

*Letter from the President*  
**February 2023**



Dear League,

Happy February! Happy Black History month! I'm looking forward to this month as we celebrate and educate ourselves on Black history -- which is American History!

I am so proud to be a part of this organization that stands up against racism. I urge you to take action below and urge Florida to accept AP African American Studies. We are powerful. We have voices. We have you! Let's celebrate this month.

I am also so proud of our committed members **Robin Davidov, Greg Davidson, Laura Crabtree, and Maryellen Gordon** who spearheaded a study and well-received workshop on the Gas Plant Redevelopment Project with our community partners. The study was rooted in equity and sustainability that resulted in guidance inquiries that were sent to St. Petersburg Mayor Ken Welch for consideration. Thank you!

Wow! The League of Women Voters US is celebrating our anniversary February 14. For 103 years the League of Women voters have been empowering voters and defending democracy. Our work continues to be important and integral to building our democracy.

This month we will be hosting two candidate forums, participate in the Collard Greens Festival, celebrate Black History Month with our community partners and learning more about The Right to Clean Water.

I'm also looking forward to seeing you at our Program Planning meeting February 11 at the Boyd Hill Nature Center where we will hear about and vote on proposed action teams for 2023-24. Team leads are welcome to send me their packets for programs by January 31. Please send them to [president@lwvspa.org](mailto:president@lwvspa.org). See you soon!

In League power,  
Gretchen Johnson



**Your Action is Needed Now:**  
**Urge Florida to accept AP African American Studies!**

***Black History is American History!***

Days before Black History month is set to begin, the DeSantis Administration sent a letter to the College Board refusing to allow an Advanced Placement (AP) African American Studies course from being offered in the state of Florida. In the letter, it was said that the AP African

American Studies course is “inexplicably contrary to Florida law and significantly lacks educational value”.

Not only is this false but the racial bias and disregard for the lived experiences and contributions of Black Americans is appalling. Presently the state of Florida offers AP courses in European History, AP Japanese Language & Culture, as well as AP German Language and Culture, yet the course on AP African American studies is rejected.

Learn more about this developing situation by [clicking here](#).

Today, we are asking that League members and friends to sign on and demand that Gov. Ron DeSantis and his administration reverse this decision and allow students to have the option to enroll and gain a deeper understanding of the African American experience.

Take Action Now!



## Everyone Needs and Deserves Clean Water!

Join us for a Hot Topic:  
The Right to Clean Water

**Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2023**

**Time: 5:30pm to 6:30pm**

Presenter: Joe Bonasia,  
Chair & SWFL Regional Director  
Florida Rights of Nature Network

Venue: ZOOM

[Click here for additional information](#)

## SUSTAINABILITY TEAM IN ACTION



January 13th James B. Sanderlin Center received assistance from Metropolitan Ministries and Tito's Vodka, who sponsored the event, for help with the on-site vegetable garden and League rain garden.

The Sustainability Team coordinated the effort at the rain garden with over 30 volunteers. They excavated grass and weeds and planted \$600 worth of plants, including 3 trees. What the volunteers did in 4 hours would have taken the Sustainability Team months to accomplish.



We are so grateful to Tito's and Metropolitan Ministries. **Our next event at the garden will be on**

**Earth Day April 22nd, 2023.**

We'll send out details soon. Hope you can join us!

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS



**Welcome Bernard Jay Dickson-Nadeau, born Christmas Eve!**

Susan, we miss you! Congratulations to you and your family. There is plenty of room for Bernie in our membership -- gotta start them young!



## LWVSPA All-Member Meeting

**Saturday, February 11  
10-Noon**

*Boyd Hill Nature Center Classroom,  
1101 Country Club Way S 33705*

Plan to attend this important meeting when members select the projects we'll focus on for the upcoming year. Team leaders will present their proposed team project in a science fair format. You'll have an opportunity to ask questions and join a team that matches your interests. New members, this is a great way to get your feet wet. Long-time members, a time to reconnect!

***Boyd Hill Tram Tours available immediately after meeting. Limited seating and available only to LWVSPA members attending the All-Member Meeting.***

**REGISTER  
TODAY!**



**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'  
OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA

**South Pasadena Commissioner Forum**

Thursday, February 2, 2023

6:30-8:00 p.m.  
City Hall  
7047 Sunset Drive South  
South Pasadena

**St. Pete Beach Mayor Forum**

Monday, February 6, 2023  
6:30-7:30 p.m.  
City Hall  
155 Corey Avenue  
St. Pete Beach

Robin Davidov rbdavidov@gmail.com



We're required to review the LWVSPA By-Laws each year. Recommended By-Laws revisions come before membership for a vote at our annual meeting on April 29th. The By-Laws Committee needs your comments and suggestions for changes; we're striving for clarity and lack of ambiguity.

Here's a [link](#) to the current By-Laws approved in 2022. Please review and send your recommendations to a member of the committee no later than Sunday, February 12, 2023.

**By-Laws Committee:**

Sharon Winters, [swinters3455@gmail.com](mailto:swinters3455@gmail.com)

June Bedford, [jeb9767@gmail.com](mailto:jeb9767@gmail.com)

Susie Paterson, [susie@collaboratorsconsultinggroup.com](mailto:susie@collaboratorsconsultinggroup.com)

*Thank you for responding by February 12, 2023.*

## FEBRUARY EVENTS

**Thursday, February 2** from 7-8 p.m. Author James Abraham will discuss Black voter suppression in Florida. Boyd Hill Hammock Hall, 3010 31st St S, St. Petersburg, FL 33712. [More information.](#)

**Saturday, February 18** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m- Tampa Bay Collard Green Festival will be held at the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum, and on the surrounding streets. LWVSPA will have a table to register voters. [More Information.](#)

**Saturday, February 25** at 6 p.m. ASALH Celebration and Dinner. Valerie Scoon (Cecile's daughter!) as keynote speaker. ASALH is the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. Please contact Stacey Kroto [enhancedvibes@gmail.com](mailto:enhancedvibes@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. If there is enough interest, league members may want to reserve a table. [Click Here for](#)



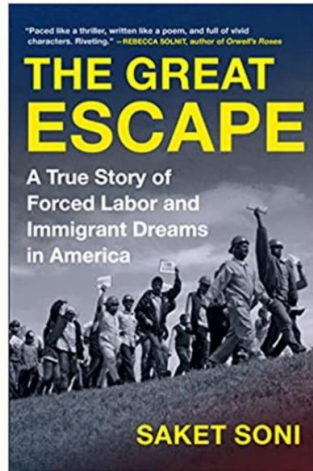
[more information.](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Lobby days in Tallahassee

March 7th and 8th

**Registration is now open!**  
**[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY.](#)**



**The Leif Nissen  
Social Justice Lecture Series  
at Temple Beth-El, St Pete  
presents Author Saket Soni  
Sunday, March 19 @ 4:30 PM  
Cosponsor: USF St Pete  
Other cosponsors to follow**

The Leif Nissen Social Justice Lecture Series is sponsored by Karen Lieberman and Bruce Nissen to honor their son Leif (May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1980 – November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008) of blessed memory. Leif was dedicated to social justice issues and his family is choosing to honor him through these lectures.

### Annual Meeting

April 29 from 10 a.m. to Noon

Boca Ciega Ballroom, St Pete Beach Community Center

Brunch will be served. This is an important meeting when we vote on programs, by-laws and new board.

### LWVFL Convention in Orlando

June 2-4th

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

- [February Calendar of Events/Meetings](#)
- [Meet our Board](#)
- [Explore Issues](#)
- [Check Out our Blog Archives](#)
- [Engage!](#)



League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area

[Email](#) | [Website](#)

Telephone: 727-295-5255



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

LWVSPA | P.O. Box 11775, St. Petersburg, FL 33733

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