



THE VOTER

May 2017

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

See You on Saturday, May 13th!



Hot Topic Speaker

Deborah Clark

Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections

May 13, 2017 at 10 a.m. Dunedin Public Library , 223 Douglas Avenue, Dunedin, FL

Deborah Clark joined the Elections office in 1978 and served as Deputy Administrator from 1982 through June 2000.

In June 2000, Governor Jeb Bush appointed Deborah Clark Supervisor of Elections to complete the unexpired term of Dorothy Ruggles.

She was elected to a four-year term in 2000 and re-elected in 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016.

She is committed to conducting fair, accurate and secure elections for Pinellas County.

Deborah received her official designation as a Certified Elections and Registration Administrator (CERA) from The Election Center in 2005. She was among the first 300 elections officials nationwide to achieve this status.

She is very active in the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections (FSASE) and currently serves on its Board of Directors and as Vice Chair of the Administrative Rules Committee. She has also served in the following positions: Get Out the Vote Committee Chair; Canvassing Board Committee Co-chair; Scholarship Committee Co-chair; Training/Education Committee Co-chair; and member of the Legislative Committee, Budget Committee, Vision Committee, Bylaws and Rules Committee, Communication and Publications Committee, Rules Development Committee, Reapportionment Committee, and Reapportionment Ad Hoc Committee.

OUR MEETINGS THIS MONTH:

Come! Invite Others! Offer Rides!

Monday, May 1, 2017 is the date for our final 2016-2017 International Relations presentation:

KOREAN CHOICES



June Bedford will present this topic, which is now the number one foreign policy concern for the Trump administration because of the danger of North Korea and the recent impeachment of the South Korean president.



We will meet at 2:00 pm at the Pinellas Park Library, 52nd St. and 78th Avenue. Please come, bring a friend, and leave better informed! Call Judy McSwine for questions, 447-5493.

**Saturday, May 13, 2017 Speaker Deborah Clark,
Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections**

10 a.m.

Dunedin Public Library

Notice; If you missed the 2017 Annual Meeting,
be sure to read articles in this issue.

Please note the majority of web addresses
in this issue are hyperlinked.

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PRESIDENT KAREN KARINJA'S MESSAGE

President's Message

Thank you to all our members who were able to join us for the 68th Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County. A great deal of League business was conducted during the hour and a half open meeting followed by an excellent buffet and presentation by Paula Dockery. Thanks to Candy Ryan, our Facebook director, you can view Paula's speech on line at our Facebook page.

Our present **Voter** editor, Lois Rogers-Watson, is retiring from the publication to move on to other activities dear to her heart. We are looking for a member to carry on **The Voter** publishing. If interested, please call or email me at 214.929.8984 or Karen.karinja@gmail.com.

The League's 100th birthday and our 70th will occur in two years. If you would like to participate in preparing for these events, also let me know.

Our next Hot Topic event features Deborah Clark, our Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections. She will be speaking from 10-12 on May 13 at the Dunedin Public Library, 223 Douglas Avenue 34698. Please join us as Ms. Clark analyzes the last November results and the changes occurring in 2018.

President Karen Karinja



Elected to the Board of the LWVNPC 2017-2019 (L-R): Beth Hovind, 2nd VP (finishing a 2016-18 term); Whit Blanton, Peggy Toohey, Eliseo Santana. Also pictured Pat Budlong, Nominating Committee Chair

Not pictured: Vicki Cohen, Secretary, Janet Sanaker Nominating Committee

Experienced Former Legislator, Paula Dockery, Shares Concerns



Paula Dockery, well known for her syndicated columns, her eighteen years in government, and member of the LWVFL Board, spoke at the 68th Annual Meeting of the LWVNPC on Saturday, April 15, 2017. Paula served six years in the Florida House and twelve years in the Florida Senate. At that time she was a Republican but she said that she has lost faith in the Republican party and decided to change her registration. She is now a NPA (No Party Affiliation).

There is a lot to do in the short sessions that Florida has. Dockery suggests that there should be two sessions, one a Policy Session, and the other a Legislative Session.

One current problem in the Florida Legislature is that the Senate Chair, Joe Negron, and the Speaker of the House, Richard Corcoran, are often at odds. Negron has a record of cooperation whereas Corcoran does not.

The essential bill that the Legislature must pass each session is the budget (which has doubled in the last twenty years). The Governor has a lot of power regarding the budget. He has a line item veto. The Governor has been vocal in wanting money for Enterprise Florida but many, including the Speaker, believe that Enterprise Florida is "corporate welfare." Chief economists say that the state is losing money on the perks given to corporations.

Both the Governor and the Legislators are heavily influenced by those who contribute to them. One can find that information at <http://dos.elections.myflorida.com/campaign-finance/contributions/>. US Sugar is one of the biggest contributors to Governor Scott. That company is against the Lake Okeechobee project which would provide reservoirs. There are economic and ecological effects. Environmentalists argue that it would be a lot cheaper to prevent pollution than to clean it up but the Legislature has not shown a willingness to take that approach.

The Geo Group which has operated private prisons is another large contributor to the Governor. Unlike the legislators, the Governor is allowed to take in money from contributors during a legislative session. Dockery contends that elected officials should not be allowed to have the ability to have special interest groups contribute to them.

Voters need to watch what is happening in regard to Amendments they passed. One example is Amendment 1, Land and Water. The Legislature and the Governor have ignored the will of the people regarding that amendment. Other great concerns are the bills being promoted that change completely, with language provided by the utility companies, the intent of Amendment 4 (the solar amendment). Attempts are being made to revise five Constitutional Amendments.

At the end of her remarks, Mrs. Dockery explained how a bill becomes a law in the Florida Legislature. Prior to the beginning of the Session, committee meetings are held, i.e. in December, January, and February. A bill goes to each of the committees that deal with that subject matter. Three committees is the ideal number. The first reading of a bill is on paper. The second reading of a bill is when a sponsor presents it and at this time it can be amended. The third reading of a bill is held toward the end of the session and there is debate and vote. A House Bill and a Senate Bill must match exactly. There are normally between two and three thousand bills per session. Between 250-350 bills are passed.

When asked if she will run for office again, Paula said she would not. She may go back to writing eventually.

In our discussion with her, some questions were raised about 1) light rail: She feels it should be initially funded by the government; 2) charter schools: Write your Senators. The House passed a bill for \$200 million for charter schools. Dockery is disillusioned with charter schools after seeing how they are run and how much they take away from the traditional public schools; 3) Sheldon Adelson: He does not live in Florida but is dictating legislation here. Take note; 4) what to do: support candidates who are inclusive, have energy, and are positive about change for the good of all (in contrast to the fear mongering and hate that characterized the Republican 2016 campaign).

Mrs. Dockery covered much in her time with us at the Annual Meeting. She was well received and anyone who took more careful notes is welcome to submit them to *The Voter* for future issues.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS FL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Another week closer to the end of the 2017 Session and we are hopeful for a timely end. Both the Senate and House Budget Chairs are optimistic that we'll end in time. Senate Budget Chair **Jack Latvala** told *Florida Politics* that he thinks "we're making good progress" (read the article here: <http://bit.ly/2oxViKa>). In other news this week, Senator **Frank Artiles** resigned after making inappropriate comments to his colleagues, Senators **Audrey Gibson** and **Perry Thurston**. Read more here from the Miami Herald: <http://hrlid.us/2oRRNBG>

As a reminder, the League will always take one of three positions: 1. Support; 2. Oppose; or 3. No Position. No position means we are neutral on the issue and are closely monitoring the bill. A no position can change if a bill is amended and sways the League to either a Support or Oppose position.

Amendments happen fast and furiously now. This is the time of session when committees are shutting down and the majority of activity moves to House and Senate floor sessions. Be on the lookout for more Action Alerts than ever as this is when our collective voices become SO important.

This week, the League Legislative Champion is Senator **Linda Stewart** for her continuing leadership on Natural Resources issues. Keep reading to find out why!



EDUCATION

- **SB 1552** will create the Best and Brightest Teacher and Principal Scholar Award Program that would recognize the academic achievements of teachers and principals and award them with scholarships as determined by either their GPA or scores on standardized tests. However, **SB 1552** had several amendments to mirror aspects of the House's School of Hope bill. After much analysis from the League's Education Committee, the League *supports* this bill. With the insertion of the school improvement language, it eliminates Schools of Hope funding and maintains district control. If a school receives a grade below C, it will have turnaround support that includes the following:

- An additional hour of instruction
- Wrap around community support services provided by a non-profit entity that includes health services, after school programs, drug prevention, college and career readiness, and food & clothing banks
- Principal autonomy mostly in the curriculum

If after three years the public school fails to improve, students will either be reassigned, the school will close and subsequently open as a charter OR contract as a conversion charter school or with an outside agency to run the school. Follow **SB 1552** and other education issues here: <http://bit.ly/2oRO3Qw>

- **SB 796** passed out of the Senate Education committee on Monday and the League is in *opposition* to this bill. Read more about the bill from the Orlando Weekly: <http://bit.ly/2ouuOtE>
- **SB 468** requires the Just Read, Florida office to provide teachers in PreK-3 with training and requires VPK providers to provide parents with pre and post assessment results. The League is in *support*. It passed out of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on PreK-12 Education.

- **SB 808** hopes to allow flexibility to classes and not lose funding as long as they are compliant with their class sizes. The League is in *support* of this bill and it passed out of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on PreK-12 Education on Tuesday.

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(Legislative Update continued from previous page)

- **HB 293** requires the Department of Education to conduct a comprehensive study of states with nationally recognized high-performing middle schools in reading and math. The League is in *support* of this bill.

The Senate Rules committee heard **SB 926** on Wednesday and the League supports this bill. Read more about the education train bill here from the Tampa Bay Times: <http://bit.ly/2oUV01W>

ELECTIONS & ETHICS

ICYMI: The Florida House Ethics bills are dead this session. The League was in *support* of the House Ethics Reform bills. Read more here: <http://bit.ly/2o5fmYU>

- **SB 848** pertains to the suspension of civil rights for certain felons. This bill was temporarily postponed in the Senate Criminal Justice committee. The League *supports* this bill.

SB 934 concerns the automatic restoration of civil rights of felons other than the right to own, possess or use a firearm upon completion of their sentence. The League is in *support* of this bill. It was TP'd in the Senate Criminal Justice committee and we will most likely not see this bill for the rest of session.

“VOTING RIGHTS BALLOT INITIATIVE GETS GREEN LIGHT FROM SUPREME COURT ”Read the *Miami Herald* article here: <http://bit.ly/2oVcbjz>. The League *supports* this initiative. Stay tuned for MORE to come in the following weeks!

- **SB 1072** passed out of the Senate Governmental Oversight & Accountability Committee. This bill would exempt 16 and 17 year-olds from public records. This bill is linked to another bill that will prevent voters from being registered in multiple states. The League *supports* this bill.
- **SB 80** was substituted for **HB 163** in the House. This bill was worked on by the First Amendment Foundation and Sen. **Greg Steube** who were able to find common ground. This bill addresses issues with the Sunshine Law and while it still requires a court to award attorneys' fees, it only does so if the agency did violate Sunshine Law and the requestor did not file it as a frivolous request. The League *supports* this bill. Read more here from *Florida Politics*: <http://bit.ly/2oZvPvb>
- **SB 1160** requires a candidate to provide a money order or cashier's check from their campaign account if they are not qualifying by petition. This bill also prohibits elected officials from being designated as a poll watcher. The League is in *support* of this bill.

The League is in *support* of **HB 707** and **HB 709**, which both address potential voter fraud issues by having the Florida Secretary of State share voter registration information across states. This will prevent multiple registrations across states. The Florida Association of Supervisors of Elections support this bill. Both bills have passed out of the House Government Accountability Committee and move onto the House floor.

GUN SAFETY

- The League is in *opposition* to **SB 1330/HB 849** that would allow for private schools at religious institutions to decide whether they allow guns on their property. The property owner is able to make that decision. There is no need to introduce firearms into churches and parochial schools where children are present. It passed out of the Senate this week.

HEALTHCARE

- *While there weren't any related bills this past week, we continue to monitor all Health Care bills that are coming up.*
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NATURAL RESOURCES

This week's League Legislative Champion Sen. **Linda Stewart** presented **SB 1748** requiring the inspection of onsite sewage treatment and disposal systems by professionals. The League is in *support* of this bill. Read more here: <http://bit.ly/2oo3eOO>

- **SB 1304** would create the Florida Black Bear Habitat Restoration Act. While the bill was heavily amended, the *koala-ty* of this bill was maintained. The League is in *support* of this bill.

SB 90 was back on this week's agenda for a final time before going to the Senate floor. The League is in *support* of this bill that will implement Amendment 4 and expand solar opportunities for Florida. Read more here from *Florida Politics*: <http://bit.ly/2pjKCU8>

- The League is now in *support* of **HB 587** which requires pet dealers to tag non-native species prior to selling them and launches a pilot program to examine the benefits of the slow eradication of invasive species like lionfish.

Looking for a specific bill or issue that you think the League should take a position on? LWVF prides itself on being a grassroots organization and receives suggestions on which issues we should make a priority from local leagues each year. From this list we're able to create a comprehensive list of priorities and lobby for or against these issues in the Capitol.

Questions, comments or concerns? Don't hesitate to send me an email at LWVFAdvocacy@gmail.com.

Sincerely, Kelly Quintero, Legislative Advocate for LWV of Florida

TO KEEP ABREAST OF THE WEEKLY REPORTS, GO TO <http://thefloridavoter.org/capitol-report>



WELCOME, NEW LWVNPC MEMBERS!

***Ginger Anderson, Jackie Farrell, Joe & Edie LeBas,
Janet Prueitt, and Clyde & Shauna Sconce***

CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION COMMITTEE

The CRC is a 37-member commission which convenes every 20 years to review and propose changes to the Florida Constitution for voter consideration. The CRC meets for approximately one year, holding public hearings, examining the Florida Constitution, identifying issues, performing research and possibly recommending changes to the Florida Constitution. Any amendments proposed by the CRC would be placed on the 2018 General Election ballot. Any amendments placed on the ballot by the CRC would have to secure 60 percent approval by voters to be added to the Florida Constitution.

The CRC has announced that it will hold a listening public hearing on May 17th in Hillsborough County, from 5-8 pm, place to be determined. We are forming our committee this month. All those interested please contact Ellen Siegman at ellenisiegman@gmail.com.

YOU can be an advocate! Let these Pinellas County Legislators know your stance on bills.

Track bills: <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/MyHouse/login.aspx> & <https://www.flsenate.gov/Login?referrer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.flsenate.gov%2F>

You can write or call. They need to hear from you.

Senator

Jack Latvala Dist. 16
Senate Office Bldg
404 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee 32399-1100
850-487-5016



850-487-5019

Senator

Darryl Rousen Dist. 19
212 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee 32399-1100



Senator

Representative

Jeff Brandes Dist. 24
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Wengay Newton, Sr. Dist. 70
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Representative

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Representative

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Representative

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Clicking on the picture of each legislator will take you to his/her webpage where you can choose to email him or her.

BYLAWS AS REVISED & ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LWVNPC ON MAY 15, 2017

ARTICLE 1 – NAME

Sec.1. Name. The name of this organization shall be: The League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County (LWVNPC). This local league is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of Florida (LWVFL) and of the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS). In the event of dissolution of this organization, all funds and property will become the property of LWVF.

ARTICLE II-PURPOSE and POLICY

Sec. 1. Purpose. The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Sec. 2. Political Policy. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or any candidate.

ARTICLE III-MEMBERSHIP

Sec. 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the Purpose and Policy of the League shall be eligible for membership.

Sec. 2. Members.

Voting Members. Persons of at least 16 years of age who join the League shall be voting members of the local Leagues, state Leagues and of the League of Women Voters of the United States: (1) individuals who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League; (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a Local League; (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be Life Members excused from the payment of dues. Those who wish to support the League in a more substantial way may apply for a Cornerstone Membership.

Members are expected to pay annual dues to the organization. The President, may, at her discretion, determine a reduced rate when appropriate.

ARTICLE IV-BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sec. 1. Number, Manner of Selection, Term of Office. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the League, eight (8) elected directors and not more than eight (8) appointed directors. One-half of the elected directors shall be elected by the General Membership at each Annual Meeting, and shall serve for a term of two (2) years, or until their successors have been elected and qualified. The elected members shall appoint such additional directors, not to exceed eight (8), as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the League. The terms of the appointed directors shall be one (1) year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting.

Sec. 2. Qualifications. No person shall be elected or appointed or shall continue to serve as an officer or director of this organization unless he or she is a voting member of the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County.

Sec. 3. Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors by reason of resignation, death, or disqualification of an officer or elected member may be filled, until the next Annual Meeting, by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors. Three (3) consecutive absences from a Board meeting of any member without a valid reason shall be deemed a resignation. Board members operating at odds with the prescribed purpose of this organizations may be removed by a vote of 2/3 of the Board.

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BYLAWS Continued

Sec. 4. Powers and Duties. The Board of Directors shall have full charge of the property and business of the organization, with full power and authority to manage and conduct same, subject to the instructions of the General Membership. It shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out the Program adopted by the National Convention, the State Convention, and the Annual Meeting. The Board shall create and designate such special committees as it may deem necessary.

Sec. 5. Liability. Board members assume no personal liability for actions taken as a member of the LWVNPC Board.

Sec. 6. Conflict of Interest and Non-Partisan policies. All Board members will conform to the League's Conflict of Interest and Non-Partisan Policies.

Sec. 7. Meetings. There shall be at least nine (9) regular meetings of the Board of Directors annually. The President may call special meetings of the Board of Directors, and shall call a special meeting upon the request of five (5) members of the Board.

Sec. 8. Quorum. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

Sec.9. Electronic Board Meetings. Electronic board meetings to include, but not limited to, telephone, video and web conferencing shall be authorized to facilitate action on timely items that cannot wait until a regular Board Meeting. These meetings must be conducted with a quorum, as designated by the bylaws, and with a twenty-four (24) hour notice of date, time and place, by a technology that is available to all members eligible to participate and that allows all persons participating to hear each other at the same time.

ARTICLE V- OFFICERS

Sec. 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers. The officers of the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County shall be a President or Co-Presidents, a First Vice President, a Second Vice President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, all of whom shall be elected for terms of two (2) years, and take office immediately. The First Vice President and the Secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years. The President(s), Second Vice President and the Treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years.

Sec. 2. The President(s). The President(s) or Vice-president if so designated shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors. The President(s) may, in the absence of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks or drafts or notes. The President(s) shall be, ex-officio, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The President(s), until such time as the Board of Directors decides, shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of President and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

Sec. 3. The Vice Presidents. The two Vice Presidents, in the order of their rank, shall, in the event of absence, resignation, disability, disqualification or death of the President(s), possess all the powers and perform all the duties of the office of President(s), until such time as the Board of Directors shall select one of its members to fill the vacancy. The Vice Presidents shall perform such other duties as the President and Board may designate.

Sec. 4. The Secretary. The Secretary shall keep minutes of the Annual Meeting of the League and of all meetings of the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall notify all Officers and Directors of their election. The Secretary shall sign, with the President, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board, and shall perform such other functions as may be incident to the Office of Secretary, and shall keep bylaws up to date.

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BYLAWS Continued

Sec. 5. The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall collect and receive all monies due. The Treasurer shall be the custodian of these monies, shall deposit them in a bank, savings and loan, or money market fund as designated by the Board of Directors, and shall disburse them only upon order of the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall present statements to the Board of Directors at their regular meetings and an annual report to the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE VI-FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 1. Fiscal Year. The Fiscal Year of the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County shall be from April 1 of each year to March 31 of the following year.

Sec. 2. Dues. Annual dues shall be set at the Annual Meeting and shall be due and payable on or before May first. Dues paid by new members joining between February 1 and April 30 shall be credited to the ensuing League year. Any member whose dues have not been received by August first shall be dropped from membership, with the consent of the Board of Directors. When two or more members reside at the same address in a common household, full payment of dues shall be made for the first member, a payment equal to one-half the annual dues payment shall be made for each additional member. If the League of Women Voters of Florida or the League of Women Voters of the United States should increase the per member payment, the dues of the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County shall be increased to reflect the increase at the time it becomes effective. Dues for Cornerstone Members shall be twice the annual dues.

Sec. 3. Budget. A budget for the ensuing year shall be submitted to the Annual Meeting by the Board of Directors for adoption. The budget shall include support for the work of the League as a whole. "Ensuing year" means the fiscal year beginning April 1st of the calendar year in which the Annual Meeting adopts the budget.

Sec. 4. Budget Committee. A Budget Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least two (2) months prior to the Annual Meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing year. The Proposed Budget shall be sent to all members one (1) month before the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall not be eligible to serve as chairperson of the Budget Committee.

Sec. 5. Review of Books. The books of the Treasurer shall be reviewed and inspected annually prior to each Annual Meeting by a person or persons designated by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII-MEETINGS

Sec. 1. Membership Meetings. There shall be at least four (4) General Membership Meetings each year, including the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting shall be held between the last of March and the first of June, exact date to be determined by the Board of Directors.

Sec. 2. Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting shall:
adopt a local program for the ensuing year;
elect Officers and Directors, and members of the Nominating Committee; adopt a budget; and
transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Sec. 3. Quorum. Those members present and voting at a meeting of which all members have received thirty (30) days written notice, shall constitute a quorum. The act of a majority of the members present at a meeting shall be an act of the organization, unless the act of a greater number is required by these bylaws.

ARTICLE VIII-NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Sec. 1. Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three (3) members, one (1) of which

shall be a member of the Board of Directors. The chairperson and one member, who shall not be members of the Board, shall be elected for the period of a one year term at the Annual Meeting. In the event the League is unable to obtain two non-Board Nominating Committee members, the number may be less, but a minimum of one. Nominations for those offices shall be made by the current Nominating Committee. The other members of the nominating committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. Any vacancy occurring among the elected members of the Nominating Committee by reason of resignation, death or disqualification, shall be filled by a majority vote of the members of the Board of Directors. The Nominating Committee shall request nominations for Officers and Directors from the membership, this request to be published in **The Voter** sixty (60) days prior to the final report of the Nominating Committee.

Sec. 2. Report of Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor. The report of the Nominating Committee and its nominations for Officers, Directors and members of the succeeding Nominating Committee, shall be sent to all members one month before the date of the Annual Meeting.

The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the Annual Meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, nominations may be made from the floor by any voting member, provided the consent of the nominees shall have been secured.

Sec. 3. Elections. Election shall be by ballot, provided that when there is but one (1) nominee for each office, the Secretary may be instructed to cast the ballot for every nominee. A majority vote of those qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election. Absentee voting or proxy voting shall not be permitted.

ARTICLE IX-PROGRAM

Sec. 1. Program. The program of the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County shall consist of education and action:

- to protect the right of every citizen to vote;
- to promote those governmental issues chosen at the National and State Conventions, councils and local annual meetings for concerned study and action; and
- to implement League principles.

Sec. 2. Program Selection. The Annual Meeting shall act upon the Program using the following procedures:
The Board of Directors shall consider the recommendations sent in by the voting members two (2) months prior to the Annual Meeting and shall formulate a Proposed Program;
The Proposed Program shall be sent to all members one (1) month before the Annual Meeting;
A majority vote of voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting shall be required for adoption of subjects in the Proposed Program as presented to the Annual Meeting by the Board of Directors;
Recommendations for Program submitted by voting members two (2) months prior to the Annual Meeting, but not recommended by the Board of Directors may be considered by the Annual Meeting provided that:
The Annual Meeting shall order consideration by a majority vote, and
The Annual Meeting shall adopt the item by a majority vote.
Changes in the Program, in the case of altered conditions, may be made provided that:
Information concerning the proposed change(s) has been sent to all members at least two (2) weeks prior to a Membership Meeting at which the change(s) will be discussed.
Final action by the membership is taken at a succeeding Membership Meeting.

Sec. 3. Member Action. Members may act in the name of the League of Women Voters only when authorized by the local President under the direction of the local, state, or national Board.

(continued)



ARTICLE X-NATIONAL AND STATE CONVENTIONS, STATE COUNCIL

Sec. 1. National Convention. The Board of Directors, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the National office, shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County under the provisions of the bylaws of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Sec. 2. State Convention. The Board of Directors, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the State office, shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County under the provisions of the bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Florida.

ARTICLE XI-PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Sec. 1. Parliamentary Procedure. The rules contained in Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and not inconsistent with these bylaws.

ARTICLE XII-ANTI-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Sec. 1. LWVNPC does not discriminate in employment or membership on the basis of age, race, color, religion, ancestry, ethnicity, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability or other protected group status. The Board of Directors will investigate any and all complaints.

ARTICLE X111-ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

SEC. 1. The LWVNPC will not tolerate unlawful harassment in any form, against anyone, at any time, for any reason. The Board of Directors will investigate any and all complaints.

ARTICLE XIV-AMENDMENTS

Sec. 1. Amendments. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members present and voting at the Annual Meeting, provided the amendment(s) were submitted to the membership in writing at least one (1) month in advance of the meeting.

Amended:

- April 21, 2001
- April 26, 2003
- April 23, 2005
- April 9, 2016
- April 15, 2017



Annual Meeting Pictures

League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County

2017-2018 Budget

INCOME

DONATIONS		
LEAGUE	\$	500
EDUCATION FUND		500
SUBTOTAL DONATIONS		1,000
MEMBER DUES		6,000
CORNERSTONE		500
SUBTOTAL MEMBER DUES		6,500
MEETINGS		1,625
RESERVES		7,655
OTHER INCOME		150

TOTAL INCOME	\$	16,930
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EXPENSES

CONFERENCES		
CONVENTION/COUNCIL	\$	1,200
LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT		1,500
NATIONAL CONVENTION		1,250
OTHER		200
SUBTOTAL CONFERENCES		4,150
MEETING EXPENSES		
ANNUAL MEETING		1,325
MEMBER SOCIAL		300
OTHER		-
SUBTOTAL MEETING EXPENSES		1,625
PROGRAM EXPENSES		500
SPEAKER HONORARIUMS		500
RENT		300
ADVERTISING/PUBLICITY		500
TRAVEL (NON CONFERENCE)		500
CONTRACT SERVICES		
WEBSITE		240
ACCOUNTING		700
SUBTOTAL CONTRACT SERVICES		940
OPERATING EXPENSES		
BANK FEES		40
PRINTING		300
POSTAGE		100
INCORPORATION FEES		65
INSURANCE		400
POST OFFICE BOX		170
TELEPHONE		600
MISCELLANEOUS		600
SUBTOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		2,275
DUES		
NATIONAL PMP		3,840
STATE PMP		1,800
SUBTOTAL DUES		5,640

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	16,930
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BALANCE	\$	-
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2017-2018 ADOPTED PROGRAMS
LWVF Programs & LWVNPC Programs (bolded)
(See the chart and all below it.)

GOVERNMENT	EDUCATION	NATURAL RESOURCES	PINELLAS POVERTY	GUN SAFETY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitutional Amendment review • Restoration of felon voting rights • Ethics and campaign finance • Voter rights • Election reform • Extend voter registration deadline • Pursue open primaries • Support online voter registration • Electors support popular vote winner • Adopt “motor voter” law • CRC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain construction and renovation funding • Accountability for test scores and needs of diverse students • Oversight of charter schools • Conflict of interest among legislators • Eliminate public funds supporting private education • Require private schools to be accountable 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coalition to prevent privatization of parks • Support sustainable energy solutions • Support water quality improvement • Support full funding to protect/preserve natural resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the reduction of poverty in North Pinellas county • Children's medical insurance • Support Medicaid expansion • Juvenile justice • Reproductive Rights • Eliminate the 24 hr. abortion provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand background checks • Statewide ban on assault weapons • No campus carry • No open carry • Require permits • No expansion of “stand your ground” • No guns in schools

Retained existing programs: Education; Health, Poverty, Juvenile Justice; Natural Resources including Solar and Transportation

Added Constitutional Revision Commission oversight and these:

- **Support:** Increase the cash benefit level for families on TANF (Temporary Aid to Needy Families) to a livable and realistic level.
- **Support:** Employment at a livable wage for all workers.
- **Support:** Increase the supply of affordable housing. Prevent the transfer of funds from the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund into the general fund. Support the use of Penny for Pinellas funds to build additional low income housing.
- **Support:** Quality, affordable and competent early learning/child care for all children to include early assessment of child needs along with parent support.

(Continued next page)

- **Maintain** current health care and improve access for those not eligible for Medicaid. Ensure coverage and policies to cover those currently covered. Increase access to clinics in low income areas.
- **Support** competent, efficient and adequate county/regional mass transit system.
- **Support** explore Earned Income Tax Credit program.
- **Support** juvenile initiatives to expand the use of Civil Citations and increased judicial oversight of Direct File of Juveniles to adult court.
- **Support** Felons, having served their sentences, should have their rights restored to include voting rights and eligibility for public programs.

RESTORING FELONS' VOTING RIGHTS

Just recently on April 20th, the Florida Supreme Court approved of the language of a proposed state ballot initiative to restore felons voting rights. This paves the way for its placement on the November 2018 ballot.

Florida is only one of three states which does not automatically restore those rights after felons have served their time. Osmond Meade, President of the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition, had gathered 75,000 petitions to have this initiative reviewed by the Court. It will now be necessary to secure 700,000 signed petitions from Florida residents to have the initiative on the November ballot.

Stay tuned to learn how our LWVNPC can help this worthwhile effort!

Past Presidents of League Reflect on Their Involvement

Marti Folwell

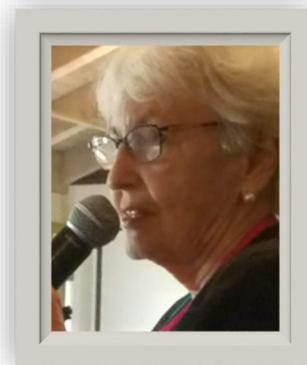
(1982-84, 2008-2010, 2013-2014)

Martha (Marti) Folwell has served as President three times for the North Pinellas League of Women Voters. It has always been in her blood to serve in a leadership capacity. She met a boy when she was two years old and they grew up to be friendly competitors. He became President of the Senior Class and she became President of Student Council. She graduated from her high school class of 54 as the salutatorian and that boy graduated as the valedictorian.

Marti went to school in the same building for all of her formal education in a small town in Michigan. She received a full tuition scholarship and obtained a degree in English from the University of Michigan. She was introduced to her husband, Robert of 44 years by friends. They had three children and those three children gave Marti and Robert seven granddaughters.

As a young "stay-at-home-mom" living in Michigan, Marti's next door neighbor invited her to join the League. The League offered babysitting services. She joined and enjoyed the work of informing others on the issues. When she moved to Florida, she continued her involvement, but took a short break to enhance her spiritual journey. She came back to the League at a time when membership was not growing so she stepped to the plate to take the leadership role of

(Continued on next page)



Marti Folwell—continued

President. Her primary goal was to keep the League growing and strong. She once had conversations about combining the two Leagues in Pinellas. But the geography did not allow that to happen.

Marti indicates that keeping the meetings interesting and attacking big issues will keep the League relevant. The 2016-17 political climate has increased engagement and voter's registration. People are interested in voter's rights issues and fair districting. Marti feels that although being in an organization can get things done, it only takes the interest of one person to plant the seed. She is a mentor and an encourager. She also listens.

Some of the most memorable work of the League is centered on Fair districting, solar amendment and working for land and water protections. The League is needed more than ever to keep the public informed before casting ballots. Marti is always learning and sharing that information.

AS we approach the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, Marti thinks we need to reflect on our accomplishments, review our history and tell our story. We have come a long way but still have much to do. We have to fight for free press, equal pay and equal rights in general. We need to work to build a strong public education system so we can have an informed citizenry.

Marti now holds the position of Treasurer and she has not thought about giving up an active role on the Board or in the League. Her ethics are unquestionable. She lives her life with integrity and is a great fan of intellectual honesty. Her personal beliefs do not interfere with the pursuit of the truth.

Jan Regulski



Jan Regulski grew up on a small dairy farm north of Albany, New York, a valley away from Vermont. She has been married for 65 years to Lee and they have four children. She was named valedictorian of her high school class of 19. Of course her school was a one room school house. She received a college degree in economics from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. She has been a loyal alumna. She worked for Proctor and Gamble in Rochester, New York doing market research and for DuPont in Kingston, North Carolina. She did the normal things of raising her children and participating in PTA and keeping the children active. In 1961 the family moved to Clearwater, Florida.

After the kids were all grown up, Jan was looking for ways to fill the void. She joined the local League of Women Voters but does not recall when she actually joined. What she recalls was it appeared to be a group of intelligent women doing great things for the community. She recalls "membership teas" to recruit more women. In 1988, Jan decided to take the call to become President of the League. Her husband Lee was on the City Council and over time, it appeared to be a conflict of interest for both of them to serve at that level of their respective interests. So, Jan decided to leave the position of President but continued to serve as a member. Before Jan left the position of President, she convinced the League to support issues on gun control and education. Jan believes that change comes about when led by determined people.

Jan's response to recruitment strategies are to advertise continually about who we are and what we do, encourage people boldly to bring others and provide opportunities for mental stimulation. The League of Women Voters does make a difference and it attracts likeminded people to do the work. It was a powerful win on redistricting in 2015 according to Jan that gave us a hands on opportunity in local politics.

Jan feels we should plan something special for the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment. There should be inspirational speakers and a gala. It would be a nice gesture to give each recruiter of a new member a Susan B. Anthony coin.

In closing, Jan felt that she would not hold a leadership position, but she would attend hot topics when great speakers would be presenting. She looks forward to attending her grandchild's wedding in July in Ensenada, Mexico.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Voter Services

Throughout the past year, the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County Voter Service team successfully pursued its dual responsibilities of voter education and voter registration. The Voter Service team met monthly and planned for the various events that occur throughout the year, such as voter registrations, candidate forums, canvassing observations, and research of issues pertinent to Florida and Pinellas County.

The Voter Service Hot Topics speaker for 2017 will be Deborah Clark, Supervisor of Elections of Pinellas County, on Saturday, May 13, at the Dunedin Library. Ms. Clark will discuss the results of the November election and changes occurring in the next year. Throughout the time prior to the National Elections Voter Service members were registering voters and updating changes throughout the county at a wide variety of events and focusing on college campuses. During election time members observed the efforts of the Canvas Board as they reviewed provisional ballots and those that presented challenges.

Voter Service team members participated as moderators and timekeepers in Tarpon Springs, Safety Harbor, Dunedin, and Indian Rocks Beach.

A consensus meeting was conducted in March on the issue of Open Primaries.

—Karen Karinja

Membership

- Recruited new members, approximately 40, added with a total of 132 as of 3/6/17.
- Held our first New Membership Orientation meeting.
- Planning New Membership Orientation every 6 months in the spring and fall
- Developed presentation PowerPoint
- Processing new members through PayPal
- Added Facebook page with link to the website so members can like and share events
- Developed welcome letter with softcopy attachments of Directory, Bylaws, and Programs sent to new members
- Attended Women's March and received over 40 leads.

—Cathy Protopapas

Social Media

The LWV NPC is initiating Facebook Live with live streaming of special meetings and events. These occur in real time. Links will be provided on webpage for viewing at a later time. In addition, we have initiated a Twitter account and a LinkedIn account but need a manager.

Website

We added PayPal Payment services to the LWVNPC website so that site visitors would have the option to join the League or renew membership with a credit or debit card.

The LWVNPC website - www.lwvnorthpinellas.org - is available to both the public and League members. An automated website activity report indicates that visitors requested a view of LWVNPC site pages (by clicking a link) in the range of 3600 - 11,000 times a month in 2016.

- Kay Pitchon, LWVNPC Webmaster



Solar

The League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County (LWVNPC) has teamed up with FL Sun (Florida Solar United Neighborhoods - <http://www.flsun.org/>) local solar industry [and the jobs they create] and try to move FL toward solar leadership nationally ... sadly the Sunshine State is presently a laggard ...

(Continued next page)

Solar (continued)

Specifically, the co-op will hold 3-4 public Solar Information Meetings in order to offer a primer on solar basics, then organize interested homeowners into a group which will solicit competitive bids and group discounts from local installers. FL Sun will help evaluate the bids & companies in order to help the group choose an installer and offer support throughout the installation process.

Nationally, the Community Power Network (<http://communitypowernetwork.com/>) - the core organization behind FL Sun which facilitates the formation of the co-ops and brings the solar expertise - has successfully implemented dozens of solar cooperatives in other states. They brought the concept to Florida in 2016 and it has proven extremely popular! So far FL Sun has successfully formed co-ops in Orange County, St. Petersburg, Sarasota, Brevard area; they have signed up hundreds of participants and are saving co-op members an average of 20%! Presently there are many more co-ops planned state-wide, from Alachua to the Keys, some areas are even embarking on their second co-ops.

Our official launch in N. Pinellas will be some time in August (exact date TBD) and at this point we are looking to add a few more Community Partners: groups with trusted names and large footprints, who believe in the future of solar power and want to help spread more solar across FL. These can be environmental groups, community groups, faith groups, foundations, etc. So far our Community Partners include:

Suncoast Sierra Club
Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR)
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE)
The City of Oldsmar

In addition, we are in communication with Pinellas County, other cities in our area, church groups and media outlets in order to try and solicit their partnership.

As we get closer to launch date we will be planning our kick off press conference, Solar Information Meetings, local events where we can share the concept, as well as other aspects of our marketing campaign. We will also attend the Earth Day event in Clearwater to begin to spread the word.

Volunteers are still needed if you or anyone you know may have an interest. — Dave Sillman

International Relations

An International Relations study group is cosponsored by the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County and the League of the St. Petersburg Area. The group meets the first Monday of the month, from October through May, at the Pinellas Park Library.

Members of the group present topics selected by the Foreign Policy Association and use the book **Great Decisions** as a guide along with additional research. This year, our presentations have been greatly enhanced by a video about the monthly topic, well-produced by the Foreign Policy Association. On Saturday, February 18, 2017, Dr. William Felice of Eckerd College spoke about "The Ethics of Interdependence: Global Human Rights and Duties."

Our average attendance is about twenty League members and guests. The presentations are most informative and timely. We welcome more attendance at this worthwhile project. — Judy McSwine, Chair

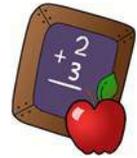
Poverty/Health Committee

The Poverty/Health Committee hosted the November General Meeting and was pleased to have Dr. Norin Dollard, Kids Count, USF and Nancy Rudner, Health Advocate from the Orlando LWV. Both gave excellent power point discussions of the issues of low income families in their daily living and in their health care. These power points are available if there are other groups who may be interested in learning from them.

Following this meeting, the Poverty/Health committee began to look at the local impact of poverty and health issues on residents in North Pinellas and Pasco County. Each member has chosen an issue to research and recommend to our plan for presentation to the larger group at the annual meeting in April. With the approval of LWVNPC we will begin the implementation. —by Beth Hovind, Chair
(Reports continued next page)

Education

Members: Lois Rogers-Watson, Sue Rishworth, Joy Comstock, Mary Schoonover, Delia Hancock-Miller, Mary Rao, Eliseo Santana, Eileen Long, Pona Pierkarski



1. Collaboration with Hillsborough League of Women Voters Education Committee regarding charter schools
2. March 2016 Hot Topic - Sue Legg – “Florida’s Charter Schools”
3. August - Education Committee LWVNPC School Board Candidate Forum
4. March 2017 Hot Topic - Dr. Lewis Brinson, Pinellas County Schools, “Bridging the Gap”
5. Representation at all Pinellas County School Board workshops and meetings
6. Represent LWVNPC at the District Monitoring and Advisory Committee, a committee established by Judge Merryday in a civil rights desegregation lawsuit
7. Developing collaboration with the Education Committee of the St Petersburg LWV
—Pona Piekarski-Chair



Juvenile Justice

Beth Hovind has been a steering committee representative to the LWVF state work group on Juvenile Justice. After an initial identification of issues to pursue, all Leagues were notified of a phone conference to discuss these issues statewide and encourage local groups to form their own Juvenile Justice committees and lobby their legislators to make the changes needed in the Juvenile Justice system.

1. CIVIL CITATION: SENATE BILL 196

Law enforcement jurisdictions have the option of using a civil citation process for actions conducted by a youth under 18 that are not a threat to the community, such as minor theft, assault and battery misdemeanor (a fight without injury), or a misdemeanor drug charge, among others. The youth is issued a citation listing the efforts he or she must go through to avoid a delinquency charge, such as counseling or community service. Used by law enforcement in the street setting as well as the school settings, early studies indicate that not only is the cost of juvenile enforcement reduced, but more importantly youth, after receiving services, are more likely not to reoffend and in addition, will not have a permanent record of delinquency, which may harm future ability to find work, etc.



The Implementation: Florida joins 44 other states in providing for civil citations. All but 2 counties have civil citation policies. Implementation is uneven between jurisdictions, within counties and between counties. An annual report, "Stepping Up" conducted by Dewey and Associates and available at iamforkids.org documents the progress being made. For example in Dade County, almost all law enforcement units are using civil citations when applicable, but Pasco County varies from 10% usage and 67% usage. A juvenile committing the same act in one jurisdiction will be charged with a delinquency offense while in another county will be given a civil citation and a chance to redeem their record. This is patently unfair and results in the creation in unnecessary delinquents. Ignoring the availability of civil citations in schools contributes to the "school to prison pipeline.

Some advocates are encouraging mandating the use of civil citations statewide to ensure equal protection for all juveniles. Others suggest that educating law enforcement and civil governments in the appropriate benefits to civil citations will greatly increase usage. The Juvenile Justice Committee strongly favors their usage and encourages local Leagues to study and advocate for their use in their home counties.

It is a win-win for everyone. The county saves on delinquency and court costs. Law enforcement can immediately get the youth the help they may need. And the youth has a second chance to change their behavior--something all of us probably needed at one time or another.

(See next page)

Juvenile Justice—continued

2. DIRECT FILE FOR JUVENILES: SENATE BILL 192

The Law: Florida Statute 985.556 and 985.557

98% of juveniles who are referred to adult court at the age of 14 or older are there at the discretion of the prosecutor's office without any judicial oversight. Human Rights Watch (<https://www.hrw.org/>) studies show that the use of direct file varies by prosecutor and judicial circuit. They further suggest that racial bias influences the outcomes, leading to unequal outcomes. While International Law requires that children be treated as children, these youthful offenders are housed in prisons designed for adult behavior, not to provide the rehabilitation the youth may need.

Most states do not allow direct file, which is a remnant of the "super predator" laws created out of fear of surging juvenile crime, which has since been denigrated. Florida continues the practice which denies juveniles the benefit of a judicial hearing with legal representation to challenge this discretionary assignment.

The Issues:

1. Fairness: Differences in usage across state: By race; by crime
2. Appropriateness of adult facility for develop juvenile: Physical/Mental/Emotional
3. Adequate legal representation in process

We encourage local Leagues to study the use of this practice in their counties and join the Juvenile Justice Committee as we make recommendations for state wide practice.

3. COMPETENT LEGAL REPRESENTATION:

The Steering Committee has been concerned that youth, charged with delinquent and criminal acts have adequate legal representation. Often left to the public defender's office, the quality varies with the time and competency that the funding allows. We support adequate funding to ensure adequate and competent legal representation.

—Beth Hovind, LWVNPC representative on this LWVFL committee

Natural Resources

The Natural Resources bills that the LWVFL and North Pinellas are tracking in the Florida Legislature are still in committees as of March 31, 2017. Most we oppose because they take money from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund for other water projects. The League supported the original SB 10 introduced by Sen. Negron to buy land south of Lake Okeechobee for reservoirs to store and clean water before releasing into the Everglades. The money for work would include federal DEP funds and The Army Corps of Engineers are agreeable to accelerate the work that is already proposed since 2000 under The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan. The sugar industry, farmers in the area, and SWFMD are opposed.

- SB 230/HB 587 allows for the establishment of a pilot program to eradicate specific species from the state. The League is in opposition to this bill because it imposes legislation onto the Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission which was created as an independent commission. The League opposes this bill because it would jeopardize its independence and open the door for this to continue.

- SB 982/HB1033/HJ111 takes funding from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund for Water Management Districts. The League is in opposition because we believe those funds should continue to go towards fully funding Amendment 1, as passed in 2014.

SB1082/HB663: percentage of funds to DEP for specified water projects

SB816/HB1211:SFWMD Flood control

SB847/HB234: restoration projects relating to the St. John's River and tributaries.

SB1378/HB751: storm water management

SB982/HB1033: takes funding from the **Land Acquisition Trust Fund** for Water Management Districts.

(Continued next page)

Natural Resources—Continued

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SB1082/HB663: percentage of funds to DEP for specified water projects

SB816/HB1211:SFWMD Flood control

SB847/HB234: restoration projects relating to the St. John's River and tributaries.

SB1378/HB751: storm water management

SB982/HB1033: takes funding from the **Land Acquisition Trust Fund** for Water Management Districts.

- ≈ Sen. Rodriguez introduced SB 162 that would establish a pilot program authorizing certain municipalities to regulate or ban disposable plastic bags. **The League is in support of this bill.** It passed the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation committee and moves onto Senate Community Affairs.
- ≈Both HB 861 and SB 198 were heard in the House and the Senate. HB 861 was passed by the House Natural Resources & Public Lands Subcommittee and SB 198 was passed by the Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation committee. Both bills tackle the issue of appointments being made by the Governor within a certain time frame onto the Environmental Regulation Commission. **The League supports both bills.**
- ≈SB98/SB108 and HB35 are bills to prohibit fracking in Florida. **The League supports these bills.**

The **DEP** is still holding hearings about cattle grazing, timber harvest and additional RV's in **Florida State Parks** so they would be profitable. State parks are for the enjoyment of the people; they usually don't make a profit. Florida State Parks cover 77% of their expenses. The DEP is without a director as of now and no update on what the latest hearings produced; they were on the east coast.

Information from *Capitol Update*, Florida Legislature website and newspaper articles from the *Tampa Bay Times*. Submitted by Peggy Toohey

TRANSPORTATION

Some solutions organizations and people are working on to improve transportation needs in the Tampa Bay area.

- Public transit has become a regional problem and needs a regional solution. Local business leaders agree that rail from the airport to downtown Tampa and across the Bay would help citizens and businesses (for example: when widening I-275 should include a lane for future high speed rail).
- MPO's (Metropolitan Planning Organizations) from Hillsborough and Pinellas counties need to combine for regional planning, especially transportation.
- TBARTA (Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Agency)
"Reimagining TBARTA rather than starting over makes sense. The agency already has a regional focus, a planning mission and the right to construct and operate a range of transportation systems." SB 1672
Full editorial in *Tampa Bay Times*, March 10, 2017
- CSX: buying unused rails and right of way for high speed rail. Submitted by Peggy Toohey



President

Advocacy:

Addressed the Pinellas County Legislative Delegation on two occasions

Numerous "Call to Action" requests sent through *The Voter* and/or e-mail to members

Tampa Bay Times editorials

(Continued next page)

President-continued

Education:

Tampa Bay Times editorials

Speaker – Inn on the Pond Jewish Women International, women's cancer sorority, numerous independent and assisted living facilities

Presidency Updates:

Alignment of local policies with state

Meeting new members face-to-face

Annual meeting open to all members

Live streaming of meetings/events

Speakers:

Susan MacManus for Legislative Preview

Paula Dockery for Annual Meeting luncheon

Deborah Clark for May 13 Dunedin Public Library 10-12

Seminars / Training:

January Leadership Workshops

Tallahassee Legislative Summit

Convention

2017-2018 Goals:

Videotaping meetings and events for publication on website

Continue personal interviews of new members

Needs:

Hospitality (set up coffee and snacks at events)

Public Information

Voter Service

Student Intern manager

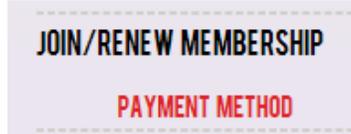
Calendar

Submitted by Karen Karinja

A word from your Editor. This issue of *The Voter* is the last one I will be doing because other responsibilities are calling me. It has been a pleasure to be your editor these four years and I trust that a very capable person will respond to the need for a new editor. Whoever takes this task will need some help and below are some ways you can do this. Please look them over and see which is calling your name!

- Take photographs at LWWNPC events and submit them to the webmaster and the editor of *The Voter*
- Proofread *The Voter* before distribution to the membership
- Be on the outlook for relevant articles for *The Voter*. Some good sources are The League of Women Voters of Florida and LWWUS.
- interview a new member and writing an article about him/her which could be featured in *The Voter* and include a picture.
- Write a summary of one of the LWWNPC events and submit that to *The Voter*
- Interview a speaker prior to the LWWNPC event in which he/she is speaking.
- Volunteer to the committee chairperson of the committee to which you belong to write up a summary of committee activities to be submitted to *The Voter*
- Follow the progress of bills related to issues on which the League has a position and write an article about that progress.

Now You Can Join the League Online...Just go to our Website



PayPal payment services are there for your convenience.

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. However, the LWVNPC pays a charge so checks would help us.

You can also donate to the LWV Education Fund which is tax deductible. http://www.lwvnorthpinellas.org/donate_form.html

If you prefer to join via mail, you may use this form or the one available on the website.

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!

BEFRIEND US ON FACEBOOK!

go to:

[League of Women Voters - North Pinellas County](#)



Informed and Active Citizen Participation

Visit us on the web at
www.lwvnorthpinellas.org

LWVNPC

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Phone: 727-447-1564

President: Karen Karinja

1st Vice President: TBD

2nd Vice President: Beth Hovind

Secretary: Vicki Cohen

Treasurer: Marti Folwell

Directors

Whit Blanton

Rita Garvey

Judy McSwine

Eliseo Santana

Peggy Toohey

Off Board Chairs

Arlette Limon, Voter Service

Pona Piekarski, Education

Ellen Siegman, CRC

Dave Sillman, Solar

Webmaster: Kay Pitchon

Nominating Committee

Pat Budlong

Janet Sanaker

Speak up for Democracy.

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