



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY



Making Democracy Work

THE VOTER

December 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.

**"HOLIDAY LIGHTS
IN THE GARDENS"**



Tuesday, Dec 6 - 5:30pm

Botanical Gardens
12520 Ulmerton Rd.
Largo FL
Park in Lot 2
(Meet at McKay Creek Pavilion
on bridge)




Suggested Donation \$4.00

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January 19, 2017

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President's Message

Dear LWVNPC Members,

In Florida, elections depend heavily on the decisions made by the Supervisor of Election's Canvas Board. For the last month, NPC members have been heading to the 13001 Starkey Road address to spend a few hours in a glassed-in room watching a flurry of folks -- some sitting around a large conference table and others running back and forth between the contingent of workers upstairs and those in the tabulation and counting room next door. As a League, it behooves us to learn more about the processes of the Canvas Board so that in the future when we arrive for our observations, we are prepared with knowledge of the process. Therefore, one goal for the upcoming year prior to our next elections will include designing a workshop for League Canvas Board Observers. Observers will learn the purpose of the Canvas Board, the make-up of the Canvas Board, who these people are and how they get to be on this board, the specific language of the Canvas Board, "under votes, over votes, cures, signature affidavits," etc., and the varied duties of the Canvas Board. Education is one of most important purposes of the League; therefore, let us first educate ourselves.

I wish to thank the many in NPC who volunteered to be part of the 2016 Election Canvas Board Observation team who were learning on the go! They spent many hours observing and making notes of this crucial process which is in place to "make every vote count." We appreciate you!

Now with the holiday season upon us, the NPC Board wishes all our members a happy and healthy season!

Karen Karinja, President, League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County

214.929.8984 karen.karinja@gmail.com

IMPORTANT JANUARY MEETING: Jan. 19, 2017 10 a.m. to 12 noon

FLORIDA'S GUN LAWS & THEIR RESULTING ISSUES

Speaker: PAT BRIGHAM, LWVF, and one of the founders of Coalition to Stop Gun Violence

Centre of Palm Harbor

1500 16th Street

Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Free to members and the public

Presented by Osher Lifelong Learning Institute & The LWVNPC



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Your League is celebrating together at “Holiday Lights in the Gardens” at the Botanical Gardens in Largo.

WHEN: Tuesday, Dec 6, 2016 starting at 5:30 pm.

WHAT: In addition to seeing the lights, there is entertainment, food, & beverages available, with a suggested donation of \$4.00. Be sure to bring your walking shoes because you will be enjoying several decorated paths.

WHERE: The Botanical Gardens, 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL (Tel: 727-582-2117) We will meet by the McKay Creek Pavilion on the bridge. See the map below.

QUESTIONS?: Please feel free to call Judy Ramsey at 727/504-8922, or email her at pookiejune.jr@gmail.com. Also check out [this link](#) to the pdf describing the event.



Welcome, New Members!

Vicki Adelson	Judith Curtis	Lucy Linder	Michael Ramsey
Carolyn Allen	Dianne Fecteau	Eileen Long	Eliseo Santana, Jr.
Roslyn Anderson	Maureen Freaney	Kayla Long	Julie Scales
Judy Bentley	Gladys Garcia	Judy Peluso	David Sillman
Ellen Brown	Myla Hubbard	Ken Peluso	Theodosia Tamborlane
Patricia Coughlin	Arlette Limon	Seema Ramroop	Donna (Dusty) Walters

Poverty Matters: Meeting on November 5, 2016

More than 30 people attended a forum on poverty and its effect on children, families and the overall stability and well-being of Pinellas County and Florida. The program, organized by the Poverty Committee, was held on November 5, 2016 at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Clearwater. The topic is important to our chapter because two of the five of the pockets of poverty in Pinellas as located in our north county.

Two experts on the subject, Dr. Noreen Dollard, co-director of Kids Count in Florida at USF, and Dr. Nancy Rudner of the Orlando LWV presented their findings. Anita Russel, Depart of Human Services in Pinellas County, added to the discussion of local resources, particularly regarding access to health services. Discussion followed.

FAST FACTS:

Florida currently ranks 44 of 50 states in its economic well-being for children.

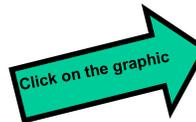
Almost 950,000 children in Florida live in poverty and 32% of those children have parents who lack stable employment.

High rent, limited public transportation, high costs for child care and difficulty accessing post-secondary education contribute to keeping people in poverty.

Unable to access preventative health care, the poor seek emergency alternatives, a situation compounded by our state's refusing 51 billion in federal money for Medicaid expansion. (The irony is that Florida is a donor state: we pay more in taxes than we get in return and Pinellas County voters pay twice to support health services for local residents.)

The Poverty Committee met on November 16, 2016 and will continue to study the issues and make recommendations to the Board. Contact Beth Hovind at 727-809-1686 if you wish to become involved.

Submitted by Barbara Letvin



Above (l-r): Barbara Letvin, Dr. Nancy Rudner, Karen Karinja, Dr. Noreen Dollard, Beth Hovind

Juvenile Justice Steering Committee of the LWV of FL

The committee has been organizing through phone conversations over the past few months. We have held 2 conversations with interested League members throughout the state and have identified 2 major issues to pursue: Civil Citations and Direct File.

The issue with civil citations is that while every jurisdiction has the ability to serve juveniles with a citation rather than an arrest for a minor offense, which gives them a criminal record, some jurisdictions are still arresting youth, thus starting the school to prison pipeline, which has been occurring here in Pinellas. Our sheriff's department has a great record, but localities vary dramatically. On our last conference call, we were joined by representatives of the ACLU and Southern Poverty Law Center where it was debated whether we need legislation to mandate civil citation for specific crimes or education to train law enforcement officers.

Direct file occurs when the juvenile is apprehended for a crime and the District Attorney decides to immediately transfer the juvenile to adult court. No hearing is required. No attorney is present on behalf of the juvenile when this decision is made. We are investigating requiring judicial oversight before direct file can happen to ensure the juvenile rights are protected. A youth so transferred ends up in adult prison with few services.—Beth Hovind, who represents us on this state-wide committee



BEFORE THE FLOOD

From filmmaker Fisher Stevens, Leonardo DiCaprio travels the world speaking to scientists and world leaders about the dramatic effects of climate change.

Leaguers care about this earth, our home.

Take a look at this film.

National Geographic produced the film, *Before the Flood*, to educate the public about the very real effects of climate change. It was shown on television a few weeks ago, but the good news is that you can view it online. Check out this website to learn how:

<http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/before-the-flood/videos/before-the-flood/>

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

2016-2017

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

This is a joint project of LWVSPA & LWVNPC

**ALL are welcome for stimulating and informative gatherings
on global issues.**



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SCHEDULE

December 5	International Migration	Dwight Lawton
January 9	Cuba and the United States	Kay Lahdenpera
February 6	Climate Geopolitics	Joe LeBas
March 6	United Nations Post 2015	Linda McGeehan
April 3	Rise of Isis	Judy McSwine
May 1	Korean Choices	June Bedford

Questions? Email Judy McSwine at judymcswine@gmail.com

JANUARY HOT TOPIC

Florida's Gun Laws & Their Resulting Issues

Thursday, Jan. 19– 10:00 am.-12 noon

Centre of Palm Harbor, 1500 16th St., Palm Harbor, FL

Speaker: Pat Brigham, Vice President, League of Women Voters of Florida

Now You Can Join the League Online -----

JOIN/RENEW MEMBERSHIP

PAYMENT METHOD

JOIN

Just Go to our Website

We have recently added PayPal payment services for your convenience. Choosing this online option, you can become a member using your credit or debit card.

Just go to the [LWVNPC Website](#), select **Payment Method**, and follow the instructions.

NOTE: There is no extra charge to you for the PayPal service when you use your credit or debit card to pay LWVNPC membership dues.

League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

NEW MEMBER? PREVIOUS MEMBER? WHERE? _____

Annual membership is \$55. Household memberships are \$85 (2 people). Student membership is \$30. Cornerstone membership is \$110. Household Cornerstone is \$140. After LWV membership for 50 years, dues are waived.

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 & payment to: LWVNPC, P. O. Box 6833,

Clearwater, FL 33758 OR Join online at [LWVNPC!](#)

Informed and Active Citizen Participation

Visit us on the web at
www.lwvnorthpinellas.org

LWVNPC

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

President: Karen Karinja

1st Vice President: Vicki Adelson

2nd Vice President: Beth Hovind

Secretary: Anne Decker

Treasurer: Marti Folwell

Directors

Rita Garvey

Judy McSwine

Ashley Pimley

Judy Ramsey

Lois Rogers-Watson

Peggy Toohey

Webmaster: Kay Pitchon

Speak up for Democracy.
Join the League!