



**LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®**

**LWVNPC
VOTER
February 2014**

*The League of
Women Voters of
North Pinellas
County*

COMING UP:

On February 8th:

**AFFORDABLE HEALTH
CARE ACT**

The League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County is sponsoring an informative meeting about the Affordable Health Care Act on Saturday, February 8, 2014 at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2001 Rainbow Drive, Clearwater (on Hercules one block north of Gulf-to-Bay).

Pinellas County Affordable Healthcare Navigators will present a 45 minute-Powerpoint overview and answer questions. Doors open at 10:00 A.M. The meeting is free and open to the public. Please invite your friends and neighbors.

HealthCare.gov

On February 22nd:

S P Y I N G

Keynote Speaker:

**Brigadier General John
Reppert Retired**



Details about the meeting on page 2.

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At times I feel like Lucy and her friend working at the conveyor belt in the candy factory as it goes faster and faster.

**Marti's
Musings**

The product is information rather than candy. TMI is an expression used currently with differing nuances of "Too Much Information". In addition to newspapers, books, TV, e-mail, magazines and "snail mail" we have the internet and social media. It's difficult to "take time to smell the roses".

We hope the information that comes from the League of Women Voters can actually help you find direction and sort through your priorities. We hope that by having speakers who have synthesized much of the information in their fields, you can gain not just information, but knowledge which leads to wisdom. League studies involve a time commitment but with rewarding results.

So please stick with the League and continue to be "informed, active citizens" in the best sense.

-Marti Folwell, President LWVNPC-

**COMING IN MARCH
Leadership Training
Opportunity**

On Saturday morning, March 8, **Dick Powell**, author and experienced trainer will speak to us about leadership. His organization seeks to grow better leaders. "The focus is on personal leadership and personal accountability. The goal is to help improve careers, enhance life, and have fun." Exact time and location to be announced.

Brigadier General John Reppert will speak about spying on February 22

This joint meeting with the League of Women Voters of the St Petersburg Area is sponsored by the International Relations Committee. It will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2014 at 2:00 P.M. at the Pinellas Park Library, 78th Ave. and 52nd St. in Pinellas Park.



John Reppert is now retired from U.S. federal service, having served 33 years in the military and six years as a civilian. Originally educated as a newspaper editor with a BA and MS in Journalism, he was drafted into the Army in 1966 and rose from Private to Brigadier General. He served three tours at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow and his final posting was as Director of the On-Site Inspection Agency, charged with monitoring America's arms control agreements. Following active military duty, he served for five years as Executive Director

for Research at the Belfer Center, JFK School of Government, Harvard University, followed by six years as the Academic Dean for the College of International and Security Studies, Marshall Center, Garmisch, Germany. He is a member of the Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd College (ASPEC). In addition to his journalism degrees, he has an MA in Soviet Studies and a PhD in International Relations. He is married to the lovely Pat Reppert and they share two children and 10 grandchildren.

International Relations Topics for the spring of the year

February 3 **China in Africa**

Presenter: Judy McSwine

March 3 **Future of the Euro**

Presenter: Evelyn Wright

April 7 **Iran**

Presenter: Pat Budlong

May 5 **Myanmar**

Presenter: Rosalyn Anderson

All meetings are open to the public and are held at 2 p.m. at Pinellas Park Library, 78th Ave. & 52nd St., Pinellas Park

Voter Service Information

Wednesday, January 29 Candidates Forum:

Safety Harbor

Mayor and City Commission seats 3 and 4

6:00 pm at Safety Harbor

City Commission Chambers, 750 Main Street

Moderator: Marti Folwell

Time keeper: Carol

Bickford

February 2 Mail-in Ballots go out for
Special General Election

Tuesday, March 11 Special General Election

(U.S. Representative, District 13

and several local municipalities)

Submitted by Carol Bickford, Voter Service Chair

**LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEWS 2014
A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO BE
INVOLVED**

Each year, before the Florida legislative session begins we visit our local state senators and representatives to obtain information about their thinking and to inform them of the League of Women Voters of Florida legislative priorities. The LWVF provides us with a packet of questions and priorities to help the interviewers. This year our priorities include health care, immigration, freshwater resources, water quality, charter schools issues, funding of public education, election law, and juvenile justice. The deadline for returning the interview results is February 14. The 2014 session begins March 4.

Please volunteer if you would like to be an interviewer. We work in pairs, usually an experienced person and a newer person. It's an important way to get to know your legislator and provide information for league professional and volunteer lobbyists. For more information contact Marti Folwell, 727-559-7498 or mhfolwell@verizon.net.

**JANUARY 23 CONFERENCE
CALL**



Some of the topics covered in the Local League Leaders' Conference Call on Thursday, January 23 were:

- ◆ State education committee will meet February 3 to draft consensus statements based on local results from about 19 leagues. Delegates to Council in April will vote on them.
- ◆ The constitutional amendment to provide funding for water and land conservation will be on the ballot in November as Amendment 1. It will provide funding for restoration of natural systems and clean drinking water. The state League's endorsement of the petition was the turning point in the campaign. Thank you to all those who signed petitions and helped gather signatures. One leaguer in another county collected over 8,000 signatures. You may volunteer to be a member of the speakers' bureau to help the public learn about this amendment.

(continued on page 4)

CALENDAR

| | |
|--|--|
| Board Meeting Clearwater East Library | <i>Wed., Feb. 5 4:30 p.m.</i> |
| Affordable Health Care Act informa- tional meeting | <i>Sat. Feb. 8 10 a.m.</i> |
| Joint IR Meeting with LWVSPA, Pinellas Park | <i>Sat., Feb. 22 2 p.m.</i> |
| Board Meeting Clearwater East Library | <i>Wed., Mar. 5 4:30 p.m.</i> |
| Dick Powell, au- thor/trainer speaking on leadership | <i>Sat., Mar. 8 a.m.</i> |
| Board Meeting Clearwater East Library | <i>Wed. April 2 4:30 P.M.</i> |
| LWVF Legislative Seminar and Council of Lead- ers in Tallahas- see | <i>Wed. April 9 to Fri. April 11</i> |
| Annual Meeting, Belleair Country Club | <i>Sat., Apr. 26 10 a.m.</i> |

Become a member! Membership Application:

League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
 PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____
 NEW MEMBER? PREVIOUS MEMBER? WHERE? _____

Annual membership is \$50. Household memberships are \$25 for each additional member residing at the same address. Dues are payable on or before May 1 of each year. Dues for persons joining after February 1 expire in April of the following year.

Please mail the membership application and payment to:
 LWNNPC,
 P.O. Box 6833
 Clearwater,
 FL 33758

LWVNPC

P.O. Box 6833
Clearwater, FL
33758

Phone: 727-447-1564



**Informed & Active Citizen
Participation**



Officers 2013-2014

President: Marti Folwell
1st VP: Tamsen Martin
2nd VP: Pat Budlong
Secretary-Donna Sharpless
Treasurer-Judy McSwine

Directors

Rosalyn Anderson
Carol Bickford-Voter Service
Rita Garvey
Jean Rascher-Membership
Lois Rogers-Watson-Newsletter
Peggy Toohey-Transportation

Nominating Committee Chair

Donna Sheehy

Webmaster

Kay Pitchon

LWV MISSION STATEMENT

“A non-partisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.”

Jan. 23 Conference Call continued

- ◆ Registration is now open for the LWVF Legislative Summit and Council Meeting in Tallahassee April 9-11. Let us know if you would like to attend.
- ◆ LWVF President Deirdre Macnab has been suggested to the LWVUS nominating committee to become president of the LWVUS at their convention in Dallas June 6-11.

Opportunities to Volunteer are Still Open

NEEDED:

- **Publicity Chairperson to occasionally contact the media about upcoming events and programs of the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County**
- **Environment Chairperson to be the point-person for news and happenings that concern the environment and to keep our League informed on task with the National League's position on the environment.**

Please let Marti Folwell know if you would be so kind as to fill one of these vacancies.

Missed the Jan. 25 Meeting?

Dr. Susan McManus did an excellent job of informing us about the issues which will be foremost in the 2014 elections.

She told us that the U.S. District 13 race is actually a national election; many eyes are upon it as are on the gubernatorial race in Florida. The latter is considered the most important race for governor in the country. Obviously we must stay informed.

Watch for more women filing to run for office. They may be successful because the perception is that they are more honest and willing to collaborate than men.