

November 2023 NEWS - League of Women Voters Palm Beach County

League of Women Voters Palm Beach County <communications@lwvpbc.org>
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE — NOVEMBER 2023



As I reflect on Thanksgiving, I believe as an organization we have many things to be thankful for at this time of year and throughout the year. I want to thank everyone involved with our fundraiser last month. It was a huge success! Cathy Einhorn and Marcia Sherwood as co-chairs, along with the committee of Connie Christians, Irene Dec, Linda Kramer, Mary Mertz and Gary Schweikart, worked together for months on end to ensure a most successful event. Thank you all so very much. To all of our

sponsors, patrons, and contributors, you all helped to make this one of the most, if not the most, successful projects the LWVPBC has ever hosted. Thank you, thank you, thank you! And a huge thank you to Tania Rogers and Brian Crowley for speaking at the fundraiser and providing us with

thought-provoking insights into local and national events. They were the stars of the show. We were pleased to honor Wendy Sartory Link with our Heroes and Mavericks award. Last, but not least, to all of the members who supported us at the fundraiser and continue to support the LWVPBC by your attendance at events, with your volunteer time and with your financial support- thank you from the bottom of my heart. As you can tell we have many things for which to be thankful.

Make sure to stay tuned to upcoming activities by viewing the website. Our January Hot Topic will feature STET Media Group, a new and exciting investigative news source. The three co-founders of this online news source will provide insight to local, state and national politics. This event will be held January 17th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at the Mounts Botanical Garden Exhibition Hall from 10:00 am-noon on February 10th. A Connect and Reboot event will be at the South County Civic Center at 16700 Jog Road in Delray Beach. Carey Haughwout, Palm Beach County Public Defender, will be our featured speaker.

I am wishing you and yours joy, hope, and peace this Thanksgiving. I am most thankful for all of you and what you bring to the League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County.

— **Kathi Gundlach, President**

League Fundraising Luncheon a Big Success!

by Cathy Einhorn, Fundraiser Chair

The League Fundraising Luncheon was a big success and a lot of fun for everyone in attendance. Benvenutos did a fabulous job from the delicious lunch (I hear the salmon was out of this world), to the speakers, Brian Crowley and Tania Rogers from WPTV. They were both entertaining and on point. Wendy Link received the Heroes and Mavericks award for her tireless work and support of the League as the Supervisor of Elections.



The support from the League was tremendous, from the Auction donations, the financial support, and everyone who came and helped that day. It was truly a team effort!

I personally want to thank my co-chair, Marcia Sherwood, and the committee: Mary Mertz, Gary Schweikart, Irene Dec, Kathi Gundlach, and our fabulous Administrative Assistant, Linda Kramer and tech guru Connie Christians for their tireless work, every monthly meeting, and advice. We couldn't have done this without you!



HOT TOPIC

“The Crisis in Local Journalism”
Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at 11 am
Mounts Botanical Garden
Doors open at 11 am, Lunch begins at 11:30 am,
the program starts at noon



STET MEDIA GROUP

An informative discussion about Palm Beach County's newest and toughest investigative news source with the three co-founders of the online newsletter:

Carolyn DiPaolo, Joel Engelhardt and Pat Beall



[**REGISTER HERE**](#)

Our annual Thanksgiving basket drive is around the corner!

You can make a difference this Thanksgiving by filling a basket for foster families. Deliver the baskets by Monday, November 20th, between 8 a.m.

and 6 p.m. 4100 Okeechobee Blvd., West Palm Beach, FL 33409

Ashley Cacicedo-Surdoval is also willing to pick them up and deliver them.
(732) 757-9943 or avcacicedo@gmail.com.

If you have any questions, call 561-352-2540 or email
admin@friendsoffosterchildren.com for more details!

FILL A THANKSGIVING BASKET FOR FOSTER FAMILIES

**DELIVER ON: 11/20 TO: 4100 Okeechobee Blvd
WPB, FL 33409**

2 cans of greenbeans

2 jars of gravy

2 cans of carrots

1 can of cranberry sauce

1 box of mashed potatoes

1 box/bag of stuffing

1 can of cream of mushroom soup

1 package of dinner rolls

1 pumpkin pie

CONTACT ADMIN@FRIENDSOFFOSTERCHILDREN.COM WITH ANY QUESTIONS!

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO
BE AS CREATIVE
AS YOU WANT IN FILLING
AND DECORATING YOUR
BASKET!

friends of
**FOSTER
CHILDREN**



UJIMA
Building Stronger Teams Through Unity

TURKEYS PROVIDED
BY A GENEROUS
DONATION FROM
UJIMA AT GILBANE
BUILDING CO.



**We are collecting gifts for
1,300+ children in foster care!**

Thank you for
**FOSTERING
HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

collect new toys and drop them off at our office

OR

Shop Amazon Wishlist

bit.ly/ffcamazontoys



Donate Online

bit.ly/ffctoydrive23



@FFCPBC



@friendsof_fosterchildren

561-352-2540

4100 Okeechobee Blvd. West Palm Beach, FL 33409
admin@friendsoffosterchildren.com

Contact Jenn at jenn@ecpbc.org to volunteer!

HOLIDAY HELPERS

*Join EC and the League of Women Voters in
supporting our PBC community*

*Thanksgiving Dinner Distribution
Time slots between 1 and 7 pm, Nov. 21 and 22*

*Holiday Gift Wrapping
December 8 and 9 (all day!)*

*Email Jenn at jenn@ecpbc.org if you would like to
volunteer. Students needing volunteer hours are
welcome as are families with children*



Register for a FREE Thanksgiving Meal

Fully-cooked meal Includes:

Turkey with Gravy
Stuffing
Mashed Potatoes
Green Beans
Fresh Cranberry Sauce
Pumpkin or Apple Pie

Feeds 4 - 6 people



Visit our website to register
www.ecpbc.org
by November 15

November
21-22

Pick Up Time & Location:

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
2635 Old Okeechobee Rd
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

sponsored by:

Celebrating
10
Years
EXTRAORDINARY
CHARITIES

RECIPES
FOR
SUCCESS



SubCulture
group

For more information:

Contact: jenn@ecpbc.org

**Young Leaguers Chair
Ashley Cacicedo-Surdoval Honored**



In October, our very own Ashley Cacicedo-Surdoval received an Up & Comer Award for Rising Leadership from South Florida Business & Wealth Magazine. The Up & Comer Awards honor young professionals in the tri-county area who are invested in both their careers and their communities. Ashley has volunteered with our league for the past 7 years, and we are so proud of her!

Postcard Campaign Helps Returning Citizens by MJ Range

The League of Women Voters of Florida has been a leader in the goal of helping Returning Citizens to have their Right to vote restored. Most recently LWVFL has received a grant from the Legal Defense Fund to continue to contact returning citizens. This has allowed the League to print postcards that inform returning citizens that the LWVFL has trained pro bono attorneys who can help them determine their outstanding fees and fines if any, and/or other impediments to voting. LWVFL has also obtained the mailing address for several hundred thousand returning citizens. Several League chapters have been organizing events where League members gather to write postcards to the returning citizens. The grant covers the postage for cards written by League members.

On Saturday, October 21, 20 League members and friends gathered to write postcards at the Greenacre library. This group wrote 350 postcards that were then mailed.



[READ MORE](#)

VOTER EDUCATION AT MUSLIM ALLIANCE PICNIC

By Pam Maldonado, Voter Services



L-R — School Board member Karen Brill, Pam Maldonado, Ruby Awlad and Harriet Diamond

On a very warm October 29th afternoon, hundreds of Palm Beach County Muslims attended the annual picnic of the Muslim Alliance in John Prince Park. With lots of little ones in tow, entire families came to enjoy an afternoon of food and fellowship, games and prizes. It was a beautiful event, with women in brightly colored saris. No neutral colors here!

There might have been concerns, given the state of affairs in the Middle East, but for the afternoon, at least, families seemed absolutely focused on having a wonderful time. Harriet Diamond and Pam Maldonado provided voter education about updating Vote by Mail applications and signatures.

THE FINAL PUSH FOR PRO-CHOICE PETITIONS AND DONATIONS!

By Phyllis Applebaum, Voter Services Chair

free.link/push' in white, with the hashtag '#AbortionOnTheBallot' below it. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner."/>

FLORIDIANS
PROTECTING FREEDOM

Campaign organizing call:

FINAL PUSH!
for Petitions!

Wednesday, Nov 8th @6PM

Join us for this grassroots organizing call and learn how you can help us in the final stretch to put abortion on the ballot in Florida!

Join the call: free.link/push

#AbortionOnTheBallot

Headlines can be very revealing: “Texas Woman Almost Dies Because She Couldn’t Get an Abortion” informs people that abortion is a healthcare decision, which should be between a woman and her doctor. The overwhelming majority of Floridians think we should be free to make our

own personal healthcare decisions without interference from politicians. Despite that, politicians in Florida just signed the most extreme abortion ban in the nation. It bans abortion before most people even realize they are pregnant. Also, it limits what doctors and hospitals can do to help women with pregnancy complications, endangering women's lives, health, and fertility.

What can we do to help? The LWV has been collecting Pro-Choice petitions, but we need to redouble our efforts as we get close to the deadline, December 31. We've done well so far, but we need to push harder than ever to get over the line!

Equally as important, Florida Protecting Freedom (FPF), the group working on the petition, needs funding to meet our goal of getting the amendment on the ballot. Please donate as much as you can to: floridiansprotectingfreedom.com/donate They REALLY need the money for this last phase.

Also, please register and be on the call for FPF's final meeting on WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8 at 6:00 p.m. Join at flfree.link/push

Let's not stop until we get the amendment on the ballot! Let's do this for all women today and in the future! Thanks for all of your efforts.

HOW CAN SENIORS SAVE MONEY?

by Nancy Gau, Healthcare Chair



Costs can add up quickly, so it's beneficial to find ways to save money when possible. Seniors can save money through various cost-saving measures, such as budgeting and taking advantage of discounts that some businesses

offer to those starting at the ages of 55, 60, 62 or 65. Here are some great ways for seniors to stretch their retirement savings and consider new options that can help save them money.

1. Shop for new healthcare coverage

Review your insurance policies and shop around for a better rate.

Medicare healthcare coverage that doesn't match your needs can end up

costing you more in the long run. According to a report by [HealthView Services](#) a healthy 65-year-old couple who retired in 2021 will likely spend between \$156,208 and \$1 million on their lifetime healthcare costs, depending on their lifespan and their location.

Check in with a Medicare agent to help determine if you need to make changes to your Medicare coverage during the Annual Enrollment Period (October 15th to December 7th each year) to help avoid unexpected out-of-pocket costs. You can [get an online quote](#) at Medicare.org for Medicare plans that fit your healthcare needs. Or call (888) 815-3313 – TTY 711 to get answers and guidance over the phone from an experienced licensed sales agent.

You can also seek assistance at the Area Agency on Aging Elders Helpline (1-866-684-5885).

[Get more money-saving Ideas HERE!](#)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

By Darlene Kostrub, Membership Chair

Ten New Members in One Taste!

On November 4, 38 new members and prospects gathered along with 20 League Leaders for our last Taste of the League of 2023. We had ten new members join as a result of that Orientation and more will join soon. There was tremendous energy in the room as Issue Group Leaders spoke about their work and attendees learned specific ways they can be involved immediately as well as in the important 2024 election year.

It was very encouraging to have a number of younger folks very engaged in the event including the chair of the new FAU LWV, Priscila Buono. Thanks to the Membership Team and the Issue Group Leaders for making this a most productive event.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024



Our annual **Connect and Reboot** event will be held **Saturday, Feb. 10, from 10 a.m. to noon**, at the South County Civic Center at 16700 Jog Road in Delray Beach. **Carey Haughwout**, Palm Beach County Public Defender, will be our featured speaker. **Get the date on your calendar!**

PLEASE WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS

Contact information is available in the Member Directory at LWVPBC.org

Suzanne Ainslie (Palm Beach); Barbara Allan (Jupiter); Sue Ellen Beryl(Palm Beach Gardens); Melissa Billings; JoAnna Callahan (WPB); Mary Cassell (Delray Beach); Jessica Cohn (PBG); Francine Denowitz (Boynton Beach); Arlene DeWitt (Lake Worth Beach); Renee Drake-Forte (LW Beach); Lynn Edelman (Delray Beach); Nita Goldman; Barbara Kavanaugh (Delray Beach); Robert McKechnie (West Palm Beach); Francine Maher (West Palm Beach); Jody and Laura Mindell (Delray Beach); June Neal (Delray Beach); Paula Pines (Boca Raton); Dr. Elizabeth Sallee (Boynton Beach); Anita Seay (Palm Beach); Bonnie Stevenson (Wellington); John Tilton (Boca Raton); Sandra Troiana (Boynton Beach); Diamelys Vargas (Ft. Lauderdale); Jeri Wise (Palm Beach Gardens); Nancy Zelman (Boca Raton)

Questions? Call or text **Darlene Kostrub** at (561) 573-6384 or email Members@LWVPBC.org.

Special Briefing on “Voting Issues in Florida”

By Daniel Lishansky, *NPV Chair*



(From L to R) Danny Lishansky (LWV PBC), Valerie Schulz (LWV Seminole) Cecile Scoon (Co-President LWVFL), Sarah Peacock (LWV Pinellas), Deb Mazzaferro (LWV Pinellas), Kathleen Crampton (LWV PBC).

House Minority Leader Fentrice Driskell (Hillsborough) hosted a special briefing on “Voting Issues in Florida” and invited Floridians for National Popular Vote to organize the briefing and to provide the speakers. It was held October 18, 2023, in Tallahassee for members of the Democratic Caucus, and our line-up was:

- a. **Patrick Rosenthal**, a consultant for National Popular Vote, whom some of you saw at the LWVFL convention in Orlando.
- b. **Cecile Scoon**, Co-President of LWVFL, who made a presentation about Amendment 4, Returning Citizens.
- c. **Brad Ashwell**, Florida Director of All Voting is Local Action, who discussed voter suppression bills.



Representative Mike Gottlieb (Broward) is the sponsor of the NPV Bill in the House and Cecile Scoon is Co-President of LWVFL.

If you haven't seen it already, check out the newly refreshed website of Floridians for National Popular Vote at www.FloridiansForNPV.com or by scanning the QR code.

[READ MORE](#)



Don't Miss the **Big** Read Banned Books Rally
WHY DID YOU TAKE MY BOOK?

Students: Learn to Organize Your Own Banned Book Clubs & Get a Free Banned Book
Parents: Learn How to Help Your Children Navigate this Challenge to Their Education

relational movement and make our democracy more inclusive, equitable, and participatory.



REMINDER

YOUR Vote by Mail
Application Has

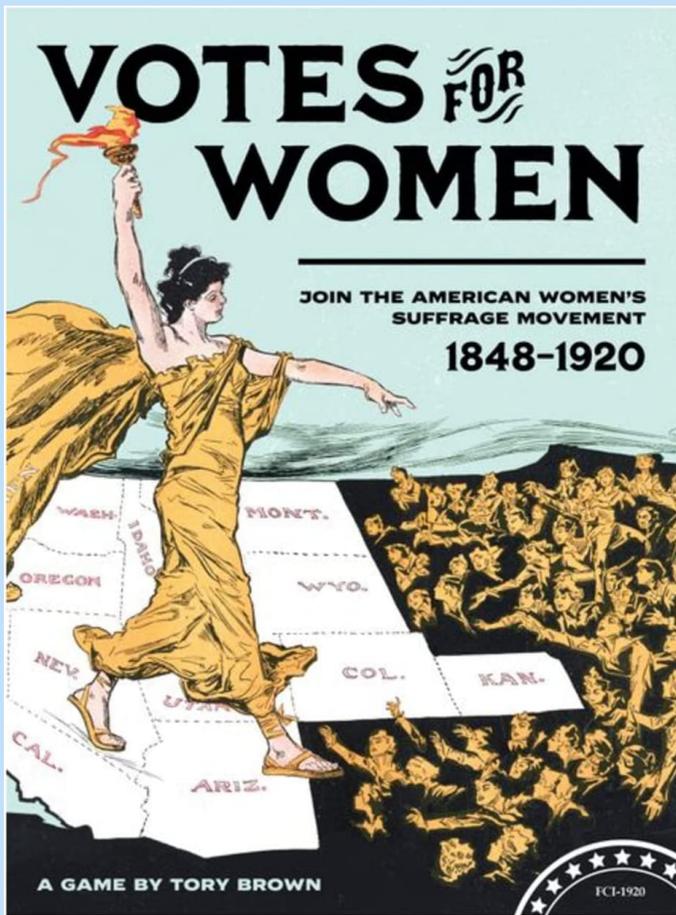
EXPIRED

REAPPLY NOW!



LWV LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS[®]
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY

**A MILESTONE GIFT: WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE
GAME**



Votes for Women, designed by Tory Brown and published by Fort Circle Games, recounts the story of how suffragists won the right to vote in 1920 through the 19th Amendment. The card-driven game detailing events from Seneca Falls, N.Y., to the ratification of the 19th Amendment features period artwork and historical documents.

Founded in 2017, Fort Circle Games designs board games based on historical events. Fort Circle Games is based in Washington, D.C., and is

named after the network of fortifications that defended the city during the Civil War.

The game Votes for Women can be purchased for \$75 (including shipping) at [VotesForWomen.com](https://www.VotesForWomen.com). The League of Women Voters receives a donation for each game purchased.

**Show your League Spirit
by wearing your shirts and hats!**

GET YOUR LEAGUE ON!
The League Merch Store is Now Open!



Our **SHOP PAGE** is open on the website and ready for your order. Wear your shirt to a League meeting and we will post your picture on our website!



Show that you
STAND WITH THE LEAGUE!

SHOP NOW!



**DO YOU LIKE TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON?
DO YOU LIKE TO BE WHERE THE ACTION IS?
DO YOU LIKE TO TAKE PICTURES?**

Then we need you on our Communications Team!
Contact Communications@LWVPBC.org.



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