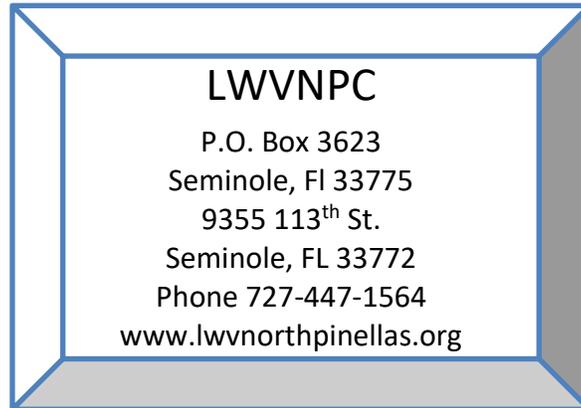


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January 2019 VOTER

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OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

2018-2020

Karen Karinja, President  
Beth Hovind, Second Vice President  
Gayla Larson, Treasurer

Directors 2018-2020

Anne Bokneberg  
Marti Folwell  
Judy McSwine  
Stephanie Bolden

Continuing Officers & Directors 2017-2019

Eliseo Santana, First Vice-President/ Membership  
Vicki Cohen, Secretary  
Peggy Toohey, *The Voter*

Nominating Committee Chair 2019

Barbara Letvin

Off Board Chairs

Pona Piekarski, Education  
David Sillman, Environment/Natural Resources

*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.*



**Dear League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County,**

Adding to the accomplishments of our state league, our LWNPC board wishes to share with you some of our LWNPC 2018 accomplishments!



- Increased membership - 69 new members this Fiscal Year
- Conducted over 100 Voter Service registration events
- Celebrated the first Party at the Polls
- Worked with Puerto Rico Connect and new residents to welcome them to our community
- Celebrated our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with kick-off at the Fenway
- Coordinated information forum for City of Clearwater voters on referendum on mayor/council
- Expanded communications delivery methods to engage our membership in all we do
- Formed new Environmental Action Group
- Made preparations for first statewide workshop on Poverty

All of this has been accomplished by your hard and dedicated work! Together will be make 2019, our 70th Year, the best ever.

For those of you who celebrate, we hope you and your loved ones enjoyed a Merry Christmas, a happy Hanukkah, and very happy holidays. Whatever your season, blessings on you for good health and prosperity in the coming year.

Karen Marie Karinja

**Please support the automatic voter registration act of 2017**

**Go to this link to act!** Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Representative Robert Brady (D-PA) introduced the **Automatic Voter Registration Act of 2017** on June 14, 2017. The League is proud to support legislation that enhances access for eligible voters in our elections and works to modernize our electoral system. This bill will improve the accuracy of voter records, cut down on costs, modernize outdated registration systems, all while supporting implementation in states across the country.

The League is a leader in voter registration efforts across the country. Expanding voter registration has been a principle goal of the League since its founding in the wake of the 1920 passage of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. We are proud to see Congress embracing new technology that expands access to the ballot while still taking the necessary safeguards to secure personal information.

**The League fully supports this bill and urges all members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to support this important legislation**

# LWVNPC CALENDAR 2019

## **MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2019 AT 6:30 PM**

Recycling 101: Back to the Basics, speaker Sheridan Boyle  
Dunedin Public Library, 223 Douglas Avenue, Dunedin, FL 34698  
See additional information in this Voter  
Short General Meeting before speaker



## **TUESDAY, JANUARY 15 6-8PM**

Tarpon Springs City Hall, Candidates Forum

## **FRIDAY, JANUARY 18-SATURDAY 19, 2019**

LWV FLORIDA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

LWV League Rising-The Power of Women

Double Tree Hotel Orlando Downtown, 60 S Ivanhoe Blvd, Orlando, FL 32804

Sign up on the LWV Florida website: [www.lwvfl.org](http://www.lwvfl.org).

**Speakers Bureau conference call** 6:30-contact Ethelene Joes at [comms@lwvfl.org](mailto:comms@lwvfl.org)

## **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2019 AT 7PM**

Candidate Forum, Indian Rocks Beach

## **FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2019**

"Reducing Poverty in Florida: Legislative Solutions". A day long summit in Clearwater.

Information on this summit is in this Voter

## **MONDAY, JANUARY 28, 2019 AT 7PM**

Candidate Forum, Belleair Beach

## **MONDAY FEBRUARY 4 at 2PM**

International Relations- US global Engagement and the Military

Presentation and discussion led by Joe LeBas

Pinellas Park Library, 52<sup>nd</sup> St and 78th Ave, Pinellas Park

Hosted by Judy McSwine

## **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5 AT 1PM**

Voter Service Committee Meeting

3076 Eastland Blvd, Clearwater, FL 33761-4103

## **TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12 AT 3:30 PM**

Board Meeting - LWV North Pinellas County

3076 Eastland Blvd, Clearwater, FL 33761-4103

## **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 10-NOON**

General Meeting and Hot Topic to be announced

Dunedin Public Library, 223 Douglas Avenue, Dunedin, FL 34698

## **TUESDAY, MARCH 5**

Start of Florida Legislative session

**MONDAY, MARCH 18, 6-7:45PM**

General Meeting and Hot Topic to be announced  
Dunedin Public Library, 223 Douglas Avenue, Dunedin, FL 34698

**TUESDAY, APRIL 9-WEDNESDAY APRIL 10**

LWV Florida Lobby Days-Tallahassee  
Sign up and more information on LWV Florida website

**SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2019**

Annual Meeting, Countryside Country Club

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**Recycling 101: Back to the Basics**  
**Monday, January 14th 6:15pm**

Dunedin Public Library  
223 Douglas Avenue  
Dunedin, FL 34698



Help reduce our environmental footprint. Commit to taking care of our planet's resources for generations to come through recycling.

Recyclers have good intentions, but we want to ensure our efforts are the most effective.

LWVNPC Environmental Action Group welcomes **Sheridan Boyle, Recycling Specialist**, City of Clearwater Solid Waste/Recycling, for a discussion on the basics of recycling:

- What is recycling? Why should we recycle?**
- What items can be recycled?**
- What happens to items after they're recycled?**

Please be sure to put Monday, January 14, 2019, 6:15pm at the Dunedin Public library on your calendar.

**Speaker Bio:**

Sheridan moved back to her home town of Oldsmar in 2017 after living in Asheville, NC for several years. During that time period, she received an undergraduate degree in Biology from Warren Wilson College, assisted conservation research on the nesting habits of Loggerhead Sea Turtles, worked as an environmental organizer, studied the effects of plastics on cattle in India and managed the medical department of Brother Wolf Animal Rescue. She is currently pursuing a master's degree in Humane Education and works to educate about recycling and sustainability.

# National Popular ote!

Prior to the LWWFL League Rising – The Power of Women Conference, January 18-19, 2019.

Check out [www.lwwfl.org](http://www.lwwfl.org) for information about that event.

**You are invited to attend a FREE workshop, Friday, January 18, 2019, 11:00 am – 3:30 pm** at the Double Tree Hotel Orlando Downtown, 60 S Ivanhoe Blvd, Orlando, FL 32804. This on the first day of the Leadership Conference.

The workshop is designed just for you in your role as NPV committee chair and for members of each NPV committee. This will be an important event as we develop our strategy for educating LWW members and the general public about our cause. **Make plans now to be there or send a representative from your committee.** 11am – 1:00 pm is for the NPV committee chair, the afternoon session 1:30 – 3:30 pm is for the chair, all committee members, and any other interested LWW member. Lunch is included for all attendees, 1:00-1:30 pm.

## **H.J. Res. 7 introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives**

Congressman Steve Cohen (TN-09), a senior member of the House Judiciary Committee, on January 3, 2019, introduced a Joint Resolution proposing a Constitutional Amendment to eliminate the Electoral College and provide for the direct election of the President and Vice President of the United States. The Joint Resolution was referred to the House Judiciary Committee for consideration. When identical language is passed by two-thirds of both the House of Representatives and the Senate, it will then be referred to the states. It must pass three-fourths of the states to amend the Constitution.

League members are free to contact their own representatives as individuals to encourage support of the Joint Resolution. However, unless an LWWUS Action Alert has been issued, any such federal action in the name of a state or local league must be authorized by the LWWUS Board. To do so, you must submit a **Federal Action Request**.

More articles and opinions at <https://www.lww.org/>

## **Implementing Amendment 4**

We were all successful in getting *Amendment 4* passed! Now we need to work creatively to reach many ex-felons, their friends, and their families to register these returning citizens so they can vote.

There are a few steps that need to be taken before either an individual or an organization can lawfully register anyone to vote. This webinar addresses these steps and will assist in empowering many *Amendment 4* supporters to register Floridians to vote.

Even though the League has already completed the necessary steps for all League members to register voters, so they can be aware of the steps that our partners and *Amendment 4* supporters need to take BEFORE they start registering voters.

On the LWV Florida website under Issues, then election reform and restoring voters' rights there is a list of necessary steps to registering former felons.

## **Kick-off Celebration at the Fenway**

In spite of tornado warnings and heavy rain the afternoon of Friday, November 2, our primary League event for the year, Celebrating 70 Kick-off, was a huge success. Karen Karinja, president, welcomed more than 150 guests to attend the first public event at the Fenway Hotel in Dunedin sponsored by our North Pinellas chapter. The council members of the Dunedin City Council read their official proclamation recognizing the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our chapter.

To raise funds for the chapter, Gayla Larson prepared more than 50 gift baskets for the silent auction, made possible with the donations from chapter members, local businesses and other donors. Miriam Benitez Nixon designed the program that included business ads and recognition of our chapter's upcoming anniversary. Guests tried delicacies from the couture table while the wait staff passed hors d'oeuvres, with music provided by the TJ Glowacki Duo.

Amy Hollyfield, Senior Deputy Manager of the Tampa Bay Times, was the key note speaker followed by Patricia Brigham, President of the League of Women Voters, Florida. She led a champagne 'toast to the power of the vote' as the upcoming mid-term election was to be held November 6. Past chapter presidents, Life members, and candidates in attendance were recognized.

The event's major sponsors included The Fenway Hotel, Point and Pay, and the Tampa Bay Times. For a full list of sponsors, donors, supporters and a copy of the program, please check [http://lwvnorthpinellas.org/files/lwvnpc\\_celebrating70.pdf](http://lwvnorthpinellas.org/files/lwvnpc_celebrating70.pdf). Proceeds from the event will support the chapter's activities and increase funds for the Education Foundation, a 501.c.3 non-profit.

## LWV NORTH PINELLAS POVERTY ACTION TEAM

Our League, in conjunction with the Pinellas Community Foundation, the Junior League of Clearwater and the St. Pete League, along with several Episcopal Church groups and Publix, is hosting an invitation-only, day-long conference **“Reducing Poverty in Florida: Legislative Solutions” on Friday, January 25th in Clearwater**. The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization whose mission is to encourage active and informed participation in Government, to increase understanding of major political issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

Details include:

- ❖ Representatives from state-wide and local organizations on the front-lines in the fight against poverty, including groups that represent academia, government agencies, nonprofits, religions leaders, legal experts, and business representative.
- ❖ A Keynote Speaker Dr. Timothy Smeeding, Distinguished Professor of Public Affairs and Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Smeeding is an expert on social and economic mobility across generations and on poverty in national and cross-national contexts.
- ❖ A panel of state-wide and local experts on the “nuts and bolts” issues of current problems and legislative barriers to solutions.
- ❖ Breakout sessions to engage attendees in brainstorming solutions and developing action plans.
- ❖ Lunch and morning refreshments provided.

Summit benefits and outcomes include:

- ❖ Networking and fact-finding from a diverse group of public agencies, nonprofits, and academics with a common goal of reducing poverty and encouraging self-sufficiency.
- ❖ Contributing toward a Solutions Report with your organization listed as a participant.
- ❖ Using the report to work with legislators to solve poverty-related problems.

Current programs meant to help the poor become self-sufficient and improve their quality of life can instead create barriers for low-income families, making these goals more difficult. This summit will bring together some of the most committed and thoughtful individuals in Florida to develop a plan for change.

Informed and Active Citizen  
Participation