

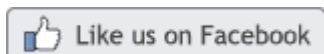
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VOTER

February 2014

President's Letter



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- *Individual Membership: \$52
- *Each Additional Household Membership: \$26
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Join via [Pay Pal](#)--OR--
Mail your dues check to:
LWVSPA
PO Box 11775
St. Petersburg, FL 33733

Dues do not cover local League expenses, so an additional contribution will be gratefully accepted!

LWVSPA Leadership

Officers

[Karen Coale, President](#)
[Julie Kessel, 1st VP](#)
[Sydni Shollenberger, 2nd VP](#)
[Kathy Arsenault, Sec.](#)
[Caroline Bloodworth, Treas.](#)

Board of Directors

[Raechel Garafalo](#)
[Ayele Hunt](#)
[Susan Mayer, VOTER editor](#)
[Chitra Naidu](#)



Karen Coale, President

Dear League Members and Supporters,

Mark the evening of **February 26th** on your calendar because together we will choose projects to focus on for the upcoming year. Like other local Leagues across the country, we will be holding our Annual Program

Planning meeting. This planning meeting is at the core of how the League operates.

Using the current program's advocacy, educational, and study projects as a starting point, we will identify what to carry forward as well as identify new projects. Building on the World Café technique that Ayele Hunt introduced at our November Library Study, we will break out into groups to explore key questions about each project. If you plan to introduce a new project, please contact me by **February 23rd** so time is allotted on the agenda. This is a participatory process. We need and want your input.

Gathering time is 5:30 PM for light sandwiches, salad, healthy snacks, and drinks at the **Friends Meeting House**, located at [130 19th Avenue SE](#) in St Pete. The meeting will begin promptly at 6:00 PM. Please [RSVP to our office](#) so we have enough food.

Another important date to mark on your calendar is **Saturday, April 26th**, when we will have our annual meeting followed by our luncheon with keynote speaker U.S. Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder. We encourage you to invite your friends and family to the luncheon and to hear the very accomplished Ms. Schroeder.

Let's hear a round of applause for all of you who are supporting candidate forums and have registered voters during the current election process. Voters Service Chair

[Nancy Tait](#)



Please join us in welcoming the following new members to the LWVSPA:

Kathleen Korb

Herb Polson

Dave and Tina Spangler

In League,

Karen

Raechel Garafalo needs members to help with candidate forums, which continue to pop up. Contact her soonest!

A member orientation is scheduled for **Saturday, March 1st** from 10 to noon at our [League Office](#). If you are a new member or someone who has not been able to attend an orientation, this is for you.

Universal Curbside Recycling

Calling All League Members: The People's Trash Needs You Thursday, February 20th



In April 2013, our League launched an advocacy campaign urging that universal curbside recycling service be offered to all St. Petersburg households. We formed a coalition with CONA (Council of Neighborhood Associations), The People's Budget Review, and The Suncoast Sierra Club called "The People's Trash." Our efforts are now coming to fruition. On **Thursday, February 20th**, city staff will propose a service to City Council that meets most of the characteristics that the coalition recommended. A leader from each coalition partner will speak in support of the staff proposal.

We need League members to attend! Please wear League pins and pick up a "Support Recycling" sticker provided by the coalition. A big crowd will send a powerful message to our City Council and the citizens of our city.

Thursday, February 20th - gather at 4:00 PM

[City Council Chambers](#)

175 5th St North

Get involved and help make this a reality in Florida's fourth largest city. For more information or to volunteer, email recycling@lwgspa.org.



Annual Meeting



Share Lunch with Pat Schroeder

Please join the St. Petersburg Area League of Women Voters at noon on Saturday, April 26th, at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club for an exciting opportunity to meet and hear the iconic former 12-term Congresswoman Pat Schroeder, tireless champion for reproductive and women's rights, workplace reforms, and the rights of families and members of the United States military.

Schroeder, the first woman from Colorado elected to the House of Representatives, demonstrated the success of combining a demanding career with raising her children, and battled the deeply entrenched beliefs held by some of her colleagues that work and politics "is no place for a woman."

At the April 26th luncheon, she will receive the St. Petersburg League's second 'Making Democracy Work' award, last presented in 2011 to former Florida governor Charlie Crist. If you have questions about this event, please call the LWVSPA office at 727.896.5197 or email us at office@lwvspa.org. Event details will be published soon.

Voters Service

Spring Back, Fall Forward...WHA?????

The end of February signals the close of LWVSPA's voter registration drive and forum schedule prior to the March 11th municipal and U.S. Congressional District 13 general elections. As we transition, the ***Voters Service Committee is looking ahead to preparations for the 2014 fall election season and seeking volunteers to help with the important work we do.***



If you'd like to take part in planning and implementing the activities listed below, email [Raechel Garafalo](mailto:Raechel.Garafalo@lwvspa.org) to join our working group meeting in the first week of March. This is our mission:

- Drafting and publishing the LWVSPA's 2014 Voter Guide, in which we profile candidates and capture their views on important issues
- Getting out the vote through the LWVSPA's 2014 fall voter registration drive events, where we reach out to underserved citizens so that they may have a voice
- Facilitating candidate forums, where constituents can get to know their candidates

Several federal, state, and county offices are up for grabs in the 2014 August primary and November general elections. For details, visit the [Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections](http://www.pinellascounty.org/elections/) website.

Stay tuned for important dates, more information on the elections, and information about opportunities for you to join us in our efforts to educate and engage citizens in the political process.

Membership



Are You the Missing Piece?

If you inadvertently let the membership renewal deadline slip, we want you back! It's easy. Just make your dues payment via [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com) through our website, or mail your check to the office at PO Box 11775, St. Petersburg, FL, 33733.

We wholeheartedly welcome our three new members and one transfer. Dave and Tina Spangler are new (and already actively involved) along with Herb Polson, husband of Marilyn (who renewed with a family membership). Kathleen Korb, the minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church, transferred to our League.

Mentoring New Members

Our LWVSPA Mentoring Program offers a "friendly guide" for new members who want to take part in this program. Mentors are assigned based on common characteristics such as interests, age, proximity, friendship, or strong connection. The most recent pairing was that of long time member Nancy Tait with energetic new member Paula Jordan.

Please contact [Nancy Tait](#) (727.480.4254) or [Laurie Clement](#) (727.667.0822), Membership Team co-chairs, for a mentor or mentee assignment.

Member Orientation

We are scheduled for **10-12 AM Saturday, March 1st**, in the [League office](#) board room. New members and members who have not yet been able to come to an orientation are urged to attend what is always a fun as well as highly informative event. Think great video, challenging scavenger hunt, and excellent company!



Visit our [website](#) for current information about upcoming events.

Saturday, February 22nd, 1:00 PM to Sunday, February 23rd, 1:00 PM

LWVF [Everglades Excursion](#)

Ivey Hotel

107 Camelia Street

Everglades City, FL 34139

Saturday, February 22nd, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

International Relations Committee Meeting

Pinellas Park Library

7720 52nd Street North, Pinellas Park

Topic: Spying

Special Guest Speaker

Brigadier General John Reppert (U.S. Army, Ret.)

Wednesday, February 26th, 6:00 PM

(Hospitality gathering with food and drinks at 5:30)

Annual Program Planning Meeting

The Friends Meeting House

130 19th Avenue SE

Saturday, March 1st, 10:00 AM to Noon

Member Orientation

League Office

233 3rd Street North

Saturday, April 26th, 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM

Annual Meeting

St. Petersburg Yacht Club

Special Guest Speaker

Pat Schroeder

U.S. House of Representatives, 1973-1997

Saturday, May 3rd to Friday, May 9th

"Sisters Across the Straits" Delegation Visit to Cuba

For questions and registration info, please contact LWVF Office & Events Manager Heather Hernandez at 850.224.2545 or LWVFOffice@gmail.com.

LWVSPA CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information, questions, or concerns, please contact us at 727.896.5197.

League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area

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