

THE VOTER

December 2019

Give the Gift of Democracy!

Are you looking for a gift for the democracy lover in your life? Why not consider giving them the gift of an LWVSPA membership?

Our membership is what gives us the clout necessary to advocate for democracy and good government. The more members we have, the more of a force we are to be reckoned with! In addition, a portion of the membership fee is used to support our program at a local level (as well as at the state and national level).

We offer [several levels of membership](#), some of which include cool LWVSPA swag like tumblers and coffee mugs. If you'd like to purchase a gift membership, follow [this link](#) to go to our gift membership page.

We also have several other ways you can celebrate the season of giving!

- You can [make a donation](#) directly to the LWVSPA, perhaps in honor of one of our milestones i.e. \$100 to celebrate our centennial, \$20 to mark the year the LWV was founded, \$65 in honor of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.
- You can buy something for our new office at the Sanderlin Center from our [Amazon wishlist](#).
- You can give the gift of your time by [signing up](#) to be part of our volunteer team.
- You can include the LWVSPA in your estate planning. Learn more about this option by contacting [our office](#).



(Holiday) Party Time! Excellent!



The annual holiday party is coming up on Saturday, Dec. 14 - have you RSVPed yet? If not, [you can do it right now](#). The holiday party is a great opportunity to relax and hang out with your League friends while enjoying good food, drinks, and conversation.

This year, the Sustainability action team is also organizing a clothing swap as part of their efforts to encourage more mindful consumption. Did you know the fashion industry is one of the most polluting industries in the world? A clothing swap is not only good for your wallet; it's also good for the planet!

If you have clothes you'd like to contribute to the clothing swap, you can drop them off until Dec. 12. Please email Julia Sharp at office@lwvspa.org or text at 703-489-8079 for Sanderlin Center office drop offs. Please email Carol Marks at clmsea@gmail.com for drop-offs at Carol's home in Crescent Lake.



Mark Your Calendars: Suffragist Shuffle

Next year marks the League's 100th anniversary, and we're getting ready to celebrate in style! Join us for the Suffragist Shuffle for some live jazz, an open bar, a buffet, a photo booth, games and more!

Where: St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club
When: Feb. 13, 2020
Dress code: Your best vintage/flapper/Jazz Age attire
Tickets: \$49 for early birds, \$59 after that

Watch for the tickets to go on sale next month.

Are you interested in sponsoring this event? Contact Ama Appiah for more information.

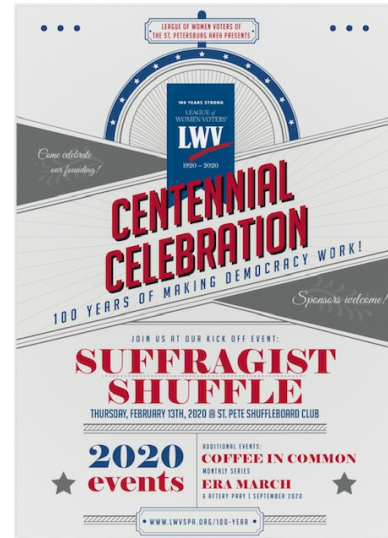
Volunteers Needed

We'll need volunteers for next year's LWV Centennial Celebration events, particularly for the St. Pete Suffragist Shuffle.

Volunteers for the following activities are needed:

- Decorating/set up & clean up
- Ticket tables
- VIP handlers
- Speakeasy password guards for the Suffragist Shuffle VIP Lounge area
- Voter registration table

If you're interested in volunteering at these events, send an email to Ama Appiah.



Voting Rights Restoration: Legal Training and Fines & Fees Clinic

On Dec. 12, we're cosponsoring a [Voting Rights Restoration legal training](#) and a [fines & fees legal clinic](#) aimed at helping more returning citizens regain their rights to vote.

The training will be held at Stetson University College of Law from 12-3 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Attorneys who complete the training will receive a two-hour CLE credit approved by the Florida Bar.

[Click here](#) to register. Please spread the word to any attorneys you know who may also be interested in attending.

Afterwards, the attorneys who complete the training are invited to take part in a free legal clinic at Campbell Park Resource Center from 4-6 p.m. where they will help people navigate the process of ensuring all of their fees, fines and court costs are paid so they can register to vote. We'll also have voter registrars on site to help anyone register at that time.

If you or someone you know would be interested in utilizing the services of this clinic, please make sure to bring any documents or receipts you have related to your fines and fees.

This is a joint effort with the Leagues of Women Voters of Florida and North Pinellas County, the Community Law Program, Gulfcoast Legal Services, Stetson University College of Law, the Florida Bar Foundation, the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition and PERC.

Volunteers Needed

We will have voter registrars on hand for this event, but we also need volunteers to help with general set up, etc., prior to the event itself.

You needn't be part of Voter Services but you should be willing to welcome and support this amazing opportunity for returning citizens. Please contact Maryellen Gordon at maryellengordon1@gmail.com if you're interested in volunteering.



Share Your Voice!



The Florida Commission on the Status of Women is asking women from around the state to share about challenges encountered in their everyday lives on the 2019 Voices of Florida Women Survey.

It takes just a few minutes to complete – but will give important feedback that will be compiled and shared with local, state, and national leaders.

It will also help the Commission focus future educational and collaborative efforts on the issues that matter most to women in Florida.

Take the survey at fcsw.net.



Help Wanted: Media & Publicity Chair

After several years in the role, Amy Weintraub will be leaving her post as Chair of Media & Publicity in the coming months.

If you have a background or interest in marketing/communications and have time to coordinate committee efforts to get the word out to the greater community regarding the League, as well its priorities, events, and activities, please consider stepping up.

For a description of the current Chair role, please [click here](#).

If you are interested in discussing the position, please contact Amy via [email](#).



What's Happening Around LWVSPA?

Education

This cross-county action group is co-chaired by [Nikki Fleming](#) and [Barbara Meloche](#)

of LWV of North Pinellas County. Their next meeting will be held via conference call Thursday, Dec. 19 at 6 p.m. Contact the co-chairs if you are interested in working with this action group.

Election & Voter Protection

The EVP action team has been working to partner with Leagues in Hillsborough and North Pinellas on efforts related to election security, voting rights restoration and Amendment 4, including a legal training and free legal clinic. More information about these events can be found above.

If you're interested in getting involved, the team's next meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the LWVSPA office in the Sanderlin Center, located at 2335 22nd Ave S in St. Petersburg. Please contact [Caitlin Constantine](#), [Amy Keith](#) or [Stephanie Owens](#) for more information.

Gun Safety

The *Tampa Bay Times* recently published an [opinion article](#) by Dr. David Berman, a member of our gun safety action team and a pediatrician, highlighting our epidemic of gun violence and its impact on children.

["The Science of Gun Violence"](#) from *Discover* is a solid introductory article with authoritative and current data and findings. In exploring gun violence from a public health perspective, *Discover* reports on a recent analysis by RAND which found that only child-access prevention laws, such as those that require keeping guns at home safely locked, met their highest evidence-based standard for reducing injuries and deaths in children.

This action team has cancelled its regular Dec. 23 meeting. The next meeting will be held Jan. 27, 7-8:30 p.m., Wesley Room, Allendale United Methodist Church.

Want to learn more about gun safety? Visit our [Gun Safety Action Guide](#), which includes link to current status of 2020 FL proposed firearm-related legislation or contact team lead [Sharon Winters](#).

Immigration

On behalf of the Pinellas Coalition for immigration Justice, we drafted letters that were sent from the Coalition to Reps. Gus Bilirakis and Charlie Crist, as well as Sens. Marco Rubio and Rick Scott.

Our request is to support the passage of a budget for the current fiscal year that began on Oct. 1, 2019. We also asked that the reporting requirements regarding the treatment of migrants that was passed as part of the July 2019 \$4.5-billion Supplemental Funding bill to address the crisis at our border with Mexico be carried forward into this year's funding.

Mark your calendars for our next Immigration Conversation on Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m. at Hop and Props. For more information about this team, please email Team Lead [Karen Coale](#).

Media/Publicity

The committee will meet Thursday, Jan. 2 at 5:30 p.m. at the LWVSPA office in the Sanderlin Center, located at 2335 22nd Ave S in St. Petersburg.

Email chair [Amy Weintraub](#) for more information about joining this standing committee.

Membership Services

The Membership Committee is meeting at the LWVSPA office on Dec. 12 at 6 p.m. Come join us as we discuss ways to enhance the membership experience.

Contact [Stacey Jurewicz](#) at for more information.

National Popular Vote

Two state legislators have made moves to support the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact: Rep. Joseph Geller sponsored HB335 and Sen. Victor Torres sponsored SB908. The NPVIC has been passed by 15 states plus the District of Columbia,

representing 196 of the 270 electoral votes needed to enact the law.

For more information, visit FloridiansForNPV.com where you can request a speaker, sign up for our newsletter and donate to pass the law in Florida.

If you have a local group who would like a speaker, contact [Marty Shapiro](#). If you are interested in learning more or joining the local committee, please reach out to [Deb Mazzaferro](#) or [Marty Shapiro](#).

Nominating

The committee will be meeting Monday, Dec. 9, at 6:30 p.m. at the LWVSPA office in the Sanderlin Center, located at 2335 22nd Ave S in St. Petersburg. The team will be meeting with the board to identify potential leaders among the membership.

Membership on this committee is set by conditions in LWVSPA bylaws (election or Board appointment). Email chair [Amy Weintraub](#) for more information about this standing committee.

Plant Power

The Plant Power team will hold its next meeting on Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. at the Sanderlin Center, located at 2335 22nd Ave S in St. Petersburg. For more information, email [Julie Kessel](#) or [Jen Underhill](#).

Reproductive Rights

This Reproductive Rights team group will meet for its monthly meeting on Thursday, Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. at the LWVSPA Office in the Sanderlin Center, located at 2335 22nd Ave S in St. Petersburg. Email Team Lead [Stacey Kroto](#) for more information about getting involved with this action group.

Sustainability

The Sustainability Committee is organizing a clothing swap at this year's holiday party on Saturday, Dec. 14.

What's the connection between sustainability and fashion? Find out here:

<https://future.fashion/fashion-revolution-day-germany/fashion-pollutes-water-should-we-really-care>

Drop-offs will be accepted Dec. 2-12. Please email Julia Sharp at office@lwvspa.org or text at 703-489-8079 for Sanderlin Center office drop offs. Please email Carol Marks at clmsea@gmail.com for drop-offs at Carol's home in Crescent Lake.

The Sustainability Team will collect and sort the items. Be ready to shop at this year's League holiday party for that next great outfit!

Email [Carol Marks](#) or [Kal Marquise](#) for more information about joining the Sustainability action team.

Voter Service

This team's next meeting will be held Jan. 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the Allendale United Methodist Church, located at 3803 Haines Road in St. Petersburg.

Email [Raechel Garafalo](#) for more information regarding candidate forums & the Voter Guide, [Robin Davidov](#) regarding voter outreach and [Maryellen Gordon](#) regarding voter registration.



Dec. 11: Voting Rights Restoration CLE

12-3 p.m. @ Stetson University College of Law, 1401 61st St. S, Gulfport

[Facebook](#)

Dec. 11: Free Legal Clinic: Voting Rights Restoration

4-6 p.m. @ Campbell Park Resource Center, 701 16th St. S, St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)

Dec. 13: Fund Florida Forever Press Conference

10:30 a.m. @ Sierra Club Florida, 1990 Central Ave., St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)

Dec. 14: Are You My Neighbor? A Community Discussion on Poverty in Pinellas County

10 a.m. - 12 p.m. @ Dunedin Public Library, 223 Douglas Ave., Dunedin

[Facebook](#)

Dec. 14: Holiday Party

2-4 p.m. @ Member's Home

[RSVP](#)

Jan. 22: Roe v. Wade Anniversary Visibility Event

12-1 p.m. @ 277 Central Ave., St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)

Feb. 14: Suffragist Shuffle: Celebrating 100 Years of LWV

7-10 p.m. @ St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club, 559 Mirror Lake Dr. N, St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)



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:

Gold for \$250*

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.

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!**

December 2019

Adler, Ana
Berkheiser, Nina
Bokulic, Karen
Ciembronowicz, Kate
Clarke, Dianne
Falkenberry, Rebecca
Glod, Linda
Griffin, Becky
Hubbard, Connie
Marder, Karen
Marder, Mark

Marston, Beate
Marzilli, J James
Mayer, Dennis
Mayer, Susan
Roberts, Christine
Rothlein, Gina
Shulman, Marsha
Thurmond, Joan
Trochez, Gretchell
Yetter, Iris

November 2019

Allyn, Jan
Angelides, Laura
Arterton, Jon
Auld, Molly & Brian
Bedford, Faith & Robert
Blake, Amy
Bradlow, Hattie
Cappadona, Dorothy
Cappadona, William
Cody, Erin
Crawford, Ruth
Delong, Susan
Dobiesz, Maureen
Dornstauder, Candace
Drake, Kayla
Engleby, Laura
Fanning, Jane & Kent
Fisher, Aleta
Fox, Cynthia
Freeman, Bonnie
Freeman, Stephan
Fudge, Kim Marie
Gill, Julia
Ginn, Valerie
Gordon, Maryellen
Greene, Leslie
Grumbles, Roy
Grumbles, Sally
Hall, Judy
Hanrahan, Mary
Hanrahan, Michael
Hutto, Suzanne
Justus, Debra
Kessel, Terry
Kruse, Sarah
Kulaas, Kris
Lehman, Hilary
Loewenstein, Estelle

Lopez, Ivanna
Lukens, Lois
Mack, James
Mahoney, Mary
Maples, Jana
Marquise, Kal
Mazueros, Michelle
Miller, Raegan & Todd
Mohns, June
Morgenstein, Betty
Ollis, Tara
Phelan, Kathy
Piacentino, Marcia
Plato, Nancy
Poore, Barbara
Rawson, Kathryn
Renfrow, Mary Ann
Riskin, Vollie
Robertson, Sara
Rome, Cathy
Romeo, Kymberlyn
Salsich, Jan Salsich
Sedgwick, Emily
Shapiro, Marty
Siberski, Robert
Stanfield, Elithia
Stein, Nancy
Steinway, Kate
Tait, Nancy
Thomas, Trisha
Van Ostenberg, Barbara & Don
Vanneste, Elizabeth
Vincent, Susan
Warren, Robin
Willis, Judith
Wirth, Eleanor
Zolan, Paul

October 2019

Alford, Faith

James, Chesney

Banez, George
Burr, Jenna
Caitak, Doris
Chaniel, Jeanette
Clarke, Celia
Domingo, Alexandria
Fruit, Lynn
Givens Jr., Corey
Hahn-Campanella, Kitty
Harris, Angela
Hawkins, Cg
Heinen, Carol
Hodson, M Diane

Keeler-Pettigrew, Meaghan
Kelso, Daniel
Knorr, Rita
Lebron, Liz
Owens, Sandra
Pizana, Orlando
Pocius, Marilyn
Reid, Kendall
Rogers, Dawn
Rowles, Jonathan
Shollenberger, Sydni
Updegraff, Elizabeth
Weagle, Jane



2019-2020 League Leadership

OFFICERS

President: Linsey Grove
First Vice President: Robin Davidov
Second Vice President: Maryellen Gordon
Secretary: Ken Wrede
Treasurer: Caroline Bloodworth

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ama Appiah
Caitlin Constantine
Amanda Dodge
Raechel Garafalo
Stephanie Owens

[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
Reproductive Rights: Stacey Kroto
Census: Gina Gallo
Plant Power: Julie Kessel, Jen Underhill
Election Protection: Caitlin Constantine, Amy Keith, Stephanie Owens
Voter Service: Raechel Garafalo
Sustainability: Carol Marks, Kal Marquise
National Popular Vote: Deb Mazzaferro, Marty Shapiro
International Relations: Judy McSwine
Media/Publicity Lead: Amy Weintraub
Membership: Stacey Jurewicz
Office Administrator: Julia Sharp



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.