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LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA

VOTER

April 2014



Join the
Winning Team!

**WE COUNT ON YOUR
SUPPORT**

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- ***Individual Membership:** \$52
- ***Each Additional Household
Membership:** \$26
- ***Student Individual
Membership:** \$26

Join via [Pay Pal](#)--OR--
Mail your dues check to:
LWVSPA
PO Box 11775
St. Petersburg, FL 33733

**Dues do not cover local
League expenses, so an
[additional contribution](#) will
be gratefully accepted!**



Please join us in welcoming the
following new members to the
LWVSPA:

Richard Blommaert
Kali Gillespie
Jan Salsich
Nancy Stein
William Tammelleo
Eleanor Wirth

President's Letter

Dear League Members and Supporters,

It has been an honor to serve as your
President for the past 15 months. I
continue to be deeply moved by your
ongoing commitment to educate and
engage voters.

As we wind down this League year we
have a lot to celebrate:



Karen Coale, President

- * We end the year with 143 members.
- * Curbside recycling IS coming to Pete! The People's Trash Coalition gained a unanimous City Council vote in February while 62 supporters packed City Council Chambers.
- * We facilitated 11 candidate forums attended by more than 700 constituents and registered 100 voters, during which 25 League members volunteered their time.
- * Our first web-based Voter Guide covered all 10 candidates in the November election.
- * Through our local Library Study, we updated our knowledge of the needs facing St. Pete's libraries and now have current information upon which to advocate.
- * By participating in the LWVF Charter School Study's consensus meeting, we increased our understanding of the issues on this very political topic and can now knowledgeably participate in LWVF Action Alerts during this legislative session.
- * Our communications--web, e-blasts, and the VOTER, which support all of our work--continue to evolve. Susan Mayer, our VOTER Editor and e-blast guru, will be a member of the media best practices panel during the upcoming State Council. Our webmaster, Ruth McCullough has worked tirelessly to make the LWVSPA website a source of pride.
- * Ayele Hunt and I will provide a workshop about our local Library Study at the LWVF meeting.

In the Community

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL WOMEN/ST. PETERSBURG-PINELLAS annually marks the day when women's salaries in the United States catch up with the salaries paid to men during the previous calendar year.

This year BPW/St. Pete Pinellas will once again observe that day with

"Unhappy Hour"
Tuesday, April 8, 2014
5:30 to 7:30 PM
Morean Arts Center
719 Central Avenue
St. Petersburg

Everyone's invited. No reservations needed. Food and drinks will be available through a cash bar.

In case you need help with the math, it takes women over 15 months to equal the salaries earned by men in 12. Now that's something to make one want to spend an "Unhappy Hour!"

For information, contact [Kristin Smith](#), 727.421.5225.

*LWVSPA is one of three finalists for League "Chapter of the Year" in Florida!

Six LWVSPA members will attend the LWVF Legislative Summit and State Council on April 7-9, 2014, in Tallahassee. In addition to Ayele, Susan, and me, Dave Coale, Raechel Garafalo, and Jim Jackson will attend. We plan to share our experiences from the conference with the membership at a meeting in May. Stay tuned for information about the meeting.

Looking ahead, I am excited about next year's proposed Program and the proposed slate of leaders. You are in great hands. I encourage you to become engaged. We are a winning team, and we have a lot of fun advocating for our positions and educating voters.

I thank each of you for your continued support for the work of the League,

Karen

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

Like to take photos? We're looking for members interested in photographing League meetings and activities. You would be part of a pool of people we can call on to help us document and share what we do. If interested, please email [Susan Mayer](#) or call our office (leave a message if no answer).

Annual Meeting and Fundraiser Luncheon



The big day is fast approaching! We will have our Annual Business Meeting and Fundraiser Luncheon on Saturday, April 26th, at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club.

Check-in begins at 10:00 AM, with the Annual Business Meeting beginning promptly at 10:30 AM in the Harbor Room. In preparation for the meeting, you have received the proposed budget, bylaws changes, program description, and slate of officers, board members, and nominating committee. [Please review this information before the meeting so you can make informed votes.](#)

Following our business meeting, we will move to the Waterfront Room for our noon luncheon. The keynote speaker is Patricia Schroeder, U.S. House of Representatives, 1973-1997. We encourage you to invite your friends and family to the luncheon to hear the very accomplished Ms Schroeder. For more information and to register:



If you are planning to attend the **business meeting only**, please [click here](#) or call our office at 727.896.5197 so that we can plan seating arrangements.

Gone, But Not Very Far...



In addition to our president, Karen Coale, 2nd Vice President Sydni Shollenberger is leaving her position on our Board of Directors. We're not going to let her get too far away, because her expertise and contributions in the area of public relations and organizational development have been invaluable. Don't change your phone number, Sydni!



Member Service Chair Nancy Tait is also leaving her position on the Board of Directors. Her knowledge of League history has been invaluable, and under her leadership, our Member Service Committee has grown in scope by developing a new member mentoring program and a new member orientation training. Like we say, don't change your phone number, Nancy!

Voter Service

We're on Track for Election Season Fall 2014! Want to Hop Aboard?

by [Rachael Garafalo](#), Voter Service Chair

Thanks to LWVSPA members Pat Wood, Diane Lohr, Karen Knop, Amanda Patanow, Lisa Meyers, Jim Jackson, Dave & Tina Spangler, and Karen Coale for their participation in the 2014 Voter Service Planning Session at which we assessed our goals and how best to achieve them in preparation for fall elections. The discussion centered around three initiatives: candidate forum training, targeted voter registration, and the production and distribution of voter guides.



During the meeting we acquired working group leaders for each of these initiatives who, with the help of other League volunteers, will work to carry out action plans. We also established a few of our next steps.

Amanda Patanow and I will coordinate our efforts to plan and facilitate a candidate forum training workshop, with a focus on moderator training, tentatively scheduled for June 14th. Next step: identify and recruit new moderator candidates.

Karen Knop, assisted by Diane Lohr, will take the reins to develop a plan for targeted voter registration. This includes identifying target rich venues and events at which to register voters and utilizing our resources effectively. Next steps: 1) meet with Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections, Deborah Clark, to learn how best to dovetail with her coverage and, 2) recruit and train volunteers to register voters.

Pat Wood and I will work with others in this group to produce the 2014 Voter Guide covering select county and statewide races as well as constitutional amendments and ballot issues like Greenlight

Pinellas. Next step: coordinate with the LWV of North Pinellas County to develop an action plan and attend a working group meeting set for May 1st.

There is much to do and something for everyone. If you or someone you know would be interested in becoming a League moderator or voter registrar--OR-- if you'd like to help with one or more of these initiatives, please contact me. Our success depends on volunteer participation, so join us and be a part of something big!

Immigration



Progress for In-State College Tuition Rights

by [Karen Coale](#), Immigration Committee Co-Chair

This week an in-state college tuition bill successfully passed its second review in the Florida Senate. My thanks to each of you who called or emailed members of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Your voice made a difference!

Next, this bill will go to the Senate Appropriations Committee before a floor vote. Undocumented students currently pay out-of-state tuition rate, which is four times as expensive as in-state tuition rates. This bill proposes that students who meet the following criteria are eligible to pay in-state tuition, regardless of their and their parents' immigration status:

- *Attend Florida high schools for at least four years
- *Graduate from a Florida high school
- *Begin their college education within 24 months of graduation

Check your email for LWVF issued Action Alerts and PLEASE take action when you receive them. Meanwhile a similar in-state tuition bill has passed the Florida House.

The next Immigration Committee meeting will be on April 19th from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Come join us and become informed on this complex issue.

LWVSPA Leadership

OFFICERS

Karen Coale, President
 Julie Kessel, First Vice President
 Sydni Shollenberger, Second Vice President
 Kathy Arsenault, Secretary
 Caroline Bloodworth, Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Raechel Garafalo
 Ayele Hunt
 Susan Mayer, VOTER editor
 Chitra Naidu
 Nancy Tait



Visit our [website](#) for current information about upcoming events.

Monday, April 7th, 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM
International Relations Group Meeting

[Pinellas Park Library](#)

7770 52nd Street North

Pinellas Park

Topic: China in Africa**Wednesday, April 16th, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM****Immigration Committee Meeting****[Email Karen Coale for location.](#)****Thursday, April 17th, 9:00 AM****Universal Curbside Recycling Planning Meeting**

LWVSPA Office

[233 3rd Street North](#)

St. Petersburg

Saturday, April 26th, 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM**Annual Meeting****[St. Petersburg Yacht Club](#)****Special Guest Speaker**

Pat Schroeder

U.S. House of Representatives, 1973-1997

Saturday, May 3rd to Friday, May 9th**"Sisters Across the Straits" Delegation Visit to Cuba**

For questions and registration info, please contact LWVF Office & Events Manager Heather

Hernandez at 850.224.2545 or **LWVFOffice@gmail.com**.**LWVSPA CONTACT INFORMATION**

For further information, questions, or concerns, please contact us at 727.896.5197.

League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area

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office@lwvspa.org**www.lwvspa.org**

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

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