

HOT TOPICS LUNCHEON

Presented by

**The League of Women Voters of Orange County
and the**

Central Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

Join us at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 13, 2008
at Sorosis Club, 501 E. Livingston Street (downtown)
for lunch presentation of

Judicial Candidates Forum

*Who will be Central Florida's
New Judges?*



Moderator: Scott Maxwell
“Taking Names” - Orlando Sentinel

\$ 2 0 members with reservation
\$ 2 5 all others

*Reservations cancelled after August 10
will be invoiced*



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CALENDAR **Candidate Forum:**

U. S. House of Representatives
District 8
Tuesday, August 5, 2008
Howard Middle School
Scott Harris News 13
Moderating
With Lake Formosa
Neighborhood Association
7:00—8:30 p.m

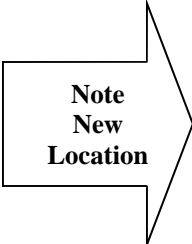
Board Meeting
Monday, August 11
4:30—6:30 p.m.
Rollins Philanthropy Ctr.

Tuesday August 19
POPCORN & POLITICS
Movie & Discussion Group
for Young Professionals
Rollins College
sponsored by LWVOC
more to come ...

Tuesday, August 26
Primary Election
Adopt-a-Precinct
(the day Women
Won the Vote!)

You are Invited!
Sunset Soiree
New and
Prospective Member
Orientation & Reception
SUNSET @ STAR TOWER
~ FREE ~

Tuesday, September 9
7 pm
Top of Sunset Star Tower
S.Osceola Ave., @ Jackson St.
Free Valet Parking
for information or to RSVP
contact **Sara Segal**
slmsegal@gmail.com



RSVP by Monday, August 11, 2008 to
Lynda Van Scoyoc (407)894-7514 (LVANSCOYOC@cfl.rr.com)



~ Message from the President ~

“A perfect summer day is when the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, the birds are singing, and the lawn mower is broken”

Dear Members,

Summertime, starry skies, s'mores, and a snooze on the beach.

For many of our members, while they try to navigate the enticements and demands of summer, it's a one hundred yard dash to the November election, and your League of Women Voters is sprinting all the way. Orange County League members are like a hive of bees... gathering new members, making new alliances, doing presentations, hatching plans, and winning awards.

What kinds of awards? Well just this month at the National League Convention in Portland, Oregon our League was recognized for the best Voter Campaign in the country: www.VOTEANYWHERE.org. Led by First Vice President and Voter Services Chair **Charley Williams**, this campaign worked closely with **Channel 6** and **Fry Hammond Barr**, and contributed to a 300% increase in VOTE BY MAIL requests! Big round of applause for Charley and our Voter Services Team and partners! We received a beautiful crystal award and national attention in VOTER magazine. Watch for more action here as we gear up for a whole new effort ---yes, with Channel 6 -- challenging viewers to a video competition on “WHY VOTE”... winners to be aired on network TV!

Our second big award is from **WMFE**, and the sponsorship committee for **Speaking of Women's Health**, and **Hablado de la Salud de la Mujer** who for the first time have awarded both annual awards to the same organization: The League of Women Voters of Orange County! This remarkable award involves a recognition at their often standing room only events on August 8 and 9th where over 2,000 women will attend seminars and programs geared to today's woman. We hope you'll make plans to attend (www.WMFE.org) and we are honored by this recognition particularly in this critically important election year. Thank you **WMFE!**

Summer has also been a time for hard work putting on candidate forums (our volunteers will or have organized about 8 so far, with many more to come with **WMFE** on television. Moderators have included **Pat Duggins (WMFE)**, **Scott Harris (Channel 13)**, and **Scott Maxwell (Orlando Sentinel)**, as well as **Laura Turner**, League Member. Thanks to **Jan Tunnell** and **Yvonne Opfell** for their remarkable timing services!

In addition, our four county Transportation Committee is working to spur grassroots support and greater understanding of the key role commuter rail can play. Look for our bumperstickers (**YES YES COMMUTER RAIL**) at the upcoming August 13th HOT TOPICS...where you'll have a chance to meet and hear from candidates for judge, as they answer questions deftly tossed by Orlando's own **Scott Maxwell**.

A big thanks to our experienced Local Government Committee who never missed a single Ethics Task Force, Charter Review, or Board of County Commission Meeting while ethics and campaign finance were discussed, and provided important and incisive input at all meetings where allowed.

Speaking of leadership: It is with great pleasure that we announce

the addition of some superb new board members, all of whom come with particular areas of experience and talents: **Lennon Moore**, **Andrea Kobrin** and **Todd Ruopp** (our third gentleman on the board!). Please welcome them all! We are deeply appreciative of the significant contribution they will make with regard to their time, talent and ideas.

We are also pleased to announce new partnerships with **East Orlando Chamber**, **Education Foundation**, **Central Florida Criminal Lawyers**, and **WMFE**, as we help coordinate and manage numerous candidate and public issue forums. Please try to attend these forums, and we can always use your help!

Lastly, mark your calendar: **Sara Segal**, **Andrea Kobrin** and **Leah Shepard** are planning a League Orientation Extravaganza like you have never seen. Please plan on coming with any friends who you think would make good League members...this is an opportunity to both introduce potential members and do a brief orientation for our over a hundred new members gained in the past few months.

A huge thanks to **Steve Kodsí** for his extremely generous contribution of the stunning reception room at the **STAR Tower**, and many contributions to support a superb evening...jazz, food, free valet parking... don't miss it...and start thinking about who you'll bring! This event is **FREE**. (*yes, free!*)

And, with all our efforts, please... make time for s'mores, looking at the stars, and gazing in wonder at the natural beauty that is ours in Central Florida. Have a great summer,

In League,

**Deirdre
Macnab
President**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS:

President

Deirdre Macnab 628-1766

1st Vice President

Charley Williams 898-1818

2nd Vice President

Lynn Eberly 420-4256

Secretary

Phoebe Carpenter 843-4011

Treasurer

Brian Henties 975- 6417

DIRECTORS:

Caroline Emmons-Schramm	629-4929
Kaia Forget	299-6964
Sarah Goodwin	855-5143
Adrienne Katz Katz	297-0958
Andrea Kobrin	925 9628
Lennon Moore	647-7229
Ayme Rodriguez-Smith	425-7504
Todd Ruopp	401-3938
Sara Segal	321-277-1067
Jan Tunnell	423-3519
Lynda Van Scoyoc	894-7514
Heather Walker	660-1918

VOTER EDITOR: Lynda Van Scoyoc
(407)894-7514
LVANSCOYOC@cfl.rr.com

LWVOC recently won the national LWV Voter Education Award for a creative campaign to promote absentee ballots. Now for the next step...

LWVOC and Local 6 WKMG-TV have partnered to sponsor the Central Florida Video Challenge.

This community-wide competition will honor the best 30-second TV spots promoting the many reasons voting is important. Humor, irony, satire, drama... all fair game. Winning spots will run on Local 6-TV. So today's call to action is:

Grab a neighbor, Grab another League member,
Grab a film student, You Tube user or family videographer...
Put a team together ! You're the producer and screenwriter !
Have fun! Give it your best shot.

DEADLINE is THURSDAY, JULY 31st...
in time to broadcast before the August 26th Florida Primary.

For more information or to download entry application
www.lwvoc.org/videocontest/ or contact katzaid@yahoo.com

~ INTRODUCING ~ OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS!



After graduating from college **Andrea Kobrin** went to work at Florida Hospital in the Social Services Department. In 1969 she was hired by the Department of Children and Families and worked in Child Protection and then in the Administration until retiring after 33 years. She and her husband enjoy traveling but are always happy to come home to Orlando. She enjoys her association with the League and has learned a huge amount about Orange County government in her role as co-chair of the **Local Government Committee**.



Lennon Moore is a transportation professional with 35 years experience. Recently retired from the public sector, she has a consulting firm specializing in all facets of transportation and land use planning. She moved to the Orlando area 15 years ago to complete the **I-4 Multimodal Master Plan** and has served on numerous boards and committees including but not limited to: **MyRegion.Org, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, Wekiva Task Force, State Road 40 Task Force, and Wings of Peace International** (a private, non-profit organization serving marginalized populations throughout the world).



Todd Ruopp is the co-founder of **Unleashing Performance, Inc.**, which "helps non-profits and businesses create compelling vision, identify priorities, and measure success." He says he joined LWV because a friend advised him to join if he wanted to be part of an organization which makes a difference. He likes the LWV because the League links the government with the people, not just the well connected. He's excited about advancing democracy by increasing voter registration and making people aware of the issues.

Learn more about how our committees are working for better ideas in our community...

CONTACT...

NEW COMMITTEE!

Natural Resources
Wednesday, August 20
8:30 a.m.

Stardust Video & Café
Winter Park Road & Corrine Drive
Patty Hattaway
407-860-2820
phattawa@mailier.fsu.edu

Voter Services
Charley Williams
Voter Guide,
Register Voters
407-898-1818 x 111
cjwilliams@g-e-c.com

Education
For information, call
Barbara Barry
407-677-1771
Kaia Forget
407-299-6964
kwforget@cfl.rr.com

Local Government
For information, call
Flo Neidig 407-872-0072
flonbert2@earthlink.net
Andrea Kobrin 407-647-5912
lulubelle@cfl.rr.com

Transportation
Lynn Eberly
407-420-4256
leberly@hdrinc.com

Vamos A Votar
Ayme Rodriguez-Smith
Ayme@cfl.rr.com
Dora Casanova de Toro
Dora.Toro@laprensaorlando.com



~ Want to Amend the County Charter ? ~

seventh in a series about charters by *Leecie Doyle*

There are three ways amendments to county charters can be proposed: (1) by the elected Board of County Commissioners, (2) by an appointed Charter Review

Commission or (3) by petitions submitted by individuals or groups. Orange County's charter Section 601 states: "*Initiative and referendum: The power to propose amendment or repeal of this Charter, or to propose enactment, amendment or repeal of any county ordinance by initiative is reserved to the people of the county.*" Regardless of where the amendment originates, it must be placed on the ballot and approved, or rejected, by a majority of voters.

Orange County's requirements for proposing amendments by petition are among the most onerous of all charter counties. The largest number of counties (six) require signatures from ten percent of all registered voters countywide, calculated from totals at the last election.

Four counties require seven percent, three call for five percent, and one each mandate 7.5 and eight percent. Orange County's total is not based on the last general election, but on the number of registered voters as of January 1st in the year the petition is initiated.

In addition, there are requirements in some counties about getting a percentage of signatures from specified commission districts. For instance, one county requires four percent of signatures be from each commission district. Orange County's charter requires ten percent of signatures come from each of a majority of our six commission districts.

After charter amendments are approved by voters, the Board of County Commissioners may adopt them by ordinance . . . or not. Stay tuned for more on amendments that have passed or failed, and what to look for on the November ballot.

Florida Is Restoring Voting Rights to Ex-Felons

In April 2007, **Governor Crist** and the Florida Board of Executive Clemency approved restoration of civil rights for certain ex-offenders.

Voting rights is among the civil rights to be restored. ***The Challenge: many would-be voters in the Florida may not know their voting rights can be restored.***

Since April over 115,000, or 20% of ex-offenders in Florida have regained their right to vote, thanks to new state legislation establishing a three-tiered severity level for Florida citizens convicted of a crime. Until April, Florida was one of only 3 states to strip all convicted felons of their right to vote; those who finish prison and probation previously had to endure a lengthy review by state officials in order to vote, serve on a jury, or hold a state-licensed job.

"Once somebody has truly paid their debt to society, we should recognize it, and we should honor it and we should welcome them back into society and give them that second chance," said Florida Governor **Charlie Crist** (New York Times).

For those needing more information, go to the Florida Office of

Executive Clemency (Florida Parole Commission) website: www.fpc.state.fl.us/Clemency.htm

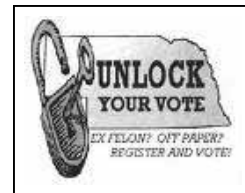
Anyone needing information on the restoration of civil rights process should contact the Office of Executive Clemency directly:

Toll Free at: 1-800-435-8286

Phone at: 850-488-2952

Fax at: 850-488-0695

Email at: Clemencyweb@fpc.state.fl.us



Sample questions answered on the website include:

If I am released from custody or supervision from the Florida Department of Corrections, how can my civil rights be restored? What rights are restored? Do I need an attorney to handle my application?

Clemency Application Form No. 151 is available on the site.



TWO EASY WAYS TO CUT YOUR GAS COSTS

There are lots of ways to save gas (checked your tires lately?) but the easiest and most effective way is to slow down (just a little bit). When you add up the savings, it's like getting paid to relax.

Put another way, in a family sedan, every 10 mph you drive over 60 is like paying 54 cents per gallon more for gas you bought at \$3.25 a gallon. That extra cost is even higher for big SUVs and other less-efficient vehicles.

So before you get behind the wheel for the summer, show us what you're made of. Pledge to Drive 55 (or whatever the speed limit is on the roads you're traveling).

And the time you save by going easy on the accelerator may not add up to as much as you thought. On a 300-mile trip, driving 65 instead of 70 mph would cost you only 20 minutes -- but save money and spew less carbon.

The Union of Concerned Scientists tells us that dropping from 70 to 60 mph improves fuel efficiency by an average of 17.2 percent. Dropping from 75 to 55 improves fuel efficiency by 30.6 percent!

~ From *Sierra Club* magazine

www.lwvoc.org

LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP: *The GOOD, the BAD and the UGLY!* Lester Abberger and Bob Shaw



**Patty
Hattaway**

Before they spoke, I didn't know what to expect, but once they started I couldn't have written that fast anyway. So I asked **Bob** for his notes and he handed them over.

I share them with you, in part for iteration, but also to remind us of the importance of being active and engaged citizens of this world. There is a lot of suffering around us and with natural resources rapidly diminishing there is bound to be more. Suffering can produce fear, and fear can cause denial to set in. Entitled as we may be to feel like running away, we must dedicate ourselves to stay involved in the process of governing ourselves and not give in to denial or any form of it. If we leave it to others, then we are left to stagger into a future that is already uncertain but made more so by decisions that can be baffling and contradictory. We must unite in our efforts to stay involved even when it appears the decisions our leaders are making don't prepare us for these very uncertain times.

Here is what Bob brought to us:

Slashed budget by roughly \$6 billion –but they didn't raise taxes;

Cut overall education funding by \$3.1 billion – but they did not give special protections to teachers who want to teach “intelligent design”;

*Expanded by 6,000 the number of kids eligible for a voucher program that now enrolls 20,000–but didn't **ok** a referendum on an elected education commissioner and a neutered university board of governors;*

Cut \$1.6 billion from social services spending—but killed a bill to give rape victims and others easier access to the ‘morning after’ pill;

Created “in God we trust” and “horse country” specialty license tags – but killed the Central Florida commuter rail project;

Allowed employees to bring guns to work as long as they keep them locked in the trunk of a car–but refused to require restaurants to keep toilet paper in each stall;

Maintained the rate freeze on state-run citizens property insurance corporation - continuing a substantial subsidy to coastal property owners; but refused to lower the state catastrophe fund's liability should one or more hurricanes hit the state.

~submitted by Patty Hattaway



Charley Williams, LWVOC 1st VP
Allan Stevenson, Cleave Frink
Bob LeBlanc, 9th Judicial Circuit
Bill Segal, District 5 County Commissioner

~ Men in the League ~

At Hot Topics luncheons there is an obvious male presence but their status is often questioned. Can men become members of the League of Women Voters? Not only can they but there are many, some as presidents of local chapters and most recently a man was elected to the national board.

The League of Women Voters was an outgrowth of the suffrage movement founded by **Carrie Chapman Catt**, a vociferous activist in the suffrage movement. In 1887, as a young widow with some experience in the law, education and journalism, she joined the

Iowa Woman's Suffrage Association. By 1889 she had organized local suffrage movements all over Iowa and was a delegate to the national convention in 1890

Catt worked as an organizer for the **National American Woman Suffrage Association** from 1890 to 1900. When she became its national president she realized that if women got the vote they needed to be prepared to vote; thus the idea for the **League of Women Voters** was born. The convention was held only six months before the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote after a 72-year struggle

From the beginning, the **League** was an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that citizens should play a critical role in advocacy. It was then, and is now, a nonpartisan organization. **League** founders believed that maintaining a nonpartisan stance would protect the fledgling organization from becoming mired in the party politics of the day. However, **League** members were encouraged to be political themselves, by educating citizens about, and lobbying for, government and social reform legislation. The **League** is proud to be nonpartisan, neither

supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.

This year, 2008, the national organization made history by breaking its own glass ceiling! The **LWVUS** Nominating Committee announced the **LWVUS Slate for 2008-2010** including a man for the first time. “Knowing that we needed to ensure the **League's** leadership for the next four years, our goal was to seek diverse candidates with strong backgrounds in membership development, fund development, strategic planning and technology” **Norman Turrill**, first vice president and action chair of the League of Women Voters of Oregon was elected to the **LWVUS** Board of Directors.

Currently, in the Orange County League of Women Voters men chair several committees. **Brian Henties** is Treasurer and chairs Advocacy Training; **Tom Holley** co-chairs Civics and Youth; **1st VP Charley Williams** chairs the Voter Services Committee and 3 men serve on the Board of Directors.

~submitted by Sue Pins, Profile Writer



5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ON ELECTION DAY

GO TO THE RIGHT PLACE - Poll locations can change. Be sure to read your Sample Ballot. It contains the name, address and a map of your polling place location. You can also visit www.orangevotes2008.com or call (407) 836-VOTE.

BRING I.D. - Florida law requires that you show some type of photo and signature identification. Examples include your DriversLicense or State ID, a Military ID, a Student ID, or a Public Assistance ID. If you arrive at the polling place without ID you'll be allowed to vote a Provisional Ballot.

GET A BALLOT - Don't panic if you registered to vote but your name is not on the list. Get help from a poll worker to re-search the situation. They can call the Elections Office for help in resolving the matter.

GET HELP - Remember that you can bring a family member or friend to help you read or mark your ballot if you need assistance. Also poll workers are there to help if needed. They'll show you how to use the voting equipment, get you a replacement ballot if you mis-mark the first one or answer any questions you may have regarding the voting process.

STAY AND VOTE - You probably won't have to wait too long. But even if the line is long, don't leave without voting. The outcome of this election will be important!

3 WAYS TO MAKE VOTING A BREEZE.....

CHECK YOUR NAME - Before Election Day, check the Web at www.orangevotes.com or call (407) 836-VOTE to verify your registration is current.

AVOID THE CROWDS - Vote by mail. Request an absentee ballot by visiting www.orangevotes2008.com or calling (407) 836-VOTE. Early Voting is also an option. It starts 15 days before the election and is available in select libraries around the county. Locations are available online. If you decide to go to the polls, go during off hours: 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. That's when it's likely to be less crowded.

TAKE A FRIEND TO VOTE - Why go alone when you can take a friend or loved one to vote?

Election Day Problems? Call (407) 836-VOTE

Did you know.....

After this year's November election, the number of legislators with more than 2 years experience in the Florida House of Representative will be down to 38 members due to term limits. There are 120 House Districts in the Florida Legislature.

LWVOC Voter Guide for August 26th Primary is Launched!

Check out our League website for our online Voter Guide: candidate profiles will be available prior to the Tuesday, August 26th primary.

Orange County-based races to be profiled include:

Orange County Commission District 1

Scott Boyd
Rick Geller
Shannon Gravitte

Orange County Commission District 3

Mildred Fernandez
John Kelly Harris

Orange County Sheriff

Bill Armstrong
Jerry Demmings
Malone Stewart
John Tegg

Orange County School Board District 4

Deeba Ahmad
Vicky Bell
Louis Roeder

Orange County School Board District 7

Bert Carrier
Christine Moore Curtis
Laura Keller
Michael Kimbrough

County Judge, Group 10

Ken Barlow
Mark Wixtrom

County Judge, Group 15

Debbie Ansbro
Brad Conway

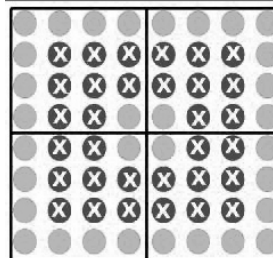


Figure 1

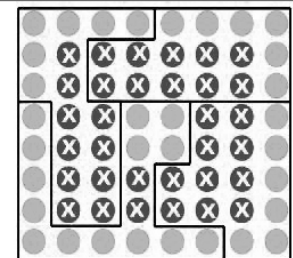


Figure 2

Gerrymandering is a form of redistricting in which electoral districts are manipulated for electoral advantage. The illustration above represents how election districts can be gerrymandered to change the distribution of legislative seats between the two main parties. In *Figure 1*, all four districts have an equal division between each party. In *Figure 2*, the districts have been redrawn to give one party an advantage in three of the four districts.

~ Polk County LWV

A View of the League at the National Convention... *from a New Member*

I am even more in love with the whole idea of the League of Women Voters and its history after attending my first League National Convention in Portland, OR, from June 13-17. I'm excited and delighted about the creative and gutsy League activities I've learned about from all over the country. Over 1,000 attended the Convention; 20 members were from Florida.



**Adrienne
Katz Katz**

I didn't realize what a force the League of Women Voters is nationally—there are 850 Leagues with over 78,000 members. There are 30 Leagues in Florida. Most of the League people I met (women and men) were bright, dedicated and incredibly hard working.

The attendees to the National Convention were there to **WORK HARD!** Meetings began at 7:30 A.M. and the last ones ended after 10:30 P.M. The Convention theme was *"Reaching New Heights Together."* Florida received TWO national awards, one to the state League and the other to our own LWVOC Voter Services, chaired by **Charley Williams**. I wished that **Charley** had been there to receive the award in person—I certainly enjoyed being his delegate.

I attended as many of the caucuses as I could—among them were "Federal role in education," "Training young women to run for office," and "Grassroots." I got handouts from all of them and listened in fascination to the freewheeling discussions.

The speeches to the whole convention were absolutely top quality: issues such as the environment, global warming and alternative energy; health care; and the justice system were interesting and thought-provoking. (Look up *"archimedesmovement.org"* and watch the video speech of former **Governor Dr. Fitzhaber** on the topic of health care.)

That doesn't mean I don't see problems that need to be remedied. I really understand the need for recruiting younger members--I learned that the average age of a League member is 72! Those demographics verified my perception was that way less than a quarter of the group was under 50. Many of the speakers on the parliamentary issues alluded to being members for 40-50 years, and that part was "good news and bad news."

We all agreed that in the next ten years, the aging of the League changes everything drastically. The need for "getting younger" is critical for the League's survival. The only way of turning this impending negative into a positive is to inspire young friends and family members to change their world, get involved and educate all of our members about the need to add the League to their wills and in estate planning, and to include the League in your regular charitable contributions. **REMEMBER the LEAGUE!**

The 2010 National Convention will be in Atlanta, and I hope that our Orange County League brings several members to attend.



National Award for **Best Voter Campaign** was received by **Adrienne Katz Katz** at **LWVUS Convention** in Portland OR and later presented to **1st Vice President and Voter Services Chair Charley Williams** at our June Hot Topics Luncheon. **Charley** spearheaded the **VOTEANYWHERE** Campaign, collaborating with **Channel 6** and **FryHammondBarr**, resulting in a 300% increase in VOTE BY MAIL requests.

Quick League Member *TO DO* List:

1. Renew your membership (if you haven't already!)
2. RSVP for August 13 Hot Topics Judicial Forum (and bring a friend!)
3. Think of who you might bring to our NEW/Prospective Member Orientation on September 9th at Star Tower downtown. Contact **Sara Segal** slmsegal@gmail.com
4. Update your voter registration with the Supervisor of Elections if you have moved or changed your name... also a good time to request a **MAIL IN BALLOT** for up to TWO years....to avoid the lines on election day. **www.VOTEANYWHERE.org** (a simple phone call can do it!)
5. Check our website for constant breaking election news (including policy comparison between Candidates McCain and Obama) **www.LWVOC.org**

SUPREME COURT JUSTICE PROMOTES NINTENDO CIVICS



Sandra Day O'Connor, the former Supreme Court justice, began her remarks at the Games for Change conference in New York by saying aloud what the few hundred people in the audience were already thinking.

"If someone had told me when I retired from the Supreme Court about a couple of years ago that I would be speaking at a conference about digital games, I would have been very skeptical, maybe thinking you had one drink too many," she said to laughter in an auditorium at Parsons the New School for Design.

At once engaging and imposing as she explained why she had embraced the Internet and interactive digital media as an essential tool for preserving American democracy. In cooperation with Georgetown University Law Center and Arizona State University, **Justice O'Connor** is helping develop a Web site and interactive civics curriculum for seventh-, eighth- and ninth-grade students called **Our Courts** (www.ourcourts.org). The initial major elements of the site are scheduled to become available this fall.

Since retiring from the bench in 2006, **Justice O'Connor**, 78, has spoken forcefully and often about the dangers posed by efforts to politicize the judiciary. Her thoughts are well known to legal scholars. With **Our Courts** she hopes to foster a deeper understanding of American government among schoolchildren. The site will have two parts, an explicitly educational component for use in schools and a more entertainment-oriented module that will more closely resemble games. As one would expect from such a significant jurist, she made a neat case.

"In recent years I have become increasingly concerned about vitriolic attacks by some members of Congress and some members of state legislatures and various private interest groups on judges," she said in her speech. *"We hear a great deal about judges who are activists, godless secular humanists trying to impose their will on the rest of us. I always thought an activist judge was one who got up in the morning and went to work."*

She embarked on this campaign after a conference she and **Justice Stephen G. Breyer** convened in 2006 on the state of the judiciary.

"The overwhelming consensus coming out of that conference was that public education is the only long-term solution to preserving an independent judiciary and, more importantly, to preserving a robust constitutional democracy," she said. *"The better educated our citizens are, the better equipped they will be to preserve the system of government we have. Start with the education of our nation's young people. Knowledge about our government is not handed down through the gene pool."*

Justice O'Connor said *"Two-thirds of Americans know at least one of the judges on the Fox TV show 'American Idol,' but less than 1 in 10 can name the chief justice of the United States Supreme Court."*

And for that she did not lay responsibility solely at the feet of popular culture.

"One unintended effect of the No Child Left Behind Act, which is intended to help fund teaching of science and math to young people, is that it has effectively squeezed out civics education because there is no testing for that anymore and no funding for that," she said. *"And at least half of the states no longer make the teaching of civics and government a requirement for high school graduation. This leaves a huge gap, and we can't forget that the primary purpose of public schools in America has always been to help produce citizens who have the knowledge and the skills and the values to sustain our republic as a nation, our democratic form of government."*

Enter the Internet. **Justice O'Connor** said she doesn't play games and is hardly a computer expert. But she had seen in her grandchildren how involving interactive media can be and noted that interactive education can in some ways be more effective than traditional methods.

"We'll have them arguing real issues, real legal issues, against the computer and against each other," she said. One of the first interactive exercises in the **Our Courts** program, she said, would take up First Amendment issues involving the ability of public schools to censor students' speech, as in student newspapers or on T-shirts.

"I believe that when we learn something, a principle or concept, by doing, by having it happen to us, which you can do by that medium of a computer, and you exercise it and you make an argument and you learn, 'Oh yes, that's an argument that prevails,' you learn by doing."

*I have become increasingly concerned
about vitriolic attacks on judges...*

Voter Services Committee Activities and Contacts

Adopt a Precinct
(August 26 and November 4)
Laurie Wack and Jan Tunnell

On-Line Voter Guide
(August and November)
Charley Williams and Kaia Forget

LWV/Local 6 Video Challenge:
Adrienne Katz

Primary Election August 2008

**Early Voting Sites open on
Monday, August 11th, 2008.**

**Early Voting ends on
Saturday, August 23rd, 2008.**

**ON SUNDAYS YOU CAN
VOTE BY ABSENTEE
BALLOT only at the
Supervisor of
Elections Office
from 10 AM to 4 PM**

**For further information
please call (407) 836-2070
or visit our website at
www.ocfelections.com**

Mark Your Calendar!

**August 13 (Wednesday)
Judicial Candidates Forum:
Scott Maxwell Presents**

**September 16 (Tuesday)
Election 2008:
Meet The Candidates!**

**October 8 (Wednesday)
An Insiders Guide
to the Amendments**

**November 12 (Wednesday)
Off Shore Drilling:
Hype or Helpful?**



SCHOOLS LEAD ORANGE COUNTY in RECYCLING EXAMPLE

Since 1995 OCPS has aggressively pursued and implemented programs to recycle more solid waste at schools and district facilities. Over the years various organizations have recognized the school district's efforts in the field of recycling. In June of 2003 OCPS received the *Outstanding Institutional/Business Award* from **Recycle Florida Today**.

In April 2008 the school district's Food and Nutrition Services worked with the Central Florida Dairy Council to create a pilot program to encourage students to recycle plastic drink bottles and milk chugs. The pilot program targets middle and high schools and includes Ocoee Middle and Ocoee, Olympia and Winter Park High Schools.

***Individual students are also taking
action at their schools....***

The pilot program called, *"Drink It and Sink It,"* provides specially-marked bins at the schools for recycling liquid containers. Food and Nutrition Services replaced non-recyclable poly-coated drink cartons with milk chugs that are made of recyclable materials. The objective of the effort is to encourage students to recycle the liquid containers so they can be made into useful products, instead of taking a one-way trip to the landfill.

Collections of plastic bottles and aluminum cans from the first week of the initiative yielded encouraging results: **Ocoee Middle-336 pounds, Ocoee High-81 pounds, Olympia High-495 pounds and Winter Park High-96 pounds.**

The goal is to expand the *"Drink It and Sink It"* program to all 33 middle and 18 high schools in the district. By encouraging students to recycle at school it's hoped they will continue the environmentally-friendly behavior in other aspects of their lives and become advocates to their peers and neighbors.

Liquid containers are not the only items on the recycling menu board; paper is being repurposed for new life outside the classroom. During the recent spring semester at **Boone High School** collected more than 3,000 pounds of paper. Because of the proactive efforts at this one school an estimated **25 trees** were preserved, **520 gallons of oil** saved, **6,000 kilowatts of electricity** conserved, and **10, 500 gallons of water** unused.

In 2007 solid waste collections from all OCPS facilities totaled 279,519 cubic yards. Of that figure 210,279 cubic yards were recycled. ***The great news is 75 percent of the district's entire waste stream is being recycled.*** The objective is to consistently increase the amount of solid waste the school district recycles in the years to come.

Though recycling is a subject that may not appear on any standardized test, Orange County Public Schools is committed to making sure all of its students, teachers and staff receive high marks in this area.



Celebrate YOUR Everyday Superheroes by giving them a day of pampering and fun! Bring your mother, best friends, sisters and yourself to the **8th Annual Speaking of Women's Health** conference, presented by WMFE and Orlando Regional Healthcare on **Friday, August 8th** at the Orange County Convention Center.

The conference day includes two distinguished Key-note Speakers, 25 health and well being breakout sessions, a continental breakfast, sponsor exhibitor hall access, free health screenings, a luncheon, a gift bag and various other goodies valued at over \$150!

For Tickets call 407-273-2300 ext. 175 or visit wmfe.org/speaking.



Celebrate YOUR Everyday Superheroes- mothers, best friends, sisters, and yourself- with a day of pampering and fun at the **5th Annual Hablando de la Salud de la Mujer** conference, presented by WMFE and Orlando Health on **Saturday, August 9th** at the Orange County Convention Center. This conference focuses on Hispanic women's health and well-being presented entirely in Spanish with simultaneous English translation.

Be inspired and refreshed with informative wellness sessions, make-up consultations, **FREE** health screenings, and beauty giveaways! For Tickets call 407-273-2300 ext. 175 or visit wmfe.org/hablando



**Catherine McManus
Eric Gray
Julie Watson**

~ The LWV Presidents ~

**Deirdre Macnab
Orange County
Cathy Arther
Osceola County
Deana Schott
Seminole County**



**Rosemary DuRocher
Susan Arkin
Dawn Steward**



**Andrea Kudlacz
Nancy Robinson
Jo Patterson**

**HOT TOPICS LUNCHEON
June 17, 2008
At Doc's**

**Legislative Wrap-Up:
The GOOD, the BAD and the UGLY!**

**Speakers: Lester Abberger
and Bob Shaw**



**Commissioner Bill Segal
Rosemary DuRocher
Martha Haynie, O.C. Comptroller**



**Lester Abberger and
Bob Shaw, Speakers**



**Scott Randolph—FL House 36
Geraldine Thompson—FL House 39**



**Casselberry Vice Mayor
Colleen Hufford and
Deana Schott
LWVSC President**



**Rudy Rodriguez, Neil Dentzer,
Fran Morissey & Ron Ellman, Candidate**



**Sandra Power
Lester Abberger
Jo Patterson**



**Charley Williams
1st VP—LWVOC
Speaker Lester Abberger
Rep. Scott Randolph**



**Nancy Rudner
Dr. Joyce Henry
ACLU**



**Lizette SanGermain
Lennon Moore
Joanie Schirm**