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YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Officers:

Jane Spruill, *President*
 Sallie Brown, *1st Vice Pres.*
 Annelise Reunert, *2nd Vice Pres.*
 Jo Matthews, *Treasurer*
 Karon McGrath, *Secretary*

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Vivian Faircloth
 Cheryl Howard
 Shirley Lewis-Brown
 Paula Montgomery
 Charlyle Parrish
 Ellen Roston
 Enid Sisskin
 Patricia Spencer
 Betsy Werre
 Mary Louise Winter

Off-Board Action Team Leaders

Janet deLorge, *Naturalization*
 Mary Gutierrez, *Solar/EV Initiative*
 Cathy Scott, *Membership*

Nominating Committee

Carolyn Kolb, *Chair*
 Elizabeth King Elizabeth Major

Contact Us

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

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

Overview of the science of climate change from an oceanographer's perspective - working to get past the hype and politics and focus on the science



League Zoom Meeting Dr. Wade Jeffrey February, 2021 10:15 Coffee 10:30 Program

Dr. Wade Jeffrey is a Distinguished University Professor, Director of the Center for Environmental Diagnostics and Bioremediation and Director of the Reubin O'D. Askew Institute of Multidisciplinary Studies. He trained as an oceanographer with a specialization in marine microbial ecology. For most of his career he focused on how ultraviolet radiation (UV) affects marine microbes.

Since UV is almost everywhere, Jeffrey's lab has worked from the Arctic to Antarctic oceans, coral reefs, mountain lakes, the Mediterranean Sea, and our backyard in the Gulf of Mexico. More recently Jeffrey has begun to investigate the extreme environments found in the Atacama Desert in Chile.

Jeffrey's approach combines aspects of microbiology, oceanography, molecular biology and photobiology. Since 2010 he has also been heavily involved with research associated with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Jeffery has done extensive work on the microbial diversity of the northeast Gulf of Mexico and how it is affected by oil. His current work focuses on how environmental parameters (for example sunlight, temperature, salinity) interacts with oil to change its toxicity to marine microbes. Most recently, he has completed two trips to Antarctica to study the microbial ecology of mixotrophic phytoplankton. These unique organisms make their living as both plants and animals.

Register [here](#) for a link to all events

The League's Position Statement of Position on Climate Change Policy, (January 2019): The League believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and our planet. The League believes that an interrelated approach to combating climate change—including through energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources—is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem. The League supports climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations. Individuals, communities, and governments must continue to address this issue, while considering the ramifications of their decision, at all levels—local, state, regional, national, and global.

League History In the later 2000s, LWVUS significantly increased its advocacy concerning global climate change. LWVUS believes that climate change is a serious problem that requires immediate domestic and international action. The League believes the U.S. government should move ahead immediately, without waiting for other nations, on initiatives to reduce emissions of heat-trapping gases like carbon, methane, and other air toxins. Such actions will reduce the threat of global climate change, combat air pollution, increase energy security, and create new jobs. Continue reading on the history of League action [here](#), page 105.



Jane Spruill, President

President's Message

Dear Members,

One of the most important round the clock activities for the LWV is registering eligible voters. We hope

that the restrictions on COVID 19 will be under management by the summer and we can return to face to face recruitment of voters. We participate in this activity by having a table or tent at local festivals, speaking to community organizations and working with students in the public schools. In order for our members to volunteer, they must have completed this training and scored 100 % on the quiz.

Our previous LWVFL Voter Registration quiz officially expired on Dec 31, 2020. A new quiz is available for League members who wish to participate in League voter registration efforts. Please take the new quiz at your earliest convenience.

A grace period of validity for those who are actively registering voters will be in effect until March 1, 2021. If you have not taken the new quiz by March 1st, you will no longer be permitted to register voters under the League's purview.

Once taken and passed, you are re-certified to register voters with LWVFL through December 31, 2022. The quiz, hosted on a new platform, is found on our website and can be found by clicking below.

New Voter Registration Volunteer Quiz [here](#).

Good Luck and hope to see you out there registering voters. ♡

Jane Spruill



Voices of Pensacola hosts new exhibit

Black History

The African American History Exhibit, *Black Citizenship in the*

age of Jim Crow, is open at *Voices Multicultural Center* at

117 E. Government St,

Pensacola. This exhibit explores a more complete history of American which includes Americans of African Descent arriving in Virginia in 1619, up to and including the present. *Voices* is Open for abbreviated hours during COVID Tuesdays and Thursday, 10 am to 4 pm. There is also a Virtual Tour. For information: Cheryl Howard, or Africanamericanheritagesociety.org at 850-469-1456. ♡



League plans ahead....

The Nominations Committee encourages LWVPBA members – especially our newer members – to consider volunteering for leadership positions. Our younger and newer members have much to gain from serving in a Board or an Off Board committee position. Mentoring, encouragement, experience, knowledge, self-awareness and confidence are just a few things you will gain through League service. These valuable tools will serve you well in your personal and professional life.

Contact a member of the Nominating committee, Elizabeth King, Elizabeth Major, Jo Matthews or Betsy Werre to volunteer or make suggestions for board members in 2021 - 2022. Check the attached Roster for contact information. ♡

Selecting Issues of Concern for Study or Action in 2021-2022

Program Planning for LWVPBA has begun. League program is the education and advocacy platform that we adopt to move our mission forward. Your suggestions for our Local League Study and/or Action for the next League year are now being sought.

The League of Women Voters is a grassroots organization and your input is vital as we strive to make democracy work for all of us. When thinking about possible suggestions, consider the following questions:

- Who is concerned about this problem?
- What evidence do we have that this is an issue of concern? Is timing appropriate?
- Is there a real possibility that citizens could bring about positive change?
- Is this an issue of concern to a group we would like to engage with the League?
- Does League have particular expertise in this area? Can League be effective on this issue?
- Is there a special role for League to play in helping to resolve this issue?
- Would people want to join League to be involved in working on this issue?

Please send your suggestions to Jane Spruill, 444-3269. Your input will help the Board decide on studies to recommend for adoption at the Annual Meeting in May. ♡

Have Questions about League Program?

VOTER SERVICE AND LEAGUE PROGRAM

Sometimes it is difficult to understand exactly how the League of Women Voters takes action on some issues but not others. When the League of Women Voters was organized in 1920, the goal was to teach women about voting. That was the sole focus of the organization. Over the years it became evident there were other governmental issues that needed study and action. Thus the League became two-pronged, with Voter Service as one segment and League Program as the other focus.

Voter Service functions on voter education, including registering voters, providing educational materials to voters and educating the public about our system of government. Sometimes it includes classroom information on the structure of our Democratic Republic form of government. The League also provides non-partisan information on issues the voter will need to consider before casting a ballot.

League Program, on the other hand, involves the objective study of issues of public concern. This is accomplished at all three levels of the League through formation of a committee, unbiased study and presentation to League members for discussion and final determination through a process called consensus. At this point the League can take action, whether in support or opposition, on a governmental issue. The League does not take action on all public concerns, only those on which a position has been reached. ♡

Help Us Keep Track of What Our Local Governments Are Doing!

In the past, the League had an Observer Corps, where members attended County Commission and City Council meetings to keep up to date on the actions of these two governmental bodies. The League representative wore an identifying badge to remind these elected officials that the public was watching and interested in their actions. If an issue of concern was discussed and reported to the League, an appropriate response was taken.

At the present time, meetings are held either on-line or they can be watched on television. We would like very much to re-institute this program in Escambia and include Santa Rosa County governmental bodies in this project, along with the School Board meetings in both counties. We would also like the observer to report observations of these meetings to the Board.

If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact Ellen Roston at ekroston@aol.com or 850 453 0730. ♡



Solar Tax Credit Extended

In December 2020, Congress passed a massive federal budget bill that included, "a two-year extension of the *Investment Tax Credit* for solar power, a one-year extension of the Production Tax Credit for wind power projects, and an extension through 2025 for offshore wind tax credits — a significant last-minute boost for clean energy industries." (Source: Congress Passes Spending Bill With Solar, Wind Tax Credit Extensions and Energy R&D Package | Greentech Media)

This of course is wonderful news for those wanting to go solar. So, what does it mean? Here is a little bit of history: The Investment Tax Credit was created in 2005, which gave taxpayers a 30% tax credit for home solar installation. The credit was extended annually or bi-annually until 2015 when a long-term extension was implemented with a phase down of dropping to 26% in 2020, 22% in 2021 and down to zero after 2021. The Investment Tax Credit was set to expire this year!

With the passage of the budget bill, however, homeowners who go solar in 2021 or 2022 will be eligible for a 26% tax credit. Homeowners who invest in solar in 2023 will be eligible for a 22% tax credit. The credit expires after 2023 (except for large-scale solar projects and to zero percent for small scale solar projects in 2024 it will fall to 10%).

Going solar helps create jobs, reduce energy use, fights climate change, and helps save you money! Interested in going solar? Contact mgutierrez.league@gmail.com. ♡



Join the Action

The 2021 session of the Florida Legislature is to commence on March 2nd.

Committee meetings have been taking place for several months. To help our paid lobbyist and state board members, we need to be ready to communicate with our delegation members. It is amazing what can be accomplished by timely and informed communication. That is why you are so important. League's positions on issues result from studies, discussions and consensus of local Leagues. Each year the state board selects priority items on which the lobbyist will focus during the session. Thank you for your assistance with lobbying back on the "home front". Information on issues will be provided in email Action Alerts and websites, lwv.org and lwvfl.org. If you have not already contributed to the special Lobby Fund to pay the expenses of our lobbyist, check www.lwvfl.org for details to contribute. ♡

Education/Juvenile Justice Committee Report

Paula Montgomery, 438-8891

Patti Hightower, Escambia County School Board member and Linda Sanborn, Santa Rosa School Board member, met with the League Education/Juvenile Justice committee to discuss various issues of concern. The Governor's allocation for salary increases for newer teachers has created a struggle to make salaries fairer for more experienced teachers.

The two women discussed measures taken in response to the COVID19 pandemic, with some children attending in the physical buildings and others remotely. Ms Sanborn does not believe the disruption from the pandemic will affect graduation rates. However, both board members acknowledged the children in Exceptional Student Education (ESE) may have been more adversely affected. Teacher have been trained to use the remote platforms and, In both counties, these students have been able to access the internet. Each county has implemented various programs to address the problems students may have due to stresses outside of school. This League committee plans to study the use of these programs to determine how effective they are in addressing the needs of students.

Ms. Hightower reported she had attended a meeting with Gulf Power and Cox to discuss increased internet connectivity. She suggested this might be an area where the League could prove helpful. In both counties, the unprecedented disruption has been a time when both districts have been inventive and may find some of the skills learned will be useful even after the pandemic. They reported the Governor has said there will be greater leniency in the requiring of certain student tests..

When questioned about the use of law enforcement in the schools, both guests were complementary of the performance of the school resource officers. They were aware that special training was provided to the officers by both sheriff's departments, but did not indicate if it was a requirement in either school district. With the commitment by the incoming Escambia County Sheriff to use alternatives to arrest through civil citations, League members are hopeful student arrest rates in Escambia County Schools will fall.

Each of the two counties has implemented various programs designed to address problems that students may have due to stresses outside of school. The committee is planning to study the use of these programs to find how effective they are. We will be meeting with the two superintendents of schools to coordinate the study. ♡

Voter Service Committee Report

Charlyl Parrish, 932-0854

Many of you have participated in many of our voter registration events. As in the past, we all must be "certified" to register voters. The League of Women Voters Florida is a Third Party Registration Organization and has their own unique #PVRO number. All of us who will be conducting voter registration from January, 2021 thru December, 2022, must update/new our certification. Please utilize this web page [here](#) and complete the short outline and the quiz. Please let me know when you have completed this task.♡

Community Spotlight

1. **Sacred Heart Hospital** distributed re-usable tote bags to those receiving their vaccine shots.
2. **WUWF88.1fn** NPR airs EcoMinutes. League members have highlighted environmental concerns and suggestions on the program.

Do you want to get involved, but don't know how?

Want to learn more about how your government works?

Join the League of Women Voters Pensacola Bay Area to learn more about the things that are important to you. For more information visit www.lwvpba.org or contact the League at 937-7769

Painless League Fundraiser



**Office DEPOT
OfficeMax**

For several years our local League has participated in a Rewards Program at Office Depot. When you make a purchase, the only requirement is to give the clerk the League phone number, 850-937-7769. In that way, our League will get credit for your purchase. This is a simple and painless way to financially assist the League when purchases are made. If you forget to credit the League at the time of purchase and have your receipt, please contact Vivian Faircloth at vfaircloth@iname.com for credit to the League account.

Welcome New Members

**Judy DeBolt
Dorothy Tampary**

Calendar

Register for all League events and meetings [here](#).



February

- 1 **Tuesday, 5:30 pm Board Meeting**, Zoom meeting. Members welcome. Contact Mary Louise at winterml at icloud.com for link.
- 8 **Monday, 4:00 Membership Committee**, Zoom, contact Betsy Werre, rbwerre at att.net For information.
- 9 **Tuesday, 5:30 pm, Juvenile Justice/Education Committees Zoom**. Committee is examining the various existing programs in the school systems to help students with academic and behavior problem to see which have been best received and effective. Contact Paula Montgomery, montpns at aol.com or Shirley Lewis-Brown at shirleylewis _ brown at hotmail.com
- 11 **Thursday, 11:30 am, Voter Services**, Zoom, Committee will explore doing a new project and completion of Guide to Elected Officials. Contact Charyle Parrish at cparrish at usa.net.
- 15 **Monday, noon, Natural Resources Committee**, Zoom. Contact Enid Sisskin at esisskin at gmail.com for information.
- 16 **Tuesday, 6 pm, Women’s Issues**, Zoom, contact Annelise Reunert, ajwr57 at gmail.com or Cheryl Howard at cheryl.howard2 at outlook.com

20 **Saturday, 10:15 Coffee am, 10:30 am General Meeting**, Zoom, **Dr. Wade Jeffery** “*Overview of Climate Change*”, [Register here](#) or Join Facebook Live [here](#). Click [here](#) to watch recorded meetings.

- 24 **Wednesday, 2 pm, Gun Safety**, Zoom, contact Tricia Spencer, deacontricia at yahoo.com, for information.

March

- 1 **Tuesday, 5:30 pm Board Meeting**, Zoom meeting. Members welcome. Contact Mary Louise at winterml at icloud.com for link.

20 **Saturday, 10:15 am Coffee, 10:30 am, General Meeting**, Zoom, **Dr. Timothy Smith and Dr. Karen Barber** “*Update from the Public Schools*”, [Register here](#) or Join Facebook Live [here](#). Click [here](#) to watch recorded meetings.



Penny Lynn Fendt

Penny Fendt was born in New York City and was adopted at two weeks of age. She grew up in New Jersey and Ohio with her adopted brother. Penny earned a degree in Public Health Administration and moved to the Pensacola area in the early 1980's.

Following several successful business ventures, Penny owned and operated two Sylvan Learning Centers in Santa Rosa County for several years. In retirement, She became a volunteer with Bridges to Circles and Learn to Read NW Florida.

After joining the League, Penny served on the Education Committee where she enhanced the Girl Scout project (Voter Girl) through hands-on crafts and sign-in books as well as beautiful posters. She was tireless in finding supplies and suggesting ideas for the project.

Penny participated in the Trauma Informed Care and Social Emotional Learning (SEL) study to assess how schools were dealing with trauma among students. Her research and ideas were invaluable to the committee.

Through recent DNA testing, Penny found both her birth mother and father as well as seven half-siblings. The pandemic has prevented visits; however contact has been made through social media outlets.

Penny is now enjoying retirement with her husband, Hank, along with her daughter, two step-sons and their families. ♡

League News.....

- ★ **Cheryl Howard and Tricia Spencer** have been appointed to the Local League board.
- ★ **Paula Montgomery and Haley Richards** gave a presentation of our legislative priorities to Escambia County Legislative Delegation.
- ★ Former Florida Supreme Court Chief **Justice Peggy Ann Quince** has been appointed to our State Board of Directors.
- ★ LWV Florida 1st Vice President **Cecile Scoon** received *Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service Award*. Scoon drafted a *Continuing Legal Education (CLE)* course to teach attorneys how to work with felons to petition courts for modifications as part of her actions on this issue. It is estimated that 1,000 attorney have received training.
- ★ The updated version of [Impact on Issues](#) is now available on the League Management Site. *Impact on Issues* is updated every two years.

The League is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.

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
Fund-raising	Poverty	Healthcare	Publicity

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 year runs from June 1 through May 31.**



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