

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Leaguers are hard
at work even in the
summer months.



President's Message

League members know that the respected and knowledgeable voice of the League rings clear throughout the country as we face the issues of 2016. Health care, gun safety, clean water/climate change, as well as voter education and registration all provoke the passion of our members which in turn drives our efforts to “education and advocate.”

As League members, we are highly invested in these efforts and know that we need to ensure that our investments

grow. *Membership* is what it takes to make the League work.

Look around you and ask yourself, “Who can I bring to the table as a new member? What passionate person can I entice to merge their personal issues with those of the League?” Talent abounds around us! I urge you to encourage those passionate persons to put their talents to work for the League. As you know, they will find volunteering with the League engaging and fulfilling. (Applications can be found at our [LWVNPC website](#).)

Thank You, *Karen Karinja*, President, LWVNPC



Events Calendar for August 2016

Tuesday, 8/2 - Pinellas County School Board Member Candidates' Forum 6:00 pm Sponsored by the PCC PTA, SPC Seminole Campus, 9200 113th St N, Seminole FL 33772

Tuesday, 8/9 – Board of Directors' Meeting, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm, Meeting Room, Countryside Public Library, 2642 Sabal Springs Drive, Clearwater, FL 33761

Tuesday, 8/16 –LWVNPC School Board Member Candidates' Forum, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm FA 132 Leepa -Rattner Museum of Art and Michael Bennett Library, 600 Klosterman Rd, Tarpon Springs SPC Campus Tarpon Springs, FL (Map on website)

The Events Calendar for 2016-17 is attached in a PDF to this edition of *The Voter* and also is found on our website.



League sponsors Candidate Forum

Candidates running for Pinellas County School Board will answer your questions at a candidate forum being held, Tuesday, August 16th at the Tarpon Springs campus of St. Petersburg College. The North Pinellas League of Women Voters is sponsoring this forum which will take place from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Fine Arts Room 132 (located between the Leepa Rattner Museum and Michael Bennett Library) 600 Klosterman Rd., Tarpon Springs.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. for voter registration and the forum will run from 7 to 9 p.m. Audience members are encouraged to submit their written questions. The questions will be screened by League members to make sure that the questions are fair and without personal attacks. Duplicate questions will be combined and may be rewritten for clarity. In addition to a two minute opening statement and a one minute closing statement, the candidates will have one minute to address each question.

All candidates have been invited to participate. Candidates who have qualified to run and will appear on the August primary ballot include:

District 1- At Large (these candidates may live anywhere in the county and are elected by all voters) A candidate who receives a majority of votes cast (50% plus one) will be the winner. If no candidate receives a majority, the two candidates receiving the most votes will be in a runoff in the Nov. 8 General Election.

Robert J. Beal, Bill Dudley, Joanne Lentino, Matt Stewart

District 4- Single Member (these candidates must reside within District 4 and are elected by voters living within District 4) The candidate who receives the most votes will be the winner.

Eileen Long, Ken Peluso (incumbent)

District 5- Single Member (these candidates must reside within District 5 and are elected by voters living within District 5) A candidate who receives a majority of the votes cast (50% plus one) will be the winner. If no candidate receives a majority, the two candidates receiving the most votes will be in a runoff in the Nov. 8 Gen. Election.

Carol Cook (incumbent), Michael A. "Mike" Petruccelli, Eliseo Santana

For more information contact LWVNPC Education Chair: ponapiekarski@gmail.com

Other Upcoming Candidate Forums:

Pinellas County School Board Candidate Forum	Dunedin Mayoral and Council Members
Sponsored by the Pinellas County Council PTA	Sponsored by the Dunedin Council of Elections
Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at 6 p.m.	Friday, October 21, 2016 at 7 a.m.
St. Petersburg College Seminole Campus	Breakfast Meeting, Dunedin Golf Club



Date: Tuesday, August 16th
Time: 7:00-9:00pm

Pinellas County
2016
School Board
Candidates
Forum

*Shape
the future of education
in Pinellas County!*

*Let the school
board hear from you!*

*Districts 1, 4 & 5
Come with questions!*

SPC TARPON SPRINGS
600 Klosterman Road
Tarpon Springs
Fine Arts Bldg. Rm. 132
(between Leepa Rattner Museum &
Bennet Library)

Directions:
US 19 to Klosterman Rd.
West To Belcher then South

*Sponsored by the North Pinellas County
League of Women Voters*





SEPTEMBER 27, 2016!

NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

The League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County annually participates in National Voter Registration Day, this year to be held on September 27.

That Tuesday “volunteers, celebrities, and organizations, such as LWVNPC, from all over the country will ‘hit the streets’ for National Voter Registration Day. This single day of coordinated field, technology and media efforts will create pervasive awareness of voter registration opportunities—allowing us to reach tens of thousands of voters who we could not reach otherwise.”

LWVNPC members who wish to participate are asked to check that their voter registration certification status is current (see list) and are asked to call ([214.929.8984](tel:214.929.8984)) or email Karen Karinja, Voter Service Director, (Karen.karinja@gmail.com) so we can determine a location for you on September 27.

State List of Certified LWV North Pinellas County Voter Registration Volunteers

This is the list of LWVF League-certified volunteers for voter registration since January 1, 2015. Certification lasts two years.

***If you are not on this list and would like to be, please retake the test on the LWVF website under the Member tab and forward a copy of your certification to Karen Karinja, Voter Service at Karen.karinja@gmail.com**

Vicki	Adelson
Maxine	Beach
Judith	Bentley
Nicole	Carr
Judith	Curtis
Rachel	Doran
Jemea	Douglas
Barbara	Fidler
Debra	Hoarty
Beth	Hovind
Karen	Karinja
Joan	Kossoff
Robert	Kossoff
Leigh	Learing
Barbara	Letvin
Arlette	Limen
Eileen	Long
William	Malasaki
Tamsen	Martin
Delia	Miller
Beth	Murphy
Pona	Piekarski
Ashley	Pimley
Donna	Polhamus
Judith	Ramsey
Candy	Ryan
Ellen	Seigman
Donna	Sharpless
Linda	Stoller
Kathleen	Woods Masalski

***If you have taken the test since January 1, 2015 but are not on this list, please let Karen know. Thank you.**

Have you checked your Voter Registration Card?



Watch/Check your mail to be sure that you received your new Voter Information Card from the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections office. This is the result of the League's successful redistricting efforts. Of great importance: your signature must match your most recent voter registration form signature. If for any reason, you or someone you know has a signature that has changed (due to accident, aging, name change, etc.), a new voter registration form must be completed. If you know of a homebound member, Karen Karinja will be happy to visit our member to process an updated form. Just call her at 214.929.8984.

Florida Voter's Bill of Rights

Each registered voter in this state has the right to:

1. Vote and have his or her vote accurately counted.
2. Cast a vote if he or she is in line at the official closing of the polls in that county.
3. Ask for and receive assistance in voting.
4. Receive up to two replacement ballots if he or she makes a mistake prior to the ballot being cast.
5. An explanation if his or her registration is in question.
6. If his or her registration is in question, cast a provisional ballot.
7. Written instructions to use when voting, and, upon request, oral instructions in voting from election officers.
8. Vote free from coercion or intimidation by elections officers or any other person.
9. Vote on a voting system that is in working condition and that will allow votes to be accurately cast.

(Section 101.031(2), Florida Statutes)

Source: Florida Division of Elections

Voter's Responsibilities

Each registered voter in this state should:

1. Familiarize himself or herself with the candidates and issues.
 2. Maintain with the office of the supervisor of elections a current address.
 3. Know the location of his or her polling place and its hours of operation.
 4. Bring proper identification to the polling station.
 5. Familiarize himself or herself with the operation of the voting equipment in his or her precinct.
 6. Treat precinct workers with courtesy.
 7. Respect the privacy of other voters.
 8. Report any problems or violations of election laws to the supervisor of elections.
 9. Ask questions, if needed.
 10. Make sure that his or her completed ballot is correct before leaving the polling station.
- NOTE TO VOTER: Failure to perform any of these responsibilities does not prohibit a voter from voting.

(Section 101.031(2), Florida Statutes)

Source: Florida Division of Elections



In Memory of Eileen H. Belcher January 3, 1918 - June 13, 2016

Longtime Pinellas County resident and League of Women Voters member, Eileen Hicklin Belcher, 98, passed away Monday, June 13, 2016. Her obituary can be found at the [Sylvan Abbey website](#).

In Memory of Mason Nye, husband of member Joy Comstock. July 29, 1930- June 3, 2016

A man of many talents, Mason will be remembered by many for his intellect, his love of literature, art, and music, and his long teaching career. His obituary can be found at [The Tampa Bay Times](#).

COMING IN SEPTEMBER:

**Join us for cocktails and conversation
with *Jeff Klinkenberg*
sponsored by the
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY
Tuesday, Sept 20 5pm to 7pm**



**Jeff Klinkenberg,
author, columnist,
and native Floridian
will delight us with tales and
adventures of real Florida.**

**Tickets: \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door
(Includes small plate buffet and cash bar)**

**Contact Ashley Pimley: ashley7276928450@gmail.com
or Judy Ramsey: pookiejune.jr@gmail.com**

***Books will be available
for sale & signing***



**Tapping the Vine
Wine Bar and Bistro**

**737 Main St, #100
Safety Harbor FL 34695
727-330-7514**

FLORIDA SOLAR POLICY



We're fighting for solar rights in Florida! Although everyone should have the right to produce their own power, right now there are policies in Florida that prevent people from doing so.



Please sign up for the [**FL SUN listserv**](#) to get involved in solar policies in our state. The listserv is an on-going discussion of solar issues in the state and the go-to place to stay up-to-date. The listserv is made up of all sorts of solar enthusiasts.

All are welcome to join!

Join a group or start a group

In general, a co-op needs:

- A community partner or core group of active people who are committed to driving the process forward.
- At least 10 members. Ideally you'd recruit about 20 participants for the co-op, but even a small group of 10 or more interested people can be enough to help you get a discount



On June 25, 2016, **Mary Dipboye**, a member of the LWV Orange County, spoke at First United Methodist Church in Dunedin and described: how solar equipment works, how solar co-operatives benefit their members thru reduced cost and effort, how solar equipment can be financed, how the Florida League of Women Voters became involved with solar co-ops, & how the LWVNPC could be involved with solar co-ops.

Mary Dipboye facilitated two solar co-ops in Orange County in 2015. In Orange County, over 220 area residents joined the two co-ops of which 95 signed contracts to have solar PV installed on their rooftops.

She is working to raise funds for the new FL SUN program in which local LWVs will help a newly hired FL SUN State Director to launch six solar co-ops around the state in the first year.

Amendment 1: On the ballot for August 30, 2016

Originated in the Florida Legislature

SOLAR DEVICES OR RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE DEVICES; EXEMPTION FROM CERTAIN TAXATION AND ASSESSMENT.

Ballot Summary

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to exempt from ad valorem taxation the assessed value of solar or renewable energy source devices subject to tangible personal property tax, and to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to prohibit consideration of such devices in assessing the value of real property for ad valorem taxation purposes.

Amendment 4 would allow for a tax exemption for businesses who install solar panels or other renewable energy equipment on their home or business. So, the value of the solar panels would be exempt from both the tangible personal property tax and real property taxes. Currently, the value of renewable energy equipment is only exempt from real property taxes on residential property.

Ballot Summary (in plain English)

Amendment 4 would allow for a tax exemption for businesses who install solar panels or other renewable energy equipment on their home or business. So, the value of the solar panels would be exempt from both the tangible personal property tax and real property taxes. Currently, the value of renewable energy equipment is only exempt from real property taxes on residential property.

A VOTE **YES** WOULD:

- Promote the use of more solar energy, both commercial & residential
- Help Florida homeowners and businesses produce their own electricity
 - Potentially encourage businesses to invest in renewable energy devices

A VOTE **NO** WOULD:

Maintain status quo:

- The value of all solar panels and other renewable energy equipment would continue to be subject to tangible personal property tax

The value of solar panels and other renewable energy equipment installed at businesses would continue to be subject to real property taxes

The solar industry would continue to underperform in Florida

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

2016-2017

Lively discussions on timely global issues

Meetings are the first Monday of the month

2 p.m.

Pinellas Park Library at 52nd St. & 78th Ave.

Pinellas Park

This is a joint project of LWVSPA & LWNPC

ALL are welcome for stimulating and informative gatherings
on global issues.



INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SCHEDULE

October 3	The Future of Kurdistan	Richard Pope
November 7	Shifting Alliances in Mideast	Vollie Riskin
December 5	International Migration	Dwight Lawton
January 9	Cuba and the United States	Kay Lahdenpera
February 6	Climate Geopolitics	Joe LeBas
March 6	United Nations Post 2015	Linda McGeehan
April 3	Rise of Isis	Judy McSwine
May 1	Korean Choices	June Bedford

Questions? Email Judy McSwine at judymcswine@gmail.com

LWVUS National Convention

By Donna Sharpless

Washington, D.C. How more political can one get? I was fortunate enough to be chosen as the delegate from LWV North Pinellas County for the 52nd biennial convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States. Present were 685 delegates from 47 states and several territories.



How is the convention organized? It is a mixed bag of:

- ◇ Plenary sessions: meetings where business is conducted (voting on program proposals, by-law changes, budget, and officers/board members).
- ◇ Workshops: breakout sessions on a wide variety of topics from “Breaking Barriers for Transgender/Gender Expansive People” to “Successful Strategies in Voter Reforms” to Bringing Gun Safety to America” to “The Water/Climate Nexus” to “Making Twitter Work For Your League.”
- ◇ Training: “Tactical Training for this Election Year”
- ◇ Speakers: Panel on Protecting the Right to Vote and Expanding the Electorate with Kristen Clark, National Lawyers Committee, Arturo Vargus, National Assn of Latino Elected Officials, and Christine Chen, Asian Pacific Islander American Vote; Peter Overby, NPR, Money in Politics; Joe Goldman, President, Democracy Fund, Major Forces at Play in 2016; and Arti Berman, author of Give Us The Ballot.
- ◇ Wares Market: where a number of Leagues brought in wares to sell, including Florida.
- ◇ A couple of fun things: a) On Friday night we had an optional performance by the hilarious comedy troupe, The Capital Steps. They skewered everyone from Donald and Hillary (of course) to Putin, George Bush, Obama, Sara Palin, and more. A nice break, but only one. b) Convention dinner, awards ceremony, and speaker on Saturday evening.

Bylaws: The Bylaw changes approved concerned membership and are these:

- Voting members now include noncitizens.
- Voting members now include those age 16 and older (instead of 18).

The other proposed Bylaw changes were not brought up at convention and, therefore, did not pass.

Program: The Program proposals that were adopted are:

1. Continue with all programs previously passed.
2. Campaign for Making Democracy Work®
 - a. Voter protection and mobilization
 - b. Election reform
 - c. Money in politics, constitutional amendment and redistricting. (Continued on next page)

3. Redistricting: "Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.
4. Behavioral Health: "Every US resident should have access to affordable, quality in- and out-patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care."
5. Support statehood for Washington, D.C.
6. Restoration of funding for gun violence research at the Centers for Disease Control.
7. Consideration of signing on to the Americas brief with Our Children's Trust lawsuit to secure a legal right to a healthy atmosphere and a stable climate.
8. Support US ratification of the UN Cop 21 Paris Agreement.
9. Support the EPA Clean Power Plan at the state level.



There was a moment of silence for the Orlando massacre victims (done at that moment in the convention). Information on proposals 1 – 4 was provided to delegates prior to the convention. The other proposals were brought up at the convention. Additional details will be provided in the future.

Two years from now, the convention will be held in Chicago.

FYI: School referendum Tuesday, November 8, 2016
APPROVAL OF CONTINUATION OF ONE-HALF MILL AD VALOREM TAX FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING EXPENSES. See <http://www.citizensforpinellaschools.com>

League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

NEW MEMBER? PREVIOUS MEMBER? WHERE? _____

Annual membership is \$55. Household memberships are \$85 (2 people). Student membership is \$30. Cornerstone membership is \$110. Household Cornerstone is \$140. After LWV membership for 50 years, dues are waived.

Please mail the membership application & payment to: LWVNPC, P. O. Box 6833,
 Clearwater, FL 33758

Find your place within our expanding League activities to focus your passions.

Choose an area of interest and contact the team leader

Advocacy issues such as

Health (Tamsen Martin, tjmartin123@aol.com, 727.946.2378)

Education (Pona Piekarski, pona-piekarski@gmail.com, 816.289.9218)

Pinellas Poverty (Beth Hovind, bethse@gmail.com, 727.938.9809)

Environment and Transportation (Peggy Toohey, ptoohey2@tampabay.rr.com, 727.786.3457)

Constitutional Revision (Ellen Siegman, ellensiegman@gmail.com, 727.422.2879)

Stop Campus Carry (Judy Curtis, gdjcurt@aol.com, 727.204.2771)



Judy McSwine moderating a candidates forum

Management areas such as

Membership (Donna Sharpless, dsharpless513@gmail.com, 727.786.1772)

Publicity/PR (seeking team leader, contact Karen Karinja)

Social Media (Facebook – Candy Ryan, candysculpt@hotmail.com, 727.789.7157)

Technology (seeking team leader, contact Karen Karinja)

Development (Ashley Pimley, ashley7276928450@gmail.com, 727.692.8450)

Event Planning (Judy Ramsey, pookiejunejr@gmail.com, 727.504.8922)

Voter Service (Karen Karinja, Karen.karinja@gmail.com, 214.929.8984)

Informed and Active Citizen Participation

Visit us on the web at
www.lwvnorthpinellas.org

LWVNPC

P.O. Box 6833
Clearwater, FL 33758
Phone: 727-447-1564

President: Karen Karinja

1st Vice President: Tamsen Martin

2nd Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Anne Decker

Treasurer: Marti Folwell

Directors

Joy Comstock

Rita Garvey

Judy McSwine

Ashley Pimley

Judy Ramsey

Lois Rogers-Watson

Donna Sharpless

Peggy Toohey

Webmaster: Kay Pitchon

Speak up for Democracy.

Join the League!