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

## VOTER

March 2014

### President's Letter



Join the  
Winning Team!

**WE COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT**

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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!**

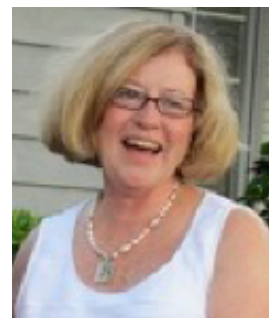
**In the Community**

**UNHAPPY HOUR**

Tuesday, April 8th  
5:30 PM to 7:00 PM  
Morean Arts Center 719 Central Avenue  
Food and Drinks Cash Bar

Dear League Members and Supporters,

February was an exciting and very busy month for our League. The campaign to bring universal curbside recycling to St. Petersburg reached a major milestone on February 20th when our City Council voted unanimously to proceed with the implementation.



Karen Coale, President

My thanks to all of you who have supported this project both publicly at our press conference last April and behind the scenes at several City Council hearings. You have made a difference!

However, the campaign is not over, and we need to stay involved as we enter this next phase--educating and engaging the public--as well as re-enforcing our continued support for the project to our elected officials.

I ask each of you to send an email to the [City Council](#) and the [Mayor](#) thanking them for their support of this project. By doing this, we can counter the noise from the opposition.

Soon you will be receiving the proposed 2014/2015 budget, bylaws changes, program description, and slate of officers, board members, and nominating committee.

This information will help to prepare you for our Annual Meeting, which will be at 10:00 AM on Saturday, April 26th, at the [St. Petersburg Yacht Club](#). Mark your calendars.

For many years, [Business & Professional Women](#) have been marking the day when women's salaries finally catch up with the annual salaries made by men during the previous calendar year. In other words, it takes women over 15 months to make what men make on the average in 12 months.

The keynote speaker for our luncheon is the Hon. Patricia Schroeder, U.S. House of Representatives, 1973-1997. We encourage you to invite your friends and family to the luncheon to hear the very accomplished Congresswoman Schroeder.

In League,

Karen

All are invited! No RSVP.

For more information, contact [Kristin Smith](#) of BPW.

## Annual Meeting



### Share Lunch with Pat Schroeder

Please join the St. Petersburg Area League of Women Voters 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@lwgspa.org](mailto:office@lwgspa.org). Invitations offering RSVP information will be out next week. Be on the lookout!

## Universal Curbside Recycling

### 2014: It's Here! Universal Curbside Recycling Is On the Way to St. Petersburg

[Karen Coale](#)

LWVSPA Member of the People's Trash Coalition

This past month the St. Petersburg City Council unanimously passed two resolutions regarding universal curbside recycling:

- To proceed with City Staff's recommendation to begin providing service this year to all 76,000 single family households in St Petersburg.



- That outsourcing negotiations will adhere to the Local Hiring Ordinance and include a living wage and benefits for all new hires under the contract. The Mayor also added that he will ask City Staff to look into providing service to multiple family dwellings and condos.

This is a major milestone in the campaign to bring recycling to all of St. Pete's households. At the meeting, over 60 people packed City Council chambers and wore "Recycle" stickers. This level of turnout makes a difference, and I thank you for your support.

It would also be helpful for each of you to send a thank you email to the [Mayor](#) for his support and your [City Council member](#) for their votes.

Our next steps include public education and awareness, providing a great opportunity for you to get involved. Our overall goal is to significantly increase recyclable waste in St. Pete, and an educated public is key to that success. Our project is called The People's Trash, and it is a coalition of partners including the Council of Neighborhood Associations, The People's Budget Review, The Suncoast Sierra Club, and the LWVSPA.

Current League members include: Kathy Mossing, Chitra Naidu, Ray Wunderlich, and me. Join us! For more information or to volunteer to help out, please [contact me](#).

## Voter Service



### Plan Ahead? What a Concept! Let's Get Ready for the Fall Election Season

[Rachael Garafalo](#)

Voters Service Chair

We bid adieu to the cities of Gulfport, South Pasadena, St. Pete Beach, and Kenneth City, and thank them for giving us the opportunity to facilitate voter forums in January and February. We look forward to working with these cities again soon.

Now, it's on to planning for the fall election season. Federal, state, county, and special district races will create opportunities for Leaguers to play active roles in the many events leading up to the August 26th primary and November 4th general elections.

With all the challenges voters face (stricter ID requirements, changes in ballot drop-off procedures, and purging of the voter rolls, to name a few), the League's role today in educating and engaging the electorate is more important than ever. Your participation is vital to our success!

We will be conducting a planning meeting in the next couple of weeks to plot a course and create an action plan for the Voters Service committee in 2014. The three main items on the agenda are Voter Guide production, voter registration planning, and candidate forum training with a focus on moderator development.

Voters have come to rely on the League's non-partisan voter education resources to help them make informed ballot choices; this is why your support and engagement is so critical.

If you would like to participate in the 2014 Election Season planning workshop and/or help with the many related activities and tasks, please [contact me](#).

Hope to see you soon! Raechel

## Immigration

### Chipping Away on Immigration Reform in Florida

[Karen Coale](#)

Immigration Committee Co-Chair



The U.S. Senate passed a comprehensive immigration bill last June that meets many of the points in the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) [Immigration Position](#). Despite some attempts, the U.S. House of Representatives has made no progress in producing immigration legislation.

However, within Florida, our legislators are making some progress, and we expect bills to be filed early in the session in these three areas:

- In-state tuition for students who attend for at least three years and graduate from Florida high schools and begin their college education within 24 months of graduation--regardless of their and their parents' immigration status.
- Undocumented youth who apply for and obtain the federal DACA (Deferred Action Childhood Arrival) status can use that documentation to obtain a Florida driver's license.
- Kidcare bill that would allow a child who has a green card (Legal Permanent Resident status) to apply for Medicaid if the need exists. The current 5-year wait would be waived.

As the Florida legislative session begins, expect Action Alerts from the League of Women Voters of Florida (LWVF). Please do respond to them and make your voice heard.

The next Immigration Committee meeting will be on March 19th from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Please [contact me](#) for details about location. Come join us, and become informed on this complex issue.

## Member Service

### Member Orientation

We offered our latest Member Orientation on Saturday, March 1st, in the League office boardroom. The time was invigorating for all, with some information presented being new to many of us.

Mary Berglund, who presented a brief history of the League, shared the League's 1987 press release:



Participants at a previous Member Orientation

"The League of Women Voters is withdrawing sponsorship of the presidential debates...because the demands of the two campaign organizations would perpetrate a fraud on the American voter. It has become clear to us that the candidates' organizations aim to add debates to their list of campaign-trail charades devoid of substance, spontaneity and answers to tough questions. The League has no intention of becoming an accessory to the hoodwinking of the American public."

Come to the next orientation and learn! You don't have to be a new member to attend.

## Karen Coale to Be Member Service Committee Chair



We are pleased to announce that Karen Coale, outgoing LWVSPA president, will take on the leadership role for our Member Service Committee. Committee membership is a rewarding way to get to know our members and to be of service. We'd love to have you as a volunteer on the Member Service Committee.

**We welcome the following returning members to the LWVSPA:**

**Marilyn Hafling  
Glen and Kay Paul**

So glad to have you back!!



**Caught on Camera...  
at Our Annual Program Planning Meeting**

# February 26th



## LWVSPA Leadership

### OFFICERS

- Karen Coale, President
- Julie Kessel, First Vice President
- Sydni Shollenberger, Second Vice President
- Kathy Arsenault, Secretary
- Caroline Bloodworth, Treasurer

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Raechel Garafalo
- Ayele Hunt

Susan Mayer, VOTER editor  
Chitra Naidu  
Nancy Tait



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

**Wednesday, March 19th, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM**  
**Immigration Committee Meeting**  
[Email Karen Coale for location.](#)

**Monday, April 7th, 11 AM to 12 Noon**  
**International Relations Group Meeting**  
[Pinellas Park Library](#)  
7770 52nd Street North  
Pinellas Park  
**Topic:** China in Africa

**Wednesday, April 16th, 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM**  
**Immigration Committee Meeting**  
[Email Karen Coale for location.](#)

**Saturday, April 26th, 10:00 AM to 1:30 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](mailto:LWVFOffice@gmail.com).

## LWVSPA CONTACT INFORMATION

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