?

Over the years the League has not been alone in speaking out for consolidation of services. Before the County Charter was adopted charging the Charter Review Commission with periodically examining local government, several citizen groups, on all of which the League was represented, mounted studies of Orange County government

These studies covered areas that included:

- Refuse collection and disposal
- Vehicle maintenance
- Low-income housing
- Sewer and water
- Planning zoning
- Advisory boards and commissions
- Airports
- Transportation
- Traffic engineering

Different groups mounted THREE extensive studies, though they had some overlapping membership. One was a Local Study Commission created by an act of the legislature in 1967, one by our League combined with the Chamber of Commerce's, Jaycees, and Central Florida Development Committee, and one mounted by the Chamber of Commerce alone.

All of these studies concluded that a consolidated city and county government was a necessity to eliminate duplication of services and unmet needs. The League on its own however, as the wording of our position indicates, was more open to working toward the consolidation of individual services, and not asking for wholesale combination of county and city government.

Not only have we been in favor of the consolidation of many county and city services, but we have gone a step farther in the case of transportation and water services, where we have called for a regional authority. These problems are area wide and cross political boundaries. Perhaps the consolidation of county and city services in these areas could be considered as a first step and could be structured so as to be easily incorporated into a regional authority in the future.

One interesting recommendation I'd like to call your attention to, particularly with regard to one of your standing committees, Fire and Emergency, was the one made by the Local Govt. Study Commission of 1967: This study called for the County Sheriff to have COUNTY wide jurisdiction, within and outside municipalities, for *enforcement of criminal codes related to felony investigations*, while city police forces be retained to handle patrol and traffic, municipal code enforcement and similar investigations. I'd like to point out that our League has done no study of this proposal, and we have no position on it.

In looking at the history of consolidation of services over the decades, it is important to note that several have been already accomplished. For example, many years ago multiple school districts were consolidated into one. City Tax Collections and Tax Assessors were abolished, and multiple Fire Districts abolished, and a County Fire Department established. The system of jails were also consolidated. This is not a complete list.

In closing, we urge you to continue your process as you have begun: inviting citizen comment, and keeping your proceedings open to the public.

The League of Women Voters of Orange County salutes your work; we thank you for serving on this commission, and feel sure that you will be asking many of the same questions as the League going forward:

- Will it promote economy in government?
- Will it promote efficiency?
- Will it enhance the quality of service?

Thank you for inviting us to speak tonight, and the League looks forward to studying and responding to the commissions recommendations.. Good evening.

**These comments were developed with help from many people, including Flo Neidig,. Pat Schwartz, Leecie Doyle, Caroline Emmons-Schramm, and Yvonne Opfell)**



## **Meet the Board...**

### *Phoebe Carpenter*

#### A Long Time Leaguer with a Big Legacy

A member since 1954, **Phoebe** has been constantly active, working on committees relating to children, the environment and local government. Phoebe has also helped engineer some dramatic and very measurable positive changes to our community.

**Phoebe's** intense involvement began in 1960 when she worked with other League members to persuade the Orange County government to tear down and rebuild the children's detention facility.

Next, inspired by Florida **Senator Beth Johnson** of Orlando, and helped by United Way and Orange County Commission, she formed 4C, Community Coordinated Care for Children, Inc. where she was President and CEO for 27 years. 4C began at zero in 1970 and today serves 25000 children with a budget of \$72 million.

Married for 42 years to **Archer Eugene "Gene" Carpenter Jr.**, an Orlando attorney, she has three children (a daughter, a lawyer in Connecticut with two children, a PhD son who is a professor at the University of Central Florida, and her second son, an electrical engineer under contract with the Army, who plays tuba with the Orlando Philharmonic).

**Phoebe** is a native of Orlando, born in the hospital now named ORMC. Like Phoebe, her mother, **Edna Miller**, was a Leaguer. Edna led the advisory Curriculum Committee for Orange County schools, chaired a volunteer committee advisory to Orange County Commission on water conservation, and served on the League board in many capacities.

**Phoebe** has been the secretary of our Board for the past three years, and in her spare time plays bridge 2 or 3 times a week. She also serves or has served on four other organization boards in Orlando, two state wide, and three national boards. Phoebe is also the Chair of our Children's Services Committee (which will be releasing their multi year study/report in March of 2006).

If you haven't met **Phoebe** yet, please come and say hello at our next Hot Topics meeting!!

## **NEW ACTION: Our League Enters the Fight for ERA**

### **Do you remember the Equal Rights Amendment?**

The amendment states that **"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex."**

Thirty-five states ratified this amendment by 1982; Florida passed it in the House of Representatives in several sessions but it never passed the Senate. Currently the chairmen of the House Judiciary and Senate Judiciary Committees refuse to allow a vote to move the amendment out of committee and bring it to a vote before the full legislative bodies.

The League of Women Voters is creating an ERA committee with the express purpose of helping to push the amendment out of these committees so Florida may be added to the list of states which have ratified the amendment.

**In 1971, Attorney Ruth Bader Ginsburg (later to be Supreme Court Justice Ginsberg) convinced the Supreme Court to throw out Idaho's law that gave preference to a man over an equally qualified woman when appointing executors of estates. In 1973 the Court struck down a U.S. Air Force policy that gave a married man family housing and medical allowances but which required a married woman to prove she was the "head of household" and that she provided all of her own expenses and at least half of her family's expenses in order to qualify for the same benefits.**

Our LWVOC committee will research the pros and cons of the amendment so our members will be informed and able to discuss its ramifications during the next year. If you are interested involvement in this effort, please contact me at [jphredchas@earthlink.net](mailto:jphredchas@earthlink.net), telephone **407.678.3013** or write to **Joan Rinaldi at 2007 Kimbrace Place, Winter Park, FL 32792.**

### **COMMUNICATING VIA E-MAIL**

As most members know, the LWVOC sends announcements via e-mail. At least once a month, we send out invitations to our Hot Topics luncheons and periodically send out action alerts and other information of interest to our members.

There are a number of e-mail addresses that regularly are returned for various reasons. If you have not been getting our monthly Hot Topics invitations via e-mail, it is probably due to some restrictions affecting the delivery of our e-mails. We would like to resolve the issues involved with every undeliverable e-mail, but need your feedback to do so.

If you are not receiving our Hot Topics invitations, please call **Maria Rubin at 321 276 9416** or e-mail her at [rubinmm@mpinet.com](mailto:rubinmm@mpinet.com). If you are a new member you will be added to our mailing list. If you are an existing member, we can discuss what can be done to overcome e-mail delivery problems to your address.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The membership drive for season 2005-2006 is off to a good start. Our goal for year is to double the membership....all members are recognized as MEMBERSHIP OFFICERS. It is up to **you** to introduce your friends, neighbors and co-workers to our luncheons and programs. When friends attend our "Hot Topics" luncheons they understand our mission and goals and they, in turn, are interested in becoming a part of it. YES, we can make this happen when our MEMBERSHIP OFFICERS introduce just one friend, neighbor or co-worker to our organization. Our goal is attainable!

Sarah Goodwin, Membership Director

*~ Welcome to our New Members! ~*

**Christine Aleknavich**

**Donna Nestler**

**Andrea Kobrin**

**Angela Temple**

**Gay Bovee**

### COMMITTEES:

<b>Adopt-a-Precinct</b>	<b>Sara Segal</b> (321)277-1067 <b>KylenAnderson</b> (407)647-7307	<b>SLMsegal@aol.com</b> <b>chowderpiez@earthlink.net</b>
<b>Committee on Children</b>	<b>Phoebe Carpenter</b> (407)843-4011	<b>phoebe4@aol.com</b>
<b>Equal Rights Amendment</b>	<b>Joan Rinaldi</b> (407)678-3013	<b>jphredchas@earthlink.net</b>
<b>Fair Elections</b>	<b>Caroline Emmons-Schramm</b> (407)629-4929 <b>Anna Curran</b> (407)435-5007	<b>carolinees@cfl.rr.com</b> <b>annacurran@allumejewelry.com</b>
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<b>Membership</b>	<b>Sarah Goodwin</b> (407)855-5143	<b>sgoodw222@bellsouth.net</b>
<b>Natural Resources</b>	<b>Susannah Lindberg-Randolph</b> (407)835-3569	<b>slindberg@cleanwater.org</b>
<b>Voucher Accountability</b>	<b>Rosemary Durocher</b> (407)859-0386	<b>rhdurocher@hotmail.com</b>