

[www.LWVVC.org](http://www.LWVVC.org) PO Box 9695, Daytona Beach, FL 32120

# The Voter

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## OUR PRESIDENT'S REMARKS—The Upcoming Annual Meeting

Dear League Members:

As the President, I extend a heartfelt invitation to the annual meeting. We shall be gathering at the Palmetto Club on **Saturday, May 13, 2023** for what should be an exceptional meeting. Check-in is at 10:15 AM. The meeting starts at 10:30 AM.

If you are a first-year member, the senior members and I extend a very special welcome. We are happy that you will be joining us for what has become a very informative and lively experience. You will find the business meeting tremendously helpful in many ways and the guest speaker addressing a very challenging topic. Equally important are the friendships with members from throughout the county.



The guest speaker will be Marilyn Crotty who is a longtime member of the Seminole County League. Marilyn is also the past president of that league and has been a State Board member for 6 years.

Please join us for lunch after the meeting and the guest speaker. Lunch is \$25 and starts at 11:30 AM. **To RSVP for the Annual Meeting and lunch, please contact Cathy Egley: [jetski49@bellsouth.net](mailto:jetski49@bellsouth.net).**

We welcome our new and returning members and look forward to seeing each of you in person at the annual meeting.

Sincerely,  
Cathy Egley, President

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**ATTENTION ALL GMAIL USERS:** It has been brought to my attention that some Gmail users do not receive Constant Contact (CC) communications from the League. This is our primary form of communication with members. If you fall into this category, please be aware of the following:

1. Always check your promotions and social folders. Gmail frequently places all CC in one of these folders.
2. Add the origin of the email address ([ahsmith5@bellsouth.net](mailto:ahsmith5@bellsouth.net)) to your accepted email recipients.
3. Note schedule of events for the League and check around that time for registration information.

If you have questions, please contact Ann Smith, Constant Contact originator. Ann's email is [ahsmith5@bellsouth.net](mailto:ahsmith5@bellsouth.net) or phone 386-235-3957.

**Preparation for League of Women Voters of Volusia County Annual Meeting**  
**Following are some of the issues members will be voting on.**

**Readoption of the LWVVC Positions will be addressed at the Annual Meeting.**

**LWVVC POSITIONS**

Although non-partisan, The League of Women Voters of Volusia County studies many local issues. For state-wide and national issues which the LWVVC also supports, see the LWVF and LWVUS websites. Below is the current list of positions we have taken on these local issues.

**COUNTY CHARTER (revised position, adopted April 6, 2013)**

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County:

- Supports protections of the County Charter and its principles, to include monitoring County Council to ensure that the principles are implemented.
- Supports an appointed (rather than elected) sheriff, property appraiser, supervisor of elections, and clerk of courts, all with professional qualifications.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (revised position, adopted April 6, 2013)**

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County is concerned about the negative consequences of rapid growth throughout the region. These positions address the goals and processes of comprehensive planning and require coordination among the governments of Volusia County. In order to preserve the quality of life in Volusia County:

- LWVVC supports Volusia County and the municipalities within its borders working together to protect the environment while providing reasonable use of the land and restricting the use of wetland mitigation.
- LWVVC supports buffering of environmentally sensitive land and water bodies and encourages developing open, recreational, and green spaces to enhance and maintain quality of life within the county and its municipalities.
- LWVVC supports giving public interest priority regarding the conservation of our natural habitats in Volusia County.
- LWVVC supports increased consideration to potable water issues, including the assurance of clean water, in the Comprehensive Plans of Volusia County and its municipalities.
- LWVVC supports development of effective drainage systems to improve recharge and retention areas and reduce flooding in Volusia County and its municipalities.
- LWVVC encourages Volusia County and its municipalities to work together to direct regional growth in a responsible manner.
- LWVVC supports measures to ensure that any comprehensive plan amendment or rezoning that permits increased residential density may be approved only if adequate public schools can be timely planned and constructed to serve the projected increase in student population.

**NATURAL RESOURCES**

Water: The League of Women Voters of Volusia County supports efforts to conserve and protect our water supply as an essential part of ecosystem management. These efforts include:

- The County Council's continued implementation of Volusia County's stormwater management ordinance.
- LWVVC's continued participation in the LWV Coalition to monitor the St. Johns River Water

- Management District.
- LWVVC supports coordinated management to protect Volusia County's aquifer and the recharge area.
- Establishment of a county-wide entity to govern water usage.

Stormwater:

- Recognizing that stormwater basins and sub-canal systems cross city/community boundaries,
- LWVVC believes that Volusia County should be primarily responsible for their maintenance.
- LWVVC supports both county and local stormwater fees.
- LWVVC supports continued and expanded use of re-claimed water.
- Local municipalities should include street sweeping in their stormwater management plans to minimize pollution by debris in collection systems and basins.
- In addition to preventing flooding, effective stormwater management plans must provide for:
  - a) reduction of pollutants entering the waterways.
  - b) reduction of desalination of saltwater tributaries in the county.
  - c) reclamation of stormwater to reduce the demands on the aquifer.
  - d) reduction of runoff pollution entering the aquifer.

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES (revised position adopted 4/24/2010)**

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County supports making children's services a top priority in Volusia County with an emphasis on:

- Prenatal health care that includes screenings for maternal and fetal wellbeing; maternal screenings and treatment for social- emotional health and for addictions.
- Comprehensive healthcare for children that includes preventive screenings and timely treatment of physical, emotional and behavioral problems.
- Age-appropriate educational programs for children that include access to factual programs in sex education, parenting, child development and addictive substances.

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County supports the following recommendations for local legislative or community action:

- Create a resource center to collect, coordinate and disseminate information about services to children available in Volusia County that will be made available to parents and professionals working with children.
- Require training of all childcare personnel in child development and behavioral interventions.
- Require licensure of all family childcare homes.
- Encourage employers to provide or subsidize childcare for employees.

**TRANSPORTATION (position adopted 1/10/2015)**

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County supports the following recommendations regarding local transportation systems in Volusia County.

- LWVVC supports apportioning sources of land transportation revenue to all forms of transportation and believes it is the responsibility of cities, county, state and federal governments to fund mass transit for Volusia County.
- LWVVC supports safe access to schools, shopping, and neighborhoods through the establishment of well-connected walking and bicycling networks as an important component for livable communities.
- LWVVC supports extending and improving public transportation in order to create better local

and regional connectivity.

- LWVVC supports requiring that all public transit stops adhere to Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- LWVVC supports land-use changes that will encourage the use of efficient public transportation.

### Proposed Bylaw Change Recommendations

The following change was recommended by the By-laws Committee (Cathy Egley, Chair, Olga Hernandez, and Ann Smith) and approved by the LWVVC Board at its March 15, 2023, meeting. The LWVVC Board recommends approval of this change to the general membership at the May Annual meeting.

Changes are indicated as follows: deletions are in bold and crossed out; additions are underlined in bold. This change reflects what is being done currently.

#### ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

**Section 3. The Vice-Presidents.** The two Vice-Presidents, in the order of their rank, shall in the event of absence, disability or death of the President or both Co-Presidents, assume the office. If no Vice-President is able to serve as President, the Board of Directors shall fill the vacancy from among its elected directors. The Vice-Presidents shall perform such other duties as the President and the Board of Directors may designate. ~~The President shall assign one of the Vice-Presidents to ensure that permanent archives are maintained, either in print or electronically, to include: official minutes, annual financial reports, incorporation documents, and programs of annual meetings.~~

**Section 4. The Secretary.** The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the LWVVC and of the Board of Directors; as well as those of the Annual Meeting, Board Retreat, and such other special meetings as may be deemed official. **The Secretary shall ensure that permanent archives are maintained, either in print or electronically, to include: official minutes, annual financial reports, incorporation documents, and programs of annual meetings.** Shall sign, with the President, all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board; and shall perform such other functions as may be incidental to the office.

### Proposed LWVVC Budget 2023-24

Description	22/23 Budget	2023-24 Proposed Budget
<b>INCOME:</b>		
LWVVC-DUES	2,158.00	2,529.00*
LWVFL-DUES	2,490.00	2,918.00
LWVUS-DUES	5,312.00	6,224.00
Contributions/Donations	1,885.00	1,000.00
Honoraria-Speakers Bureau	250.00	250.00
Interest Income	300.00	100.00
Meeting/Event Income		
Voter Service Rollover (dedicated funds)	-	7,635.00
Fundraising	250.00	250.00

Investment Special Projects	2,500.00	2,500.00
Student Membership Support (dedicated funds)		200.00
Name Badge Account	-	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>25,080.00</b>	<b>23,606.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1,963.00</b>	<b>2,114.00</b>
Annual Dues Notice Printing & Mailing	150.00	150.00
Bank/Finance Fees	250.00	250.00
Constant Contact	180.00	240.00
Equipment	150.00	150.00
FL Incorporation Fee	70.00	70.00
PO Box	200.00	200.00
Postage	75.00	50.00
Printing	50.00	56.00
Supplies	75.00	40.00
Website Maintenance Expense	600.00	500.00
Website Renewal	13.00	13.00
Quicken/Zoom Subscription	150.00	150.00
Google (Domain and Suite)		245.00
<b>LWVVC Team Expense</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>155.00</b>
<b>LWV National Convention</b>	<b>1,000.00</b>	<b>800.00</b>
<b>Meeting/Event Expense</b>	<b>510.00</b>	<b>510.00</b>
Programs-Handouts	160.00	160.00

Speaker	350.00	350.00
Food/Venue		
<b>Membership Expense</b>	<b>400.00</b>	<b>400.00</b>
Orientation	200.00	200.00
Member Outreach	200.00	200.00
<b>Student Awards</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>150.00</b>
<b>Per Member Payment</b>	<b>7,802.00</b>	<b>9,142.00</b>
LWVF PMP	2,490.00	2,918.00
LWVUS PMP	5,312.00	6,224.00
<b>Student Membership Support (dedicated funds)</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>200.00</b>
<b>Investment Special Projects Expense</b>	<b>9,000.00</b>	<b>2,500.00</b>

Leadership/Membership Development Funds	2,500.00	
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<b>Voter Services Expense</b>	<b>2,300.00</b>	<b>2,800.00</b>
Voter Outreach	-	500.00
Event Registration	1,200.00	1,200.00
Supplies	1000.00	500.00
Printing		500.00
Voter Guide Vote 411.org	100.00	100.00
<b>Voter Service Reserve</b>		<b>4,835.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>25,080.00</b>	<b>23,606.00</b>

- The amount proposed reflects NO change in annual membership dues.

## The Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee recommends the following Slate of Officers & Directors for approval by the General Membership.

### 2023-2025

PRESIDENT                      Nicki Junkins                      (2023-2025)

FIRST VICE- PRESIDENT      Cathy Egley                      (2023-2025)

ELECTED DIRECTORS:

Pat Drago	(2023-2025)
Nancy Vaughn	(2023-2025)
Saralee Morrissey	(2023-2025)

### 2023-2024

SECOND VICE- PRESIDENT      Clay Meek                      (2023-2024)

SECRETARY                      Deb Ulmer                      (2023-2024)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON:

Monique Fischer	(2023-2024)
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NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Pat Cosby	(2023-2024)
Vickie Presley	(2023-2024)

## Nominee Bios



**Dr. Nicki Junkins** - Born in New Hampshire, Dr. Nicki Junkins moved to Deland with her husband and two sons in 1977. A life-long educator, she served nearly 30 years as math/chemistry teacher and curriculum administrator for Volusia County Schools. She is a former Teacher of the Year at both Deland and Deltona High Schools. Following her retirement from the school system she worked for the College Board as a consultant for large school districts across the country. She holds a doctoral degree in Curriculum and Instruction from UCF. Over the years, she has served as a trustee on the Deland Museum of Art Board, president of Florida Test Administrators Association, member of the Florida Accountability Advisory Committee, and historical tour guide for the West Volusia Historical Society.

Dr. Junkins has been a member of LWVVC for nine years during which time she has served two terms as president as well as treasurer. She is involved in LWVVC action including Voter, Education, Legislative and Media teams and serves as a speaker for our Speakers Bureau. Her interests include watercolor, stained glass, gardening, and travel throughout the US and Europe.



**Cathy Egley** – has been a member of the LWVVC for 3 years, where she currently serves as president, as well as Juvenile Justice action team chair, and Social Committee team chair. Cathy is a retired educator who served Volusia County Schools as Director of Student Services and has held administrative and teaching positions both in Alachua and Collier counties. She has held leadership positions both in Phi Delta Kappa, East Central Chapter, and the Florida League of Middle Schools.

Cathy currently holds a part-time position with the Department of Juvenile Justice as the Civil Citation Coordinator for Circuit 7. In her spare time, Cathy enjoys cooking, hiking at Lake

Tahoe with family and friends, and traveling to GATOR games.



**Pat Drago** - is a Florida native who retired from the Volusia County School District in 2009. The position she held with the school district was Executive Director of Facilities. In that role she directed school site acquisition, planning, design, construction, renovation, and maintenance for 10,000,000 square feet of educational facilities. She was also fortunate enough to supervise 350 employees and a \$750 million construction program.

Volusia County is her home so this was a rare privilege, indeed. Pat was first hired by the school district due to her advocacy on behalf of the Volusia League of Women Voters. She has been a member of the league since 1980 and has served as local league president and on the state board in the '80's. Her interests are education, land planning and natural resources, and governmental organization. Formerly, Pat previously served as LWVVC president. Currently, she serves as Education Action Team Chair and is on the LWVFL board.



**Nancy Vaughn** - has been a member of the League of Women Voters Volusia County since 2014. She has always been passionate about preserving our natural environment and joining the League's Environmental Action Team was a natural fit and currently serves as the team's chair. During her tenure as natural resources chair, she has led the League's solar initiative as well as our support for ECHO and Volusia Forever amendments.

Along with her husband Jeff, she has spent the last twenty plus years raising two children, both of whom were environmental studies majors at UNC-Chapel Hill. Volunteering with

**Bios continued -**

various organizations, from schools to church to the League has been an enriching part of her experience. For the last few years, she and her husband have spent summers in Maine aboard their sailboat.



**Saralee Morrissey** - is an urban planner, presently serving as Chair of the American Planning Association's Public Schools. She has been in Volusia County since 1987, first as a city planner for the City of Daytona Beach, followed by several different positions involving educational facilities planning for the Volusia County School District. She retired from Volusia County Schools in 2020 as the Director of Planning and Construction Services and opened a consulting service that specializes in K-12 school planning. Ms. Morrissey is a nationally recognized leader in school planning, being the only school planner in the country inducted into the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) College of Fellows, the highest honor the AICP bestows upon a member.

Ms. Morrissey earned her B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and went on to earn an M.S. in Community and Regional Planning at the University of Texas-Austin.

Ms. Morrissey resides in Daytona Beach with her husband, Tom. They have two adult children. She currently serves as LWVVC growth management team chair representing the League on the county's Environmental and Natural Resources Advisory Board.



**Clay Meek** - My wife, Carly, and I are active in our community. I am proud to be a multi-gallon donor with One Blood. I am also a member of the Board of Directors for the Healthy Start Coalition of Flagler & Volusia Counties, Inc.

I have been practicing law in Volusia County and the 7th Circuit since 1995. I worked in one of the area's larger firms from the time I was admitted to the Florida Bar until I resigned to start my own firm, which I have operated since. I litigate workers' compensation and select civil litigation matters. I also serve as General Counsel to two governmental entities and serve as a Special Magistrate to two governmental entities. I was President of the Volusia County Bar Association for the 2020-2021 term.

I am rated by Martindale-Hubbell, which has been publishing peer-reviewed ratings for attorneys since 1868; longer than any other organization in the United States. My rating is AV, which is the highest rating possible by that organization for skill and integrity.



**Deb Ulmer** - I am a semi-retired registered nurse with a longtime passion for helping others. I have been able to combine this passion with my desire to make a difference. I obtained my bachelor's degree in nursing from UCF and went on to pursue my master's in nursing administration. My nursing practicum focused on politics, where I worked with local representatives in Tallahassee and Washington DC. I am a newer member of the League with interests in growth management, environment, and legislative issues.

I have two grown sons and live in New Smyrna Beach with my two dalmatians Daisy & Alli.

## Bios continued -



**Monique Fisher** - Monique was born in Columbus, Georgia. She graduated with a B.A. In Fine Arts & Certification in Elementary Art(K-12) from Columbus College, Columbus, Georgia.

Monique is married to Kenneth Fischer. They have two daughters named Jacquelyne and Diana and two grandsons, Gabriel and Braxton.

Monique is a retired Art Teacher who taught for 28 years. 26 of the 28 years were at Horizon Elementary, in Port Orange, Florida. Monique and Kenneth reside in Port Orange, Florida.



**Patricia Shaw Cosby** - is a native of New Smyrna who attended high school there and then went on to Florida State University to earn a BA in English in 1963. She lived in Titusville, FL, from 1964 - 1987 raising two daughters and earning a degree from Stetson University in 1972. She taught high school English at Astronaut High School in Titusville from 1972 - 1987 before embarking on a new career in education for the Department of Defense Dependents Schools (now DoDEA) for 17 years, in which she was an administrator at five different schools in Germany.

She returned to live in Edgewater, FL, in 2004 where she retired and traveled (her passion) as often as she could. She joined the League of Women Voters several years ago and has been the scribe for the LWV Education Team. She has also been active as a member of the registration team, going to high schools to help register students to vote and participating in other voter registration activities.



**Vickie J. Presley** - is a retired area superintendent with Volusia County Schools having served as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and Director of Human Resources. She is a member of The Daytona Beach Chapter of the Links, Incorporated where she served as program chair for four years and works with a group of high school students, Rising Stars - Young Achievers. Vickie volunteers at different schools and serves as a liaison between designated schools and Food Brings Hope where she also serves as a volunteer. Vickie is a member of the National Association of Colored People (NAACP) and works tirelessly at Allen Chapel A.M.E. church. Joyfully, she is the Nana of two beautiful girls, has one daughter and is married to Tyrone. Vickie has served previously as LWVVC board member and social justice and diversity team chair.

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## HELP WANTED

**We need you! If you are interested in becoming involved in the League's activities, read on for opportunities.**

### MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

If you enjoy meeting new people, organizing information, maintaining online data, and arranging get-to-know-you activities for members, please consider joining the team as our **LWVVC membership chair**. The membership chair plays an important role in our organization and is critical to our continued success. If you are interested or would like more information, contact Nicki Junkins at [nickijunk47@gmail.com](mailto:nickijunk47@gmail.com)

**OBSERVER CORPS TEAM MEMBER**

We need you. The LWVVC Observer Corp tries to keep abreast of what is happening locally in our 16 cities, the county, and the school board. We need members willing to observe these local jurisdiction meetings to keep us informed. This helps us all and involves a minimal time commitment. A short write-up of what you learn is published in our Voter. Due to moves and travel, some of our core group have stepped back. We now have openings all over the county. This is a very interesting educational task. Please contact me. Olga Hernandez at [OAH@Vyndicar.com](mailto:OAH@Vyndicar.com)

**COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA TEAM MEMBERS**

Calling all people who like to share information! We are looking for folks who would like to help with communication projects, including posting and sharing on Facebook and Instagram, and writing press releases or filling out simple info forms for newspapers and media outlets. We've got a great team but are looking to add to our ranks. Join us and help spread the word about all the great things that are happening in our League! If you are interested or want more information, email Nancy Vaughn at [nancyvaughn411@gmail.com](mailto:nancyvaughn411@gmail.com)

**VOTE411.ORG TEAM MEMBER**

We have an exciting opportunity for League members to join the Volusia team that coordinates Vote411.org, the national League's tool for voters. You would be trained by Florida League experts to work with local candidates running for office to answer biographical and position questions and administer the database that results in publishing of their answers. Our Vote411 voter guide is our most powerful tool for voter education during elections. If you are interested in joining our team, or want more information, contact Nancy Nusbaum at [nusbanh@gmail.com](mailto:nusbanh@gmail.com)

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**UPCOMING LEAGUE MEETINGS AND EVENTS****April Hot Topic - *Land Conservation in Volusia County***

**Presenters:** Clay Ervin, Director, Growth and Resource Management, Volusia Co., Ginger Adair, Environmental Management Director, and Brad Burbaugh, Resource Stewardship Director, Volusia Co.

**When: Monday, April 3, 2023, at 5:30 pm**

**Where:** Ormond Beach Public Library, 30 S Beach St, Ormond Beach, FL 32174

Conserving what we love most about our county is on everyone's minds these days. We value the unique landscape of our county and we all seem to be concerned that it is changing constantly with the demands of development. Our speakers April 3rd will discuss how land is conserved in Volusia County, the history and the challenges faced today.

**Following the presentation, which is open to the public, we hope you will join us for dinner at:  
Lulu's, 30 S Atlantic Ave, Ormond Beach, FL 32176**

**Please RSVP to:** Jeanne Tanke by **March 31** - [jeanne622lwvvc@gmail.com](mailto:jeanne622lwvvc@gmail.com)

**April Meeting - *Climate Conversations from the Sea to the St. Johns***

**Presenters:** Lisa Rinaman, St. Johns Riverkeeper; Jason Evans, Assoc. Prof. of Environmental Science and Studies, Stetson University; Jenifer Rupert, Resilience Officer, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council

**When:** Saturday April 22, 2023, 10:30am – 1:30pm

**Where:** Sandra Stetson Aquatic Center, 2636 Alhambra Ave., DeLand, FL

To celebrate Earth Day, we will be at the Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience (IWER) at the Sandra Stetson Center on Lake Beresford. This beautiful center is a 10,000 square foot building and ten-acre natural area located along Lake Beresford in DeLand, Florida. The facility is named in honor of Sandra Stetson, who provided a \$6 million gift to support construction of the building and a botanical garden within the grounds. We will be partnering with IWER, St. Johns Riverkeeper, and the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council for a panel discussion which Vaughn will moderate. This panel is designed to foster interactive conversations between the panel and our audience regarding the changes in our environment that we are experiencing throughout our county and state. The latest scientific and regulatory advances will address these.

Afterwards, we will have lunch and there will be a mural dedication with tours of the facility. Details for this event will be in the Constant Contact and on our webpage: [www.LWVVC.org](http://www.LWVVC.org)

**2022-2023 Annual Meeting**

**Presenter:** Marilyn Crotty

**When:** Saturday, May 13, 2023, 10:30 am - 1:00 pm

**Where:** Palmetto Club, 1000 S Beach St, Daytona Beach, FL 32114

The Annual Meeting is our only business meeting of the year. Our business calendar begins July 1 and runs until June 30. So, this is in a sense a kickoff of our 2023-2024 new year.

We will be electing officers, voting on changes to the by-laws and accepting our League's Annual budget. We hope you will take this opportunity to review what we have been doing. Meet the leaders of the League who will be taking us forward and spend time with our fellow Leaguers.

Following the business part of the meeting our speaker, Marilyn Crotty will inspire us with her insights. Marilyn is a long-time member of the Seminole County League; past president of the Seminole County League and was also a State Board Member for 6 years. In addition, she is Executive Director of the League of Cities and a Consultant for the City of NSB Charter Review.

**After the presentation, we will be having lunch at the Palmetto Club. Cost for lunch is \$25 at the door.**

**Please RSVP by May 10**

Look for menu details in the Constant Contact and our webpage: [www.LWVVC.org](http://www.LWVVC.org)

Contact **Cathy Egley** at [jetski49@bellsouth.net](mailto:jetski49@bellsouth.net) for more details and to RSVP.

## Hot Topics - A Review of the 2023 Florida Legislative Session

**Presenter:** Maria Pecoraro McCorkle, Esquire

**When:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 5:30pm

**Where:** Ormond Beach Public Library, 30 S Beach St, Ormond Beach, FL 32174

Maria Pecoraro McCorkle previously spoke to the League on the U.S. Constitution in September, 2022. Maria was one of the law clerks for the Judges of the Fifth District Court of Appeals in downtown Daytona for several years and has taught classes on the Constitution.

By very popular demand, she has been invited back and has agreed to give an overview of the significant legislation passed in the Legislative Session meeting now and ending May 5, 2023. Florida is in the news almost daily mentioning what is happening in Tallahassee. This is a chance to review the results of the session.

As an added bonus, we are partnering with the Volusia Flagler Association for Women Lawyers. This will be a great opportunity you do not want to miss to get up to date on the significant recent changes in Florida's Laws, catch up with other League members, and meet new people.

**Following the presentation, which is open to the public, we hope you will join us for dinner at Thai Erawan, 219 E Granada Blvd, Ormond Beach, FL 32176**

**Please RSVP to:** Jeanne Tanke by May 20 - [jeanne622lwvvc@gmail.com](mailto:jeanne622lwvvc@gmail.com)

Be sure to let her know if you plan to join us at Thai Erawan

**All of the League meetings are open to the public. Feel free to invite guests.**

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## Action Team Reports

### MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

To those who renewed their 2023 membership – **Thank You!** Our League Chapter now has over 200 members. It is going to be a busy year. We need you! Thank you for your continued support!



### New Members 2023

Stephanie Brenner  
Cherise Cobb

Rebecca Katz  
Maura McKay  
Carol Gorski Buckels

## Getting to Know Your League

### *New and Current Members Are Invited*

**Join us on April 15<sup>th</sup>** as League Members share information about the League and our Volusia County Chapter. This is an opportunity for you to meet other members, learn about the League's mission in our community and choose what role you may want to play in League activities.

**Meet Action and Community Outreach Team chairs.** You will have a chance to ask them questions and talk with them about their Team's future plans.

**Let us know about yourself.** Do you have any previous League experience? Perhaps there is an interest or skill you want to share with us.

**Interested Friends?** If you have friends who want to learn about the League, they are welcome to join us. Just let us know when you sign up.

**Where:** Olga Hernandez, 1995 Hawks Nest Drive, Port Orange, FL 32128

**When: April 15<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm**

We look forward to the opportunity to meet you and learn more about your interests. A Constant Contact email will have the invitation and link for you to sign up by April 10 to attend on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Or RSVP to Judy Gordon – [jbgordon@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jbgordon@cfl.rr.com). A confirmation email will be sent to you as well as a copy of the *Member Handbook*.

**Future Getting to Know Your League Programs** – there will be a session in Deland in the fall.

--Judy Gordon, Membership Chair

## VOTER SERVICE ACTION TEAM – Upcoming Dates

The next community event we will attend is Juneteeth, June 17 in Cypress Park on Engram Boulevard, Daytona. The high school program with the Supervisor of Elections office will be planned over the summer for implementation in September or October this year. In the meantime, we are contacting retirement, independent and assisted living communities for opportunities to register, update and request vote by mail ballots.

The Florida Presidential Preference Primary is March 19, 2024 with deadlines to register February 20 and to request a vote-by-mail ballot, March 9 2024. As we know, this election is part of the presidential nominating process for Florida's two major political parties. Municipal elections in 2023 are in Port Orange, Ponce Inlet, and Lake Helen.

--Nancy Nusbaum, Chair

## OUR NATURAL RESOURCES TEAM— Protecting Land and Water Resources

Nancy Vaughn represented the Natural Resources Team on a trip to Tallahassee with Secretary, Nicki Junkins, Legislative Chair, Clay Meek, and member Vivian Lord. During the LWVFL Lobby Days on 3/7 and 3/8. We were able to meet with almost all our legislators to establish/reinforce relationships and share our

legislative priorities. Although some good work had been done in the past with conservation, the overall outlook is one of undermining home rule regarding water quality and land protection.

The Natural Resource Team held our monthly meeting on **Thursday, 3/9 at Bicentennial Park in Ormond By The Sea**. Among the topics we discussed were the problematic legislation coming out of Tallahassee as well as upcoming issues such as the secant walls along the beach in OBTS, dogs on that beach, and researching an ordinance to prevent cigarettes on the beach.



Pam Novy, Nancy Vaughn, Carolyn West, Suze Peace, Pattie Gertenbach, and Loretta Clemente.



Pattie Gertenbach, Deb Ulmer, Pam Novy, Nancy Vaughn, and Carolyn West.



Pattie Gertenbach, Suze Peace, Fred Peace, Joyce Palmer, Melissa Lammers, and Nancy Vaughn

During Earth Month in April, we will have two meetings. The first will be **on 4/3/23 at 5:30pm at the Ormond Beach Public Library**. NR Team member Melissa Lammers will be introducing/moderating Volusia County's Clay Ervin, Director, Growth and Resource Management and Brad Burbaugh, Resource Stewardship Director. They will be speaking about Land Conservation in Volusia County.

On **4/22/23 from 10am to 3:00pm we will be having an Earth Day Celebration at the Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience (IWER)** at the Sandra Stetson Center on Lake Beresford. We will be partnering with IWER, St. Johns Riverkeeper, and the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council for a panel discussion "Climate Conversations from the Sea to the St. Johns" which Vaughn will moderate. The panel will feature Jason Evans, Assoc. Prof. of Environmental Science and Studies, Lisa Rinaman, St. Johns Riverkeeper, and Jenifer Rupert, Resilience Officer, ECFRPC. After which we will be having lunch and there will be a mural dedication, tabling opportunities, with tours of the facility.

As we will be so busy in April with our events **we will meet virtually, on April 13**, time TBD.

To stay up-to-date, follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/lwvvc), and visit our website at [lwvvc.org](https://lwvvc.org)

--Nancy Vaughn, Chair

### **LWVVC SPEAKERS BUREAU—Offering Guest Speakers and Relevant Topics**

Congratulations to the nine Speakers Bureau members who kicked off Women's History Month by presenting an informative program highlighting a very small fraction of the outstanding women in Florida who worked tirelessly to make our home a better place and to be the voice of those who need help.

Currently the Speakers Bureau is reviewing PowerPoints being sent to us from the Florida league for use presenting programs. They concern public education, school choice, and limits to citizen involvement in

Florida. We will be sending out a list soon of topics we will offer to the public who wish to engage us for programs.

Pat Drago, representing our Speakers Bureau, will be presenting to Tiger Bay on April 13, 2023 at the Halifax River Yacht Club.

We would love to have more league members involved in the Speakers Bureau. Please contact Ann Smith at [embassy1@bellsouth.net](mailto:embassy1@bellsouth.net) or 386-235-3957.

--Ann Smith, Chair

### **EDUCATION ACTION TEAM – What is new with charter schools?**

The Education Action Team met Monday, March 20th at 4:00 pm at the VUE Building. The guest speaker was Sandra Tweedy, Volusia schools charter schools coordinator. Accompanying her was Rachel Hazel, deputy superintendent. They were asked to bring the team up to date on the regulations governing charter schools, and how they are administered in Volusia County. There were ten members in attendance, including former school board member, Linda Cuthbert.

They heard about:

- Curriculum offerings, how they differ, and assessments
- Teacher and School administrator requirements
- Student accommodation for special needs and contract services provided through the district
- Building safety requirements and meeting hurricane standards

Volusia's charter schools work well with the district and there is much cooperation between the agencies. There are currently 7 charter schools, but Easter Seals, which serves Pre-K, is going to close. Those students will then be served in their appropriate neighborhood school.

All who were present are concerned about the future of traditional public schools and how they can best meet the needs of future students. There was discussion around the financial transparency of charters, hiring practices, student lotteries and waiting lists as well as how students or families can be asked to leave a charter school if there are problems.

Nicki Junkins then briefed the team on her recent participation in Lobby Days in Tallahassee and how Volusia's representation is committed to supporting the new voucher plan contained in HB1 and SB202. Pat Drago shared an article in the Observer regarding the committees in the process of reviewing books under challenge. She asked team members to write the school board members as individuals, not as league members, and asked that they follow the process that was adopted for the purpose of addressing book challenges. If the process needs to be modified, it will be done based on what was learned.

THE NEXT MEETING IS APRIL 27, AT 3 PM AT THE VUE BUILDING.

--Pat Drago, Chair

### **LEGISLATIVE ACTION TEAM – LOBBY DAYS AND UPCOMING MEETING**

Members of the Legislative Action Team were in Tallahassee on March 7 and 8, 2023, to participate in the State League Lobby Days. Nicki Junkins, Nancy Vaughn, Vivian Lord, and Clay Meek were present from Volusia County among 50 to 60 League members from throughout Florida in Tallahassee. On March 7, the State

League gave pointers and suggestions on effective lobbying as well as an overview of pending Florida House and Senate Bills within the State League's four selected priority areas for the year: 1. Voting Rights and Election Reform; 2. Reproductive Health; 3. Education; and 4. Natural Resources.

The Volusia County Team members took the opportunity to watch Legislative Committee hearings. We were able to arrange and attend meetings with several of Volusia County's Legislative delegations to discuss the State League positions on the priority topics as they applied to Volusia County. Countless other organizations and individuals from across Florida were also in Tallahassee attempting to secure any time possible with all Senators and Representatives. Securing time with just one Senator or Representative in that environment was a challenge. However, in a testament to the League's collective voice and influence, Senator Tom Wright and Representatives Chase Tramont, Tom Leek, and Stan McClain all gave time to Volusia County's Legislative team members—your membership in the Volusia County League of Women Voters matters!



*Pictured above are Volusia's League members with Senator Wright.*

*Go to the League's Facebook page for other photos and information about Volusia's involvement in Lobby Days:*

<https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvotersofvolusiacounty/>

The event was very positive for Volusia County's League. Volusia County was well represented among the League Chapters of the state and also had a strong presence with the Legislative Delegation in the House and Senate by meeting with two thirds of the Legislators that represent Volusia County. All who attended agreed that it was an interesting, educational, and useful endeavor. All League members are encouraged to consider planning to attend Lobby Days next year to help Volusia's League's voice be heard even better.

**Up next will be a meeting of the Legislative Action Team at the City Island Library starting at 5:30 p.m., on March 30, 2023.** Please consider coming to the meeting where we can discuss the takeaway from Lobby Days in greater detail. We can exchange thoughts and suggestions on future activities of the team in the coming months. All League members are welcome. An RSVP to [claymeek@yahoo.com](mailto:claymeek@yahoo.com) is not required, but very appreciated, to plan for attendance. A similar meeting will be planned for the west side of the County in the next few weeks.

--Clay Meek, Chair

## **GROWTH MANAGEMENT ACTION TEAM – Protecting A1A**

The Growth Management Action Team met on March 14th and reviewed the status of various efforts in Volusia communities to address resiliency planning and recovery from Hurricanes Ian and Nicole. The Florida Department of Transportation's A1A Resiliency Plan meeting in Ormond Beach was attended by several members. They discussed and agreed that the recommendations presented served FDOT's primary purpose of protecting A1A but were unsure of the plan's implications for long term sustainability.

Members also discussed the progress being made by the City of New Smyrna Beach on its flooding study which they anticipate will be available to the public in April. Lastly, they learned that the federal government awarded the city of Daytona Beach \$3 million for the Nova Canal Flood Mitigation Study to be conducted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers.

Many overtures being made by the Florida legislature to further minimize the effectiveness of local comprehensive plans and many of the proposed legislative bills are categorized as state preemption of local control by local governments in favor of decision making at the state level.

In lieu of an April GMAT meeting, members are encouraged to attend the April 3 and April 22 League events (see the Calendar at the end of this publication).

The City of Daytona Beach's Shoreline and Climate Change presentation is on Wednesday, April 12 at 5:30 at the Yvonne Scarlett Golden Cultural and Educational Center, 1000 Vine Street in Daytona Beach. Please attend!

-- Saralee Morrissey, Chair

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION TEAM - Update**

After a prolonged period of inactivity, we are looking forward to putting together an engaging and effective social justice action team over the next couple of months. Our mission will be to support the League's education and advocacy efforts at a time when the very notion of social justice - that all individuals deserve equal rights, opportunities, and treatment - is under attack.

Our efforts in Florida are particularly important as we are currently the epicenter of this all-out assault on our society's commitment to basic fairness. A central tactic in this attack aims to modify, limit, and downplay information about our history of past social injustices. We can help the League counter this attack by seeking to educate voters about the real history of social injustice, its social and economic impact on the lives of all of us, and the importance of continuing to work toward a more just, and thus more, democratic society in the future.

While I have long been an advocate for social justice issues, I am still just one person, in my mid-seventies, with limited skills, experience, and time. To make this group successful will require plenty of help from those of you who can contribute your time, skills, and knowledge to the effort. If you are interested in taking up this challenge, please contact me (Kitty Garber) by email at [garbercns@aol.com](mailto:garbercns@aol.com).

--Kitty Garber, Chair

## OBSERVER CORPS REPORTS—Our Observer Corps Needs YOU!

**Olga Hernandez - Observer Corps Coordinator**

We need you. The LWV Volusia Observer Corp tries to keep abreast of what is happening locally in our 16 cities, the county, and the school board. We need members willing to observe these local jurisdiction meetings to keep us informed. This helps us all and is a small-time commitment. A short write-up of what you learn is published in The Voter. Due to moves and travel some of our core group have stepped back. We now have openings all over the county. This is an interesting and educational task. Below is a list of the meetings we aim to cover. As you can see, we have plenty of vacancies. If you live in any of these areas, please consider being an observer. Please contact me. Olga Hernandez at [OAH@Vyndicar.com](mailto:OAH@Vyndicar.com), Coordinator.

Observer Corp	OBSERVER	Meeting Day
Volusia Co Council	Vacant	1st & 3rd Tuesday
Daytona Beach Commission	Vacant	1st & 3rd Wednesday
Daytona Bch Shores Council	Vacant	2nd & 4th Tuesday
DeBary Council	Vacant	1st Wednesday
Deland Commission	Vacant	Mondays, weekly
Deltona Commission	Vacant	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday
Edgewater Council	Linda Mojer	1st Monday 2nd & 4th
Holly Hills Commission	Vacant	Monday
Lake Helen Commission	Vacant	2nd Thursday 2nd & 4th
New Smyrna Commission	Nancy Nusbaum	Tuesday 2nd & 4th
Oak Hill Commission	Vacant	Monday
Orange City Council	Vacant	2nd Monday
Ormond Beach Commission	Susan Bayley (traveling)	1st & 3rd Tuesday 2nd & 4th
Pierson Town Council	Vacant	Tuesday
Port Orange	Karol Rainier	1st & 3rd Tuesday
Ponce Inlet	Vacant	2nd Thursday
South Daytona	Olga	2nd Tuesday
School Board	Ann Harrell	4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday

## South Daytona

### Olga Hernandez, Observer

Like many local governments, the city is worried about proposed legislation in Tallahassee seeking to diminish home rule. They ask their Delegation to stop these bills.

A development on South Palmetto which was previously approved for a 14-story building has now amended to single family residency. The council found that a tall building would be out of place in a mostly residential area. The original developer never broke ground.

The Small 5+ square mile city is continuing its effort to modernize and provide amenities for its 13,000 citizens. They have stepped up code enforcement efforts to get compliance. They are planning to continue to bury all wiring on Ridgewood/US 1 and have begun their plans to replace all city water meters with more modern technology. A new baseball themed playground was recently inaugurated. Easter egg hunt will be at Reed Canal Park on April 1st. They will hold 'Sparkle Days' on April 14-24 to get residents to dispose of unneeded items, furniture, building material etc. This is done by the city to 'spring clean' the area. The city has also released their new city seal, honoring the old but incorporating the new. The new logo incorporated a new slogan "Small City, Big Possibilities".

## Port Orange – Port Orange City Council Meetings

### Karol Rainier, Observer

At the January 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, Mayor Don Burnette announced that newly elected Councilwoman Kat Atwood from District 2 resigned her seat effective immediately. In the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, after an interview/questioning process, Interim Council Member Tracy Grubbs was selected from six applicants. A Special Election for District 2 to permanently fill the position will be held August 22, 2023.

Residents of Harbor Oaks subdivision expressed concerns about speeding in the neighborhood and requested speed tables on East Bayshore Drive, Main Street, and Riverside Drive. They presented petitions signed by neighbors in support of this modification. City Manager Wayne Clark said that once the traffic study is completed, staff would present options to Council. Currently speed bumps are not allowed by City Ordinance. However, there are other designs to slow traffic that wouldn't require an ordinance change.

Warren Carman, Chairman of the Port Orange Police Pension Board, discussed details of the pension plan. Councilmembers are concerned about the rate of return for the Police Pension Plan.

The council held a Town Hall meeting January 19 to present information on recovery efforts from Hurricane Ian and Tropical Storm Nicole, Riverwalk projects, and the opening of the newly expanded and renovated Port Orange Recreation Center.

Two acres at 662 Herbert Street was rezoned from two-family residential to single-family residential.

The February 28<sup>th</sup> City Council Workshop received an update on the "Utility Rate Study – Water, Wastewater, Reclaimed Water Rates, Miscellaneous Service Changes and Fees, Building Rate Study and Municipal Impact Fees". It has been nine years since the city evaluated water/sewage fees and almost 20 years since the city evaluated impact fees. Consideration of the new fee structures will be presented at the April 18, 2023 City Council meeting.

## LWVVC Calendar for April-May 2023

**Monday, April 3, 2023 at 5:30 pm. Hot Topic - *Land Conservation in Volusia County*.** Presenters: Clay Ervin, Director, Growth and Resource Management, Volusia Co. and Brad Burbaugh, Resource Stewardship Director, Volusia Co. at Ormond Beach Public Library, 30 S Beach St, Ormond Beach, FL 32174. **RSVP** to Jeanne Tanke - [jeanne622lwvvc@gmail.com](mailto:jeanne622lwvvc@gmail.com). Optional dinner at Lulu's, 30 S Atlantic Ave, Ormond Beach, FL.

**Thursday, April 13, 2023 time TDB Natural Resources Action Team** meeting. The team meeting will be by Zoom. Email Nancy Vaughn for more information - [nancyvaughn411@msn.com](mailto:nancyvaughn411@msn.com).

**Saturday, April 15 2:00-4:00 pm, Getting to Know Your League**, at Olga Hernandez, 1995 Hawks Nest Dr., Port Orange, FL. Attending? **RSVP** to Judy Gordon [jbgordon@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jbgordon@cfl.rr.com) **by April 10**.

**Wednesday, April 19, 4:00 pm, LWVVC Board meeting.** All League members are invited to attend. Location: Votran, 950 Big Tree Rd., South Daytona, FL

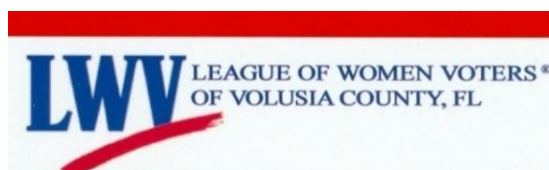
**Saturday, April 22, at 10:30 am – 3:00 pm, Celebrating Earth Day - *Climate Conversations from the Sea to the St. Johns*.** Presenters: Lisa Rinaman, St. Johns Riverkeeper, Jason Evans, Assoc. Prof. of Environmental Science and Studies, Stetson University, Jenifer Rupert, Resilience Officer, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council. To be held at Sandra Stetson Aquatic Center, 2636 Alhambra Ave., DeLand, FL. Details in Constant Contact and [www.LWVVC.org](http://www.LWVVC.org)

**Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 3:00 pm, The Education Action Team** will meet at VUE, 1381 Educators Rd, Daytona Beach, FL 32124. For more information contact Pat Drago - [patddrago@aol.com](mailto:patddrago@aol.com).

**Saturday, May 13, 2023, 10:30- 1:00 -Annual Meeting**, speaker following the business meeting, Marilyn Crotty. Location: Palmetto Club, 1000 S Beach St, Daytona Beach, FL 32114 Lunch will be served, details in the Constant Contact and [www.LWVVC.org](http://www.LWVVC.org). **RSVP by May 10** to Cathy Egley -- [jetski49@bellsouth.net](mailto:jetski49@bellsouth.net)

**Wednesday, May 17, 2023, 5:00 pm, LWVVC Board meeting.** All League members are invited to attend. Location: Votran, 950 Big Tree Rd., South Daytona, FL

**Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 5:30 pm -Hot Topics - *A Review of the 2023 Florida Legislative Session*** Speaker will be Maria Pecoraro McCorkle. This is a joint meeting with the Volusia Flagler Association for Women Lawyers. To be held at Ormond Beach Public Library, 30 S Beach St, Ormond Beach, FL. Optional dinner at Thai Erawn, 219 E Granada Blvd, Ormond Beach, FL. **RSVP to:** Jeanne Tanke **by May 20** - [jeanne622lwvvc@gmail.com](mailto:jeanne622lwvvc@gmail.com).



### LWVVC Board Officers:

Cathy Egley: President

Carla Christianson: 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President     Saralee Morrissey: 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

Nicki Junkins: Secretary     Ken Fischer: Treasurer

**The Voter:** Editor: Alicia Keenon -- Editorial Assistants: Carla Christianson & Judy Gordon