



Welcome to the new Voter format! From now on, you can receive the whole Voter directly in your inbox via Constant Contact.

This August voter is an update on the beginning of our new year.

In early September, you can look forward to a "regular" voter with news from all the action teams and more!

President's Remarks Our Direction for 2023/2024



Our Year Ahead - The 2024 election season is right around the corner and the coming year promises to be a busy one. On July 15, the LWVVC board held its annual planning retreat to set the League's direction for the next 12 months. Two themes ran through the board's discussion: increasing member engagement and expanding outreach in the community. The 2023- 2024 goals and strategies reflect those priorities and will guide our efforts in the coming year (see below for more details). Engaging with and educating voters will, as always, be central to our work. While our voter service team leads that effort, educating voters is the mission for the entire League.

Young Voters - Moving forward, we will intensify our efforts to reach young adult voters (between 18 and 40) who make up a large voting block but traditionally have low voter turnout. These young Americans are the future of our country and their engagement and involvement in elections is vital to the future health of our democracy. Hopefully, as these young adults learn more about the League, they will also consider becoming members.

Member Engagement - An engaged membership is crucial to any organization's success. We recognize that League members join the organization for a variety of reasons. Some folks want to be highly engaged in a variety of activities, others less so. Whether a member is interested in every aspect of the League, prefers to support the work of a specific action team or committee, wants to attend educational speaker events, or just wishes to receive League updates and information, we are looking for new ways to meet those preferences. To that end, the board put in place an initiative to increase member engagement under the leadership of Bonnie Friedman.

New Things - We are forming a new action team for **Women's Rights** lead by Alicia Keenon - see below for more details. And, for those who want to learn more about community issues, we will be including a **Book Corner** in our newsletter, The Voter. A complete list of action teams and committees can be found in the Get Involved section of our website, lwvvc.org. Let us know if you are interested in joining any of our groups. We need you!

Get Involved - While the board sets goals and general direction, our action teams and committees accomplish the day-to-day work. In August, we will be meeting with team leaders and chairs to discuss ways to accomplish these goals. I encourage you to share your ideas and suggestions with your team leaders or me at president@lwvvc.org. The board and I look forward to having you involved in whatever ways suit your interests.

In League,
Nicki Junkins

LWVVC Board of Directors Planning Retreat



The LWVVC Board of Directors held their annual planning retreat on Saturday, July 15th. The packed agenda included the appointment of four board members, adoption of new goals and strategies, and planning the calendar of meeting topics. New board members include Carla Christianson, monthly programs coordinator; Alicia Keenon, our Voter editor and Women's Rights Team Chair; Bonnie Friedman, Membership Outreach Chair, and Ann Smith, Speakers Bureau Chair, Parliamentarian, and Constant Contact coordinator.



The board adopted five goals with strategies that set the direction for the year. Those goals and strategies are:

Educate, motivate, and empower citizens for the upcoming elections.

- Expand efforts to educate voters to research factual information related to the election.
- Focus “get out the vote” efforts on young adults.

Educate ourselves and our community about historic and current social injustices.

- Provide opportunities to learn about the civil rights movement, and advocacy efforts that led to positive change and can be applied to the social justice movement today.

Promote collaboration and build positive relationships with diverse groups.

- Promote community attendance at LWVVC events.
- Partner with community organizations and diverse groups having varying viewpoints.

Educate and advocate in the areas of election integrity and issues of public interest.

- Provide programs and activities that actively engage members in discussing issues and learning new skills.
- Provide programs and activities that actively engage the community.

Engage, empower, and involve members and work to build depth of leadership.

- Implement a campaign to promote the League in the community.
- Expand opportunities for League members to become contributing participants.
- Develop a leadership program for members who show interest in and potential for League leadership positions.

Following a brief lunch, the board began laying out the calendar of program events for the coming year.

Each month, LWVVC will offer an educational program that focuses on issues that are important to the community. Our first event will be held in August and will focus on hate crimes in Volusia County.



Look for our event email notices each month and keep track of what's going on by visiting www.lwvvc.org.

Newly Appointed Board Members 2023-2024

At the July 15 board of directors planning retreat, four additional board members were appointed by the board for a one-year term which runs from July 1 to June 30. Per our By-laws, the LWVVC board may include up to five appointed directors in addition to the five officers and five directors who are elected for two-year terms by the membership. The new board members are:



Carla Christianson has a degree in interior design from College of DuPage in Glen Ellen, IL. She was owner of an interior design firm for many years in Naperville, IL. Prior to the design firm she was owner of retail store and home party plan business, Wicker Unlimited, in Lisle, Illinois. Carla and her husband Jim, who is also a League member, retired to Florida in 1999 after cruising the Great Lakes while living aboard a boat for two years. Carla and Jim have three grown sons who live out of the area.

During her time in the League, she has served as Natural Resources and Voter Service chair as well as LWVVC first Vice President and Director. She also chaired the 2020 centennial year celebration and the Money in Politics Study. For the last two years she has served as the League's program chair.



Alicia Keenon was born in Cincinnati, OH, but moved to Germany as a small child where she grew up bilingually. Alicia completed her master's degrees in political science as well as in English linguistics at the University in Kassel, Germany. In 1990, she moved to Phoenix, AZ where she eventually became the director of a nonprofit organization that serves at risk children through the arts. She now teleworks for the same nonprofit, writing grants and managing the organization's marketing.

Alicia is an avid art photographer with a history of exhibitions in Germany and in many parts of the United States. She includes social justice issues in some of her photographic projects, including racism and transgender youth.

Alicia has an extensive history of political activism. Most recently, she served as a chapter president for the ACLU of Florida and served on the state board of directors.

She recently joined the LWVVC and is very happy to be able to help as editor of the Voter. Alicia lives and works in Port Orange where she has been since 2011.



Bonnie Friedman grew up in Brooklyn, New York. Educated at Brooklyn college, Bonnie became a kindergarten/music teacher. In 1973 she moved to Central Florida and completed her master's degree in early childhood education\supervision at UCF. After a year of teaching migrant preschoolers in Sanford, Bonnie became the Director of the Jewish Community Center's Early Childhood Learning Center in Maitland. She grew the school from 40 to over 400 children, establishing a strong parent committee, and a highly respected staff. Through her 20 years of employment, Bonnie worked on successful fundraisers for the school, and was an adjunct professor of Early Childhood Education at S.C.C.

Bonnie is married to Marv, a new league member. They love to travel and have visited many countries around the world. They have 2 wonderful sons, daughter-in-laws, and grandsons. In her spare time, Bonnie is active (past VP) in the Victoria Gardens Women's Club and busy enjoying retirement.



Ann Smith is a graduate of Florida State University with a BA in English Education. She taught in the Volusia County school system for 34 years as an English and speech teacher primarily in grade 7. She was the 1985 Volusia County Teacher of the Year.

Ann was a proud member of the teachers' organization her entire teaching career, holding numerous offices including teacher representative, president, and chief negotiator. She represented the state organization in Washington on the National Education Board and also served as the chairperson of the NEA Human and Civil Rights Committee for many years.

Ann has been a member of the League of Women Voters of Volusia County for over 30 years. In addition to many different leadership roles, she is a past president, former voter service chair and currently serves as parliamentarian, speakers bureau chair, Constant Contact point person, and coordinator of Candidates Forums.

Programs and Events for the Upcoming Year



As we approach an election year, the board and our members will be busy! For the 23/24 season, we will offer one event every month. There will be a variety of locations and times to accommodate all our members in Volusia County.

We look forward to interesting conversations as we address some “hot issues” Florida voters are facing. We believe every meeting is a **Hot Topic** this coming year.

August

Sheriff Michael Chitwood will discuss the issue of hate crimes in Volusia County. He will be joined by Cynthia Fisher, a Clinical Social Worker and Therapist, who focuses on LGBTQA+ with emphasis on transgender populations who are extremely vulnerable to hate crimes.

When: Thursday, August 24, 2023, 5:30PM

Where: Family Resource Center, 3747 International Speedway Blvd, Daytona Beach

September

Clay Meek will give us a closer look at two of the recent decisions by The Supreme Court. Look for the announcement and details for this event via Constant Contact.

When: Thursday, September 21, 2023, 5:30PM

Where: Port Orange Library, 1005 City Center Cir, Port Orange

Most of our meetings are open to the public. We aim to educate as many voters as possible, so please bring a friend or neighbor to our events.

Watch for the **Constant Contact** in your inbox or check out webpage www.lwvvc.org for more information.

New Women's Rights Action Team

In addition to our many fantastic action teams, a new Women's Rights Action team is being formed. Alicia Keenon is the chair. The action team's goals are:

- Educate ourselves and community members/voters of historical and ongoing lack of gender equality and the resulting consequences.
- Advocate for positive change for women in all areas of society
- Focus on current equality issues affected by county, state, and federal government.



If you are interested in getting involved in this action team, please contact Alicia Keenon at alicia.keenon@gmail.com and put "Women's Rights" in the subject line.

Membership Outreach

Enhance your experience in the Volusia County League of Women Voters!

Local Leaguers will be offered to our local Volusia communities to meet members who live close by. Get to know your fellow members, establish carpools to meetings and events, get the latest league news and make new friends.

Meet & Greets will be an opportunity to host a small gathering at your home to introduce your friends and neighbors to the League. We'll supply the speakers and the informative

program. You will be asked to supply a snack and beverage. Help your league to grow and do its important work.

You are invited to become a part of the active **Membership Committee**. Help us build our membership and develop a plan for the coming year.

Join us! Contact Bonnie Friedman bonnietunes@yahoo.com



Last but not least, if you haven't already, it is time to renew dues now! Go to [HERE](#) to use your credit card online. Or you can download the PDF version of the [Membership Form](#) to send by mail with a check to **LWVVC, PO Box 9695, Daytona Beach, FL 32120.**

For questions, contact Membership Chair Olga Hernandez
oah@vyndicar.com

The League Of Women Voters of Volusia County | P.O. Box 9695, Daytona Beach, FL 32120

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