



LWVNPC VOTER March 2014

The League of
Women Voters of
North Pinellas
County

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

COMING UP:

**On March 8th:
LEADERSHIP
presented by
DICK POWELL**



This 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."

**Amy Hollyfield
Will speak
at Annual Meeting
April 26**



Amy Hollyfield is the assistant managing editor/politics for the *Tampa Bay Times*, overseeing state and national political coverage, including bureaus in Tallahassee and Washington, and PolitiFact.com and PolitiFact Florida, the *Times'* fact-checking websites. (from *The Tampa Bay Times* writers page)

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I saw a rather intriguing bumper sticker recently. It said, "Don't believe everything you THINK."

Marti's Musings

Our thoughts come through the filters of our life experiences, observations, readings, and what we learn from others. It happens sometimes that one new critical bit of information challenges and changes some of our long held thinking. In the League of Women Voters we try to present

balanced information that can be trusted to help you clarify your own thinking. At League meetings we often come with differing backgrounds and by listening and being open to others views we learn from each other. We encourage you to participate in League programs and activities and experience the intellectual growth of "lifetime learning".

—Marti Folwell
President
LWVNPC

**If you are
a resident
of
Congressional
District 13,
don't forget to
VOTE
on March 11!**

**Please make your reservation
for March 8th Meeting**

Saturday, March 8, 11:15 A.M.
(Doors open at 11:00 A.M.)

Greek Town Grille

1230 Cleveland Street, Clearwater

Lunch at Noon \$20.00

Choice of chicken, pork, pasta, or fish
and sides that day

Reservations by Wednesday, March 5:

Send check made out to LWVNPC to:

Marti Folwell

1657 S. Lake Avenue, Unit 1

Clearwater, FL 33756

Or call

727-559-7498

Or e-mail

mhfolwell@verizon.net

GOOD NEWS TO SHARE!

**Member Joy Comstock has agreed to be
in charge of publicity for the League of
Women Voters of North Pinellas County.**

Thank you so much, Joy!

**February 22nd Meeting on Spying
Very Informative!**

(see page 4)



**International Relations Topics
for the spring of the year**

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

Thanks to Pat Budlong, Marti Folwell and Judy McSwine for helping with Candidates Forums for Safety Harbor and Tarpon Springs. Videos for both Forums can be seen on their respective city websites.

March 11 – Special General Election for U.S. Rep. District #13 and some Pinellas County cities

The State Voter Service Chair emailed a copy of an

editorial in the *New York Times* on January 22, 2014 about the process of voting. The Presidential Commission on Election Administration issued a report stating that there are many ways to make voting easier in America and there shouldn't be the slightest whiff of controversy or partisanship. The report made several suggestions for all states including early voting, online registration, better technology and more efficient poll workers. The most important idea in the report is that these are national problems requiring a national solution.

—Carol Bickford, Voter Service Chairperson

HAVE YOU BEEN TO OUR WEBSITE?

It is recently updated and full of information. Check it out!

Many thanks to Kay Pitchon for her expertise and hard work on our website. It has been updated and offers abundant information to all viewers. It is extremely user-friendly and attractive. If you have not been there recently, do check it out at: <http://lwvnorthpinellas.org> Invite your friends and family to take a look at it, too!



The Latest on the Charter School Study

All the Leagues participating in the study of charter schools have submitted their reports and consensus results to the State League of Women Voters. The State Board enthusiastically approved the tallied consensus report. There was strong consensus from the local Leagues for 17 of the 18 statements. There was no consensus on

the last statement relating to the use of religious facilities for charter schools. Many local Leagues rejected the statement and other leagues had substantial concern expressed about the possibility of making such schools truly secular.

Next step? At the State Council meeting in April the report of the consensus will be voted upon and then made public. We can expect a drafting of a position statement.

After the April Council meeting there will be more information forthcoming in *The Voter*. In the meantime, please educate yourself by checking out HB 1043 and SB 1124 on Charter Schools. They can be viewed by going to:

<http://myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/billsdetail.aspx?BillId=51362>

RELATED: Did you see State President Deidre McNab's response to the proposed private school scholarship expansion? Here is her statement: *"Speaker Weatherford has his finger firmly on the red button, portending a vast defunding of our public schools, as he unveils his proposal to allow retailers to funnel sales tax to private school vouchers. Florida should brace itself for school privatization on steroids if this proposal passes through the legislature. Any expansion of private scholarship programs is a further abdication of the state's responsibility to provide a high quality education to Florida's children. The*

Speaker's championing of this private scholarship system further harms our public schools, which are already consistently ranked at or near the bottom in terms of state funding for public education. Florida's constitution does not require high quality private schools; it requires high quality public schools. Let's get back to work on our real task of educating our state's kids."

CALENDAR

Board Meeting Clearwater East Library	Wed., Mar. 5 4:30 p.m.
Leadership With Dick Powell	Sat. Mar. 8 11 a.m.
Special Election for U.S. Rep., District 13	Tues., Mar. 11
Board Meeting Clearwater East Library	Wed., Apr. 2 4:30 p.m.
LWVF Legislative Seminar and Council of Lead- ers in Tallahas-	Wed. April 9 to Fri. April 11
Annual Meeting Amy Hollyfield Belleair CC	Sat., Apr. 26 10 a.m.
Board Meeting Clearwater East Library	Wed. May 7 4:30 P.M.

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.

Please mail the membership application and payment to :
LWVNPC,
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

Margaret Heveran

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.”

SPYING

Nearly 50 members and guests came to hear Brigadier General John Reppert retired speak at our February 22 International Relations meeting. He described what it was like when he served for six years at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow and was aware that someone was listening to every word he, his wife and his daughter spoke in their apartment. He also mentioned that in his daily living today in the U.S.A., he realizes he has no secrets.

ANNUAL MEETING INFO

Saturday, April 26, 2014

10:00 A.M. meeting followed by
Speaker Amy Hollyfield
12:00 noon - lunch

Belleair Country Club

1 Country Club Lane, Belleair
**Lunch reservations \$22.00 by
Monday, April 21**

to Susie Rodenbeck
1681 Sparkling Court, Dunedin,
34698

Menu

Green salad with raspberry
vinaigrette dressing
Mandarin chicken
Vegetable medley
Cheesecake with strawberries
Coffee and tea

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE ACT

**Excellent Information
was given on
February 8, 2014**

The Pinellas County Affordable Healthcare Navigators presented a 45 minute Powerpoint overview of the Affordable Health Care Act which effectively told about coverage and enrollment. They then answered questions and some attendees began the enrollment process right at the meeting!

Signing up for the new enrollment period began Feb. 15, 2014 and will continue through March 31, 2014. The next enrollment period will be in the Fall of 2014.

C o n t a c t :
www.pinellascounty.org/navigators