



THE VOTER **LWV**

*The official newsletter
of the League of Women
Voters North Pinellas*

<https://lwwnorthpinellas.org> | lwwnpc.info@gmail.com

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JANUARY – FEBRUARY 2022

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration 2022



LWVNPC members gathered in Tarpon Springs to march in the Annual Martin Luther King Day Parade on January 15, 2022. We also handed out a fabulous new voter information card “Why Voters” to spectators. Pictured are North Pinellas League President Bill Jonson, Cathy Protopapas, Jacqueline Farrell, Nora Dougherty Koziel, Barbara Letvin, Doris Reeves-Lipscomb, and Beth Hovind. Thanks to all marchers including Gene and Lois Rogers-Watson, Ruthanne Richwine, Mary Harper, Karia Wiggins, Beth Morris, and Dave Silliman.



Vivian Posey, Miriam Benitez-Nixon, and Joe Nixon registered voters and provided information at the Dunedin Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration on January 15th at Weaver Park. Not pictured is Tanya Landry who participated and supplied pictures!

LWVNPC Member Survey Results: We Hear You!

On behalf of the Strategic Planning Committee, we are grateful to the many members who responded to our League's survey this past December. More than a third of you took the time during the busy holiday season to provide a wealth of thoughtful insights that will help the board plan for the coming year. We learned that:

The League of Women Voters is needed--now, more than ever

Our advocacy—especially for voting rights and preserving democracy—is more important than ever. Members laud the League's long history and its mission of empowering voters and protecting democracy. You would like our chapter to be even more visible in the public eye.

Most members voiced strong interest across our chapter's current priority issues of transparent redistricting, anti-poverty measures, the environment, education, and especially, voting rights and voting services. Most members who joined in the past five years are concerned that our democracy is threatened and want to help protect it, and most members believe we should champion equity for underrepresented and disenfranchised people.

Members are a committed group and want to make a difference.

Members want to serve the community through the League, especially in voter services. You enjoy the camaraderie of other members and want more activities like Hot Topic sessions and socials. Many want our chapter to increase membership, especially to attract younger and more diverse members.

Overall, members are pleased with the quality of our chapter's communications

Most members prefer to receive League information by email. Those using social media prefer Facebook over other platforms. Due to the pandemic, most prefer to meet through a mix of Zoom, outdoor venues, and large indoor public spaces where social distancing is possible.

Strengths: you value our many talented members, our committed leadership, our inclusive and friendly culture, and our work as a purveyor of information on important public policy issues.

You see opportunities for our League to elevate our visibility as a trusted, nonpartisan voice. You aspire for us to take an evidence-based, data-informed approach to our work and close gaps in voter participation by serving underrepresented populations in our community. You would also like our League to partner with diverse organizations and increase our membership by attracting younger and more diverse new members. Finally, you would like us to do more of what we do best: provide voter services, hold events, publish reports and guides, facilitate candidate forums, and engage in other activities that help residents in our community become fully informed and engaged citizens.

Next steps: Taking your survey answers into account, the board will develop a draft strategic plan and share it for your input on our goals and program of work for the coming year. Many thanks again for sharing your insights and wisdom. With all of us working together, we truly can advance our mission to empower voters and protect democracy.

LWVNPC Members in Action

Eliseo Santano, LWVNPC member and president of LULAC Pinellas, an organization which advocates for the Latino vote was quoted in an online article/video *More than 50 Years Later Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Fight for Voting Rights Continues:* <https://www.wtsp.com/article/news/nation-world/50-years-dr-martin-luther-king-jr-voting-rights/67-000e8fb1-bd03-4f35-9b16-8798a1f5bd1c>



Excerpt: "MLK was fighting for everyone, every single citizen in this country to be able to be *recognized*. Even now years later, communities of color are still confident change will come. They won't give up.

"We have come a long way in what we did when they were marching for civil rights, which was the ability, the right, to register to vote. We have that right. We're now fighting for the essence of being able to cast that vote that we've earned."



Member *Dennis McDermott* composed a powerful letter to Professions & Public Health Subcommittee voicing his opinion on HB 5, Reducing Fetal and Infant Mortality. Read the letter later in this issue. (see in this edition of *the Voter*.)



On January 16, 2022 *Doris Reeves Lipscomb* and *Marti Folwell* registered voters at the Urban Leadership Coalition of Clearwater’s “Day of Service at Cherry Harris Park in North Greenwood

Ruthann Richwine served as a volunteer on January 27th for the Point in Time Project. Each year, each Continuum of Care (COC) is required to report the number of homeless persons within its community to the Federal department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The count takes place in the last week of January and includes both sheltered and unsheltered persons. Read a first-person account of her experience in this issue. Her article is further down in this edition.



Tarpon Springs Candidate Forum January 18th

Candidate Forums

Submitted by *Ellen Seligman*

This January the League hosted three local municipal Candidate Forums. Each had a mayoral race and several council seats up for election this coming March. On January 6th we held a live candidate forum with the City of

Belleair Beach. Marti Folwell was the moderator; Bill Jonson was the question assistant, and Sue Cornett was the timekeeper. On January 18th, the City of Tarpon Springs held their Candidate Forum, and Karen Owen was the moderator with Beth Hovind as the question assistant and Sue Cornett was the timekeeper. Finally on January 27th the City of Oldsmar held a hybrid candidate forum with Bill Jonson saving the day at the last minute to serve as moderator in place of an ill member. Beth Hovind served as the question assistant and our timekeeper extraordinaire was Sue Cornett. Thanks for all who helped make this round on Candidate Forums possible in these unusual circumstances.



Cathy Protopapas and Karen Owen at Tarpon Springs Candidate Forum

News Release from Dustin Chase Deputy Supervisor of Elections/Pinellas County

TENTATIVE Ballot Mailing Schedule for March 15 Municipal Elections

January 20, 2022: Ballot mailings for the March 15, 2022, Municipal Elections are tentatively scheduled as follows for eligible Pinellas County registered voters:

- **January 28** – Mail ballots to absent military and overseas voters who have requested ballots to date. State law requires ballots for absent military and overseas voters to be mailed at least 45 days prior to an election.
- **February 8** – Mail ballots to domestic voters who have requested ballots to date. State law requires domestic ballots to be mailed between 40 and 33 days prior to an election.

In Pinellas County, the municipalities conducting elections on March 15 are the Town of Belleair, City of Belleair Beach, City of Belleair Bluffs, City of Clearwater, City of Madeira Beach, City of Oldsmar, Town of Redington Beach, Town of Redington Shores, City of St. Pete Beach, and City of Tarpon Springs.

Absent military and overseas voters include all active-duty military, their spouses, and dependents currently absent from their Pinellas County places of residence, and civilians who are U.S. citizens residing outside the United States. Domestic voters are legal residents of Pinellas County, including civilian voters and active-duty military members who vote in Pinellas County.

Additional mail ballot requests will be fulfilled as received. To request a mail ballot, visit <https://www.votepinellas.com>, call 727-464-VOTE (8683), or email MailBallot@VotePinellas.gov. The deadline to request that a ballot be mailed is Saturday, March 5, at 5 p.m.

Mail Ballots must be received at one of the Supervisor of Elections Offices by 7 p.m. on Election Day, March 15. Voters are advised to allow at least ONE WEEK for their ballot to be returned by mail to the Supervisor of Elections Office.

Vote mail ballots cannot be accepted at polling places on Election Day, though voters can turn them in to a poll worker and vote their ballot in person.

Note: There are no drop boxes nor is there early voting for the upcoming municipal elections. There IS just Vote by Mail and Election Day voting.

Child Tax Credit Vital to Children and Families

Submitted by Beth Hovind

Co-chair: Poverty, Health and Juvenile Justice Committee

For the past six months, more than 61 million children in about 36 million families have received a monthly payment of \$250 - \$300 per child. This is similar to programs in many other countries. The Child Tax Credit program was passed in March of 2021 with payments beginning on July 15. The Child Tax Credit has been available to many families for the past several years, as a deduction on their taxes. This legislation gave the same benefit to parents/grandparents/guardians who did not earn enough income to qualify for a tax deduction. Families are still able to claim the credit on their 2021 taxes if they have not received it.

A recent article in the *Tampa Bay Times* showed how important this funding is for Pinellas County residents. Families used it for groceries for children, rent money, to assist a father who lost his job due to the pandemic, to assist with childcare – things many of us take for granted. Yet these are often emergencies for some families.

Continuation of the Child Tax Credit is built into the Build Back Better Plan currently being proposed. According to the Columbia University on Poverty and Social Policy, (<https://www.povertycenter.columbia.edu/news-internal/monthly-poverty-october-2021>) this credit reduced child poverty rates by 28 percent. Over a longer period, the Urban Institute (<https://www.urban.org/research/publication/expanding-child-tax-credit-could-lift-millions-children-out-poverty>) suggests it could impact up to 40% of poor children in the US, which in 2019 was 10.5 million children. This benefit is especially important in this time of COVID when work has been often interrupted.

Some were concerned that a guarantee of benefit might reduce work effort but studies (<https://www.niskanencenter.org/new-research-finds-the-child-tax-credit-promotes-work/>) on the impact of work effort on the part of parents showed that the credit actually promotes work by helping parents pay for child care and transportation. This was especially important in this time of COVID with frequent school interruptions.

The Child Tax Credit was one of several recommendations of Dr. Tim Smeeding, keynote speaker at our 2019 State Poverty Conference and the concept has been supported by many groups from the Conference of Mayors to the United Nations and is utilized by many countries.

For comments and follow-up, join our Poverty/Health/Juvenile Justice Committee meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. For more information, contact Beth Hovind at bethse@gmail.com.

HB 5 : Reducing Fetal and Infant Mortality

By Dennis McDermott

The League of Women Voters stands in opposition to HB-5 and its' companion bill SB 146 which bans abortion after 15 weeks. This bill requires two physicians to sign off on a medical exception, provides no exceptions for when a person is raped, even if they are a minor, and only limited exceptions for when the pregnant person learns that there are serious fetal anomalies. Both the Senate and the House Bill are moving quickly through committees with favorable votes. Read Dennis McDermott's email to the Professions & Public Health Subcommittee:

I am writing to voice my opinion that the proposed HB 5 is a direct affront on the rights of all women to make personal decisions relative to their own lives. Whenever arbitrary restrictions are imposed on open access to comprehensive reproductive health care services, the actual outcomes have disproportionate adverse economic impact -- and direct deprivation of human rights -- on young women; low-income women; and women of color. These are socially and economically disadvantaged women, always members of a protected class. The overwhelming majority of published public opinions opposing open and unrestricted access to comprehensive reproductive health care over the past 4 decades -- including both contraception and abortion -- center on personal ethical, moral, or religious values. Nationally, the loudest voices opposing open access to comprehensive reproductive health care services come from a small minority of predominantly college educated white evangelical Christians. When people bring their personal religious beliefs or values into any public debate, they risk imposing illegal, unwanted or restrictive religious practices and beliefs on others who have been granted the Constitutional right to pursue their own -- significantly different -- beliefs. I urge you to examine the broad implications of HB 5 carefully and objectively prior to taking a position on the Bill. I'm hopeful that you will reach the same conclusion I have: Florida's government should focus on supporting our residents and improving health care, not taking away their rights, especially rights that can materially impact their health, livelihoods, and futures.

A Point in Time to Count the Homeless

By Ruthanne Richwine



As part of my training, I had spent an hour or so a couple of weeks ago learning how to use an app which provided interview questions with a series of choices for responses. It's now 6 am and my phone is in hand, ready to go!

At the soup kitchen there are 4-5 people waiting for breakfast to be served. The door doesn't open until 8am and these folks are outside on a cold, dark and windy morning. My first interviewee and I laugh while I struggle with the app. The first question is "Where did you sleep last night?" His answer doesn't fit the choices, so we decide "on the street" is the closest. He proceeds to help keep track and organize newcomers so they will participate in the interviews. I meet a lady who says we are all "angels." She wants the lady at the Homeless Center fired because she wouldn't give a her a raw chicken to cook. She explains she knows how to build a fire and would be able to cook the chicken. One gentleman responds "no" to having mental illness but later talks of being in a psych hospital although he doesn't know why. His mother kicked him out when he was 18, and he's been homeless ever since. What's the best response on the app for that one? I meet a 40-year-old local fellow who has left his new house, fancy car, and job, and is living on the streets. He is happy now....none of the hassle of life. He gets to sleep on the beach. One couple is living in a hotel....they are only homeless nine days a month when their money runs out. They travel with an ex-wife who they are helping because she's alone.

I am impressed with the local police who come in a couple of times. A cold front is coming, and they are trying to get the people into a shelter or a tent. They are polite and respectful and engage people individually. Some folks go with them. Most do not.

I interview about fifteen people this morning during a three-hour shift. This is an annual occurrence; so, watch for it next year. It's a few hours out of your life and helps with funding for needs of people who do not fit in with "our" normal life. Once the data is gathered it is turned into the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD.). It is the census taking for the homeless. Some of my interviewees had a history of mental illness and some just don't want to live a structured life. Some were disabled, and or had substance abuse issues. . People have pre-conceived opinions about the homeless, but I can tell you it takes a lot of organization and planning to live out of a backpack and walk miles a day.

<https://www.pinellashomeless.org/point-in-time-202122>

email... info@hlapinellas.org

Board & Committee Reports



Board Meeting -
members welcome!

The LWVNPC Board meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month@ 4:30 PM. All members are welcome. Minutes for the November 2021 meeting can be found at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1hZ82F5KnXkZHlwPT7vrxiPaKJEXe5zix/view?usp=sharing>



COMMITTEE UPDATES



EDUCATION
ACTION GROUP

NEWS FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE:
INTRODUCING OUR FIRST STUDENT MEMBER!

Submitted by Vivian Posey, Chair

The Education Committee officially welcomed its first high school student as an active member of the committee and has already benefited from her knowledge, experience, and passion for civic engagement. Ms. Hailey Scheinman, along with her family, has been

heavily involved in volunteerism and management of non-profit organizations for many years, so she easily and enthusiastically "jumped in" to the work of the committee.

Not only will Hailey be an active member of the LWVNPC, and a member of the Education Committee, but she will also be a student advocate for the "My Vote Counts" project. This important project, spearheaded by sub-committee chair, Laurie Meggesin, is designed to increase voter registration and participation in the voting process of young adults in Pinellas County. As an LWVNPC volunteer, Hailey will bring a student-focused approach to the design and publication of materials and instructional resources to promote voter registration, support the League's communications through digital/graphic design, and assist with the website and general video production.

The Education Committee has developed a set of Student Volunteer Protocols and Practices and is one of several non-profit organizations approved by Pinellas County Schools to offer volunteer hours to students who are seeking a Bright Futures Scholarship. The Education Committee welcomes additional student members to the committee and is also actively recruiting additional volunteers!

Poverty, Healthcare, and Juvenile Justice Committee Updates

Submitted by Barbara Letvin: Co chair.



The Poverty, Health and Juvenile Justice Committee encourages all members to track legislative bills of interest that have been submitted to committees in Tallahassee. 3,605 bills have been filed to date; on average 300 or so will pass both chambers. Some bills die quietly in the House or Senate. Others move in fits and starts from one committee to another for passage. A few examples of those we are following include:

SB 1934: Prohibiting solitary confinement of incarcerated youths in solitary confinement, with specified exceptions; limiting the period of time for which incarcerated youths may be placed in disciplinary cell confinement; requiring that, within a specified time and at specified intervals, a mental health clinician perform a face-to-face evaluation of incarcerated youths who are placed in emergency cell confinement

HB 27, HJR 239: Expansion of Medicaid: HB 27 Expansion of Medicaid to Specific Adults, HJR 239 Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to require amendment of the state Medicaid plan to provide Medicaid coverage to persons under age 65 who have an income equal to or below 138 percent of the federal poverty level, etc.

SB 1228: On-line Voter Registration for high school students: Requiring each public high school to provide to certain students a voter registration presentation that demonstrates the steps required to register to vote online and offers an opportunity for certain students to register or preregister to vote using the online voter registration system Internet website;

SB 762: Allows certain felony convictions to be removed from the denial of public assistance.

A Complete list of "Bills to Watch" can be found at:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HsRUuPjD2qd5JcCSJh7qcqEMyUictzlv/edit>

You can track a specific FL Senate bill at:

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Login?referrer=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.flsenate.gov%2FTracker>

Or you can track progress of a FL House bill at: <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/MyHouse/login.aspx>

Join us on Zoom February 16 at 7pm when we will discuss more Florida bills that impact our more vulnerable citizens. For further information, contact Beth Hovind at bethse@gmail.com

GUÍA DE TRÁNSITO DEL CONDADO DE PINELLAS

By Kathy Smith



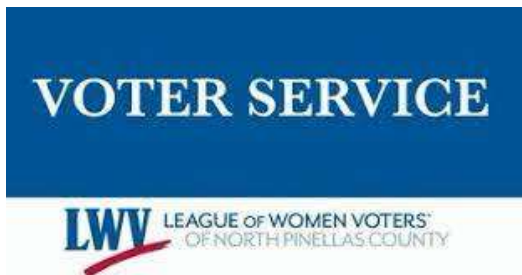
The Transit Guide for Pinellas County is now available in Spanish AND English. Printable copies available at

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-OSYB3axU7d8QjbpkV1Vpwt99wevqFai/view?usp=sharing>
(Spanish version)

https://my.lvw.org/sites/default/files/transportation_guide_digital_9-27-21.pdf (English version)

SPECIAL VOTER SERVICE SUPPLEMENT

By Doris Reeves-Lipscomb



February 14 is the voting registration deadline for municipal elections on March 15, 2022. Need we say **VOTE!!**

Elections and Voter Guide – Belleair, Belleair Beach, Belleair Bluffs, Clearwater, Oldsmar, and Tarpon Springs will hold elections this Spring. Each jurisdiction will have a unique line-up of ballot issues

and/or candidates for mayor and city councils.

Vote411 at <https://www.vote411.org/florida> goes live around February 10 for Pinellas County voters to learn about the issues and candidates on their ballots. We are proud to acknowledge North County League members Beth Hovind, Tanya Landry, Terrie Byrne, and Becki Snyder. They gave their time and skills to the LWVSPA to research and analyze issues, prepare questions for candidates, and encourage candidates to respond via the Voters Guide.

The League is holding voter registration table-events as well as promoting crowd-walking “vote readiness” opportunities. In January members distributed “Why Vote?” cards and interacted with voters as LWVNPC members carried banners and spoke with spectators at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. march in Tarpon Springs and the Dr. MLK event in Dunedin.

New Resource: Why Vote?

AT LEAST FIVE WAYS TO REACH YOUR PINELLAS COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS (SOE)

- Call 727-464-VOTE (8683)
- Email election@votespinellas.gov
- Visit the SOE Election Service Center, 13001 Starkley Road, Largo, Florida 33773
- Go online to votespinellas.com
- Use your phone to access the SOE's website via QR code

YOUR SOE CAN HELP YOU

- register to vote
- update your voter record
- request your Vote-By-Mail (VBM) ballot
- check your VBM status
- verify receipt of your completed VBM ballot
- find an Early Voting site or your precinct to vote on election day

REMEMBER THESE DATES

- March 15, 2022 Municipal elections
- August 23, 2022 Primary election
- November 8, 2022 General election

New voters must register to vote at least 29 days before an election

INFO ON CANDIDATES AND ISSUES, GO TO
<https://www.vote411.org/florida>

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY
 P. O. Box 7867, Clearwater, FL 33758
 727-386-8525 email: lwvnc.info@gmail.com

Why Vote?" Card supplies have been given to all North County Libraries. Patrons may access these through November 2022. The LWNPC also published posters reminding voters of upcoming elections and the importance of voting. Even the Oldsmar Chamber of Commerce and City Hall display our posters.

Early Voting Site Expansion – Our research collaboration with St. Petersburg Area League leaders

Linsey Grove and Caitlin Constantine over four months culminated in December 2021 with the decision to meet with Supervisor of Elections Julie Marcus this year. LWVSPA and LWNPC presidents Linsey Grove and Bill Jonson will offer SoE Marcus our assistance to register new voters, promote Vote-By-Mail, and Get-Out-The-Vote in 2022 elections.

We continue to advocate for another Early Voting site in Tarpon Springs to enable its residents, especially transportation disadvantaged residents, to vote closer to home. Currently, most of them are more than 5 miles away from an Early Voting site, making it challenging for them to benefit from Early Voting before Election Day.

Outreach to Low-Propensity Voters in Low Voting Precincts

This may be the most exciting Voter Service front. Karen Owen summarized the latest decision below.

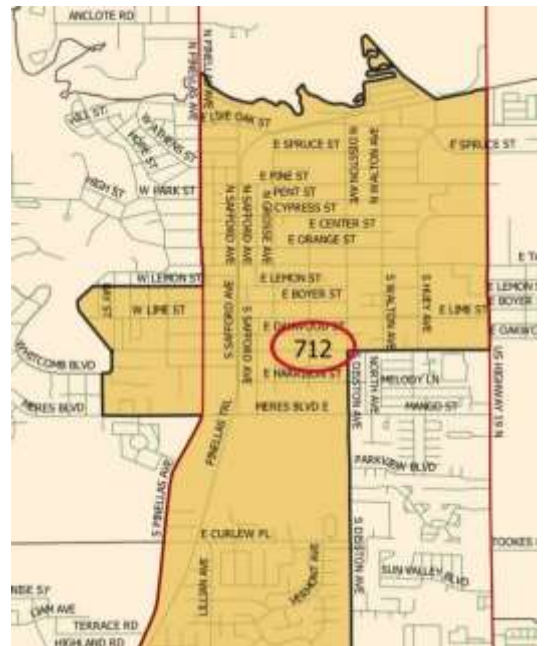
The Voter Service committee within the League wishes to continue to engage with community organizations to increase voter turnout. In the 2020 General Election, there were high numbers of eligible voters in Precincts 516 (Clearwater Greenwood area) and 712 (Tarpon Springs area) but low turnout among self-identified Black Voters and self-identified Hispanic voters. One of the League's stated goals is to grow in diversity and inclusiveness. Initially, these would be good precincts to focus our efforts.

Precinct Number	Overall Turnout%	Black Turnout%	Hispanic Turnout%	Overall #eligible voters (all combined) who DID NOT VOTE	#Eligible Black Voters	#Eligible Hispanic Voters
516	69%	69%	47%	1,222 did not vote	1699	306
712	72%	63%	59%	1,221 did not vote	545	325

Low Voting Precinct Road Boundaries



Precinct 516 Road Boundaries



Precinct 712 Road Boundaries

The 5 precincts in Pinellas County with the greatest number of eligible Hispanic-identified voters are listed here. The 2020 Census revealed a significant increase in mixed-race or multi-ethnic residents. Unfortunately, mixed-race voters (those of Hispanic origin + another race/ethnicity) cannot be represented with the data available

Precincts with Highest # of eligible Hispanic Voters	# Eligible Hispanic Voters
148	503
159	476
331	545
601	452
518	475

Precincts (in red) with highest # of voters who self-identify as Hispanic.



Working Together

New Collaboration with the NAACP

The North County League Board approved a proposal in January to support the NAACP Upper Pinellas Branch's Voter Outreach project. This program will pay young canvassers—young minority adults of college age—to interact face-to-face with up to 1,000 minority voter household residents who are eligible to vote but who may not have in the 2020 election or municipal elections.

These canvassers will be trained by League experts on voter registration, Vote-By-Mail, Early Voting procedures and non-partisan service to voters. The training will also emphasize as much online voter registration and verification of voter status as possible. The outreach is timed to occur before the primary election on August 23, the hottest and most humid energy-draining season of the year.

The North County League will support the project startup with a \$1,000 check and the ongoing time and expertise of Board Director Laurie Meggesin, who will be the official League representative serving on the NAACP Coordinating Committee. Treasurer Sabrina Smith and Director Camilla DiLoreto will also assist.

Want to Help Register Voters?

It's an exciting time for League members. If you wish to become more involved, why not become League-certified to facilitate voter registration, VBM, and getting-out-the-vote? One has to pass an 18-question quiz to become certified.

Go to <https://lwvfl.org/>.

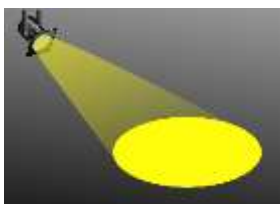
Scroll down the page to a box that looks like this:



Click on the League Management box to enter a page that has lots of boxes including the Register Voters box.

Clicking once on the box will take you to a page requiring a password. Contact a member of the board for authentication details, or email lwvnpc.info@gmail.com.

Once the password is entered, one can read the 3 pages of training material to take the quiz repeatedly if necessary to score 100 percent on the quiz. Then you are good to register voters with a certified partner under the League auspices for the next year. See you in Voter Service soon!



Spotlight Series:

Life Member: Marti Folwell

By: Barbara Letvin



Marti Folwell is no stranger to the League of Women Voters. As a Life Member (50 years or more), she joined the League as a busy mother in Rochester, New York in the early 1960's.

Growing up in the small town of Whitehall, Michigan, Marti was salutatorian of the 1954 graduating class. She had also been editor of the school paper and president of the student government.

Marti played the flute for the symphony band at the University of Michigan where she studied on a full tuition scholarship. With a BA in English and a teaching degree in hand, she went to Rochester, NY, working as a high school English teacher for the district during the early years of integration. She met her husband, Bob, on a blind date, and, following several transfers, they moved to Tampa with their three young children in 1975. Those children – Bob, Jim, and Susan – are now all married, and there are seven granddaughters.

A dedicated and long-time volunteer, Marti was elected president of the LWNPC three times (1982-84, 2008-2010, and 2013-2014). She has held positions as secretary, treasurer, and chair of the education committee. She attended most school board meetings. "The League provides many opportunities to learn, help make democracy work, and has given me the chance to meet wonderful intellectually stimulating people," she said.

Previously active as a scout leader, school advisory committee member, and president of the PTSA at Clearwater High, Marti is currently an elected board member of our League where she contributes her years of experience. She continues to be involved in voter registration efforts.

She has enjoyed snow skiing, sailing, and tennis in the past. Today, in addition to her commitment to the League, Marti has been a deacon, elder, and member of the choir at Trinity Presbyterian Church. She serves on its environmental committee and, no surprise, she continues to play the flute.

Annual Meeting Program of Work Adoption

In addition to the elections of officers and board members, our Annual Meeting will present our program of work for the fiscal year 2022 – 2023. If you have any suggestions for areas to be included, please contact Bill Jonson at bill.jonson@usa.net

Annual Meeting – Get More Involved!

This year's Annual Meeting will once again be held via Zoom on April 30, 2022 at 10 am. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Officers will be elected and the Program of Work for next year will be adopted. Nominating Committee chair presents the slate of nominees to the membership at this annual meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be electing about one half of the Officers of your LWV of North Pinellas County. We need your help with suggestions for positions that are open this year. While we do have a Nominating Committee, that committee is looking for members who would like to be part of our leadership team. You can help them by volunteering or making suggestions for the following positions. There are three officer positions due for election at this annual meeting:

President – Currently Bill Jonson
Second Vice-President – Currently Kathy Smith
Treasurer – Currently Sabrina Smith

In addition to these positions there are several Board Member positions that are up for election or reelection:

Doris Reeves-Lipscomb – elected until 2022
Ellen Siegman – elected until 2022
Marti Folwell – elected until 2022

At this annual meeting up to four members can be elected to the two-year Elected Director positions. In addition to the four two-year director terms there can be up to four one year appointed directors. Currently serving as appointed directors with terms expiring with the annual meeting are:

Camilla DiLoreto – appointed until 2022
Laurie Meggesin – appointment until 2022

Please send your suggestions for any of these positions (knowing the nominee will accept the position) to Joe Nixon, Chair of the Nominating Committee (at joenixoncpa@gmail.com), or to Bill Jonson. You may suggest yourself. Additionally, nominations may be taken from the floor during the Annual meeting itself.

According to our bylaws LWVNPC Board can designate up to eight appointed directors to the Board. Board membership as an appointed director is a terrific way to get involved with your local League.

Call for Officers and Directors

As required by the By-Laws of League of Women Voters of Northern Pinellas County, the Nominating Committee is requesting names for the slate of Officers (3) and Directors (3), 60-days in advance of our Annual Meeting scheduled for April 30, 2022.

Officers needed: President, Second Vice President, and Treasurer
Elected Directors needed: three positions

If you have any questions regarding any of these six positions (two-year terms), please call or email Nominating Committee Chair Joe Nixon at (917) 304-8459 or joenixoncpa@gmail.com.



Local Elections Matter!

Pinellas Municipal Elections are happening March 15th in these municipalities: Belleair, Belleair Beach, Belleair Bluffs, Clearwater, Madeira Beach, Oldsmar, Redington Beach, Redington Shores, St Pete Beach, Tarpon Springs.

Be sure to check your registration status at <https://www.votepinellas.com>, and to request a vote by mail ballot visit: <https://www.votepinellas.com/votebymail>. If not currently registered, you must be registered to vote by Valentine's Day (Feb. 14, 2022), and your Vote By Mail request must be secured with the Supervisor of Elections by **March 5th!**

Note: There are no drop boxes nor is there early voting for the upcoming municipal elections. **There is just Vote by Mail and Election Day voting.**

Holiday Party December 2021

By Jaqueline Farrell

We had a wonderful time at our Holiday Party at the Club House at Mediterranean Manors. There were delicious appetizers and desserts, raffles, music, and even dancing. Many thanks to Kathy and Bob Smith and Emerald Coast Dance for providing the music and to Joe Nixon and Miriam Benitez- Nixon for arranging the venue. Only thing that would make it better next year is if YOU would join us!

