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**YOUR BOARD MEMBERS**

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Ellen Roston, *Co Presidents*  
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Ray Hudkins, *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.*  
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Diane Kratochvil, *Secretary*

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Ann Davis - *Natural Resources*  
Vivian Faircloth, *Communications*  
Shirley Lewis-Brown - *Rights Restoration - Second Chances*  
Cathy Scott, *Membership*  
Paula Montgomery, *Education*

*Off-Board*

Carolyn Kolb - *Natural Resources*

*Nominating Committee*

Elizabeth King, *Chair*  
Charlotte Crane  
Gail Honea

**Contact Us**

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

[www.lwvfl.org](http://www.lwvfl.org)  
LWVF facebook page

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)  
LWVUS Facebook page



## Fake News in the Digital World

February 17, 2018

**Tryon Library**  
1200 Langley Ave.  
Coffee 10:15 Program 10:30 am

Panelists Lisa Neillessen-Savage, Executive Editor Pensacola News Journal, Mickaela Lusignan, Digital Media Sales Manager of PNJ, and Rich Outzen, Independent News, will discuss Fake News in today's world at the League meeting on February 17 at the Tryon Branch library.

Today only 32 percent of Americans trust "the media," according to Gallup. Historic levels of political partisanship have created an American media audience that the Reuters Institute this year found was the most polarized of any Western nation.

In January 2018, three political scientists released a [major study](#) on the spread of fake news in 2016. Here is their finding:

*Fake news is not a problem of potential swing voters being misled. It reflects the potential for people on the extremes to be trapped in echo chambers that aren't just reinforcing their opinions, but providing them with false and misleading factual claims that seem to reinforce those opinions*

Fake news is not new. "Jefferson wrote to confidante James Madison, suggesting that they leak damaging information about Hamilton. "For god's sake, my dear Sir, take up your pen, select the most striking heresies, and cut him to pieces in the face of the public."



## Cyber Security: Ask the Experts!

February 24, 2018 10:15 a.m.  
**Downtown Library, 239 N. Spring St.**

League of Women Voters of Pensacola Bay Area and the Pensacola Young Professionals have collaborated to bring an informative and interactive event on how to stay safe in the digital age. A panel discussion is meant to provide relevant information for the nontechnical person to better understand how the evolving technological advances will impact future generations. We have invited experts to give presentations and answer questions that pertain to personal, election and national cyber security.

Continued on page 4 . Cyber....

## Selecting Issues of Concern for Study or Action

Program Planning for LWVPBA and LWVUS has begun.

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. Consider the following questions:

- Who is concerned about this problem?
- What evidence do we have that this is an issue of concern?
- 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? there a special role for League to play in helping resolve this issue?
- Would people want to join League to be involved in working on this issue?

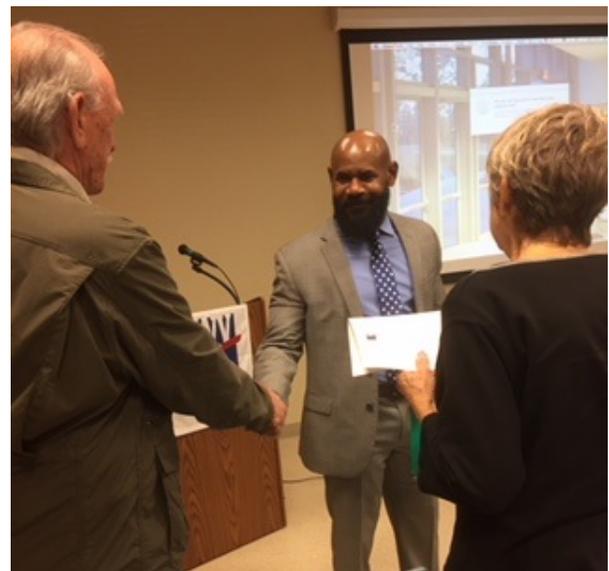
Please send your suggestions to Ellen Roston at [ekroston@aol.com](mailto:ekroston@aol.com). Your input will help the Board to decide on studies to recommend for adoption at the Annual Meeting in May. ◇

## Our Local League in Action

- Paula Montgomery, Charlyle Parrish and Shirley Lewis-Brown distributed educational materials at the Escambia School System 'Raise the Bar' last month. They also distributed reusable shopping bags (along with a flyer on Choose Reuse, Refuse, Reduce, Recycle), the Guide to Elected Officials and booklets on the Constitutional Revision Commission.
- Ray Hudkins attended the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) Ethics and Elections meeting on January 26 in Tallahassee. He spoke in favor of changing from a closed to an open primary election system.
- Holly Parker, Surfrider lobbyist, led an excellent workshop on the fine points of citizen lobbying. Big Take-away: Do the 'ask' first at the top of your conversation with a legislator or aide; 'ask' or tell them why you are here.
- Ray Hudkins explained the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact at a January workshop. This Compact would change the system to elect the president by the winner of the national popular vote. In

Florida, HB 367 and SB 1274, two bills that support the Compact, have been filed. *Members are encouraged to contact legislators in support of these bills.*

- Paula Montgomery was interview by the Pensacola News Journal (PNJ) on Direct File for the article on Juvenile Justice.
- Mary Collins, Chair of the Women's Issues Committee, led the discussion of the movie, *Equal Means Equal*, at the Unitarian Universalist Church.
- Charlyle Parish, Voter Service chair, will interview the Clerks of Court, concerning voterregistration under the Motor Voter Act.
- The Board of Directors accepted, with regret, the resignation of Patty Maxwell.
- Thanks to Jim Roberts for the field trip to the composting operation at ECUA. Take-away: Plastic bags cause problems in composting; paper is ok but filling trash cans with composting materials is the best method for yard wastes..
- A new member coffee, hosted by Paula Montgomery, was well attended on Saturday, February 3.
- Haley Richards presented the League's Legislative priority issues for the session at the Escambia County Legislative Delegation Hearing.
- The Natural Resources has completed a power point on plastics and the health of our waterways and oceans. This information needs to be shared throughout the area.



Ed Watson continues the discussion on sexual harassment and sexual assault with League members at the January League meeting.

**The Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) is coming to Pensacola on February 27 at the UWF Conference Center. The hearings start at 1:00 PM and last until 7:00 PM if there are people waiting to be heard that late.**

### **Your Involvement is Important!**

The Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) meets once every 20 years to review the Florida Constitution and place proposed amendments on the general election ballot. The Commission is currently meeting and several proposals are slated for the 2018 ballot. Proposed amendments must be finalized by May 8 and at that time they will be submitted for a vote in November, 2018.

CRC proposed ballot initiatives do not go through the Attorney General or Florida Supreme Court review as a citizen's initiative does. LWVF is carefully following the activities of the Commission and is a checkpoint to advocate for or against proposed amendments on which the League has positions. LWVF will also provide talking points to present at the hearings based on analysis of the approximately 50 proposals under consideration.

*Please come to the League workshop on February 21, from 6:00-7:30 pm, to review the talking points in preparation for the CRC public hearing at UWF on February 27. Your attendance at the hearing is very important and, even if you don't want to speak, just being there is very important. For more information or questions, please contact Ray Hudkins (346-5199) or via e-mail [rhud66@gmail.com](mailto:rhud66@gmail.com).* ◇

### **LWVUS Board Adopts 2018 Legislative Priorities**

The LWVUS Board set the following as the legislative priorities for 2018:

1. Campaign for Making Democracy Work™ (MDW), with special emphasis on protecting voting rights.
2. Watchdog: Response and Advocacy staff, working with the president and advocacy chair, will respond to watchdog issues as time allows. ◇

### **Opportunity to Comment on Proposal to Allow Offshore Drilling**

The plan to allow drilling along coasts of the United States (except Florida?) will begin moving ahead this year. Please submit comments opposing the proposed policy shift. The [LWVUS Climate Change Task Force](#) has developed some [background and message points](#) to consider when commenting. Public comment is being received through the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) [website](#) until March 10.

### **Deadline Extended for Comments on Clean Power Plan Rollback**

The EPA has extended the deadline to April 26, 2018 for comments on the planned rollback of the Clean Power Plan. The proposed rollback will greatly weaken the requirements to curb GHG emissions, taking our nation in the wrong direction on a critically important issue. All concerned members are urged to submit comments opposing the weakening of this pivotal US climate policy. Please [review the talking points and background information](#) developed for this purpose.

### **LWVUS League in Action**

- On January 10, the Supreme Court heard arguments in *Husted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute*, Ohio's voter purge case. The League filed an amicus brief in support of the plaintiffs last year, stating it is unreasonable, and therefore unlawful, to infer that a voter, having missed one federal election, moved or is otherwise ineligible to vote.
3. LWVUS submitted comments to the Environmental Protection Agency with regard to their plan to repeal the Clean Power Plan
  4. League of Pensacola Bay Area (FL) was highlighted by LWVUS President, Chris Carson, for our work in support of juvenile justice reform in Direct File. The League is urging county commissioners and city council members to support reform of the process that allows states to charge a child as an adult.
  5. In Florida, the League has released a survey finding that the majority of Floridians believe the President and Vice President of the United States should be elected by the national popular vote. [Learn more here](#).

## Continued from Page 1. Cyber...

John Corliss is a local expert in the Department of Homeland Security. Randy Ramos is the Chief Executive Officer of a local cyber security company. David Stafford, Escambia County Supervisor of Elections, is a member of a national team focused on election security. Here are a few examples of the type of questions our experts will answer.

- What is cyber security or the new term- cyber hygiene?
- What should I be aware of when using personal devices such as my computer or cell phone?
- Is online banking safe?
- What is ransom ware? How do I protect my business?
- Are other countries hacking us? What are the consequences if they do?
- What has been done in Florida to ensure election security in 2018?
- Are we on the path to cyber warfare?

Bring your own questions. Don't miss this event!  
Please contact Ray Hudkins (346-5199)  
rhud66@gmail.com. ◇

## Welcome New Members !

**Annalee Louise Biernesser**  
**Don & Ruth Cameron**  
**Margaret Ellen Kellar**  
**Patricia A. Powell**  
**Jane Spruill**

Members' contact information is contained in the *Membership Roster*. If you have not received the latest one, contact Cathy Scott, basketbabe at mchsi.com or 396-5727.

*For 98 years the League of Women Voters has been respected as one of the leading organizations with IMPACT across the United States. Nationally respected, locally engaged, our volunteers work on a non partisan basis to understand issues and encourage informed and active participation by our nation's citizens.*

## Florida Legislators Vote on National Popular Vote Interstate Compact Wednesday

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC) is a contract among states where there is agreement that presidential elections should be determined by the nationwide popular vote. The Compact is a legally binding contract that member states agree to allocate their Electors to vote for the winner of the nationwide popular vote.

The NPVIC does not change the Electoral College; rather it assigns state electors to the nationwide popular vote winner. The Compact is 'activated' when enough states join to total 270 electoral votes. The plan is constitutional and has withstood court challenges. Compacts are common; examples include agreements between states to share driver license information. The Colorado River Compact defines how the river water will be managed between states.

Following a national League study years ago, members agreed to support the direct election of the president. The NPVIC is a method to achieve this goal without having to amend the U.S. Constitution's Electoral College provision. Approval of the Compact would eliminate the disparity of the weight of each vote within a state.

HB 367 and SB 1374 have been introduced in the current session of the Florida Legislature and your help is needed. Please contact the co-sponsors for HB 367 and SB 1374. Time is important because the Florida Legislature is working through the committee process at this time. We need to influence the co-sponsors and our own state representatives and senators to support these bills. Questions? Contact Ray Hudkins, 346-5199.

### House General Sponsor:

Joseph Geller, (954) 924-3708 or (954) 924-3709

### Co Sponsors:

Lori Berman, (561) 374-7850

Cortes, John, (407) 846-5009 (407) 846-5010

Mercado, Amy, (407) 249-4473 (407) 249-4474

Richardson, David, (305) 535-5426

Smith, Carlos Guillermo, (407) 681-5433,

Watson, Barbara, (305) 654-7100

Florida Representatives' email addresses [here](#).

### Senate Bill SB 1374

Sponsor: Victor M. Torres, Jr. (407) 846-5187

Email address: torres.victor.web@flsenate.gov

## Calendar



### February

- 5 **Monday**, 10:00 am, **Natural Resources Committee**, Gulf Breeze Library, 1060 Shoreline Dr. Contact Carolyn Kolb, 240-8653.
- 6 **Tuesday**, 5:30 pm, **Board Meeting**, Downtown Library 239 N. Spring St., Members always welcome!
- 8 **Thursday**, 5:30 pm, Juvenile Justice **Action on Direct File**, Pensacola City Hall. Attendance will show support.
- 14 **Wednesday**, **Happy 98<sup>th</sup> Birthday!** To the League of Women Voters.
- 15 **Thursday**, 5:30 pm, **Action in support of Resolution on Direct File**, Escambia County Office Building, Your support is needed.
- 17 **Saturday**, 10:15 am, **General League Meeting**, *Fake News in the Digital World*, Tryon Branch Library, 1200 Langley Ave,
- 17 **Saturday**, 2:30 pm, **Juvenile Justice Committee**, Paula Montgomery's home, 641 Connell Dr. Pensacola, 438-8891
- 20 **Tuesday**, 10:00 am, **International Relations**, *Great Decisions* discussion at Azalea Trace. The new discussion books are available for \$26.60. For information: 607-7114
- 21 **Wednesday**, 6:00 pm, **CRC Workshop**, Downtown Library, 239 N. Spring St. *Preparation for CRC public hearing*. Ray Hudkins, 346-5199 or rhud66@gmail.com.
- 23 **Friday**, 10 am, **Naturalization Ceremony**, Pensacola City Hall
- 24 **Saturday**, 10:15 am, **Cyber Security Forum**, Downtown Library, 239 N. Spring St. Focus: Personal Cyber Security, National Cyber Security and Voting Systems Cyber Security.
- 27 **Tuesday**, 1 - 7 pm, **Constitution Revision Commission Public Hearing** to get input from the Pensacola Area, UWF Conference Center.

- 27 **Tuesday**, 6 pm, **Women's Issues Committee**, Downtown Library, 239 N. Spring St. Contact Mary Collins, mcollins5349 at gmail.com, for details.

### March

- 1 Thursday, 12:30 pm, Voter Service, Downtown Library, 239 N. Spring St.
- 5 **Monday**, 10:00 am, **Natural Resources Committee**, Gulf Breeze Library, 1060 Shoreline Dr. Contact Carolyn Kolb, 240-8653.
- 6 **Tuesday**, 5:30 pm, **Board Meeting**, Downtown Library 239 N. Spring St., Members always welcome!
- 17 **Saturday**, 10:15 am, **General League Meeting**, *Weiss Community School*, Tryon Branch Library, 1200 Langley Ave,

## Voter Service Committee

The Voter Service Committee will hold its first meeting of 2018 on Thursday, March 1, from 12:30-2:30 pm, at the Pensacola Library downtown. Projects for the year will be prioritized, time-lines will be set and responsibility for projects will be delegated. Discussion will include voter registration events, partnership with WSRE Candidates Rally, avenues to educate the public on the ballot amendments and updating of the Guide to Elected Officials.

If you cannot attend the committee meetings, upcoming projects will be structured to accommodate your individual schedule. Whether your involvement is major or supportive, Voter Service needs you!

Please email Charlyle Parrish at [ccparrish@usa.net](mailto:ccparrish@usa.net) to participate or get information on activities of the Voter Service Committee.

Please put Voter Service on your calendar NOW



**Field Trip to the ECUA composting area.**

Ground yard waste creates a nutrient-rich final product named **Bloom**. ♦



In 1949 the League of Women Voters Pensacola Bay Area was formed as a non-partisan political organization of men and women who encourage informed and active participation in government. The League conducts studies and following consensus, takes positions on major public policy issues. Through education and advocacy, the League works to inform the electorate and impact legislation.

The League neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate for office. However, individual members are urged to be as active in the political process.

### 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: \$55.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Mbrs @ \$27.50 \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are \$27.50 for a student enrolled in a certificate or degree program.

I'm renewing my membership.

I am interested in the following areas (Circle all interests)

- |                |                    |               |                  |
|----------------|--------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Education      | Natural Resources  | Social Policy | Speaker's Bureau |
| Voter Service  | Growth Management  | Website       | Observer Corps   |
| Membership     | Legislative Action | Hospitality   | Naturalization   |
| Newsletter     | Voter Registration | Publicity     | Social Media     |
| Women's Issues |                    |               |                  |

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.)



League of Women Voters  
of the Pensacola Bay Area  
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