

League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County November 2022 NEWS

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Tue 11/15/2022 11:01 AM

To: Updates <updates@gladesinitiative.org>

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This Newsletter will come out after the election, and hopefully, the dust has settled. The League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County was true to its mission of “Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy.” For example:

- Our Voter Services Committee registered voters throughout Palm Beach County, under the leadership of Phyllis Applebaum.
- The Guide Team/Vote 411, led by Joyce Sullivan, produced a Voters’ Guide and information to educate voters throughout Palm Beach County and the state. Guides in both English and Spanish were distributed throughout the county. More than 50 members participated in developing, editing and distributing the guide.
- The Speakers Bureau, spearheaded by Marcia Herman, provided communities and groups with information about the Florida constitutional amendments and Palm Beach County

referendums on our ballots.

- Kate Renchin worked with Voter Services to provide poll monitors during both the primary and general election.

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LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY
EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS VOTER SERVICES COMMITTEE

**200+ COMMITTEE MEMBERS VOLUNTEERED AT
136 VOTER REGISTRATION EVENTS ACROSS PBC**

**3,346 NEW VOTER REGISTRATIONS & UPDATES
668 VOTE-BY-MAIL REGISTRATIONS**

**3 GOTV CAMPAIGNS TO INFORM 70,000+ VOTERS
ON KEY NON-PARTISAN ELECTION INFORMATION,
INCLUDING VOTE411.ORG**



VOTER SERVICES DELIVERS

By Phyllis Applebaum
Voter Services Chair

As I reviewed the year's totals for Voter Services, **3,346** voter registrations/updates, I remembered Nelson Mandela's words: "It

always seems impossible until it's done.”

The year started slowly with street fairs, celebrations and rallies. We pack our supply bags and head to where the crowds and the pungent food smells are. Passing all the colorful street murals at the Street Painting Festival in Lake Worth, our team found a lady who had moved a year ago and hadn't gotten around to changing her voter registration. Life had intervened! Although we didn't get a lot of registrations/updates, people thanked us for being there.

In May, we went to the high schools to register graduating seniors. A few schools even decided to make voter registration a required step in the check-out process, which was ideal for us: We got 259 voter registrations at Palm Beach Central High in Wellington alone. The teams were exhausted, but elated. Eating dinner that night I recollected several of the many students fondly, as well as the very supportive school coordinators.

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A BEAUTIFUL STORY ABOUT VOTER REGISTRATION

By Pam Maldonado, *Voter Services*

I got goosebumps when I heard this story. This is all about *what we do* — and it's *beautiful*.

Slowly, silently, Mrs. M rolled into the room where Voter Services volunteers were doing registration at the senior community in Greenacres. Doubled over in her wheelchair, she was silent when Libby Jacobs greeted her.



Realizing Mrs. M could not look up, Libby got down on her level and asked if she was there to register to vote. In addition to her physical incapacity, Mrs. M has a condition that has rendered her non-verbal.

[READ MORE](#)

VOTER SERVICES VISITS LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND

By Pam Maldonado,
Voter Services

In early October we visited the Palm Beach Lighthouse for the Blind to talk about the election and register or update anyone who needed it. We were there for Lighthouse's monthly Forum, where about 20 people, several in costume, were enjoying a Halloween-themed meeting with cute decorations, cookies and snacks.



Pam Maldonado talked briefly about the upcoming election and new rules concerning voting by mail, as well as the first-time option to make an appointment for Early Voting and the availability of remote access VBM ballots. Several participants shared information about the technology they use to read, as well as their previous experience voting. Many had voted before and had plans to vote this time, too.

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PROTECT THE VOTE



Redistricting suit plaintiffs react to midterms

TALLAHASSEE — With litigation ongoing regarding the congressional map passed during Florida’s 2022 redistricting process, the state held its midterm elections under the Legislature’s congressional map that was pushed through by Gov. Ron DeSantis. As many expected, this new congressional plan led to a drop in minority representation in Congress and provided a 20-8 advantage for Republicans in the Florida delegation.

In reaction to the midterm results, the organizational plaintiffs in the lawsuit challenging the map — including **Equal Ground Education Fund**, **Black Voters Matter Capacity Institute**, **League of Women Voters of Florida** and **Florida Rising Together** — released the following joint statement:

“Yesterday’s midterm congressional elections were held under a congressional map that was already found to be blatantly unconstitutional by a state court judge, under Florida’s Fair District Amendments.

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ENGAGING YOU

Answer survey and help us to help you to help us

By Rich Bartholomew, Advocacy

Every post-election period is a time for reflection. Many of us just finished an extended period of educating, registering and encouraging voters. Now it's time to consider how to apply our individual and collective talents going forward.

Do you want to do more of what you worked on recently? Do you want to explore other activities? The League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County recently sent a survey to all our members. It takes only minutes to complete, and is designed to give our organization a contemporary view of the topics you find most important, and help us consider how we might create opportunities to engage you in those areas.

[READ MORE](#)

WANT TO FIX SOMETHING?

Advocacy Issue Group wants you!

By Rich Bartholomew, Advocacy

What is going on in your community that you want to do something

about? Should our League learn about it and consider taking action? Now that redistricting and the election are over, who represents you? As the reconstituted elected bodies begin their work, what do we need to tell them? How can the League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County learn their intentions?

Our presentations normally remind us that we are always tasked with educating and advocating. Our members, working in committees, issue groups and special projects, engage in both. This is true no matter the topic: voting, education/civics, health, special events or something else.

Karen Wilkerson and Rich Bartholomew have been working with other members to reformulate the key LWVPBC mission that is Advocacy. It includes research, monitoring and outreach/participation with community leaders and organizations, direct contact with elected and appointed officials, as well as public communication: Hot Topics, letters to editors, social media and more.

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FOURTH SOLAR CO-OP TO PICK INSTALLER

Solar energy benefits the environment, the economy and the consumer

By Diane Marks, Go Solar



The fourth Solar Co-op in Palm Beach County started Sept. 14 and has 93 members already. Each member is interested in installing rooftop solar panels to cut energy expenses.

By joining the co-op, the members pick one installer (this meeting will be soon) and the installer can cut the cost of installation by 20 percent due to the volume of customers. A 30 percent income tax credit, through 2032, can save the co-op 50 percent on the total cost of solar installation. The state LWV has joined with Solar United Neighbors, a non-profit organization with the technical knowledge to explain solar energy to the

community and answer co-op members' questions.

Virtual information meetings will be held each month to explain how solar panels work, the financing and how the co-op works. The next one is Nov. 15. Solar United Neighbors has a site for us on its website, solarunitedneighbors.org/PalmBeach. You can join the co-op or register for an information meeting.

[READ MORE](#)

GOT HEALTH INSURANCE?

- ✓ Many people qualify for free plans.
- ✓ Find out if you are eligible and contact a Health Insurance Navigator.
- ✓ Help is free, local and impartial and is available by phone, virtually or in person.

Lucy Pereda
TV Personality / Health Advocate

Health Insurance Navigation PROGRAM

CALL TODAY
1-877-553-7453

LIFE HAPPENS!

Qualifying Life Events:

- 1 Low family income or change in income.
- 2 Loss of medical coverage.
- 3 Moving to a new county or state.
- 4 Any change in household size.
- 5 New or change in immigration status.

www.EpilepsyAllianceFL.com/MakeAnAppointment

OPEN ENROLLMENT WINDOW IS NOW

By **Nancy Gau**, *Healthcare Co-chair*

Dear LWV Healthcare supporters: The Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) kicked off its annual open enrollment Nov. 1. It runs through Jan. 15. Every year, for the past 10 years, we have assisted the local navigators in getting the word out about this open enrollment. ACA has become very popular and more affordable, yet still, too many Floridians remain uninsured.

I have 500 of these Health Insurance cards (above) that I will distribute to libraries. You can help by making copies of this flyer and leaving them at your houses of worship, community centers, clubhouses and other locations. If you participate, please let me know how many flyers you distributed and where so I can pass this information to the lead navigator. [Click here to download and print the Health Insurance card.](#)

Thanking you in advance for your help!

BUSY SEASON FOR SPEAKERS BUREAU

By **Marcia Herman**, *Speakers Bureau Chair*

Our LWVPBC Speakers Bureau Committee has been active this fall giving presentations to local community groups, educating their members on the Florida Constitutional Amendments that were on the Nov. 8 ballot. Committee members gave this presentation to more than 1,000 attendees at 22 events; we also received more than \$800 in donations.

Throughout this calendar year, the Speakers Bureau gave presentations on topics such as **Redistricting**; **Understanding Senate Bill 90**; **Civics, Civility and Critical Thinking**; and **News: Separating Fact From Fiction**. Audiences respond well to these engaging presentations.

We invite any member with an interest in public speaking to attend our training meetings, which include tips on giving professional presentations

and how to handle questions from the audience, as well as an overview of our presentation topics.

Contact Speakers Bureau Chair Marcia Herman for information about joining this dynamic committee. Reach her at speakersbureau@LWVPBC.org.

NOV. 16 HOT TOPIC

Strengthening Medicaid & Medicare

Scott Darius, executive director of Florida Voices for Health, was scheduled to speak but had to cancel. However, Acadia Jacob, Advocacy Director of Florida Voices for Health, is graciously filling in for Scott. As a public health advocate, she will discuss the latest developments around Medicaid and the campaign for Medicaid expansion, as well as recent changes to Medicare and campaigns to improve the oral health benefit.



Registration has closed. However, the program will be lived-streamed on [Facebook](#), so you can still “attend” online ... **please be sure to share it, too!**

If you do attend the Hot Topic in person, we would appreciate you bringing a Thanksgiving basket for Friends of Foster Children (see below for what to include). Be as creative as you want in filling and decorating your basket. You can also take it to 4100 Okeechobee Blvd. in West Palm Beach on Nov. 21.

This month’s Hot Topic will be held at Mel’s Way Bistro, 3536 Via Poinciana in Lake Worth, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please note: No walk-ins can be accommodated.

FILL A THANKSGIVING BASKET FOR FOSTER FAMILIES

**DELIVER ON: 11/21 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



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DENNEY
SCAROLA
BARNHART
& SHIPLEY PA
Attorneys at Law

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

CONTACT ADMIN@FRIENDSOFFOSTERCHILDREN.COM
WITH ANY QUESTIONS!

TURKEYS PROVIDED
BY A GENEROUS
DONATION FROM
SEARCY, DENNEY,
SCAROLA, BARNHART,
& SHIPLEY



Gift Wrapping Party!

Help us wrap holiday gifts of
over 100 SOFI children!

Saturday, December 17
10am-4pm (or sooner!)

810 Datura Street,
West Palm Beach, FL, 33401

Email JBoisver@PBCGov.Org to volunteer!



we're having a
MERRY-MAKING
WINE - TOASTING
JINGLING-MINGLING
SPIRIT-LIFTING
party



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WINE & LIGHT APPETIZERS
FROM 4 TO 6 O'CLOCK**

HOSTED BY ELLEN GALKIN

BROKEN SOUND • 2427 NW 62ND STREET • BOCA RATON

**LIMITED TO THE FIRST 100 PEOPLE • [CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)
SPOUSES AND SIGNIFICANT OTHERS ARE WELCOME
GUEST ID REQUIRED AT THE GATE**

FEB. 4: Listen, Learn, Love the League!

By Darlene Kostrub, Membership Chair

This program will be held from 10 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Feb. 4, at the South County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach. The featured speaker will be Cecile Scoon, president of League of Women Voters Florida.

This free event will provide information for new and old members as Issue Group Leaders update us on the current work of their groups. President Scoon will discuss the vital work of LWVFL during recent months.

Registration is required. Email Darlene Kostrub at membership@lwvpbc.org or call the LWVPBC office at (561) 276-4898. (Note that you cannot send a text to this phone number.) It will be a dynamic event for all attending.

Please Welcome These New Members

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

Leonard Ansin (Boca Raton); Carol Chesler (Lake Worth); Charlize Cruger (Boynton Beach); Barbara Flanagan (Ocean Ridge); Rosalind Gordon (Lake Worth); Judith Karp (Boynton Beach); Jennifer Kirtley (Lake Worth); Barbara Powell (Royal Palm Beach); Eunice Rhodes (Boca Raton).

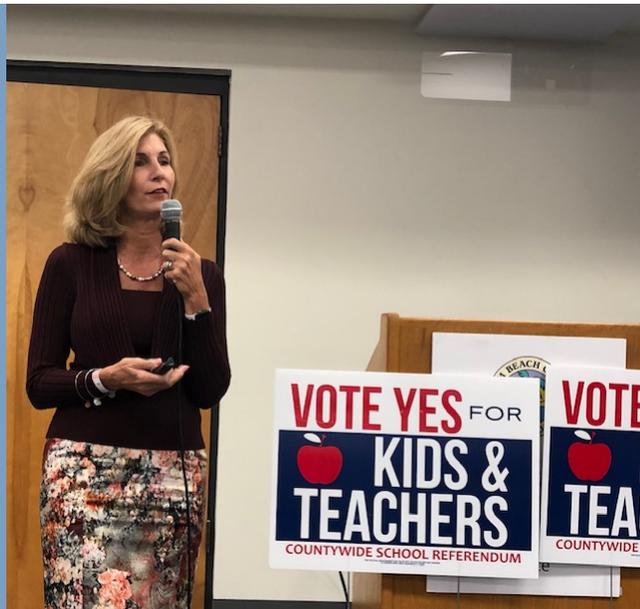
Questions? Email Darlene Kostrub at membership@lwvpbc.org.

ICYMI

October Hot Topic

Election Information

Supervisor of Elections for Palm Beach County Wendy Sartory Link discussed the Midterm elections. Now that the elections are over, you can still [watch the video on Facebook](#) and learn about the important work of the SOE office. Also, our own Marcia Herman (LWVPBC First Vice President and chair of the Speakers Bureau) covered this year's ballot Propositions.



NOV. 4 Lunch & Learn Returning Citizens & Election Police

This webinar featured LWVFL President Cecile Scoon and Debbie Chandler, the LWVFL Restoration of Rights/Returning Citizens Action Chair, discussing the League's work helping returning citizens restore their voting rights and to combat the continued weaponization of Florida's Office of Election Crimes and Security. For more information about the Lunch & Learn series, visit LWVFL.org.

SUPPORT THE LEAGUE

5 WAYS TO GIVE ON GIVING TUESDAY

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



1. Give your time or talent: volunteer, give your skills
2. Give your voice: sign a petition, speak up for a cause
3. Give money: donate or fundraise for a nonprofit
4. Give goods: organize a supply drive, donate clothes
5. Give kindness: buy someone lunch, compliment a stranger

Nov 29, 2022

Donate at <https://lwvpbc.org/donate/>



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To get started, click on the logo above in your browser and you'll go straight to the League's AmazonSmile sign-up page.

Don't forget to bookmark Smile.Amazon.com to make sure you're shopping through AmazonSmile and generate donations to empower voters and defend democracy.



**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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