



**LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®**  
OF NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY

**THE VOTER**

**April 2016**

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

# ANNUAL MEETING

*Saturday, April 9, 2016—10:30 a.m.*

**THANK YOU, DONNA SHARPLESS, FOR  
YOUR DEDICATED SERVICE AS PRESI-  
DENT OF THE LWVNPC!**

## Message from the President

Hello Everyone.  
This is the last  
"message" you  
will be getting  
from me as my  
term of office as  
President is up



when we have our Annual Meeting on April 9. I know that I am leaving you in good hands with our nominee, Karen Karinja. Please come and support her. The Annual Meeting is an important one: There are quite a few items to vote on, and we have information to share with you in many areas. Of course, many will want to attend if only to hear our speaker, Dr. Susan McManus. She will give us an update on what is happening politically both at the state and national level. And what a timely topic with such an "atypical" (continued on page 2)



**ANNUAL  
MEETING  
SPEAKER:  
DR. SUSAN  
MACMANUS**

**Bellaire Country Club  
Belle Terrace Room  
1 Country Club Lane  
Bellaire, FL 33756**

**Members: \$25**

**Guests: \$30**

**Reservations due by**

**April 1, 2016**

**-Reservation form on page 3-**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—continued**

presidential campaign that is being waged. The cost of the meeting is \$25 for members, but this is not a fundraiser – the \$25 barely pays for the venue and the meal. We will have a 50/50 raffle to help raise funds so that most of our programs can continue to be provided free of charge and to help with our increasingly active advocacy and educational activities. Information about the Annual Meeting is included in this newsletter. Make your reservation by April 1<sup>st</sup>!

One of the things I feel most proud of is that I believe our League has grown and become more active over the last two years. We now have strong Voter Service and Education Committees and are working on building committees in several other areas, including membership and a speakers bureau. We are also doing a better job with publicity. (At the Annual meeting, I will be announcing several new outlets on social media for our League). Our membership has grown from 68 a few years ago to (with our most recent members, Eileen and Kayla Long, to join, ) 100. That is net, of course, as a few people have either not renewed or, sadly to say, have passed away. We had 21 new members during the 15-16 fiscal year. And, as of Feb. (which counts as 16-17 fiscal year), we already have nine. Extraordinary! As always, I invite you to join a committee or volunteer in any other way.

One of the activities we will be working on is educating members and our communities about the Florida Constitution Revision Commission which is coming about in 2017. You will be hearing more about this at upcoming events and in *The Voter*, but, very briefly, the constitution of the state of Florida is reviewed by the “Florida Constitution Revision Commission” every ten years at which time the committee may propose changes to Florida’s Constitution. Naturally, “who” is on the Commission is extremely critical. And we as the LWVNPC, but even more importantly, you, as private citizens, can make an impact on this process. That is why educating ourselves, our family, neighbors, and friends, as well as the community, is one of our League’s goals for 2016. If you are interested in helping out or learning more, contact me at [dsharpless@verizon.net](mailto:dsharpless@verizon.net) and/or come to the Annual Meeting and find me.

So, this is not a good-bye. I plan on continuing to work with the League and many of you in lots of aspects. I am likely to tackle membership next and would appreciate anyone who is interested in helping me. Contact me via my email, leave a message at (727) 447-1564, or see me at an event.

It has been a pleasure.

In League,

Donna Sharpless

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# ANNUAL MEETING 2016

The Annual meeting will start promptly at 10:30 a.m.  
See items on which to vote in this issue.

Lunch at 11:30 a.m.  
Speaker to follow; Raffle drawing at the end

Bring a few dollars for the 50/50 raffle.  
**Deadline to register: Friday, April 1**

## Why come to the Annual Meeting?

MIX AND MINGLE with other members as well as the proposed officers and board members

### VOTE

- on the slate of new Officers and Board Members
- on proposed Program change
- on proposed Bylaw changes
- on proposed Budget
- for or against increased Membership Dues

DISCOVER areas where you can help out with the revitalized league (to name a few):

- voter services
- education
- publicity
- Membership

ENJOY a delicious lunch

HEAR a distinguished speaker (Dr. Susan McManus) discussing politics



## RESERVATION FOR ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 9, 2016

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Check Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ (If possible, please include payment with this form.)

Let us know if there are special diet restrictions. \$25 members \$30 visitor

Mail to: LWVNPC, P. O. Box 6833, Clearwater, FL 33758 before April 1.

## Latest Happenings in the World of Politics, Both on the State and National Levels

This will be the topic on which Dr. Susan A MacManus will speak on April 9, 2016. Dr. MacManus is a Distinguished University Professor at the University of South Florida in the Department of Governmental and International Affairs. As a political analyst, she has been featured on television, radio, and major newspapers in Florida, the United States, and abroad. She also has been a featured columnist on <http://www.sayfiereview.com/> a widely read Florida-based political website. She is Florida's most-quoted political scientist.

This will be a return visit for Dr. MaManus to the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County. Her views on the latest in happenings in the world of politics, both on the state and national level are well-informed and insightful. Don't miss this opportunity to hear her!

Fill out the form on page 3 so you will be there on April 9th.

### MENU for April 9, 2016

**Lettuce with Toasted Almonds, Dried Cranberries, Feta Cheese with Raspberry Vinaigrette Dressing**

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**Chicken Marsala**

**Orzo Pilaf**

**Julienne Mixed Vegetables**

**Rolls & Butter**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Chocolate Silk Pie**

\*\*\*\*\*

Pinellas County Leaguers who lobbied and were at the Legislative Summit in February 2016. LWVSPA members attending were Julie Kessel, President; Raechel Garafolo, First Vice President; Board Directors Kathy Douglas and Kathy Mousing.. Karen Karinja represented the LWNPC.



# ANNUAL MEETING 2016

**As per our ByLaws, (Article VIII, Sec. 2), members need to be notified of items and board nominations to be voted on at the Annual Meeting at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Therefore, we are providing a list of items and nominations to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting which is April 9, 2016:**

## **Board and Officer Nominations:**

President: Karen Karinja

Second Vice President: vacant

Treasurer: Marti Folwell

Directors: Joy Comstock, Rita Garvey, Leigh Learning , Judy McSwine , Ashley Wilson Pimley, Judy Ramsey, Donna Sharpless

Continuing Board Members: Tamsen Martin, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Anne Decker, Secretary; Lois Rogers-Watson; Peggy Toohey; Carolyn Underwood

**ByLaw Changes:** The following are proposed changes to the LWWNPC Bylaws to be effective April 9, 2016:

- Article III – Membership, Sec. 2: Types of Membership. Delete "or shall be state members at large."

- Article IV – Board of Directors, Sec. 1: Number, Manner of Selection, Term of Office. Delete "A director may serve only two consecutive two-year terms but may remain on the Board if elected to fill a different portfolio position."

- Article VIII – Nominations and Elections, Sec. 1: Nominating Committee. After the second sentence add: "In the event the League is unable to obtain three non-Board Nominating Committee members, the number may be less, but a minimum of one."

## **Proposed Program Changes:**

Retain existing programs

Under III. QUALITY OF LIFE IN PINELLAS COUNTY, add a subsection titled Social Policy.

A. Support the reduction of poverty in north Pinellas County.

OUTLOOK FOR WORK:

Monitor the county to see if/how it has been implementing recommendations to departments to re-align their core services and work collectively to serve the populations of East Tarpon Springs, North Greenwood, and Highpoint.

[Background for this program recommendation: There was a study titled Economic Impact of Poverty of May 17, 2012. Five areas of Pinellas County were deemed to be at-risk communities, having 16% of their population living at or below 100% of the poverty level. Three of these areas lie within League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County's jurisdiction: East Tarpon Springs, North Greenwood, and Highpoint (north of Ulmerton Road). It was recommended that county departments re-align their core services and work collectively to serve these populations, including co-locating services and shifting focus to prevention as well as developing strategic initiatives in Health and Human Services, Justice and Community Services, (continued next page)

# Annual Meeting continued

Community Development, Code Enforcement, Planning and Economic Development. The LWVNPC could begin a study project to find out how the county has been implementing these recommendations over the past four years and look, in general, as to how the county has allocated funding for the reduction of poverty.]

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY Proposed Budget 2016-2017

INCOME		Subtotal	Total
	Donations	\$500	
	Education Fund		
	Member Dues - Basic	\$4,600	
	Member Dues - Cornerstone & Extra	\$600	
	Fundraising Activities	\$800	
	Reserves Withdrawal	\$4,438	
	<b>MEETINGS</b>		
	Annual Meeting	\$1,000	
	Legislative Update	\$1,000	
	Hot Topics Other	\$1,000	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$13,938</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
	<b>CONFERENCES</b>		
	Conferences		
	Legislative (Tallahassee)	\$750	
	State	\$1,200	
	National	\$1,750	
	<b>TOTAL CONFERENCE</b>		<b>\$3,700</b>
	<b>CONTRACT SERVICES</b>		
	Accounting	\$700	
	Website	\$250	
	<b>TOTAL CONTRACT SERVICES</b>		<b>\$950</b>

# Annual Meeting continued

Annual Meeting	900	
Legislative Update	\$900	
Hot Topics Other	\$900	
LUNCHEON/MEETING EXPENSES		\$2,700
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Bank Charges	\$40	
Printing	\$80	
Postage	\$30	
Incorporation Fee	\$63	
Insurance	\$400	
Post Office Box Rental	\$150	
Telephone	\$625	
Miscellaneous	\$150	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		\$1,538
PROGRAM EXPENSES		
Membership	\$200	
Publicity	\$200	
Voter Service	\$350	
Education	\$100	
Other	\$200	
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES		\$1,050
SUPPORT EXPENSES		
National PMP	\$2,500	
State PMP	\$1,500	
TOTAL SUPPORT EXPENSES		\$4,000
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$13,938

## Dues Increase:

Members are asked to vote on increasing dues beginning with the 2016-2017 fiscal year to \$55.00 per individual member; \$110 per family household, \$30 for students, and \$110 per Cornerstone member (\$165 per household Cornerstone member). Lifetime members (50 years +) would continue to have no dues.

We are on the Web: <http://www.lwvnorthpinellas.org/>  
and on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LWVNPC>

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**2015-2016**

**Lively discussions on timely global issues**

**Meetings are the first Monday of the month**

**2 p.m.**

**Pinellas Park Library at 52nd St. & 78th Ave.**

**Pinellas Park**

**at Pinellas Park Library**



**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SCHEDULE**

**April 4, 2016**

**Human Trafficking**

**Kay Lahdenpera**

**May 2, 2016**

**Sectarianism in the Middle East Pat Budlong**

**Questions? Call Judy McSwine 727-447-5493**

**Welcome New Members!**

**Judy Bentley Lynn Bosco**

**Judith Curtis Dianne Fecteau**

**Maureen (Moe) Freaney Arlette Limon**

**Eileen Long Kayla Long**

**Elisio Santana**

## Dr. Sue Legg Speaks to LWWNPC

*Chances and Challenges for the Soul of Public Education* was the title that Dr. Sue M. Legg gave the presentation given on March 19, 2016 at St. Petersburg College, Clearwater College. Our League hosted the event which was attended by over forty people.



Dr. Legg began her remarks with charter schools which she says the media calls “The Florida Miracle,” but she calls “The Florida Mania.” Her title is due to the fraud, waste, and abuse that abounds in the management of many of the charter schools. On the other hand, she applauds charter schools that succeed doing what charter schools should do, i.e. providing an alternative learning environment not currently available in the traditional public school. One example she gave of a charter school she believes to be excellent is one which targets children with dyslexia and has a high success rate with these children.

Charter schools not applauded by Dr. Legg are those run by the Academia and Charter Schools USA corporations. They are for-profit operations which create non-profit boards that apply to school districts for startup and ongoing funding which, in turn, are handed over to the Academia and Charter Schools USA to manage. Local control is not there. Sue Legg asks, “Whose schools are they?”

Unfortunately, the charter school movement has resulted in a re-segregating of our society. It is a great concern.

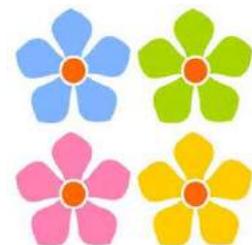
Sue Legg believes communities coming together is the answer for better education in our Florida schools. We are at a critical time. One half of the school age children and youth in Florida are on free and reduced lunch!! It is time for the issues of the community to be addressed by those local communities to solve the problems. Her local League, the League of Women Voters of Alachua County, holds “Community Conversations” where leaders in the community and citizens come together to talk about the problems they face.

There are some hopeful signs in Gainesville, Dr. Legg’s city:

The Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Owen Roberts, closed a historic African-American school and he reopened it as a school for Preschoolers and Kindergarteners. Here the children from low income homes are given an enriched program to prepare them for the rest of their school years.

Rawlings School is in a low income neighborhood. It, too, was closed...for one summer...and reopened as a magnet school of the arts. Five staff members were hired for art, music, drama, etc. University of Florida students painted murals on the newly painted walls in the refreshed building. The culture of the school was transformed.

(continued on next page)





## RESOURCES FOR THE VOTER

<http://bereadytovote.org/>

<http://www.vote411.org/>

<http://www.votepinellas.com/>

<http://www.myflorida.com/>

(continued from page 9)

A Community School was opened in Gainesville this year. Other such schools are in Orlando as well as other places in the state. These schools involve the families of the children and involve the local community to provide services (mental health, economic counseling, health services, etc.) to that school population. Funding for four or five staff members, such as a social worker, is provided through the Children's Home Society. (See the following article which describes a successful community school in Orlando. <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/opinion/os-evans-high-clinic-beth-kassab-20150109-column.html>)

Chief of Police Jones established the System of Care which brought agencies together to support seven schools. He also has cut arrest records of minors in half over the last year.

Dr. Legg is also excited that the League of Women Voters of Florida is showing a strong commitment to studying public education and helping to improve it in our State.

She urges League members to watch the lawsuit brought by the Citizens for Strong Schools and Fund Education Now! It can be accessed at <http://thefloridachannel.org/>. Your Education Committee urges you to visit the blog Dr. Legg maintains at <http://lwveducation.com/>



# LWVNPC

P.O. Box 6833  
Clearwater, FL 33758  
Phone: 727-447-1564

Visit us on the web at

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

President: Donna Sharpless

1st Vice President: Tamsen Martin— Health

2nd Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Anne Decker

Treasurer: Marti Folwell

### Directors

Joy Comstock: Publicity

Karen Karinja: Voter Service

Ashley Wilson Pimley: Environment

Lois Rogers-Watson: Voter & Education

Peggy Toohey: Transportation

Nominating Committee Chair: Elizabeth Mannion

Webmaster : Kay Pitchon

Informed and Active Citizen Participation

## 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.

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