



THE VOTER

April 2019

Sign Up for the Annual Meeting and Luncheon!



Join us Sunday, April 28, for our annual meeting followed by a Sunday brunch buffet from Noble Crust.

We'll hold our annual meeting to vote on the program and slate of officers for the 2019-2020 year and then we'll follow it with brunch and special guest speaker Brenda "Sue" Fulton. This year's meeting will be held at the Morean Center for Clay, located at 420 22nd St. S in St. Petersburg.

The annual meeting is free of charge and will begin promptly at 11 a.m. Guests are welcome to sit in, but only members can vote.

The brunch will start at 1 p.m. and is open to the public! Reservations and advance tickets are required to attend the brunch, and members of the general public are welcome to buy tickets as well.

In addition to the brunch and speaker, we'll also be holding a silent auction featuring wonderful artwork from local artists, and a drawing for goods and services offered by local businesses.

Tickets cost \$50 for members and \$55 for non-members if purchased before April 21. After April 21, the cost of tickets increases to \$55 for members and \$60 for non-members. You can [buy your tickets here](#). You can also sponsor a USF student to attend the brunch for \$45. The student will be selected by the LWVSPA board.

This year the special guest speaker is Brenda "Sue" Fulton, a 1980 West Point graduate and a member of the first class to admit women. Fulton was also instrumental in helping to overturn the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy and the ban on transgender members of the military. She currently works as the Chair and Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, making her the first openly gay member of a New Jersey state cabinet.

Fulton spoke at last year's [National Conference on Citizenship](#), where she received the 2018 HOOAH Award, given for distinguished post-military service. [You can see her full speech here.](#)

Local business owners: Show your support for the LWVSPA and all the work we do by sponsoring the annual meeting and brunch or donating goods and services! If you're interested, please contact board member & event organizer [Susan Mayer](#) for more information.

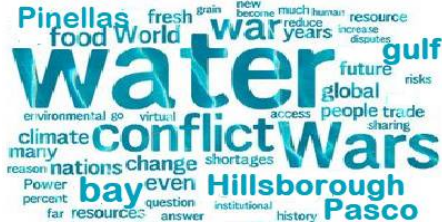


Action Alert: Speak Out Against Toilet-to-Tap!

Tampa Bay Water will be hearing the City of Tampa's project for potable water reuse, also known as toilet-to-tap, on Monday, April 15 at 9:30 a.m.

As currently proposed, this project fails to meet

any of our core requirements for a successful project that would benefit us, our children, our grandchildren, and the environment. We need you to help us fight it!



No peer-reviewed, evidence-based studies show injecting water into a limestone aquifer will somehow clean it. Instead, the native water will become polluted.

Here are four reasons why we oppose this project:

1. Risk to Tampa Bay Water interlocal agreement and a likelihood of renewed "water wars" in Tampa Bay.
2. Risk of permanent damage to public health, the environment, and the aquifer we all get our drinking water from. There are state-of-the-art advanced filtration systems that could make this project less risky. The City of Tampa is not proposing to use them.
3. No transparency, no accountability, no public buy-in process. Why not? What is the City of Tampa hiding?
4. Risk of what happens if the water table rises as sea level rises has not even been discussed. This omission by itself is a major threat. What other risks have the City of Tampa overlooked?

Because of these critical issues, the Tri-County Leagues - LWVSPA, LWVHC, and LWVNPC - have teamed up to fight this plan.

Here's how you can get involved:

1. Contact [Lisa Vanover](#) for more info.
2. Write a [Letter to the Editor](#) to the Tampa Bay Times and Creative Loafing explaining why you think the Tampa Bay Water Board must vote against this project.
3. Come to the meeting on Monday, April 15 at the Tampa Bay Water Administrative Offices, located at 2575 Enterprise Rd. in Clearwater. We need at least 10 Leaguers there! Show Up! Speak up as a community member! Wear Blue! Be there by 8:45 am to get a seat and on the list to speak.

The [Facebook event link](#) can be found here.

As in Native American culture, we must act in the best interests of the seven generations to come. This project would devastate their health, and thus it would destroy their future. Please take time today to make sure this project is defeated in its current form!



Are You Part of a Neighborhood Association or Community Group?

Preliminary results from the Civic Health Survey (our recent "Take the Poll" initiative) will be ready by mid-May, and **we're looking to ground-truth the findings with community groups and neighborhood associations during late-May and June.**

This community consultation process is a crucial piece for validating the survey findings and helping to make sure we've got the interpretation right.



If you are a member of a Neighborhood Association or a community group that would like to be part of this important process, please contact Amy Keith at EngageStPete@lwvspa.org --- Thank you!



Member Spotlight: April 2019

WHO? Kimberly Walker

WHAT is a favorite experience with the LWVSPA?

I really enjoy the speakers that educate members on specific issues. My favorite lecture was one about the shift in income from the working people in a company to the CEOs over the past century.

WHERE do you find inspiration within the LWVSPA?

There is so much misinformation out there. It's hard to sift through it all. I appreciate the League's commitment to really educate its members by presenting solid information with experts from all sides.

WHY did you join the LWVSPA?

I wanted to make a difference in my community with actions, not simply words or Facebook posts. It was especially appealing to me that the League was bipartisan because I sometimes lean right and other times left. I also like that it has a long history of making an impact in our country.

HOW are you involved with LWVSPA?

I've written a blog post for the league on Voter Identification Laws in Florida and hope to do more writing about voting issues. There are so many good committees and I'd like to get more involved with the Media and Publicity committee.

WHEN not with the LWVSPA?

My current obsessions include the "Honey Badger latte" at The Bikery, Malbecs at Happy Hour, live theater, working out at the Y, and staying at as many Airbnbs outside of St. Pete as my vacation time and my marriage will allow.



What's Happening Around LWVSPA?

Gun Safety

Contact Team Lead [Sharon Winters](#) for more information. To learn more about the issues and how to take action, visit lwvspa.org/gun-issues.

National Popular Vote

If you are interested in learning more or joining the local committee, please reach out to [Deb Mazzaferro](#) or [Marty Shapiro](#).

Immigration

This [blog post](#) has important information about the current state of immigration under the Trump Administration. If you'd like to get involved with the Immigration Action Team, email Team Lead [Karen Coale](#) for more information.

Sustainability

The team's next meeting will take place Thursday, April 18 at 6:45 p.m. at the Allendale United Methodist Church in Room 107. Email Co-chairs [Lisa Vanover](#), [Carol Marks](#) or [Jen Underhill](#) for more information.

Education

To find out more about how you can get involved with this action group, contact [Iris Yetter](#) or [Robin Jones](#).

Reproductive Justice

The team has been discussing strategies aimed at fighting this legislative session's slate of anti-choice legislation. The team's next meeting is Thursday, April 11 at 7 p.m. at the LWVSPA Office, 233 3rd St. N., St. Petersburg. Email Team Lead [Stacey Kroto](#) for more information about getting involved with this action group.

Election & Voter Protection

This action team focuses on advocating for voters by providing trained poll monitors outside of polling places on Election Day and working with the Supervisor of Elections to ensure no eligible voter is unable to cast their ballot. The team is just getting started, and its first meeting will be held Wednesday, May 15 at the LWVSPA office, located at 233 3rd St. N., St. Petersburg.

[Sign up here](#) to receive more information about this action group. You can also email Co-chairs [Caitlin Constantine](#) or [Stephanie Owens](#) for more information.

Membership Services

If you're interested in helping out with the Membership Committee, contact Chair [Kathi Garrity](#).

Media/Publicity

This committee meets monthly on the 1st Thursday @ 5:30 p.m. at the LWVSPA Office, 233 3rd St. N., St. Petersburg. Email Team Lead [Amy Weintraub](#) for more information.

Voter Service

The committee's next meeting is Tuesday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the LWVSPA Office, 233 3rd St. N., St. Petersburg. Email Team Lead [Raechel Garafalo](#) for more information.



Upcoming Events

April 15: Toilet-to-Tap Hearing

9 a.m.-12 p.m. @ Tampa Bay Water Administrative Offices, 2575 Enterprise Rd., Clearwater

[Facebook](#)

April 17: Cocktails & Conversation

6-8 p.m. @ The Avenue Eat + Drink, 330 1st Ave. S, St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)

April 28: LWVSPA Annual Meeting & Brunch

11 a.m.-3 p.m. @ Morean Center for Clay, 420 22nd St. S, St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)

May 6: International Relations Study Group: "Turkey: A Partner In Crisis"

2-3:30 p.m. @ Barbara S. Ponce Public Library, 7770 52nd St. N, Pinellas Park



For Other
Upcoming Events

Click here to visit our website for the latest updates on action group meetings and other events.



Membership: Are You Up for Renewal?

Join us. Renew your membership. We make a difference.

We need your support to continue our work in the community and at state and national levels. Whether you want to be an active member or a supporting member, your dues help advance the League's mission.

We invite you to [renew today!](#)

Renew / Join Now

We offer five levels of membership:

Carrie Chapman Catt (Gold) for \$250*

Susan B. Anthony (Silver) for \$125*

Household for \$78*

Individual for \$52

Student for \$26

*Includes two members residing at the same address.

Only \$7 of your basic membership goes to the support the activities of the local league; a large percentage of what you pay for an individual membership goes to support our state and national Leagues. By selecting the Gold or Silver membership level, most of your dues will help support the work of our local League.

You can also offer your financial support by upgrading your membership, offering an additional monthly, quarterly or annual donation, and encouraging others to do the same.

Please also consider including the League in your estate planning. Your gifts allow us to continue our education, advocacy and leadership programs to forward our mission in Making Democracy Work in the St. Petersburg area. If you would like to discuss an estate planning contribution or other gift, please [contact our office](#).

The following memberships are up for renewal during this 3-month span. We invite you to [renew today!](#)

April 2019

Janet Augenbraun
Evelyn Baran
Shannone Blanc Tivona
Loretta Calvin
Caitlin Coutant
Margaret Coyle
Theresa Darlington
Michael Drake
Sophie Elwyn
Trina Fard
Eric Farmer
Celia Fite
Teresa Francis
Emily Gutmann
Cathy Harrelson
Kris Hoagland

Daniel Hoekenga
Jennifer Koester
Kay Lahdenpera
Gabrielle Lambert
Quinn Lundquist
Donna McRae
Leah McRae
Deborah Rinehart
Trish Schranck
Martha Sifnas
Kyla Smith
Nanette Walker
Sally & William Wallace
Linda Whitley
Kelly Wright
Mary Ann Ziegler

March 2019

Safiyah Ameer
Brianna Auker
Wilfred Benitez-Aulet
Anne (Antoinette) Burnham
Laura Burns
Rebecca Clark
Dave Coale

Debbie Hill-Ray
Nancy Jacobson
Raymond Kervahn
Isabella Koeut-Futch
Renee Long
Madeline Lundquist
Sherri Lundquist

Karen Coale
Emma Conover
Antonette DeForest
Julize Diaz
Kathleen Duffy
Pamela Ferguson
Carol Fisher
Stephanie Flynn
Jeff Fox
Karen Frusher
Danielle Gaus
Cynthia Gill
Maryann Hamilton
Barbara Hammond
Renata Happle
Osiris Hernandez

Ekta Mangat
Sarah Anne Marraffino
Nicole McLaren
Mia McSheffrey
Sarah Miller
Mary Nunnenkamp
Rian Phelps
Ana Maria Quintero
Beth Settle
Julia Sharp
Melanie Sheehan
Loretta Siniff
Vicki & Chris Smaridge
Bridget Taylor
Kathleen Tobin
Betsy Wells

February 2019

Emily Bell
Mary Berglund
Caroline Bloodworth
Mary Beth Bosco
Susan Burr
Gregory Carlin
Meg Ebner
Mary Fahy & Roy Gardner
Linda Fife
Harry Harvey
Susan Hofstader
Robin Jones
Amy Kamradt
Amy Kedron
Robert Kerstein
Kate Lamb

Dwight Lawton
Bruce LeBaron & Kathi Grau
JoAnne Lehrfeld & Carrie Goldberg
Cynthia Lippert
Doris & Kaitlin Lovering
Mal Needle
Nancy Parker
Karen Raihill
Armana Rehman
Darden Rice
Carolyn Sinclair
Deborah Terhune
Jeffrey Villet
Livia Zien



2018-2019 League Leadership

OFFICERS

President: Julie Kessel
First Vice President: Linsey Grove
Second Vice President: Lisa Vanover
Secretary: Susan Mayer
Treasurer: Caroline Bloodworth

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Caitlin Constantine
Amanda Dodge
Raechel Garafalo
Stephanie Owens
Ken Wrede

[Visit our website](#) for more information about our local leaders.

[Click here](#) for more information about our education and advocacy groups.

EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY LEADS

Gun Safety: Sharon Winters
Immigration: Karen Coale
Health Care: Julie Kessel
Reproductive Rights: Stacey Kroto
Campaign Finance Reform/Social Justice: Julie Kessel, Karen Lieberman
Education: Iris Yetter, Robin Jones
Voter Service: Raechel Garafalo
Sustainability: Lisa Vanover, Carol Marks, Jen Underhill
National Popular Vote: Deb Mazzaferro, Marty Shapiro
International Relations: Judy McSwine
Media/Publicity Lead: Amy Weintraub
Office Administrator: Julia Sharp



League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area

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

Telephone: 727-896-5197



**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.**