

**October 2023**



**Message from Nominating Committee Chair Beate Marston**



***Thoughts on getting involved***

Making the decision to join the League often feels like quite a big step, but gives you the feeling of at least doing “something” during a time when so much feels just overwhelming.

Speaking for myself, soon after joining, I remember feeling as though I just didn’t know “enough” to contribute meaningfully. Now as the Chair of the Nominating Committee, I hear that sentiment from a number of our members when

we have a conversation about considering the possibility of joining our board in the near, or far future. Although we cannot truly quantify what “enough” is when it comes to “knowing” anything, and we (hopefully) will never stop learning new things, I believe that at times access to information can be a big obstacle. In the League, working with others with more knowledge than I had, gave me the opportunity to learn and grow.

I will continue to encourage our members to see themselves as leaders, to see themselves as members of the board, and to realize that “not knowing enough” is exactly the reason to take the leap into a leadership position. Educating yourself provides you with the necessary tools to help educate others about why voting and understanding how the government works is crucial to continuing as a democracy.

In the meantime: if you want to know a little more about what is happening in our local government and how it works; or if you ever thought, hey, I could do that job, below are some helpful links to the City of St. Petersburg website that might get you started on your quest to know more. Although these links are St. Pete-specific, every municipality has a website that should contain similar information.

**[City meeting calendar and recorded meetings](#)**

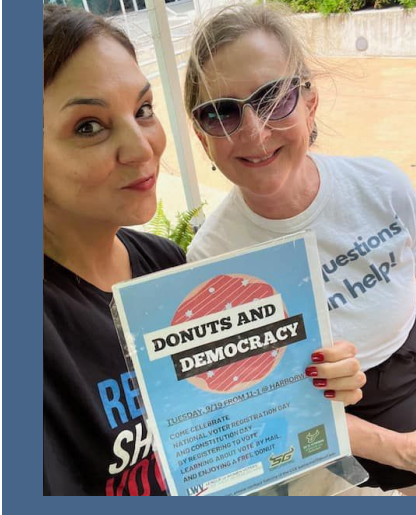
**[Boards and Commissions](#)**. Note: Vacancies. Interested in applying?

**[Council Agenda](#)**. Is there an issue that inspires you?

**VOTER SERVICES IN ACTION**

**National Voter Registration Day**

Eleven Voter Registration Team



volunteers were on seven college campuses for National Voter Registration Day, September 19, 2023.

They handed out 174 stickers with QR codes that go to official voter registration and vote-by-mail sign-up forms. Many thanks to Heidi Davis and teams at six SPC campuses, including: Vicki & Carolyn, Rebecca Lyons & Kris McTaggart, Michelle & Peter Emerson, Linda Metzgow from North County League. USF Campus, Ruth Barrens & Ali Shulman



### **LWVFL Returning Citizens Postcard Mailings Project**

On September 17th eleven members of the Historic Bethel AME's Justice Ministry, led by Mildred Reed, and LWVSPA Pat Lucas and Maryellen Gordon wrote postcards to returning citizens as part of the league's continuing postcard campaign. One hundred and thirty cards were written and mailed. LWVFL's goal is to mail 100,000 cards by November. Statewide, 80,000 have been sent to date.



***If you want to join the Voter Services Team, please email the [office@lwwspa.org](mailto:office@lwwspa.org) and your message will be forwarded to one of the Voter Services co-chairs.***

**SUSTAINABILITY TEAM IN ACTION**



**OUR WILD RAIN GARDEN  
NOTES FROM THE  
SUSTAINABILITY TEAM**

***JOIN US IN SUPPORTING A  
GREATER ABUNDANCE AND  
DIVERSITY OF WILDLIFE BY  
ADDING THESE PLANTS TO YOUR  
LANDSCAPE***



The evergreen shrub Wild Coffee and the low growing groundcover Blue Porterweed are two species we're spotlighting this month.

Both are practically indestructible, which is great for us horticulturally challenged folks. In fact, one great benefit of planting natives in your yard is that no matter what you do you can't kill them, and many multiply like rabbits. The links will take you to the Florida Wildflower Foundation. Learn interesting facts about these plants as well as how to successfully grow them.

Many species in our garden are flourishing this season (do we have seasons in Florida?), so if you're interested in a visual treat stop by the garden at Sanderlin. You can watch the Dune Sunflower grow - literally while you're standing there!



**LINKS:**  
**WILD COFFEE**  
**BLUE PORTERWEED**

***ONE is enough to do something!***



*I am only one, but still, I am one.  
I cannot do everything, but I can do something.  
And because I cannot do everything,  
I will not refuse to do the something that I can do.*

Edward Everett Hale

Don't let the fact that you are not signed up to volunteer for a specific LWVSPA Action Team keep you from taking an **individual action** to support and defend democracy.

**Here are some**

**individual acts you can take:**

**Find out who is on your city council** and take a peek at the meeting agendas, especially the consent portion. If there is an issue you care about, speak up! As St. Petersburg City Council Vice-Chair **Deborah Figgs-Sanders** reminded us at the September All-Members Meeting, we must keep our elected officials accountable. **Voters have power!**

- **Attend your county's school board meetings.** Pinellas County School Board virtual [meetings are online](#)
- 
- **Read a banned book.** Here is the [Southern Poverty Law Center's list](#) of books banned in Florida schools
- 
- **Get a free compost bin from the city of St. Pete!** An amazing 30% of what we throw away could be composted. [Learn More](#)

## MEMBER EVENTS

MIX, MINGLE, & MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

# COCKTAILS & CONVERSATION

**Here is your chance to catch up, and mingle with new, and seasoned members of our league.  
Prospective members are welcome!**

**Thursday, October 19th**

**6:00 - 8:00 PM**

**St. Pete Shuffleboard Club  
559 Mirror Lake Dr. N.**

Come join us! A Shuffleboard Club staff member will be available to give us some pointers and show us how Shuffleboard is played. Light bites and non-alcoholic beverages will be provided, BYOB



**REGISTER**



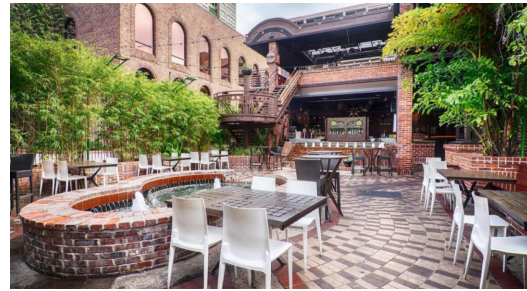
**Thursday, November 16th**

**5:00- 8:00 p.m.**

**Red Mesa Cantina  
128 3rd Street South**

Please register so we can give the restaurant an accurate headcount.

*128 3rd St S*



**REGISTER**



**All-Member General Meeting**

**Tuesday October 24th**

**6:00-7:30 PM**

**Allendale UMC**

**3803 Haines Rd. N.**

*Get updates on upcoming issues, elections and League projects and an opportunity for two-way communication with League and Action Group*

REGISTER

## DONORS ROCK!



### LWVSPA DONATIONS

#### May, June, July, and September 2023

Barbara A. Baccari  
Amber Barnett  
Ingrid Bredenberg  
Calli Burnett  
Susan Castleman  
Rebecca Falkenberry  
Pamm Ferguson  
Celia Fite

Judy Gallizzi  
Michael Jalazo  
Nicole Jones  
Julie Kessel  
Nathan Koretz  
Margaret Kowski  
Patricia Lucas  
Rebecca Lyons

Beverley McLain  
Sarah Peacock  
Barbara Pierce  
Brittany Seidman  
Joan Thurmond  
Laura Turley  
Lydia Walter  
Cindy Wilson

### Gold or Silver Level Memberships

#### May, June, July and September 2023

Evelyn Baran  
Cynthia Barasz  
Susan B. Betzer  
Gina Burchenal  
Deborah Burke  
Gregory Carlin  
Nita Carroll  
Maureen Dobiesz  
Helen Huntley  
Valerie Hyman  
Amy Keith  
Karen Lieberman  
Patricia Lucas

Rebecca Lyons  
Shelley Manes  
Judith Owen  
Alison Quinn  
Dana Robertson  
Jaimie Ross  
Janene Silver  
Susan Tuite  
Sara Wallace  
Sharon Winters

## LWV BOARD OPPORTUNITY

Dear League Members,

- Are you a newer League member eager to bring fresh energy to LWV? ***We need your voice!***
- Are you a veteran volunteer with valuable wisdom to inform our transformation? ***We need your voice!***
- Are you a member of color who envisions a League that looks more like you? ***We need your voice!***
- Are you a young member with ideas for building the League's future? ***We need your voice!***

We are building the leadership for our next two years of League, and we need YOU! Please apply to become part of the 2024 – 2026 LWVUS Board or Nominating Committee. [LEARN MORE](#)

**[APPLY TO THE LWVUS BOARD & NOMINATING COMMITTEE](#)**

Applications are due by **October 27, 2023.**

## SHOP FOR DEMOCRACY!



## T-SHIRTS, TOTES, MUGS AND MORE!

Yes, there is defending democracy "merch" available at the new LWVSPA online store. [Check it out!](#)



- [October Calendar of Events/Meetings](#)
- [Explore Issues](#)
- [Check Out our Blog Archives](#)
- [Engage!](#)
- [LWVSPA Store](#)

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.

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