

# *THE VOTER*

Mar-Apr  
2022

[www.LWVVC.org](http://www.LWVVC.org)

P.O. Box 9695, Daytona Beach, FL 32120



## **President's Remarks:**

The new year arrived with omicron and promptly crashed the meeting we had planned with Florida League President, Cecile Scoon. Fortunately, she was able to share comments via zoom regarding expectations for the legislative session which is underway. For those who weren't able to join the discussion, we have posted the recording on our website for members.



Cecile covered several legislative issues including voter engagement and election integrity, redistricting, reproductive rights, partisan school board elections, the proposal for an election police unit. In a year with mid-term federal elections and the Florida governors's race, it's a lot. The League has active litigation, lobbying activities, committee testimony and partnerships for common goals to support its significance as an advocate.

At the local level, there are several candidate races for offices that impact our daily lives. School Board, County Council, and city commission races will take place affecting education, growth management, environmental protections, roads and infrastructure, economic development, police, fire and emergency services, criminal justice, health protections, social services and the taxes, fees and funding to support all of the above. To further complicate matters, local government remains a target for state government. The state has diminished local authority for years, but this year brings new initiatives to invite litigation against local prerogatives.

There are many fronts, but the most important League initiatives will come from our very foundation. Our commitment to voter rights and voter engagement is as important today as it was 100 years ago and 50 years ago. Add to our voter mission the need to protect against threats to election integrity, starting with the proposed election police with no discernible mission other than to stoke unfounded fears and weaponize the state against local supervisors of elections.

In the good news column are our recent February events. The Thurgood Marshall presentation was amazing. When a learning is exciting, thought provoking and moving, it's a special experience. Thank you to Vickie Presley and Ann Harrell for bringing us the programs for THURGOOD and the Mary S. Harrell Black Heritage Museum.

Please watch our LWVVC website for program additions and updates. As we hopefully leave COVID behind for awhile; we will try to add more in-person events and social gatherings. Next up is the Deland Dog Parade on Saturday, February 26. It's bigger, better and more fun every year. We're part of the parade and will have our Mardi Gras beads to toss. Dogs optional but welcome!

*Mary Anne Connors, President*

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*Voter editor: Sandra Horikami*



### **Great tool for you to use: Youtube!**

We have had some amazing speakers this year and I know that many of you really enjoyed hearing them. If you missed the original program you can still see the presentation. We have a very easy to locate Youtube channel with videos of our meetings for you to enjoy at your leisure.

It is very easy to find the videos.

Go to the webpage LWVVC.org then scroll down to the bottom.

On the right side there are 4 circles; one for Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and the red one on the far right is our Youtube channel.

Give it a try and look it over. We also have the candidate forums we have supported there also.

If you have attended a presentation that you were really excited about, feel free to share with your friends how to watch the videos. They are available to everyone, not just our members.

## Events in March & April

March is Women's History Month!  
Women in Statuary Hall in the Capitol

By Nancy Lohman

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Public Welcome!  
Via Zoom

Must register—watch for Constant Contact  
e-mail notice for link to register.



Hot Topics

Opioids in Volusia County

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Public Welcome!  
Via Zoom

Must register—watch for Constant  
Contact e-mail notice for link to register

Getting To Know Your League  
New & Current Members Invited

Thursday, March 24, 2022  
2-4 p.m.

Pattie Gertenbach's  
53 Sea Harbor Drive, East, Ormond Beach, 32176

Future meetings:  
May 21, 2022, 2-4 p.m., Port Orange  
October 15, 2022, 2-4 p.m., Deland



General Meeting  
April 9, 2022, 10:30 a.m.

Growth in Volusia County

Speaker: Kerry Karl  
Exec. Director at Volusia County Association  
for Responsible Development (VCARD)

Via Zoom—must register  
Watch for Constant Contact  
e-mail notice for link to register



LWVVC Board Meetings

March 16, 2022 @TPO offices  
International Speedway Blvd.



April 20, 2022  
@TPO offices  
International Speedway Blvd.

Members Welcome!  
5-7 p.m.

## LWVVC at the Volusia County State of the County Luncheon

LWVVC President Mary Anne Connors and Board Member Nicki Junkins represented the League at the annual Volusia County State of the County Luncheon held on February 8 in Daytona Beach. This annual event provides county residents the opportunity to interact with local officials and learn about major projects that have been completed during the previous year as well as future goals. The League has been actively involved in advocating for natural resource preservation, protecting our local waterways, and supporting affordable housing initiatives. We were encouraged by the progress made in these areas.



Mary Anne Connors and Nicki Junkins represent LWVVC

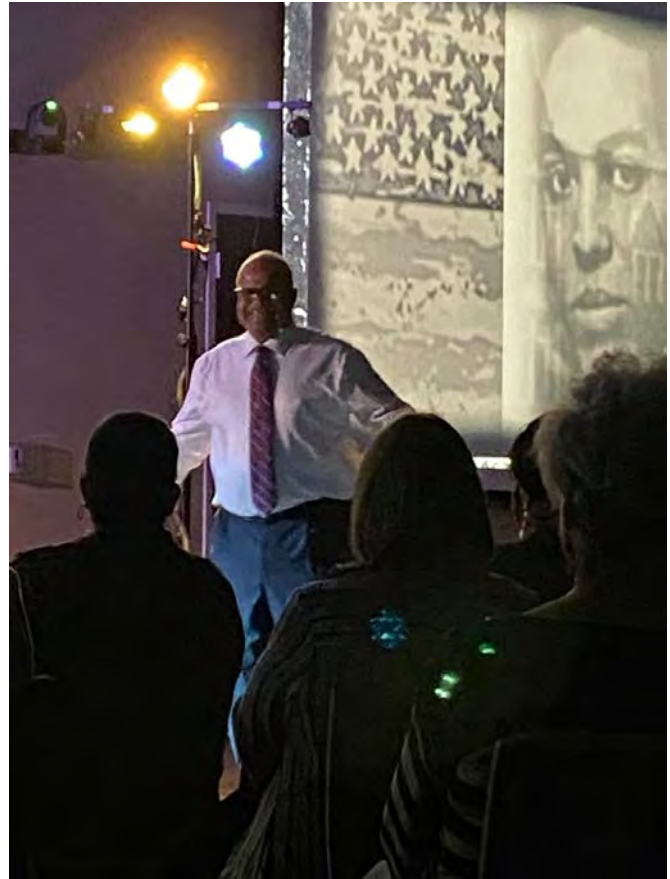
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## "Thurgood"

Friday night at the Brannon Center in New Smyrna Beach was a great start to Black History Month here in Volusia County. It began with Larry Murphy performing the one-man show, "Thurgood", written by George Stevens, Jr. The multi-media performance followed the life and legacy of Thurgood Marshall, the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court. It was a riveting performance covering landmark legal cases from Plessy v. Ferguson to Brown v. Board of Education. Prior to his appointment to the Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall became notable as an influential American lawyer and civil rights activist, challenging segregation throughout the south. The League of Women Voters of Volusia County attended as solid supporters of the endeavor, subsidizing ticket sales to their members. Instrumental were Vickie Presley, League Board Member, Social Justice and Diversity, and Ann Harrell, League member and Chairperson of the Board of the Mary S. Harrell Black Heritage Museum.

"Thurgood" was presented by The Mary S. Harrell Black Heritage Museum and The Reel Film Foundation, with major sponsorship by the City of New Smyrna Beach. Proceeds from the performance go to the Mary S. Harrell Black Heritage Museum Annual Scholarship, to inspire students to continue their education.

Vickie Presley, Larry Murphy, and  
Ann Smith at "Thurgood."



Larry Murphy as "Thurgood"



Left and above: more pictures from  
"Thurgood" performance.

## League Members Visit the Mary S. Harrell Black Heritage Museum

LWVVC members celebrated local Black Heritage with a tour of the Mary S. Harrell Black Heritage Museum in New Smyrna Beach. Founded by local educator, Mary S. Harrell, the museum contains a rich and varied collection of photos, oral histories, and memorabilia that tell the story of the people of the historic West Side community. The League's Social Justice Team, led by Vickie Presley, arranged for the tour to commemorate Black History Month and educate members about our rich local history. Many thanks to LWVVC member Ann Harrell and her husband Allen (brother-in law of the museum's founder) for their fascinating tour of the museum and adjacent Heritage House.



Front Center—Ann Harrell serves as our museum tour guide. L to R: Vickie Pressley, Pat Drago, Mary Kiernan Tighe, Mary Ann Connors and Ann Smith.



Above and Right—more pictures from the Black Heritage Museum/



## Voter Service and Natural Resources Teams at The Lyonia Wildlife Festival

LWVVC Voter Service and Natural Resources Teams were busy at the Lyonia Preserve Festival registering/educating voters and sponsoring an election for children-Vote for your Favorite Animal. Voters chose between a snake, alligator, hawk/osprey or shark! It was terrific to watch these young voters think carefully about their choice before casting their ballot. And the winner of the "Vote for your favorite animal" contest was the Hawk/Osprey with 25 votes out of 88!



Susy Rudolph, Sue Hoffstrand, Nicki Junkins and Nancy Vaughn



Nancy Vaughn assists young voters



Jennifer Devers and Jeanne Tanke with a young family



Sue Hoffstrand assists an interested voters

## Education Action Team Report



The Education Action Team met Feb. 7 virtually and discussed current education issues. The day's discussion included remarks about the climate on school campuses both locally and nationally. Members talked about what they learned from Saturday's Black Heritage visit to the Mary Harrell Museum in New Smyrna Beach and how much we think we know. It is so important to be willing to see the world through another set of eyes, recognizing that our view will always be only one aspect of an issue.

The group discussed further the opportunity to talk with other parent groups about finding common ground. Pat will contact Moms for Liberty and Volusia Parents for Freedom and ask if they would meet with us to better understand viewpoints. We will start from the premise that we all want our children to flourish and for learning to take place as developmentally appropriate. Several legislative bills were reviewed and it was agreed that we will ask to meet with our legislators to discuss educational issues specifically after session.

Also, we want to understand how much flexibility is accorded the classroom teacher in curriculum delivery as well as what is being done for elementary school students who have missed critical early learning components due to COVID. Pat will set up a meeting with district staff to look at elementary development first. Nicki Junkins and Miriam Guy Hughley will participate. They will then report back to the team.

Next meeting will be March 7 at 3:00pm. We hope to be in person. Location to be announced.

*Pat Drago, Chair*

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## Voter Service Action Team Report

We have been busy at several public events! Starting January 9 we had a table at the **Three Kings Festival** in Deltona, with Vivan Lord, Allan Cowan, Mary Kiernan-Tighe and Olga Hernandez. Then January 17 we attended the **MLK Daytona Festival**, with Vivian Lord and Allan Cowan, Nicki Junkins and Saralee Morrissey. The **Black History Festival** was February 5 and 6, rainy and cold days, with Vivian and Allan, Mary, Stephen Tonjes, Lucy Christman, Jeanne Tanke, Pat Cosby and Jennifer Dever. Finally, we attended the **Wildlife Festival** in Deltona with the Natural Resources team including Mary, Nicki, Suzy Rudolph, Jeanne and Jennifer Dever. Welcome to new members, Suzy and Jennifer.

These festivals were small, and while there were few voters to register, we did talk to many people about the benefits of requesting a vote by mail ballot, including clearing up some misinformation.

Over the last month we have had several conversations about focus for voter service leading up to the next election. While registration and update for registrations are always key, we recognize that with the high rate of registered voters in Volusia county and the increasing complexities of voting, our focus needs to be on voter education about the impact of the vote and voting procedures.

Coming up this month is the **Mardi Gras Festival** and **Dog Parade** in Deland. We will have a voter table at the festival and will be marching in the parade with our banner and pooches. We also hope to finalize details about distribution of a flyer (highlighting why and how people should vote) close to primary time, dive into plans to use information provided by the Supervisor of Elections about low turnout, registered voters and connect with students.

*Nancy Nusbaum, chair*

## Natural Resources Action Team Report

The Natural Resources Team has been following the current Legislative Session in Tallahassee. There are many positive water bills that we are watching, but others, namely the assault on net metering, we have taken a stance against. Our team has been tuning into the State Natural Resources calls each month to stay abreast of these bills as well as following Action Alerts from the LWVFL.

Those who volunteered on Saturday, 2/12 at the Wildlife Festival at Lyonia Environmental Center had a great time. Lots of kids engaged with the animals and the other exhibitors as well as 88 kids (and a couple of grownups!) voting for their favorite animals. It is a great way to get kids engaged in voting (they love it!) as well as getting to reach out to their parents to give them information about upcoming voting law changes. We all had a fun day!

On 2/21 interested team members will be taking part in a guided tour of the Tomoka Landfill to see how our household waste is recycled or disposed of.

We will also have a table at the DeLand Dog Parade with the Voter Service Team. This is on 2/26 from 10am – 4pm.

In March we will be touring the NuCycle Energy Plant to see how election signs are recycled in preparation for our election recycling efforts in both the primary and general elections this year.

Upcoming in April, we will be hosting Kerry Karl who will be speaking about the growth in Volusia County. Karl is the Executive Director of the Volusia County Association for Responsible Development (VCARD). With so much growth and development happening in Volusia County, what are ways to engage the land development community in the decisions made about where, what, and how we build? Kerry will share what VCARD has been doing to further this dialogue with other community stakeholders.

Due to member requests, the Natural Resources Team will meet on the second Thursday of each month. We plan to start meeting in person in outdoor venues. Looking forward to seeing everyone in person!

*Nancy Vaughn, Natural Resources Team Chair*

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## Constant Contact Communications Alert

As an organization we use Constant Contact (CC) for League business communications with our membership and with friends of the League of Women Voters of Volusia County. You should expect a CC email at least 3-4 times a month or more. The Board of Directors works very hard offering relevant programs that help educate us on current issues. If you have not heard from us in a while, something is amiss! Please check your spam folder, promotions, social, etc. to make sure that your internet provider has not placed these communications somewhere other than your inbox. You should also check to see if the email address that sends CC, [ahsmith5@bellsouth.net](mailto:ahsmith5@bellsouth.net), has not been blocked access to your inbox. Most communications are also posted on the league website and on Facebook. If you see something there that you did not receive, thoroughly check your email. If you have no success, contact [ahsmith5@bellsouth.net](mailto:ahsmith5@bellsouth.net) and we will see if there might be another solution. Remember that communication is what binds us together and keeps us moving forward.

## LWVVC Speakers Bureau

We have reactivated the league Speakers Bureau and will conduct a training session on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. At that time, we will be ready to “go on the road”. If you belong to other organizations trying to set up programs for the end of this year and/or 2023, have the program chair contact us with a date and time. These programs run anywhere from 30-45 minutes. We have a very timely nonpartisan educational presentation on SB90, but we will make no comments on the state lawsuit that is in progress now. A few other topics, among many that are available, are Redistricting, Your Voice, Your Power, Your Vote and Ranked Choice Voting. Help us get the word out and continue to educate our communities! We are available to do both Zoom and in person.

*Wes Lewis and Ann Smith*  
*Co-Chairs*

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### **Getting to Know Your League** *New and Current Members are Invited*

Join us in March as League Members share information about the League and our Volusia County Chapter. This is an opportunity for you to meet other members, learn about the League’s mission in our community and chose what role you may want to play in League activities.

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

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

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

**Where:** Pattie Gertenbach  
53 Sea Harbor Drive East, Ormond Beach, 32176  
**When:** March 24<sup>th</sup>, Thursday from 2-4 pm

Pattie’s home has a very spacious covered room, open to the outdoors. Light refreshments will be served. Wearing masks is optional.

**Future Getting to Know Your League sessions:**  
Port Orange: May 21, Saturday from 2-4 pm  
Deland: October 15, Saturday from 2-4 pm

We look forward to the opportunity to meet you and learn more about your interests. A Constant Contact email will have the invitation and link for you to sign-up to attend on March 24<sup>th</sup>. A confirmation email will be sent to you as well as a copy of the *Member Handbook*.

*Judy Gordon, Membership Chair*

## Welcome New Members!!

Felicia Benzo  
 Rosemary Davies  
 Kelsey Hansen-Walter  
 Kandis Natoli  
 Livia Noyes  
 Fran Pettigrew  
 Pamela Phillips  
 Constance Poitier  
 Susan Rudolph



### ***2021-2022 LWVVC Board Members:***

*Mary Anne Connors.....President*  
*Nicki Junkins.....Immediate Past President*  
*Susan Bayley..... 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President*  
*Cathy Egley.....2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President*  
*Deborah Noah.....Treasurer*  
*Betty Johnson.....Secretary*

#### *Directors:*

*Carla Christenson*  
*Judy Gordon*  
*Wesley Lewis*  
*Nancy Nusbaum*  
*Ann Smith*

*Pat Drago*  
*Olga Hernandez*  
*SaraLee Morrissey*  
*Vickie Presley*  
*Nancy Vaughn*

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