

WHAT HAS THE LEAGUE BEEN UP TO IN THE PAST YEAR?

- 1.** Led by **Nancy Rudner**, LWVOC members toured the county collecting hundreds of petitions that helped get the Fair District Amendments - 5 and 6 - on the November ballot. Members like **George** and **Ruth Wack** did a herculean job collecting 314 petitions at the Mayflower Retirement Community.
- 2.** By vigorously lobbying **Charlie Crist**, LWVOC members helped the LWVF and other organizations persuade the governor to veto Senate Bill 6, which would have based Florida teachers' salaries on FCAT scores and end-of-course exams.
- 3.** The LWVOC partnered with Central Florida market-leader, WFTV Channel 9, to launch the weekly public affairs show, **Central Florida Spotlight**. Big thanks to board member **Sara Au** and co-presidents **Charley Williams** and **Anne Geiger**, who helped steer us through the legal challenges, for their hard work getting the project off the ground. LWVOC is thought to be the only League with a weekly, public affairs program airing on commercial TV.
- 4.** The Florida Legislature approved passage of the bill that will make SunRail a reality in Central Florida. Credit goes to the LWVOC Transportation Committee, led by vice president **Lynn Eberly** and board member **Lennon Moore**, for helping keep the pressure on elected officials even when there seemed little chance of success.
- 5.** LWVOC members were in Tallahassee for the annual legislative seminar, joining other state League members in a massive lobbying effort. The League was also honored by top officials from Gov. **Charlie Crist** to lawmakers on its 90th birthday.
- 6.** In March, the Seminole and Orange County Leagues hosted an evening debate on Amendment 4, commonly known as Hometown Democracy.
- 7.** Also in March, the LWVOC joined forces with the Delta Omicron Omega chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority to hold a Census 2010 town hall meeting in Washington Shores.
- 8.** Observer Corps members **Ann Hellmuth** and **Andrea Kobrin** attended meetings of the Orlando-Orange County Expressway Authority Blue Ribbon panel, which was looking into charges of misconduct involving the authority. Corps members led by **Michele Levy** and **Jean Siegfried** have also been attending Orange County Commission meetings.

9. VoteAnywhere, the LWVOC award-winning campaign, goes statewide, securing the approval of the LWVF board to partner with Florida's 27 Leagues in a bit to reach all state voters.

10. Thanks to the sterling work of board member **Linda Van Scoyoc**, the LWVOC newsletter - The Voter - won awards at the League's state convention. During the year Linda also launched a redesigned Voter, allowing for use of color and more photos of members. **Sara Segal's** hard work on the website also cornered another award.

11. LWVOC board member **Caroline Emmons-Schramm** was chosen to be among 12 national coaches known as **Ruth S. Shur** fellows to undergo three days of League training in Washington, D.C., focused on leadership development tactics and outreach strategies.

12. Under the leadership of Hot Topics chair **Andrea Kobrin**, the monthly luncheons continued to attract large numbers of members and non-members with programs ranging from offshore oil drilling, the League's 90th birthday, human trafficking, education, water woes and the arts in Central Florida. Speakers ranged from Florida Secretary of State **Kurt S. Browning**, retired Lt. Gen. **Jay Garner**, Orlando Sentinel editor **Charlotte Hall** and former U.S. Rep. **Patricia Schroeder**.

13. Board member **Adrienne Katz Katz** took the helm of the Speakers' Bureau with the mission of educating voters about the importance of voting. Adrienne also put together a memorable program in time for Women's History Month, making appearances at libraries throughout the county.

14. LWVOC leaders were frequent contributors to the Orlando Sentinel's opinion pages with My Words written by co-presidents **Ann Hellmuth**, **Charley Williams** and **Anne Geiger** and board members **Nancy Rudner** and **Adrienne Katz Katz**. Topics ranged from fair districts to celebration of the 19th amendment, a mid-term report on the Legislature and education issues.

15. Board member **Kaia Forget** spearheaded the LWVOC's participation in the League of Women Voters High School Registration Project, sending volunteers to high schools to work alongside officials from the Orange County Elections Office.

16. Co-chairs **Nancy Peed** and **Kaia Forget** launched the LWVOC Public Education Committee to focus on the ongoing funding crisis facing our public schools.

17. League members helped 9th Circuit Court Judge **Bob LeBlanc** with his Pathways in Law program, which provides outreach to more than 100 local students.

18. Earlier this month, the Transportation Committee headed by **Lynn Eberly** gave a presentation on "Building Community Consensus" to Metroplan's Dedicated Funding Task Force.

19. LWVOC Social Policy Committee, co-chaired by **Marc Lovett** and **Karen Willis**, completed its first year of study on the need for an Orange County Children's Services Council.

20. LWVOC member **Gregory Hess** of Merrill Lynch stepped forward to sponsor our 2010 Hot Topics luncheons.