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**YOUR BOARD MEMBERS**

**Officers:**

Jane Spruill, *President*  
 Haley Richards, *1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.*  
 Elizabeth Major, *2<sup>nd</sup> 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

**Contact Us**

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

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



John Peacock

## Why Consider Charter Government September 9, 2021 5:30 pm Zoom - [Register Here](#)

Mr. John Peacock will explain the importance and benefits of charter government and why citizens should support it on Thursday, September 9th at 5:30 PM. Over 75% of Floridians currently live under this form of local government. He has been instrumental in convincing the Escambia County Board of County Commissioners to include charter government as an agenda item in their October 2021 meeting. Mr. Peacock hopes that a group will be formed to study charter government and make recommendations to both the Board and the public based on their findings.

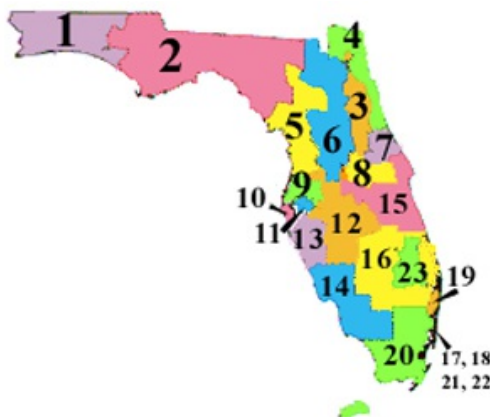
While a financial advisor for Edward Jones by profession, Mr. Peacock is a long-time community activist and fund-raiser. He is involved in several charitable organizations, most notably the "Panhandle Charitable Open" which he was instrumental in creating to honor his son, John Ryan Peacock.

We look forward to seeing you on Zoom. Register for the Zoom Hot Topic on our website, [www.lwvpba.org](http://www.lwvpba.org) here.

Zoom sessions are recorded and may be seen on our Facebook page and YouTube channel. Buttons are in the top right corner of any page of the website, <https://www.lwvpba.org>.

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

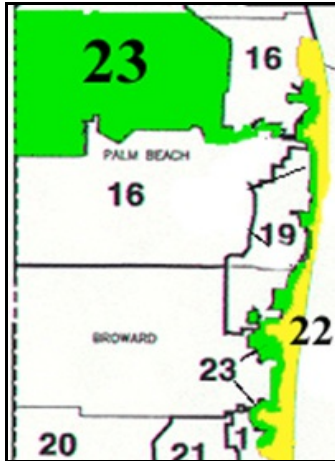
## Membership Meeting Kick-off Local Legislative Outlook Zoom - September 18, 2021 - 10:30 am



As our local League kicks off another year, members of our Legislative Delegation have been invited to the September 18 monthly League meeting. Members include: Senator Doug Broxson, and Representatives Michelle Salzman, Alex Andrade and Jayer Williamson. These elected officials have been asked to discuss the issues that are expected to dominate the upcoming session of the Florida Legislature, which is scheduled to open in January 2022.

Please join League members on Zoom for a lively discussion of issues that will impact all Floridians.

## Reapportionment Following the Decennial Census



Race (22nd CD): 94% white; 3% black; 1% Asian; 13% Hispanic

· Race (23rd CD): 45% white; 52% black; 1% Asian; 9% Hispanic

· 22nd: never more than 3 miles wide and includes upscale beach communities

· 16th CD intersects 23rd CD

*Reapportionment is the redistribution of seats in the US House of Representatives based on changes in population.*

### Redistricting of US Congress

Every 10 years the United States conducts a census to determine the nation's population as accurately as possible. Representation in the US House of Representatives is based on the population of each state. During the last ten years, the increase in Florida's population has resulted in adding one additional seat in Congress,

bringing the total to 28 members from our state. The process is formally known as Reapportionment.

### Redistricting in Florida and Local Governments

The League of Women Voters of Florida has been involved with the redistricting process since 1939 and is preparing the public with knowledge about redistricting, why it matters for decisions large and small and tools to engage in the process. Redrawing boundaries for the state legislature, as well as district boundaries, determines who

appears on your ballot, where you can vote and can influence whether your elected officials respond to your needs.

Redistricting is vulnerable to the intentional manipulating of the line drawing process in order that people in political power keep or change political power. This manipulation does not happen by accident. It happens most egregiously when those in power make decisions behind closed doors and the people, whose interests they are supposed to be representing, are cut out of the process. Public input, accountability and transparent processes can curb this process of gerrymandering. It is important for the public to have a voice in the map-drawing process.

The redistricting timeline for public involvement in Escambia County is October 5. The Supervisor of Elections will present the census data, including the criteria to be used in redrawing the district boundaries as well as a discussion of initial maps. Revision and finalized maps will be presented on November 2. It is expected that Santa Rosa County will have a similar timeline. According to state law, county boundaries can be redrawn only in odd-numbered years.

Contact Jane Spruill, local League president, to indicate your interest in redistricting training or email [lwvpba@gmail.com](mailto:lwvpba@gmail.com). Our League will be prepared to give presentations to educate the public.

### Resources:

In April, Ellen Friedin presented past and our hopes in Florida of fair maps in the near future. [Click here to watch Understanding Florida's Current Maps](#) ( Five Thirty Eight) [Mapping Tool](#) (MGGG Redistricting Lab) [Redistricting Timeline](#) & [Redistricting Community College](#) (Common Cause)

## Memorial Tree Planting for Ann Davis at Tryon Branch Library





## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Cheryl Howard**

**C**heryl Howard is the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of the African American Heritage Society, Inc. She received her Bachelor and Doctorate degrees with honors, from Howard University in Washington D.C.

Cheryl enjoyed a 33 year career, beginning with her appointment as an Assistant State Attorney in the Offices of the Honorable Janet Reno, in Miami, Dade County, Florida, followed by years as a litigator within the private law firm sector, then a move to the corporate sector as an executive within the Legal and Business Divisions of Bloomberg, LP in Princeton, New Jersey and New York.

Cheryl has a demonstrated commitment to Community Service. When she was a teenager she volunteered in the Youth Auxiliary division as a Candy Striper with her local hospital for several years. As a professional, Cheryl has served on the following Boards: United Way of Escambia County, now known as United Way of West Florida, Pensacola State College Foundation, Legal Services of Northwest Florida, T.T. Wentworth Museum, Pensacola Chamber of Commerce, President of Favor House Board, Executive Committee of The Junior League of Greater Princeton, Supervisory Committee of the Pen Air Federal Credit Union. Memberships include: Junior League of Pensacola for twenty-four years (currently a Sustainer), The Links Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and the League of Women Voters Pensacola Bay Area. Cheryl is a board member of our League and serves as the Chair for the Women's Issues Committee. She has always been interested in politics as "a frame for our lives." Cheryl was impressed by League and has depended on it to provide information regarding issues relevant to her. As Women's Issues committee Chair, she hopes to improve the current status of women's lives, families, households and workplaces. She believes women's lives affect the entire community. Cheryl wants you to know there is plenty of work to be done for everyone and membership in this committee is encouraged.

Cheryl resides with Joseph, her husband of thirty-three years in downtown Pensacola. They are the parents of two adult children, a daughter who is a Health Law Attorney in Boston, Massachusetts, and a son who is a Vice-President of a Global Fortune 100 Investment Banking Firm headquartered in New York.

Having lived abroad in Calgary, Alberta, Canada and Europe as a corporate spouse expat for many years, Cheryl loves to travel internationally, enjoys reading, lifelong learning, dance exercise and yoga.

By Betsy Werre

## Gun Safety Field Trip

by Mary Loise Winter

**M**y favorite part of grade school, along with recess, was any field trip to any destination, no matter how near or far away, that got me out of the classroom! I was sure that each field trip would be an adventure, even if I did learn something in spite of myself.

Well, in June I got to go on just such a field trip. It's one that any grade school kid would love: a visit to the Pensacola Police Department. Dianna Montoya and I met with *Officer Ike Isenberg* from Community Relations and his incredibly attractive partner, *K-9 Officer Taylor*. On behalf of the *Gun Safety Committee*, our goal was to continue researching local gun safety laws and how they are enforced, and to get advice on the most effective way to launch a Public Service Campaign centering on teen suicide and gun safety.

Officer Isenberg had some great pointers and overall was very receptive to working with us to attend presentations and to provide more guidance if needed. He spent more than an hour educating us on the best research resources, current gun laws and the difficulties enforcing them, safe gun storage, and his advice for what he called "prevention education". He also recommended that we reach out to and partner with churches and other civic groups that are working with young people. He gave us some pamphlets about gun safety and gun locks before we left.

For his part, K-9 Officer Taylor demonstrated his effectiveness at community relations and gun safety by accepting lots of petting and bringing us toys to play with! He is a highly decorated officer, and his particular specialty is electronic detection. There are only a few K-9 Officers in the Southeast that can perform this kind of detection. However, since he was off duty, he gave us several tail wags and gratefully accepted more pets and adoration from us before we left. We may have enjoyed that even more than he did. He doesn't do autographs, but we've included his picture anyway!

All in all, a fabulous field trip!



## One Year After a Global Social Justice Awakening ... Critical Race Theory: What it IS and Is NOT!

By Cheryl Howard, J.D.

Approximately one year ago, it seemed that the entire country and most of the world had embarked upon a Social Justice Awakening complete with intentional actions in the form of collective protests and conversations about what fairness should look like for all citizens, not just some. This movement was led by a diverse, cross section of America, representative of all American citizens of various ages, genders, ethnicities - an artful mosaic of what America had stated that it was - a melting pot of persons from everywhere. For the first time possibly in American history, the issue of social justice, racial equality, diversity, equity, and inclusion of all including LGBTQ+, had transcended academic study and the traditional social justice organizations. These issues became the main subject of intentional conversations from the coffee shop, beauty and barber shops to corporate boardrooms and in fact to the various seats of government and quasi-governmental institutions.

There seemed to be competition by every respectable organized entity to issue a statement condemning injustice and exclusion with the requisite counter commitment to implementing diversity, equity, and inclusion programs to address past actions now recognized as having contributed to our institutional and structural racism. The recognition that the harm resulting from alleged unconscious and implicit bias, had allowed and arguably had set the stage for the event which by all accounts was the catalyst for this global mental shift in how we view each other, and that catalyst was the televised murder of George Floyd in May of 2020. The viewing of the police officer who nonchalantly, over approximately nine minutes, extinguished the life of a man who was face down on the ground and handcuffed in "broad daylight" while surrounded by other police officers who stood by and did nothing, literally and figuratively shook the world awake. And so we are all now awoke and seeing everything from a different, though not necessarily and definitively the same perspective, but from an enhanced lens driven by a new desire to learn more, understand better, and to assume personal responsibility to adjust our own behavior by living with purposeful intention, beginning with seeing our fellow citizens whom we had not really seen before, or had intentionally not noticed before because that person was deemed to have little or no societal value. We learned to wait before judging, to ask questions and not assume, to basically become more human- - less inhumane, and to treat all people as human beings.

And then, seemingly out of thin air, less than one year later, all of the news media, social media, school boards, churches and everyone only wanted to discuss one topic, *Critical Race Theory (CRT)*. When this type of national shift occurs that has been like the proverbial slamming on the breaks to the greater collective social justice movement that was rolling along and supported by nearly universal commitment to real change, we must ask why the shift, why now, what is this new issue that is so important at

this particular time, that it usurps the power of a larger collective movement?

*Before answering the why, we must first understand what the new matter is by definition and what are its' implications, and more importantly in the case of CRT, its application.*

**Critical Race Theory is not a new emerging concept. The name which introduces the theory was coined by former Harvard University student, now law professor Kimberle Crenshaw and her mentor and later colleague, the late Harvard University law professor Derrick Bell, more than thirty (30) years ago.** During discussions of law and then existing state of affairs for the majority of Americans of African ancestry, it was determined that to more fully understand those dynamics, one would need to look at the particular condition(s) and then also look at how laws were enacted that supported or in some cases created the condition, which then had become and continues to be systemic and thereby institutionalized when also taken up by systems of government, industry, schools and so on.

*To drill down further for greater clarity, critical race theory is not diversity training, and it is not designed to make anyone "hate" America, as opponents of the theory claim. It is merely a way of exploring how the social construct of race and institutionalized racism have combined to perpetuate a system whereby people of color have been historically disadvantaged in many ways, including the following:*

- 1) economics
- 2) healthcare
- 3) housing
- 4) employment
- 5) education
- 6) within the criminal justice system

The above examples are well known areas of disparity, and are rarely, if ever disputed to exist between minority populations and the rest of our society, sometimes marginally when compared to other groups based on class and social structure, but they are most often seen more drastically and in larger percentages within the minority community.

*Critical Race Theory explores why disparities continue to exist by looking through the lens of history, the law, and institutions. It also takes into consideration, the intersectionality of individual persons within the affected categories of identity and how all those intersections further impact individuals and communities.* I will further explain the concept of intersectionality and provide examples in later articles as we explore the six examples listed here.

Finally, to provide the reader with an opportunity to independently learn more about each of the above listed disparities, each article will recommend additional resources such as books or Supreme Court cases that will provide additional information.

*The next installment will explore one of the issues listed above more fully.*

### Welcome New Members

Melia Adams	Mary Block
Bridgette Brooks	Sandra Carroll
Joyce Divina	Mary Farrow
Erica Kim	Gary Parsley
Ann Regan	Hillary Rivera
Jennifer Wasilenko	Randy Werre
Ashley Wright	

### Welcome Back Members

Ann Tidmore	Bob Williams
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### New Social Policy Action Committee

**S**ocial Policy is now a separate League committee, having been a part of Education/Juvenile Justice. Shirley Lewis-Brown will continue as chair of this group. Please contact her at [shirleybrown@hotmail.com](mailto:shirleybrown@hotmail.com) and become involved in action on social policy issues.  
Zoom meeting: September 21 at 4:30pm.

### Education Action Committee

Paula Montgomery

**T**he Education/Juvenile Justice committee has completed the report of its survey of the *Santa Rosa and Escambia County School Districts use of Behavioral and Mental Health Programs*. The reports can be found on [lwvpba.org](http://lwvpba.org) under the heading of publications.

The committee will now be working to revise the information in the manuals for both counties on local government for 7th grade teachers of civics. The earlier version needs to be updated.

### Action Committees

**The Voters Service Committee is up and running with our first registration event on 8/14/2021.**



We participated in the annual Escambia County Council of PTA's training conference and vendor fair. I want to thank Mary Ellen Wiggins, Shirley Lewis-Brown, Mary Louise Winter, Brenda Passaur, Paula Montgomery, Vivian Faircloth and Jane Spruill for their time and energies. I especially want to thank Mary Louise for using her talents to provide us hand-outs and updating our display board. Registration forms, envelopes and stamps were given out to those wanting to register to vote or make changes if they are not interested in using our on-line capability. This conforms to the new law.

We educated many participants concerning the 2022 elections and promoted the Pensacola Bay Area League, including our activities.

Our Voters Service committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 11:30am - 1:00 pm via ZOOM.

A full agenda and the ZOOM contact will be sent to members prior to the meeting. Please join us and place us on your calendar. We need to get the word out about the 2022 election and your participation would be appreciated.  
Charlyle Parrish



**T**he League of Women Voters of the US has a new initiative entitled "**Women Power Democracy.**"

This is a four pronged approach that focuses on building trust in our elections, growing our electorate, creating fair voter access, and ensuring redistricting reflects our population. [Read this link for more information.](#)

This initiative is designed to tackle systemic challenges to voting rights through advocacy, communication, litigation, and organizing. There are four elements to **Women Power Democracy**: *Democracy Truth Project, Expand the Franchise, Democracy Defense Fund, and People Powered Fair Maps™.*

### League of Women Voters Florida Action

1. Changes have been made in our voter registration practices resulting from the new Florida laws.
2. Filed lawsuit on the impact of SB 1 on voters of Florida and the direct impact the law will have on the League.
3. Responds to Florida legislature's anticipated restrictive reproductive legislation.
4. Urges Gov. DeSantis to allow local control of COVID-19 mitigation in public schools.
5. Watch recorded Lunch & Learn [here.](#)

## Calendar



All meetings and committees are held on Zoom until further notice unless otherwise indicated. Register for League events [here](#); committees [here](#). Events are livestreamed on YouTube and a posting on Facebook the following day.

### September

- 7 **Tuesday, 5:30 pm Board Meeting**, Zoom meeting. Members welcome. Link on [www.lwvpba.org](http://www.lwvpba.org)
- 9 **Thursday, 11:30 am, Voter Services**, Contact Charyle Parrish, [ccparrish@usa.net](mailto:ccparrish@usa.net).
- 9 **Thursday, 5:30 -7:00 pm**, Zoom “Why Consider Charter Government” John Peacock, community activist.
- 11 **Saturday, 10:00 am to noon. Waffles & Wisdom**
- 13 **Monday, 4:00 pm**, Membership Committee,, contact Betsy Werre, [rbwerr@att.net](mailto:rbwerr@att.net) for information.
- 14 **Tuesday, 5:30 pm, Education Committees**, contact Paula Montgomery, [montpns@aol.com](mailto:montpns@aol.com).
- 15 **Wednesday 4:00 pm, Gun Safety Committee**, Contact Dianna Monotoya, [dianna.monotoya@gmail.com](mailto:dianna.monotoya@gmail.com)
- 18 **Saturday, 10:30 am General Meeting**, Zoom. Local Legislative Outlook. Register [here](#) or watch YouTube Live. Click [here](#) to watch recorded meetings later.
- 20 **Monday, noon, Natural Resources Committee**, contact Enid Sisskin at [esisskin@gmail.com](mailto:esisskin@gmail.com).

- 28 **Tuesday, 6 pm, Women’s Issues**, contact Cheryl Howard at [cheryl.howard2@outlook.com](mailto:cheryl.howard2@outlook.com).
- 29 **Wednesday, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm, Gun Safety**, contact Dianna Montoya at [dianna.montoya@gmail.com](mailto:dianna.montoya@gmail.com).

### October

- Monday, 4:00 pm Membership Committee**, contact Betsy Werre, [rbwerre@att.net](mailto:rbwerre@att.net).
- 4 **Tuesday, 5:30 pm Board Meeting**, Members are welcome. Link is on website/board.

## Zoom - Waffles & Wisdom September 11 10:00 am

**A**re you a new member interested in learning more about the League? Have you been a member for a while and want a refresher? Then this League meeting is for you.

We will be conducting a member orientation "Waffles and Wisdom" on Saturday September 11, 2021 from 10:00 AM until 12 noon on Zoom. This orientation will highlight our history, mission and goals, and give you a chance to learn more about our League. A major portion of our work is done through committees and we will provide a brief description of each committee's activities. Hopefully one of these committees will be of interest and you will join in their efforts and become a committee member.



**To register for this event, go to our webpage [lwvpba.org/Events](http://lwvpba.org/Events).**

If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me. Looking forward to seeing you on Saturday. Betsy Werre, Membership chair, 850-516-0608 or [rbwerre@att.net](mailto:rbwerre@att.net).

*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! [Click here.](#)



P. O. Box 2023  
Pensacola, FL 32513