



**July-August, 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.

## CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION

The LWVF was well represented at the Tampa “Floridians Speak We Listen” meeting of the Constitution Revision Commission on Wednesday, May 17, 2017. Members of the tri-area Hillsborough, North Pinellas and St. Petersburg leagues addressed the commission of 37 members led by Chairman Carlos Beruff and moderated by Commissioner Jose “Pepe” Armas. Information about each of the Commissioners can be found at [flcrc.gov](http://flcrc.gov) as well as additional information regarding the Commission.

North Pinellas President Karen Karinja urged the committee to think and act independently without bowing to the influence of the Florida legislative leaders who appointed many of the commission members. Ms. Karinja also addressed adequate funding of public schools, maintaining Fair Districts, separating state and church in financial issues, and maintaining present terms for judges. The audience responded positively by waving green signs throughout the auditorium. (Instead of applause, green cards indicated approval of speaker’s points; red cards indicated disapproval.) Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti, former LWVNPC President, LWVFL President, and former member of the LWVUS Board thanked the members of the commission for their service. Ms. Wheatley-Giliotti encouraged the Commission to amend the Constitution to reflect that legislators should be required to maintain all records they acquire in the course of their public business and that there be no legislative privilege in redistricting cases. She also suggested “they not fix things in the Constitution that were not broken.” Again the audience responded with green cards. Additional LWVNPC members present included Anne Decker, Pona Piekarski, Cathy Protopapas, Janet Sanaker, Ellen Siegman, and Lois Watson with her husband Gene.

Hillsborough’s President Sandy Stroka and former President Mickey Castor addressed the Commission as well as St. Pete’s Sandra Owen.

Proposals from the public may be submitted to the commission in a number of ways:

1. Online at [flcrc.gov](http://flcrc.gov)
2. Email to [admin@flcrc.gov](mailto:admin@flcrc.gov)
3. Mail to:  
Constitution Revision Commission  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399
4. Hand in at a public hearing

Citizens may also contact the CRC by emailing at [admin@flcrc.gov](mailto:admin@flcrc.gov) or call [800.717.955](tel:800.717.955)

The public sessions can be streamed live at [thefloridachannel.org](http://thefloridachannel.org) view later on the Florida Channel-they list all the videos available.

The meeting dates should be listed on the Constitution Revision Commission website: [www.flcrc.gov](http://www.flcrc.gov).

I didn’t see anything listed beyond June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## 2018 FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### 2018 SESSION DATES

August 1, 2017 Deadline for filing claim bills (Rule 4.81(2))

September Committee meetings start

January 9, 2018

Regular Session convenes (Article III, section 3(b), Constitution) 12:00 noon, deadline for filing bills for introduction (Rule 3.7(1))

February 24, 2018.

All bills are immediately certified (Rule 6.8) Motion to reconsider made and considered the same day (Rule 6.4(4))

February 27, 2018 50th day—last day for regularly scheduled committee meetings (Rule 2.9(2))

March 9, 2018 60th day last day of Regular Session (Article III, section 3(d), Constitution)



From Dave Sillman: here's the latest status on our N. Pinellas FL Sun initiative:

- Super team of volunteers assembled: Dory, Lyn, Mary and Christine who bring great energy and have already made big contributions!!!
- **N. Pinellas LWV 'Hot Topic' with Susan Glickman, Florida Director - Southern Alliance for Clean Energy – scheduled for September 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 – 3:00pm at the Dunedin library (w/emphasis on the co-ops)**
- **September 25, 10:30am is the joint launch & press conference at the FlexHouse, adjacent to the USF (Tampa) Clean Energy Research Center (CERC). Thanks to Rick for arranging!**

Tentative speaker lineup includes –From FL Sun – Angela and Deirdre

- The heads of our respective LWV chapters: Sandra Sroka and Karen Karinja
- Dr. Yogi Gaswami – Director of USF's Clean Energy Research Center
- Hillsborough County Commissioner Pat Kemp; St Pete co-op member Brenda Probasco



### **National Voter Registration Day, September 26, 2017**

Our LWVFL certification to register voters lasts 2 years. As a result, most of us must recertify by retaking the test.

Step 1: go to LWVFL.org; Step 2: click on Member tab; Step 3: drag down to Voter Registration

Step 4: review PowerPoint and take test at end; Step 5: forward LWVFL certification form upon your receipt to [Karen.karinja@gmail.com](mailto:Karen.karinja@gmail.com)

**After completing the quiz, you will receive an email message from our state staff with special instructions and next steps.**

**Important: You are *not certified* until you receive confirmation from LWVFL office.**

**DO NOT START REGISTERING UNTIL YOU RECEIVE CERTIFICATION.**



## Floridians for a Fair Democracy Restoring Voter Rights

Please sign a petition to place on the ballot in 2018 a constitutional amendment which would restore voting rights of Floridians with felony convictions after they complete all terms of their sentences.

This would not apply to those convicted of murder or sexual offenses.

Florida is one of three only states not allowing this restoration and there are over a million potential voters affected by the present restriction in place.

It is not necessary to enter your voter identification number (although helpful) but your date of birth will suffice. Also, please feel free to make copies to distribute to others.

You can contact board members for copies

or go to Floridians for a Fair Democracy to get petitions and information.

[www.floridiansforafairdemocracy.com](http://www.floridiansforafairdemocracy.com).

Thanks for helping fair democracy!

## Florida Leagues Will Stand Together & Fight For Those Who Can't

POVERTY AFFORDABLE HOUSING QUALITY OF LIFE

Does your League have a committee that can help with this effort? If not, dedicated members are ready to help your Florida League start its own committee-action group-advocacy champion for Florida's most vulnerable population!

Advocates Join Forces

The LWV Orange County and the North Pinellas LWV have been busy with their committees fighting the scourges of poverty, the lack of affordable housing and transportation, and the overall diminishing quality of life for countless Floridians.

At this summer's LWV State Convention, Beth Hovind (N Pinellas) organized a Poverty Caucus featuring Dr. Norin Dollard, PhD, Director-Florida KIDS COUNT, a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Child and Family Studies in the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute at the University of South Florida.

Dr. Dollard stated : "Florida KIDS COUNT is here to assist with all of your data needs regarding Florida's children, families and the communities where they live. Together, using data to bring about meaningful change, we will make a brighter future for every child and family in Florida."

Check out the site [www.floridakidscount.org](http://www.floridakidscount.org).

"Although the outcome of the caucus at the state convention did not support our efforts as a working legislative issue, they did support the development of individual League efforts to work on poverty and offered to supply a telephone network so that we could communicate across chapters on a regular basis. This is the beginning of that effort." Said Beth in a recent letter to Convention attendees.

The LWV of Orange County's newest committee is Affordable Housing/Quality of Life chaired by Kimberlee Riley, Regional Director, Ability Housing Inc.

"I've been in touch with Jamie Ross with the Sadowski Coalition/Florida Housing Coalition– she would love to help us educate our members, community, and other LWV chapters and has offered to do webinars and/or presentations in person."

"National Low Income Housing Coalition is encouraging an Affordable Housing Day of Action on July 29th. I would love for us to coordinate an event/activity. Please review the details and let me know your thoughts on what we might coordinate for Orange and/or Central Florida!" Our Homes-Our Voices



# 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Dear LWNPC Members,

We are seeking people to join our 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration (2020) planning team which coincides with LWVUS 100<sup>th</sup>! If you would enjoy planning for this special year, please contact me at your earliest convenience. Appreciatively, Karen

*Karen Marie Karinja*  
*League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County*  
*President & Voter Service*  
[Karen.karinja@gmail.com](mailto:Karen.karinja@gmail.com)  
[214.929.8984](tel:214.929.8984)

Visit our website for current information: <http://lwnnorthpinellas.org>

<b><u>International Relations Schedule</u></b>		
<b><u>2017-2018</u></b>		
<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Subject</u></b>	<b><u>Presenter</u></b>
October 2	Nuclear Security	Judy McSwine
November 6	Trade Policy	Dwight Lawton
December 4	European Union	Kay Lahdenpera
January 8	South China Sea	June Bedford
February 5	Latin America	Joe LaBas
March 5	Geopolitics of Energy	Lola Brett
April 2	Saudi Arabia	Linda McGeehan
May 7	Afghanistan/Pakistan	Mary Bergland

## Florida League of Women Voters

**New Office in Tallahassee**

We have moved! We are up and running at our new location in Tallahassee. Our home on Beverly Court was good to us for many years, but it was time to move on into a fresh and new direction in our history.

Our new office address is:  
League of Women Voters of Florida  
2507 Callaway Road, Suite 102A, Tallahassee, FL 32303

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2017-2018

\_\_\_\_\_ Renewal

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

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

When choosing your membership level, please note that only \$8.00 of the \$55.00 dues is kept at your local LWVNPC. The other \$47.00 is split between the state and national LWV. The LWVNPC wants to keep our dues as low as possible to make membership affordable for all people. However, if you are able to pay dues at the Cornerstone level (show of support), it would be greatly appreciated.

Dues are payable annually on or before May 1 of each year. Dues for persons joining after February 1<sup>st</sup> of a year expire in April of the following year. Members who have not paid dues by August 1<sup>st</sup> will be dropped from the membership list. Of course, you can always rejoin. We are a 501(c)(4) organization. Because we lobby on public issues membership dues and Cornerstone contributions are not tax deductible.

### Membership Level

\_\_\_\_\_ Student  
\_\_\_\_\_ Individual  
\_\_\_\_\_ Household  
\_\_\_\_\_ Cornerstone

### Annual Dues (effective April 10, 2016)

\$30 (Anyone who is a FT student; must be 18 to vote)  
\$55.00  
\$85.00 for 2 people in the same household)  
\$110.00 (show of support) (\$140 Cornerstone Household)

Please make checks payable to **LWV North Pinellas County** or pay via PayPal on the website (lwwnorthpinellas.org).

MAIL TO: LWV North Pinellas County  
Attn: membership  
PO Box 6833 Clearwater, FL 33758

Please indicate areas of interest:

\_\_\_\_\_ Development (Fund Raising)    \_\_\_\_\_ Education    \_\_\_\_\_ Environment  
\_\_\_\_\_ Health Care    \_\_\_\_\_ International Relations    \_\_\_\_\_ Membership  
\_\_\_\_\_ Poverty Initiative    \_\_\_\_\_ Publicity    \_\_\_\_\_ Social Media/Technology  
\_\_\_\_\_ Speakers Bureau    \_\_\_\_\_ The Voter newsletter    \_\_\_\_\_ Voter Services\*

\*Voter Services includes voter registration, voter guide, candidate forums, etc.

# LWVNPC

P.O. Box 6833

Clearwater, FL 33758

Phone: 727-447-1564

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

Informed and Active Citizen  
Participation

## OFFICERS

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 Chair

Pona Piekarski, Education

