



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF VOLUSIA COUNTY
MAY 13 ANNUAL MEETING
SUMMARY





Dear Members,

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County annual meeting was on May 13 this year. Here is the booklet that contains all the pertinent information for the annual meeting, which we are sharing with our membership instead of The Voter.

In this publication, you will find all the issues that were voted upon, including the new budget, the new board of directors, the new nominating committee, and the readoption of program positions. In addition, you will find annual reports of all the League's action teams and committees. With this information, you will be up to date on the layout for the upcoming year!

It is time to renew dues now! Go to <https://my.lwv.org/florida/volusia-county/get-involved-through-membership-join-or-renew-today> -- You can use your credit card online or you can also download the PDF version of the [Membership Form](#) to send by mail.

Outgoing President's Remarks

Dear Members:

As most of you know, I have only been the President since January, and what an experience that has been! During these short months I have learned so much. While this is not my final work with the League, I will assume my elected position on the board as First Vice President. What really makes me happy is I have so much confidence in the person I'm passing the gavel to – Nicki Junkins. I am so proud of what the board has started through strategic planning and our work to build depth of leadership. There are great things to come for our League! Thank you for the honor of serving you!

Regards,

Cathy Egley

Incoming President's Remarks

As your incoming president, I am looking forward to working with each of you as we continue our important work. The League of Women Voters has a storied 103-year history of registering and educating voters on important issues so they will be prepared to cast an informed ballot. In today's highly partisan environment, our non-partisan voice is more critical than ever. Our Voter Service team is actively involved in the community registering and educating voters and our action teams are busy researching issues that impact our community and sharing fact-based information with the public. Their work is summarized in this edition of The Voter and we invite you to join any of those efforts in whatever way you feel comfortable.

Over the past year, our board has been in discussion about ways to broaden our membership to better reflect our community, and to find ways to better serve our current members. We also recognize the need to develop future leaders who are prepared to guide the League in the coming decades. The LWVVC Board will be working on a plan to accomplish those goals at our planning meeting in July. We welcome any suggestions from you, our members, and encourage you to contact us at mail@lwvvc.org with your ideas.

It is truly an honor to return as president of LWVVC, and I look forward to seeing you at our events this year.

In League, Nicki Junkins

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

- Welcome and Announcements
- President's Address
- Adopt Agenda (p. 2) and Rules (p. 1)
- Appoint Parliamentarian
- Report on Annual Meetings 2022 Minutes (p. 3-4)
- Appoint 2023 Minutes Chair and Committee
- Treasurer's Report
- Consideration of Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 (p. 5-6)
 - Adoption of Budget
- Consideration of Program Positions
 - Re-adoption of Current Positions (p.7-9)
- Consideration of Bylaws Change (p. 9)
- Report of the Nominating Committee (p. 10)
- Nomination Slate Biographies (p. 10-13)
 - Elect New LWVVC Board Members
- LWVVC Action Team Annual Reports (p. 14-21)
- Meeting Adjourn



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of VOLUSIA COUNTY

Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 14, 2022

LPGA Ballroom, 1000 Champions Dr., Daytona Beach

MINUTES

First Vice-President Susan Bayley called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. She referred members to the printed Annual Meeting Booklet which included the day's agenda, meeting rules, the proposed budget for the next fiscal year, program positions, the nominating committee report and several action team reports. Bayley officially recognized and thanked member Sandra Horikami for her excellent work in publishing The Voter and this year's Annual Meeting Booklet. The 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes (page 3-4) had been reviewed and accepted by the Board at the August 2021 Board meeting.

Agenda and Rules of the Meeting:

Ann Smith moved to accept the Rules of the Meeting as printed, Saralee Morrissey seconded the motion, and it passed.

Gwen Azama-Edwards moved to accept the agenda as printed, Olga Hernandez seconded the motion, and it passed.

Parliamentarian and Secretary: Bayley appointed Ann Smith as Parliamentarian. She appointed Betty Johnson to take the Minutes and Olga Hernandez and Nancy Vaughn to assist as reviewers.

Treasurer's Report: Bayley noted that LWVVC's budget year does not end until June 30. The year-end report will be presented at the August Board meeting and printed in the September Voter. Per the bylaws, "the Budget Committee shall study the books and records as prepared by the Treasurer and submit a report and recommendation to the Board within 90 days of June 30th." Treasurer Deborah Noah gave an update on the current status of the budget, pointing out the Politicos income fund line is listed under Voter Service income, as the Politicos event was not held due to the pandemic restrictions.

Consideration of budget for 2022-2023: Treasurer Noah went over lines in the proposed budget printed in the booklet and in the earlier Voter. After asking for questions, Noah moved on behalf of the Budget Action Team to accept the 2022-2023 LWVVC budget as printed. The motion passed.

Membership Renewals: Bayley reminded members that it is time for current members to renew their League membership. Dues remain the same as last year: \$60 for single members, and \$90 for Family membership (2 family members living at the same address). Dues for students have been eliminated by the local, state and national leagues to encourage younger people to become involved. This year, our membership team is encouraging members to renew online with PayPal through our website at lwvvc.org.

Consideration of Program: Bayley directed attention to LWVVC's agreed Program Positions which had also been printed in the April-May Voter. The Board did not receive any recommendations to change the Program nor did the Board recommend any changes to the adopted positions. Any member interested in future Position changes is directed to review Article VIII Section 3 of our chapter Bylaws, which outlines

the procedures. Nicki Junkins moved to re-adopt the Program Positions as printed, Hernandez seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Bylaws: Bayley reported that the Bylaws Review Team, chaired by Wes Lewis, reviewed the current bylaws, and reported to the Board that there are no recommended changes.

Nominating Committee Report: Ann Harrell, Chair of the Nominating Committee, moved to accept the proposed slate of officers and directors. Bayley asked twice if there were any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, she asked all those in favor of the proposed slate to signify by saying yes or no if opposed. The slate of officers and directors as proposed was passed. Bayley expressed appreciation to the Nominating Committee for their work in preparing this slate:

Second Vice-President: Cathy Egley (2022-2024)

Secretary: Nicki Junkins (2022-2024)

Treasurer: Kenneth Fischer (2022-2024)

Elected Director: Olga Hernandez (2022-2024)

Elected Director: Nancy Nusbaum (2022-2024)

Nominating Committee 2022-2023: Chairperson: Monique Fischer); Patricia Cosby and Ann Harrell

Other Business and Announcements:

Nicki Junkins spoke for the Membership Committee, urging renewals and reminding members that most of the membership fee goes to LWV state and national to support our national and state programs. Donations for LWVVC can also be accepted.

Ann Smith reminded members to save the date of August 6th to attend our School Board Forum.

Nancy Vaughn spoke of the Natural Resources Team efforts to recycle campaign signs. Member Suze Peace is leading the initiative this year.

Smith asked to honor Suze Peace as the person behind the play “Ladies for Liberty” and for organizing the March for Women’s Vote before the play. Peace donated all proceeds to LWVVC Voter Service.

Peace was presented with a certificate recognizing her for her efforts.

Cathy Egley thanked Susan Bayley for stepping up to lead due to the inability of President Mary Ann Connors to attend.

Nancy Nusbaum said that due to new Florida regulations, those registering voters need to update their training and take an updated test to be certified to register voters.

Bayley announced the end of today’s business meeting, and thanked all those who contributed to the recommendations made this morning. She pointed out that the decisions made will allow us to move forward with confidence in our future. She then declared the Annual Business adjourned at 11:35 a.m. and welcomed guest speaker Mark Lane of the Daytona Beach News Journal.

Respectfully submitted, Betty D. Johnson, Secretary

Reviewed by Co-Editors: Olga Hernandez, Nancy Vaughn

Proposed LWVVC Budget 2023-24

The Budget Committee proposed the following Budget Recommendations for 2023-2024. The LWVVC Board approves and recommends approval of the 2023-2024 proposed budget to the general membership.

Description	22/23 Budget	2023-24 Proposed Budget
INCOME:		
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	-	
TOTAL INCOME	25,080.00	23,606.00
EXPENSES:		
Operating Expenses	1,963.00	2,114.00
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
LWVVC Team Expense	200.00	155.00
LWV National Convention	1,000.00	800.00
Meeting/Event Expense	510.00	510.00
Programs-Handouts	160.00	160.00

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

Voter Services Expense	2,300.00	2,800.00
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
Voter Service Reserve		4,835.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	25,080.00	23,606.00

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

LWVVC PROGRAM 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.

- LWWVC 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.
- LWWVC supports extending and improving public transportation to create better local and regional connectivity.
- LWWVC supports requiring that all public transit stops adhere to Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- LWWVC supports land-use changes that will encourage the use of efficient public transportation.

LWWVC Bylaw Change

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

Changes are indicated as follows: deletions are in bold and crossed out; additions are underlined and 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 LWWVC 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.

The Nominating Committee Report

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

Nominated Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee

2023-2025

PRESIDENT	Nicki Junkins
FIRST VICE- PRESIDENT	Cathy Egley
DIRECTOR	Pat Drago
DIRECTOR	Nancy Vaughn
DIRECTOR	Saralee Morrissey

2023-2024

SECOND VICE- PRESIDENT	Clay Meek
SECRETARY	Deb Ulmer

NOMINATING COMMITTEE	Monique Fischer, chair
NOMINATING COMMITTEE	Pat Cosby
NOMINATING COMMITTEE	Vickie Presley

Nominee Biographies



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 quite a few 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 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.



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.

Annual Reports of Action Teams and Committees

LWVVC Membership Committee



Member Count - Our League has 209 LWVVC Members, of those, 34 have become new members since June of 2022.

“Getting to Know Your League” In October, new LWVVC members and guests were welcomed at a lovely and informative afternoon at Nicki Junkin’s home in Deland. League President, Cathy Egley, began the program followed by the team leaders who presented what their groups accomplished so far and plans for the upcoming year. New members spoke of their experiences, expectations and interests or skills they would like to share. This was followed by a social hour of lively conversations during which new members were able to learn more about our league and upcoming events.



Future Getting to Know Your League sessions: The next orientation is planned for the fall. A Constant Contact email will have the invitation and link for you to sign up.

Greet and Meet Our Volusia League

League member, Bonnie Friedman, held a **Greet and Meet** for her Victoria Gardens HOA. Nicki Junkins and Cathy Egley presented information about our League. Three of the attendees are now members. Presenting to HOAs is a good recruitment approach.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

To those who renewed their 2023 membership – **Thank You!**

It is going to be a busy next year! We need you! Please renew your membership for 2024! Thank you for your continued support!

The membership year is **July 2023 – June 2024**. You are welcome to begin your renewal online at LWVVC.org in May of 2023 for the upcoming year. We offer the online option for both new and renewing members who can use either a credit card or PayPal to join. And of course, those who want to continue renewing by mail may either print the renewal form from the website or request a form from [Judy Gordon](#) to then enclose with a check and mail to: LWVVC, PO Box 9695, Daytona Beach, FL 32120.


Judy Gordon, Membership Chair

Program Committee

During this last year we had an amazing diversity of programs that touched on so many of the issues we as voters care about.

Thank you for supporting these events. We hope you found them informative. Many people, working together, make our programs happen. The Action Team Leaders arranged for most of our speakers. Many thanks to Clay Meek, Nicki Junkins, Ann Smith, Cathy Egley, Saralee Morrissey, Pat Drago, Ken Fischer, Nancy Vaughn, and Melissa Lammers.

The venues and meals were arranged by either Jeanne Tanke or Cathy Egley. There are many others who are a part of the effort for these events. The membership team has been on hand with coffee when it was possible and gives out the name tags. Our publicity team worked to bring you information about what is coming up and after recording of our events, getting the video posted on our YouTube Channel.

Thank you for all the hard work to bring us these programs. If you missed an event, be sure to check out the video. Go to LWVVC.org and scroll to the bottom then click on the YouTube icon. 

Many hands made the work easier, but it was your time and energy that made these events happen. Our deep appreciation to all of you.

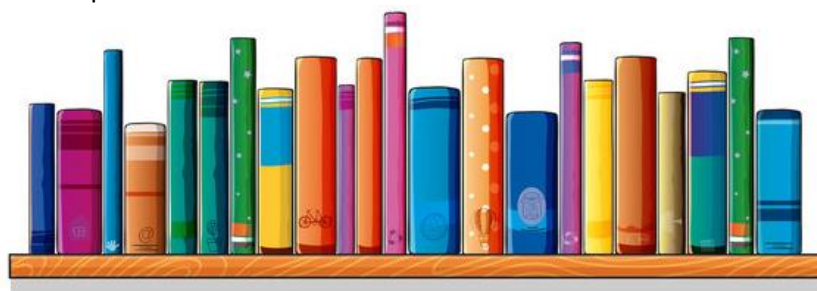
Carla Christianson, Program Chair

Education Action Team

The Education Action Team, led by Chair Pat Drago had a busy year starting with a School Board Candidates Forum in August 2022. Candidates for Districts 1, 3, and 5 were invited. Debates were held for Districts 1 and 3 with good attendance and candidate participation. One of the candidates for District 5 declined, so there was no debate for that seat.

The Education Team meets almost monthly, and members followed the school board races as well as other races during the election season. The team made its recommendation on education for legislative priority setting. One of the team's concerns at the start of the school year was staffing shortages. This issue was followed throughout the year. One of the team members, Elizabeth Albert, is executive director of VUE (Volusia United Educators) and has kept the group updated on this topic. The team is also concerned that more and more veteran and new teachers are leaving the profession.

Another concern that actively engaged members is the book challenges, both for the classroom curriculum and media center availability. Members were encouraged to volunteer for the district book challenge committees. Several members did join and can speak to the procedure, which was modified by the district late in the process.



Education team members have been concerned about learning loss and the availability of remediation for students recovering from the changes made during the Covid 19 pandemic. Rachel Hazel, Deputy Superintendent of Volusia County Schools, addressed the general membership on this topic. At a different meeting, Chris Smith, media services coordinator, addressed the general membership on Volusia's procedures for book challenges.

Members of the team made a deliberate attempt to speak to individual teachers about what was happening in their school and classrooms to gauge the current school climate. The group continues to be concerned about a growing shortage of classroom teachers.

As the legislative session opened, team members wanted accurate information on school choice in Volusia and invited Sandra Tweedy, charter school coordinator for Volusia County Schools, to address the group. The talk was informative and many questions were answered about what was happening in Volusia's charter schools.

Education Action Team members are:

Pat Drago, chair	Miriam Hughey-Guy	Nicki Junkins	Elizabeth Albert
Lena Ellis	Claudia Roth	Judy Conte	Cass Holladay
Saralee Morrissey	Linda Cuthbert	Monique Fischer	Kim Short
Uilez Semper	Jenifer Kelley	Ann Smith	Sandra Jones
Patricia Cosby	Constance Lockett		

Social Justice Action Team

At the request of Susan Bayley, former president of the Volusia County League of Women Voters, I agreed to serve as chair of this important action group only a few months ago. The group had not been active for a while; therefore, I cannot report anything that happened before reorganizing the group in March of this year.

Establishing a Membership List

My first task was to develop an accurate membership list for the group and establish effective means of communication. Judy Gordon, in her capacity as League membership chair, provided me with a list of members who had expressed interest in social justice. I reached out to the entire list to determine if the email addresses were accurate, to find out which of the nearly sixty people on the list were still interested in participating, to introduce myself briefly with my background in social justice issues, and to establish areas of interest and limitations or restrictions in participation.

There were about a dozen positive responses and I wanted to get started as soon as possible.

Looking at the 60th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Events of 1963

In a follow up email, I suggested to organize some of our efforts around the 60th anniversary of a pivotal year in America's struggle for a more just society. The events of 1963 culminated in the August March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom—an event that brought together disparate civil rights organizations in a remarkable show of unity, resolve, and nonviolence. It is credited with making it possible to pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964 the following summer. The relatively few remaining veterans of that movement are now in their 80s. If we are to hear their personal stories, now is the time to do it. These stories are deeply relevant to our current situation. Could there be a better time to present the stories of the past when current efforts seem to be aimed at suppressing or minimizing past social injustices? In addition to learning about history from a personal perspective, what can we learn about how to work cohesively and effectively against seemingly insurmountable odds?

The response from our group was overwhelmingly positive. In fact, one member of the group said she was at the 1963 March and later worked with an advocacy group aimed at alleviating poverty. To consider the proposal and other options, I hope to conduct a group meeting in May via Zoom that will allow the entire group to become acquainted and express their opinions and ideas for moving forward. I hope that we will be able to agree on an approach to using the 60th anniversary to educate ourselves and others about the history of the struggle for social justice as well as a means of studying how to advocate effectively for social justice in our current situation.

Kitty Garber, Action Team Chair

Voter Service Action Team

The Voter Service Team was focused on public venues for distribution of information and voter registration, updates of digital and printed voter education material, targeting of underserved communities, and promoting voter turnout.

Emphasis at public venues was on registration and “vote your way” in the 2022 midterm election:

In person on election day, early voting days, in a secure drop box, or through the mail. We talked to hundreds of people about the three voting options. We found that many people were registered and received a ballot at home in the last election. They benefited by learning that after 2022 they will have to request a ballot at home every year. Others benefited by engaging with us about vote by mail facts. People were enthusiastic to have our refrigerator magnet card promoting “get your ballot at home” and “save the dates” for voting deadlines in 2022.

REGISTRATION EVENTS

April 2023 Black Heritage Trail Festival

February 2023 Mardi Gras and the Wildlife Festival

January 2023 Hispanic Festival

October 2022 Father Lopez High School, Port Orange Family Days

September 2022 Reproductive Rights Summit, NSB farmers market, Springhill TURN Festival, Stetson Citizenship Day, Mainland High School, Seabreeze High School

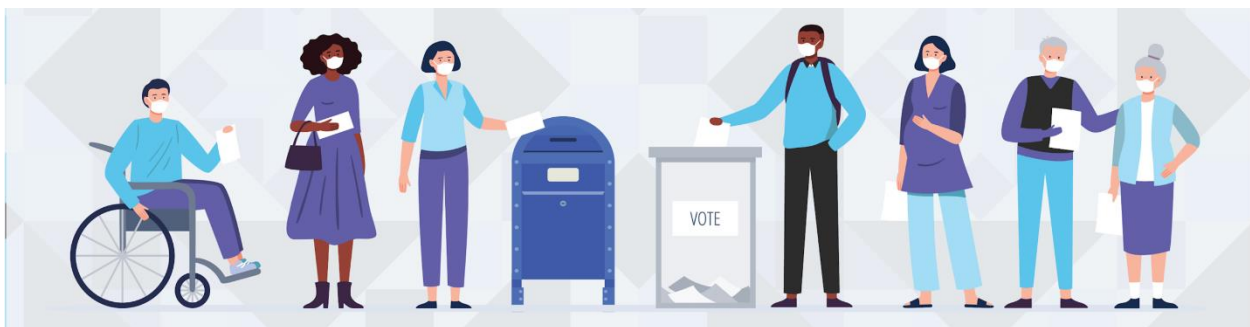
August 2022 Daytona and Ormond libraries (Speakers events), Freewill Baptist church (Speakers event)

June 2022 Juneteenth, John Knox Village (Speakers event), St. Paul Missionary church (Speakers event), Marina Grande (Speakers event), and the Deland library (Speakers event), Spring Garden Park DeLeon Springs (candidate forum)

May 2022 Faith Temple Church

April 2022 Pierson Children’s Festival, AARP at UU congregation Ormond, ERAU (Embry Riddle)

March 2022 Margaritaville volunteer day



VOTE411

Vote411 was coordinated by Nicki Junkins and Nancy Nusbaum with essential contributions from Observer and Education team members and Susan Bayley, Gail Merritt, Olga Hernandez, Susan Pate, Joyce Monaco, Pat DeSalvo, Linda Mojer, Janet Babbitt, Karol Rainier, Pam Phillips, Vivian Lord, Jeanne Tanke, and Kathie Eichinger

OTHER ACTIVITIES - Jeanne Tanke led us in the postcard campaign to notify returning citizens of their rights. Postcards were addressed and mailed to over 1200 returning citizens.

With Vivian Lord in the lead, we collaborated with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ormond Beach to offer voter education and registration to churches in underserved communities. We sent letters to over 30 church officials notifying them of changes in regulations limiting ballot harvesting.

VOTER SERVICE TEAM AND CONTRIBUTORS

Noreen Brownson	Carla Christianson	Lucy Christman
Pat Cosby	Allen Cowen	Pat DeSalvo
Jennifer Dever	Michele Dodson	Pat Drago
Kathie Eichinger	Olga Hernandez	Julie and Tom Hilburn
Libby and John Hildebrandt	Sue Hofstrandt	Nicki Junkins
Mary Kiernan-Tighe	Vivian Lord	Constance Lockett
Gail Merritt	Joyce Monaco	Saralee Morrissey
Janet Nelson	Joyce Palmer,	Susan Peace
Ginger Pinholster	Suzy Rudolph	Ann Smith
Jeanne Tanke	Stephen Tonjes	

Nancy Nusbaum, Action Team Chair

Legislative Action Team

Each year, the State League gathers input from all the local Leagues to formulate the top legislative priorities to be advocated upon for the upcoming legislative session. The State League pre-selected Voting and Redistricting as the top two issues and asked each League to submit their top preferences as to other issues among Education, Gun Safety, Health Care, Home Rule/Preemption, Immigration, Juvenile Justice, National Popular Vote, Natural Resources, Poverty & Affordable Housing, and Reproductive Health & Justice (listed alphabetically).

Once we got the materials and instruction from the State League, we scheduled and were eagerly looking forward to our League's scheduled legislative priorities meeting on September 27, 2022, to debate and discuss what to identify after balancing factors such as importance and likely ability to make headway before the legislature. Ian, however, had other plans and the meeting had to be canceled due to the tropical weather. Because of the due date for submission to the State, there was not enough time to reschedule the meeting and we certainly wanted to have our local League's voice heard. Fortunately, the other action teams and Board members had been active and were great voices for the issues/topics and we were able to pivot and adapt and use a Board meeting to identify our three additional priorities as Home Rule/Preemption, Natural Resources, and Education. These suggestions were then weighed with suggestions from the rest of the state to focus lobbying and advocacy efforts and prepare for the legislative session.

Members of our local Legislative Action Team then traveled to Tallahassee on March 7 and 8, 2023, to participate in the State League Lobby Days. While there, team members took the opportunity to watch Legislative Committee Hearings and attended meetings with several of Volusia County's Legislative delegation to discuss the State League positions on the priority topics as they applied to Volusia County. 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!

A meeting of the Legislative Action Team was held at the City Island Library on March 30, 2023, to review Lobby Days in greater detail and brainstorm on activities for the Legislative Action Team. A similar meeting will be held on the west side of the County in the coming weeks. Anyone interested in getting more directly involved in the Legislative Action Team and going to team meetings is encouraged to reach out by e-mail to claymeek@yahoo.com.

Clay Meek, Action Team Chair

Speakers Bureau

Hats off to our Speakers Bureau (Carla Christianson, Juanita Clayton, Richard Denton, Michele Dodson, Pat Drago, Cathy Egley, Olga Hernandez, Nicki Junkins, Clay Meek, Saralee Morrissey, Janet Nelson, Ann Smith, Nancy Vaughn) for the multitude of presentations they did this league year, especially the Women's History Month Program for the League. From Edgewater to Palm Coast, we spoke to organizations, retirement communities, churches, political parties, social gatherings. You name it, we did it! This year we partnered with the Voter Service Team for the first time. The Speakers would present on the change in current voting laws, for example, and the Voter Service team was present to help any of the attendees with their voter registration. It is our plan to continue this practice for 2023-2024.

At the present time, the members of the Speakers Bureau are reviewing the 20 plus PowerPoints available to us from the state league. We are looking for relevance for our community, if a topic will spike an interest for a program, and we scrutinize for possible skewed information. We will publish a list of speaking topics once we have completed our review.

Contact us if you would like a speaker for any group to which you belong. For speaker engagements, contact Ann Smith at ahsmith5@bellsouth.net.

The Speakers Bureau is always looking for league members interested in becoming trained speakers. We welcome Alicia Keenon. We are so glad you have joined us! If you are interested, please contact Ann Smith at ahsmith5@bellsouth.net.

Ann Smith, Speakers Bureau Chair

Natural Resources Action Team

The Natural Resources Team has had a busy year. In the fall after the election, our election sign recycling program was a huge success! After months of hard work, the team, led by Suze Peace, recycled 4,960 pounds of signage (that's 2.48 tons!) We look forward to continuing this effort in 2024. Thank you so much for your effort and support for keeping nonbiodegradable plastic out of our landfill.

In February we joined the Voter Service Team at their tabling events in the new year, reaching out to our littlest voters to engage them in voting for their favorite animals, at both the Wildlife Festival at the Lyonia Environmental Center, as well as the Dog Parade in DeLand. Kids got to vote, and their parents were able to check/update their voter registration.

In early March 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. We continue to watch for legislation, good and bad, that will affect our sensitive land and water here in Volusia.

We were very excited about the meetings in April that celebrated Earth Month. On 4/3 at the Ormond Library, we came to better understand "Land Conservation in Volusia County." Our guest speakers, Clay Ervin, Director, Growth and Resource Management and Brad Burbaugh, Resource Stewardship Director from Volusia County government, clarified the differences between Volusia Forever, the Environmental Core Overlay, and the Volusia Conservation Corridor — explaining how these programs work independently and together.

On 4/22/23 we took part in an Earth Day Celebration at the Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience (IWER) at the Sandra Stetson Center on Lake Beresford. We partnered 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 moderated. The panel featured Jason Evans, Assoc. Prof. of Environmental Science and Studies, Lisa Rinaman, St. Johns Riverkeeper, and Jenifer Rupert, Resilience Officer, ECFRPC. There was a mural dedication, tabling opportunities, with tours of the facility.

Throughout the year we continued to have our meetings at outdoor locations of environmental interest. Some of those were: Lyonia Environmental Center, The Marine Discovery Center, and Bicentennial Park in Ormond by the Sea. To take advantage of daylight hours, we have shifted our meetings times to 12:00 noon on the 2nd Thursday of the month. To stay up-to-date please follow us on Facebook, and visit our website at lwvvc.org

Nancy Vaughn, Action Team Chair

Observer Corp

The mission of the LWVVC Observer Corp is to 'observe' local governments and report the proceedings so we are better aware of developing issues. The presence of our Observers supports government in the sunshine.

I thank those that have covered meetings and those who continue to serve, you are our eyes and ears. Thank you! We have some vacancies due to travel and family concerns.

Volusia is a large geographic county with 16 cities within its borders and a county council and school board, no one person can cover and be aware of all the issues. That's where you come in! We have members in most of the cities. This is a great way to learn about your immediate community and learn who represents you. This is very helpful as Voters Service compiles the questions for Vote411 so they are relevant to the community. Many good things are happening that can be shared. As every day there is less coverage by newspapers and media outlets, only the negative or outrageous gets attention. That is a disservice to the county and our economy.

Please look at the list of jurisdictions and see where you can plug in. The report is a simple paragraph, for the Voter, every other month summarizing what you have learned. Training is simple and available. Daytona Beach, Daytona Beach Shores, DeBary, Deland, Deltona, Edgewater, Holly Hills, Lake Helen, New Smyrna, Oak Hill, Orange City, Ormond Beach, Pierson, Port Orange, Ponce Inlet, South Daytona.

Contact me at OAH@Vyndicar.com or 386-317-5709.

Olga Hernandez, Observer Corp Coordinator

LWVVC Board Members Attend State Convention

June 2 and 3, 2023 in Orlando Florida

Submitted by Nicki Junkins

Three local league board members (Pat Drago, Nicki Junkins, and Olga Hernandez) participated in the state league's biennial convention in Orlando on June 2nd and 3rd. Major convention topics included how to attract and involve young adults, preparing league members to support the effort to place an amendment to protect abortion from government interference on the 2024 ballot, book banning and other restrictions on open democracy, strategies for developing new League leaders, and how to stay non-partisan in a very partisan environment. The information learned during the convention will be used by the LWVVC board during the retreat to plan for the upcoming year. Members can expect many of these themes to be central to our work this year.

During the plenary sessions, members voted on amendments to our by-laws and the LWVFL 2023-25 Program; approved the Education and Advocacy budgets; and elected a new slate of state officers. During the coming year, LWVFL will be led by co-presidents who will divide the

growing list of presidential duties. Cecile Scoon will be responsible for litigation, legislation and will serve as “the face of the League” with outside organizations. Debbie Chandler will be responsible for administrative aspects and outreach to local leagues.

The convention provides an opportunity to stay updated on important state issues, learn new skills and strategies that can improve our local league, and to build friendships and connections with other state leaders who are engaged in the work of protecting our democracy. Any member may attend and all are encouraged to do so.



Left to Right: Pat Drago, Nicki Junkins, Olga Hernandez attend the gala dinner



League members from around the state get to vote in important issues.



Incoming president, Debbie Chandler, leads the plenary session. Note that our own Pat Drago (3rd from left) served as State Secretary



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