

✓ THE VOTER

The official newsletter of



<https://my.lwv.org/florida/north-pinellas-county> | lwvnpc.info@gmail.com
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MARCH/APRIL 2021

Voter Service News



Voter Service News

COMMITTEE
NEWS



Committee Reports



Upcoming Events



[Submit Articles](#)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Sat. April 24th 10AM—11:30

***Dr Susan MacManus, Political Analyst and Professor Emerita of
Political Science at USF to Speak at
LWVNPC 72nd Annual Meeting, April 24th, 2021***



We are honored to have
Dr. MacManus as our keynote speaker
at our annual business meeting for
*League Members and designated
guests* only. Please Visit:
<https://lwvnorthpinellas.org>
to renew your membership today!

The featured speaker is Dr. Susan MacManus, Professor Emerita of Political Science at USF. The business meeting will include election and installation of officers and other board members, approval of the *Program of Work* for the upcoming year. The meeting will end with a brief update on the status of League legislative priorities. **Zoom link for members:** <https://tinyurl.com/LWVNPC21>

Download the **ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM HERE:** https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gU55bfoQI73Mcq44EoCV_nJhdGaNQf-3/view?usp=sharing

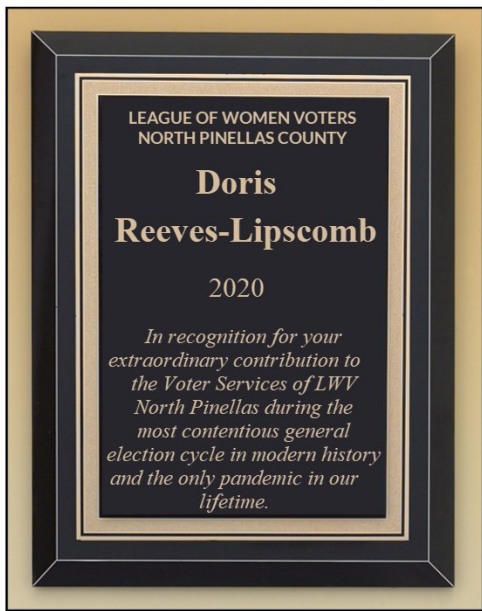
Committee Reports

Voter Service Committee News



The Voter Service Team seeks a new coordinator... and FLASH! The job isn't that hard because our former fearless leader Doris Reeves-Lipscomb has all the tasks broken down into manageable parts! Please consider stepping up to coordinate our Voter Service - we need someone to coordinate our monthly meetings and take minutes - much of the remaining tasks are already handled by other volunteers. Visit our web site and [contact any member of](#)

[the board](#) for more info.



Our League recognized Doris Reeves-Lipscomb for her *“Extraordinary contribution to the Voter Service Committee during the most contentious general election cycle in modern history and the only pandemic in our lifetime!”* Congratulations, Doris, on your award, and we are grateful you will still be involved, albeit in a lesser role.

VOTER REGISTRATION RE-CERTIFICATION - 2021

If you haven't re-certified since 2020, you'll need to re-certify! Please visit the LWVFL password-protected site to re-certify if you have not done so in 2021. Contact any member of our leadership



POVERTY, HEALTHCARE & JUVENILE JUSTICE

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY

Poverty/Health/Juvenile Justice Committee Legislative Update by Barbara Letvin

Our local League's Poverty/Health/Juvenile Justice Committee will feature Cindy Huddleston, Senior Policy Analyst of the Florida Policy Institute, on Wednesday, April 21, from 7-8 pm on zoom. She will address current issues of the state legislature that impact those with

low incomes before the session concludes at month's end. All League members are invited to join the statewide poverty members for this latest update. The Florida Policy Institute, based in Tallahassee, is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that uses research and strategic outreach dedicated to advance policy and budgets that improve the economic mobility and quality of life for all Floridians. Email lwvpoverty@gmail.com for more information.

Special Article: "God Bless the Child," by Beth Hovind



([read the full article here](#))

Environmental Action Committee

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY

Environmental Action Committee News

We wish to recognize with appreciation Dave Sillman's years of service to our League as co-chair of the Environment and Natural Resources committee with Stephanie Bolden, who we heartily thank for her service also as Secretary of the Board these past few years. Are you a league member who is passionate about the environment and natural resources? If you'd like to chair this committee, you will learn from our State League and fellow-members by hosting several committee meetings per year to stay abreast of local and state environmental issues and/or legislation. There is no doubt you will have assistance, including a list of members who have expressed interest in the environment upon joining our League. We thank Dave and Stephanie who were instrumental in organizing many hot topic events to promote awareness of Solar Power co-ops, the impact of our warming planet on humans and our environment to name a few! Please contact Dave Sillman at dave@beyourbestinc.com for more information on what this role would entail.

TRANSPORTATION Sub-COMMITTEE



Transportation Subcommittee Supports Safe and Equitable Public Transportation by Kathy Smith, krmh1@yahoo.com

On Tuesday March 30, 2021, our League held a zoom hot topic event with Sarah Caper of Forward Pinellas' Safe Streets Program <https://www.forwardpinellas.org/safestreets/> Ms. Caper presented her initiative to reduce the number of persons killed or seriously injured on road-

ways in Pinellas County. Did you know that two people are killed or seriously injured every day on our roadways in Pinellas County on average? Forward Pinellas has adopted the Safe Streets Pinellas Action Plan committing to a goal of zero deaths and serious injuries in the county by 2045. Over the last year, Forward Pinellas studied where we're seeing concerns on our roadways and why these crashes are happening. Safe Streets also held several demonstration projects to test ways to make our roads safer, such as exploring new technology and educational outreach.

Low income and/or minority neighborhoods are over-represented in the number of injuries, so this issue is a social justice and equity concern. Safe Streets and Forward Pinellas propose steps to address the inequity in transportation planning and reviews. Attendees at our Hot Topic event submitted questions regarding efforts to make our streets both safer and more equitable. Thanks to all who attended! If you'd like to become involved in the Transportation Committee (a sub-committee of our Poverty Committee), please contact Kathy Smith at: krmh1@yahoo.com

Nominations for Board of Directors 2021

Mary Harper, Candidate for 1st Vice President



Mary Harper has Florida on her mind and in her work as a biological scientist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), where she works with the [Harmful Algal Bloom](#) (HAB) group. She discovered the North Pinellas League via online searches, and joined to become more involved with her community and better informed on issues. As a volunteer with the Voter Services committee, she was active in the Get-Out-the-Vote efforts.

Prior to her work at FWC, Mary taught chemistry and environmental science at Tarpon Springs High School for seven years, which allowed her to be on the same schedule as her children and eventually volunteer with her son's East Lake High School Robotics team. Prior volunteer experience includes serving on the board of the Aiken, SC chapter of [Moms Club](#) as treasurer; she also volunteered with a local chapter of The Nature Conservancy in Champaign, IL, where she lived and worked as a wetland ecologist and botanist for the Illinois Natural History Survey.

Mary holds a B.S. in biology from Loyola University New Orleans and a M.S. in plant ecology from Tulane University. She conducted research in Costa Rica where she met her husband who also was studying ecology. Mary enjoys kayaking, exploring nature preserves, and gardening for native plants and butterflies.

Gayla Larson, Candidate for Secretary



Gayla Larson was born to Air Force parents in the Canal Zone of Panama. Her father's career took her around the US, and her former marriage to an Army pilot took her to even more places and instilled in her a love of travel and faraway places. After 27 years of service as a meeting planner to Nation's Best Sports, a Texas based sporting goods buying group, Gayla retired to Florida to care for her mother following the death of her father. Subsequently and until her retirement in 2014, she worked as Executive Assistant to the President for Lighthouse of Pinellas, a rehabilitation center for individuals who are blind or visually impaired.

Gayla joined the League of Women Voters North Pinellas County in 2017 and served as Treasurer for a year prior to her retirement due to illness in 2020. She was highly active organizing the League's *Celebrating 70* anniversary fundraising event at the Fenway hotel in Dunedin, helping with ticket sales, program design, and creating gift baskets and treats for the silent auction. She attended Emory & Henry College in Virginia and Weatherford College in Texas where she worked on her declared English major.

Gayla is "mom" to two rescue fur-babies – Lily – (Shih Tsu) and Loki (very affectionate black cat). She happily confesses that she is a lover of people, animals, and wine (not always in that order) and is eager to help in any way she can be of service.

Jacqueline Farrell, Candidate for Elected Director



Jacqueline Farrell has called Florida home for 25 years. She has worked as a speech pathologist as a private practice independent contractor with clients in home settings, senior rehabilitation centers, skilled nursing facilities, hospitals and pre-school classes. Jackie retired from the San Jose Elementary School in Dunedin and has worked as a contractor with pre-school and school-aged young children and their parents in the Pinellas County School District. She recently served on a fellowship to supervise and mentor first-year clinicians, advising them on current policies and procedures.

Four years ago Jackie joined the League and the Poverty Committee both because of her previous experience and the committee's involvement with social justice issues. She is a member of FAST (Faith and Action Stand Together) which seeks, among its goals, better provisions for mental health services. Passionate about fair voting practices, Jackie has also been a poll worker.

A graduate with a B.A., cum laude, from the State University of NY at Cortland, Jackie received her M.Ed. in Speech Pathology at the University of Virginia. She has a special interest in building literacy and is also a fitness instructor at the YMCA.

Tanya Landry, Candidate for Elected Director



Tanya Landry moved here from Bethesda, Maryland with her husband, Richard, after the sale of their software company two years ago. She joined the League in July of 2020 and became involved with the Voter Service Committee of the North Pinellas League. She worked on the Voter Guide in the general and municipal elections. She also serves on the Poverty Committee and the Transportation Subcommittee. In Maryland, Tanya juggled working as V.P Human Resources/Operations with being a travel baseball mom supporting her son and volunteering with Girls on the Run. During her 10 years with the organization, she served as a coach, board member, president and Chair of Retail Merchandise for their bi-annual 5K races.

[Continued on next page...]

Vivian Posey, Candidate for Elected Director



Vivian Posey has been a lifelong educator, having served as a teacher, curriculum specialist, school principal, university professor, and most recently, Chair of the Educational Leadership Department at Barry University in Miami Shores. After retiring from full-time teaching, she and her husband moved to Seminole in 2019, to spend more time with family, and enjoy the beauty and nature of Florida's west coast.

Vivian was a member of the Broward County League of Women Voters before joining the North Pinellas League. While in Broward County, she participated in voter registration events, the Speakers Bureau, and several legislative forums. Vivian is the co-chair of the state legislative committee of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International (DKG) for Key Women Educators, and has traveled to Tallahassee and Washington, D. C. to advocate on issues related to women, children, and education.

Vivian continues to teach aspiring school leaders as an adjunct for Barry University and she currently mentors a PCSD student at Anona Elementary School. She and her husband Ward have two children, and love to travel to other countries.

Karen Owen, Candidate for Elected Director



Completing her term as the 1st Vice President of our League, Karen has decided to focus on digital communications and outreach starting in 2021. She plans to build a team of League members to further develop our advocacy through digital media. Karen has served the North Pinellas League for the past three years developing voter outreach events in diverse locations where unregistered voters might be found, including low-income neighborhood centers, alternative high schools, Habitat for Humanity programs, bus depots, and ex-offender job training programs. She serves as the LWV North Pinellas lead on voting rights for returning citizens, and feels strongly that voting is an important pathway to re-integration and civic engagement for those previously incarcerated.

Karen holds a PhD in Geographic Science and is a peer-reviewed published author. She administers our League's and several non-profit web sites and is Outreach Chair for her church. She resides in Safety Harbor with her husband. In her spare time, Karen enjoys playing her saxophone in a community band with the Dunedin Music Society and teaching her new grandson that puréed broccoli really isn't that bad.

Kim Dennison, Candidate for Nominating Committee Chair—2021-22

Kim is a 22 year veteran educator with Pinellas County Schools. She holds a Bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of South Florida. She has been a classroom teacher, literacy coach/staff developer, and currently she is the IB-Primary Years Programme Coordinator at one of Pinellas County's International Baccalaureate schools. Kim is a lifelong Pinellas County resident and a graduate of Pinellas County Schools.



Kim joined the League in the summer of 2020 because she was interested in voter registration and teaching others about the importance of making change by using your vote as your voice. She is active in the Voter Services Committee of the league and helps run the League's Twitter and Instagram accounts. Kim is also involved in the Education Committee because of her background in education.

Kim enjoys spending time with her family, camping, reading, going to the beach, and listening to all kinds of music.



**Annual Meeting
(Virtual)
Saturday, April 24, 2021
10:00 AM-11:30 AM**

Our League’s annual meeting will be held virtually as we respect members’ desire for safety during the pandemic. The Annual Meeting Book is available for [download here](#). Dr. Susan MacManus is our keynote speaker.

Your participation is crucial to effectively conduct League business as required by our bylaws.

RENEW OR DONATE TO OUR LEAGUE:

<https://tinyurl.com/PAYLWVNPC>

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

- New Member Renewal of Membership

Submit a Calendar Event or Article here!

**OTHER
IMPORTANT
DATES:**

Board of Directors Meetings
4PM-5:30 April 14, May 12, June 16. Email [Karen](#) for more information!

Voter Service Meetings 7PM
Awaiting a host for the next meeting. Email [Doris](#) for more information!

Poverty, Health and Juvenile Justice Meetings 7PM Apr 21 (Special Presentation by Florida Policy Institute on current legislation impacting low-income residents—[ZOOM LINK HERE](#)). Committee also meets May 19, June 16. Email [Beth](#) for more information!

Education Committee Meeting
4:30PM Monday April 19. Email [Vivian](#) for more information!

Environment & Natural Resources Committee
Awaiting a host for the next meeting. Email [Dave](#) for more information!

LWVFL 38th Biennial Convention
June 4-5, 2021, *Virtual Event*
Save the date



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