



THE VOTER

October 2016

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.

Assault on Florida's State Parks

Saturday, Oct.1 1pm to 3pm
Brooker Creek Preserve



Jono Miller



Guest speaker, Jono Miller, noted environmentalist, will join us to explore the multi-pronged assault on our state parks.

He will touch upon some of the threats our parks are facing:
 Cattle grazing, hunting, timbering, and legislative underfunding of the entire park system.

Sponsored by



Hosted by



Brooker Creek Preserve
Environmental Education Center
3940 Keystone Rd.
Tarpon Springs, FL 34688

For more information call: 727-453-6800

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President's Message

Your North Pinellas League has been out front this summer and fall on a wide variety of venues preparing for the November 8 election. We have taken on this challenge on multiple fronts: voter registrations, candidate forums and interviews, increased committee opportunities, and educational presentations.

- Two new vice-presidents, Vicki Adelson and Beth Hovind, have been appointed to the League board. They bring a wealth of knowledge and background.
- Voter registrations have been taking place and will continue to take place throughout the county in health centers, on college campuses, and independent senior living residences.
- Registrars have been encouraging the 18-34 age group to participate in the Millennial Survey so that the state will have an understanding of their attitudes about types of primaries.
- Pinellas County is 3rd in the state in the number of Millennial Surveys completed behind Escambia and Orange counties.
- Candidate Forums for the Pinellas County School Board elections were held throughout the county prior to the primary election and two contenders now faceoff in the General Election.
- Dunedin Candidate Forums with mayoral and commissioner seats in contention are upcoming.
- The Fall Social was a resounding sold-out success! More to come!
- New Membership trainings now educate and encourage participation in League efforts.
- OLLI and NPC are collaborating to bring essential Floridian issues to seniors.
- The LWV Voter Guide is now available in libraries throughout the county.
- The Pinellas County Voter Guide is available on line at BeReadyToVote.org
- Hot Topics on the environment and health are upcoming.
- Speakers Bureau is doing presentations on amendments and healthcare/poverty.
- 35 Voter Registrations so far in 2016 and more coming.
- 7 Candidates Forums so far in 2016; 3 more lined up.
- LWVNPC – Your Busy League!
-

Please call or email me if you would like to participate in such activities!

214.929.8984 karen.karinja@gmail.com



HEAR ABOUT OUR PIECE ON THIS FRAGILE PLANET

Please join us on Saturday, October 1, to learn about the threats facing Florida's state park system, as presented by Mr. Jono Miller, and learn what you can do to protect and preserve our fragile Florida landscape. Admission is free.

The League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County is pleased to present noted environmental activist Jono Miller's Power-Point presentation "Assault on Florida's State Parks" on Saturday, October 1, 2016, from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm at Brooker Creek Preserve's Environmental Education Center, 3940 Keystone Rd, Tarpon Springs FL 34688. It is being hosted by Friends of Brooker Creek.

Mr. Miller will address some of the threats our state parks are facing through privatization, currently being considered by our Florida State Legislature. He has been interested and involved in Florida's environmental issues for nearly forty years. Mr. Miller is retired from teaching and directing the Environmental Studies Program at New College of Florida, which has allowed him to focus on protecting our state park system.



MORE OCTOBER EVENTS:

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF LWVNPC AND LWVSPA

Monday, October 3, 2016—2 p.m.

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

THE FUTURE OF KURDISTAN

Presented by Richard Pope

The Iraqi Kurds are a significant fighting force against ISIS today and there are Kurdish populations in Turkey, Syria, Iran and Iraq. These people have dreamed of an independent and lasting Kurdistan.

What is the history of their persecution and what is their strong ethnicity?

How have these Kurds help support peaceful resolutions in the Mid East?

Please join us for an informative and engaging discussion!

ALL are welcome...Questions?...Call Judy McSwine at 727-447-5493



Let's make Florida number one in solar power.

"Experts tell us Florida's sunshine gives it the potential to be among the top three states in America for solar power, and starting today, Floridians can start planning for the sun to help pay their electric bills," President **Pamela Goodman** said.



The League has partnered with a new, but experienced group called FL SUN, which will organize solar co-ops to negotiate steep discounts on rooftop solar for homeowners across the state. The campaign will begin in key markets including Orange County, and St. Petersburg, with plans underway to quickly expand to Brevard and Volusia Counties, Sarasota, Alachua and many more.

Sarasota-based Gulf Coast Community Foundation, the state's largest of its kind, was an early supporter, and CEO **Mark Pritchett** said: "We are excited about this creative free market approach, which places power in the hands of our Gulf Coast citizens."

Interested homeowners can sign up now to join an existing co-op or express their interest in joining or helping to start one in their area. Sign up at www.FLSUN.org

How will these solar co-ops work?

The solar co-ops bring together homeowners interested in going solar. Co-op members will work with FL SUN and the League to learn about the technology and if going solar is right for them. By going solar together as a group, co-op member get a discount through the group's bulk purchasing power, saving an average of 20% compared to the cost of an individual installation.

Joining the co-op is not a commitment to purchase panels. The co-op solicits competitive bids from local installers and chooses the one that is best for the group. Co-op members then each get an individualized proposal for their home that reflects the group discount. At this point, group members can decide if they would like to go solar.

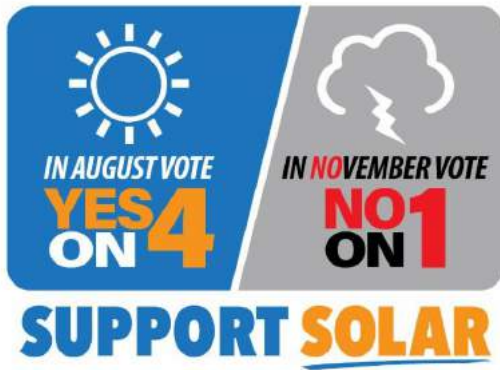
The FL SUN concept has worked successfully in other states and locations including Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington D.C. More than 1,200 homeowners have gone solar through the co-ops.

"The League's decades of work in sustainability and concern about encroaching ocean water on coastal cities made the program a good fit with the League's education and action, with members believing that the Sunshine State should lead the way," said LWVF President **Pamela Goodman**.

"If you've ever thought about going solar, now is a great time to do so. The cost of solar has declined rapidly. This gives main street Florida the opportunity to let the sun help pay their electric bills," said **Angela DeMonbreun**, FL SUN's state director.

The campaign also includes advice for voters this fall. The League has launched a YES/NO campaign on the two upcoming solar amendments based on the League's long standing position of supporting solar expansion in our state. It urges any voter who supports solar to vote YES in August on Amendment 4, and NO in November on Amendment 1. (See page 6.)

Reminding voters to say No in November, is important says LWVF President Goodman, pointing out that Amendment 1 has been almost fully funded by utilities anxious to cement their control of solar power, and thus slow the adoption of it by making it less affordable and eliminating competition in the marketplace. (see next page)



Amendment 4 in August however, gets an enthusiastic thumbs up from the League as it will provide a break on the intangibles tax that will go a long way in helping small businesses and commercial buildings utilize solar, and thus reduce the burden on power plants and the need for expensive additional power plants as Florida's population grows.

Stephen Smith, Executive Director of Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, an early supporter of the new FL SUN project, said: "Voting to support good solar energy policies will allow more Florida residents and businesses to enjoy the many benefits solar power brings to the Sunshine State."

Smith said Amendment 4 in August increases solar availability by lowering burdensome property taxes on solar equipment. In sharp contrast, the deceptive utility company backed Amendment 1 in November is designed to limit customer-owned solar power, thus protecting utility profits.

Deirdre Macnab, former President of the Florida League and presently Chair of the League Natural Resources/Solar Action Group, said the excitement around the state is sky high.

"Already we have signed up several partners in key markets who want to help, and some counties have even signed up with FL SUN to extend the program to all interested citizens," Macnab said, noting that FL SUN would be presenting to the state's many sustainability directors in late summer. She expects the program to grow rapidly as "Floridians seize the chance to capitalize on the Sunshine State's gift of solar power."

Don't you love how involved the League of Women Voters is on so many levels?!

Learn MORE about the League: Attend the Member Orientation on Tuesday, November 1, 2016

All members are invited to a LWVNPC Member Orientation. Yes, we especially encourage new members who have not yet been to an orientation meeting to attend, but all members, new and longer term, are invited. You might learn something new or meet some new friends.

Where: Clearwater East Library – 2251 Drew Street, Clearwater, FL 33765. The meeting room is right behind the checkout desk on the left when you walk inside.

Time: 5:30 – 7:00

There are three main goals for this orientation:

We want you to understand the organization of the League. What is advocacy vs education? What do we do? What do we stand for? Where did we come from? How are we funded?

We want you to become involved to the extent that you want to and are able to. We will discuss volunteer opportunities. Some are committees with a specific focus (poverty, education, environment, voter registration, speaker's bureau, etc.), some are helpers at events (reception, organization, etc.), and some are writing articles for *The Voter* and/or helping the League historian. In addition, we need back-up people to help some of our volunteers. There are many more opportunities as well, so something will fit with your skills, interest, and time availability.

We want to meet each other and learn about each other and, maybe, make some friends. Yes, we are committed to serving our community, but we also want to have some fun and be social.

You do not need to RSVP – just show up. However, if you know you plan to attend, please send an email to Donna Sharpless, Membership Chair (dsharpless513@gmail.com). Just say "Yes, I will be there." Thanks.

Want more solar in the Sunshine State?
Then vote "NO" on Amendment 1.

[Amendment One](#)
[is a wolf in sheep's clothing!](#)




VOTE NO ON 1.ORG

WANT MORE SOLAR IN THE SUNSHINE STATE?
VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT 1

Floridians should **VOTE NO** on Amendment 1 for three reasons:

Amendment 1 is funded by Florida's big utilities to protect their monopoly markets and limit customer-owned solar.

Amendment 1 paves the way for barriers that would penalize solar customers.

Amendment 1 misleads Florida voters by promising rights and protections that Florida citizens already have.

FACT 1 Amendment 1 is funded by Florida's big utilities to protect their monopoly markets and limit customer-owned solar.

Follow the money: Florida Power & Light (FPL), Duke Energy and other big power companies want to maintain their monopoly control on profits from electricity sales and limit customer-owned solar. Solar power is poised to grow in the Sunshine State, which would allow customers to generate their own power and buy less from the electric utilities. To date, the monopoly utilities have contributed the majority of the \$20 million collected to promote this Amendment to protect their power sales all the while claiming they are "pro-solar." In reality, utilities only support limited amounts of solar power they own and from which they can profit. No non-utility solar company supports Amendment 1.

FACT 2 Amendment 1 paves the way for barriers that would penalize solar customers.

The utility-backed Amendment 1 would add to the State Constitution the false assumption that solar customers are "subsidized" by non-solar customers & that non-solar customers are in need of additional protections. In fact, reputable studies in 10 states show that solar customers provide a net-benefit for the utility and all electricity customers. The large monopoly utilities are looking for ways to limit customer-owned solar and will use this false claim as a justification to implement unfair fees and discriminatory penalties for solar customers. Restrictions and unfair fees would make solar more expensive, limit the expansion of solar, & hurt consumers by denying a cost effective way to lower power bills.

FACT 3 Amendment 1 misleads Florida voters by promising rights and protections that Florida citizens already have.

The monopoly utilities wrote Amendment 1 to sound good by promising that it would add new solar rights and consumer protections. Floridians already have the right to purchase or lease solar equipment and are already fully protected under Florida's existing consumer protection laws. The false promises of additional rights are designed to gain support for the Amendment, not to grow the solar market in Florida.

LEARN MORE AT VoteNoOn1.org

Pol. Adv. paid for by Floridians for Solar Choice, Inc.
120 E. Oakland Park Blvd, Suite 105, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334

LWVNPC PROVIDES SEVERAL VOTER SERVICES



Donna Sharpless, Moderator

**Your League is happy to provide
service at Candidate Forums**

DUNEDIN CANDIDATES FORUM

Mease Manor, Dunedin, Florida Campus
Tuesday, August 16, 2016



Candidates (L-R): Mike Jones**, Bruce Livingston*, Heather Gracy, Mayor Julia Ward Bujalski*, Maureen Feaney**, and Reuben Hepburn**

*Candidate for Mayor

**Candidate for Commissioner

ANOTHER DUNEDIN CANDIDATES FORUM

Dunedin Country Club
October 21, 2016 — 7 a.m.

The LWVNPC will moderate this forum
at 1050 Palm Blvd, Dunedin.

The public may attend.



This SPC student is a new voter!



LWV table at Student Activities Health Fair,
SPC Clearwater campus

Did you know you could be a **Poll Watcher**? Such a person is there to monitor poll activities and report on untoward activities. It is a volunteer position and you must register if you are interested in doing this public service. For the form, go to:

http://www.votepinellas.com/Portals/Pinellas/Documents/pdf_for_Website/poll_watcher_information_and_form_16/poll_watcher_designation_form.pdf

- You must be a Pinellas County registered voter.
- The deadline for designating poll watchers is 14 days prior to early voting in a general election.
- There are more guidelines. For them go to: <http://www.votepinellas.com/Election-Information/Elections/Poll-Watchers>

IT'S HERE! IT'S ON THE WEB! TELL EVERYONE ABOUT IT!!!

Go to: <https://vote.lwvspa.org/>

Click on the menu on the top of the page for the following information:

2016 Elections: Nov. 8th Pinellas County General Election, Precincts by District & Municipality, Voting tips for students

Federal: Races for Federal Offices, Information on U.S. Government

State: State Offices Up for 2016 Election, Information on State Government


County: Pinellas County Offices Up for 2016 Election, Information on Pinellas County Government

Courts: Judge seats Up for 2016 Election, Information on Florida Courts

Ballot Initiatives/Amendments : Ballot Initiatives/Amendments Up for 2016 Election , Information on Ballot

Initiatives/Amendments





coalition to

STOPGUN VIOLENCE

Motivated by the fact that 50 children and youth are shot every day in the United States, the League of Women Voters of Florida is spearheading the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. Some of us heard an update by First Vice President, Patricia Brigham, on the Coalition at the August Board meeting of the State League.

Can we imagine a future without gun violence? Isn't that something all of us want? Apparently a lot of us do as over 100 organizations have signed on to support the prevention of gun violence.

Go to this website to learn more: <http://csgv.org/>
While there, check out "Get the Goods" where there are some really cool items. (This editor loves the tee-shirts.)

If you want to check out more state-wide activities of the League, here are a couple of events to attend: 3/28-29 Legislative Summit in Tallahassee - advocacy and 6/9-11 LWVF Convention in Fort Lauderdale.

If you are interested in more, either go to the website of the LWVF at <http://thefloridavoter.org/> or contact President Karen Karinja.

WE HAVE NEW VICE PRESIDENTS!

PLEASE WELCOME:

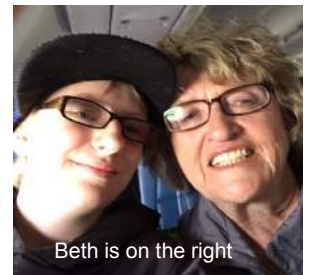
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: VICKI ADELSON



Vicki Adelson recently retired from Adelson & Associates Inc., a Clearwater-based consulting firm which she founded in 1990. As president and owner of this firm, Ms Adelson wrote grants, developed strategic planning documents, evaluated programs, conducted studies, and developed reports relating to various health and social issues. A veteran grant writer with years of successful experience researching, organizing, and writing federal, state, and local grants, she conducted site visits, collected data, and wrote reports for twelve years reference to DHHS long-term evaluation of children's mental health "system of care" projects. During that period of time, Ms Adelson visited over 30 projects funded by the federal government to implement systems of care for children with serious mental health needs. Additionally, as a member of OJJDP's National Training and Technical Assistance Center consultant pool for the past ten years, she has reviewed numerous juvenile and criminal justice grant applications and provided consultation services nationally reference to school truancy. From 2003 until June 2011, Ms Adelson was an administrator with the Hillsborough County Department of Family & Aging Services, where she was responsible for developing community partnerships, writing grants, and leveraging department resources. She wrote numerous grants during those years that brought millions of dollars into Hillsborough County. After retiring from Hillsborough County government, Ms Adelson wrote several federal proposals that were funded including a \$2 million grant that provided treatment for women addicted to opioids in Pinellas County and a \$5 million system of care grant for transition age youth in Pinellas and Hillsborough counties. She is a 35-year resident of Pinellas County, married to her high school sweetheart for over 50 years, and has two adult children and two grandchildren. In addition to serving as 1st Vice President, Ms Adelson chairs OLLI-Eckerd's North Pinellas County Advisory Committee

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: BETH HOVIND

Beth Hovind
Tarpon Springs
Coordinator of the Poverty/Health Committee
Member of the LWVFL Juvenile Justice Steering Committee
2nd Vice President of LWNPC



I am excited to be on the League Board and looking forward to a very productive year. I've been impressed with the work that is being done by this chapter and hope I can add something to it. I have been retired in Florida for 12 years, first coming to care for my aging parents, and deciding to stay on in this tropical climate. I grew up in Wisconsin, not leaving until I was in my 50's when I moved on to California. I belonged to the Madison WI LWV while I was working on my undergraduate and graduate degrees in Social Work. The greatest part of my career was as a program director for the state of WI working in statewide teen pregnancy prevention, teen parenting, and domestic abuse programs and I also started the Choices program to encourage girls to think about and plan for their futures. I also directed a private runaway agency and supervised a children's shelter, among other positions. I head up the Pinellas Poverty Committee for our League and serve on the Juvenile Justice Committee of the State League.

The Board of LWNPC was recently asked to send into LWVFL our priorities for the LWV lobbyist to best represent us in the upcoming legislature. The following were chosen by our Board: 1) Support online voter registration statewide; 2) Support implementation of the Federal Health Care Reform Law in Florida, emphasizing access for all and control of costs including Medicaid expansion and mental health coverage; 3) Support the implementation of the Water and Land Legacy Amendment consistent with the intent of the adopted language; 4) Support expansion of mandated background checks and three day waiting periods for ALL gun sales or transfers, including gun shows and unlicensed gun sales; 5) Promote adequate funding of public education with no use of public funding for the expansion of private education through a voucher program or tax credit scholarship.



Jeff Klinkenberg

A FUN SOCIAL EVENT...Hope you did not miss it!

Many thanks to and Ashley Pimley and Judy Ramsey for arranging a fun evening on Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at Tapping the Vine in Safety Harbor. Gab, appetizers, and wine were on the menu but, most importantly, so was Jeff Klinkenberg who shared tales of natural Florida. As a master storyteller, Jeff kept his audience enthralled with stories of Naked Ed, self-reliant Nathan, and the wild creatures of Florida. Did you know that the populations of bears, alligators, and panthers have grown in the last few years or that the reticulated python, the world's longest snake at 28-29 feet long now inhabits the Everglades?

Jeff autographed some of his books at the event and the winner of the drawing received a free copy of his *Alligators in B-Flat: Improbable Tales from the Files of Real Florida*. You can learn more about Jeff and read some of his tales on his website: <http://www.jeffklinkenberg.com/> And, you can order his books there, too! Check out that website where there are more fascinating stories.

Enjoy the pictures here of both a good time and an enlightening evening. We also gained some new members!



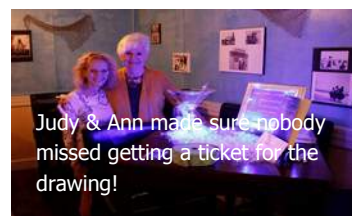
Jeff mingles



President Karen welcomes



Membership Chair Donna and President Karen enjoy a chat



Judy & Ann made sure nobody missed getting a ticket for the drawing!



Book Signing



<http://www.jeffklinkenberg.com/>

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 & LWVNPC

**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

NOVEMBER HOT TOPIC

Poverty in North Pinellas County: Why This Matters to You

Saturday, Nov. 5– 10:30-12:30

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 2001 Rainbow Dr., Clearwater

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.citizensforpinellasschools.com>

Now You Can Join the League Online - - - - -

JOIN/RENEW MEMBERSHIP

PAYMENT METHOD

Just Go to our Website

We have recently added PayPal payment services for your convenience. Choosing this online option, you can become a member using your credit or debit card.

Just go to the [LWVNPC Website](#), select **Payment Method**, and follow the instructions.

NOTE: There is no extra charge to you for the PayPal service when you use your credit or debit card to pay LWVNPC membership dues.

League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County

NAME: _____

—

AD-
DRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

—

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

—

NEW MEMBER? ☐ PREVIOUS MEMBER? ☐ WHERE?

—

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

Clearwater, FL 33758 OR Join online at [LWVNPC!](#)

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 (Chair position is currently vacant.)

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 (seeking team leader)



Judy McSwine moderating a candidates forum

Management areas such as

Membership (Donna Sharpless, dsharpless513@gmail.com, 727.286.7684)

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: Vicki Adelson

2nd Vice President: Beth Hovind

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!