

THE VOTER

February 2020

Letter from the President

Hello, Leaguers!

February is another busy month for us! Not only is this the month of our founding but it is Black History Month. To celebrate, we're continuing our Coffee in Common series this Saturday at 5 p.m. followed by our Suffragist Shuffle on the Feb. 13 at the St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club. Tickets are limited for both events, so don't wait to register!

A few of our local members are heading to Tallahassee this week as a part of our state League Lobby days. We hope their trip is safe and fruitful. Don't forget to join us at the Annual Program Planning meeting on Feb. 20 in the Sanderlin Center--we want to hear from you to help shape our advocacy agenda for next year!

In League,
Linsey



Time's Running Out: Get Your Suffragist Shuffle Tickets Now!



If you haven't already bought your tickets for the Suffragist Shuffle, what are you waiting for? Tickets are going fast, and you will not want to miss this!

Join us on Feb. 13 at St. Pete's iconic Shuffleboard Club for a night of live jazz, cocktails, food, games and more!

Where: St. Petersburg Shuffleboard Club

When: Thursday, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m.

Dress Code: Your best vintage/flapper/Jazz Age attire

Tickets are \$59 a person and cover food, drinks and games. We also offer a VIP package that includes admission and reserved seating for two and access to the ERA After Party for \$150.

[Click here](#) to buy your tickets now! Please note that you must be 21 or older to attend

this event.

Many thanks to our sponsors for their support, including:

- [3 Daughters Brewing](#)
- [Cycle Brewing](#)
- [Florida Association of Women Lawyers \(Pinellas County\)](#)
- [Florida Cane Distillery](#)
- [Flying Boat Brewing](#)
- [Law Office of Ama N. Appiah](#)

Volunteers needed!

We need people to help us set up the event! If you're able to lend some time and (wo)manpower for setting up, breaking down or helping out during the event, please [sign up at this link](#)! And thank you in advance - we can't make this event happen without you!



Program Planning: Make Your Passion Our Passion!



It's almost that time of year again again: time for program planning! This is the time of year when League members come together to decide on our program aka what issues and actions we will focus on for the coming year.

Hear from current team leads about what they plan to work on next year, as well as from members who want to make a pitch for new teams. **This is a great way to**

make your voice heard about what YOU think priorities should be for the coming year!

The event will be similar to the one we held last year, with a science fair-style setup that'll give you the chance to talk with all prospective team leads about their proposed plans. After that, you'll have the chance to anonymously cast your vote for the pitches you'd like to see as part of our program to be presented to the full membership during the annual meeting in April.

Where: Sanderlin Center, 2335 22nd Ave. S, St. Petersburg

When: Feb. 20, 6-9 p.m.

Please [RSVP at the link](#) if you plan to attend!



Screenings: "After Parkland" and "Suppressed: The Fight to Vote"

Join us this month as our action teams host screenings of two incredible documentaries.

"After Parkland"

Filmed in the days after the 2018 high school shooting in Parkland, FL that killed 17 people and launched a nationwide student movement, this intimate chronicle follows several students and families whose lives were forever transformed. Weaving together interviews with the victims' loved ones, vérité footage, and personal videos, "After Parkland" is a moving portrait of grief and one community's inspiring crusade to turn tragedy into progress.

The LWVSPA Gun Safety Action Team and Moms Demand Action are co-hosting a screening of "After Parkland" on Feb. 12 -- a National Day of Action honoring the second anniversary of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting. Before and after the screening, chat with local activists to learn how to take action to prevent gun violence.

Where: Regal Park Place Stadium 16, 7200 US 19 N, Pinellas Park

When: Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 6:30 p.m.

[Advance online ticket purchase](#) is required.

"Suppressed: The Fight to Vote" & 2020 Election Protection Kickoff

The 2018 midterm elections were hotly contested throughout the United States, but perhaps nowhere saw as much controversy as the state of Georgia. A new documentary called "[Suppressed: The Fight to Vote](#)" takes a look at the obstacles Georgia voters faced at the polls in 2018, including polling place closures, voting roll purges, voter ID issues and more, all of which disproportionately affected people of color and students.

The LWVSPA Election and Voter Protection team is proud to present a free screening of this documentary on Feb. 19. We will follow the screening with a kickoff of our countywide [Election Protection](#) campaign for the 2020 presidential preference primary and municipal elections, which will be held March 17. Attendees will learn about how they can get involved with Election Protection and what they can do to ensure their friends and families are able to vote and have their votes counted.

Where: Allendale United Methodist Church, 3803 Haines Road N, St. Petersburg

When: Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Please make sure to [RSVP at this link](#) so we know how many to expect.



Get Ready to Vote in March!



The March 17 municipal elections and Presidential Preference Primary is coming up - and we're here to help you get informed.

Check out [PinellasVoterGuide.com](#) to see what's on your ballot, learn candidates' positions on critical issues, get analyses of the municipal ballot issues, and much more.

[Sign up](#) to be notified by email when the League of Women Voters' nonpartisan Pinellas County Voter Guide launches.

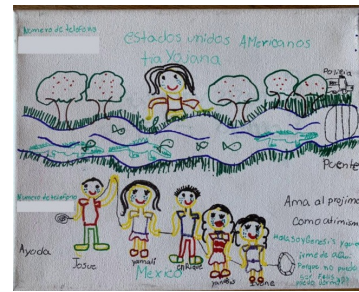
And don't forget to spread the word to your friends and family! We consistently hear that our Voter Guide is a great source of information on the local races and issues that tend to fly under the radar, so remember that you're doing your loved ones a service by letting them know about the Voter Guide!



Immigration Conversations: Barrier to Entry

Join the LWVSPA's Immigration Action Team for a discussion on Barriers to Entry as experienced by:

- Immigrants living here in Pinellas County (Discussion led by UNIMEX Director Erika Escamilla and a local resident who has been detained by ICE)
- Immigrants at the border between Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Mexico (Discussion led by Wendy Snyder who has "witnessed" at this crossing)



Related legislation, facts, and possible next steps will be covered. Postcards will be on hand to fill out and send to elected Congressional officials urging action.

Where: Hops and Props, 335 2nd Ave NE, St. Petersburg

When: Monday, Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Please bring your friends — all are welcome.

(The photo on the right is a drawing by a child returned to Mexico under the Trump Administration's "Remain in Mexico" policy.)



Changes Coming to Voter Services!



With a potentially historic election year ahead of us, LWVSPA leadership has been thinking strategically about how we can make the best use of our resources, time and passion, especially as it relates to voting and voter education.

As a result, we've decided to expand the Voter Services leadership, with the aim of making the team as effective and efficient as possible.

We envision the life cycle of a voter as having several stages where we could potentially be of service: when they register, when they learn about the candidates and issues, and when they cast their vote, helping to ensure that vote actually counts. By reorganizing the team with expanded leadership, we're aiming to make full use of our considerable resources to better engage with voters, no matter where they are in the cycle.

The new Voter Services team leadership is as follows:

- Raechel Garafalo: Voter Guide and candidate forums
- Maryellen Gordon: Voter registration
- Robin Davidov: Speakers bureau
- Caitlin Constantine, Amy Keith & Stephanie Owens: Election & voter protection

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Allendale United Methodist Church. We look forward to seeing you there!



Celebrate International Women's Day With Us!

Let's celebrate! A LWVSPA members-only potluck party is coming up on International Women's Day, the evening of Sunday, March 8, as Karen Lieberman opens her home to League members to enjoy each other's company and pay tribute to the advances women have earned in the last century.



International Women's Day

Bring a covered dish to share (in support of our Plant Power team we urge vegan or vegetarian dishes and desserts). A female-led drum circle will add to the merriment

(bring your own percussion instrument if you like). Coordinated by the Reproductive Rights Action Team.



Save the Dates!

Make sure to mark your calendar for the following events, which will be coming up soon:

Presidential Preference Primary and Municipal Elections: Tuesday, March 17

These will be held March 17. If you're interested in getting involved, our Voter Services team will be doing a lot of work in the run-up to this election, so don't hesitate to reach out to the appropriate team leads.

Girls Rock Down the House: Saturday, April 4

We're teaming up with [Girls Rock Camp St. Pete](#) to bring you a night of rock, politics and empowerment! More details will be released as they are finalized, but make sure to save this date because this event is not to be missed!

Annual Meeting and Brunch: Saturday, April 18

This will be held April 18. During this meeting, members will vote on the board of directors, the budget, the program/action issues and bylaws. We'll follow the meeting with a delicious meal and a great speaker, so make sure to save the date!



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 Thursday, Feb. 20 at 10:30 a.m. at 2642 Sabal Springs Dr in Clearwater. Contact the co-chairs if you are interested in working with this action group.

Gun Safety

The team is sponsoring a screening of "After Parkland" on Feb. 12. See above for more details.

The team will meet on Monday, Feb. 24 at 7-8:30 p.m. in the 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

The team is holding its next Immigration Conversation - about barriers to entry - on Feb. 3 at Hops and Props. More information can be found above.

The team's next meeting will be held Monday, Feb. 24 at 1:30 p.m. at a League member's home. For more information about this team, please email Team Lead [Karen Coale](#).

Media/Publicity

The Media & Publicity team is undergoing a change of leadership. Lisa Yasco will be taking over as chair.

The committee will meet Thursday, Feb. 6 at 5:30 p.m. at the LWVSPA office. Email chair [Lisa Yasco](#) for more information about joining this standing committee.

Membership Services

The Membership Committee is meeting at the LWVSPA office on Feb. 6 at 4:30 p.m. Come join us as we discuss ways to enhance the membership experience. Contact [Stacey Jurewicz](#) at for more information.

National Popular Vote

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

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 Monday, Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. at the Sanderlin Center. For more information, email [Julie Kessel](#) or [Jen Underhill](#).

Reproductive Rights

For February, the monthly meeting for the Reproductive Rights Action Team will be rescheduled to Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. at the League office, as the Suffragist Shuffle takes place on our normal meeting date. Email Team Lead [Stacey Kroto](#) for more information about getting involved with this action group.

Sustainability

The Sustainability team has undergone a change of leadership. Laura Crabtree will now be chairing this team. Please [contact her](#) with any questions about this action team.

Voter Service

This team's next meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Allendale United Methodist Church, located at 3803 Haines Road in St. Petersburg.

Please note that all Election & Voter Protection meetings will be folded into larger Voter Services meetings going forward, and that we will no longer hold separate monthly meetings for the EVP team.

Email [Raechel Garafalo](#) for more information regarding candidate forums & the Voter Guide, [Robin Davidov](#) regarding our speaker's bureau, [Maryellen Gordon](#) regarding voter registration, and [Caitlin Constantine](#), [Amy Keith](#) or [Stephanie Owens](#) for Election and Voter Protection information.



Upcoming Events

Feb. 3: Barriers to Entry: An Immigration Conversation with the League

6:30-7:30 p.m. @ Hops and Props, 335 2nd Ave NE, St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)

Feb. 4: Save Abortion in Florida: Occupy the Capitol!

3 p.m. @ Florida State Capitol Building, 400 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee

[Facebook](#) | [Sign Up for Bus Ride](#)

Feb. 8: Coffee in Common: Media Literacy: Racism, Politics & the News

5-7 p.m. @ Enoch D. Davis Center, 1111 18th Ave S, St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#) | [RSVP](#)

Feb. 12: "After Parkland"

6:30-9 p.m. @ Regal Park Place Stadium 16, 7200 U.S. 19 N, Pinellas Park

[Facebook](#) | [Buy Tickets](#)

Feb. 13: Suffragist Shuffle: Celebrating 100 Years of LWV

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

[Facebook](#) | [Buy Tickets](#)

Feb. 19: "Suppressed: The Fight to Vote" & Election Protection Kickoff

6:30-8:30 p.m. @ Allendale United Methodist Church, 3803 Haines Rd. N, St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#) | [RSVP](#)

Feb. 20: Program Planning

6-7:30 p.m. @ Sanderlin Center, 2335 22nd Ave S, St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#) | [RSVP](#)



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.

Note that LWVSPA keeps only about \$7 (!) of your basic dues paid at the Individual (\$52) or Household (\$78) levels. The rest goes to LWV-FL and LWV-US. Your local League has to raise almost all of its funds with voluntary contributions.

If you join at our Gold level (\$250) or Silver level (\$125), all the extra dues stay with our local League and we will recognize your generosity at our Annual Meeting.

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

Bokulic, Karen
Falkenberry, Rebecca
Griffin, Becky

Hubbard, Connie
Marzilli, J James
Shulman, Marsha

January 2020

Andresen, Theodor
Barbera, Katherine
Blackledge, Eric & Judy
Bultmann, Lisa
Cargo, Christine
Cicchino, Christine
Donovan, Jack
Drake, Hunter
Fixsen, Roxanne
Fling, Pat
Gillock, Stephanie

Millichamp, Nancy
Montante, Sheila
Peltier, Donna
Perkins, Terry
Pringle, Eddie
Riedel, Jess
Robb, Claire
Somerville, Margaret
Tuite, Susan
Walter, Lydia
Ward, Betty

February 2020

Acostandei, Diana
Bauer, Michael
Bedford, June
Bumgarner, Mary
Calderone, Kurt
Cato, Diane
Constantine, Caitlin
Corrieri, Loren
Cote, Kathleen
Cromwell, Kim
Davidov, Robin
Edmond, Jabaar
Gallo, Gina
Goodwin, JuliaAnne
Green, Laura
Gustafson-Hilton, Kathy
Holderness, Susan

Israel, Sally
Johnson, Caprice
Karas, Claire
Knop, Karen
Lerbs, Christopher
Mason, John
McGeehan, Linda
Milne, Lois
Mossing, Kathleen
Murphy, Beth
Murphy, Janet
Puntillo, Susan
Sinclair, Mary
Solis, Yvonne
Vanover, Charles
Williams, Deborah
Yacso, Lisa



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, ADVOCACY, COMMITTEE LEADS

Voter Service: Raechel Garafalo, Robin Davidov, Maryellen Gordon, Caitlin Constantine, Amy Keith, Stephanie Owens
Gun Safety: Sharon Winters
Immigration: Karen Coale
Reproductive Rights: Stacey Kroto
Census: Gina Gallo
Plant Power: Julie Kessel, Jen Underhill
Sustainability: Laura Crabtree
National Popular Vote: Deb Mazzaferro, Marty Shapiro
International Relations: Judy McSwine

Media/Publicity Lead: Lisa Yasco
Membership: Stacey Jurewicz
Nominating: Amy Weintraub
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.