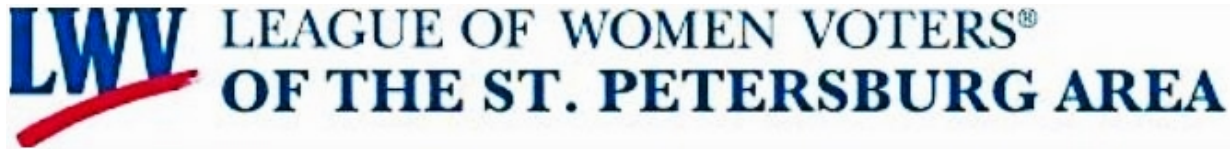


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VOTER

2015 RESOLUTIONS:

1. PLAN
2. ACT
3. ACCOMPLISH

March 2015

Special Edition: Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon

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



Julie Kessel
President 2014-2015

Hello my LWVSPA friends,

It's time to get started on our new League year! We have completed our program planning process, and will present next year's program, along with our leadership slate, our proposed budget, and changes to our bylaws at our annual business meeting on April 18th. **There is**

information in this newsletter to prepare you for the meeting. Please take some time to review it so that you will be ready to vote.

We are honored to have [Rob Lorei](#) as our keynote speaker at the luncheon following our meeting. Rob is an incredible journalist and talk show host who has given voice to many issues, and has established himself as a staple in our community. Rob contributes to making our democracy work through the platform he provides for open discussion. **Please check out our luncheon information in this issue and make your reservation now.**

**JOIN US:
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 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](#)

We will also be presenting **our first annual Babette Husick Community Action Award**, commemorating the memory of Babette Husick, devoted LWVSPA member, who supported the League in a bequest after her passing. This award recognizes an individual or community organization demonstrating commitment to working in collaboration with the League for change in the community in line with our principles and mission.

This year, it is our distinct pleasure to present the Babette Husick Community Action Award to our friend and colleague, [Gypsy Gallardo](#): editor, publisher, organizer, and activist. Specifically, the League recognizes Gypsy's collaboration with the League on the get out the vote (GOTV) message. Because of her initiative, commitment, and collaboration, the League was able to get in front of ten congregations and to disseminate nearly 3000 Voter Guides directly to citizens we otherwise may not have reached. We are grateful to Gypsy, and want to recognize her contribution.

Please come and enjoy this afternoon with us.

We've also been busy beyond preparing for the new year. We sent five representatives to Tallahassee to participate in the League Lobby Days. We lobbied for Closing the Gap in Health Care, Immigration Reform, Gun Safety, Charter School Accountability, Environmental Conservation (Amendment 1) and assorted Voter Rights issues. And we had fun doing it.

As part of our advocacy campaign for Closing the Gap in Health Care coverage, we've met with more than 15 businesses and organizations, collected nearly 100 postcards to legislators, and completed countless emails, phone calls, and letters. **We have a press conference scheduled to draw even more attention to this critical initiative on March 31st at 11:00 AM. We hope you will attend.**

We are determined to get our legislature to pass a unique, flexible, Florida solution to take billions of dollars in federal monies and insure another million working Floridians, secure our health care economy, and get people the health care coverage they need.

Your efforts have been tremendous in this last month. There is much to do, and we are grateful to you for all of your efforts to make democracy work. As you know, the League is what you make of it. See you on April 18th!

It's easy to join or renew. To pay online using PayPal, just click on the link above for your membership level. Or, if you prefer, mail a check payable to LWVSPA to this address:

LWVSPA
POB 11775
St. Petersburg, FL 33733-11775

A large percentage of what you pay for an individual membership goes to support our state and national Leagues. **By selecting the new Gold or Silver membership level, most of your dues will help support the work of our local League.**



Please join us in welcoming the following new member to the LWVSPA:

Stephanie Alaimo, St. Petersburg
Ann Davis, South Pasadena
Mary Fulton, Clearwater

LWVSPA Leadership

Officers:

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

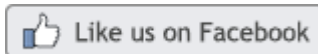
Directors:

Wendy Grassi
Jane Harper
Jim Jackson
Karen Knop
Jack McCullough
Kathy Mossing

Administrative:

Susan Mayer, Information Manager
and *Voter* Editor

In League,
Julie



Annual Business Meeting: Be Ready to Vote

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
OPEN TO MEMBERS ONLY
NO CHARGE TO ATTEND**

Date: Saturday, April 18th

Time: 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Location: Quarterdeck Room, St. Petersburg Yacht Club

AGENDA

10:00 AM to 10:30 AM - Check-In

10:30 AM to 11:45 AM - Business Meeting

- * Welcome, Call to Order, Adoption of Rules - Julie Kessel
- * 2014 Minutes - Kathy Arsenault
- * Treasurer's Report - Caroline Bloodworth
- * Audit Committee Report - Judy Hall
- * Budget Report - Caroline Bloodworth
- * Bylaws Committee Report - Jack McCullough
- * State of the LWVSPA Report - Julie Kessel
- * Review and Adoption of 2015-2016 Program - Julie Kessel
- * Nominations - June Bedford
- * Words from the President and Directions to the Board - Julie Kessel



2014 Meeting & Luncheon

Lunch with Rob Lorei: How Great is That?

**ANNUAL LUNCHEON
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

When: Saturday, April 18th

Time: Noon - 2:00 PM

(Check-in 11:30 AM - Noon)

Where: Regatta Room, St. Petersburg Yacht Club

Registration Deadline: Monday, April 18th

Our luncheon features keynote speaker **ROB LOREI**, who is one of Tampa Bay's longest-standing political commentators and a founding staffer of

radio station WMNF.

The work Rob does gives voice to issues of relevance in our region and promotes active discussion and engagement in democracy, which is at the heart of our mission. After having been host to many voices on many issues, Rob's point of view is unique, informative, insightful, and engaging.

In his many years covering politics in West Central Florida, Rob has moderated numerous televised political debates, including the Florida attorney general's race, the Tampa mayoral race, the U.S. Senate primaries, and the gubernatorial primaries. He's also interviewed hundreds of political notables including Gov. Charlie Crist, Bill Moyers, former President Jimmy Carter, Ralph Nader, Janet Reno, Al Franken, Sen. Bob Graham, and John Dean.



Rob Lorei

As moderator of WEDU's *Florida This Week*, Rob leads a diverse roundtable of journalists, academics, officials, and other political insiders every Friday for lively talk on the political issues facing Floridians.

Rob's speech is sure to be rich with local, state, and national political lore. Don't miss it!

[Click here to RSVP.](#)

About the St. Petersburg Yacht Club



Address: [11 Central Avenue](#)

St Petersburg, FL 33701

Phone: (727) 822-3873

Parking: \$8.00 for non-members in the Yacht Club garage. Public parking is available on street or at nearby parking garages.

Candidates for Officers and Board of Directors 2015-2016

We are proud to present our slate of officers and directors for the 2015-2016 year. We thank these LWVSPA members who have volunteered to assume leadership positions. Our officers and directors will be counting on your support as we work to make the upcoming year successful.

We extend sincere thanks to the 2015-2016 Nominating Committee: June Bedford (Chair), Jim Jackson, and Gina Rothlein for their hard work in identifying our leadership team candidates for the upcoming year.

2015-2016 OFFICERS

President: Julie Kessel, One-Year Term



Julie served as LWVSPA President for the 2014-2015 term. She is a physician by training and is board certified in psychiatry. Julie has worked as a medical administrator in the insurance industry for the last 13 years, where she oversees the development of policy for her company and has a team of 26 around the country. Now serving as President, Julie Kessel also has filled the roles of First Vice President and Secretary for the Board of the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area. She became involved with the League just a few years ago at the suggestion of a trusted friend, and loves being a part of the League because it gives her an opportunity to get involved in our democracy and to give back to the community. She's happy to have met "terrific people: bright, passionate, interesting and able; and to have made new friends."



First Vice President: Raechel Garafalo, One-Year Term

Raechel served as LWVSPA First Vice President for the 2014-2015 term. Her work experience includes retail management, manufacturer sales, and corporate and residential interior design. She brings valuable knowledge and skills to our board from those endeavors. As a member of the board, she has led the Voter Service Committee for two years and continues in that role while also serving as First Vice President. Raechel Garafalo has lived in St. Petersburg since early childhood. She comes by her interest in the LWVSPA naturally as her parents were political and social activists who were also members of the LWVSPA. Raechel enjoys collaboration but is also comfortable with working independently to get things done.



Second Vice President: Jane Harper, One-Year Term

Jane served as a member of the LWVSPA Board of Directors for the 2014-2015 term and has been a League member since 1981. She has a BA in Psychology and an MA in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of South Florida. She is currently a board member of the St. Petersburg College Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions and the National Network of Youth and Family Services, Inc. She was formerly President and CEO of Family Resources, Inc. in St. Petersburg, President and VP of the Florida Network of Youth and Family Services, Inc., and President of the National Network of Youth and Family Services, Inc.

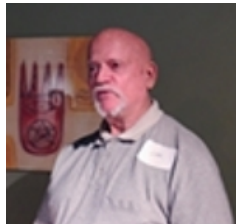


Secretary: Iris Yetter, Two-Year Term

Iris joined the LWVSPA in September 2013. She has a BA from Hunter College, City University of New York, has done graduate work at the University of Pittsburgh, and has an MS from Florida State University, where she also did doctoral work. She has worked as a researcher for the Florida Department of Education's Education Standards Commission, and as a policy analyst for the Education Policy Unit of the Florida Governor's Office of Planning and Budgeting. In addition, she served as Associate Vice President for Staff Development and Director of Grants for St. Petersburg College, and as Director of Sponsored Programs at Eckerd College.

2015-2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

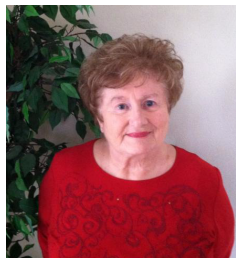
Jim Jackson, Two-Year Term



Jim served as an appointed member of the LWVSPA Board of Directors for the 2014-2015 term. He chaired the Charter School Study for our League, and has spent four decades working in Florida Public Schools at all levels. He taught more than 25,000 students, trained hundreds of classroom teachers, and has been an outspoken advocate for students, parents, and teachers. In addition to earning a Ph.D. from Florida State University, Jim completed a two year postdoctoral program funded by the National Institute of Mental Health in Institutional Racism. He is an avid gardener of Florida native plants and an outdoorsman.

Kathy Mossing, Two-Year Term

Kathy served as an appointed member of the LWVSPA Board of Directors for the 2014-2015 term. She is a native of NW Ohio and a registered nurse. She spent most of her 44-year career in the Seattle area working in the areas of management, education, and administration. Kathy's last administrative position was at Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle. During her career she was very active in the Northwest Organization of Nurse Executives and is a past president of the Psi Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, a nursing honorary society. Kathy semi-retired to Florida in 2007 and worked part-time as an Emergency Department Case Manager in a local medical center. Kathy holds a BS in Nursing from the University of Maryland, an MA in Nursing from the University of Washington, and an MBA from Seattle University. Kathy has been a member of the LWV for several years, and recently became an active member of LWVSPA, participating in the International Relations Committee and the City of St. Petersburg's curbside recycling effort.



Kay Lahdenpera, Two-Year Term

Kay is a third-generation Alaskan who moved to Florida two years ago. She has a BS in Nursing from the University of Washington and an MS in Public Health from Loma Linda University. Kay holds inactive nursing licenses in Washington and New York, and active nursing licenses in Alaska and Florida. She is currently a Faith Community Nurse for St. Alban's Parish. In Alaska, Kay was Manager of the Municipality of Anchorage's Public Health Program and Director of Health and Human Services Region 10 Title 10 (Anchorage)

Family Planning and Women's Health Program for 32 years. In 2014, she was inducted into the Alaska Women's Hall of Fame for Achievement in Public Health Nursing. Kay was active in the League in Alaska, serving on the board of directors at both the local and state levels.

LEADERS COMPLETING THE SECOND YEAR OF A TWO-YEAR TERM

Caroline Bloodworth, Treasurer

Wendy Grassi, Director

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR THE 2016-2017 LEAGUE YEAR

Kathy Arsenault, Chair

June Bedford

Edie LeBas

2015-2016 Program

As a result of our Program Planning Meeting in February, members collaborated to develop our proposed Program for 2015-2016. Please [click here](#) to read the proposal.

The implementation of our Program will be successful with your help. Please volunteer!

Recommended Bylaws Changes

At its March 3, 2015 meeting, the Board of Directors passed the following motion from the Bylaws Committee to recommend for approval by the membership the following changes to the LWVSPA Bylaws:

That **Article VIII. Financial Administration, Section 2. Dues*** be stricken from the bylaws in its entirety and replaced by a new Section 2 that states:

(AMENDED BYLAWS)

ARTICLE VIII. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 2. Dues.

- a) Annual dues shall be set at the Annual Meeting by vote of the membership and shall be due and payable on or before each member's anniversary date. Approval of dues shall include creation of dues categories with differing levels of payment recommended by the Board. [04/15]
- (b) Dues are paid by new members when they initially join the League, which becomes their anniversary dates. [04/15]
- c) Any member whose dues have not been received by two months after their anniversary date shall be dropped from membership on that date. [04/15]
- (d) During the first year of transition to anniversary date renewals, dues will be pro-rated based on last payment date. [04/15]

(CURRENT BYLAWS)

*Sec. 2. Dues.

- (a) Annual dues shall be set at the Annual Meeting and shall be due and payable on or before October first. [04/07]
- (b) Dues paid by new members joining between July first and October first shall be credited to the ensuing League year. [04/07]
- (c) Any member whose dues have not been received by December 31st shall be dropped from membership on that date, unless this action is countermanded by the board of directors. [04/07]
- (d) When two or more members reside at the same address in a common household, full payment of dues shall be made for the first member; a payment equal to one-half the annual dues payment shall be made for each other member.

2015-2016 Budget

Our bylaws require that our proposed yearly budget be submitted to the membership for approval. To access the budget document, [click here](#).

Here's Your Opportunity to Get Involved

in State League Activities

The State League has important events coming up in the next few months. **Any member is welcome to attend, so mark your calendar and join us.**

State Convention, May 15th-17th, 2015, Delray Beach

[REGISTER NOW](#) for the 2015 LWVF Convention....our best ever!!!
Convention will take place May 15th-17th in beautiful, oceanside Delray Beach. There will be national speakers and workshops to help you improve your public speaking skills and you will be part of the team that helps direct the League's future by deciding on priorities and issues.



So plan now for two packed days of fun, a chance to make new friends and stunning evening activities. Don't miss it!



Tuesday, March 31st, 11:00 AM

Closing the Health Care Gap Press Conference
Details to be Announced
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Monday, April 6th, 2:00 - 3:00 PM

International Relations Group Meeting
Topic: U.S. Trade Relations
Facilitator: Kay Lahdenpera
Pinellas Park Library
7770 52nd Street North, Pinellas Park
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Tuesday, April 7th, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Board of Directors Meeting
League Office Boardroom
233 3rd Street North, St. Petersburg
OPEN TO MEMBERS

Saturday, April 18th, 10:00 - 2:00 PM

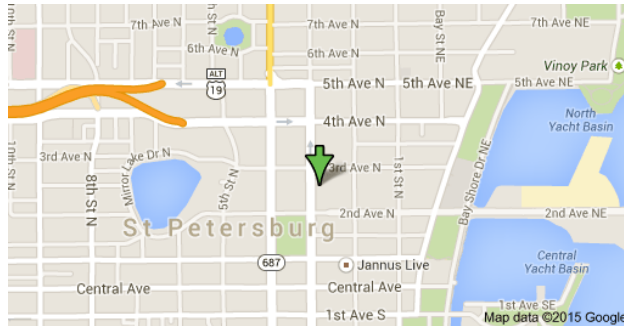
Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon
St. Petersburg Yacht Club
11 Central Avenue, St. Petersburg
MEETING OPEN TO MEMBERS ONLY
LUNCHEON OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Saturday, April 25th, 10:30 - Noon

Member Orientation
League Office Boardroom

233 3rd Street North, St. Petersburg
OPEN TO MEMBERS AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

[Check our calendar](#) for the latest schedule of League events.



For events at our office, our location is 233 Third Street North, St. Petersburg. Parking is available on street.



Join our mailing list and stay informed about what's going on at the LWVSPA!

We also urge you to visit our state website www.thefloridavoter.org for additional information about League issues and events and to subscribe to the LWVF newsletter.

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

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

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