



# Poll Worker News

## MEET YOUR ELECTION TEAM: *The Outreach and Education Department*



Judy Walker

Our Outreach and Education staff is led by Judy Walker, who has been a member of Polk County's Election Team for more than 15 years. Judy and her staff may well have the most diverse responsibilities of our team. They stay hard at work year-round developing community partnerships, providing voter education services, promoting and increasing voter awareness, and taking

election services on the road. Through their efforts, citizens stay informed of the latest voting information, and have the opportunity to register to vote or update their voter record at numerous events and locations throughout the county. Judy and her staff also assist with poll worker recruitment and training, offer tours of Election Headquarters to schools, scout groups, and other interested parties, and assist other departments when needed.

Judy is assisted by Ashley Hjort, who was recently promoted to Assistant Outreach Services Coordinator. Ashley, who joined the team in 2000, is responsible for coordination



Ashley Hjort

of community outreach

projects, educational programs for students, and voter registration drives. Ashley is a skilled trainer, and is a member of our website committee, which works hard to keep our website fresh and informative.



Sue Kilcrease

Sue Kilcrease, our Education Specialist, is responsible for promoting and increasing voter awareness, and assisting with voter registration drives and voter education programs in schools. She's also responsible for keeping registration forms and other information stocked at libraries, banks, and other locations throughout the county, and is our award-winning parade specialist. Sue has also been a member of our Election Team since 2000.

The newest member of the team is Lori Springer, who's primary responsibility is preparing for and implementing our Early Voting program, which is new this year. Voters will have the opportunity to cast their ballot at one of seven locations across the county in the two weeks prior to each election. Lori's responsibilities include recruiting and training about 60 individuals to staff the early voting sites, and preparing, providing, and maintaining all of the supplies and equipment needed to operate each site. Lori joined our team in July 2004.



Lori Springer

## HELP WANTED

Have a relative, friend or neighbor who would make a great poll worker? Encourage them to attend one of the following new poll worker orientation sessions:

**Poinciana**—Tues, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 10:00<sup>am</sup>  
Poinciana Community Center  
395 Marigold Ave

**Davenport**—Tues, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 <sup>am</sup>  
Davenport Community Hall  
5 Allapaha Ave

**Lakeland**—Thurs, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 5:30 <sup>pm</sup>  
Lake Mirror Center  
121 S Lake Ave

**Bartow**—Mon, June 5<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 <sup>am</sup>  
Bartow Civic Center  
2250 S Floral Ave

For reservations call 534-5858

Don't see a date that works? Call to be placed on the list to be notified of the next sessions.

## News Notes

**HABLA ESPANOL? SPRECHEN SIE DEUTSCH?** If you are fluent in another language, your skills may be needed at the polls. Call us at 534-5858 or e-mail [pollworker@polkelections.com](mailto:pollworker@polkelections.com) and let us know which language you speak!

**PREFERENCES . . .** If you haven't returned your poll worker preference post card, please do so— we'll be finalizing our work lists soon!

**LABOR DAY . . .** Precinct Clerks and Runners take note: This year, Labor Day falls on the day before the Primary Election. Please be sure to include supply pickup on Friday or

Saturday in your Labor Day weekend plans. Appointment information will be distributed in late June.

**SHARING EXPERIENCES . . . Bob Menn** remembers serving at a polling place at a golf course in the 50's when folks seemed more interested in playing golf than voting! **Juan Garcia** shared that while working at the polls, he met Charles Canady, and one of the ladies running for City Commission, and thought that was very neat! We do too! Keep those stories coming!

**HOME AGAIN . . . Terry Hobbs** has rejoined the team, this time as Voting Equipment Coordinator. Welcome back!

**LORI EDWARDS**

Polk County Supervisor of Elections

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## New Precincts Announced

Polk County's population growth is catching up with us! With more than 300,000 registered voters, it was time to add some additional precincts to cut down on long lines and offer poll workers a more reasonable pace.

On May 10th, the Polk County Board of County Commissioners agreed to the addition of five new precincts in Polk County. Additionally, we have consolidated two precincts into one. As a result, for the 2006 Primary and General Elections there will be 165 precincts.

The new precincts are being added in the areas of the county which have grown the fastest during the past five years: North Lakeland, South Lakeland, Davenport, Poinciana, and Haines City.



### Jennifer Wisnesky 1981 - 2006

It is with great sadness that we announce that a cherished member of our staff, Jennifer Wisnesky, was lost to us following an auto accident on May 9, 2006. Jennifer served as an Absentee Ballot Specialist since April 2000. Her professionalism, friendship, and joyful spirit will be missed by all who knew her.

## NOW HIRING



As we announced last issue, the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), requires that every polling place be equipped with at least one piece of voting equipment that can be used by a visually impaired voter to cast their ballot without assistance.

The equipment is designed to serve not only voters with visual impairments, but also those who have difficulty reading. The equipment is easy to use, and offers touch screen, audio, and keypad controls.

Our new equipment has just arrived, and we will soon begin assigning an "Audio Ballot Inspector" for each polling location.

The ideal Audio Ballot Inspector will be comfortable working with individuals with disabilities, as well as electronic/computer equipment, and be able to easily and safely lift at least 30 lbs. Basic math skills and good attention to detail are also required.

If you're interested in learning more, e-mail us at [pollworker@polkelections.com](mailto:pollworker@polkelections.com), or call us at 534-5858.

