Welcome to our Winter Newsletter! The elections staff and I have been very busy. People often wonder what we do when it is not an election year! I can assure you we stay busy in preparation for the next election. There are new laws passed that require us to change procedures, election worker training and administration of elections.

While we do not have the crazy busyness of the election year, we do have to make our plan and be able to work that plan when the election season comes. This newsletter will provide you with a glimpse of what we have been working on. The off year is when we purchase new equipment, which you’ll read about in this newsletter, we continue our voter outreach programs and take advantage of training for the staff. Election workers have to be contacted to find out if they will be available for the 2014 cycle and arrangements made to fill vacancies.

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and gain some information you feel is helpful. If you have any questions, please give us a call or stop by our office for a visit. We are always happy to answer any questions.

Susan Gill
Electronic poll books are coming to Citrus County’s early vote sites! We would like to introduce our newest addition . . . the EViD. EViD stands for Electronic Voter Identification and is an “electronic poll book.” It is intended to make voter check-in easier and quicker. The voter's driver's license is swiped through the slot, just as with the debit machines in grocery or drug stores. The driver's license number, name and birth date is matched to our database, which will then display the voter's record. No other information from the driver’s license is displayed or available to us, only voter record information. The voter will sign the signature pad and receive a ballot. If a voter does not have their driver's license, the poll worker will still be able to manually find the voter's information. The EViD electronic poll books are also planned for the polling places in the future.

We will have EViD electronic poll books set up in our office and we invite you to call Eileen Ronk (341-6744) to come in to give them a test run. We’re sure you will be as excited as we are about our new addition!
Over the last few months, the County staff has been participating in a Health and Wellness Walking Challenge. Different County departments entered their teams to see who could walk the most steps. The SOE office team, “Step It Up” came in third. The bottom line is that we all won because the walking made us more healthy and kept us moving. As they say, “Sitting is the new smoking!” So, come on everyone . . . start walking!

Welcome Back, League of Women Voters

Twelve years ago, the League of Women Voters disbanded, which left a large void in our county. Susan Moore, League co-president, stated, “We’ve been meeting since January gathering interest, and now we’re up to about 30 members.” The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. They are a registered third-party voter registration organization, which means they are registered with the State of Florida to collect and submit voter registrations.

The League of Women Voters of Citrus County meets every second Tuesday of the month, at the Central Ridge Library in Beverly Hills. For more information, contact lwvcc2013@gmail.com or call the elections office at 341-6740.
Maintenance on the Voter Rolls

With the 2012 election cycle completed, a lot of people think that the elections staff have nothing to do. Well, let's just burst that little bubble! During an "off election" year, we perform what is called List Maintenance, which is cleaning of the voter rolls. We send verification cards to all voters who have not voted in the last two general elections, to see if they are still living in Citrus County. We initially mailed over 15,000 cards. This process, which is mandated by Florida statute, allows us to keep the rolls as clean as possible and up-to-date.

If you plan to change your name or address in the near future, please don't forget to notify the Elections Office. This will give you a faster check-in, when you visit the polls in 2014 and assure that you are voting in the correct precinct, as required by Statute.

Moving?

Don't forget to add the Elections Office to your list of people to notify.

High School Students Register

As part of our voter outreach program, we go into the schools in the Fall and Spring to educate the students about the election process and the importance of voting. Students who are 18 years old were able to register and those who were 16 and 17 pre-registered. Here are the totals of students from the area schools who registered:

- Academy of Environmental Science - 9
- Citrus High School - 72
- Lecanto High School - 76
- Crystal River High School - 24

Elections Office Offers Speakers

If your club or organization would like information about election laws, becoming a candidate, serving as a poll worker or just general information, call the elections office and we will be more than happy to schedule a speaker. The more you know about your elections process, the easier your experience will be on Election Day.

Call Elizabeth at 341-6751
Susan Gill, (top), Patrick Thomas (bottom left) and Tim Gunsteens (bottom right) took time out of their busy schedules to read to the students at Pleasant Grove Elementary School in Inverness, as part of a United Way program. It’s great to know that we are helping to mold our future leaders.
We would like to wish each and everyone of you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

**FUN FACTS . . .**

- 111,111,111 x 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321.
- The term “whole 9 yards” came from WW II fighter pilots in the South Pacific. When arming their planes on the ground, the .50 caliber machine gun ammo belts measured exactly 27 feet. If the pilots fired all their ammo at a target, it got the “whole 9 yards!”
- Months that begin on Sunday, will always have a “Friday, the 13th”.
- Honey is the only food that doesn’t spoil.
- Ketchup was sold in the 1830’s as medicine.
- Coca-Cola was originally green.