Education is of paramount interest to the League of Women Voters, locally, state-wide and nationally. Thomas Jefferson stated, "The cornerstone of democracy rests on the foundation of an educated electorate." In the United States we anticipate that the will of the people will be expressed by the people when they vote. If the people do not understand and respect our systems of laws and checks and balances, they are subject to making poor decisions even for their own safety and welfare. The League of Women Voters has worked tirelessly for free, equitable and high quality public education for all citizens, regardless of their background and status.

Recognizing that children are exposed to their earliest learning in the home, and that there are vast differences in our homes, which prepare children differently for more formal education in the schools, the Studer Institute in collaboration with the University of Chicago has undertaken to bring more equity to the home environments in Pensacola. This enormous undertaking has promise for transforming school readiness and performance for Pensacola's children. This collaboration is endeavoring to make Pensacola an Early Learning City, with improvements in learning for a whole generation of our children.

The League applauds this effort and looks forward to hearing about the processes and plans at the September meeting. Shannon Nickinson, a key player with Studer, will be our speaker. In the future, the public will benefit from the outcomes through improvements in early learning and in pre-kindergarten readiness.

At the September monthly meeting, members of Girl Scout Troop 838 will be attending with their leader, Jennifer Armstrong. The girls will present the flag and lead in the pledge of allegiance. This ceremony was arranged by League member Lauren Anzaldo.
**Co President’s Message**

Haley Richards

This League Year is off to a roaring start with Women's Issues Committee, chaired by Mary Collins, honoring Women's Equality Day in a silent handmaid's tale style protest in Downtown Pensacola. Leaguers held signs while dressed in the striking white caps and red capes, similar to the women in Margaret Atwood's novel.

The Program Planning Committee, chaired by Ray Hudkins, is planning monthly program and Hot Topic meetings. The September 16th is a discussion of plans to make Pensacola an Early Learning City. On September 27th, the Hot Topic Lunch will feature Carol Weisseter, Executive Director of the LeRoy Collins Institute (FSU) presenting on Florida's Constitutional Revision Commission. Read the full meeting details in this month's Voter!

League members throughout the state of Florida are actively participating in the Florida Rights Restoration Coalition (FRRC) and the League is counting on you to collect petitions to ensure this important Amendment is on the 2018 Ballot. Florida's Voting Restoration Amendment would allow people who have paid their debt to society to regain the right to vote; TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE. Contact Shirley Lewis-Brown if you can help collect signed petitions!

LWV Florida announced that Marty Monroe is the new lobbyist for the upcoming 2018 legislative session. The 2018 Legislative Priorities are listed in this Voter. League members who are interested in meeting our legislators should call Haley at 683-6511. Getting to know our legislators better is part of making democracy work.

The Board of Directors participated in a Board Retreat & Planning session in June to begin organizing for the new League Year. The Board reviewed the suggestions members made at the Annual Meeting and will take appropriate actions on their concerns.

IN 2017-2018, the League will continue to make democracy work.

**Cyber Security: Ask the Experts!**

Pensacola State College - Hagler Auditorium

October 7th | 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Karina Unger

In honor of National Cyber Security month, Pensacola Young Professionals and the League of Women Voters of Pensacola Bay Area have collaborated to bring an informative and interactive event on how to stay safe in the digital age. This conference is meant to provide relevant information for the nontechnical person to better understand how the evolving technological advances will impact future generations. We have invited the experts to come and answer questions that pertain to personal, business, and national cyber security. We have noticed an increase in the media's coverage of this hot topic and our experts will be able to help navigate the answers to questions like:

- What is cyber security? And the new term- cyber hygiene?
- What should I be aware of when using personal devices such as my computer or cell phone?
- Is online banking safe?
- What is ransom ware? How do I protect my business from it?
- Are there legal or insurance related issues I should be aware of for my business?
- Are other countries hacking us? What are the consequences if they do?
- Are we on the path to cyber warfare?
- Can hacking be used for good?

Experts are invited to come and answer questions that pertain to personal, business, and national cyber security. Panels topics include:

- Protect Yourself
- Protect Your Business
- Protect our Nation

**Conference Schedule**

10 AM to 10:30 AM - Welcome & Key Note Kick Off: Greg Kiker
10:30 AM to 11: 45AM - Protect Yourself Panelist
11:45 AM to 12:30 PM - Networking Lunch (Boxed Lunch will be available for purchase. Lunch details will be sent to your e-mail address at a later date.)
12:30 PM to 1:45 PM - Protect Your Business Panelist
1:45 PM to 2:00 PM - Break
2:00 PM to 3:00 PM - Protect our Nation Panelist
3:00 PM to 3:20 PM - Closing: Interview with White Hat Hacker

Guest speakers at this event will include: Reid Rushing, Joe Simpson, Michele Ward, Logan Hicks, Matt Price, Wauchula Ghost, John Corliss, and Matthew Crosak.

**Registration for this event is available through Eventbrite here.**
2018 Legislative Priorities

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots organization and focuses on issues of greatest concerns to our members. Each year, our membership is polled to see which issues are most important. LWVF tabulates the submissions, and selects the top five areas as priorities for the Florida Legislative Session.

2018 Legislative Priorities:
- ★ Government -Election Law
- ★ Education
- ★ Natural Resources
- ★ Gun Safety
- ★ Health Care

For details about the priorities, see the new LWVF website here. Stay Connected! Sign up to get news and alerts by email on the issues in which you're most interested here.

National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC)
Ray Hudkins, 346-5199

Does the Electoral College ensure that your vote counts? Did you know that electoral votes are determined by each state legislature according to Article II Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution? Have you heard of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact? Read on - - -

The League of Women Voters believes the Electoral College as now deployed robs Americans of the one-person, one-vote bedrock principle of our democracy. Electors are allocated to each state based on the number of representatives (population based) and addition of 2 electors for the senators in each state. Consider the following Electoral College vote comparison to illustrate the point. Wyoming has a population of 568,300 and three electoral votes. Each elector represents 189,433 voters. Florida has a population of 18,900,733 and 29 electoral votes. Each elector represents more than 651,751 voters. Wyoming electors represent more than 3.4 times of a Florida elector.

We can again make our Presidential elections fair and equitable by passing the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC). NPVIC is a legal agreement among states to award all of their Electoral College votes to the candidate who wins the national popular vote. The Compact becomes active once states representing 270 Electoral College votes adopt the Compact.

Leagues across the state are joining the movement to lobby the legislature to pass NPVIC and to educate voters to lobby their state representative and senators. We can contribute to this statewide effort if enough Pensacola Bay Area members volunteer. For further details contact Ray Hudkins, Program Planning Committee Chair (346-5199) or rhud66@gmail.com

Have you ever been given a second chance? Americans believe in Second Chances. We need to make sure Florida law does, too.

Will you help us give one to 1.6 million Floridians who have paid their debt to society? The Say Yes to Second Chances campaign are collecting petitions to help put the Voting Restoration Amendment on the ballot in 2018. We need you to join us so that we can restore the vote to fellow Floridians who have lost it resulting from a felony conviction, yet have returned as productive members of our communities.

We need to collect one million petitions by January 1, 2018 to have this important petition added to the 2018 ballot.

Print a copy of the petition here or get copies from Shirley Lewis-Brown, shirleylewis_brown(at)hotmail.com, Vivian Faircloth, vfaircloth(at)iname.com or lwvpba(at)gmail.com. Signed petitions may be sent to the ACLU, c/o Sara Latshaw, 3 W. Garden Street, Suite 712, Pensacola, FL 32502. Please let Shirley know the number submitted so she send totals to LWV Florida know.

If you can suggest places where petitions can be signed, please let Shirley know.

New Election Law Positions
Adopted at LWVF Convention ‘17
Ray Hudkins, 346-5199

☐ Register voters up to and including Election Day as soon as administratively feasible

☐ Recommend statewide use of an Open primary election system that would allow for the broadest possible voter participation, including No Party and Minor Party affiliate voters. Open Primaries also provide access to a broader slate of candidates that would increase voter participation. (2017)

☐ Replace Florida's present closed Presidential Preference Primary with an Open Primary system of voting. (2017)

☐ Establish threshold criteria for write-in candidates that mirror current requirements for announced candidates. The presence of a write in candidate as the only opponent should not close the primary. (2017)

☐ Make Election voting portable within the county to enable the broadest voter access. (2017)

☐ NPAs (No Party Affiliation) and minor party voters should have an opportunity to vote in all primary elections. (2017)

☐ Provide for automatic registration of eligible voters (2017)

NOTE: The Open Primary positions will require a constitutional amendment. One citizen initiative has been submitted to the Constitution Revision Commission. The remaining positions can be implemented via statute.
amendments, and possibly recommending changes to the Florida Constitution. Any amendments proposed by the CRC would be placed on the 2018 General Election ballot. Any amendments placed on the ballot by the CRC would have to secure 60 percent approval by voters to be added to the Florida Constitution.

On September 27 the LWV Pensacola Bay Area will host a presentation on the CRC featuring Dr. Carol Weissert, Director of the LeRoy Collins Institute of Florida State University. The event, including lunch, will take place at the Pensacola Yacht Club from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon on September 27.

Dr. Weissert became the director of the Institute in October of 2007. She is also the LeRoy Collins Eminent Scholar Chair and Professor of Political Science at Florida State University. Prior to taking that position in August 2003, she was professor of political science and director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research at Michigan State University. The LeRoy Collins Institute is a nonpartisan, statewide policy organization which studies and promotes creative solutions to key private and public issues facing the people of Florida and the nation.

Make September 27th Luncheon Reservations Here

Make your reservations by noon September 22th for the September 27th Hot Topic luncheon on Eventbrite Event Page here or send your check to LWVPBA Treasurer, PO Box 2023, Pensacola, FL 32513. Your check is your reservation. Cancellations after noon September 22 are non-refundable. For further information, call Ray Hudkins, 346-5199 or rhud66(at)gmail.com.

Welcome New Members

Judith Barousse  Deborah Berry
Barbara Ferg-Carter  George E. Mallams
Alison Richards  Karina Unger

Rosemary Hays-Thomas has new contact information. See latest Roster for update.

Want to keep up to date on education issues around the country? The LWVUS Education Team recently launched a blog to promote the exchange of information on school reform. The site houses fact-based studies and posts with reference citations that contribute to a better understanding of different points of view about school choice issues. Florida Leaguer Sue M. Legg, Ph.D is the blog coordinator.

Subscribe to the Education Issues blog here. Participation from both members and nonmembers are welcome.
During the 2015 Legislative Session, the Florida Legislature directed the Florida Department of State's Division of Elections (DOS) to develop and implement an online voter registration (OVR) system. The law took effect on July 1, 2015. The development of the OVR is targeted to be operational by October 1, 2017. Santa Rosa County Supervisor of Election Tappie Villane stated “…the State should be ‘advertising’ the upcoming start of Online Voter Registration. I have not seen anything out there as of yet, but will keep you posted. The Division of Elections is working in conjunction with the DMV on this project and again it is scheduled to begin on October 1!”. Leaguers can find updates on the web page: http://dos.myflorida.com/elections.

Upcoming Voter Registration events:
National Voter Registration Day: Tuesday, September 19, 8:00 am - noon at the Milton Student Center on the PSC campus.
Constitution Day: Tuesday, September 26, 9 am - noon on the PSC Campus in Gulf Breeze
Veterans Day activities: Saturday, November 11, Details to follow.

Notes: Although it is not an "election" year, voter registration and educational events with a community organization can be arranged. Contact us at 850-937-7769 or lwvpba(at)gmail.com.

Guide to Elected Officials: These invaluable guides are available now. If you need Guides, please leave a message at 850-937-7769 or lwvpbat(at)gmail.com.

Brennan Center for Justice: The State of Redistricting Litigation. Read the full article here.

In honor of Women's Equality Day, 22 League members (below) held a silent protest on Saturday, August 26 on the four corners of Garden and Palafox Streets in downtown Pensacola. Signs with messages on issues of concern to women and equality were displayed. The red robes and white bonnets are a part of the story in the book, The Handmaid's Tale.

In the book, a theocratic regime calling itself Republic of Gilead takes over parts of the U.S. and has imposed severe limits to freedom and women's rights in a bid to control society and increase fertility rates.

Author Margaret Atwood took inspiration for the novel's plot and the handmaids' iconic outfits from the Puritans, the English Reformed Protestants who established East Coast colonies in the 16th and 17th centuries.
In 1949 the League of Women Voters Pensacola Bay Area was formed as a non-partisan political organization of men and women who encourage informed and active participation in government. The League conducts studies and following consensus, takes positions on major public policy issues. Through education and advocacy, the League works to inform the electorate and impact legislation.

The League neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate for office. However individual members are urged to be as active in the political process.

Join the League of Women Voters Today!

It’s easy! Just send your check to:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  ♦  P.O. Box 2023, Pensacola, FL 32513 or PayPal [here](#).

Name _________________________________________ Birth date ____________ New Mbr? Yes/No
Address: _____________________________________ City _________State ____Zip__________
Home phone (___)___________ Other (___)____________ E-mail ____________________________
Add Family Member(s): ________________________        ____________________________________
DUES: $55.00 _____ Additional Mbrs @ $27.50 _____ Contribution_______ TOTAL__________
Dues are $27.50 for a student enrolled in a certificate or degree program.
☐ I’m renewing my membership.

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Membership dues and gifts to the League of Women Voters are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes. (Tax deductible contributions require a separate check written to the LWV Florida Education Fund and should be sent to our local treasurer.)

Watch your email for status of meetings as the hurricanes progresses through the area.