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YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Officers:

Haley Richards, *President*
Ellen Roston, *1st Vice Pres.*
Elizabeth Major, *2nd Vice Pres.*
Jo Matthews, *Treasurer*
Enid Sisskin, *Secretary*

Directors:

Vivian Faircloth - *Communications*
Vacant - *Education*
Shirley Lewis - Brown - *Social Justice*
Charlyle Parrish - *Voter Services*
Tricia Spencer - *Gun Safety*
Jennifer Wasilenko - *Women's Issues*

Off-Board Action Team Leaders

Mary Gutierrez, *Solar/EV Initiative*
Jo Mathews, *Naturalization*
Paula Montgomery, *Education*
Cathy Scott, *Membership*
Mary Louise Winter, *Website*

Nominating Committee

Carol Pulley Tricia Spencer
Annelise Reunert Jo Mathews

Contact Us

www.lwvpba.org
LWVPBA [facebook page](#)
Instagram - [@lwvpcolabay](#)
lwvpba@gmail.com
Phone: (850)937-7769

LWVUS - www.lwv.org
LWV Florida - www.lwvfl.org



Pam Mitchell



Barbara Albrecht

In Person Future for Blackwater River? November 19, 2022

Speakers: Pam Mitchell and Barbara Albrecht

10:15 AM Coffee, 10:30 AM Meeting
Tryon Branch Library, 1200 Langley Ave.

Join us November 19, 10:15 am, Tryon Branch Library, 1200 Langley Ave, for a presentation on the future of Sturgeon and Blackwater River dilemma.

Our speakers will be activist *Pam Mitchell* and *Barbara Albrecht*, *Bream Fishermen Association* and *Director of the Panhandle Watershed Alliance*, will discuss the state of our local Blackwater River.

Pam Mitchell, a fourth generation native of Santa Rosa County, is a retired business owner and lifelong folk artist. Her company, Blackwater Folk Art, produced handmade garden art out of recycled metals. She participated in trade markets from coast to coast and her artwork was sold domestically and internationally. She retired in March, 2022 and now devotes her time to protecting the Blackwater River and encouraging honesty and transparency in our local government.

Pam founded Milton's Concerned Citizens in the spring of 2018. She brought together a group of eight women that believed that the local municipal government needed accountability. They formed Milton's first and only PAC.

Pam lives on Cooper's Basin, a spring fed tributary to the Blackwater River where many endangered species are found.

Most of Pam's time is spent researching, doing presentations, giving tours of the river and calling for protection of the endangered species and our water quality. She has participated in many local boards and civic organizations.

Ms Barbara Albrecht, has 30 years of experience with local watershed and environmental issues. She is actively engaged with citizen science programs and has served as an advocate for many communities as they address local environmental concerns.. Her knowledge of the local environment is extensive.

Since 2011, Barbara has lead the Bream Fishermen Association, a citizen water quality monitoring and watchdog group established in the late 1960s during a time when fish kills were common and measured in square miles.

She is also the director of the Panhandle Watershed Alliance, which collaborates between six contiguous interstate watersheds (NW-FL and S-AL) that flow into four northwest FL bays.

Dr. Tim Smith, Escambia County Superintendent of Schools, and **Dr. Karen Barber**, Santa Rosa County Superintendent of Schools, will be speakers for the League meeting on **January 21, 2023**. "Update from the Public Schools"

**See Page two for the League Holiday Social Invitation
on December 4th 2 - 4 PM**



YOU'RE CORDIALLY INVITED

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Holiday Social

December 4, 2:00 p.m - 4:00 p.m.
Home of Vivian Faircloth
6211 Lake Charlene Dr , Pensacola FL 32506
Bring: Finger food and/or wine to share!
You and your guests are welcome!

RSVP (850) 291-1534



DIRECTIONS

6211 LAKE CHARLENE DRIVE

From Navy Blvd and New Warrington Rd
Turn on West Hwy 98 to 72nd Ave
(just past Navy Hospital)
Turn Right on 72nd Ave
Turn Right on Clydesdale Dr
Clydesdale Dr turns into
Lake Charlene Drive
Follow to last house on right.

Natural Resource Report

Enid Sisskin, Chair, 850-261-0460

The Natural Resource committee is announcing two new member initiatives. First, disposables will no longer be used at our monthly meetings. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, reusable coffee cups were provided and, once again, will be used. In addition, reusable plates, utensils and cloth napkins will be used if enough of these items can be secured. If you can donate plates, utensils and cloth napkins, please bring them to the next League meeting. Let's start practicing what we preach.

In December, the NRC will activate its second initiative by sending weekly emails with "3 Easy Things" to do each week. In many cases these will be from the *EcoMinute* on WUWF, along with suggestions from the NR committee members. If you have any favorite *EcoHints*, send them to Enid Sisskin. These will be repeated in the next month's Voter.

Observer Corps:

Most of the environmental damage in the two counties is facilitated by our elected officials. It is necessary that they know the public is watching. League members are needed to attend these meetings wearing their large LWV buttons. Training is available. Please contact Enid Sisskin if you are interested in assisting.

Meetings to be monitored:

Escambia County Commission

The Commission typically meets three days a month for two regular and one committee of the whole meeting. The regular commission meeting can also include an agenda review and public forum meeting.

Committee of the whole meetings are held for commissioners to discuss items before they are brought to a regular commission meeting for a vote. Committee of the whole meetings begin at 9 a.m. usually on the second Thursday of each month.

Regular commission meetings, where commissioners discuss and vote on agenda items, are held twice a month: One is usually scheduled for a morning and one in the evening. These meetings are generally held at 5:30 p.m. on first Thursday and 9 a.m. on the third Thursday of a month.

A public forum is held before each regular commission meeting at either 8:30 a.m. or 4:30 p.m., where the public is invited to attend and speak on a topic of interest for two to three minutes. Read the calendar [here](#).

Pensacola City Council

Agenda Conference

Agenda Conference meetings are typically held the Monday before each regular Council meeting, beginning at 3:30 pm in the Hagler/Mason Conference Room on the second floor of City Hall.

Regular City Council meetings are typically held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Check out the calendar [here](#).

Santa Rosa County Commission

Committee Meeting: The Board will host Committee Meetings on Mondays prior to the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at 9:00 AM in the Administrative Complex Meeting Room or another time, date, or location previously announced.

At these Committee Meetings, matters of potential business are presented. These presentations may be in the form of updates with no further official action required. These meetings provide the public with the requisite background information to ask questions or offer comments and interface with the decision-making process of the Board.

Regular Meeting: The Board will hold its Regular Meetings on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 9:00 AM, respectively, in the Santa Rosa County Administrative Complex Meeting Room or another time, date, or location previously announced. It is at these formal, recorded meetings that the business of the County is transacted with official action by the Board of County Commissioners. Check the calendar [here](#) or [here](#).

New addition on the Natural Resources Committee page on our website:

Barbara Albrecht's PowerPoint on the *State of our Local Waters and the new Pensacola and Perdido Bay Estuary Program*, August 2022. [Watch it here](#). "Water Quality, then, now and hope for the future. Understanding our past, lets us become better Stewards in the Future."

Welcome New Members!

Janet M Behrens
Caroline Miller

Judith Betts
Patsy Suydam

Returning Members

Barbara Beck

Cliffogene Stillwell

Members' contact information is contained in the attached Membership roster. If you have not received the latest one, have a correction or need to check your membership expiration date, email LWVPBA@gmail.com

Escambia Children's Trust November Board Meeting

Social Justice Committee

Shirley Lewis-Brown, Chair

Agenda Items of Importance

- Awarded Brown, Thorton, Pacents and Company a contract to provide audit services for ECT for \$20,500.00. Executive Director explained that this company was the only one which responded to the invitation to bid (ITB) due to staffing issues, prior commitments and ECT deadlines.
- Authorized an agreement with Prime Gov to provide cloud-based agenda Management, Live Meeting & Public Records Request Platform. Dr. Northup commented that he was very impressed with the proposal.
- Approved a Program and Research Coordinator position. Hon. Frydrychowicz asked for clarification on this role. Ms. Krupa explained the position duties would include assisting with setting up the approved new systems, monitoring program compliance, data entry and assisting with fiscal and grant accountability.
- Awarded \$51,580 contract for Family Resource Guide in English and Spanish to Kessler Creative, LLC.
- Approved the appointment Samuel Mathews, Lynsey Lisau, Suzane Ryals and Carmen Powe, local subject matter experts, to the Grants Committee. There will be other committees for which local experts will be urged to apply. See the website for information and applications..

Executive Director Tammy Greer updated the board on the Summer Bridge contract close out. The program was designed to introduce children to a formal early education setting to help prepare them for their first day of kindergarten. The deliverables were not as anticipated. The board discussed how this could be addressed. The staff is looking at tightening up future contracts so this will not be a problem in the future.

Update: The Escambia Children's Trust received 37 proposals in response to the *Out-of-School Time* solicitation. The Grants Committee is actively reviewing the applications and will meet to score the proposals. The committee's recommendations will go to the ECT Board of Directors for a vote at their next regular meeting to be held on December 13, 2022. The **Out-of-School Time Grants** Committee will meet Monday, November 28, 2022, 3:30 PM at the Sunshine Health (in the Walmart shopping center) 2620 Creighton Road.

(This report was submitted by a League member who is part of the Observer Corps.)

Note: The Trust was created as an independent special district in Escambia County. The Governing board meetings are scheduled at 5:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month. Check the calendar for Subcommittee meetings and special meetings [here](#).

Members of the Social Justice Committee assisted with election activities. During this fall, the members will focus on issues of concern in the upcoming legislative session. The main focus will be to continue to address the revised postcard mail to returning citizens in light of the actions of the new Office of Election Crimes and Security. *Update on Election Police Arrests* - all 19 cases have been dismissed on jurisdictional grounds.

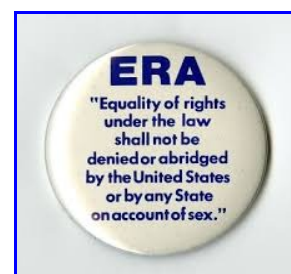
The League recently received a \$125,000 grant from the Defense Fund to target actions to help returning citizens. Business Cards are also being prepared to leave in public spaces so people may pick them up.

The LWV Florida Restoration of Rights Committee now has a steering committee composed of an Assistant Public Defender, retired Judge Melody Creese, Mary Jane Range and Irene Dec (strategic planner from the Brennan Center). The Point of Contact for the Committee is Debbie Chandler, Debbie@lwvfl.org.

Continuing Legal Education (CLE) classes are being updated to assist attorneys to help Returning Citizens get their voting rights restored. A CLE for judges is being developed to help this group understand that sentences and judgements can be changed or amended. This class for judges will be finished shortly.

The Restoration of Rights committee is developing a PowerPoint for the Speakers Bureau to educate local Leagues that may want to participate in the Restoration of Right Initiatives.

The League extends condolences to the family of long time member, **Carolyn Kolb** on her recent death and to the Dian Parsley on the death of her husband **Willis Forrest "Will" Johnson**. The League also extends condolences to Carol Pulley on the death of her son **Robert Willard "Will" Pulley**.



Tell your Senators to support the Equal Rights Amendment.



Dr. Tim Smith



Dr. Karen Barber

In Person

“Update of Public Schools”

January 21, 2023

Tryon Branch Library

1200 Langley Avenue

10:15 Coffee 10:30 Program

Dr. **Tim Smith**, Escambia County Superintendent of Schools, and Dr. **Karen Barber**, Santa Rosa County Superintendent of Schools, will be speakers for the League meeting on January 21, 2023, *Update of the Public Schools*.

Join our speakers as the past and coming year in our schools are examined. Questions that may possibly be addressed include; What is the impact of the recent state legislation referred to as the “Woke Act”? How is the book banning movement being handled? Are the Navigators (social workers) being successful in their interventions? How is the school systems handling the ‘Catch up’ following the recent pandemic? How is the change in status of Warrington Middle School being addressed? What would you like to know about our schools? ◇

The **Calendar** may be seen on www.LWVPBA.org. The easiest way to join committees now is to click on the calendar date on the home page. The link to join is blue. Your suggestions for further improvements are welcome.



Are you a Susan B. Anthony Member?

Susan B. Anthony membership is a special category of League members who donate \$100 or more, in addition to membership dues, during the League year. Contribution may be made to our local League, the Education Fund, the tax deductible arm of the League, or any combination of the two.

The League in Action

LWVUS LEGAL CENTER

The new Legal Center on LWV.org is a *Quick Stop Shop for all League litigation*. It showcases where the League is fighting for voters' rights and civil rights in courts around the country. The League launched the center with a number of important historic and active cases on the docket and will continue to build out the center with legal work as it happens. Users can sort cases by status, state, and topic area. Members can use the search bar to find cases by name.

[Check out the new Legal Center](#)

Litigation is a major part of the League's work to empower voters and defend democracy and civil rights. In 2020, the League took on 77 cases with a 78% win rate in federal court.

Celina Stewart, Chief Counsel and Senior Director of Advocacy and Litigation, walks users through the process of using the Legal Center in the video [here](#). Check this out! ◇

LWV Florida President Cecile M. Scoon, Esq. will join the University of Tampa's Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice on Monday, November 28 at 6:00 p.m. (ET) to discuss voting and civil rights alongside a representative from the Sentencing Project and Dr. Rhissa Briones Robinson of the University of Tampa. [Click here to join the event directly!](#)

Following continued negative rhetoric towards individuals with disabilities, especially throughout the 2022 election cycle, League of Women Voters of Florida President Cecile M. Scoon, Esq. issues the following statement:

“The League of Women Voters of Florida believes all voices should be at the table in our democracy. This is crucial to ensure different ideas are brought forth to improve our communities with limited resources. Persons with varied abilities are needed at the table to help craft legislation and policy that can benefit all. When a person with a disability participates in civic society by running for office and raising issues that they understand from their unique perspectives, all people benefit not just the disabled. For example, when we plan for mobility-needs, we are also making plans that will benefit all citizens as we age and need additional assistance later in life. The League proudly welcomes the voices and perspectives of those with disabilities as their viewpoints and life experiences can only enhance our abilities to meet the needs of all citizens.”

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in Government. We influence public policy through education and advocacy. Our goal is to empower citizens to take an active role in shaping better communities worldwide. The League of Women Voters of Pensacola Bay Area does not support or endorse any candidate or political party.

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: \$60.00 _____ Additional Mbrs @ \$30 _____ Contribution _____ TOTAL _____

Dues are FREE for a student enrolled in a certificate or degree program.

I'm renewing my membership. Date: _____

I am interested in the following committees (Circle all interests)

Education	Natural Resources	Social Justice	Voter Service
Communications	Membership	Gun Safety	Women's Issues

I am also interested in the following areas:

Speaker's Bureau	Website	Observer - Governmental Meetings	Social Media
Legislative Action	Naturalization	Newsletter	Voter Registration
			Publicity

I am interesting in learning more about joining or would like more information on the following committee/s _____.

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.) *The League membership year runs from June 1 through May 31.*

