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YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Officers:

Jane Spruill, *President*
 Haley Richards, *1st Vice Pres.*
 Elizabeth Major, *2nd Vice Pres.*
 Jo Matthews, *Treasurer*
 Karon McGrath, *Secretary*

Directors:

Vivian Faircloth
 Cheryl Howard
 Shirley Lewis-Brown
 Paula Montgomery
 Dianna Montoya
 Charlyle Parrish
 Enid Sisskin
 Betsy Werre
 Mary Louise Winter

Off-Board Action Team Leaders:

Janet deLorge, *Naturalization*
 Mary Gutierrez, *Solar/EV Initiative*
 Ellen Roston, *Library Liaison*
 Cathy Scott, *Membership Roster*

Nominating Committee

Gail Honea, *Chair*
 Penny Fendt
 Sallie Brown
 Paula Montgomery
 Jo Mathews

Contact Us

www.lwvpba.org
 LWVPBA Facebook page
 Phone: (850)937-7769

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

Meetings are on Wednesdays this month to accommodate our speakers.

Hot Topic On Zoom

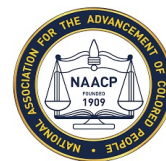
Wednesday March 23, 2023 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Chief Eric Randall, Pensacola Police Dept., will discuss community policing, officer training and other vital areas of interest to all citizens.

Sponsored by: LWVPBA Gun Safety Committee & Partner NAACP



[Register for Zoom Link](#)



Eric Randall, a Pensacola native, was installed as chief of the Pensacola Police Department last June. After graduating from Washington High School, he joined the U.S. Navy and served eight years. He joined the Newport News Police Department after his military service. Chief Randall earned a Master of Science degree and Bachelor of Arts degree, both in Criminal Justice, from Saint Leo University. At the League meeting, members will have the opportunity to learn more about Randall's philosophy of community and policing. Send your questions to lwvpba@gmail.com.

Rescheduled

In-person Workshop - Register [here](#)
Learn to Write Effective, Persuasive Letters
Community Room, 200 W. Garden
Wednesday April 13, 4:00-6:00 pm



Terry Horne

Terry Horne, Executive Director of the Center for Civic Engagement, will lead League members in a workshop, **Learn to Write Effective, Persuasive Letters**. The workshop will be held in-person in the Community Room at the *Studer Community Institute*, 200 W. Garden Street on April 13, 2022, 4:00 p.m.

Horne, former publisher of the Pensacola News Journal and regional president for the USA Today Network, is the executive director of the Center for Civic Engagement. The center is a community resource center designed to educate and empower citizens to be their own best advocates, to hold their leaders accountable and to organize with their neighbors to build stronger communities.

Note paper or note taking facilities are suggested. Masks are required with social distancing observed to keep everyone safe.

Observer Corps Report on The Escambia Children's Trust

Jane Spruill, Mary Louise Winter and Vivian Faircloth, members of the League Observer Corps, reported on the board meeting of the Children's Trust.

Prior to the Board meeting, the Policy Committee approved the procedures and safeguards in place to quickly award grants. The discussion centered on their concern about the position of the Ethics Officer. The committee voted to recommend that the board adopt the Policy Manual with the few minor changes.

Tammy Grier, newly appointed Executive Director, announced she is meeting with all of the board members, as well as individuals in the community, to get input on their views and expectations of the Trust.

In addition to finding office space, Grier wants to spend as little money as possible on administrative functions. She envisions a 'lean and mean' staff including:

- * Communications Specialist/Board Liaison
- * Finance Clerk to monitor funds of receiving agencies
- * Program Director
- * Evaluation Manager to measure success or failure of funded programs.

Board members finalized the Policy Manual to include procedures and safeguards in awarding grants, as well as procurement, fiscal policy operations and procedure.

The Board approved a motion to put out a RFP for an analyst to compile all of the needs assessments and data [from local agencies/organizations] and develop a strategic plan for prioritizing them.

Observer Corps Needs Your Support

The Observer Corps is a group of League volunteers who attend government meetings and report back on how the meeting was conducted and what was discussed. Our Observers:

- Make sure the government is following open meeting ("sunshine") laws;
- Promote transparency and accountability in government through regular oversight;
- Educate the public about what is going on in government;
- Identify issues for League advocacy.

We are currently observing government meetings focusing on education, land use, children's issues and some County Commissioner issues in both counties and are looking to expand coverage of governmental meetings. Stay tuned for our expansion into other topics.

Observer Corps Needs Your Support! Keeping the public informed about their government is a top priority, but we can't do it alone. You can help us by volunteering as an Observer to help us expand. Email

LWVPBA@gmail.com

Bird and Wildlife Protection in the Pensacola Bay Area

*Does your yard or balcony habitat sustain native wildlife?
Keys to Success*

Elizabeth Major presented an overview of wildlife protection at the March 8th Hot Topics meeting. This was an in-person League meeting and was well attended with members wearing masks.

Elizabeth described Nature as a source of specialized relationships and painted a picture of these interactions. However, today these relationships are in danger.

Only about five percent (5%) of the lower forty-eight states enjoy a pristine ecological standard. The nation has been damaged by logging, plowing, draining, paving, development, as well as, the straightening and damming of rivers and polluting the skies. In addition, hundreds of plants from other countries have been introduced and they compete with native plants.

As result, Keystone insects have drastically decreased in numbers, resulting in the loss of about three billion birds. It is estimated we will lose one million species in the next twenty years.

What can we do to help stop the losses? According to scientist Edward O. Wilson, life as we know it, depends on insects. The resulting chain reaction would be the extinction of flowering plants, changes in physical structures and habitats, and the collapse of food webs, biosphere would rot because of loss of insect decomposers and man would be in trouble!

The evidence clearly shows man is dependent on the natural world. By designing landscapes with a focus on species that contribute to a functioning ecosystem this trend can be reversed.

Elizabeth provided information on using native species in our landscapes, which birds and insects use for food. She identified native plants that sustain wildlife as well as native wildflowers to help build corridors for wildlife dependent on them. The use of yellow outdoor lights provides insect protection since they do not attract bugs.

Contact Elizabeth for resources to help you make changes in your yard to support native wildlife. Field trips with examples of appropriate landscaping can be conducted. If you are interested in such a tour or information on native planting, contact Elizabeth at eliz_Maj@yahoo.com

Elizabeth Major serves as Second Vice President of our local League.

League position on Natural Resources: *The LWV believes that natural resources should be managed as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems. Impact on Issues 2020-2022, A Guide to Public Policy Positions page 85.*

National History Day 2022

Sarah Brown, PhD

Every year the LWVPBA presents prizes at Middle School and High School History Fairs in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. County History Fairs are an extension of *National History Day*, which annually sends school districts a general theme students must address in their essays, projects, displays, or presentations.

This year's theme was "Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences." Escambia County's awards ceremony was held February 8th and Santa Rosa's event on February 15th.. Sallie Brown, Shirley Lewis Brown and Charlyle Parrish represented the League, and were pleased to present League metals and monetary awards to three History Fair projects, one in Santa Rosa County and two in Escambia County.

All three projects (which will go on to the state competition) speak to the general topic of "rights," broadly imagined: one about human rights and the right to protest the oppressive British regime in India; one about the early seeds and promise of the women's rights movement in the United States; and another about the right to vote denied through the massacre of at least 50 African- Americans citizens of Ocoee (Orange County), Florida.

Our winners are:

Escambia County Junior Division: *Sarah Tanveer*, for a beautifully executed individual historical paper called "*The March to Sovereignty: Debate and Diplomacy in the Nation of India.*" Sarah is a fine researcher and a very good writer whose paper increased our understanding of Gandhi's "March to the Sea."

Santa Rosa County Junior Division: *Brooklyn Bentley* and *Brooke Boutwell* for their exhibit "*The Ocoee Massacre*" told a sad story about brave people whose attempts to vote were denied by terrible Klan violence in 1920, more than half a century after the passage of the 15th Amendment. They did extensive research and presented their project to the judges articulately and knowledgeably.

Escambia County Senior Division: *Caitlyn Hollingworth*, *Jessica De*, and *Mallory Willem* for their exhibit "*Seneca Falls: Catalyst for Gender Equality.*" It was not just their exhibit, but their careful and thorough research and their exceptional understanding of the early suffrage movement that drew us to this project. These ladies answered difficult questions with ease and enthusiasm. **We are very pleased that they will attend our May 12 annual meeting, with their exhibit. Don't miss the opportunity to talk to them about their research during the registration period at the beginning of the meeting!**

Mark your Calendar
League Coffee & Conversation April 9, 2022
Tryon Branch Library (see flyer attached)

Mark Your Calendars: Women's History Month Webinar

The League of Women Voters of Florida will host a webinar on March 28 at 5:30 p.m. (ET) honoring Women's History Month. Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society and has been observed annually in the month of March in the United States since 1987.

A program agenda will be released in the coming days.

[Click here to pre-register now!](#)

[Click here to access all of the prior Lunch & Learn recordings.](#)

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

Deadline to Propose Program for Local League Work 2022-23

Haley Richards, hrichards@alumni.flagler.edu

Program planning suggestions for the upcoming League year are appropriate now. The local League's program for League Work consists of local governmental issues that members identify for either concerted study or action. Members who are planning to propose local program items are asked to submit the need for the study or action with some ideas how this may be accomplished. Check if the League has existing positions by visiting <https://www.lwvpba.org/program>. **Submit your local governmental issues for concerted study or action by April 1st** to Haley at hrichards@alumni.flagler.edu.

Welcome New Members!

Martha Saunders Mary Riley

Members' contact information is contained in the Membership roster. If you have not received the latest one or have a correction, email LWVPBA@gmail.com.

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	Juvenile 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.**



**P. O. Box 2023
Pensacola, FL 32513**