



## THE VOTER

December 2017

### *Work on DREAM Act Advocacy Continues Join us!*



Federal Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrests of the undocumented have expanded dramatically – especially in Georgia and Texas, where local law enforcement has been deputized to perform these federal duties.

In addition, the Trump administration has announced its intention to deport Haitians who are legally in the U.S. under Temporary Protective Status (TPS). This

status was granted after severe hurricanes hit the country, and it allows Haitians to work the U.S. and send part of their wages home to their relatives.

Currently 50,000 people are covered by this status. What would be the cost to locate and return these people? What would be the economic impact -- both to Haiti's and to ours? What is the rationale for removing them?

The LWVSPA Immigration Action Group recently sent you an educational piece about DREAMERS, which was followed by a request to take action and contact both of our U.S. Senators and your Representative, demanding action. [Read more...](#)



### *The Handmaids Are Speaking Out*

Thanks to everyone who turned out last week for our LWVSPA Reproductive Rights Action Group's Handmaids Speak Out literary event – it was a smashing success!

Fourteen women shared their essays, poems, and stories inspired by Margaret Atwood's classic dystopian novel "The Handmaid's Tale" in front of a packed audience, many of whom dressed in the handmaids' iconic red capes and white bonnets.



We're also so grateful to **Keep St. Pete Lit** for partnering with us on this inspiring event, and to **Soft Water Studios** for allowing us the use of their beautiful space.



## *Bylaws: Do you have a proposed change?*

Members hoping for changes to the LWVSPA Bylaws must submit a written proposal no later than February 10, 2018, which is the required 10-week deadline before our April 21 Annual Meeting. Bylaws are always available for review **on our website**.



### *Help Wanted: Office Manager (paid)*

We are looking to hire a full-time office manager in our downtown St Pete location. If you - or another League member that you know - are interested and eligible, send a cover letter and a resume to: [office@lwvspa.org](mailto:office@lwvspa.org). Please view [job description and qualifications here](#).

### *Help Wanted: Photographer*

We are seeking a volunteer - someone with a good eye and a good camera - to take photos of League members in action for over the course of the next few months. Up-to-date, dynamic photos for the website, social media, and other League publications would add such value to our communications. For more information or to volunteer, please contact [Amy Weintraub](#).

### *Help Wanted: Board Members*

#### **LWVSPA Nominating Committee Seeking League Leaders**

***Interesting and interested people  
Doing interesting work and  
Having interesting dialog...***

Does this sound like a group that might interest you? Join the LWVSPA Board of Directors to be part of a concerned, committed, and fun group of people. You will be able to:

- Interact with other dynamic women and men
- Support good governance-a critical current issue
- Make things happen for the League and for St. Pete and the beach communities
- Help set the direction for LWVSPA
- Expand your commitment to the League
- Build your leadership skills
- Enhance your resume'
- Raise your visibility

Please do not be shy! If this is an opportunity you or someone you know may want to pursue, simply contact [Gina Rothlein](#), Nominating Committee Chair, to learn more.



### *Allendale UMC: Have you benefited from their space? Will you consider helping?*

Allendale United Methodist has time and again offered free space to our League for community events, such as the campaign finance event with Ben Cohen (of Ben & Jerry's') speaking on campaign finance reform, the town hall with St. Pete Chief of Police Holloway, and the Leif Nissen lecture with journalist Chip Berlet, as well as many smaller meetings, workshops, and events.

Allendale is a gem for St. Petersburg, never asking for anything in return for its generous use of space, flexibility and assistance with anything we need.

Now, however, Allendale is in need as they must replace their HVAC system. Please consider helping by donating any amount to [their online fundraising campaign](#). Let's show that we are all here to support one another during times of need. Thank you!



## Upcoming Events

### Dec 6: Democracy 101 ~ A Civic Action Primer (public forum)



What can citizens do to make a difference in the political world?

This fall, our League has partnered with the [Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions at St. Petersburg College](#) on free public workshops where participants discuss the basics of local

government structure, policy-making, and civic engagement. Join us for the final one in this series.

**12/6, 6pm @ SPC Midtown Campus  
1300 22nd Street South - St. Petersburg**

Click for more info or to  
Register

### Dec 9: The Solar Shepherd

Dive into solar energy with Alan Brand, The Solar Shepherd. Alan was such a hit at the recent LWVSPA Sustainability Summit! His approachable take on the intricacies of solar make it all the more accessible for us all.

**12/9, 2pm @ Cage Brewing  
2001 1st Ave S, St. Petersburg, FL 33712**

### Dec 10: League Holiday Party

Join fellow Leaguers as we celebrate the 2017 holiday season.

**12/10, 2pm-5pm**  
LWVSPA President Julie Kessel's home

[Click here to RSVP](#)



## Jan 8: South China Sea ~ International Relations Study Group

Discussion on the South China Sea led by June Bedford.

**1/8, 2pm @ Pinellas Park Library  
7770 52nd St N, Pinellas Park, FL 33781**

**1/17, 6pm @ Pia's Trattoria  
3054 Beach Blvd S, Gulfport, FL 33707**



# Save these Dates!

## Feb 13: The Impact of Gun Violence on our Children, Families and City: A Community Conversation

Gun violence has touched a broad cross section of our city and our country, and remains a persistent public safety issue. The LWVSPA Gun Safety Action Team believes we must "think globally and act locally."

We invite you to hear three local panelists - City Council Vice Chair Lisa Wheeler-Bowman, Rev. Manuel Sykes, and facilitator Ryan Mitchell - share their personal stories and professional insights, then join us in exploring how we can, as a community, be effective advocates.

This event is purposefully scheduled during the 2018 Florida legislative session and will be outcome- and action-oriented.

**2/13, 7-8:30 p.m. @ Allendale United Methodist Church Sanctuary  
3803 Haines Rd N, St. Pete, FL 33703**

Learn more about this issue by reading our [Gun Safety Action Guide](#) and watching our recent [community conversation](#) with St. Petersburg Police Chief Anthony Holloway.

## Feb 21: 2018-2019 Program Planning Meeting



# Important Yearly Event

## Mark Your Calendar!

Board leadership is on standby to help you develop an interest area for presentation at the meeting. Please reach out (**email the office**) to let us know where your interests lie; we can assist with the preparation of your proposal. The deadline for submission of program proposals is Wednesday, Feb. 14th.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21  
6 - 8 PM  
Friends Meeting House  
130 19th Ave SE, St.  
Petersburg, FL

### OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS

Plan to attend the annual LWVSPA February Program Planning meeting, wherein all proposed initiatives are discussed, support levels gaged, and like-minded people begin to form action groups.

At this meeting, the League's initiatives for the 2018-19 year are developed, for final approval by all members at the Annual Meeting to be held on April 21.

This slate of initiatives is our "Program" for the year.

#### Questions Every Proposal Should Cover:

- How does the topic align with a League position? (See our state and local Study and Action and Yearbook guides under the Resources tab on the website.)
- What you want to accomplish? (the goal(s) of the project)
- Who will lead the initiative, as well as interface with the Board of Directors?
- What is the general plan, including some comments on the structure, timeline, critical activities, and monies needed for the project?

Members' involvement in our February 21 Program Planning Meeting is essential. Full participation means our local League will choose initiatives most meaningful to our membership. Please join us at this very important event!



For Other  
Upcoming Events

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



## Membership: Who is 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.*

The following memberships are up for renewal during this 3-month span. We invite you to **renew today!**

### November

Georgene Conner  
Gretchen Craig  
Caroline Heuermann

### January

Cory Adler  
Christina Aikman  
Susan Alston

Rachel Otto  
Lisa Palmer  
Jaclyn Peel  
Sonia Quinones  
Kathleen Vandersyde  
Sandy Weiss

### **December**

David Berman  
Karen Berman  
Amy Blake  
Caroline Bloodworth  
Arlin Briley  
Stephanie Cain  
Daina Crafa  
Edith Daly  
Karen Denehy  
Victoria Dunn  
Ligia Everett  
Margaret Joffe  
Terry Kessel  
Kate Lamb  
Jana Maples  
John Mason  
Dennis Mayer  
Susan Mayer  
Jacqueline Mirkin  
Gina Rothlein  
Joan Thurmond  
Melanie Turner

Ruth Barrens  
Sheila Barry-Oliver  
April Birdsong  
Rosanne Blass  
Donna Brewer  
Diane Cato  
Linda Fife  
Maria Fox  
Kali Gillespie  
Norman Jaeger  
Annette Kaplan  
Julie Kessel  
Kim King  
Judy Lybrand-Kuhn  
Sara Mieczkowski  
Nancy Millichamp  
Lois Milne  
Dawn Murray  
Mary Olson  
Shari Oster  
Loretta Owens  
Martha Petrovitch  
Beverly Sauls  
Sharron Scott  
Keeley Sheehan  
Pamela Sherwin  
Barbara Spofford  
Christine Stockholm  
Elizabeth Wells

[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.

**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.**



## *2017-2018 League Leadership*

### **OFFICERS**

President: Julie Kessel  
First Vice President: Sharon Winters  
Second Vice President: Stephanie Owens  
Secretary: Lisa Vanover  
Treasurer: Caroline Bloodworth

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Lydia Castle  
Caitlin Constantine  
Raechel Garafalo

### **EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY LEADS**

Gun Safety: Sharon Winters  
Immigration: Karen Coale, Lydia Castle  
Healthcare: Julie Kessel  
Reproductive Rights: Amy Weintraub  
Campaign Finance Reform/Social Justice:  
Julie Kessel, Karen Lieberman  
Education: Robin Jones, Iris Yetter  
Voter Service: Raechel Garafalo  
Voter Registration: Lindsay Murdock



Linsey Grove  
Susan Mayer  
Lindsay Murdock  
Marty Shapiro

Voter Protection: Stephanie Owens  
Sustainability: Lisa Vanover  
International Relations: Judy McSwine  
Social Media/Promotion Lead: Amy Weintraub  
Office Administrator: Rachael Becker

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

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



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.**