

DECEMBER 2023 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



While many are winding down this time of year, your local league remains hard at work!

With the 2024 election season already upon us, we have sent out thousands of postcards letting returning citizens know that they *may be eligible to register to vote, and informing them of free legal resources that they can access to help them determine if they're eligible to register.*

In addition, as the deadline to collect petitions for the abortion ballot initiative nears, I am proud to report that we have collected the third most petitions statewide *of any organization.*

But we can't do this important work without you. **We must raise an additional \$6,000 to reach our fundraising goal this year and prepare for the challenges we face in the 2024 elections. I ask that you consider donating to us, your local league.** We retain only 34% of League membership fees, and that's just not enough to fund our League's projects with the greatest local impact.

Your generous gift will help us continue to empower our neighbors, friends, family members, co-workers, and all fellow St. Petersburg Area residents to vote with knowledge and assurance that their vote matters. To those of you who have already donated, thank you. We are grateful for your continued support of your local league!

Every dollar you give to our campaign stays right here in the St. Petersburg community!

As 2023 comes to a close, I want to take this moment to thank all of you, our members and supporters. Our members are a band of dedicated and hard-working grassroots volunteers. We work every day in our community, yet our work is meaningful statewide. We look forward to continuing the work in 2024. Cheers to another year of making democracy work.

In League,
Jackie Azis

[DONATE](#)



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It's the season
FOR GIVING



At this time of year, we are reminded more than ever of the overwhelming need there is in the world and of our helplessness to do much about it. Every worthy cause stirs our sense of social responsibility and our desire to make a difference in the world.

And yes, I too am about to ask for something from you – but hear me out: Not all valued contributions are measured in dollars alone nor is everyone who wants to make an impact in the position to contribute financially, so my appeal to you is not for money.

As an all-volunteer organization, we rely on our members' commitment to be as actively involved as possible. My "ask" will give you an opportunity to give throughout the year, and it is simple: Commit, right here and now, to actively seek out an activity - or several - and choose to sign up for one or some of those published in our weekly newsletters.

You are always needed, and you can always find ways to engage and connect by showing up for our general meetings, participating in our social events, signing up to watch our informational Zoom presentations.

Make a commitment to stay informed, stay engaged, stay invested in our common causes throughout the year and you will contribute meaningfully to our League, and you will feel great for making a difference.

Happy Holidays to everyone from the Nominating Committee!



REPRO RIGHTS TEAM IN ACTION COLLECTING PETITIONS



Janice and Shelly collecting petitions at the Times Reading Festival



Remi and Amanda collecting petitions at 30th Annual Dunedin Craft Festival



Stacey, Laura, Karen, Lindsay, and Michelle at Sanding Ovarations on Treasure Island.



Tori, Laura, Caroline & Amy at Mezzo Market in St. Pete



Denise and Jackie at Florida Craft Art Festival



Kris and Suzann at Shopapalooza in St. Pete




LUNCH & LEARN

Biweekly Webinars for League Members



Just in case you missed it. Repro Rights Team Leads Amy Weintraub and Stacey Kroto were the featured speakers for the LWVFL November 17th Lunch and Learn program. [Click Here](#) to see the recorded segment (S4-E22).

Learn how you can support the Floridians Protecting Freedom campaign to protect access to abortion as reproductive healthcare and defend the right to bodily autonomy. [Click Here](#) for more information.



SAVE THE DATE

LWVSPA Candidate Forum Training via Zoom Wednesday, December 13, 2023

4:00 – 5:00 pm (tentative subject to sign up sheet preferences)
St. Petersburg Location to be posted closer to the event

This is your opportunity to learn all the “tricks and traps” of candidate forum organization. Shadow Robin as she plans the February 2024 candidate forum for St. Pete Beach Commissioner (March 2024 election). No experience necessary. This is a team effort, so join us.

Please sign up on the voter services google sheet under the tab “Forum Training December 2023” with your name, email and best time to attend meetings. [Google Sheet](#)



Holiday Potluck Party
Sunday, December 17th
2:00 - 4:00 PM

Join us for an afternoon of fun and celebration at our annual Holiday Party for members and their partners.

RSVP



MIX, MINGLE, & MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

 **COCKTAILS &
CONVERSATION**



James Museum's "\$10 Tuesday"
Tuesday, January 23

\$10/person

Save the date!
Cash bar with live music, followed by gallery tours
(hopefully with docents from our LWVSPA)

League members will gather starting at 5 pm

More details coming!



DONOR THANKYOU



November Donations

Helen Dalzell
Mary Olson
Lindsay Polega
Ann Rascoe
Lyn Taylor
Deb West Weires

November Gold Memberships

Victoria Rexer
Martin Shapiro

WELCOME



Welcome Ava Elkins, AAMS®, Financial Advisor,
Investment Management Consultant Raymond
James & Associates

Ava will be managing the League of Women of
St. Petersburg Investment Account. Ava holds the
Series 7, Series 66 and insurance financial
licenses, along with the Accredited Asset
Management Specialists™ designation through
the College for Financial Planning.

***Look for Ava's financial tips in the VOTER
each month.***

*"Please visit raymondjames.com/avaelkins to
learn more about Ava."*

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HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR DEMOCRACY!



T-SHIRTS, TOTES, MUGS AND MORE!

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



- [**December 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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