

**FEBRUARY 2024**



**Meet Helen Huntley  
LWVSPA Donor/Volunteer**

"I don't like feeling helpless when our Florida legislators try to control women's bodies and restrict the right to vote. By supporting the league, I feel like I can actually do something about it."

[Read more](#) about Helen and how she is supporting the League.

**DONOR THANKYOU!**

**January Silver or Gold Level of Membership**

Sheila Barry-Oliver  
Loren Corrieri  
Kathleen Cote & Teresa Kim Cromwell  
Robin Davidov & Christopher Lerbs  
Lynn Fruit & Edward Miller  
Stephanie Sembler  
Ruth Whitney

**January Donors**

Faith Alford  
Turner Charitable Fund  
Beverly Cohen  
Rogers Giving Fund  
Maryann Hamilton  
Jeanette Lehr  
Rebecca Lyons  
Cathy Rome  
Nancy Schauer  
Kate Steinway & Paul Zolan  
Sara Wallace

**Thanks to our generous donors, we've raised  
\$14,549 since November 21, 2023 when we began  
our Year End Fundraising Campaign.**

# LEAGUE IN ACTION



## LOBBY DAYS

LWVSPA members meeting with Pinellas Representative Lindsay Cross. L-R: Jim Barrrens, Kelly Aronoff, Rachel Nunn of LWV Hillsborough, Debbie Lynch, Rep. Cross, Sarah Peacock, Ruth Barrrens, and Amy Weintraub

LWVSPA members traveled to Tallahassee for the League of Women Voters of Florida's annual Lobby Days on January 23 and 24. Lots of advocacy training, networking, and advocating happened in the State Capitol, capped off by a press conference in the Capitol rotunda, with the theme "Our Voices, Our History, Our Future". In addition to urging legislators to prioritize voting rights and election reform, Leaguers lobbied on our three current priority areas: reproductive health, education, and gun violence prevention.



Above: Press Conference

Below: League members were treated to the unveiling of a new billboard near the State Capitol put up by LWV Florida.

***"Our work in Tallahassee echoed the billboard's message that our realities and lived experiences will not be cancelled."*** Amy Weintraub



## Reproductive Rights Team Update



FLORIDIANS  
PROTECTING FREEDOM

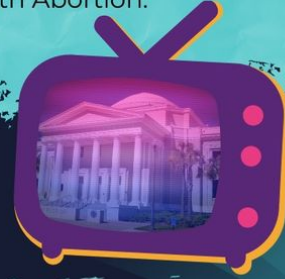
# Supreme Court ORAL ARGUMENTS Watch Party!

Wednesday, February 7th, 9:00 AM

Join us online to watch the Supreme Court Oral Arguments on “The Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion.”



**SIGN UP NOW**  
[flfree.link/watch](https://flfree.link/watch)



The Floridians Protecting Freedom (FPF) campaign who are leading efforts to put abortion rights on the 2024 ballot received official notice on January 26th from the Florida Secretary of State. The amendment to limit government interference is official. We got our number!

Now, all eyes are on the Supreme Court of Florida to let us vote Yes on 4 in '24! Oral arguments will take place on February 7. FPF is hosting a watch party by Zoom, with LWVSPA's own Amy Weintraub hosting and two ACLU attorneys providing commentary.

Sign up here to receive the [Zoom link](#).

For updates on what is happening with FPF, attend the campaign's biweekly Statewide Organizing Calls held every other Thursday at 6pm. [Sign up here](#).







## We won't go back!

January 21 marked what would have been the 51st anniversary of the Roe v. Wade, the 1973 SCOTUS decision guaranteeing the right to abortion nationwide. As we have for years, LWVSPA members joined in an annual downtown St. Petersburg visibility event that has been coordinated by Pinellas NOW for decades. Our voices were raised loud and clear that reproductive freedom is essential. We won't go back!



## League Celebrates MLK Day



## Nominating Committee Update



**This  
is no time  
for  
Voter Fatigue!**



The Nominating Committee has been busy interviewing prospective candidates, meeting interested and interesting members and gearing up to prepare our leadership slate that will be voted on by membership at our annual meeting in April.

Our goal among other things is to continue to remain accessible, visible, and engaged with members and our leadership. We want to be proactive in identifying potential future leaders on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

Our ability to do that is very much a two-way street and relies on interested members and our leadership to reach out to our committee at any time to recommend potential candidates for future positions.

A year comes, and goes by quickly, so although our job of presenting this year's slate will be completed soon, we are already looking toward next year's line-up of potential candidates. If you are interested but feel you're "too new" or are unsure if you want to commit at this time, get in touch with our team, ask questions, find out how the process works, and plan to prepare yourself to become a future leader.

In that spirit consider this: If you feel an issue, you are passionate about is underrepresented in our League, participate in our Program Planning meeting coming up February 17th. It is your chance to lead with your voice.

Make your case for a new action team, and let us know what is important to you as a member.

The selection of initiatives that seem most meaningful to our membership is based on your participation in this process. It is your opportunity to vote on which action teams will be recommended for approval by the full membership at the League's annual meeting April 14th.

To use a quote from our Voter Services team that applies inside and outside of our League: Your Vote, Your Voice!

## LEAGUE MEETINGS & EVENTS



### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

# Annual Meeting

LWSPA Annual Meeting & Luncheon

**April 14**

St. Pete Shuffleboard Club

559 Mirror Lake Dr N, Saint Petersburg, FL 33701

Business meeting: 12:30-1:30 pm in the Club House

Shuffleboard fun available: 1-2 pm on the Courts

Luncheon: 2 pm in the Bridge Room

*Registration to open soon.*

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**

**Lauren Brenzel, Director of  
Floridians Protecting Freedom**



**“The amendment to limit government interference with abortion will put these decisions back where they belong, in the hands of Florida families and their doctors, not extreme politicians. As we look back on Roe v. Wade, the need to restore these freedoms has never been greater.”**



with  
S.L.  
Wisenberg



**INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S DAY  
ST. PETERSBURG**

A COMMUNITY  
CELEBRATION

 International Women's Day  
#InspireInclusion #IWD2024

**Friday, March 8**

A Leif Nissen Social Justice Lecture

Temple Beth-El  
400 Pasadena Ave S, St Petersburg

6pm - Award-winning author, S.L. Wisenberg, on "Celebrate the Women"

7:30pm - Celebrate over a light dinner with the Florida Tribe Women's Drum Circle

Sponsored by Temple Beth-El in conjunction with the League of Women Voters St. Petersburg Area and co-sponsored by Pinellas NOW, Allendale United Methodist Church, and the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater.  
**Read More**

**<https://www.facebook.com/events/343242301997480>**



## FEBRUARY EVENTS



LWVSPA's own **Stacey Kroto** will be delivering a lecture locally as part of the National Council of Jewish Women's "Repro Shabbat" – an annual event for synagogues to mark the portion of the Torah that reflects Jewish law regarding pregnancy and abortion. Stacey co-chairs the LWV Florida Reproductive Health & Justice team.

All are welcome. **Friday, February 9.** Reception with refreshments (Preneg) at 5:30; service begins at 6pm. Temple Beth El, 346 Pasadena Ave S, St Petersburg, FL 33707





## PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

Calling all members!

Every year, we solicit advocacy and educational issues from our members to set our "Program", or priorities, for the next League year (May - April). Action Teams present their issue, its importance, and their plan. Members vote on programs to be presented at our Annual Meeting.

Members only.

Light refreshments served.

**Saturday, February 17th**

**10 AM - 12 PM**

**Allendale UMC**

**3803 Haines Rd. N.**

**RSVP to attend!**

**REGISTER**

MIX, MINGLE, & MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

 **COCKTAILS &  
CONVERSATION**



**Thursday, Feb. 22, 5:30-7:30 pm**  
**Doc Ford's Jungle**  
**8790 Bay Pines Blvd**

We'll have a semi-private area with our own bar to gather around and order off the menu. Come have a bite and a beverage, catch up with friends, and meet new members. It's a great event to bring a prospective

member to meet and mingle with other Leaguers. Parking at the location

RSVP



Tombolo Books & Allendale United Methodist Church Present

*In Search of the Beloved Community*  
with Raymond Arsenault

February 22, 2024  
7:00 PM  
Allendale United  
Methodist Church  
3803 Haines Rd N

Interview by Bernard LaFayette, Jr.

## FINANCE TIP FROM AVA



### FEBRUARY TIP:

The estimated amount Americans have left in an old 401(k) plan is \$1.35 trillion. You have 4 options of what to do with a previous employer retirement plan – reach out to discuss the pros and cons of each.

**Ava Elkins**, AAMS®, Financial Advisor and Investment Management Consultant, Raymond James & Associates, [ava.elkins@raymondjames.com](mailto:ava.elkins@raymondjames.com), 727.551.5254 [raymondjames.com/avaelkins](http://raymondjames.com/avaelkins)



## LEAGUE ONLINE

- [February Calendar of Events/Meetings](#)
- [Explore Issues](#)
- [Check Out our Blog Archives](#)
- [Engage!](#)
- [LWVSPA Store](#)

League of WomLen 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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