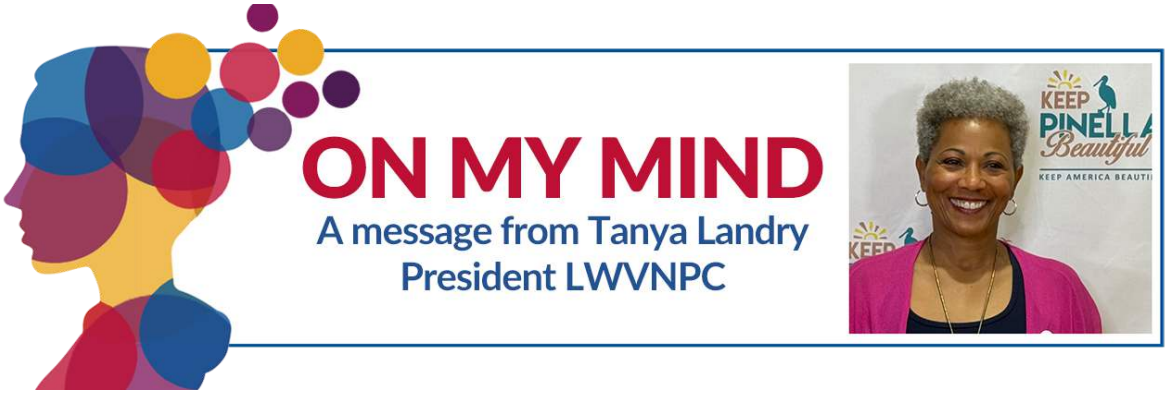


The Official Newsletter of
the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County
https://lwvnorthpinellas.org - lwvnpc.info@gmail.com
727-386-8525 | P.O. Box 8602, Clearwater, FL 33758

Visit LWVNPC

September - October 2026





The 2026 Midterm Election season is over! I am so proud of the hard work and the many volunteer hours you, our dedicated League

participation in our government through voting.

Voter Services:
110 Events and Counting

A special thank-you to the Voter Services Committee led by Voter Services Chair **Linda Metzkow** and Volunteer Coordinator **Suzanne Pierce**, and to the dynamic duo behind all our tabling materials: **Mary Giordano** and **Debbie Entreken**. From April 2025 to the present, we held 110 tabling and speaking events, including 25 visits to assisted living communities in 2026.

We also distributed Voter Guides to more than 40 locations. That is a fantastic accomplishment in voter outreach for North Pinellas County. This year we were also proud to work with new partners: Ready for Life, The C.A.L.I. Project (Caring About Living Individuals), the Tampa Bay Trial Lawyers Association, the General Federation of Women's Clubs of North Pinellas County, and Running Start.

Reaching Young Voters

One of our goals for the 2026 Midterms was to reach young adult voters. Thanks to a gift from a generous donor, we partnered with the League of Women Voters of St. Petersburg on a digital ad campaign. It targeted zip codes in North County and St. Petersburg with large numbers of young adult voters. Five-Mile Marketing generously donated its services to produce the ads, and young adult volunteers from both Leagues recorded "Why I Vote" videos. The campaign ran on Facebook and Instagram.

As with any new endeavor, we hit a few glitches along the way. Still, the campaign succeeded. It earned 587,736 impressions and 32,239 three-second video plays. Videos from two young women, Nikita David, who has assisted us in the past with social media, and Isabella Miletic a board member of Tallahassee LWV and editor of Forbidden Florida Reads, performed best with our target audience. Check out their videos here.

Izzy: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qyDRKnN_9bV3jQK-SDdcycrIhsfwGlfn/view?usp=sharing

Nikita: https://drive.google.com/file/d/17XYZpe_Jbu5lR4ewrTapMdl4pk0vORg6/view?usp=drive_link

Our biggest takeaway is that young adults' attention spans are short and the message must be simple and specific: Register. Show Up. Vote. Vote Your Issues.

Programs and Member Engagement

We had a terrific year of programming and Quarterly Membership Meetings. This year our Membership Committee brought us informative presentations through the Florida Humanities Speakers Bureau. Videos of these events are available on YouTube at

https://www.youtube.com/@lwvnorthpinellas5496

The Membership Committee also hosted social events so members could get to know one another. On November 8, we will hold our Volunteer Appreciation Picnic to recognize the hard work of our

will celebrate with a Holiday Open House. Come join us!

Looking Ahead to 2027

We finished the election season strong. Voter Services activities will now take a short pause. In 2027, Florida begins implementing the Election Protection Integrity law, also known as the Florida SAVE Act. The League will be busy planning outreach events to inform voters about these changes. Stay tuned!

Adopt-a-Mile: Clean-Up for the Cause

We close the year with our final Adopt-a-Mile clean-up, Clean-Up for the Cause, on Saturday, November 14. We'll clean our mile on Douglas Avenue, from Union Street to Powderhorn Drive.

This year's designated charity is **A Mother's Arms**, a women's resource center. Its mission is to relieve mothers under stress by giving parents a supportive place for the care of their children, along with programs that empower the whole family. Its services include a baby food pantry, a clothing pantry, a food pantry, mental health support, and other community resources. Please join us on November 14 and bring an item from A Mother's Arms Wishlist. If you can't make it, consider donating directly:

A Mother's Arms, Inc.
361 Hancock Street
Dunedin, FL 34698
Venmo: @amothersarmsinc | PayPal: @amothersarms

for all you do to empower voters and defend democracy. Thank you for sharing your time, talent, and treasure to keep our League strong.

With gratitude,
~ Tanya

September 19, 2026 Safety Harbor Library

Oh, Florida, How America's Weirdest State Influences the Rest of the Country

by Craig Pittman



If you are interested in learning lots of bizarre facts about Florida and listening to a seasoned environmental reporter,

View it at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LTHSjOPovo&t=72s

Note: "Support for this Florida Talks program was provided by Florida Humanities with funds from the State of Florida through the Division of Arts and Culture and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support provided by the Jacarlene Foundation. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this program do not necessarily represent those of Florida Humanities and its partners.

October 21, 2026 St. Petersburg College

Elect Her

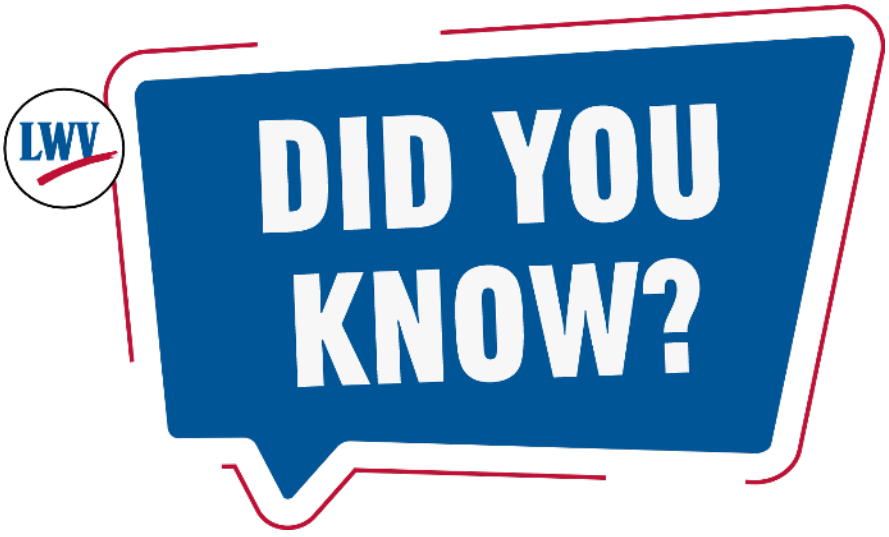


On October 21, the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas and the GFWC North Pinellas Women's Club presented Elect Her, a half-day, nonpartisan workshop encouraging and preparing women to pursue student government and political office. This first local program supports the League's mission of empowering women to

in elected leadership, with fewer than one in four elected leaders being women. Yet research shows that when women run for office, they win at rates comparable to men. The challenge is encouraging more women to step forward and enter the political arena.

Developed by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and administered by Running Start, Elect Her provides practical training in public speaking, networking, leadership, and campaign strategy. Participants also heard from current and former elected officials Kathleen Beckman, Kristina Kovarik, and Lina Teixeira, in a panel moderated by League President Tanya Landry.

The workshop's impact will continue beyond the day itself. Participants join an alumnae network with opportunities to attend future Running Start events, pursue leadership programs, and connect with peers and experienced mentors through an online community. These lasting connections provide encouragement, guidance, and support as young women consider paths to public service.



LWVNPC in The Community

September and October were busy months for LWVNPC! Highlights include these events LWVNPC sponsored or joined.

- Amendment 3 Presentation: Mease Manor
- Pinellas County Commission District 2 Candidate Forum
- Dunedin Commission Candidate Forum
- Running Start Elect Her Workshop
- Community Fun Night North Greenwood
- The Vote is Sacred Vigil for Immigrant Justice
- Restoring Rights to Returning Citizens Presentation with Bill Bass
- Stroll to the Polls-Ready for Life

Community Fun Night



The Vote is Sacred.

Restoring Rights to Returning Citizens.







Dr. Melodie Hammer

BOARD MEETINGS

The LWVNP Board meets the

2nd Wednesday of each month at 4:00pm.

Download: Minutes for the September 2026

Please join us for any upcoming Board meeting to learn how you can participate more fully. Contact Gayla Larson nbslarson@gmail.com to obtain the link to join these informative and busy meetings

Minutes for the September 2026

COMMITTEE UPDATES

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

On September 25, committee chairs Jeanne Reynolds and Vivian Posey helped Enterprise High School students preregister and register to vote and gave a brief presentation on voting and the restoration of voting rights. For the Y Vote Project, the committee is considering a “Y Vote” Scholarship for high school seniors. The committee is monitoring proposed changes to Pinellas County Schools, including school closures, consolidations, and new K-8 configurations. Plans for an LWV community meeting after the November election remain tentative. Board members continue to attend monthly PCS board meetings.

For more information about the Education Committee, contact Chair Jeanne Reynolds at jeannewrey@gmail.com.

The Voter Services committee has worked tirelessly to be part of the 110/tabling and speaking events since April 2025, including 25 events at local assisted living homes. As a final push before the election, the committee has been busy distributing printed Voter Guides (2,000 in Spanish and 2,000 in English) to Hispanic outreach centers, places of worship, nursing homes, ALF's, and libraries.

Members Barbara Letvin and Gayla Larson created an attractive, informative flyer to email all nursing homes and assisted living facilities, asking them to display it on bulletin boards. The flyer reminds everyone to vote and encourages residents to urge family and friends to vote as well. There will be no November or December meetings for Voter Services as they take a well deserved break.

If interested in helping with this vital work, please contact:
Chair: Linda Metzkow lindametzkow7@gmail.com or
Community Events Liason: Suzanne Pierce susiep0396@aol.com



Thank You!

WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOU ARE APPRECIATED!

Come and join us for a membership appreciation brunch.

These past many months have been particularly hectic but so very important. Come and let us show you our appreciation for all the hard work you have done during this voting season.

Good Friends
Great Food
Grateful Community

Sunday, November 8
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Eagle Lake Park
1800 Keene Road, Clearwater, FL 33756



BRUNCH

Sandwiches, fruit, and drinks (water and tea). If you would like to bring something to share with the group, your thoughtfulness is appreciated.



DIRECTIONS

Travel south on Keene/Starky Road.
Entrance is on the west side of Keene Road.

Shelter No. 5 is reserved for us.
Shelter No. 5 is located at the north end of the park, close to Bellaire Road.



ABOUT EAGLE LAKE PARK

Eagle Lake Park is 162 acres set in the heart of Largo. This park provides a wetlands section that has been restored with native plants. In keeping with the tradition of the land's former use of citrus growing, many of the amenities have a citrus grove theme.

PLEASE RSVP

Please use this link to RSVP so we will have an accurate count of participants for food and drink.

https://forms.gle/xydoSjujWgvLoLsSA



A Mother's Arms
Arriving to Relieve a Mother under Stress

Adopt-a-Mile
Clean Up for a Cause
November 14, 2026

It's time for our next scheduled clean-up of our **Keep Pinellas Beautiful Adopt-a-Mile** at Dunedin Elementary School! Once again, we'll extend the morning to include a casual social gathering for all participants following our cleanup activities. However, this time we are offering our support to a special cause: **A Mother's Arms** with donations you can bring and drop at our table. We will deliver to them at the conclusion of the event.

- **Date:** Saturday, November 14th, 2026
- **Time:** Gather at 9:30 a.m.

Cleanup will last approximately 1½ hours, followed by time to mingle and relax together.

Our assigned mile covers Union Street from Powderhorn Drive to Douglas Avenue. Please park in the **southeast parking lot**, located at the corner of Patricia and Union, and enter Patricia.

If you would like to participate, please **RSVP by replying to this email** so we can include you in our count.

We hope you'll join us for another productive (and fun!) morning of keeping our community beautiful and offering support to a wonderful cause-A Mother's Arms.

Their wish list needs consist of outside bench/seating chairs, playground equipment and toys, office supplies and participation incentives, and graduation gifts such as restaurant gift cards, gas/bus cards, beauty items, inspirational books. Check their website at https://amothersarms.org

You're Invited!

And Bring Your Friends

What General League Joint Meeting

Topic The Results Are In – Come Hear an Analysis

Where

Anona United Methodist Church
13233 Indian Rocks Road
Largo, FL 33774

Parking directions: Please park on Indian Rocks Rd side of campus (west side). Enter glass doors where building is marked B Worship Center with an orange portico. Once in the building, head to Wesley Hall.

When

Monday
December 7, 2026
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

RSVP to Attend

Or

Use QR Code

Susan MacManus



Dr. Susan A. MacManus is a USF Distinguished University Professor (Political Science) Emerita and received her M.A. from the University of Michigan and Ph.D. from Florida State University.

MacManus has authored or co-authored numerous publications on Florida politics, including Florida's Minority Trailblazers: The Men and Women Who Changed the Face of Florida Government, Politics in Florida. She is a native Floridian from a citrus-growing family.

From 1998 to 2015, she served as political analyst for WFLA News Channel 8. Since 2016, she has been the political analyst for ABC Action News Tampa Bay 28. MacManus has appeared on every major broadcast and cable television and radio network and been interviewed by major newspapers in Florida, the U.S., and abroad. Her in-depth analyses of political, demographic, and socioeconomic data are frequently shared in person with professional, political, nonprofit, and civic groups at all levels. MacManus is not affiliated with any political party.



Kick Off the Holidays With Us!



Sunday, December 6, 2026

2:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Chateaux de Bardmoor Condo Association Clubhouse
8345 Bardmoor Blvd., Seminole, FL 33777

Join us for a festive celebration filled with **holiday music, delicious catered food, and lots of good conversation!** Come celebrate friendship, community, and the joy of the holiday season. Let's kick off the holidays with good food, good friends, and plenty of festive fun!

BYOB – Tea and water will be provided.

Completely optional but always appreciated! Bring your favorite holiday cookies and recipes to share and add a little extra sweetness to our celebration!

Sharing the Spirit of Giving

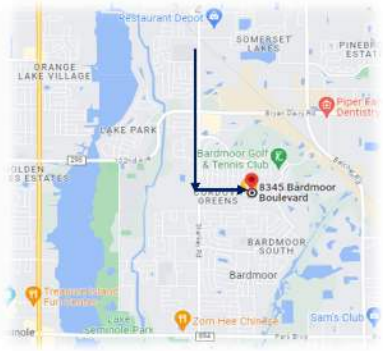
This year, we're adding a special charitable component to our celebration by supporting **A Mother's Arms** a nonprofit organization located in Dunedin dedicated to helping mothers and children. If you wish, please bring a gift to donate to this deserving organization. Your kindness will help make the holiday season a little brighter for those in need.

Learn more at amothersarms.org.

Significant others and guests are warmly welcomed!
We look forward to celebrating with you!

Please RSVP to nbslarson@gmail.com

From the north, drive south on S. Keene / Starkey Rd.
Or travel south on US 19 to Bryan Dairy; exit on Ulmerton Rd. & follow Frontage Road to reach Bryan Dairy (or use Google Maps)
Cross over Bryan Dairy Road (102nd Ave).
Turn left on Bardmoor Blvd. (traffic light)
Follow Bardmoor Blvd. to CdB Clubhouse (on left)
Park in parking lot located behind the hedge.
Enter the building from sidewalk on the left (North).



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY

SPOTLIGHT

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY

Susan Gunn



Susan's commitment to civic engagement began with her mother, an active League of Women Voters member who taught her that participating in the community was a civic responsibility. Her mother continued attending League meetings into her eighties, and Susan followed her example, joining meetings before her first child was born and later bringing her baby along. She became deeply involved with the Broward County League of Women Voters, serving as chair of the Juvenile Justice committee. Her work included observing juvenile courts, visiting foster homes, researching child abuse, advocating for children, and helping train helping professionals to recognize signs of abuse. Along the way, Susan also earned a Ed.D. in Leadership and Adult Learning and published *Enough Rope*, a Tampa-set mystery described as "a tale of betrayal, secrets and redemption." Look for the book under her pen name, Susan Capo. League member with a mystery novel and a pseudonym? How intriguing!



Check our Calendar for Complete Information:
For Zoom links to meetings, please contact Gayla Larson at nbslarson@gmail.com
For a complete listing of **Volunteer Opportunities**, go to:
https://lwvnorthpinellas.org/calendar/

Sunday Nov 8, 2026 1:00 - 3:00 PM	League Appreciation Brunch Eagle Lake Park, 1900 Keene Rd, Clearwater, 33756, Shelter #5 RSVP Here
Wednesday Nov 11, 2026 4:00–5:30 PM	LWVNPC Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom All Welcome
Saturday Nov 14, 2026 9:30 - 11:00 AM	Adopt-A-Mile, Meet at Dunedin Elementary School 900 Union St, Dunedin, FL 34698 RSVP via Email
Monday, Nov 30, 2026, 4:00 PM	Education Committee Meeting via Zoom
Sunday Dec 6, 2026 2:30 - 4:30 PM	Holiday Open House Chateaux de Bardmoor Condo Association Clubhouse RSVP via Email
Monday Dec 7, 2026 6:30 PM	Dr. Susan McManus Presentation, Analysis of Election Results, Anona United Methodist Church. RSVP Here

View email in browser

update your preferences or unsubscribe