



# THE VOTER **LWV**

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

<https://lwnorthpinellas.org> [lwnnpc.info@gmail.com](mailto:lwnnpc.info@gmail.com)

727-386-8525 | P.O. Box 7867, Clearwater, FL 33758

## January – February 2024

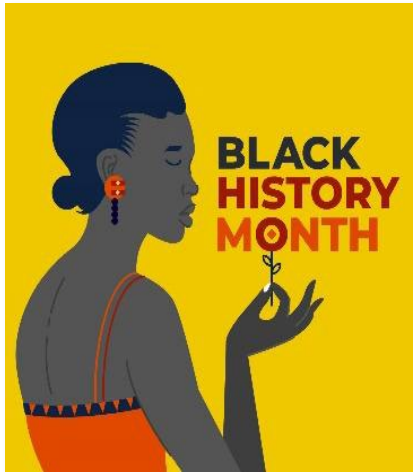
Twelve LWNPC members marched in the annual Martin Luther King Day March in Tarpon Springs on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Several others attended the breakfast, sponsored by The Dr. Martin Luther King Scholarship Foundation. Thanks to Sabrina Smith, Camilla DiLoreto, Joe Nixon, Mariam Benetiz Nixon, Donna Friedman, Lawrence Hughes, Linda Metzkow, Stacy Loper, Nancy Sidrow, Tanya Landry, Jacqui Farrell, and Cathy Protopapas for marching, waving signs, handing out candy, and giving our group presence in the community.





Breakfast attendees: Front row Sabrina Smith, Linda Metzkwow, Miriam Benetiz-Nixon.

Back row Camilla DiLoreto, Beth Hovind, Nancy Sidrow, and Tanya Landry.



## February is Black History Month

"The time is always right to do what is right."

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., minister and civil rights activist

## Notice: Call for Nominations Request of Members to Nominate Board Members

The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the League and not more than 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 term of the appointed directors shall be one (1) year and shall expire at the conclusion of the next Annual Meeting.



Pursuant to Bylaws Article VIII, Section 3:

Members are welcome to nominate for any of the listed positions. If there is but one (1) nominee for each position, the Secretary will cast the ballot for every nominee. If there are additional nominees, then an updated survey will be sent electronically to the membership to finalize the elections for those positions.

In accordance with these bylaws, please submit the names of any members you want to be considered for the Board. Please ensure that the person you nominate is receptive to this nomination and has agreed to fulfill the position for which they are nominated.

Officer positions currently being vacated and open to nomination are President and Vice President (Administration).

## From Our President: Marti's Musings



Trust! Truth! Reality! Scams! – My head is spinning with the daunting challenges of living in today's world. Who to believe and what to believe because of the overwhelming amount of information and situations with which we are barraged regularly, is the challenge.

The League with its basic principles, study of issues, and caring people helps to make sense of what is swirling around us and helps us promote action even if only in our own lives to make things better.

Martha (Marti) Folwell, President, LWVNPC

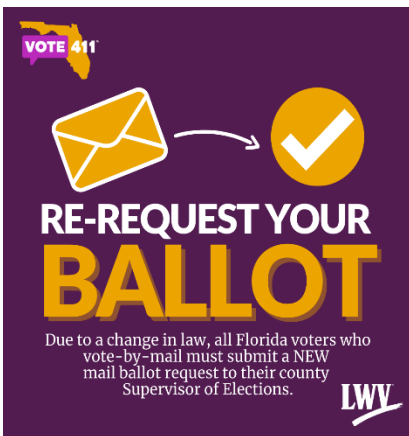
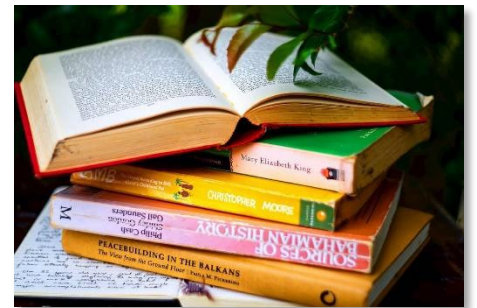
## Did you Know?

LWVFL now has a comprehensive pamphlet regarding Book Bans! Download it at:

Excerpt:

**WHAT IS THE LEAGUE'S POSITION ON SCHOOL BOOK BANS?** While we don't believe every listed book should be in school or classroom libraries, we do not agree with banning these books. Our view is that all

children need to have access to books they can relate to, history that is truthful, and stories with characters like themselves. These books should not be completely banned from school/classroom libraries. Each parent should be able to decide what their own child can read, but one parent should not be able to make that decision for every parent or every child.



# LWV of Florida Reaction to Florida Supreme Court Accepting Jurisdiction in Redistricting Case

LWVFL Press Release February 2, 2024

On Wednesday, January 24, 2024, the Florida Supreme Court accepted jurisdiction of the League of Women Voters of Florida and partners appeal regarding Congressional District 5. This decision reflects the important significance of the issues at hand, and we welcome the opportunity to present our arguments before the highest court in Florida.

The collective journey to reach this moment has been made possible by the plaintiffs' dedication, tireless effort, and a shared commitment to justice. As a co-plaintiffs with Black Voters Matter, Equal Ground Education Fund, Florida Rising Together, the League recognizes the serious responsibility that comes with presenting this case before the Florida Supreme Court. This case has far-reaching implications, not only for the litigants, but for the broader legal landscape and the residents of North Florida. All organizations involved remain steadfast in our pursuit of justice and are confident that the Supreme Court's thorough consideration will result in a just and equitable resolution.

As we prepare for the forthcoming proceedings, we look forward to a fair and impartial hearing. Our faith in the judicial process is reinforced by the knowledge that our case will be adjudicated with the utmost diligence and integrity.

## Yes on 4! Update on the Proposed Abortion Amendment

Submitted by Mina Harkins

Amendment 4 (Four is the number which will be assigned to the proposed abortion amendment if it reaches the ballot) hangs on the decision of 7 judges, whether the language of the amendment is clear and covers only one issue, as required in the Florida Constitution.

- **The Court** – four of the seven judges must vote in the affirmative. Five of the judges were appointed by Governor DeSantis and one is the husband of the sponsor of the 6-week abortion ban passed by the legislature last year.
- **The timeline** – the court has until April 1<sup>st</sup> to issue its ruling, although it could happen sooner. If the court votes against putting Amendment 4 on the 2024 ballot, there is no appeal or revision process for this election cycle.
- **The State's position** – the Attorney General's office argued the language was too broad, that voters wouldn't know what they were voting on. AG Moody did not appear personally.
- **The Amendment Sponsor's Position** – the constitutional requirements are met, and Florida voters do clearly understand the chief purpose and effect of such a change in law. Also noted was that voters are free to vote for or against the amendment.



- **The Court's questions** – both parties were asked if this would affect other constitutional provisions, a query that brought up if an unborn child had rights in the Florida constitution. Several clarifications that were requested used language such as “abortion without restriction,” “the whole 9 months,” and “ending lives”.
- **The Ballot** – if the amendment makes it to the ballot, 60% of Florida voters must vote “Yes on 4” to comprehensively prevent anyone other than the pregnant person and their healthcare provider from interfering in this personal decision.

Sign up here for the statewide reproductive freedom group's newsletter –

<https://progressflorida.actionkit.com/signup/frf-grassroots-signup/>



## Spotlight on Tampa Bay: The LWNPC Education Committee Attends a Community Conversation about Education Issues

Submitted by Vivian Posey

“Quality education is critical to a successful society. On that, we can all agree. How we achieve it is where difference arises, and tonight's debate begins.” The words of the Chairman and CEO of the Tampa Bay Times, Conan Gallaty, set the tone for the recently held Spotlight on Tampa Bay Community Conversation event titled, “Conflicts, Challenges, & Culture Wars in Florida's Classrooms.”

Eight members of the LWNPC Education Committee attended this event at the Tampa Theater in downtown Tampa, on Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. They enjoyed hearing from a panel of education advocates and community leaders who represented both sides of issues including censorship of books and instructional materials, limits on what teachers can say to students on topics related to gender and identity, and school choice.

Following the debate among the adult educators, a panel of five current Pinellas and Hillsborough high school student leaders took the stage. These young adults easily commanded the full attention of the audience as they described what their student experience is like each day in this highly charged post-COVID environment. They expressed support for their teachers and school administrators who are struggling to navigate the restrictions of recent education legislation, and their desire to receive a high quality of education in spite of the controversies they are dealing with. The students also offered creative solutions for many of these issues, including having opportunities to attend School Board meetings (and holding School Board meetings when they are not in school).

Education Committee member, Debbie Entreken, summed up the event in this way. “I found the students the most impressive part of the evening. They were well-spoken, passionate, and knowledgeable. One of the messages from the students was that the adults are making these decisions for them without asking them what they think. The issues that the adults are concerned about and non-issues for them.”

Read The Tampa Bay Time's coverage of this event at:

<https://www.tampabay.com/news/education/2024/02/03/spotlight-tampa-bay-forum-education-strong-views-standing-ovation/>



## You may have missed....

### Florida the only state to turn down millions to lessen emissions, feds say

“The state transportation department left \$320 million on the table, saying it wouldn’t support the “continued politicization of our roadways.”

<https://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/2023/12/16/florida-only-state-turn-down-millions-lessen-emissions-feds-say/>

## We can protect America’s children and families

This article draws on material from William Felices’ book “Human Rights and Public Goods” (2021).

“The public institutions and economic reforms created out of the New Deal gave the U.S. government the ability to establish a basic level of economic security for its citizens. These institutions and reforms were designed to provide both short-term relief and a long-term economic safety net for all Americans. While Roosevelt’s New Deal failed to adequately meet the needs of African Americans and the very poor, these public policies, including Social Security, prevented millions from falling into poverty and destitution.

Very few liberals or conservatives promote such large-scale New Deal reforms today. Yet, successful public policy in 2020-2023 once again demonstrated the ability of the government to effectively mobilize resources to ameliorate suffering and empower the poor. The success of key programs included in the 2020 CARES Act (signed by then-President Donald Trump) and the 2021 American Rescue Plan (signed by President Joe Biden) show us a way forward. These effective and triumphant policies demonstrate how Democrats and Republicans can come together to address acute human suffering in America today.”

[https://enewspaper.tampabay.com/infinity/article\\_popover\\_share.aspx?guid=c5d849d7-a9d0-433d-ae06-c282a5715eb3&share=true](https://enewspaper.tampabay.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=c5d849d7-a9d0-433d-ae06-c282a5715eb3&share=true)

## Political Peril: Be Wary of ID Theft Scams Tied to Election

[AARP Florida](#) is warning people about election-related fraud targeting older voters, including requests for donations to fictitious political action committees and soliciting sensitive information during fake voter registration efforts. Read the article at:

<https://states.aarp.org/florida/political-peril-be-wary-of-id-theft-scams-tied-to-election>

## Against Civility: The Hidden Racism in Our Obsession with Civility by Alex Zamalin

One of our readers found this book worth reading. Her thoughts: "This book is basically about how powerful people have always told people without power to calm down, not to be so negative, to lower their voices, to stop sitting in at lunch counters or joining half a million women in Washington, DC on January 21, 2017. In short, to stop asking (sometimes literally) for a place at the table. Powerful people don't generally cede power until they're made uncomfortable, and incivility makes people uncomfortable."



## Oldsmar Candidate Forum, Hosted by LWVNPC



Tuesday, January 9, 2024  
Bill Jonson introduced the League of Women Voters, Tanya Landry served as Moderator, and Sue Cornett as Timekeeper.

Tanya Landry, Bill Jonson, Steve Graber, Vince Albanese, Andrew Knapp, Valerie Tatarzewski, Linda Metzkow, Carol Bailey

## Clearwater Neighborhood Coalition Candidate Forum: City Council Candidates

Monday, January 22, 2024 and Monday, January 29, 2024

Bill Jonson, Introductory Remarks, Tanya Landry Moderator, Sue Cornett, Timekeeper



## Adopt a Mile Cleanup January 27<sup>th</sup>

18 LWVNPC Members gathered to make Pinellas Beautiful between Union St. and Powderhorn Drive in Dunedin. This event happens four times yearly and is coordinated by Tanya Landry.



## Safety Harbor Candidate Forum, February 1, 2024 Safety Harbor Spa, Safety Harbor Florida



Linda Metzkw, Introductory Remarks;  
Tanya Landry, Moderator; Sue Cornett,  
Timekeeper; Nancy Sidrow, League Table  
Manager





## Welcome New Members!

Janie Brookbank  
Juli DelGiorno  
Ela Landegger  
Cathy Porter  
Laurie Walker

**Board Meeting -  
members welcome!**



The LWVNP Board meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 4:00pm. Minutes for the January 2024 meeting can be found at:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1L5DXojR\\_iolybdnm5yJ2HJcE9qpAZmf\\_/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1L5DXojR_iolybdnm5yJ2HJcE9qpAZmf_/view?usp=sharing)

Please join us for any upcoming Board meeting to learn how you can participate more fully. Contact Gayla Larson ([nblarson@gmail.com](mailto:nblarson@gmail.com)) to obtain the link to join these informative and busy meetings. Your presence is welcome!

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

### Economic Equity Committee



Update on Economic Equity issues: Submitted by Mina Harkins

The Florida legislature is in session running 60 days until March 8th. While there is one bill in the House on landlord and tenant issues, the Senate will focus on the "Live Healthy" proposal by Senate President Kathleen Passidomo. We will be monitoring the progress of the Live Healthy bills, currently SB 7016 (Health Care) and SB 7018 (Innovation Incentives), and other proposed legislation that support this broad proposal. The overall intent of

the legislation is to grow Florida's healthcare workforce, increase access to quality healthcare, and incentivize innovation in the state. With several issues, such as reproductive care and treatment for gender affirming care, causing concern in the provider community, along with the rapidly growing population, even Floridians with excellent health care insurance face barriers to care. Some of the areas to be funded include increasing residency slots, partnerships with hospitals, colleges and universities that train healthcare workers, creative loan repayment options, increasing provider payment for mental health, labor and delivery, and care for the disabled. Also included are reductions in regulations for foreign-trained physicians, autonomous nurse-midwives, psychologists and psychiatric nurses, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses to improve access to care, especially in areas of critical need.

To relieve the burden on emergency rooms, a diversion program to coordinate with primary care settings, for non-life-threatening care, is included in the funding proposals. Expansion of telehealth minority maternity care from the successful pilot program in Duval and Orange counties to a statewide level and an increased eligibility threshold for low-income access to care at community-based free and charitable clinics is described along with a grant program for nurse practitioners to provide no-cost preventive screening and healthcare services. And that's just SB 7016. More to come as the Senate works on this ambitious proposal.



The Education Committee met virtually on Monday, January 29, 2024, at 4:30 pm.

Niki Amarantides provided an informative and fun presentation on her recent trip to Cuba. It was a 5-day LWVFL sponsored excursion and gave members a unique opportunity to understand the history, culture, politics, and education system of our island neighbor.

The committee voted to approve the printing of two informative League-developed brochures. The brochures

are "Book Bans in Florida Schools" and "The League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County." Once printed, these brochures will be made available to all members of LWVNPC for distribution in the community.

Eight members of the Education Committee attended the Spotlight Tampa Bay Community Conversation Series at the Tampa Theatre on Tuesday, January 30th. The event was titled, "Conflicts, Challenges, & Culture Wars in Florida's Classrooms. (See article in the on page 2.)

Several Education Committee members represented LWVNPC as observers at both January Pinellas School Board meetings. Debbie Entreken reported on the January 9th meeting, and Jeanne Reynolds reported on the events of the January 23rd meeting. Specifics of these meeting observations are available in the Education Committee Meeting Notes.

Vivian Posey attends the bi-monthly meetings of the LWVFL State Action Team for Education. This state committee, with representatives from most of the state League chapters, is monitoring the progress of education-related legislation moving through the Florida legislature. The committee has developed a database of information on these bills. This database is available for members to access and is updated each week.



Linda Metzkwow reported that Heidi Davis will be hosting training for Vote 411 along with general training during the Voter Service meeting on Monday, March 18, 2024. Anyone who is interested in participating is invited to attend that Zoom meeting. We will split the fee for Vote 411 with the St. Pete League, and Linda will ask St. Pete to submit an invoice for \$75 for our payment.

Linda suggested a change to add LGBTQ+ topic to the new brochure, and she will work with Ms. Posey to create this inclusion statement.

Linda also reported on the gathering held at the Grand Villa Clearwater to accumulate vote by mail forms for their residents. She reported that it was a very enjoyable gathering, and many forms were collected and given to the Director for submission to the Supervisor of Elections.

Several candidate forums were successfully held in January – Oldsmar, Safety Harbor, Clearwater – which were well attended.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION GROUP

**LWV** LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY

Bryan Beckman, Chair and his committee will be presenting a Hot Topic on February 27<sup>th</sup>, entitled “Florida Environmental Legislation that Can Affect You.” The program will be held at 6:30 pm at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Clearwater.



## Legal Help Needed!

The LWVFL has put out a call for any Bar-Certified Attorneys to volunteer to work with Returning Citizens researching their records to ensure they are legally eligible to vote. This is a pro bono service offered by the Florida League to all Returning Citizens. If interested, contact Cecile Scoon, Co-President LWVFL at [cecile@lwwfl.org](mailto:cecile@lwwfl.org)

## Wanted: LWV Members

For: Sharing What You Know and Love!



Do you have a special skill or talent? Did you travel to a unique location this summer? Are you engaged in community service or have an occupation that teens will find interesting? If so, the Take Stock in Children virtual mentoring program is a great place to share what you know with some very talented students in Pinellas County schools.

The Take Stock in Children (TSIC) Scholarship is a statewide program supported by the Florida Department of Education that awards college scholarships to qualified, often first in the family to attend college, Pinellas County students. The program is funded through the Pinellas Education Foundation. The students who are

accepted into TSIC attend weekly 30-minute virtual meetings to learn about their community, careers, and future opportunities to help others.

Requirements Include:

- ✓ 30 minutes of your time
- ✓ A computer, phone, or tablet with internet access
- ✓ An engaging presentation or “story”
- ✓ An interest in helping teens prepare for life after high school

You can schedule your 30-minute presentation on a day and time that is convenient for you. To find out more about the program, and to schedule a time to speak with a group of TSIC students, contact Patti Muscaro (727-488-4816), or [Elizabethmuscaro@pinellaseducation.org](mailto:Elizabethmuscaro@pinellaseducation.org).

Your time and expertise will be most appreciated by the Pinellas Education Foundation and these very deserving students!

## Spotlight: Introducing Linda

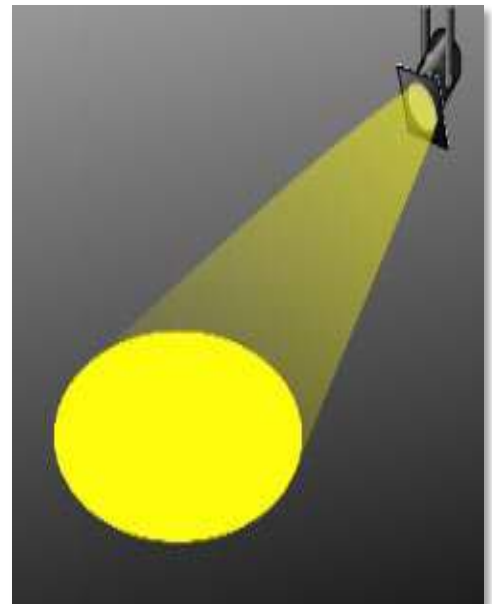
### Metzkow



Linda Metzkwow is the Chairperson of Voter Services. Taking on Voter Services is a big challenge, especially in this election year, but Linda is equal to it. She has had plenty of practice in advocating for others. In her professional life, Linda was a Disability Consultant. Her career in this area started when she worked at a firm that specialized in Social Security Disability.

After two years, Linda felt she could do this independently, so she started her own practice. She represented clients who were trying to obtain Social Security benefits following an illness or injury. Initially she worked with clients primarily by phone, but realized she wasn't connecting with them at the level she needed. So, she began traveling to their homes to hear their stories. Her territory spanned from Jacksonville to Tampa. Meeting clients in person, Linda saw the catastrophic effects of disability. Most clients felt they were at the very bottom of life's ladder. They had lost income, livelihoods, and relationships. She found herself in court fighting for their disability benefits and was proud to have a better record for winning cases than well-known law firms. Although she was plenty busy during these years, Linda still found the time to earn a master's in public administration and a Certificate in Non-Profit management concurrently at the University of Central Florida.

After living in New Smyrna Beach, Florida for many years, Linda returned to where she had grown up in the St. Petersburg area in 2014. Some of the causes she participated in when her children were young were washing seabirds after an oil spill in Tampa Bay, circulating petitions to compensate lower income families when Interstate 275 was roaring through their neighborhoods, and marching to lower the voting age. When she had time to think, she realized that many things had not changed for the better since she had been active years ago. This led her to the LWVSPA, and eventually to LWV of North Pinellas.



As Voter Service Chair, you will see Linda at Candidate Forums, Community Events and Senior Living Centers to circulate voter registration materials and to provide voter education. Based on her experience, Linda thinks the problem surrounding voting is *not* getting people to register to vote but getting them to vote. She finds that people are registered, but they don't vote because they feel it doesn't matter and that they don't make a difference. Linda is committed to convincing people that their vote matters and they do have the power to affect change. When Linda is not serving her community, she is saving cats (she has five) and serves on the Board of the Inspire Equine Assisted Center, a therapeutic program for horseback riders with disabilities.

## My Civil Rights Tour: The Final Day

By Beth Hovind

In observance of Black History Month, we read the final installment of Beth Hovind's Civil Rights Tour.



Saturday, January 14: Fifth Day

The last day in Montgomery begins with a trip through the Rosa Parks Museum. As suggested, we begin on the children's side. There we sit in a pseudo modern bus/set up as a time machine. The trip, through bus rumblings and multi-screens, travels through the early days of segregation in Montgomery and the beginnings of the bus boycott told by an excellent narrator. We are then invited to return to the main museum to learn more.

Descriptive informational plaques about the major players in the beginning and throughout the 382-day boycott showcase Rosa, a seamstress, refusing to give up her seat and setting the spark for a boycott. There had been an ongoing discussion about bus policies which required Blacks to give up seats to whites when drivers told them to. Already an activist, Rosa was secretary of the local NAACP. She had also received training in organizing social movements at the Highland Institute in Tennessee, a training facility in non-violence for many civil rights leaders. Although Rosa was sitting at the beginning of the Black bus section, she was breaking no law but was cited for disorderly conduct. It would take the actions of five others to bring the case to the Supreme Court. Rosa was arrested and bailed out with the representation of Atty. Fred Gray.

The bus boycott was so successful that a meeting was called and 5,000 people showed up. MLK, age 25, and a new minister in town was elected spokesperson and the decision was made to continue the boycott. The museum had a copy of the initial demands: respect for patrons and not requiring seated Blacks to move--seemingly modest requests when viewed through a historical lens. But the city bus company denied them. The museum has an excellent experiential depiction of Rosa on the bus and additional bios on important whites and Blacks in the successful boycott such as the Dunns, a white couple strong in the civil rights movement and who assisted in transporting Blacks. When asked if they were participating in the boycott, Blacks would respond "I am just going to work," because to admit being a part of the boycott would bring potential legal repercussions.

Everyone paid dearly for their involvement in civil rights work. Rosa and her husband both lost their jobs and ended up moving to Detroit. Whites and Blacks were shunned, yelled at in public, firebombed in some cases, punished by the community members for their involvement. Blacks and whites were beaten and killed in some cases.

Our last stop on our civil rights trail was Birmingham, AL. The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute is across from Kelly Ingram Park and at the corner of the 16th Street Baptist Church, where the four girls were killed in the firebombing. The church is a large imposing brick structure with a large stairway entrance but locked so we headed to the Institute. The museum was built for display purposes presenting related information on plaques, posters, timelines and video, creating small personal spaces to stream history.

Some of the highlights were:

- Timelines reflecting events in civil rights simultaneous to national events and how each affected the other. For example, what was happening nationally that required the nationalization of the state troopers of Alabama?
- A mockup of the cell that MLK was locked in in Birmingham jail where he penned his “Letter from a Birmingham Jail” admonishing clergy and others for not joining the struggle.
- A mock-up of a fire-bombed Freedom Rider bus.
- A comparison of two classrooms, one for whites and one for Blacks,
- An interview with A. J. Gaston, a wealthy businessman who worked with both sides to try to get resolution to the city. He bailed Blacks out of jail and had a cousin host the Freedom Walkers on his land while meeting secretly with white business owners
- Replay of the March on Washington “I Have a Dream Speech.”
- Videos of the fire hosing and use of police dogs on the Children’s March which occurred in the park across from the museum.
- A display of the connection between social movements and the music of the revolutions.
- Information on the organizations created by both sides to encourage support for their positions.
- Emmett Till display.

We returned to Atlanta to fly home—ever changed by our experiences. Much of this history we were familiar with—through films and books. But the sense of immediacy reliving this part of our nation’s history becomes overwhelming and inescapable. I leave full of admiration for the incredible efforts and fearlessness of the civil rights fighters, hoping that I have garnered a bit of their bravery within me to continue their—now my struggle.

Don't  
Miss  
Out



### Join us for Our Hot Topic Florida Environmental Legislation that can affect you

The Florida legislative session is in full swing, with many changes being considered that can impact our environment and our everyday lives. Our speaker, Haley Busch, with 1000 Friends of Florida will discuss the various pieces of environmentally related legislation so that we all can be better educated on possible action.

Where: Trinity Presbyterian Church  
2001 Rainbow Drive  
Clearwater, FL 33765  
(see map)

Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024  
6:30 pm to 7:30 pm



Trinity Clearwater is conveniently located one block north of Dall to Bay Boulevard at the corner of S. Mercedes Ave. and Rainbow Drive - 2001 Rainbow Drive.



Haley joined 1000 Friends of Florida to promote sustainable growth through collaboration with civic and conservation organizations across Florida.

She works to connect a new generation of Floridians with 1000 Friends' mission and assists in planning local workshops and other informational events statewide. Prior to working for 1000 Friends, Haley was the Administrator for the Florida Conservation Coalition where she helped conservation leaders build consensus on policy solutions to Florida's pressing environmental challenges.

She is a founding board member of the Florida Futures Project, a statewide scholarship competition for high school seniors to craft solutions to large-scale challenges facing the Sunshine State.



Anam Cara Women's Circle @ Faith UCC invites LWVNPC  
watch the movie *Call Jane*  
Friday, March 8, 2024 @ 7 pm  
Faith United Church of Christ  
1650 Pinehurst Rd, Dunedin, FL  
Popcorn & Beverages provided

*Call Jane* is based on the true story of a network of activists who helped provide underground abortions in the 1960s-70s, before the landmark Supreme Court decision *Roe v Wade* (1973) determined that the right to abortion was protected by the Constitution. LWVNPC members are welcome to watch this important film and learn how to get involved.

## March 18th @ 6 PM LWVNPC Voter Services Committee Zoom Meeting

Heidi Davis will be giving general training on Vote411. We will be working again this year with the St. Pete League putting together the Voters Guide for Pinellas County. Please contact Linda Metzkwow or Gayla Larson to be added to the Zoom call invite. We are encouraging all League members to attend and to help with this important work.

## Free Virtual Event: The Missing Constitutional Right: How a Voting Rights Amendment could revitalize American Democracy

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 3:00 PM  
Speakers: Richard L. Hasen, Wilfred U. Codrington III

Join us for a live virtual event with Richard Hasen, professor of law and political science and director of the Safeguarding Democracy Project at UCLA School of Law. He will be joined by moderator Wilfred Codrington, associate professor of law at Brooklyn Law School. Hasen and Codrington will discuss what it means to include an affirmative right to vote in the Constitution and what it would take to get there.

Register Here: [RSVP TODAY](#)



## LWVNP Annual Meeting & Luncheon

Saturday, April 13, 2024 – 9:30 am – 2:00 pm  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
Fellowship Hall  
2001 Rainbow Drive  
Clearwater, FL 33765

Keynote Speaker: Kevin K. Hendrick  
Superintendent of Pinellas County Schools  
Speaking on: Pinellas County Schools in 2024

Link to RSVP and Order Lunch

<https://lwwnorthpinellas.org/annual-luncheon-registration/>

Annual Meeting Program Available via download:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eAR2 - CCby2J\\_8clr167aOl32s922PssTTtsV79SRYc/edit#heading=h.gjdgxs](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eAR2 - CCby2J_8clr167aOl32s922PssTTtsV79SRYc/edit#heading=h.gjdgxs)

## Want to leave a Google Review for LWVNPC?

Go To <http://search.google.com/local/reviews?placeid=ChJW4V5OYDxwogRIlzWPBfytgg> and look to the LWVNPC description on the right side of the page. Look toward the bottom of the page to: "Reviews."



Monday, February 26,  
2024, 4:30 pm

LWVNPC Education Committee Meeting Via Zoom

Tuesday, February 27,  
2024, 6:30 pm

Environmental Committee Hot Topic:  
Trinity Presbyterian Church  
2001 Rainbow Drive  
Clearwater, FL 33765

Wednesday, February  
28, 2024, 6:30 pm

Indian Rocks Beach Candidate Forum Indian Rocks Beach City Auditorium,  
1507 Bay Palm Boulevard, Indian Rocks Beach, FL 33785

Wednesday March 6,  
2024, 4 pm

Monthly LWVNPC Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom. For an invitation or to attend, contact [lwwnpc.info@gmail.com](mailto:lwwnpc.info@gmail.com) to receive an agenda. Open to all current LWVNPC members only.

Monday March 18,  
2024, 6 pm **AND**  
Monday March 25,  
2024, 4:30 PM

Voter Service Committee via Zoom

Voter Service Committee via Zoom

Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 AM

Annual LWVNPC Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Clearwater FL Keynote Speaker: Kevin Hendricks: Superintendent, Pinellas County Schools

For Zoom links to meetings, please contact Gayla Larson at [nbslarson@gmail.com](mailto:nbslarson@gmail.com)





WASHINGTON, DC – It is with profound sadness that the League of Women Voters announces the passing of our esteemed president, Dr. Deborah Ann Turner, who passed away on Sunday, January 28, 2024, from complications from a pulmonary embolism.

A fearless advocate for voting rights and women’s rights, Dr. Turner devoted her life’s work to impacting meaningful changes in

the lives of voters across the nation.

As the 20th president of the 103-year-old voting rights organization, Dr. Turner played a pivotal role in fighting for a more fair and representative union, while uplifting racial equity in the League’s mission work. Dr. Turner first joined the League of Women Voters of Metro Des Moines in 2010 and later served as president until 2015. At the same time, she also served on the LWV of Iowa board as the state vice president from 2011 to 2015, becoming co-president in 2015. In her dual roles with state and local Leagues, Deborah has devoted her leadership to strengthening relationships between local leagues and the state Board. “Dr. Turner was the consummate leader who poured her heart and soul for the preservation of our democracy,” said Virginia Kase Solomón, CEO of the League of Women Voters. “Her leadership exemplified grace, empathy, strength, and determination, and we will forever be grateful for her passion and dedication to this organization.”

Dr. Turner practiced gynecologic oncology for 35 years, working directly with patients and teaching students and trained residents in university programs across the Midwest. She participated in a dozen international medical missions and served as the associate medical director of Planned Parenthood of North Central States. The League of Women Voters staff, board, and Leagues from across the country mourn this loss, and our thoughts are with Dr. Turner’s family during this difficult time. We are committed to honoring her legacy by continuing to uphold our values to empower voters and build a stronger, more inclusive democracy.

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