



THE VOTER

January 2019

Join Us at the MLK Dream Big Parade!

The 34th annual **MLK Dream Big Parade** is taking place Jan. 21, 2019, and the LWVSPA will be there marching alongside the ACLU of Pinellas County! We'd love to have as many members as possible join us for this parade, which is the longest-running MLK Day parade in the country.



The parade officially steps off at 11 a.m. but we'll be staging for the parade at 9:30 a.m. Please note that the parade route is about a mile and a half long, and we'll be marching the whole distance.

Members of our Voter Services team will also be registering people to vote along the parade route, and they will be tabling at the Family Fun Day event at Tropicana Field.

If you're interested in joining us, [please follow this link](#) and leave your contact information. If you have any questions, please contact [Caitlin Constantine](#).



The Latest on Amendment 4



Local elections supervisors have made it official: As of Jan. 8, **all eligible former felons will be allowed to register to vote.**

We'll be joining several other organizations at a press conference organized by Rep. Charlie Crist's office at 8:30 a.m on Jan. 8 on the steps of City Hall. Afterwards the group will walk across 5th Avenue to the Supervisor of Elections office to help returning citizens get registered to vote. The Voter Services committee will be holding an additional voter registration drive later that day as well.

The League will not be speaking at this event, but we would love to see as many members as possible out there to show support for this historic expansion of voting rights. For more information, check out the [Facebook event listing](#).



We're Finalists!

The LWVSPA was nominated for a **WEDU Be More Award**, and we're thrilled to announce that we're a finalist for the Nielsen Marketing Campaign Award! The award recognizes execution of creative and results-driven original marketing campaigns using multimedia platforms. Thanks to everyone who voted for us, and who got your friends and family to vote for us too!

The awards ceremony will be held Feb. 28 and tickets cost \$65 a piece. If you'd like to attend, please contact [Amy Weintraub](#).



Help Set the League's Program for 2019-2020!

The Program Planning meeting is next month - and it's one of the most important meetings of the year. This is when League membership comes together to decide what initiatives we'll focus on for the coming year. **This is your opportunity to help set the LWVSPA program for 2019-2020.**



If you have an issue you'd like to present to the LWVSPA for consideration, this meeting is your chance to do it.

Here are some things you should consider when creating a proposal:

- 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?
- Who will lead the initiative and who will interface with the Board of Directors?
- What is the general plan, including some comments on the structure, timeline, critical activities, and funds needed for the project?

Board leadership is available to help you develop your proposal. Just send an email to office@lwwspa.org and we'll help you get your proposal ready.

This year's Program Planning meeting will be held Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m. Location is TBD. Dinner will be served. We'll see you then!



Member Spotlight: January 2019

Name: Beth Settle

What is your favorite experience with the LWVSPA?

Contributing to the Gulfport Votes 100% campaign.

Why did you join the LWVSPA?

My mother was a member and my sister currently is in Illinois; after attending The Women's March in DC and retiring, aligned myself to learn more about the voting process and contribute to my community.

How are you involved with LWVSPA?

Member of the Publicity Committee and worked Gulfport Votes 100% to encourage every registered voter in Gulfport to vote in the 2018 mid-term elections.

Where do you find inspiration within the LWVSPA?

In its education on local and national policies and issues, regardless of party affiliation.

When not with the LWVSPA?

Ride my motorcycle, travel, build sets with a local organization that puts on musicals with casts made up with people with disabilities, and drive for the Gulfport Senior Center's Get Go service.

Thanks to Stacey Jurewicz for collecting and editing the answers to these questions!





We Need Your Help!

Event Space Needed

Does your building/residence have a community space that you can access free of charge? Do you think it might be a good place for hosting League meetings or events?

Please let us know if you have access to a community space! Email [Julia](#) or [Amy](#).

Website Content: Writing & Fact-checking

The LWVSPA still needs people to help review and update content on our website. **It's an ideal gig for people who love writing and fact-checking.** No technological experience necessary; just a willingness to learn and some comfort working with Google Docs or Word.

This is also a great opportunity for anyone who wants to volunteer with the LWVSPA but would prefer to do so from home and on their own time.

If this sounds like something you're interested in, please contact [Amanda Dodge](#).



What's Happening Around LWVSPA?

Immigration

Human rights violations continue to take place at our southern border. To get the real facts about the birthright citizenship, the border wall with Mexico and refugees, check out Immigration Fact sheets at lwvspa.org/immigration.



Then take action by contacting your representatives in Congress and telling them not to approve a budget to fund billions on the wall and to require that federal immigration officials adhere to international and federal law regarding asylum.

It's critical that they hear from you. You can share this message with them through their websites:

[Senator Marco Rubio](#) | [Representative Charlie Crist](#)

The action group's next meeting will be held Monday, Jan. 28 at 1:30 p.m. at a member's home. If you'd like to get involved with the Immigration Action Team, email Team Lead [Karen Coale](#) for more information.

National Popular Vote

The Florida state-wide NPV Committee is conducting an educational workshop Jan. 18 from 1-4 p.m. prior to the LWFL Leadership Conference "League Rising: The Power of Women."

Learn all about how we can elect the President by popular vote without a constitutional amendment. It's FREE to anyone who wants to attend and includes lunch. Please register [here](#).

If you are interested in learning more or joining the local committee, please reach out to [Deb Mazzaferro](#) or [Marty Shapiro](#).

Gun Safety

The next Gun Safety Action Team meeting will be held Monday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. at Allendale United Methodist Church. Contact Team Lead [Sharon Winters](#) for more

information.



Sustainability

Join the Sustainability Action Group to learn more about Electric Vehicles (EVs)! USFSP will be unveiling six electric vehicle charging stations at an event at USF St. Petersburg on Jan. 24.

Attendees will have the chance to test drive and ride in EVs like Chevy Volts and Bolts, check out Teslas and Nissan Leafs, and watch the documentary "Evolve: Driving a Clean Future in Coal Country." Food trucks will also be at this event. You can find more information at the [Facebook event page](#).

The team's next meeting will take place Wednesday, Jan. 17 at 6:45 p.m. at Allendale United Methodist Church (Room 107), 3803 Haines Rd, St. Petersburg. Email Co-chairs [Lisa Vanover](#), [Carol Marks](#) or [Jen Underhill](#) for more information.

Education

The Education Action Group is preparing for 2019, as they anticipate the goals of Amendment 8 - removing local control in public education and dramatically expanding charter schools and tax-credit scholarships - will resurface this year. They are also monitoring the possibility that "school safety" (particularly legislation related to arming teachers) could be another dominant legislative issue. [Read more](#) about the action group's activities in December.

To find out more about how you can get involved with this action group, contact [Iris Yetter](#).

Reproductive Justice

The Reproductive Rights Action Group will be taking part in a Roe v. Wade Anniversary Visibility event on Jan. 22 at 12 p.m. at 277 Central Ave. in St. Petersburg.

They are also partnering with Pinellas NOW and Planned Parenthood for a screening of "Birthright: A War Story," which is a feature-length documentary that exposes the truth of how American women are being jailed, physically violated and even put at risk of dying as a radical movement tightens its grip across America and allows states, courts and religious doctrine to govern when and how women will bear children. A discussion will be held afterwards.

The screening will be held Feb. 23 in the Auditorium of the St. Petersburg Main Library. More information about the time will be released once it's confirmed.

The team's next meeting is Thursday, Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. at the LWVSPA Office, 233 3rd St. N., St. Petersburg. Email Team Lead [Stacey Kroto](#) for more information about getting involved with this action group.

Membership Services

If you're interested in helping out with the Membership Committee, contact Chair [Melanie Sheehan](#).

Media/Publicity

This committee meets monthly on the 1st Thursday @ 5:30 p.m. at the LWVSPA Office, 233 3rd St. N., St. Petersburg. Email Team Lead [Amy Weintraub](#) for more information.

Voter Service

The committee's next meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the LWVSPA Office, 233 3rd St. N., St. Petersburg. Email Team Lead [Raechel Garafalo](#) for more information.



Upcoming Events

Jan. 7: International Relations Study Group: "China and America: The New Geopolitical Equation"

2-3:30 p.m. @ Barbara S. Ponce Library, 7770 52nd St N, Pinellas Park

[Facebook](#)

Jan. 8: We Can Vote: Voter Registration Drive and Press Conference

8-9 a.m. @ City Hall, 175 5th Ave. N, St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)

Jan. 13: Orientation for New and Prospective Members

5-6 p.m. @ St. Petersburg Main Library, 3745 9th Ave. N, St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)

Jan. 16: Cocktails and Conversation

6-8 p.m. @ TRY WINE: Retail Tasting Lab, 1 Beach Dr. SE #101, St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)

Jan. 18-19: League Rising: The Power of Women

DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando Downtown, 60 S. Ivanhoe Blvd., Orlando

[Event link](#)

Jan. 22: Roe v. Wade Anniversary Visibility Event

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

[Facebook](#)

Jan. 24: USFSP Gets Electrified: EV Charger, Ride and Unveil Event

3-5:30 p.m. @ USF St. Petersburg, 140 7th Ave. S, 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:

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.

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.

Please also 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!**

January 2019

Cecilia Allen
Sheila Barry-Oliver
Eric & Judy Blackledge
Donna Brewer
Matt Broerman
James Clapp
Vicki Cooper-Naughton
Jemea Douglas
Gina Driscoll
Abby Fogarty
Stephanie Gillock
Linsey Grove
Stacey Jurewicz
Annette Kaplan
Cora Kostka
Misty & Edward Landers
Judy Lybrand-Kuhn
Michelle Maccini
Fred McKay

Maria McKay
Nancy Millichamp
Kathleen Mousing
Gerni Oster
Shari Oster
Terry Perkins
Linda Ramirez
Elizabeth Reynolds
Karol Rowan
James Schulz
Sharron Scott
Margaret Sells
Corrine St. Jean
Gerald Tuite
Charles Voirin
Holly & James Wainwright
Lydia Walter
Linda Welsh

December 2018

Cheryl Carson
Meghann Carson
Rhonda Carson

Margaret Somerville
Susan Tuite

November 2018

Monica Abbott
Lisa Handy

Cara McCown
Pam Zibell



2018-2019 League Leadership

OFFICERS

President: Julie Kessel
First Vice President: Linsey Grove
Second Vice President: Lisa Vanover
Secretary: Susan Mayer
Treasurer: Caroline Bloodworth

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Caitlin Constantine
Amanda Dodge
Raechel Garafalo
Stephanie Owens
Ken Wrede

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
Health Care: Julie Kessel
Reproductive Rights: Stacey Kroto
Campaign Finance Reform/Social Justice: Julie Kessel, Karen Lieberman
Education: Marty Shapiro
Voter Service: Raechel Garafalo
Sustainability: Lisa Vanover, Carol Marks, Jen Underhill
International Relations: Judy McSwine
Media/Publicity Lead: Amy Weintraub
Office Administrator: Julia Sharp



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.