

Member Handbook 2023-2024

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League Mission and Goals	

Mission: *Empowering voters. Defending democracy*

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots, non-partisan organization that has fought since 1920 to improve our government and engage all Americans in the decisions that impact their lives. For 100 years, our central mission has been to educate and prepare citizens to cast an informed ballot and to protect our democratic principles. As a non-partisan political organization, LWVVC works to encourage informed and active participation in government, increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County, officially recognized in September of 1949, has been actively engaged in promoting good government within our community since its inception.

Nonpartisan Policy

As a non-partisan organization, the League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate for office (see our [Nonpartisan Policy](#)). The League does take positions on selected issues after completing the LWV study and action process. Once members have reached consensus on a League position on an issue, we act to effect change. Our goal is to empower citizens to shape better communities. Read our [Bylaws](#) (updated May 2019).

How the League is Organized

The Board of Directors of the LWVVC is elected by local members to manage League activities. The Board consists of LWVVC officers, elected directors, and up to five appointed directors.

Each spring, LWVVC holds its annual meeting at which members vote on a slate of officers, approve dues and budgets, bylaws changes, and local program positions.

The League encourages members to express themselves to their leaders on any League concern. Members are always welcome at any Board meeting or state or national Convention, where they can speak up to persuade and to vote if they are Board members or delegates.

At the state and national levels, recommendations on officers and programs begin with members at local meetings. The final decisions are made at the state or national biennial convention, which is composed of delegates elected by the local Leagues.

What does the League do?

The work of the League is accomplished by dedicated, committed members who work in unison to accomplish our mission. Working through teams and by participating in our organized programs, members develop strong interpersonal relationships, deepen their knowledge on a variety of issues, and explore many opportunities to make a difference in their community.

Setting the Local Agenda

Every summer, the board of directors holds its annual planning retreat during which board members vote on the president's recommendations for appointed director positions, set goals and priorities for the coming year, and plan the calendar of program offerings. There are many considerations that come into play as the choices for the programs are made. These include:

- Recommendations from action teams and membership.
- Emerging issues within the community that align with League program positions.
- Sufficient member interest and commitment. ● Potential League effectiveness on the issue.
- Positions from LWVUS public policy positions found in [Impact on Issues](#).

Our goals for 2023-2024

- Educate, motivate, and empower citizens for the upcoming elections.
- Educate ourselves and our community about historic and current social injustices.
- Promote collaboration and build positive relationships with diverse groups.
- Educate and advocate in the areas of election integrity and issues of public interest.
- Engage, empower, and involve members and work to build depth of leadership.

Work to Achieve Goals

Once the goals are selected, action teams for each focus begin their work. Any member may participate, and these small groups provide wonderful opportunities for growth, networking, and friendships.

The Study and Action Process Used to Adopt a Position

Positions result from a process of study. Any given study, whether it be National, State, or Local, is thorough in its pursuit of facts and details. As the study progresses, a continuing discussion of pros and cons of each situation occurs. Prior to the results of the study being presented to the general membership, study committee members fashion consensus questions that are then addressed by the membership.

Additional discussion, pro and con, takes place as members (not part of the study committee) learn the scope of the study. After the members reach consensus, the board forms positions based on that consensus.

It is the **consensus statement** -the statement resulting from the consensus questions-that becomes a position. Firm action or advocacy can then be taken on the issue addressed by the position. Without a position, action/advocacy cannot be taken. More information regarding adoption positions is available at [Our Positions](#).

Speaking with One Voice

The League of Women Voters acts on an issue or advocates for a cause when there is an existing League position that supports the issue or speaks to the cause. League action takes many forms. Basically, an action program aims to increase public awareness of an issue and secure a resolution consistent with League goals.

To ensure consistency of message, only the president or president's representative speaks in the name of the League. Individual members may not put forth League positions in public testimony or letters-to-the-editor but may suggest that the president do so. However, they are encouraged to speak or write as informed individual citizens.

Getting Plugged in to the League's Work

Every year a variety of initiatives are considered based on local, state, and national initiatives as well as LWVVC goals. There are a variety of ways members can become involved in the League's work.

Our members stay informed on the issues through educational programs such as:

- Hot Topics and General Meetings during which leading experts examine all sides of important issues facing our community, state, and nation.
- Candidate Forums.
- League Sponsored Workshops.

Our coordinated advocacy efforts include:

- Meeting with our local legislators.
- Writing op-eds and letters to the editor by the president or president's designee (members are urged to participate in this process as individuals, not on behalf of the League).
- Working through the League to support endorsed League positions.
- Advocating for an issue at public meetings by the president or president's designee.

As a member, you will be invited to:

- Join one or more of our Action or Community Outreach Teams.
- Mingle and learn at our social mixers and meetings.

There are several ways for you to stay informed about what the LWVVC action and community outreach teams are doing:

- Follow [our Facebook page](#) for event notices and links to articles relevant to our work.
- Check the [online calendar](#) for event details, including Action and Community Outreach Team meetings or contact committee chairs through the [Contact Us](#) link

- Read email correspondence from LWVVC, especially our bi-monthly newsletter [The Voter](#) and the e-mail updates through Constant Contact.
- Attend General Membership and Hot Topics meetings.

[Action Teams](#) support immediate and pressing issues of local importance through coordinated volunteer group effort, special programs, and hot topic discussions in these targeted subject areas. For a complete description, go to [Action Teams](#)

Education | Action Team Chair: Pat Drago - The LWVVC supports a free public-school system that is financed adequately by the state through an equitable funding formula for Volusia County that ensures high standards for student achievement and quality educational opportunity for all students.

Growth Management | Action Team Chair: Saralee Morrissey - The LWVVC is concerned about the negative consequences of rapid growth throughout the region. Our positions address the goals and processes of our county charter, meaningful comprehensive planning, applicable and appropriate land development regulations, and require coordination amongst all the governments in Volusia County.

Natural Resources | Action Team Chairs: Nancy Vaughn - The LWVVC supports efforts to conserve and protect our water supply as an essential part of ecosystem management through storm water management, expanded reclaimed water use, and community outreach education.

Social Justice and Diversity | Action Team Chair: Kitty Garber -The Social Action and Diversity Team is working to build positive relationships with diverse community groups and organizations. The team's goals are to educate our members and our community about the historic injustices that have existed in our society and to engage in activities that promote racial harmony and justice for all.

Women's Rights Action Team | Chair: Alicia Keenon - The LWVVC supports the pursuit and implementation of women's rights that foster equality. The Women's Rights Action Team seeks to educate and inform the community of ongoing efforts to support women's rights in all areas of society and focus on current equality issues affected by county, state, and federal **government**.

[Community Outreach Teams](#) work to engage members through dynamic involvement with other organizations, local government, and League management.

Legislative | Chair: Clay Meek - LWVVC is committed to establishing collegial relationships with our officials as we seek common ground on solutions to improve our community. Each year, the Lobby Corps team meets with our local legislative delegation and other elected officials to discuss important community issues and to share our League priorities.

[Observer Corps](#) | Chair-chairs: [Susan Bayley](#). The official function of the Observer Corps is to attend, observe, and report government meetings. These reports are available in [The Voter](#)

[Speakers Bureau](#) | **Chair: Ann Smith** - The LWVVC works to encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in state and local government. Our nonpartisan speakers educate and inform citizens using 30-45 minute presentations on a wide variety of topics.

[Voter Service](#) | **Action Team Chair: Nancy Nusbaum** - The LWVVC registers voters and conducts voter registration drives. A dedicated team informs citizens on current issues. Before elections, we sponsor candidate forums and give presentations about the proposed amendments to the Florida constitution and other local issues. These events usually are in partnership with local organizations. As a service to the community the LWVVC produces Voter Guides.



Join one or more of our Action or Community Outreach teams. You can ease your way in or jump in full force - it's up to you. Do you want to try something new, learn about an emerging issue, or develop a new skill? Or do you prefer to work on something you already know about and lend your existing expertise?

Please always check the [LWVVC calendar](#), [The Voter](#) and Constant Contact communications for meeting dates and times as they sometimes change.

League General Membership Gatherings

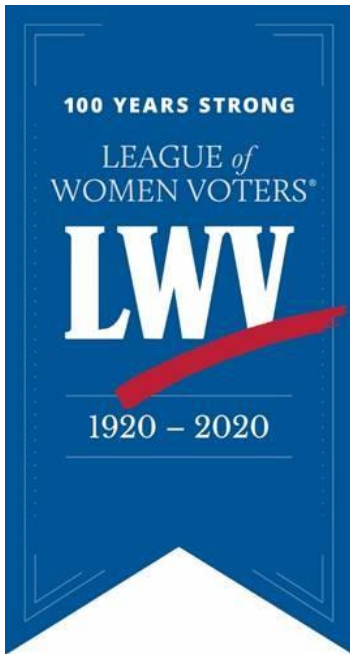
LWVVC sponsors a monthly program featuring guest speakers or panel discussions on a variety of issues that reflect the goals and priorities set during the summer retreat. These programs are designed to educate our members and the community about issues that impact our citizens and provide a forum for community discussion. League members can also participate in a variety of social events including wine tastings, and historic/eco tours. In December, LWVVC members are invited to participate in our gala annual Holiday Party.

How the League is Financed

Dues from LWVVC membership are a major source of income, although they are kept low enough to allow most interested citizens to join. A large portion of local dues support the League state and national levels through assessments called per-member payments (PMPs). These PMPs make local fundraising beyond dues absolutely imperative. Our fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30 and current members will receive a membership renewal letter each June.

We rely on member donations, grants, and sometimes fees for specific activities, such as conducting elections for nonprofits. All members are invited to make a donation to LWVVC. Anyone wishing to join, renew, or donate can do so by visiting our [LWVVC](#) webpage.

History of the League



Carrie Chapman Catt organized the League of Women Voters of the United States in **1920** shortly before the Women’s Suffrage Amendment was ratified. Its principal aim was to help newly enfranchised women become politically educated, responsible voting citizens. In **1921** the Citizenship Department of the Palmetto Club, Daytona Beach was established and later absorbed into the LWV in the spring of **1922**.

The state league reformed in **1939** thanks to women from Winter Haven, Winter Park, and St. Petersburg. Daytona Beach moved forward on its own to become a recognized chapter in **1949**, as the League of Women Voters of Daytona Beach. Now the League has 29 local Leagues, with 6,190 members throughout the state of Florida (as of June 2020). [Read the full history.](#)

Over the years, the League has opened a door to intellectual activity and involvement in political life. League members have studied many issues and have been active in calling for changes and reforms to public policy. The

League has served as a training ground for many community leaders and is determined to continue to be a pertinent and meaningful collective voice in local governance.

Leadership The Board meets on the third Wednesday of each month. A strategic planning session is held early in the summer, attended by Board Member, Action Team, and Committee chairs. Meetings are open to all members.

2023-2024 LWVVC Board of Directors

President	Nicki Junkins
1 st VP	Cathy Egley
2nd VP	Clay Meek
Treasurer	Ken Fischer
Secretary	Deb Ulmer
Director	Pat Drago - Education
Director	Olga Hernandez- Membership Management
Director	Saralee Morrissey - Growth Management
Director	Nancy Nusbaum - Voter Service
Director	Nancy Vaughn - Natural Resources/Media/Web Support
Director	Carla Christianson – Meeting and hot topic speakers
Director	Bonnie Friedman - Membership Outreach
Director	Alicia Keenon - The Voter Editor, Women’s Rights
Director	Ann Smith - Speakers Bureau/Parliamentarian/Constant Contact/Zoom

Off Board Leadership:

Social Justice Chair	Kitty Garber
Abortion Petition Coordinator	Jeanne Tanke
Nominating Chair	Monique Fischer

Budget Committee

Clay Meek – Chair- A Budget Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors at least two months prior to the Annual Meeting to prepare a budget for the ensuing year. The proposed budget shall be presented to the Board of Directors in a timely fashion for Board approval, prior to being sent, either in print or electronically, to all members one month before the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer shall not serve as chair of the Budget Committee.

Nominating Committee

Monique Fischer – Chair- The Nominating Committee selects nominees for officers, directors, and nominating committee to be sent to all members one month before the date of the Annual Meeting and shall be presented to the members at the Annual Meeting.

League contact information Mailing Address:

LWVVC
Post Office Box 9695
Daytona Beach, FL 32120

Email: mail@lwvvc.org

- On the web: [League of Women Voters of Volusia County](#)
[League of Women Voters of Florida](#)
[League of Women Voters of the United States](#)
[LWV Florida Study and Action Guide](#)
- On Facebook: [League of Women Voters of Volusia County](#)
[League of Women Voters of Florida](#)
[League of Women Voters of the United States](#)
- On Twitter: [League of Women Voters of Volusia County](#)
[League of Women Voters of Florida](#)

[League of Women Voters of the United States](#)

On Instagram: [League of Women Voters of Volusia County](#)

[League of Women Voters of Florida](#)

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