

**General Meeting on May 31, 2014**  
**Topic: Conserving Florida's Water & Natural Areas**

Come on **Saturday, May 31 at 10:00 A.M.** to learn how you can help conserve Florida's water and land. Location: **Safety Harbor Library, 101 2nd St. N., Safety Harbor.** Telephone 727-724-1525



**Free and open to the public.** Bring a friend.

The League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County will present a program about the need for **Amendment One** as well as provide material from Florida's Water and Land Legacy, Inc. so you can help work for passage in the November 4, 2014 election.

**BALLOT TITLE: Water and Land Conservation -Dedicates funds to acquire and**

**restore Florida conservation and recreation lands.**

**Ballot Summary:** Funds the Land Acquisition Trust Fund to acquire, restore, improve, and manage conservation lands including wetlands and forests; fish and wildlife habitat; lands protecting water resources and drinking water sources, including the Everglades, and the water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams;

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Thank you, Glen and Kay Paul, for your generous donation to the Education Fund!

Okay, so the immediate past president, Marti Folwell, had "Marti's Musings" in *The Voter*. I couldn't think of anything catchier than "Donna's Doings", so forgive me for the corny name. However, what I want to discuss is not at all corny. I

want to share some thoughts for my upcoming term with all members and prospective members.

1) The enormity of the job is just hitting me. I follow in the footsteps of several outstanding past presi-

dents. And, with that, I am asking all of you to be there to help and support me. My presidency is not a kingdom; it must be a democracy for us to make progress this year. I plan to delegate as much as possible (that means you!).

2) The number one priority is to improve our League. This can be done by increasing membership, increasing participation of members, increasing the benefits the League offers to members, and making our League more visible in

Pinellas County. These are not separate, independent ideas. All go together. If more members help, the more we can get done, which will increase the benefit of being a member, which will help with membership. Making us more visible helps with growing membership, which, in turn, means there are more people to (Continued on Page 2)

**Donna's Doings**

## Donna's Doings—Continued

help with programs and other projects. Please look at the volunteer opportunities, which are discussed in a separate article.

- 3) As a reminder, the League has two separate arms. One is the non-profit educational arm. Under this umbrella, we educate the public in a very non-partisan, non-biased way about certain topics. In addition, there is the advocacy arm. Again, this is non-partisan (candidates are never endorsed), but it advocates based on the positions taken at the national, state, and county level.
- 4) From the standpoint of the educational arm, one of the projects we hope to accomplish this next year (2014-2015) include educating ourselves and the public on the amendments/ referendums in the fall election, especially Greenlight Pinellas. This can be done with the speaker's bureau. You can help by letting us know of groups, community associations, etc. who would like a speaker on this topic. You can also help by volunteering to be a speaker;(we provide materials). We also plan to participate in National Voter Registration Day on September 23 and conduct other registration drives prior to the elections. We need people to organize voter registration drives (which is easy) and to volunteer to help with registration.
- 5) Within the purview of the advocacy arm, we will advocate for the state-level Water and Land Conservation. This can be accomplished by writing letters to editors and to our representatives. In addition, we can man (woman?) a table at various event (called "tabeling").
- 6) Finally, if you haven't already completed and returned the member survey, please do so. (There is a copy of it in the April Voter.) It is short and quick and will help us determine the time, place, and topics of the monthly Hot Topics programs.

Thanks and I look forward to working with all of you.

Donna Sharpless  
President

## Volunteer Opportunities!

Part of being in the League of Women Voters is taking action. We have a variety of volunteer opportunities that take varying amounts of time and effort – some very small; others, not so much.

**Voter Guide:** *Easy and very short-term.* The North Pinellas and St. Petersburg leagues are jointly working on a voter guide for the primary election. The hard work will be done by a committee, but we need people to help monitor responses to questions. This entails sending a few questions to various candidates via email and following up with a phone call/another email to make sure they are returned. Once returned, the responses are forwarded to someone on the Voter Guide committee. Timing is late June/early July. The number of candidates assigned to each person is based on the number of volunteers. We hope to keep the number of candidates per volunteer to a very small number (2 – 4).

**Voter Registration:** *Easy and very short-term.* We plan to host voter registrations at least two times this year. The first will be early July, before the cut-off to vote in the primaries. The second on September 23, which is National Voter Registration Day. You must have taken the voter registration training (<http://www.thefloridavoter.org/for-members/voter-registration>). We need people to both set up registration drives (which is easy, we'll tell you how) and to register voters.

**Board Opening:** This commitment means attending monthly board meetings (the first Wednesday of each month at 4:30). In addition, board members generally help out with a Hot Topic program and other volunteer activities. The Second Vice President spot is open.

**Voter Services Chair:** This person does not necessarily need to be a member of the board, but generally is. The Voter Service Chair follows events related to voting in the county such as limited early voting sites, etc. She also reports on these back to the Board. In addition, the Voter Service Chair helps set up voter registration drives and, when groups contact us to help with candidate forums/debates, she will also work with these groups. In election years, she also coordinates with the St. Petersburg League the production of a voter guide.

**Membership:** This person does not necessarily need to be a member of the board, but can be. This year, the membership duties will be divided into two separate jobs: (see top of P.3)

-One person will collect the membership applications and dues. He/she will also update the Membership Directory.

-One (or more) other people will help with membership drives. There is not a specific job description since this is a "new" volunteer opportunity.

Actually, everyone can help with membership. Just ask a friend or colleague to attend one of our programs. They may enjoy it and want to join.

**Publicity:** We have a Publicity Chair (Joy Comstock), but it is a big job. Joy would love someone to help her out, especially if she is out of town and something needs to be done. This includes writing and sending press releases and notifying other organizations of our programs.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact President, Donna Sharpless. You can email her from our website:

[www.lwvnorthpinellas.org](http://www.lwvnorthpinellas.org)

## ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 26, 2014

- President Marti Folwell presided over the business of electing officers passing a budget for the coming year, etc
- PolitiFact editor Amy Hollyfield informed and fascinated us.
- Good conversation and delicious food was enjoyed by all.
- Donna Sharpless became President.



Below: New Board member C. Underwood, M. Folwell, A. Hollyfield, D. Sharpless



## Become a member! Membership/Membership Renewal 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. **Until 6/1/2014, persons age 30 or younger can join at \$25 and enjoy full privileges of membership.** Student membership is \$25. Cornerstone membership is \$100. After LWV membership for 50 years, there are no dues.

Dues are payable to the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County on or before May 1 of each year.

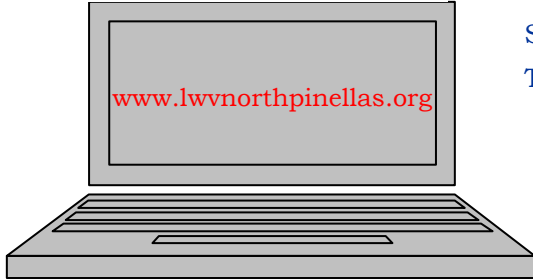
Please mail the membership application and payment to :

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 2014-2015

President: Donna Sharpless  
1st VP: Tamsen Martin  
2nd VP: Vacant  
Secretary-Kay Pitchon  
Treasurer-Marti Folwell

### Directors

Joy Comstock-Publicity  
Rita Garvey  
Ashley Wilson Pimley  
Lois Rogers-Watson-Newsletter  
Peggy Toohy-Transportation  
Carolyn Underwood

### 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.”*

## **General Meeting: May 31, 2014—Land and Water Conservation**

Continued from Page 1: beaches and shores; outdoor recreational lands; working farms and ranches; and historic or geologic sites, by dedicating 33 percent of net revenues from the existing excise tax on documents for 20 years.

## **ALSO**

At the meeting we will also discuss a proposed addition to our county program.

Under **COUNTY PROGRAM, III. QUALITY OF LIFE IN PINELLAS COUNTY (NATURAL RESOURCES)**

B., 6. Provision for a transportation plan that provides for a variety of methods (unified mass transit, bike paths, sidewalk, etc.)

Add under **OUTLOOK FOR WORK:**

5. **Greenlight Pinellas:** Intra-County education campaign. LWVNPC role -- develop with LWVSPA an education approach and jointly implement the related plan.

