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Trish Neely

Meetings are on Thursdays this month to accommodate our speakers.

Lobby 101: how to be effective
February 17, 2022 6:00 p.m.
[Register For Zoom](#)

Trish Neely, LWVFL Lobby Corps Chair, will teach us how to effectively lobby on behalf of the League and as a constituent at the ZOOM League meeting on February 17 at 6:00 pm. Trish can

offer us valuable insight on the current legislative session so have your questions ready!

Trish has been an active Board Member and the Membership Chair for the Tallahassee League of Women Voters since rejoining the League in 2018; she has held the position of Lobby Corps Chair for the Florida League since 2019.

Trish Neely was born and raised in Ohio, and is an honors graduate of Clarion University of Pennsylvania. She and family have lived in sunny Florida since 1985.

Trish was happily retired in 2017 from a 30+ year career in Compliance, Risk Management and Executive Leadership. She has maintained an active presence in the Tallahassee community as a patron of local arts and theater and serving on multiple not-for-profit boards. She is an alumna of the Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Tallahassee program and has served as both an Examiner and a Judge for the Florida Governor's Sterling Award. She has delivered various multi-media presentations to small and large groups on a broad range of business and leadership topics, and has taught financial literacy to third and fourth graders.

In-person Workshop - Register [here](#)
Learn to Write Effective, Persuasive Letters
Community Room, 200 W. Garden
February 24, 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 at the Community Room at the *Studer Community Institute*, 200 W. Garden Street on February 24, 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 for Civic Engagement is the "action arm" of CivicCon, a joint project of the Pensacola News Journal and the Studer Community Institute, intended to make community a better place to live, grow, work and invest through smart planning and civic conversations. 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.

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

League of Women Voters President Dr. Deborah Ann Turner's challenge



League of Women Voters President Dr. Deborah Ann Turner addresses Leagues across the country for the 2022 midterm election year in a new video on the LWVUS YouTube channel. [Listen here.](#)

Observer Corps Reports on The Escambia Children's Trust

By Betsy Werre

Jane Spruill, Mary Louise Winter and Betsy Werre have been in attendance at the monthly Executive Board of the Escambia Children's Trust over the past few months. As the Trust works to begin the process of meeting the goals of the Trust, these past meetings have been organizational in nature: setting up bank accounts, hiring an insurance agent, interviewing candidates for the Executive Director position and writing Human Resource policies.

During the January 12, 2022 meeting, they recommended entering into negotiation to hire an Executive Director. Once the Human Resources policies are finalized a job offer to the chosen candidate will be made. Dave Peaden, Chair of the Human Resources Committee, hopes to have this completed in January.

Elections were held for officers and the current officers will remain in their positions:



ESCAMBIA
CHILDREN'S TRUST
Our Children. Our Community. Our Future.

- Stephanie White - Chair
- Tori Woods - Vice Chair
- Dr. Tim Smith - Treasurer

Their next Executive Board meeting will be February 8, 2022 at 5:00 in the Board of County Commissioners Chambers.

Members of the Executive Board and administrative staff have been very welcoming and enthusiastic to have the League attend and observe their monthly meetings, and as your League representatives, we have enjoyed this attending the meetings and following the Escambia Children's Trust.

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 or Ellen Roston at ekroston@aol.com.

Award Presented at Lobby Days

Blake Summerlin, LWVF Communications Manager

The League of Women Voters of Florida awarded Dr. Daniel Smith, Dr. Michael McDonald and Dr. Sharon Austin the **David King Defender of Democracy Award** for their courage to speak out when they were barred from testifying in a federal lawsuit seeking to overturn Florida's new voting law. The University of Florida claimed that because it was a state institution, their faculty could not testify as experts because doing so would be "adverse to U.F.'s interests."

This action by UF was abnormal as academic freedom experts said they have not heard of professor speech and testimony restrictions like this anywhere else in the nation. Faculty certainly do not forfeit their First Amendment rights as citizens by accepting an offer of employment with a University. Expert testimony from academic experts in their fields has long been seen as a way of translating academic knowledge into practical knowledge for the common good. The three professors were the first to file in their suit but were later joined by three additional professors from UF.

Since speaking out (and suing) a federal judge has handed a victory to the professors, ordering UF to stop enforcing a policy that had barred them from giving expert testimony in lawsuits against the state. The stinging ruling, by Judge Mark E. Walker of U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Florida, accused the university of trying to silence the professors for fear that their testimony would anger state officials and legislators who control the school's funding.



Raise the Bar

Paula Montgomery, Education Chair

Raise the Bar" is the Escambia County School District's annual content conference. Members of both the Education and Voter Services committees participated in the event, including **Shirley Lewis-Brown, Paula Montgomery, Charlyle Parrish, Brenda Passeur, Haley Richards, Jane Spruill and Betsy Werre**. Charlyle and Paula, dressed in period costumes and presented a skit about women securing the right to vote with the passage of the 19th Amendment. They also discussed the history of voting in the United States.

The other members discussed current information on the 2022 election, were available to register voters and invited participants to join the League.

League of Women Voters of the Pensacola Bay Area Education committee and Voter Services committee participate in two ways. We had a table with information and at least two members at all times. We were available to register voters and give information about the next elections etc. We can talk to people who stop by and give them information and handouts. We invite them to join the League.

The League donated two door prizes to the teachers in attendance, with **Mona Rust** and **Jason Dillard** as the winners. Their prizes included:

- a reusable fabric bag with the LWV logo
- a copy of the book "Persistence and Pushback", the story of suffrage for women in the US
- a children's book entitled "ABC What An Informed Voter You Will Be."
- membership in LWVPBA for 2022-2023. (This was the biggest prize.)

**The Calendar may be seen on
www.LWVPBA.org. The website has been
revised. Your suggestions for further
improvements are welcome.**

Paying Tribute to the League of Women Voters February 14

Fay Walker, Compiler of "When Women Vote"

In 1848, educated women met in a convention in Seneca Falls, NY, to discuss the restriction on voting rights for women. For the next 70 years these women, known as suffragists, worked tirelessly to secure the vote. Finally, with the passage of the 19th Amendment, women secured the right to vote.

The League of Women Voters was founded on February 14, 1920 by women leaders from the suffragists' movement. They brought women into our democracy. The Pensacola Bay Area League of Women Voters formed in 1949 as a full-fledged League affiliated with the Florida state and national Leagues.

LWV celebrates 102 years and plans on another 102 years

Its goal is to teach women (and men) about issues of government, to affect change, and promote women as leaders. They channel women's desires for political activism by providing the research, data, facts, history and laws affecting issues. They do not speak publicly on every political issue, but work only by consensus on selected issues.

The national LWV sponsored the earlier Presidential & Vice Presidential debates from 1976 through the 1988 elections. In 1984, the Democratic & Republican national parties decided to move sponsorship of the debates to themselves by creating the Commission on Presidential Debates. The League continues to directly ask candidates questions through their online election source. State and local Leagues across the U.S. continue to engage communities by hosting debates with candidates running at all levels of government.

The current challenge to our democracy continues to put stress on voters. The LWV believes the ballot is the only weapon with which voters can win the battles to protect our citizenship rights and shared freedoms.

Thank you Leaguers everywhere.

Note: *When Women Vote* can be found on our website [here](http://www.LWVPBA.org). It is a study of the Pensacola suffragist movement and the founding of the League of Women Voters of the Pensacola Bay Area and its history.



Broad smiles at the end of the Awards Ceremony

Lobby Days Report

The League of Women Voters of Florida held League Lobby Days Training on Tuesday January 25 in person and virtually. Charlyle Parrish, Shirley Lewis-Brown and Vivian Faircloth attended on Zoom. In Tallahassee on Wednesday, Leaguers interviewed their legislators to become better acquainted and discuss League priorities. There also were informal caucuses and networking opportunities for the Leaguers.

The comprehensive day on Tuesday included a detailed update on redistricting by LWVFL President Cecile Scoon; voting rights litigation update; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion presentation; and legislative updates by Action teams on Reproductive Rights, Health Care, Juvenile Justice, Immigration, Clean Energy, Education, Returning Citizens, Natural Resources and the Lobby Corps. Our state organization lobbyists, The *Capital Alliance Group*, gave updates and advice for League members communicating with legislators.

At the Awards ceremony Tuesday evening, presentation of the **David King Defender of Democracy Award** was given to University of Florida Political Science professors *Daniel Smith*, *Michael McDonald* and *Sharon Austin* for their bravery and courage.

They sought permission from UF to testify as expert witnesses in the case challenging Senate Bill 90 in the wake of the 2020 election. Prohibiting their testimony in this voting rights case was considered as a threat to academic freedom.

The professors had the ability to not be bowed and do the right thing. The university officials said that going against the executive branch of the state government was 'adverse' to the school's interests.

Chief U.S. District Judge blocked UF from enforcing the conflict-of-interest policy that gave school administrators discretion over allowing professors to serve as expert witnesses.

Call for Proposed Program for Work 2022-23

Haley Richards, hrichards@alumni.flagler.edu

Program planning for the upcoming League year kicked off last month when members discussed local governmental issues facing Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties during the January membership meeting. The local League's program 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 following to the Board for consideration: brief scope of work, identify the issue as study or action, timing, and ways to handle the study and/or action phases. Learn more about our current local positions by visiting <https://www.lwvpba.org/program>. The deadline to submit your local program items for consideration is Friday, February 25, 2022 to Haley Richards, hrichards@alumni.flagler.edu.

The League is a "bottom up" organization, meaning that program proposals come from local Leagues, the grassroots of our organization.

The LWVUS is also requesting input to the 2022-24 national League program. Submit your national governmental issues for concerted study or action by February 25, 2022 to Haley. The local League board will submit our recommendations to the LWVUS board which will, after receiving input from all the members, recommend a program for work to members at the national 2022 Convention for their evaluation and selection. *Impact on Issues*, a guide to public policy positions [here](#).

League program and policies are determined by the members. The nominating committee seeks your nominations to the next board to carry out and implements our work. Contact one of the members of the nominating committee to volunteer or submit nominations. Gail Honea, chair, gailellenhonea@gmail.com.

Member Spotlight for February Welcome 'Raise the Bar' Winners! Mona Rust and Jason Dillard



WEAR YOUR MASK

Enid Sisskin, PhD & Dr. Paula Montgomery

When the Great Influenza (H1N1) struck the world in the early part of the 20th Century, we had very few resources for fighting it. In fact the research medical community had no drugs or treatments for many of the deadly diseases that were rampant at the time. They learned that filtering the water supply could stop the spread of cholera. They knew that giving people low dose of the infected materials from cowpox lesions would protect them from serious small pox. But flu was not waterborne and had no infectious lesions to use to stimulate immunity.

They figured that flu was airborne with the infection entered through the respiratory tract. The way to prevent it was by somehow controlling the air that people breathed.

In 1918 Dr. Joe Capps discovered that the wearing of a simple gauze mask cut down the infection rate among the soldiers who were at high risk due to the crowded conditions in which they lived. The army made it a requirement that all men in the camps wear a mask. The gauze masks had limited effect. The most effective measure was isolation. Some small cities closed their borders and a few actually did not get the virus.

Nationally and internationally isolation and masking were the only tools available.

The 1918 flu attacked in waves. These waves may well have been due to variants. We do not know. Eventually the virus itself became less transmissible and enough people had become immune by being infected that the flu became endemic. People still got it, but in smaller numbers and therefore with fewer deaths. Today that kind of flu (H1N1) still kills. It is still with us. In 2020, 5,593 deaths were attributed to H1N1 flu.

SARS CoV-2 (Covid) is transmitted predominantly by inhalation of respiratory droplets generated when people cough, sneeze, sing, talk, or breathe. According to the CDC, masks reduce the emission of virus-laden droplets by the wearer ("source control"), which is especially relevant for asymptomatic or presymptomatic infected wearers who feel well and may be unaware of their infectiousness to others, as well as help reduce inhalation of these droplets by the wearer ("filtration for wearer protection").

The community benefit of masking for SARS-CoV-2 control is due to the combination of these two effects.

The evidence is quite clear, in numerous studies, multilayer cloth masks reduced Covid transmission by upwards of 70%.

Since the emergence of the more contagious variants, cloth masks, are not as effective as N95 or KN95 masks which block 95% and surgical masks. The most important thing is that the mask fits tightly with no gaps.

Other evidence for the effectiveness of masks, is that during the height of distancing and mask mandates for COVID, the rates of other respiratory diseases fell dramatically in the US. Thus, we know that those respiratory methods still work. The deaths from COVID (900,000), while horrifying, could have been much worse, without those measures.

With the variants of COVID still surging in the US despite having a vaccine, we know that it is important to continue to use masking and distancing. The added benefit is the decreased likelihood of contracting other respiratory diseases.

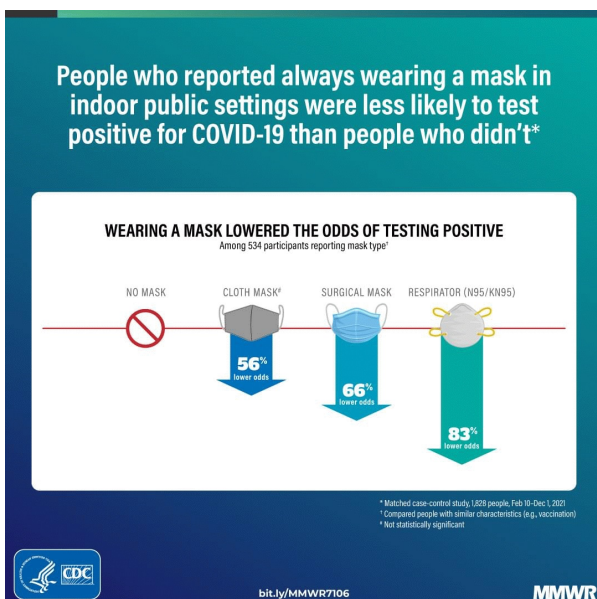
We are lucky to have 21st Century masks. Let's wear them.

Welcome New Members!

Jason Dillard June Hendrix Luker
Mona Rust

Members' contact information is contained in the Membership roster. If you have not received the latest one or have a correction, contact Cathy Scott, basketbabe at mcsi.com or 850-396-5727 or LWVPBA@gmail.com.

Check out the new LWV Pensacola Bay Area Website lwpba.org.
Check out the new LWVUS website at lw.org.



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

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.**



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