

*Letter from the President*  
**March 2023**



Dear League,

Spring is in the air; Happy March!

March is Women's History Month, when we celebrate women's contribution to society. I am thankful for the League that has led the charge for women's right to vote and education. I am thankful for you, who continue to contribute to democracy.

As the Florida Legislative Session begins March 7th, we will continue be a powerful voice for our **legislative priorities**: voting rights and election reform, reproductive health, education, and natural resources.

If you are able, I hope you will help humanize our priorities and **join us** in

Tallahassee for our League Lobby Days March 7-8. Your voice is powerful!

Local municipal elections are happening March 14th. A reminder, due to a change in election laws, if you vote-by-mail, you must re-request it with the **Supervisor of elections office**.

Do you want to know more about the candidates? Check out our fantastic **voter guide**. And check out our candidate forums on our **YouTube** page.

I enjoyed our program planning meeting, where we were able to meet our upcoming teams and vote on moving forward our Voting Services, Reproductive Health, Social Justice, Sustainability, and National Popular Vote programs. It was great to see everyone! I look forward to our annual meeting April 29th. We will have our business meeting and then enjoy a brunch with our special guest speaker the amazing Cecile Scoon, the League of Women Voters of Florida President.

Go vote; encourage others to be informed and vote. Thank you for your efforts to empower voters and defend democracy!

In League,  
Gretchen Johnson



# THANK YOU

## FOR INVESTING IN DEMOCRACY!

# \$3,816.26

[DONATE](#)

Thank you to the following people who donated a total of \$3816.26 to the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area between December 17, 2022 and February 24, 2023.

***Please consider adding your name to the list by making a generous donation today.***

Ruth Barrens  
June Bedford  
Carmen Bruner  
Dorothy Cappadona  
Susan Castleman  
Trish & M.E. Collins  
Earline Demps-Gilbert  
Pamela Ferguson  
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Beate & Edward Marston

Deborah Mazzaferro  
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Barbara Spofford  
Kate Steinway & Paul Zolan  
April Thanos  
Amy & Caroline Weintraub  
Deborah Williams & Al Hanulik  
Sharon Winters & Kendall Reid  
Paul Wyness

**VOTER SERVICES IN ACTION**



LWVSPA Voter Registration Team was out in force at this year's well-attended Tampa Bay Collard Green Festival, Inc, spreading the word about the new vote-by-mail ballot request law: **Everyone in FL who votes by mail must re-request their VBM ballot this year.**

Volunteers distributed stickers with QR codes that provide a direct link to the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections page to request a ballot. Most people don't know of the new law. That's why the LWVSPA Voter Services Team will be stepping up, going above and beyond their usual community engagement, to educate voters.

Please help us by telling your family, friends and neighbors to request and/or check their vote-by-mail status by going to the [Vote Pinellas](#) or call 727-464-8683

**Additional Resources:**

[FAQ from the Florida Election Protection Coalition](#) - all about the new vote-by-mail rules

Check [here](#) to learn your vote-by-mail status and, if needed, submit a new mail ballot request [here](#).

# LWVSPA ANNUAL MEETING

**SATURDAY, APRIL 29**

- Meeting 10-11 a.m.
- Luncheon 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Boca Ciega Ballroom, St Pete Beach  
Community Center



***Special guest speaker  
Civil Rights Lawyer and LWVFL President, Cecile Scoon!***

Cecile Scoon has been recognized nationally for her work surrounding Florida's 2018 Amendment 4 as well as for her continued advocacy for fair enfranchisement for all.

In January of 2021, the Florida Bar Association awarded Scoon with a President's Pro-Bono award. Scoon, no stranger to historic firsts, was recognized in early 2021 as the first Black woman to practice law privately in Bay County, FL.

***Luncheon tickets are \$35 and will go on sale in mid-March.  
Watch your inbox for your invitation.***



## **ATTENTION PLEASE: Renewing & New Members**

LWVSPA has a [new online membership form](#) for renewing and new members. The form asks for contact information to ensure we stay in contact with you along with questions about League participation.

Please note that each member's dues has a set renewal date. If a member is past due and then pays, their membership does not reset to the new payment date (unless they are VERY overdue – like more than six months).

You can pay by credit card or check. LWVSPA no longer uses Pay Pal for memberships payments or donations. If paying by check, fill out the form and select pay by check and mail a check to LWVSPA, 2335 22 Ave. S, Suite 5, St. Petersburg, FL 33712.

You will receive a confirmation of your renewal/membership and receipt for tax purposes. You will also receive email reminders when your membership needs renewing.

Questions? Contact Membership Chair [Amy Weintraub](#),

Your membership is important to us. Thank you for [renewing/joining](#) today.



Impact on Issues is an indispensable resource for League members. A clear understanding of LWVUS positions, how they



# CHECK IT OUT.

LWVUS IMPACT ON  
ISSUES 2024-2026

interrelate, and how they can complement and reinforce state, local, and regional Inter-League Organization (ILO) positions, strengthens the League's impact on issues at all levels of government.

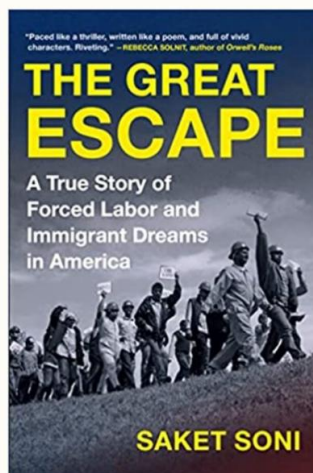
[CHECK IT OUT](#)

## MARCH EVENTS



## Lobby days in Tallahassee March 7th and 8th

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER TODAY.](#)



**The Leif Nissen  
Social Justice Lecture Series  
at Temple Beth-El, St Pete  
presents Author Saket Soni  
Sunday, March 19 @ 4:30 PM  
Cosponsor: USF St Pete  
Other cosponsors to follow**

The Leif Nissen Social Justice Lecture Series is sponsored by Karen Lieberman and Bruce Nissen to honor their son Leif (May 21<sup>st</sup>, 1980 – November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008) of blessed memory. Leif was dedicated to social justice issues and his family is choosing to honor him through these lectures.

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

- [March Calendar of Events/Meetings](#)

- [Meet our Board](#)
- [Explore Issues](#)
- [Check Out our Blog Archives](#)
- [Engage!](#)



League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area

[Email](#) | [Website](#)

Telephone: 727-295-5255



**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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