

THE VOTER

July 2021

Letter from the President



Greetings League members!

As we head into the celebration of Independence Day, it is a good time to reflect on what freedom means to us.

When I think of freedom, I think of the ability to reach my potential as an individual and how I can contribute to the collective potential of my community. These two concepts are not mutually exclusive; the freedom to reach our potential as people is wholly dependent on our community's ability to support its members.

Much of what the League does is act as an advocate for the freedom of voters to express themselves at the ballot box and in civic spaces. However, we recognize that there are many invisible barriers that inhibit that particular freedom: transportation, intentional policy barriers, lack of access and information, confidence in the election and voting process, and the fatigue of historic and systemic racism.

My hope is that we remember this Independence Day that our freedoms are dependent on ensuring the freedom of all people; we cannot defend our democracy for only a few.

In League,
Linsey

UPCOMING EVENTS

**CANDIDATE FORUMS - SPACE IS LIMITED
REGISTER TODAY**



YOU can shape the future of St. Petersburg!

2021 St. Petersburg City Council Forum

Residents of St. Petersburg are invited to attend this important event before casting their vote to learn more about the candidates' positions.

Please join us for this especially important, non-partisan civic event. Primary is August 24th - VOTE!



JULY 13, 2021
7 - 8:30 PM
SPC Allstate Center - Florida Room
3200 34th St S, St. Petersburg, FL 33711

Seating is limited to 50 people and is on a first come, first serve basis. Doors will open at 6:15 and we ask that everyone be seated by 6:45. You must register to attend: <http://stpe.co/council713>. The event will also be broadcast LIVE and a recorded version with closed captioning will be posted. Both will be available on Facebook Live and YouTube Live @LWVSPA. For more information please call (727) 394-6942.

In Collaboration with



REGISTER





YOU can shape the future of St. Petersburg!

2021 St. Petersburg Mayoral Forum

Residents of St. Petersburg are invited to attend this important event before casting their vote to learn more about the candidates' positions.

Please join us for this especially important, non-partisan civic event. Primary is August 24th - VOTE!



JULY 14, 2021
7 - 8:30 PM
SPC Allstate Center - Florida Room
3200 34th St S, St. Petersburg, FL 33711

Seating is limited to 50 people and is on a first come, first serve basis. Doors will open at 6:15 and we ask that everyone be seated by 6:45. You must register to attend: <http://stpe.co/mayor714>. The event will also be broadcast LIVE and a recorded version with closed captioning will be posted. Both will be available on Facebook Live and YouTube Live @LWVSPA. For more information please call (727) 394-6942.

In Collaboration with



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LWVSPA "Let's Chat"

WHY JEN UNDERHILL THINKS FOOD IS POLITICAL



Thursday, July 22, 2021 | 6:00 to 7:00 PM

Join the LWVSPA for the next episode of its series of interactive

videoconferences, hosted by the Membership Committee, to allow members to get to know one another and the League.

Jen Underhill, co-lead of the LWVSPA Food Politics Team, will be our guest for July.

Membership Chair, Amy Weintraub, will pepper Jen with prepared questions about food being more than just a collection of ingredients, asking our guest to reflect on how food can carry a story of culture, history, economy, health, and justice. Participants, who are asked to bring open minds and hungry bellies, will feed more questions via chat.

Zoom features will be put to use to make this hour of conversation as interactive as possible, including the use of breakout "rooms" for small group discussion, as well as the use of the poll feature for trivia questions and opinion sharing.

Note: This is an event for members only. Advance registration required. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

REGISTER

CONVENTION DELEGATE BEATE MARSTON



By Voter Team Member Loren Corrier
lorenc4re@tampabay.rr.com

We spoke with Beate Marston about her experience as a first-time delegate to the LWVFL Biannual Convention, held virtually this year on June 4th and 5th. "First of all," she replied, "I was surprised at how well organized a virtual convention could be!"

Beate also spoke of gaining a better understanding of the structure of the local, state and national leagues and of the wealth of knowledge and information available to members. "I also got to put names with faces."

A highlight for Beate was witnessing the passing of the presidential torch to new president, Cecile Scoon. "Her speech was so motivating and her energy was inspiring."

We asked if she had attended any workshops, and she said she had attended one on Rank Choice Voting. It is a different system of voting whereby voters rank all the candidates on the ballot instead of just voting for one.

Beate's motivation for becoming a delegate was two-fold. "I wanted to learn more about the League and all that they do. Because I had never attended any convention in my life, I wanted to do something to get me out of my comfort zone." Her advice to members, "Try something new" and to non-members, "JOIN the League and/or contact the League to get good information."

Beate Marston is on the Board of Directors of LWVSPA and is active with Voter Services Team.



LWVFL CONVENTION RECORDINGS

On June 4 & 5, the League of Women Voters of Florida hosted our 38th Biennial Convention virtually. Following are recordings for anyone interested, but unable to attend.

- All of the **Workshops & Caucuses** recordings that have been provided to the LWVFL office can be found by [clicking here](#).
- Day 1 of Convention can be watched by [clicking here](#).
- Day 2 of Convention can be watched by [clicking here](#).



Deciphering the National Popular Vote

Floridians for National Popular Vote District Chair, Suzanne Low, shares a 34-slide PowerPoint presentation of the major issues surrounding the National Popular Vote. Discussion follows with Suzanne, Kathleen Crampton (Chair of Floridians for National Popular Vote) and moderator, Anne Coppenhaver. [\(Click Here\)](#)



ACTION TEAM SPOTLIGHT



By Voter Team Member Olivia London
olivia.e.london@gmail.com

At the World Oceans Day Science & Social event hosted by Suncoast Sierra Club on June 8, panelists discussed Piney Point, red tide, sewage systems, the connections between these issues, and what citizens can do to make a

difference. [\(Read More\)](#)

LEAGUE LEGACY - HISTORIC DISCOVERY

By *Voter* Team Member Loren Corrier
lorenc4re@tampabay.rr.com

Among cartons of files in the office, Julia Sharp has discovered two boxes containing copies of "The VOTER" newsletters dating back to the 50's. The earliest is from 1952. They are pages long, typed on a manual typewriter and probably copied on a mimeograph (in a time before printers). No internet, no texting, the "VOTER" was the only written form of communication available to members at that time.



In an attempt to get information out to the public, in 1952 the LWVSPA initiated "Operation Tallahassee" and broadcast a 10 program radio series, "How Florida Gets and Spends It's Money." League members did live interviews with the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House regarding rules and procedures and the progress of various bills.

Newspapers were another major source of publicity. In 1954, league members conducted a successful voter registration drive through weekly articles in the *St. Petersburg Times* which generated 2000 new voter registrations.

Check out next month's VOTER for highlights of the LWVSPA in the 60's.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

By *Voter* Team Member
Bonnie Hough



bonnie@banyannonprofitstrategy.com

The spotlight this month is on a recent Board Member and quite possibly the biggest LWVSPA champion there is, Ken Wrede. Learn what drew him to work with the League, his favorite local kayaking spot, and lots more by visiting the blog. [\(Read More\)](#)

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION



Congratulations, Gina Gallo!

"Cream of the Crop" volunteer,
Gina Gallo, LWVSPA Treasurer.

Nominated by Amy Weintraub,
Membership Committee Lead.

Gina shares her amazing gifts
and talents to the office --
financial literacy, attention to
detail, timeliness in completing
tasks, clear and accurate record
keeping, and a willingness to ask
questions on a daily basis.



As Membership Chair, Amy has seen firsthand how the League benefits from Gina's financial oversight, her ability to create and manage budgets, report out, and communicate. The high standards with which Gina handles the League's accounts sets a tone of integrity for the League as a whole. All the time and energy Gina puts into League management is greatly appreciated.

LWVPSA's financial health is directly tied to Gina's hard work. The way in which she manages our funds has a strong impact on our membership's (and the public's) perception and trust, and it assures our League's sustainability. Thank you, Gina!

Do you know a "Cream of the Crop" Volunteer?

Board members and Leads who wish to nominate their "Cream of the Crop" volunteers may send their information to Beth Settle, samster1212@hotmail.com no later than the 25th of each month in order to have them highlighted in the following month's issue of The Voter, and receive a hand-written note of gratitude from the Membership Committee.

DONATE! GET THE SHIRT



**Donate \$25 to LWVSPA
and get a new LWV polo or custom raglan shirt!**

Donate to LWVSPA Education Fund to support voter empowerment and action teams like Social Justice, Education, and Healthcare. Featuring 2 LWVSPA shirt designs to display your commitment to making democracy work.

DONATE

Mark Your Calendars!

July 26 – Deadline to register for St. Petersburg Primary Elections

August - General Meeting

August 24 – St. Petersburg Primary Election and St. Pete Beach Special Election

October - General Meeting

October 4 – Deadline to register for Municipal General Elections

November 2 – Municipal General Elections

December - Holiday Party

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome New Member!

Please join the Membership Committee in welcoming **Lyn Taylor** who joined last month.

Time to renew, seasoned members

July 2021

Janet Adams
Mary Ches Applewhite
Kristin Beck

Margaret Kowski
Stacey Kroto
Holly Lazo

Ingrid Bredenber
Nita Carroll
Laura Crabtree
Rebecca Davis
Paige DePagter
Lisa Flaherty
Teresa Francis
Geraldine Gray
Lisset Hanewicz
Barbara Hartwell
Cherita James
Amy Keith
Kristin Kern

Beth Lurie
Marti Moorefield
Devon Murray
Sandra Owens
Barbara Pierce
Alexis Quintal
Carlyn Scott
Christa Shoaf
Martha Sifnas
Shelley Valeri
Betty Ward
Kari Weddle
Angela Williams

June 2021

Orlando Acosta
Jacqueline Azis
Nina Bailey
Mark Barasz
Julia Barlow
Melissa Barlow
Nina Berkheiser
Amy Brownlee
Susan Burr
Judson Cahill
Gregory Carlin
Laurie Clement
Lawrence Clermont
Mary Crear
Rebecca Deming
Amanda Dodge
Amy DuPont
Marianne Ferrari
Linda Fife
Lisa Gudath
Amanda Hagood
Harry Harvey
Kris Hoagland

Nicole Huau
Beate Hughes-Brown
Sharon Jackson
Jessica Jacobs
Stacey Jurewicz
Sarah Love
Kerri Maphis
Amanda Maple
Linda Metzkow
Tamika Mitchem
Macklyn Moorhead
Christy Nelson
Shari Oster
Gerni Oster
Alexandra Panos
Nancy Parker
Ann Pelishek
Julie Plata
Tami Reed
Jackie Sanchez
Cynthia Sinclair
Alison Warner
Livia Zien

May 2021

Lorraine Franckle
Neil Franckle
Christine Ghezze
Jocelyn Howard

Marlys Meckler
Melanie Sheehan
Patricia Sriram
Mary Ann Ziegler

[Renew / Join Now](#)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

- [July Calendar of Events/Meetings](#)
- [Meet our Board](#)
- [Explore Issues](#)
- [Check Out our Blog Archives](#)
- [Engage!](#)





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.