

THE VOTER

March 2016

Annual Meeting and Luncheon Saturday, April 9th, St. Petersburg Yacht Club

President's Letter

Hello my LWVSPA friends,

This past month has been extremely busy and exciting. And now April promises to be a meaningful month as we conduct our Annual Meeting and Luncheon. Here are the items on which we will vote:

- A new League year **Program**, determined by our members at our recent annual Program Planning Meeting
- A **slate of officers and directors** assembled by our Nominations Committee
- A **new budget** with an increased focus on convention participation, fundraising, and member and community outreach, formulated by the Budget Committee
- **Bylaws clarification** offered by our Bylaws Committee



Julie Kessel
President, 2015-2016

All the details are here for you in the Voter, so scroll down, take a look, and come prepared to vote on Saturday, April 9th.

As is our routine, after our annual membership meeting, we'll move on to our annual luncheon. We are thrilled to have former LWVF president **Deirdre MacNab** as our keynote speaker and to present her with our "Making Democracy Work" award, last presented two years ago to U.S. Congresswoman Pat Schroeder for a lifetime of service, and five years ago to Florida Governor Charlie Crist for his efforts in supporting voter rights.

Outside of our preparations for our annual meeting and luncheon, we've been involved in many activities. We sent four members to Tallahassee to participate in the League Lobby Days. While there, we lobbied for Closing the Gap in Health Care, Gun Safety, Environmental Conservation (Amendment 1) and assorted Voter Rights issues. And we had fun doing it.

In the legislative session, we helped to **defeat Campus Carry and Open Carry**, multiple punitive **Immigration** bills, as well as forcing the hand of the legislature to appropriately **fund Amendment 1**. And of course, a tremendous victory for the voters of Florida: **Fair Districts**.

ALL state senate districts have been redrawn prompting ALL of our state senators to run in this upcoming election. And, we've won in the fight to redraw the state **U.S. congressional districts**. For the first time in 75 years, the Florida voters will choose their officials in these districts, rather than the officials choosing their voters.

On the home front, we've been busy conducting municipal election forums, registering voters, gearing up to educate citizens on the constitutional review commission, participating in the state study on open primaries, working with the community as a member of Agenda 2020, supporting the success and expansion

of recycling, and developing our 2016-17 Program proposals. In February, we hosted an incredibly exciting event at the Mahaffey Theater, where recording artists Patty Griffin, Sarah Watkins and Anais Mitchell encouraged folks to use their voices to vote. To honor our work locally, the ACLU Board voted to present the **Gardner Beckett Civil Liberties Award** to the two Pinellas chapters of the League of Women Voters in recognition of the **LWV's heroic work on behalf of fair and balanced political redistricting**. The Award will be presented at the ACLU annual Bill of Rights Dinner at Banquetmasters (Ulmerton Road and 49th St.), at 6:00 PM, Wednesday, March 23rd.

Your efforts have been tremendous this year. There is so much to do, and we are grateful to you for all of your commitment to make democracy work. As you can see, **we are making a difference!** The League is what you make of it, and **we need your support to help us continue our work.**

See you on April 9th!

In League,
Julie



Annual Business Meeting

OPEN TO MEMBERS ONLY*

NO CHARGE TO ATTEND

Date: Saturday, April 9th

Time: 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Location: Regatta Room, St. Petersburg Yacht Club

AGENDA

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

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

- **Welcome, Call to Order, Adoption of Rules** - Julie Kessel
- **2015 Minutes** - Iris Yetter
- **Treasurer's Report** - Caroline Bloodworth
- **Budget and Audit Committee 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** - Kathy Arsenault
- **Words from the President and Directions to the Board** - Julie Kessel

*Please [email us](#) if you plan to attend the business meeting and not the luncheon.



Annual Luncheon
Waterfront Room
St. Petersburg Yacht Club

IT DOESN'T GET MUCH BETTER THAN LUNCH AT THE SCENIC WATERFRONT ROOM OF THE ST. PETE YACHT CLUB. FIRST SATURDAY IN APRIL? GUARANTEED TO BE GORGEOUS!

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
RESERVATIONS AND ADVANCE PAYMENT REQUIRED**

When: Saturday, April 9th

Time: Noon - 2:00 PM (Check-in 11:30 AM - Noon)

Where: Waterfront Room, St. Petersburg Yacht Club

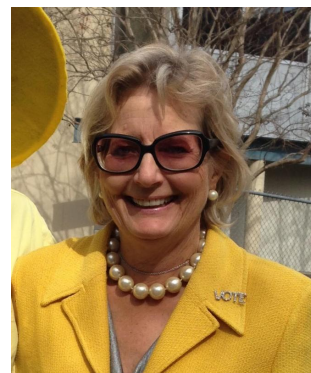
Registration Deadline: **Monday, April 4th**

Luncheon Price: \$40.00 per person

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Making Democracy Work: Deirdre Macnab Annual Luncheon Guest Speaker

At this year's luncheon, we offer a special opportunity to hear about the growth and success of the Florida League of Women Voters from our featured speaker and 2016 winner of the LWVSPA's "Making Democracy Work" award, Deirdre Macnab. Share her unique perspective about state and national politics and League causes--in the past, now, and in the future. Take advantage of the chance to ask "insider" questions following her talk. Bring your friends and neighbors. This will be a memorable event.



Deirdre Macnab

Under Deirdre's leadership, the Florida League has become one of the largest in America. Deirdre served as state president for an unprecedented three terms, and led the League through a number of exciting court victories, including Fair Districts.

The League is recognized as one of Florida's most effective advocacy groups as a result of Deirdre's accomplishments:

- Bringing prominent Republicans and Democrats to the state board, including former senators Paula Dockery and Alex Villalobos and U.S. Congresswoman Pat Schroeder
- Striking down a 48-hour turnaround on voter registration in the court
- Defeating 9 amendments to the Constitution, including TABOR (taxpayer bill of rights)
- Leading the charge for a successful election reform bill (which restored two weeks of early voting and the Sunday before election day)
- Establishing the League's role in being the largest volunteer petition gatherer and coalition partner in the Land and Legacy Amendment

With an M.B.A. from Columbia University, Macnab has worked for Dun & Bradstreet Corporation, Manville Corporation and Bankers Trust, in the prisons of New York City for the Board of Correction, and was elected to the Board of Education in Nashville, TN, as well as serving on non-profit boards in Tennessee, Georgia, and Florida.

As a result of her work, Deirdre has received the following recognition:

- 2012 **Orlando Sentinel** "Person of the Year: Most Influential Central Floridian"
- Florida Commission of Women 2012 Achievement Award
- First non Latina to win the **La Prensa** newspaper "Community Champion" for their annual Women of Distinction Awards

- Florida Audubon Society 2015 Women Conservationist of the Year
- Appointed by Florida's two U.S. Senators to be one of their designates on the **Federal Judicial Nominating Commission**, a group charged with the responsibility of selecting candidates for Federal Judgeships for submission to the President of the United States

Deirdre is now serving as the **League's State Chair for Natural Resources Advocacy**, and in her words, determined to make the "Sunshine State" the leader in solar and energy independence "one rooftop at a time."

About the St. Petersburg Yacht Club



Address: [11 Central Avenue](#)

St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Phone: (727) 822-3873

Parking: \$6.00 for self parking in the Yacht Club garage. Public parking is available on street or at nearby parking garages.

**ATTENTION MEMBERS:
IMPORTANT INFORMATION AHEAD**
Be Ready to Vote at our Annual Meeting



Candidates for Officers and Board of Directors

**Your LWVSPA Nominating Committee for the 2015-2016 League Year
Presents these Candidates for 2016-2017**

Thank you to our Nominating Committee members for their work on this year's slate:

Kathy Arsenault, Chair
June Bedford
Kathy Douglas
Jim Jackson
Edie Lebas

Board Officers

President: Julie Kessel (one-year term)
First Vice President: Open (one-year term)
Second Vice President: Jim Jackson (one-year term)
Treasurer: Caroline Bloodworth (two-year term)
Secretary Iris Yetter is continuing the second year of a two-year term.

[Click here](#) for photos and bios of the current officer candidates.

Board of Directors

Director: Kathy Douglas (two-year term)
Director: Raechel Garafalo (assuming the remaining one-year of Jim Jackson's two-year term)
Director: Marty Shapiro (two-year term)

Directors Kay Lahdenpera and Kathy Mossing are continuing the second year of two-year terms.

[Click here](#) for photos and bios of the current candidates for the board.

Nominating Committee for the 2016-2017 League Year

June Bedford, Chair

Kathy Arsenault

Nancy Tait

Two additional members to be appointed by the new BOD

Program

As a result of our Program Planning Meeting in February, members collaborated to develop our proposed Program for the 2016-2017 League year.

[Click here](#) to read the Program proposal.

Budget

The Budget Committee has submitted the attached recommended budget for the 2016-2017 year.

[Click here](#) to view the proposed budget.

Bylaws

At its March 1st, 2016 meeting, the Bylaws Committee presented the attached recommendations for bylaws changes to the Board of Directors.

[Click here](#)

to read the Bylaws Committee Report and the actions recommended by the Board of Directors.

League News and Events



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

Susan B. Anthony Member: Suzanne Hutto, St. Petersburg

**Michael Fridovich, Gulfport
Zene Hault, St. Petersburg
Miranda (Moore) Reiter, Tampa
Michelle Unterberger, Gulfport
Robin Warren, St. Petersburg
Amy Weintraub, St. Petersburg**

Voting Season has Started. Join Us in this Very Important Work

by Raechel Garafalo, Voter Service Committee Chair

As we move into prime time this election season, LWVSPA Voter Service Committee's need for volunteers is expanding, with an increasingly populated calendar of events such as voter registration drives, candidate forums, voter education speaking engagements, as well as voter guide creation and distribution.



Below are two events coming up in March at the USF St. Petersburg campus for which we need volunteers to register college students to vote. If you're interested in volunteering to register and educate voters with the League and participate in these two events or upcoming events, please [contact me](#).

USFSP The Environmental Science and Sustainability Club--Florida Environmental Issues Awareness Event: **March 28, from 5-7** in the USC Ballrooms
 USFSP The Women's Empowerment Club--Walk a Mile in Her Shoes Event (an international walk to end rape, sexual assault, and gender violence) **March 31st from 4-6 PM** on Harbor Walk.

On a festive note, join us as we gather in the Tap Room at the Historic Hollander Hotel (421 4th Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33701) for the Voter Service Committee's Election Season Kickoff Party, at 6:30 this Thursday, March 10th.

Join the LWVSPA Voter Service Committee and help make democracy work!

Here are some important 2016 dates to note:

March 09 5:00 PM--Deadline to Request a Ballot to be Mailed
March 13 5:00 PM--Early Voting Ends
March 14 5:00 PM--Last Day to Pick Up Mail Ballot in SOE Office
March 15--Presidential Preference Primary ELECTION DAY
August 01 5:00 PM--Registration Deadline for Primary Election
August 02--Deadline to Mail Ballots to Domestic Voters for Primary Election
August 20--Early Voting for Aug. 30 Primary Election
August 24 5:00 PM--Deadline for Voter to Request a Mail Ballot to be Mailed
August 29 5:00 PM--Last Day to Pick Up Mail Ballot in SOE Office
August 30--PRIMARY ELECTION
October 11--Registration Deadline for General Election
October 24--Early Voting for Nov. 8 General Election
November 02 5:00 PM--Deadline for Voter to Request a Mail Ballot to be Mailed
November 07 5:00 PM--Last Day to Pick Up Mail Ballot in SOE Office
November 07 5:00 PM--Deadline to Cure Unsigned Mail Ballot Envelope
November 08--GENERAL ELECTION

More Progress on Recycling: Alley Pickup Has Begun, Condos Are Next

by Karen Coale, LWVSPA Recycling Co-Chair & People's Trash Coalition Chair

With the commencement of alley pickup at the end of January, we hope the set-out rate will increase from the current 52.4% rate. This expanded service applies to 40% of the households who currently have blue bins. As expected, the weight



Alley pickup started on Jan. 25th.

collected in January was down from the holiday-driven December, but exceeded the monthly tonnage of of August thru November.

The most notable change is the drop in revenue, which is mostly due to the declining value of the commodities that are the output of the recycling collection (aluminum, paper, plastic, etc). However, **the city continues to save money** due to the decrease in trash tonnage, for which we pay \$37.50 per ton for disposal at the Pinellas County

incinerator. Thru January that savings amounts to \$281,737. Click here to view the entire Recycling Scorecard (also available on our [website](#)).

What about condos and large apartment buildings? Glad you asked! The People's Trash Coalition (CONA, LWVSPA and Sierra) recently met with City Staff to review their plans for expanding this service to apartment buildings, condos and mobile homes. Solutions will vary depending on the number of units in the complex. For example, a series of shared 95 gallon bins is suggested for complexes that have 85-110 units. Larger complexes will have shared dumpsters, and recycling chutes will be incorporated into the construction of new multi-story buildings.

Retrofitting existing multi-story buildings presents two challenges--a second chute for recyclables and space for the dumpsters. A phased implementation is expected with pilots for the various types of solutions. The city's proposal will be presented to City Council in early March, and the Coalition will be there to support it. Please join us. I will send out an eblast once we have the date. If you have any questions, please contact me at recycling@lwgspa.org.

Immigration Committee's Human Trafficking Event A Success

by Karen Coale, LWVSPA Immigration Co-Chair & LWVF Immigration Co-Chair

84 people attended this committee's educational event on January 26th at the USFSP University Student Center. The three talented and very experienced panelists provided a variety of perspectives on this growing world-wide issue. Because Florida has been identified as a hub for human trafficking activity, we asked the panel to focus on our local area. Unfortunately this form of modern slavery is all around us, but most of us have been unaware and did not know how to identify when it is taking place.



LWVSPA's Karen Coale and Julie Kessel with the Human Trafficking Event Panel
Kathlyn Mackovjak, Chief Dewey Williams, Dr. Jill McCracken.

Your Immigration Committee (Mary Berglund, Helen Briley, Lydia Castle, Marilyn Hafling, Diane Hodson, Kay Lahdenpera, Joan Lander, Dwight Lawton, Sue Price, Sheral Redwood, Gina Rothlein, and Jinna Stewart) and Communications Group (Edie LeBas and Susan Mayer) have worked for several months planning this event and marketing it in the community. The attendance figures, which were a solid mix of LWVSPA members, students, and people from the community, is a positive reflection of their efforts. My THANKS to each of you.

Immigration is certainly an issue in the presidential race, and some of that negativity has spilled over into bills introduced in the current Florida legislative session. As you know, the LWVF has many legislative priorities, and immigration--

while a priority for the League--is on the Tier 2 list for this legislative session. However, due to the potential severe impact on Florida's undocumented residents, we have asked for League positions on the following bills:

1. Local government to enforce federal immigration laws

HB675: passed the House along party lines: 80/38

SB872: has been referred to three Senate committees but has not yet been scheduled. Judiciary Committee Chair, Sen. Diaz de la Portilla has stated that he may not schedule hearings in his committee.

League opposes these bills.

2. Criminalization of undocumented with prior deportation orders

HB9: Original bill contained an automatic 1st degree felony charge, but was amended to reduce to a 3rd degree felony. Currently in House Judiciary Committee but hearing not yet scheduled.

SB118: has been referred to three committees but has not been scheduled. Again, Judiciary Committee Chair Sen. Diaz de la Portilla has stated that he may not schedule hearings in his committee.

League opposes these bills

3. Recommending action to US Congress to prevent voting by non-citizens

These bills are non-binding and rely on Congress to take action.

HB1225

SM1514

League opposes these bills

Be in the Know! Come Hear Facts and Ideas about Education from an Expert: Dr. Sue Legg



Dr. Sue Legg

The League of Women Voters of North Pinellas is proud to present a talk by Dr. Sue Legg, a long-time supporter of public education. She is a highly-credentialed speaker and is Chair of the LWV Florida Project on School Choice.

Dr. Legg holds a PhD in Educational Measurement and Evaluation. She has taught in public schools, and later later directed the Office of Instructional Resources at the University of Florida. Dr. Legg has a wealth of experience in the field of education. She is the expert we all want to hear. [Click here](#) to read more about her background.

Where: St. Pete. College Clearwater, ES Building, Room 104

When: March 19, 2016

Time: 10:00 AM

EVERYONE IS WELCOME



Upcoming Events Quick Reference Guide

When	What	Where
Thursday, 3/10, 6:00 PM	Voter Service Election Kickoff Party	Hollander Hotel Tap Room ALL ARE WELCOME

Wednesday, 3/23, 6:00 PM	LWVSPA Award Presented at ACLU Bill of Rights Dinner	Banquet Masters
Tuesday, 4/4 6:30 PM	LWVSPA Board of Directors Meeting	League Office OPEN TO LWVSPA MEMBERS
Friday, 4/8, 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM	New Ideas Conference	SPC Seminole Campus Conference Center
Saturday, 4/9, 10:30 - 11:30 AM	Annual Business Meeting	Regatta Room St. Pete Yacht Club OPEN TO LWVSPA MEMBERS
Saturday, 4/9, Noon - 2:00 PM	Annual Luncheon	Waterfront Room St. Pete Yacht Club ALL ARE WELCOME

Upcoming Statewide and National League Events

Statewide Council of Leaders April 29th - 30th in Orlando

Originally scheduled to be held in St. Petersburg, this event will now take place in Orlando, with a special focus on the success of the campaign for redistricting in Florida. **OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS.** Details to be announced.

LWV 2016 National Convention June 16th - 19th in Washington DC

We invite you to save these dates and plan to join hundreds of passionate and engaged leaders for this vibrant national gathering in our Nation's Capital next June. Plan to attend and see the League in action at the national level. **OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS.** [Read more.](#)

SPC Seeking Telling Project Workshop Facilitators

SPC's Institute for Strategic Policy Solutions and Veterans Services, in conjunction with the National Telling Project Institute and the Florida Humanities Council, will present a unique workshop to enhance the college experience for SPC's student veterans. The goal is to deepen understanding by SPC faculty and staff of the military experience, easing student veterans' transition back into civilian society, and enhancing their prospects for academic success leading to productive employment in the career of their choice. [Click here](#) to read more about this volunteer opportunity with SPC.

Membership



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

*Includes two members residing at the same address.

It's easy to join or renew. [Pay online using PayPal](#), or if you prefer, mail a check payable to LWVSPA to **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.

League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area | office@lwvspa.org |
727.896.5197 | www.lwvspa.org

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.

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

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