

**League of Women Voters  
of  
Palm Beach County**

**Annual Meeting Appendix**

**April 21, 2022**

**10:00 AM**

**Mounts Botanical Gardens  
and  
Zoom Teleconference**

- **Issue Group Reports**
- **Standing Committee Reports**

## **ISSUE GROUPS**

### **EDUCATION Dr. Kathi Gundlach Chair**

**Mission:** The Education Issue Group works to educate and advocate for the public schools of Florida and most especially, Palm Beach County, by providing information to interested parties on charter schools, school funding, and legislative priorities. We work with the school district on a Celebration of Public Education each September.

**Priorities:**

- Continue research of priority education issues.
- Build coalitions with groups that share our goals.
- Educate the public about the issues.
- Engage in advocacy at state and local levels.
- Continue to develop our relationship with the School District of Palm Beach County.

**Accomplishments**

- Hosted September is Public Education Month for LWVPBC, working with the Special Events Committee, to provide Hot Topic and Spotlight events. The Superintendent of PBCSD, Mr. Michael Burke, spoke on the state of the schools at the September Hot Topic. Keith Oswald, Chief of Equity and Wellness, and Mary Claire Mucenic, Ph.D. NCSP Director of Behavioral and Mental Health, spoke on a variety of mental health and equity issues.
- Continued the relationships built with the Palm Beach County School District to further advance our priorities locally.
- Presented at a school board meeting our support for Mr. Burke as Superintendent.
- Present at a school board meeting when the Young Leaguers were honored.
- Worked with the LWVFL Education Group during the legislative session. Providing information to members on the upcoming bills listing concerns and asking for member action.
- Continue to work on developing a project to assist teachers with funding for programs that advance the LWV mission of “Empowering Voters and Ensuring Democracy”.

### **ENVIRONMENT Mary Mertz, Chair**

**Mission:**

- Educate residents on the negative impacts of climate change and advocate for appropriate public policy to address them through mitigation, adaptability, and sustainability initiatives.

**Priorities:**

- Climate Change issues: Water quality and supply; sea-level rise; use of fossil fuels; plastics pollution; and environmental justice.

**Accomplishments:**

- Hosted a Spotlight panel presentation at the request of PBC's Office of Resilience for county/city staff to provide the results of a climate change vulnerability assessment completed by the Coastal Resilience Partnership of Southeast Palm Beach County (CRP).
- Developed and delivered a PPT presentation on sustainability to a joint meeting of two University of Florida sororities.
- Developed and delivered a presentation on personal sustainability as part of a PPT caucus presentation on Sustainability held during the LWVFL 2021 Convention.
- Built relationships, collaborations, and a presence with leaders of sister leagues, governmental agencies, and environmental organizations to collaborate and coordinate efforts, activities, and advocacy opportunities.

## **GUN SAFETY**

### **Kristen Murtaugh and Betsy Pickup, Co-Chairs**

#### **Mission:**

- Promote responsible gun ownership, with an emphasis on safe storage, through the *Lock It Up!* program

#### **Priorities:**

- Distribute gun violence prevention and safe storage information along with free gun locks at mental health facilities, medical offices and clinics, schools, and community resource and wellness events
- Work with LWVPBC Healthcare Issue Group on suicide prevention information
- Present gun violence prevention information via LWVPBC webinars
- Partner with other gun violence prevention organizations

#### **Accomplishments:**

- Continued distribution of English, Spanish, and Creole *Lock It Up!* information cards and gun locks at food distribution centers when possible, during pandemic.
- Partnered with the Gun Safety Committee of the LWV of Broward County to present a virtual presentation about what we can do to protect families and reduce gun violence in our communities. Our March webinar *Preventing Gun Deaths & Injuries: Making Our Communities Safer* was viewed by representatives from a broad range of social service, law enforcement, and health service organizations from our two counties.
- Requested and received a proclamation from the Palm Beach County Commission declaring September as *Suicide Prevention Month*.
- Produced a Suicide Prevention Twitter Storm during Suicide Prevention Week, September 5-11.
- Wrote Letters to the Editor of *The Palm Beach Post* to raise awareness of the signs of depression and the actions to take to prevent suicide.

- Participated in all online *Taste of the League* Events and in the November in-person *Connect & Reboot* event at the Hagan Ranch Library.
- Recruited strong new members for our IG.
- Tabled at an *Out of Darkness* suicide prevention event at PBC Fairgrounds on October 2, 2021.

## HEALTHCARE

**Nancy Gau & Brent Schillinger, Co-Chairs**

### **Mission:**

1. Advocate for Healthcare coverage for ALL Floridians, e.g., Medicaid Expansion or expanded Affordable Care Act coverage.
2. Advocate for Reproductive Rights in Florida.
3. Advocate for mental health.
4. Advocate for equitable Healthcare for minorities, particularly maternal.

### **Priorities:**

**Medicaid Expansion and ACA expansion**, via Federal government initiatives.

Our other main priority was assisting with all open enrollment periods for the **Affordable Care Act (ACA)** health insurance program.

### **Accomplishments:**

- Assisted Covering Florida and Epilepsy FL (main navigators) with President Biden's extended ACA enrollment period (Feb. 1-Aug. 15, 2021) and with ACA annual enrollment period (Nov. 1-Dec. 15, 2021), distributing hundreds of fliers (both hard copies and virtual) to @ 200 different locations including all libraries, and via social media. Once again, Florida led the nation in the number of enrollments.  
NOTE: we will now assist with the newly announced SEP program for ACA.
- Closing the gap with racial maternal disparities: Healthcare Committee continued their partnerships with T. Leroy Jefferson Medical Society and Healthy Mothers/Healthy Babies. We kicked off our first project on April 12, with a virtual event. With 60 blood pressure monitors donated by HM/HB, we distributed monitors to low-income, high-risk pregnant women in the Glades and Riviera Beach areas, and provided education.
- Formed new partnerships with 2 other Issue Groups: Gun Safety and Environment. B. Schillinger successfully recruited 3 renowned panelists for an upcoming Healthcare/Environment Spotlight event on Feb. 24, 2022. Dr. Schillinger (Healthcare Issue Group) will serve as Moderator.

NOTE: S. Alzofon rejoined the Healthcare Issue Group and submitted several Healthcare articles about many of these topics to the League newsletter. AND WE THANK HER!!

## NATIONAL POPULAR VOTE

## **Kathleen Crampton, Chair**

### **Mission:**

To get National Popular Vote legislation passed in Florida and other states by 2024 Presidential Election

### **Accomplishments**

- Filing of the NPVIC bills by Representative Joseph Geller HB 59 and Senator Victor Torres SB 584 for the 2022 Legislative session
- Successful events with Michael Steele
  - Interview with Palm Beach Post Editorial Board 11/8/21
  - Forum Event 11/8/21
  - Interview with Tampa Bay Times 11/9/21
  - LWVPBC Dessert Fund Raiser with Michael Steele 11/9/21
  - FAU Presentation by Michael Steele 11/9/21
- District Chairs or other Floridians volunteers presented at over 13 Legislative Delegation meetings during September and November
- Senior Floridian for NPV Volunteers meet with LWVFL Board to review NPV activities and plans going forward.
- Updated all NPV material with new numbers and slightly improved formatting. Published 10 editions of the NPV Update and 5 of the “NPV In the News”.
- Sponsored NPV Workshop at the Virtual LWV Florida Bi-Annual Convention in June, 2021.

## **SOLAR CO-OP Diane Marks, Chair**

### **Mission:**

- Educate the public and help implement Solar Panels on residences.
- Educate the public on Electric Vehicles and advocate for more charging stations in PBC.

### **Priorities:**

- Complete Solar Co-op 3 Project.
- Work on the Electric Vehicle Project with the State League
- Advocate to keep Net Metering and allow Solar Power Purchase Agreements for schools, churches and non-profits.

### **Accomplishments:**

- Presented Solar PowerPoint presentations around PBC virtually.
- Solar Co-op 3 ended with 154 members. Only 7 residences have completed installation because of delays in receiving materials.
- Advocated for FL to keep Net Metering in FL Legislature..
- Advocated for Solar Power Purchase Agreements in FL Legislature.

## **VOTING RIGHTS COALITION**

### **Mark Schneider and Kate Renchin, Co-Chairs**

#### **Mission:**

- Our coalition of the Palm Beach County Chapters of the League of Women Voters, National Council of Jewish Women, and American Civil Liberties Union works to educate and advocate for voting rights for all citizens.

#### **Priorities:**

- Restore voting rights. In 2018 65% of Florida voters passed Amendment 4, restoring voting rights to 1.4 Million Floridians with felony convictions. The 2019 Florida Legislature imposed onerous financial burdens to prevent returning citizens from voting. We will continue to work for these lawful voting rights.
- Protect elections and fight voter suppression efforts.
- Be a voice in redistricting following the 2020 Census.
- Foster informed discussion.

#### **Accomplishments:**

- The Voting Rights Coalition joined Voter Services, Civics, Communications, ACLU, NCJW, and many others to create a *2020 Matters* campaign to educate voters and get out the vote. We ran a many faceted social media and texting campaign to promote Vote By Mail and get out the vote, and we staffed and managed Palm Beach County for the national Election Protection program at the polls for all three 2020 elections, including early voting and election day. Working with SOE Wendy Link we were instrumental in expanding early voting sites. More than 76% of PBC voters voted!
- Educated and advocated to restore voting rights for returning citizens. Worked with LWVFL and PBC Public Defender and State's Attorney to restore voting rights and register returning citizens to vote. Our effort for a vote from jail program were stymied by COVID.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **ADVOCACY ANNUAL REPORT**

**Karen Wilkerson, Chair**

#### **Mission:**

- Add voting district information on member database
- Provide quality training to committee members
- Committee members assist Issue Groups in testimony and printed materials
- Schedule regular meetings of members with elected and administrative leaders in all voting districts
- Create a relationship with elected officials and their staffs and administrative leaders
- Become active at city/town, county and legislative happenings

#### **Priorities:**

- Training of Committee members
- Setting up meetings with officials and administrative leaders
- Entering voting district information in member database
- Produce handout materials for Issue Groups

#### **Major Accomplishments:**

- Quality training of committee members
- Creating contact people as links to Issue Groups
- Establishing meetings with town/city, county and legislative officials and their staffs

### **CIVICS EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Christene Campbell-Gabor, Chair**

**Nikki Descoteaux and Lori Dool, Co-Vice Chairs**

#### **Mission**

To provide reliable information on elections and public policy issues to a diverse PBC population through innovative educational approaches and encourage voters to cast their vote.

#### **Priorities**

1. To educate people about issues, the importance of their vote, and the need for critical thinking and civility.
2. To work with other committees to reach underrepresented communities to ensure that they have the information they need to participate fully in the electoral process.
3. To partner with schools and community organizations to provide civics education learning tools and presentations.

#### **Accomplishments**

2021 was unusually quiet due to COVID restrictions. We were not able to make in-person presentations or participate in annual events like Government Bee, National History Day, We The People, or Voter Registrations.

1. Our Civics Education MINI Crossword Puzzle Booklets continue to be in high demand. Series 4, which was created as part of the Celebration of the League's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, was well received. Despite the lack of in-person events, we still provided a large number of the booklets to schools and groups.
2. Increased the number of Critical Thinking Worksheets so that all key issues are addressed.
3. Provided Civics PowerPoint presentations via zoom.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Ashley Cacicedo and Penny Butler-Schillinger, Co-Chairs**

### **Mission:**

- Communicate the LWVPBC's mission to the public and to make deeper connections internally with members and externally with the PBC community and the community at large.

### **Priorities:**

- Build a dedicated team to communicate the League's events using social media and other mediums.
- Publish content (original pictures or videos) that supports tasks outlined by Committees or Issue Groups.
- Create and maintain a Content Calendar to keep track of the designs and layout of League materials, including advertisements, brochures, fact sheets, and other creative materials to prepare for distribution.
- Maintain and update the content on the League's website to reflect initiatives and/or campaigns.
- Develop stronger relationships with committees/issue groups to "be in the know" of content to share via our communication channels.
- Grow the League's audience and outreach by launching the Community Champions program featuring current league members as well as non-members work in the community.

### **Accomplishments:**

- Recruited new members to the team and assigned roles as outlined in the team structure.
- Increased the frequency of posting content to increase League engagement.
- Published the newsletter to include applicable content for internal members and the community.
- Developed content that is more personable and engaging to the community at large.

## **DEVELOPMENT**

**Karen Clarke and Joyce Sullivan, Co-Chairs**

### **Mission (Board Handbook)**

Raise awareness in our membership and in the community about the League and its mission through networking, public relations and forming partnerships with other organizations. Assist



in meeting revenue goals and expenses set by committees in the League through grants, sponsorships, and planned giving.

### **Priorities**

Focus on donor giving. That required developing, maintaining and managing a donor data base. This is fundamental to prospect, track and evaluate the effectiveness of Development activities. It is also critical to establish a communications program for both prospecting and acknowledging all donors and contributor contributions.

- Set up additional income revenue sources that can be built, activated and improved year after year.
- Secure revenue and grants from donors internally and externally and from other business sources.

### **Accomplishments**

- Rebecca Cohen and Becky Robinson joined our committee. Their digital and communication skills are a major asset.
- As of January 31, 2022:
  - A total of \$50,940 raised from donors.
  - Conducted a calendar year end “contributor mail ask” to League donors.
  - Activated the dormant Amazon Smile account and conducted a 6-week member sign-up promotion with the Communications Committee.
  - Established our first Giving Tuesday (November) fundraising program which was both web based and activated on Facebook.
  - A total of \$1,994 in income from grants, Giving Tuesday and Amazon Smile.
- Our \$4,000 fundraising goal for the year was surpassed.
- Partnered with Floridians for National Popular Vote to plan, organize, promote and hold a League fundraising event with Michael Steel which netted an income of nearly \$12,000.
- Development created guidelines for League and Ed Fund grant and project fundraising that were approved by the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors.
- Set up and use a Development Committee webmail email account for the committee’s electronic communications. We also did this to keep a communication history that will facilitate continuity for future Development Chairs and team members.
- Development led an effort to establish distinct and separate ecommerce portals for the Ed Fund on our website.
- Created and maintain a donor data base. We have sent thank you communications to every LWVPBC and Ed Fund donor this year. We sent both email and hand written thank you notes when we had both an email and mailing address.
- Applied for and received Guidestar’s Gold Seal of Transparency for the LWVPBC Ed Fund.

**MEMBERSHIP**  
**Darlene Kostrub, Chair**

**Mission:**

- To expand and maintain an active, diverse and engaged membership in the PBC League.
- Recruits, trains and retains League members through a variety of strategies.
- Provides registration and hospitality for all Hot and Cool Topic events.

**Priorities:**

- Facilitate 3 Orientations for new members and others interested in the League.
- Contact new members via email and personal calls.
- Send a birthday greeting to all members.
- Contact members whose dues have expired.

**Accomplishments:**

- Welcomed 82 new members as of 2/1/22.
- Maintained membership between 450-550.
- Held 3 Taste of the League orientations with approximately 30-35 new members and prospects attending each one.
- Contacted all persons whose dues had expired in 2021 via email and/or phone.
- Implemented our First Connect and Reboot Event in person on Nov. 13 with 70-90 people attending. Planning for April 9 Second Connect and Reboot Event in person.

**OBSERVER CORPS**  
**Elayne Goodman**

**Mission:**

To provide visibility to the League. While committee members are not attending the meetings in-person. they are watching live meeting virtually or watching recorded meetings. They have sent an email to the mayors introducing themselves and their purpose. They then provide reports that align with the Leagues priorities, After which, the observer corps chair reviews and archives them. Then they are emailed to the appropriate committee chairs and to the advocacy chair for possible study and action.

**Priorities:**

Attend municipal and county meetings and inform Chairs of any discussions or votes that affect their work.

**Accomplishments:**

Committee members report on the issues affecting their municipality. For example, January and February meetings had information on the following topics that were passed on to chairs: affordable housing, environment, education, health and human services.

There are 16 Observers covering 7 municipalities, the School Board and Board of County Commissioners..

## **OUTREACH**

**Cindy Sheehan-Hartwell and Patty Whitehill, Co-Chairs**

### **Mission:**

To engage with diverse individuals and organizations to reach eligible populations who are under-represented at the polls.

### **Priorities:**

- Provide well researched, unbiased information to educate all PBC residents to enable them to become better informed voters.
- Increase language appropriate and culturally relevant resources on how to register to vote and where to learn facts that will provide needed information about candidates and issues before casting a vote.  
Meet with LWVPBC Chairs quarterly to review Outreach plans and initiatives.
- Communicate with the designated liaison from each LWVPBC committee/issue group and provide support for their outreach action and meet quarterly.
- Offer voter education, registration activities, training and information to non profit organizations, religious groups and community events throughout Palm Beach County.
- Collaborate and build partnerships with other non partisan organizations.
- Connect with and learn from LWV chapters nearby and throughout the U.S.
- Plan and provide refreshments for events that provide opportunities for LWVPBC members and residents throughout Palm Beach County to engage in fellowship, discussion and learning that promotes LWVPBC Outreach Goals

### **Accomplishments:**

- Developed new model for Outreach Committee.
- Planned to meet with Chairs in January by Zoom to review Outreach model and request that committees designate a liaison to share ideas and plans for engaging with diverse individuals and organizations who may be under represented at the polls.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

**Joyce Sullivan , Chair**

**Mission:**

- Produce and distribute a 2022 Voter's Guide.
- Produce and distribute 2022 Legislative Directory
- Increase participation in VOTE411

**Priorities**

- Create partnerships with sponsors to print, deliver and promote VOTE411 and our Voters' Guide
- Work in partnership with Voter Services to make sure all voters understand the importance of VOTE411 and the connection to our printed Voters' Guide

**Accomplishments**

- Obtained \$7,800 in sponsorship money to print Guides to be inserted into the Palm Beach Post, Sun Sentinel and delivered to important locations throughout Palm Beach County
- Put together the 2022 Voters' Guide team.

**SPEAKERS BUREAU**  
**Marcia Herman, Chair**

**Mission:**

- Empower the public by engaging, educating, energizing, and raising public awareness about League issues and the importance of voting.

**Priorities**

- Recruit, train, mentor and retain a diverse team of speakers.
- Encourage and assist Issue Groups with creation of topical League presentations.
- Create a SB team which will include leads for power point presentations, forums, panel discussions and subject matter experts.
- Provide key presentations in English, Spanish and Creole
- Create partnerships with diverse groups, communities, and schools.

**Accomplishments**

- Provided over 100 PowerPoint presentations to diverse audiences and groups.
- Translated two presentation to Spanish and Creole.
- Created a Speakers Bureau team.

**SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE**  
**Keeter Martinson and Mary Mertz, Co-chairs**

**Mission:**

- Coordinate the efficient scheduling, planning, and promotion of events to provide members and residents of our local communities with informative and entertaining events to increase the visibility of the League.

**Priorities:**

- Maintain the high quality of a variety of events to provide formal and informal opportunities for members to meet, learn about important issues, and build friendships.

**Accomplishments:**

- Coordinated virtual 'Hot Topic' events, virtual and in-person 'Spotlight' events and virtual 'Communications with the League' events.
- Increased committee membership and established new procedures to facilitate event-planning and PR.
- Completed a review of League events and approved a new slate of events for 2022.
- Worked with Committees and Issue Groups in planning Events.

**VOTER SERVICES**  
**Phyllis Applebaum, Chair**

**Mission:**

- Provide voter registration and voter education opportunities to communities.
- Focus on youth and historically underserved communities, such as minorities and the disabled.

**Priorities:**

- Register high school students during Senior Check-Out and National Voter Registration Days.
- Register voters and hold educational activities on local college campuses during Constitution Week.
- Register voters at local events and educate people on how to vote.

**Accomplishments):**

- Created QR codes to register people to vote, contracted with a service to count the hits, and created flyers to display the QR codes and create interest. Available in English, Spanish, and Creole, we used the flyers at the high schools, colleges, and other venues to register people to vote during Covid 19 conditions.
- Did Get-Out-the-Vote segments on Spanish-language radio prior to the Municipal Elections and a TV interview in Spanish to provide voter information.
- Did voter registration at numerous neighborhood activities including Juneteenth, back-to-school events, MLK's speech anniversary, Constitution Week at the colleges, National Voter Registration Week at the high schools, March for Reproductive Justice, and events at local churches.

**YOUNG LEAGUERS**  
**Ashley Cacicedo**

**Mission:**

- To get young people involved in civic engagement and to communicate what's going on within the League.

**Priorities:**

- Get articles and news out on the 15th of the month.
- Post content for all committees and issue groups.
- Creating engaging events.
- Registering voters
- Keeping members involved and engaged

**Accomplishments:**

- Registered voters for Juneteenth
- Hosted Women's Equality Day
- Created a municipal elections guided
- Assisted When We All Vote with candidate forums
- Hosted a holiday social