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**YOUR BOARD MEMBERS**

*Officers:*

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

*Directors:*

Vivian Faircloth - *Communications*  
Shirley Lewis-Brown - *Social Justice*  
Paula Montgomery - *Education*  
Tricia Spencer - *Gun Safety*  
Jennifer Wasolenko - *Women's Issues*

**Off-Board Action Team Leaders:**

Mary Gutierrez, *Solar/EV Initiative*  
Cathy Scott, *Membership*  
Ellen Roston, *Library Liaison*  
Jo Mathews, *Naturalization*

**Nominating Committee**

Carol Pulley      Jo Mathews  
Annelise Reuert      Tricia Spencer

**Contact Us**

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

LWV - [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

LWV Florida - [www.lwvfl.org](http://www.lwvfl.org)

## 73rd Annual Meeting



**Saturday, May 20, 2023**

From 10:00 - 1:00

12:00 Lunch served

**Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview  
Drive Pensacola FL**

**Luncheon Speaker:**

**Ginger Bowden Madden, State  
Attorney, First Judicial Circuit of Florida**



State Attorney **Ginger Bowden Madden** is the first woman to hold the position of First Judicial Circuit for Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa and Walton counties. As a teenager, Madden walked into a law office to get a permission slip notarized. She walked out with a job as typist. Thus begun her career in the legal field.

Madden graduated Cum Laude from Troy State University with a Business Degree and earned her law degree from Florida State University. After graduation working as assistant state attorney in Shalimar, her views on youth offenders were altered during the period working in the juvenile court system. As a result, she planned on expanding programs like civil citation for nonviolent juvenile offenders. "The goal is to keep the kid out of the system". However, she reported to the Pensacola News Journal her "No. 1 priority is to protect the public".

**Lunch Menu:**

Chilled Peach Soup

Mini Croissants or Tuxedo Rolls

Mixed Green Salad with Grilled Chicken and Poppy Seed Dressing.

(Tomato, Yellow Onion, Candied Pecan, Dried Cranberries, Celery,

Sweet Peppers, Strawberries, Blueberries)

Pound Cake with Sabayon & Macerated Fruit

Iced Tea, coffee and Water

\*\* Vegetarian Option Available

**\$30 Lunch, \$60 Membership, \$30 Household Member**

Pay for RSVP and DUES [here](#) or PAY DUES ONLY [here](#)

**Deadline for your RSVP is noon on May 12, 2023. Your payment is your reservation. There is no refund after that date.**



Haley Richards

## President's Message

**A**s we prepare for end of the 2022 -2023 year, I am reflecting on everything the League has accomplished this past year. What a tremendous year it has been and I know more good things are still to come in 2023! Come celebrate with us at the **73rd Annual Meeting on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at Azalea Trace**. This is your opportunity to decide who will lead the League, the issues for study & action, approve the budget and hear from *Ginger Bowden Madden*, State Attorney, First Judicial Circuit.

Please take time to review the Annual Meeting Business Meeting materials included in this special edition April Voter and RSVP using one of the following options: RSVP online through the League website event page, [www.lwvpba.org](http://www.lwvpba.org) or Mail a Check with RSVP Form to P.O. Box 2023, Pensacola, FL, 32513 Also, it's time to renew Membership Dues with two options available: pay via check or credit card via PayPal on our website or by sending the form on page 6 to the treasurer at LWVPBA, PO Box 2023, Pensacola, FL 32513.

**SAVE THE DATE:** The League of Women Voters of Florida Convention '23 is scheduled for June 2-4, 2023 in Orlando, Florida. This event happens every two years and delegates will vote on the LWVF Budget, State Program, and Slate of State Officers and Directors. Our League has seven delegate spots for the State Convention. This year's Convention theme is: "**Speak With One Voice and Make It Heard.**" Contact Haley Richards, [presidentlwvpba@gmail.com](mailto:presidentlwvpba@gmail.com), if you are interested in attending State Convention as a delegate. Limited Funding is available to help cover delegate registration fees. Convention Registration links and Materials are accessible here: <https://lwvfl.org/lwvfl-state-convention-2023/>

Our League members worked tirelessly this past year leveraging the power of women (and men as well) to create a more perfect democracy. The League is strong when membership is strong and active. We strongly encourage League members to get involved with a project, activity, or committee.

Check out the League website for upcoming meetings and events.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your President this League Year!

*Haley Richards*  
President

### When is the League membership year?

*The League year runs from June 1 through May 31.* Normally, membership is renewed at the time of the Annual Meeting. The registration form for the Annual Meeting is being sent separately and is on the website [here](#).

Membership dues and gifts to the LWV are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes.

Tax deductible contributions require a separate check written to the LWV Florida Education Fund with LWVPBA on the memo line and sent to our local treasurer at P.O. Box 2023, Pensacola FL 32513.

**Condolence** to the family of Beatrice "Bea" Belous on her recent death. Her obituary may be read [here](#).

**Condolence** to League member Ina Freeman on the death of her husband and member, Dr. Donald "Don" Freeman. His obituary may be read [here](#). Contributions in honor of their memory have been received.

### Observations of the Observer Corps

**T**he Observer Corps attended the policy board of the Pensacola and Perdido Bay Estuary Committee meeting in Orange Beach, AL, PPBEP consists of representatives from Okaloosa, Santa Rosa, and Escambia County FL as well as Baldwin County AL.

PPBEP is reorganizing to form an NGO and will apply for the sales tax exemption to become an NGO(c)3, "transitioning administrative and financial functions from Escambia County, as the current host agency, to a newly created independent agency." The board approved this structure resolving the participation and operating challenges between Florida and Alabama posed by the Special District structure."

## League of Women Voters Pensacola Bay Area Proposed Budget 2022-2023

<b>Receipts</b>	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>2020-2021</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
Dues	\$ 7,800	\$ 6,840	\$ 7,800	\$ 5,880	\$ 6,270
Member Contributions	1,600	3,000	2,244	2,244	2,000
Non-member Contributions	0	0	0	0	100
Fundraiser	400	0	500	500	500
Annual Meeting	2,000	2,000	2,000	3,000	2,500
Interest Income	0	0	0	0	0
Guide to Elected Officials	1,000	1,100	0	1,071	1,000
Grants (Ed Fund)	0	4,575	9,375	9,375	5,075
From Reserves	<u>555</u>	<u>553</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,930</u>	<u>3,581</u>
Total Income	\$ 13,355	\$ 18,068	\$ 21,919	\$ 26,000	\$ 18,926
<b>Disbursements:</b>					
<i>Operational Costs</i>					
Supplies	\$ 100	100	100	100	100
Postage	25	35	35	35	35
PO Box Rental	85	100	110	134	166
Insurance/Filings/ Solicitation	700	600	470	540	700
Miscellaneous	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Board and Administration</i>					
Presidents Expenses	-	-	50	50	50
Board Expenses	50	50	50	50	50
Annual Meeting	2,000	2,000	2,000	3,000	2,500
Membership Services	100	100	350	450	200
<i>Delegate Travel/Affiliation</i>					
Convention/Council (State)	0	1,000	200	0	1,000
US Convention	0	1,000	0	3,000	0
Legislative Seminar	400	500	200	200	400
<i>Financial Support of League</i>					
State PMP	2,025	1,710	1,950	1,470	1,600
National PMP	4,320	3,648	4,160	3,116	3,500
Lobby Fund Drive	400	400	400	400	400
<i>Voter</i>					
Printing	100	100	250	50	50
Postage	50	50	50	50	50
Communications	--	--	125	-	--
<i>Program</i>					
Voter Service	200	250	250	450	200
"Know Your County" Project	-	-	-	5,000	1,000
Guide to Elected Officials	1,000	1,100	0	1,000	1,000
Natural Resources	125	125	125	125	125
Women's Issues	0	125	125	155	150
Education Committee	525	250	250	250	400
Juvenile Justice	125	125	125	250	300
Study Material	125	125	125	125	0
Advocacy	100	0	100	100	100
Communications	100	100	744	550	650
Workshop/Forum	300	4,075	4,075	4,075	4,075
Gun Safety	<u>300</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>125</u>
Total Expenditures	\$ 13,355	\$ 18,068	\$ 21,919	\$ 26,000	\$ 18,926

Submitted by the Budget Committee: Vivian Faircloth, Chair, Pat Jones, Caroline Miller, Ellen Roston with Haley Richards and Jo Mathews, ex officio.

### Proposed Local Program Study and/or Action 2023-2024

The League's program consists of those governmental issues the League has chosen for concerted study and action. The Board Recommended Local Program items for study and/or action in 2022-2023 are:

1. Action to organize, train and coordinate an Observer Corps for Escambia and Santa Rosa governments - Boards of County Commission, City Councils, School Boards and Escambia Children's Trust.
2. Action to monitor growth management in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties.
3. Action to update citizen informational materials for distribution such as Civics 101 curriculum materials for 7th grader teachers and the "Know Your County" booklet.
4. Action to plan and offer Citizen Advocacy Training to members and citizens in Escambia and Sant Rosa counties
5. Study the history of book banning in the United States.

### League of Women Voters of the Pensacola Bay Area BYLAWS Report 2023

There are no proposed Bylaws changes recommended by the Board to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

### Not-Recommended Item Program

[Not-Recommended Items are those suggested by a member but not included by the board in the proposed local program. The following were suggested this year.]

1. Triumph Gulf Coast Funding
2. Water Quality
3. Escambia County Clerk of Court - Retirement Program Lawsuit

### Proposed Slate of Officers & Directors 2023-2024

**Officers:**

President	Haley Richards	2023-2024
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Patricia Jones	2023-2024
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Vacant	2023-2025
Treasurer	Caroline Miller	2023-2025

**Directors:**

Paula Montgomery *	2022-2024
Shirley Lewis-Brown	2023-2025
Elizabeth Major	2023-2025
Vacant	2023-2025

**2023-2024 Nominating Committee:**

- Ellen Roston
- Cathy Scott
- Vacant

**Submitted by the 202 Nominating Committee:**

Annelise Reunert	Tricia Spencer
Carol Pulley	Jo Mathews

\* Completing vacant term

**Returning Directors:**

Secretary	Enid Sisskin	2022-2024
Director	Jennifer Wasilenko	2022-2024
Director	Tricia Spencer	2022-2024

### Times for Action

Your responses to LWVF **Action Alerts** had a positive impact in the various committees of the Senate and House during this legislative session. Please continue to make calls and send e-mails when requested.

It is important to keep in contact with your legislators throughout the year!

**Thanks for your continued involvement to make democracy work!**

## Are you a Susan B. Anthony Member?



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

League, or any combination of the two.

## Make Annual Meeting Luncheon Reservations [Here](#)

**M**ake your reservations for the 73rd Annual Meeting luncheon on the League [website](#) or on the separate registration form on page six. Dues may be paid along with the Annual Meeting dinner. For your convenience, **make reservations by noon May 15**, on [www.lwvpba.org](http://www.lwvpba.org), using **PayPal, debit/credit card** or register and send **checks** to LWVPBA Treasurer, P.O. Box 2023, Pensacola, FL 32513. *Your payment is your reservation.*

Cancellations made after noon May 15th are non-refundable.

Linda Fussell,  
“Freedom to Read”



Tammy Greer,  
“Escambia Children’s Trust”



Rick O’Conner  
“Florida Sea Grant”



## Social Policy at Work

Shirley Lewis-Brown, Action Chair



**T**he League of Women Voters of Florida is committed to helping returning citizens gain the right to vote. Our goals include:

- Informing returning citizens about their new rights; how to determine what fines, costs, restitution and fees might be outstanding; and getting registered to vote.
- Educating and activating attorneys to assist returning citizens through two League-created, Florida Bar-approved continuing legal education (CLE) courses. These courses teach attorneys how to assist returning citizens and petition courts for modifications. They are offered at no charge, and we ask the trained attorneys to provide pro bono (free) legal services to returning citizens to help them vote.
- Promoting statewide volunteer efforts to reach out to returning citizens and help them navigate the voter registration process.

The LWVF Social Justice Committee is acting as the Coordinator for LWVFL Reinstatement of Rights Team postcard-writing project. Local League members, *Kristin Brown, Vivian Faircloth, Barbara Ferg-Carter, Patricia Jones, Shirley Lewiss-Brown, Elizabeth Major, Paula Montgomery, Enid Siskind, Missy Ward and Jennifer Wasilenko* addressed and wrote over 500 notes to returning citizens as part of our local action. Postcard writing parties will continue as additional postcards arrive. Ask Shirley, 850-497-2730, to put your name on the list for the next postcard letter writing party.

*Note:* The LWVF is having a **Lunch & Learn** webinar Friday, April 21st. This week's webinar will focus on the League's ongoing work to register eligible returning citizens (persons with felony convictions) in Florida and opportunities to get involved. If you are unable to join live, look out for the recording of the webinar in the biweekly newsletter, *The Florida Voter*.



# 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting

**Saturday, May 20, 2023**

From 10:00 - 1:00      12:00 Lunch served

**Azalea Trace, 10100 Hillview Drive Pensacola FL**

**Luncheon Speaker:**

**Ginger Bowden Madden**, State Attorney, First Judicial Circuit of Florida



**Lunch Menu:**

Chilled Peach Soup

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 (Tomato, Yellow Onion, Candied Pecan, Dried Cranberries, Celery, Sweet Peppers, Strawberries, Blueberries)

Pound Cake with Sabayon & Macerated Fruit

Iced Tea, coffee and Water

**\*\* Vegetarian Option Available**

Lunch	# _____	@ \$30	_____
Individual dues		\$60	_____
Additional Member/s		\$30	_____
Susan B. Anthony Membership		\$>100	_____
Member Contribution		\$	_____
	<b>Total</b>	\$	_____

My separate tax deductible contribution to the Education Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Tax deductible contributions require a separate check written to LWVF Ed Fund and sent to the our Treasurer with a note on memo line.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Pay for RSVP and DUES [here](#) or PAY DUES ONLY [here](#)

For your convenience, **make reservations by the deadline on noon Friday, May, 12** on [www.lwvpba.org](http://www.lwvpba.org), or send your check to LWVPBA Treasurer, P.O. Box 2023, Pensacola, FL 32513. **Your check is your reservation. Cancellations after noon May 12th are non-refundable.**