

2015 Annual Meeting

April 25, 2015-9:30 a.m.

Dunedin Golf Club, 1050 Palm Boulevard, Dunedin

Speakers: **Bill Jonson**, Clearwater City Council member, PTSA Board Chair, and LWVNPC member
Sallie Parks, Pinellas County Community Foundation and LWVNPC member & former president

See page 3 for reservation form and menu.



From our President:
Dear Friends,
Please be sure to make your reservation for the Annual Meeting and bring a friend. Plans for 2015–16 need to have your approval.
Donna Sharpless

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Annual Meeting Speakers



Bill Jonson is well known for his service to our community. He serves on the Clearwater City Council where he is active on several committees. He is the City's representative to the Florida Suncoast League of Cities where he has served as President. He is Chairperson of the Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority Board and he will be informing us about the latest developments of the PSTA. Best of all, Bill is a long-time member of LWVNPC!



Sallie Parks was recognized as a Governor's Point of Light, an award given to an individual giving exemplary service to the community. She has been a County Commissioner, first Executive director of the Pinellas County Arts Council, founder of PACE (Practical Academic Cultural Education) Center for Girls Pinellas, President of the Dunedin Rotary Club, member of the Board of Governors of Pinellas Community Foundation, and more. She will update us on the Foundation.

Restoration of Felons' Rights

League members who are concerned with the restoration of felon rights are requested to volunteer to represent the League at the following event.

Family Safety Days to be held on March 28 from 11-4 at the Martin Luther King Center at 1201 Douglas Avenue, Clearwater. Our contact for this is Katrina at 727.657.6674.

As the League we have been asked to provide folks who will explain the League's position on felon rights with other groups who will be participating such as the fire department, police, etc. which at this time are as follows:

LWVF supports Senate Bill 208 which would establish a system of restoration of rights for non-violent felons.

This amendment restores the voting rights of Floridians with felony convictions after they complete all terms of their sentence including parole or probation.

This amendment would not apply to those convicted of murder or sexual offenses, who would continue to be permanently barred from voting unless the Governor and Cabinet vote to restore their voting rights on a case by case basis.

"If a petition drive is successful, this push — supported, by the way, by the NAACP, the ACLU, the League of Women Voters and the Florida Restoration Rights Coalition — could be on the ballot in 2016, a presidential election year." Quote from a recent LWVF Voter

In 2014, United States Attorney General Eric Holder urged states to repeal laws that prohibit former felony offenders from voting, suggesting that such laws are "not in keeping with our democratic values."



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE



April 6, 2015, 2:00 pm

Pinellas Park Library

78th Ave. & 52nd St.

Pinellas Park

U. S. TRADE POLICY

Kay Lahdenpera will present this controversial topic. Is economic globalization beneficial to both the U.S. and the world? Has a more liberal trade policy diminished the U.S. position as the world's leading economic power? Does greater economic integration reduce chances for conflict?

**Please join us for a final meeting of 2014-2015.
We will be signing up for topics for 2015-2016.
Great Decisions books will be available for \$22.**

Any questions, call Judy McSwine, 447-5493.



ANNUAL MEETING APRIL 25, 2015

The Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at the Dunedin Golf Club, 1050 Palm Boulevard, Dunedin.

We will gather at 9:30 a.m. and beginning at 10 a.m. there will be the business meeting, speakers, and lunch.

The menu will be chicken crepes, a vegetable medley, rolls, mini hot fudge sundae, coffee, tea, water. The cost of the luncheon will be \$22.

Please make your reservation no later than April 18, 2015 by calling or sending this reservation form to LWNPC, P.O. Box 6833, Clrw 33758



Annual Meeting of the LWNPC April 25, 2015 Reservation

Name: _____

Phone No. _____ Email Address _____

Number of persons attending _____ Guest names: _____

Mail to: LWNPC, P.O. Box 6833

Please make sure that your check is enclosed.

Clearwater, FL 33758

Questions? Call Marti Folwell at 727-559-7498

TAKE ACTION...NOW!

Dear Leaguers

– Thanks so much for your interest and support of the **LWVF's Health Care** effort – **Close the Gap for a Healthier Florida!** We NEED YOUR HELP! The Legislature is in session and action is needed.

There are lots of needs and opportunities:

- **Our own Karen Karinja was on hand for the LWVF Capitol Impact Days in Tallahassee on March 10-12, 2015. Talk with her and learn how the lobbying went.**
- Help plan and/or host call-in or write-in days, educational events, press conferences and/or rallies with partner organizations
- Identify, make introductions to, and or meet with chamber, business or hospital leaders
- Help make appointments with business leaders for your League leaders
- Make copies, prepare packets of materials and help with other administrative duties
- Distribute info and pledge cards to local businesses with whom you do business, i.e., your hair-dresser, veterinarian, grocery store, lawn maintenance company, drycleaner, local retail stores
- Help educate your faith organization, committees, book club, social organizations and the public
- Make calls and write letters to legislators
- Join the speakers bureau and make PowerPoint presentations

And much much more!

And, please keep track of all you do - meetings, programs, events, calls, etc. and forward the information, including a brief summary, any important contact information and numbers and types of groups participating, we'd like to include your valuable work in the monthly reports of the LWVF Health Care Committee.

**There is not much time. Help now! Contact: Tamsen Martin at 727-946-2378 or
TJMartin123@aol.com**

Thanks so much for helping us to Close the Gap for a Healthier Florida!



The League of Women Voters at the National, State, and local levels are very concerned about quality and fair education for all of our children and youth. They are researching, meeting with officials, and advocating.

The LWV of Florida created a blog several months ago which helps you keep abreast of what is going on in our state and across the nation. The address of that blog is: lwveducation.com



The LWVF Education Committee at the Dept. of Education, in D.C

We know that our members care about quality education for our children and grandchildren. Help is needed to: a) attend School Board meetings and report back the actions made there; b) monitor the League's blog and update us on important entries; c) be part of an Education Committee which will do research, share information with our League, and help our League formulate action plans. Many thanks to Pona Piekarski and Joy Comstock for volunteering to help. If you will also, please contact Lois Rogers-Watson at glwatson@verizon.net or 727-785-7157.

Learn where the League stands on issues

Go to <http://thefloridavoter.org/resources/study-action/> and click on [Study and Action 2013-2015](#) which will take you the study items and positions of the League. You can download a copy!



(See the photo)

On March 4, 2015 some Leaguers of the LWVNPC and LWVSPA took a tour of the Board of Elections. While there, besides being well oriented to that facility and the work that is done by the Board, they also learned of a program that the Board takes to the high schools.

The Board of Elections teaches young people about voting and their voting rights. They offer them the opportunity to register to vote and to do so in honor of a U. S. serviceman or woman. The pin and a dog tag of the person the student is honoring is given to him or her.

Many thanks to our Voter Service Chair, Karen Karinja, for arranging this informative tour!

LWNPC PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2015-2016

INCOME	Total
Contributions - Members	\$200
Education Fund	\$100
Luncheon/Meeting Income	\$2,500
Member Dues	\$4,000
Silent Auction	\$500
Other Income	\$500
Reserves Withdrawal	<u>\$4,053</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$11,853
EXPENSES	
CONFERENCES	
Advocacy	\$50
Conferences	
Legislative (Tallahassee)	\$500
State	<u>\$1,500</u>
Total Conferences	\$2,050
CONTRACT SERVICES	
Accounting	\$700
Webmaster	<u>\$250</u>
Total Contract Services	\$950
LUNCHEON/MEETING EXPENSES	
	\$2,500
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Bank Charges	\$40
Printing	\$100
Postage	\$25
Incorporation Fee	\$63
Insurance	\$400
P.O. Box Rental	\$150
Telephone	\$625
Voter Newsletter Printing & Mailing	\$200
Misc.	<u>\$150</u>
Total Operating Expenses	

(Continued next page)

LWVNPC Board Nominees for 2015-2016

The Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2015 at the Dunedin Golf Club, 1050 Palm Boulevard, Dunedin.

We will gather at 9:30 a.m. and beginning at 10 a.m. there will be the business meeting, speaker, and lunch.

First Vice President 2015-2017 - Tamsen Martin

Nominations may be made from the floor. Be sure you have the consent of the person you nominate.

A hearty "Thank you!" to all who agreed to be nominated.

Second Vice President 2015-2016 - Vacant
Secretary 2015-2017 - Anne Decker

Directors 2015-2017
Karen Karinga
Peggy Toohey
Carolyn Underwood
TBA

Nominating Committee
Elizabeth Mannion
TBA

Proposed Budget for 2015-2016 continued

EXPENSES (cont'd)	PROGRAM EXPENSES	
	Membership	\$250
	Publicity	\$250
	Voter Service	\$100
	Other	<u>\$200</u>
	Total Program Expenses	\$800
	SUPPORT EXPENSES	
	National PMP (Per member payment)	\$2,300
	State PMP (Per member payment)	<u>\$1,500</u>
	Total Support Expenses	\$3,800
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$11,853

PROPOSED PROGRAM 2015-2016

LWVNPC

- ▶ Retain existing program.
- ▶ Advocate to ensure that the funds generated from the Water and Land Conservation Amendment are used as intended.
- ▶ Study and promote the use of solar energy.
- ▶ Continue to monitor and advocate regarding the effect of charter schools and vouchers which are depleting funding for traditional schools.
- ▶ Help with petition gathering for the Voting Restoration Amendment to the Florida Constitution.

BALLOT SUMMARY: This amendment restores the voting rights of Floridians with felony convictions after they complete all terms of their sentence including parole or probation. The amendment would not apply to those convicted of murder or sexual offenses, who would continue to be permanently barred from voting unless the Governor and Cabinet vote to restore their voting rights on a case by case basis.

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