

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.

## FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

**KAREN KARINJA**, newly elected President of The League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County

With this new League year, I foresee a **growth** in membership as we seek greater diversity, a **development** of team collaboration as we drive forward our program action plans, and an **expansion** of volunteer opportunities that focus our passions on action.

I encourage each League member to reflect for a few moments on this year's three goals:

- 1) League Growth
- 2) Team Development
- 3) Active Expansion of Volunteer Opportunities



### Participate!

Yours In League,  
Karen Karinja

**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](mailto:tjmartin123@aol.com), 727.946.2378)

Education (Pona Piekarski, [pona-piekarski@gmail.com](mailto:pona-piekarski@gmail.com), 816.289.9218)

Pinellas Poverty (Beth Hovind, [bethse@gmail.com](mailto:bethse@gmail.com), 727.938.9809 )

Environment and Transportation (Peggy Toohey, [ptoohey2@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:ptoohey2@tampabay.rr.com), 727.786.3457)

Constitutional Revision (Ellen Siegman, [ellensiegman@gmail.com](mailto:ellensiegman@gmail.com), 727.422.2879)

Stop Campus Carry (Judy Curtis, [gdcjcurt@aol.com](mailto:gdcjcurt@aol.com), 727.204.2771)

#### Management areas such as

Membership (Donna Sharpless, [dsharpless513@gmail.com](mailto:dsharpless513@gmail.com), 727.786.1772)

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

Social Media (Facebook – Candy Ryan, [candydysculpt@hotmail.com](mailto:candydysculpt@hotmail.com), 727.789.7157)

Technology (seeking team leader, contact Karen Karinja)

Development (Ashley Pimley, [ashley7276928450@gmail.com](mailto:ashley7276928450@gmail.com), 727.692.8450)

Event Planning (Judy Ramsey, [pookiejunejr@gmail.com](mailto:pookiejunejr@gmail.com), 727.736.8922 )

Voter Service (Karen Karinja, [Karen.karinja@gmail.com](mailto:Karen.karinja@gmail.com), 214.929.8984)

## RE-CAP of the ANNUAL MEETING 2016



We had a successful Annual Meeting on April 9, 2016. There were forty voting members present, along with five guests. All votes were unanimous.

### Elected New Officers and Board:

Karen Karinja, President  
Marti Folwell, Treasurer  
Joy Comstock  
Rita Garvey  
Judy McSwine  
Ashley Pimley  
Judy Ramsey  
Donna Sharpless



### Nominating Committee:

Pona Piekarski  
2 more members are needed

Also, Tamsen Martin, 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Anne Decker, Secretary, Lois Rogers-Watson, and Peggy Toohey continue as members of the Board.

In addition, the BYLAW changes (mostly clean-up) passed. Please refer to the March and April Voters for full details.

The “Poverty” initiative was passed. This is where we will monitor the county to see if/how it has been implementing recommendations to departments to re-align their core services and work collectively to serve the populations of East Tarpon Springs, North Greenwood, and Highpoint. Member Beth Hovind is heading up this important project. If you want to help, please contact her at

[bethandnancy@msn.com](mailto:bethandnancy@msn.com) or (727) 938-9809.

Finally, the Dues Increase was approved. This League has not had an increase in dues since we do not know when. New dues rates are:

\$30 Student  
\$55 Individual  
\$85 Household  
\$110 Cornerstone  
\$140 Household Cornerstone

### MEMBERSHIP NOTE

League member and Clearwater City Council Member, William Jonson, was elected to serve as Vice Mayor of Clearwater.

Congratulations, Bill!

## NO DISAPPOINTMENTS IN McMANUS PRESENTATION!

**Dr .Susan McManus** was the speaker at the Annual Meeting on April 9, 2016 and , per usual, she did an exceptional job of sharing her insights in the political realm.



Some points she made:

- Florida is, of course, a key state in the general elections. It is key to winning the White House and Congress. In 2012, the difference between votes for Romney and Obama was just .09%. We need to educate people about the district changes.
- Florida is the most diverse state in many respects. Party affiliation is 38% Democrat, 35% Republican, 27% Independent and that number is rising. Racially we are 13% Black, 15% Hispanic, and 66% Caucasian.
- Two basic influences in the mood of the country are trust levels and fear. The approval rating of Congress is at 12%. People fear for their personal safety (mass shootings) and security (terrorism).
- This election season there is the strongest link ever between pop culture and the election. Majority of Trump followers are white uneducated males. The language of Trump reflects the reality shows in which harsh, vicious language is used. Trump's own *Apprentice* is an example.
- More minority women win than minority men when running for office.
- A generational shift is a major change occurring. 48% of registered voters are Millennials and Generation X. The younger generation cannot be reached with the same media and message as the older generation.
- Women are a majority among voters: 45% men, 58% women.
- Religion is not playing a major role in the 2016 election.
- Our area is the largest media market in Florida. It and Orlando command 44% of the media.
- Florida is a top state in donations. The swing vote is located in the suburbs. In 2012, you had opportunities to see the Presidential candidates a minimum of four times.
- Two thirds of Americans do not go through college. Civics is vital in public education!

Dr. McManus recommends **Sayfie Review** ([www.sayfiereview.com](http://www.sayfiereview.com) ). It includes the collection of links to newspaper articles, columns and editorials as well as blogs, sites tracking legislative deliberation and court rulings, partisan sites, etc. You can read some of Dr. McManus articles there.

# ANNUAL MEETING 2016



**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

**2015-2016**

**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**



**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SCHEDULE**

**May 2, 2016**

**Sectarianism in the Middle East Pat Budlong**

**Questions? Call Judy McSwine 727-447-5493**

**WELCOME TO OUR  
NEWEST MEMBER!**

**Vicki Adelson**

**ANNOUNCEMENT FOR NEW MEMBERS**

We are scheduling a “new” member orientation in the near future. All members who have joined for the 2015-2016 and the 2016 -2017 (so far) fiscal years will receive an invitation, even those who attended the last orientation in March, 2015. Any other member who would like to attend or help, you are also welcome. More information will be forthcoming soon. If you are willing to help or have things that you specifically want to know about the LWVNPC, please contact Donna Sharpless, dsharpless513@gmail.com.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES NOW DUE!**

This is a reminder to send in your dues by May 31, 2016 to avoid being dropped from our membership. The new dues amounts are \$30 student, \$55 individual, \$85 household (two people living at the same address), \$110 cornerstone, and \$140 household cornerstone. Send a check made payable to "LWVNPC" and mail to **PO Box 6833, Clearwater, FL 33758**. We are in the process of setting up a PayPal account, so, in the near future, you will be able to pay online. (We are not sure if this will be ready by May 31, so please send a check. Plus we won't have to pay the PayPal fee!).

*Please note: If the increase in dues is a financial hardship to you and would prevent you from continuing membership, please pay at the old amount. We want to keep you as a member!*

**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

Informed and Active Citizen Participation

Visit us on the web at  
[www.lwvnorthpinellas.org](http://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!