

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA

VOTER June 2014

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.

President's Letter

Dear League Members and Supporters,

Your League has continued to be active during the months leading up to summer. Here's a little bit about what's going on:

After the whirlwind of our fundraiser annual luncheon and election of officers and board of directors, our national convention in Dallas came to a close with a closely contested election between our own state president, Dierdre Macnab and incumbent Elisabeth McNamara.

Florida sent all of its 75 voting delegates to support Dierdre in her vision for increased diversity and membership growth, innovation in program design and delivery, and inspired leadership. Elisabeth McNamara argued for staying the course, and continuity. Our own Susan Mayer and Darden Rice represented our local League as part of the feisty Florida contingent. The debate was intense, the program full, and the food, drink, and fun plentiful. Though not victorious in our national leadership quest, we start the year with a strong Florida state board led by Dierdre and a robust national, state, and local agenda.

This year, at the local level, we will join our State League in a focus on advocating for medicaid expansion, so that more than one million Florida residents, many working long hours to support their families, can get medical coverage and the care they need without risking their lives and life savings. The Florida legislature opens debate in early March 2015. We intend to be there, and to do what we can to ensure that health care coverage is available to as many uncovered residents as possible. If you would like to be involved in preparing for the campaign to bring our message to the legislature, please [email](#) me.



Julie Kessel
President 2014-15



Your LWVSPA officers and board wish you a safe and joyful holiday as we celebrate our nation's birthday.

Join Us We Make a Difference



- *Individual Membership: \$52
- *Each Additional Household Membership: \$26
- *Student Individual Membership: \$26

Visit our [website](#) to join

--OR--

mail your dues check to:

LWVSPA
PO Box 11775
St. Petersburg, FL 33733

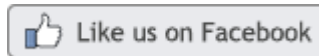
Dues cover only a portion of local League expenses, so an additional contribution will be gratefully accepted! [Click here](#) to contribute.

In our local community, past president Karen Coale will lead our advocacy efforts to ensure that Universal Curbside Recycling will become a reality in St. Pete. We also take up the effort to educate residents on the pros and cons of Greenlight Pinellas, a referendum to increase bus service and lay the foundation for light rail in Pinellas County. And of course, our Voter Service Committee, led by Raechel Garafalo, is winding into full speed in its collaboration with our North County League partners to prepare a voter guide for primaries across the county. We will continue our efforts to educate residents on the importance of voting, providing information about candidates, hosting candidate forums, and registering voters. Primary elections occur on August 26th, and the deadline to register to vote is July 28th.

But while we're working, we want to have some fun, get to know our members, and invite others to join. 16 of us went to the Rays game on June 8th; we'll be at the Pride Parade; we'll show up at the Saturday Morning Market when it reopens in the fall; and we'll go to a happy hour or two. This year, we're also heading to Cuba, taking some trips in the Florida wild, and to "wild" Tallahassee, speaking up at public hearings, and participating in some educational trainings across the state.

If you've been thinking about getting involved, now's the time. We're looking forward to an active year, and to getting to know you. And one last request, please like us on Facebook so that we can spread the word about our mission and activities.

In League,
Julie



In Memoriam Joanne Shrewsbury

Our member and friend, Joanne Shrewsbury, passed away on Friday, June 13th. Joanne was a member of the LWVSPA since 1989, and served twice as co-president. More recently, she was active in the Immigration Committee, where she was lovingly described as "bright, conscientious, and a bit spunky." Joanne's memorial service is scheduled for this weekend.

Location:

[Unitarian Universalist Church of Clearwater](#)
[2470 Nursery Road](#)

Date: Saturday, June 21st at noon

Joanne had requested that contributions in her memory be made to the LWVSPA.

[Read more about how your money is used.](#)



We are very pleased to welcome the following new members to the LWVSPA:

Julie Allison
Rebecca Falkenberry
Judy Lee
Maija Russell

Join Our Mailing List



Stay informed about what's going on at the LWVSPA!

St

LWVSPA Leadership

Officers

Julie Kessel, President
Raechel Garafalo, 1st Vice President
Pat Wood, 2nd Vice President
Kathy Arsenault, Secretary
Caroline Bloodworth, Treasurer

Directors

Wendy Grassi
Jane Harper
Ayele Hunt
Jim Jackson
Karen Knop
Jack McCullough
Kathy Mossing
Chitra Naidu

Committees and Working Groups

Karen Coale, Member Services, Universal Curbside Recycling, Immigration
Raechel Garafalo, Voter Service
Ayele Hunt, Library Services Study
Jim Jackson, Charter Schools Study

Administrative

Susan Mayer, Information Manager and Voter Editor

The Latest from Committees and Working Groups



Universal Curbside Recycling

By Karen Coale, LWVSPA Member of the People's Trash Coalition

Before beginning the procurement process for outsourcing the processing of recyclable waste here in St. Petersburg, city staff requested the results of Hillsborough County's study of contamination rates among their recyclables. On June 6th, Hillsborough reported the contamination rate at 18%.

The City of St Petersburg should now be ready to begin the procurement process for both the collection and processing of recyclable waste. We are anticipating an updated timeline for implementing universal curbside recycling.

We want the citizens of St. Pete to continue to remember the city's commitment and why we worked in coalition to achieve universal curbside recycling, starting with 76,000 single-family households. We need your help. Stay informed and help make recycling a success in St Petersburg! Email me now: kcoale@lwwspa.org.



Immigration Reform Update

By Karen Coale, Immigration Committee Co-Chair

Though the Immigration Working Group is taking the summer off, we have scheduled a meeting with Rep. David Jolly to review the LWVUS national position on immigration. That meeting is scheduled to take place on August 6th. My thanks to Sue Price for handling the arrangements.

Our next working group meeting will be on October 15th at 10:00 AM. However, the group will be keeping in touch via email and certainly become engaged if federal legislation moves to the front burner in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Voter Service

by Raechel Garafalo, Voter Service Committee Chair

In preparation for the August 26th Primary Election, we are focusing this month's education efforts on judicial races. Part of that work includes distribution of a [Voter's Guide to Merit Retention](#), published by the Florida Bar Association.

In support of that effort...we offer a **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**. The Voter Service team needs assistance in distributing the guides to community centers (e.g., libraries, recreation centers, etc.). If you would like to help distribute this useful educational resource, please [contact me](#).



Also, to help with your ballot decisions, I've included below a brief explanation of Florida's judicial branch crafted by Elizabeth Mannion, attorney and board member with the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas:

Florida's judicial branch is composed of the Florida Supreme Court, five District Courts of Appeal, and 20 Judicial Circuits. Justices and judges on the Supreme Court and the District Courts of Appeal are appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the respective judicial nominating committees. At the end of their term, they may choose to place their names on the ballot for merit retention. Circuit and County Court Judges initially run for election, except in cases of a vacancy, when the governor appoints the judge.

There are 20 judicial circuits in Florida; Pinellas and Pasco Counties comprise the 6th Judicial Circuit, the third largest trial court in Florida. There are 69 judges (45 Circuit Court and 24 County Court) in the 6th Judicial

Circuit. Circuit courts have jurisdiction over controversies where the dispute has a value exceeding \$15,000, in family law, probate and guardianship matters and, on the criminal side, felonies. Jurisdiction in county courts is limited to controversies with a value of less than \$15,000, landlord/tenant disputes and, on the criminal side, misdemeanors and traffic violations. Cases are assigned to one of 13 divisions depending on the nature of the case and then randomly assigned to a judge in that division.

Judges to circuit and county court are elected for six-year terms. Judicial elections are scheduled this year for August 26th when the voters will elect five circuit court judges. There are no contested county court seats in this year's election.

Did You Know?



During the post-World War II period, the League helped lead the effort to establish the United Nations and to ensure U.S. participation.

The League was one of the first organizations in the country officially recognized by the United Nations as a non-governmental organization (NGO); ***it still maintains official observer status today*** and has special consultative status to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The League also supported the creation of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as NATO, economic aid to less developed countries and the Marshall Plan. For more information, [click here](#).



Things quiet down in summer for the League. Please see the president's letter and committee and working group reports for volunteer opportunities. Meanwhile, we urge you to attend the following event:

[St. Petersburg People's Budget Review](#)

2014 Final Budget Summit

When: Wednesday, June 18th at 6:00 PM

Where: [Willis S. Johns Recreation Center, 6635 Dr. MLK Street North](#)

It's the final budget! Make sure city council and the mayor hear your voice!

Join the People's Budget Review as they present results from more than 1000 resident surveys at the last Public Budget Summit of 2014.

The People's Budget Review task force has been talking to everyday residents about how to improve city services, while at the same time exploring fresh ideas about how to increase the impact and scope of our shared resources. Attend the Public Hearing and speak up for your priorities!



Caught on Camera...from League folks at various events



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

PO Box 11775, St. Petersburg, FL 33733

office@lwvspa.org

www.lwvspa.org

10/9/2020

Constant Contact : Emails : Details

LWVSPA, P.O. Box 11775, St. Petersburg, FL 33733

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#).

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by office@lwvspa.org powered by

