



THE VOTER

September 2019

Letter from the President: Moving to a New Office & the ERA

Greetings Leaguers! I have exciting news to share: we are moving!

Our League has been growing and changing and we've outgrown our small office downtown. We've secured a lovely space at the [James B. Sanderlin Neighborhood Family Center](#) in the heart of south St. Petersburg.



With extra space and expanded opportunities to partner with other community organizations, the League is marking a new chapter in its 100-year legacy. We will be planning an open house for League and community members soon, so stay tuned. Our last day at the old office will be Sept. 30.

I also wanted to highlight our partnership with organizations like the [Athena Society](#), the [Business and Professional Women of Pinellas](#), the [League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County](#), and many others to speak in support of the Equal Rights Amendment at the last St. Petersburg City Council Meeting.

Council member Gina Driscoll introduced a resolution in support of the ERA* and this resolution was passed unanimously by the City Council.

With Women's Equality Day and other significant historical events around the corner, it was a great way to not only honor the work of women defending democracy but also raise awareness to the inequities many women, especially those of color, still face in the workplace, board room, and in their communities.

In League,
Linsey Grove, LWVSPA President

**Editor's note: Local League members also recently [demonstrated in support of the ERA](#) in front of Sen. Bill Galvano's office in Bradenton.*



She Is Me: A New Social Media Campaign

You may have recently seen your friendly local Leaguers with frames on their profile pictures reading "She is me." That's because the national League recently launched a [new social media campaign called "She Is Me."](#)

The campaign, which was launched ahead of the national League's 100th anniversary, aims to share the stories of women across generations who have worked to promote democracy and voting rights. The ultimate goal is to introduce the League and our work to new audiences who may not have heard of us.



You can take part by doing the following:

- Go to your profile on Facebook and click "Update" on your profile picture. Then click "Add Frame." Search Owner Name - League of Women Voters of the U.S. Select the frame, and make necessary adjustments if needed, then click "Use as Profile Picture."
- Share your "member story" on social media: how you got involved with the League, the focus of your work with the League and how your work helps move democracy forward.
- Don't forget to use the hashtag #SheIsMeLWV!

This is a great opportunity for all of us to show how we make democracy work, and to inspire even more folks to join us!



Coming Up: Amendment 4 Legal Training & Working Women's Forum

Amendment 4 and More: Navigating Voting Rights Restoration

The St. Petersburg Bar Association has teamed up with the League to hold "Amendment 4 and More: Navigating Voting Rights Restoration" on Tuesday, Sept. 24 from 12-4 p.m. at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club.

The training will cover the ways attorneys can assist returning citizens who want their rights to vote to be restored and some of the ethical implications involved in this work. Cecile Scoon, first vice president of the League of Women Voters of Florida, will be among those speaking at the event.

This event is open for both lawyers and non-lawyers alike. League members will also receive a special discounted registration rate of \$40. If you'd like to take advantage of this rate, [sign up online](#) and select the "League of Women Voters" rate.

More information and event registration can be [found here](#).

BPW/St. Petersburg-Pinellas Working Women's Forum

The Business and Professional Women of St. Petersburg-Pinellas is holding its annual Working Women's Forum on Oct. 22 at the Feather Sound Country Club.

The BPW St. Petersburg-Pinellas and the LWVSPA have much in common. Both organizations were established in the early 1900s to support women who were newly empowered in government and the workplace, both are marking centennial celebrations, and both continue to build on their long histories of civic engagement and social advocacy.

Their annual event will feature two speakers - Amy Martinez-Monfort of the Tampa Laundry Company and Natalie Conner of Love My Dog Resorts - who will share their perspectives on the night's theme of "Be Your Own Hero."

The registration fee is \$30 for BPW members, \$35 in advance, and \$40 day of. More details can be found on the [BPW website](#).



League Events: Plant Power & Voter Registration

This month, the Plant Power team is putting together a walking tour of the Grand Central District, where attendees will have the chance to sample plant-based tapas from a variety of eateries and to discuss the St. Petersburg food culture, with a specific emphasis on cultivating the plant-based food culture of the Grand Central District.

The tour is happening Saturday, Sept. 14 at 1:30 p.m. The tour will kick off from Black Crow, located at 2157 Central



Ave., and will last about three hours and will involve 1.5 miles of walking. Attendees can expect to sample 8-12 tapas from 4 different restaurants. Tickets cost \$30 per person. You can register and pay for your ticket at [this link](#).

In addition, the Voter Services team will be very busy this month, as National Voter Registration Day is happening on Sept. 24. Several teams will be out in full force, registering voters ahead of the general election happening in November.

One of the places you can catch our dedicated voter registrars is at the 2nd Annual Good With Me Festival, happening Sept. 21 at Williams Park. Activities will include yoga, rock painting, face painting, rock climbing, live entertainment, food and drinks, and more. For more information, check out the [festival's website](#).



USFSP Students Share "Why I Vote"

The members of the LWV chapter of USF St. Petersburg recently launched a social media campaign entitled "Why I Vote." The campaign features Instagram posts of USFSP students, along with a few words about why they vote and why they believe it is important to do so.

Here's an example of the campaign, courtesy of Alexius McZee:



You can see more posts like this over at their [Instagram account](#). And make sure to follow their account so you don't miss any of them.



National Popular Vote: Upcoming Events

The National Popular Vote team has a full calendar for September, which means you'll have several opportunities to learn more about this nationwide initiative, which has been picking up steam over the last several months.

Tuesday, Sept. 17 (Constitution Day)

University of South Florida
Marshall Student Union, Room 2709
4103 Cedar Circle, Tampa
Speaker: Deb Mazzafarro
Event begins at 2 p.m.

University of Tampa
Vaughn Center Auditorium
401 W Kennedy Blvd, Tampa
Speaker: Deb Mazzafarro
Event begins at 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 19

Suncoast Tiger Bay Club

St Petersburg Yacht Club

11 Central Ave, St. Petersburg

Speaker: Pat "Rosie" Rosenstiel, consultant for the National Popular Vote

Event runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

League members can attend this buffet lunch for the special "member price" of \$25. To purchase a ticket, use [this link](#) and choose "Member" to get the special price.



What's Happening Around LWVSPA?

Education

This cross-county action group is co-chaired by [Nikki Fleming](#) and [Barbara Meloche](#) of LWV of North Pinellas County. Their next meeting will be held Thursday, Sept. 16 at 10:30 a.m. at 2642 Sabal Springs Dr. in Clearwater. Contact the co-chairs if you are interested in working with this action group.

Election & Voter Protection

The team will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 24 at the Family Life Center at Allendale United Methodist Church, located at 3803 Haines Rd. N in St. Petersburg, Florida. Please contact [Caitlin Constantine](#), [Amy Keith](#) or [Stephanie Owens](#) for more information.

Gun Safety

The team's next meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 23 at Allendale United Methodist Church (Wesley Room), located at 3803 Haines Rd. N in St. Petersburg. Contact Team Lead [Sharon Winters](#) for more information.

To learn more about the issues and how to take action, visit lwgspa.org/gun-issues.

Immigration

The team joined the recently-formed Pinellas Coalition for Migrant Justice. We meet bi-weekly and our first coordinated actions will be to have a large turnout at Rep. Charlie Crist's Town Hall meeting on Sept. 7 at 11 a.m. at the Largo Community Center, located at 400 Alt Keene Road in Largo.

Their second coordinated effort is a postcard campaign to our U.S. House Representatives and both U.S. Senators from FL. The action of thousands of advocates resulted in the closure of the child detention center in Homestead, FL, but where did the children go? Are they being released to their families? The team wants our elected officials to understand that their constituents are very concerned about this issue and expect them to take action.

This team's next meeting will be held Sept. 23 at 1:30 p.m. at a team member's home. If you'd like to get involved with the Immigration Action Team, email Team Lead [Karen Coale](#) for more information.

Media/Publicity

The team will be meeting Thursday, Sept. 5 at 5:30 p.m. at the LWVSPA Office, located at 233 3rd St. N., St. Petersburg.

Email Team Lead [Amy Weintraub](#) for more information about joining this action group.

Membership Services

If you're interested in helping out with the Membership Committee, contact co-chairs [Stacey Jurewicz](#) or [Kathi Garrity](#).

National Popular Vote

If you have a local group who would like a speaker, contact [Marty Shapiro](#). If you are interested in learning more or joining the local committee, please reach out to [Deb Mazzaferro](#) or [Marty Shapiro](#).

Plant Power

The Plant Power team is putting together a tour of local eateries featuring plant-based tapas, which will be held Saturday, Sept. 14. The team will hold its next meeting on Sept. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the LWVSPA Office, located at 233 3rd St. N. in St. Petersburg. For more information, email [Julie Kessel](#) or [Jen Underhill](#).

Reproductive Justice

The team's next meeting is Thursday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. at the LWVSPA Office, 233 3rd St. N., St. Petersburg. Email Team Lead [Stacey Kroto](#) for more information about getting involved with this action group.

Sustainability

Email [Carol Marks](#) or [Kal Marquise](#) for more information about joining this action team.

Voter Service

The team's September meeting has been canceled due to a large number of activities this month surrounding National Voter Registration Day. The team's next meeting will be held Oct. 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Allendale United Methodist Church, located at 3803 Haines Road in St. Petersburg. Email Team Lead [Raechel Garafalo](#) for more information.



Upcoming Events

Sept. 12: Orientation for New and Prospective League Members

6-7:30 p.m. @ Empath Partners in Care, 3050 1st Ave. S, St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)

Sept. 14: Plant Power Food Tour

1:30-4:30 p.m. @ Grand Central District, St. Petersburg

Cost: \$30

[RSVP](#)

Sept. 17: Suncoast Rise Above Plastics Coalition: Show and Tell

6-8 p.m. @ Hawthorne Bottle Shop, 2927 Central Ave., St. Petersburg

[Facebook](#)

Sept. 17: Guns Down

Co-hosted by LWV of Hillsborough County and Guns Down America

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. @ The Columbia Restaurant, 2117 E. 7th Ave., Tampa

Cost: \$30

[Facebook](#)

Sept. 25: Cocktails & Conversation

6-8 p.m. @ TBD



For Other
Upcoming Events

Click here to visit our website for the latest updates on action group meetings and other events.



Membership: Are You Up for Renewal?

Join us. Renew your membership. 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 invite you to [renew today!](#)

[Renew / Join Now](#)

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.

Only \$7 of your basic membership goes to the support the activities of the local league; a large percentage of what you pay for an individual membership goes to support our state and national Leagues. By selecting the Gold or Silver membership level, most of your dues will help support the work of our local League.

You can also offer your financial support by upgrading your membership, offering an additional monthly, quarterly or annual donation, and encouraging others to do the same.

Consider including the League in your estate planning. Your gifts allow us to continue our education, advocacy and leadership programs to forward our mission in Making Democracy Work in the St. Petersburg area. If you would like to discuss an estate planning contribution or other gift, please [contact our office](#).

The following memberships are up for renewal during this 3-month span. We invite you to [renew today!](#)

September 2019

Sylvia Babus
Amy Ballou
Brooke Beeler
Daisy Delatorre
Viviane Demilly
Edward Doyle
Brenna Dukes
Kathleen Garrity
Linda Gelinias
Marci Girard-Emerson
Diana Hammer
Susan Hardee
Bianca Hatten
Annette Hubbard
Marc Jensen
Lora Karas
Maxwell Kramer-Crespo
Samantha Lepore

Karen Lieberman
Meighan Monroe
Doug & Janet Morris
Tara Newsom
Bruce Nissen
Stephanie Owens & Keith Royster
Jessica & Nicholas Panagakos
Imeshia Parkman
Anthony Robinson
Cynthia Rose
Emilia Soliman
Dave Spangler
Tina Spangler
Kelvin-Lloyd Stuck
Candi Taylor
Kai Tomalin
Maria Celia Villac
Sharon Wright

August 2019

Marsha Baker
W Glen Bateman Jr
Ansley Burtch
Rachel Cornish
James Dobyns

Vionette Mull
Carol Nelson
Mary Olson
Sue Price
Joan Sheehan

Sydney Frasca
Catherine Griggs
Yardena Isakson
Veronica Jimenez
Cheryl Knight
Phyllis & James LeTellier
Rhyia Miller

Vincent Spina
Jamie Tremblay
Lola Ward
Linda Whiteford & John Douglas Uzzell
Cassandra Williams
Virginia Zeigler

July 2019

Ruth Bentley
Meghan Cottrell
Eleanor Davidov
Janet Debiasio
Joanne Delmonico & Jamie Flanagan
Lisa Flaherty
Barbara Hartwell

Susan Kaineg
Rebecca Klonel
Amanda Patanow
Valerie & Nestor Rigual
Thomas Schenck
Bonnie Sklaren



2019-2020 League Leadership

OFFICERS

President: Linsey Grove
First Vice President: Robin Davidov
Second Vice President: Maryellen Gordon
Secretary: Ken Wrede
Treasurer: Caroline Bloodworth

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ama Appiah
Caitlin Constantine
Amanda Dodge
Raechel Garafalo
Stephanie Owens

[Visit our website](#) for more information about our local leaders.

[Click here](#) for more information about our education and advocacy groups.

EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY LEADS

Gun Safety: Sharon Winters
Immigration: Karen Coale
Reproductive Rights: Stacey Kroto
Census: Gina Gallo
Plant Power: Julie Kessel, Jen Underhill
Election Protection: Caitlin Constantine, Amy Keith, Stephanie Owens
Voter Service: Raechel Garafalo
Sustainability: Carol Marks, Kal Marquise
National Popular Vote: Deb Mazzaferro, Marty Shapiro
International Relations: Judy McSwine
Media/Publicity Lead: Amy Weintraub
Membership: Kathi Garrity, Stacey Jurewicz
Office Administrator: Julia Sharp



League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area

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

Telephone: 727-896-5197



**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.**