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**HOLIDAY PARTY**

**Where: Home of Virginia Howie, 1554 Santa Barbara Dr., Dunedin (727-734-4265)**

**When: Saturday, December 6, 2014, 4-7 p.m.**

**Bring: A friend or significant other and a bottle of wine or appetizer**

Okay, it is time to get mad. As reported by Ivan Penn, Tampa Bay Times staff writer, on Nov. 13, 2014, the State Public Service Commission (PSC) has received a request from Florida's public utilities to "gut their energy-efficiency goals by more than 90%".

**From the President**

And, it appears that the PSC is likely to go along with this request. The utilities, which include Duke Energy, Florida Power and Light, and Tampa Electric, claim that it is cheaper for them to generate energy than to conserve it. Diedre McNab, president

of the League of Women Voters of Florida, has asked Susan Glickman, Florida Director, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE), for guidance on how the Leagues in Florida should respond. Ms. Glickman will send us the SACE Action Alert (which we will send out to members as soon as we get it) and we should all contact PSC members with the message to not allow the gutting of the energy-efficiency goals. The vote is scheduled for November 25, so please contact the Commissioners today.

See Page 2 for ways to act now!



**ACT NOW!**

## **President's Message—Continued**

### **Contact The Following:**

Note: Contact information is listed on each commissioner's page.

Florida Public Service Commission  
2540 Shumard Oak Blvd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850  
800-342-3552  
<http://www.floridapsc.com/>

Commissioner Eduardo E. Balbis  
(850) 413-6038  
<http://www.psc.state.fl.us/about/commissioners/Balbis.aspx>

Commissioner Lisa Polak Edgar  
(850) 413-6044  
<http://www.psc.state.fl.us/about/commissioners/edgar.aspx>

Commissioner Art Graham  
(850) 413-6040  
<http://www.psc.state.fl.us/about/commissioners/graham.aspx>

Commissioner Ronald A. Brise  
(850) 413-6036  
<http://www.psc.state.fl.us/about/commissioners/brise.aspx>

Commissioner Julie Imanuel Brown  
(850) 413-6042  
<http://www.psc.state.fl.us/about/commissioners/brown.aspx>

See the full article by Ivan Penn:  
<http://www.tampabay.com/news/business/energy/psc-staff-backs-florida-utilities-proposal-to-gut-energy-efficiency-goals/2206391>

**Donna Sharpless**, President, LWVNPC



Susan Glickman spoke to the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County on Saturday, November 8, 2014.

The League is monitoring education issues and now has a blog. Check it out for what is happening around the state. The website is <http://lwveducation.com/>

Call Lois Rogers-Watson (727-785-7157) to be part of our local League's Education Committee.



**January Meeting; Legislative Updates  
Date, Time, & Place to be announced.  
Watch for details in your email!**

### **WANTED:**

**Any old photos you have of the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County.**

**They would be a great addition to our website.**

**Please send to Kay Pitchon :  
Kpitchon@gmail.com**

**November 8 Hot Topics:** Many thanks to Ashley Wilson Pimley who put together a wonderful Hot Topics program on November 8.

The featured speaker was Susan Glickman, Florida Director for Southern Energy Alliance spoke about The Clean Energy Revolution: Solar Sidelined in Florida.



#### Susan's Reading List

*Boiling Point, How Politicians, Big Oil & Coal, Journalists, & Activists Have Fueled a Climate Crisis and What We Can Do to Avert Disaster* by Ross Gelbspan

*Reinventing Fire: Bold Business Solutions for the New Energy Era* by Amory B. Lovins & the Rocky Mountain Institute

*Internal Combustion: How Corporations and Governments Addicted the World to Oil and Derailed the Alternatives* by Edwin Black

*Mirage: Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern U.S.* by Cynthia Barnett`

#### Susan's "What We Can Do" to Use Less Energy

- Use LED light bulbs
- Upgrade appliances (especially to a solar water heater)
- Insulate attics
- Caulk windows
- Replace doors and windows with energy efficient ones
- Use fans

#### **Disappointment:**

Susan Glickman is a very well-known speaker and activist in the area of environmental issues. It took a lot of hard work and effort on the part of Ashley Pimley to not only secure such a great speaker, but to get a nice place (the Bellview Bellaire Golf Club) to hold the meeting and to negotiate a lunch for a reasonable price. Of the only 24 audience members (which is a disappointing number in itself), only 12 were from our League (also disappointing). (Six were from the St. Pete League and 6 were guests.) This is not the only time where audience count has been low. If you want to support your LWV, please make an effort to attend some Hot Topic presentations. You might find them interesting and even learn something.

*Note: Many of the Hot Topics are free and, if you need a ride, call us in advance of the meeting and we will do our best to get a ride for you (727-447-1564). The next gathering is the Holiday Party on December 6 and on January 17<sup>th</sup> is a Legislative Update Hot Topic presentation.*



Enjoy these recent photos

At the November 8th meeting L-R: Marti Folwell, Carolyn Underwood, Raechel Garafalo (St Pete League), Susan Glickman, Ashley Pimley, Donna Sharpless

**The Counting of the Ballots cast in 2014**



Herb Polsen (former St. Petersburg City Council member), Debra Clarke (SOE), a SOE staff person, Judge John Carassar. The three named ones are the Canvassing Board members.



**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**



**December 1 Meeting Topic:**

**Defense Technology: What is the Future of the U.S. Military, What Period of History is the Best Parallel to Today, & Have the Budget and Personnel Cuts Lately Prove Too Deep or Injudicious?**

**Speaker: Joe LaBas**

We meet the **First Monday of Month 2:00 pm**

**Pinellas Park Library, 52nd Street and 78th Avenue, Pinellas Park .**

**Come join us for lively discussions of timely global issues.**

**Questions—Call Judy McSwine at 727-447-5493**

## Counting Provisional Ballots...November Election 2014

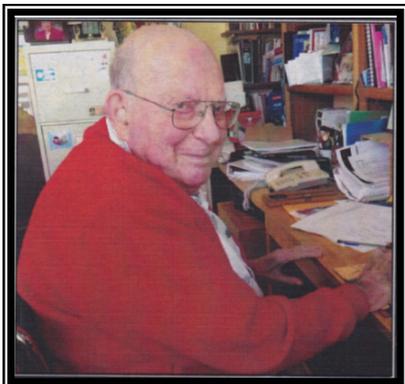
Many people believe that when the votes are tallied on election eve, that is the final count. Well, not so fast. Those votes are estimates with the final count verified after the election by a Canvassing Board (CB). In reality, however, the final results of the election are practically never changed. The CB consists of three people: the Supervisor of Election (SOE), a judge, and normally a county commissioner. The CB for this election consisted of Debra Clarke, SOE, Judge John Carassas, and former St. Petersburg city council member, Herb Polsen. Mr. Polsen was appointed by the chief judge to be on the CB because all of the commissioners were involved with the Greenlight Pinellas referendum and, thus, ineligible.

The LWV of both North Pinellas and St. Petersburg Area worked together to observe the official counting of the ballots. My turn was Friday morning, November 7. My observation time concurred with the counting of provisional ballots. A provisional ballot is one given to a voter at a polling site when the voter tells the poll worker that he/she is eligible to vote, but the poll worker is unable to verify that the voter is indeed eligible or the voter does not have the required identification. The voter votes the provisional ballot which will later be researched by the staff of the SOE.

For this election (November 4, 2014), there were 292 provisional ballots cast in Pinellas County. Debra Clarke is adamant that the ballots of all eligible voters be counted even if these ballots are unlikely to change the outcome of the election.

There are a number of reasons a person is given a provisional ballot. The largest number of these was voters without identification. In this case, the SOE compared the signature on the ballot with the signature on the individual's voter registration form. All of these ballots were certified and counted. Some of the other provisional ballot outcomes included the rejection of ballots filled out by people who were either not registered in Florida at all or were registered in a different county. One person had registered after the deadline date, so his ballot was not counted. The ballot of a voter who had already voted by mail received the same fate. The ballot of a voter who went to the wrong voting site within Pinellas was counted, with the exception of races for which he was not eligible to vote (i.e., a Palm Harbor resident could not vote for the mayor of Dunedin).

Several hours later, all 292 provisional ballots had been reviewed and 149 (51%) of them were accepted. The CB, especially Ms. Clarke and her staff, were very welcoming and informative. I, for one, have great faith in the legitimacy of what the SOE does. This was an interesting experience which some of you may get an opportunity to have in upcoming elections.—Donna Sharpless



### Remembering Member Alden E. Matthews

September 10, 1921-October 8, 2014

Last month we expressed sympathy to Sallie Parks, the wife of Alden. Alden himself was a member of the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County and his service to this League is deeply appreciated.

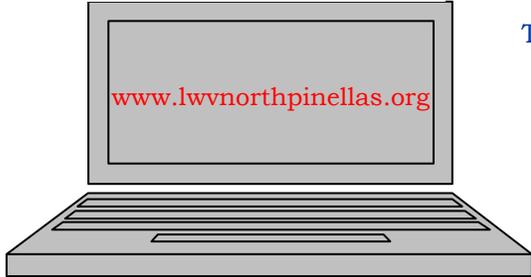
He was an amazing man, a true citizen of the world, who loved especially the Far East where he lived as a child. He was a proponent of women's rights, of education for all, and of his faith which was evident in all he did.

Alden is greatly missed but his work is done & we are thankful for all he did for the League and the community.

**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 Toohey-Transportation  
Carolyn Underwood

**Nominating Committee Chair**

Margaret Heveran

**Webmaster**

Kay Pitchon  
Karen Karinja-Voter Service

**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.”*

**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. 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**