



Calendar

December 15th

National Bill of Rights Day

December 16th

Closing the Gap #36: Community Panel on Joy, noon via Zoom

See right

December 18th

BOD meeting, noon via Zoom

December 21st

Celebration of Black Culture, noon via Zoom

See right

Winter Solstice

December 24th

Christmas Eve

December 25th

Christmas

December 31st

*New Year's Eve
Kwanzaa begins*

Happy

New

Year!

LWV Polk "Closes the Gap" for 2020 on a Joyful Note

We will be joining together on **Wednesday, December 16th at 5pm** to complete this year's "Closing the Gap" gatherings. This year, we have been immersed in the League's primary purpose of education. We will end the year considering **manifesting Joy** in the midst of all that has transpired in 2020.

Andy Quinn, LMHC, almost-Dr. **Salma Nawlo**, Pastor **Eddie Lake** and Dr. **Dan Leviten** will join us to share their spiritual traditions' teachings on joy. They will inform us of cultural and historical influences that mold the teachings of their traditions. We will have a chance to dialogue with them as we consider our own experiences of joy. After the gathering, you will have the opportunity of staying with the League community for our Zoom social in a friendly chat. I look forward to being with *you!* -- *Trudy Rankin*

Come Celebrate Black Culture with Us!

On **Monday, December 21st at noon**, LWV Polk will host a special presentation as part of our Black Experience in U. S. History Seminar Series. Even if you have not attended the previous seminar meetings, you won't want to miss this stand-alone celebration of Black cultural contributions to poetry, music and dance, art, and Southern foodways from the 18th through the 20th centuries. Our spectacular program will include both known and little-known artists, carefully arranged to move through time in what one of our seminar attendees has called "a cacophony of celebrating Black artistry" in which harmonious themes will be revealed. You are almost guaranteed to learn something while you enjoy this culture-fest! Contact byrdkp@gmail.com, if you would like to receive the Zoom invitation for Monday's celebration!

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**2020-2021
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***Terms end in 2022; all
others end in 2021.**

Co-Presidents' Message

Dear LWV Polk Members,

We want to acknowledge on behalf of our whole League our astounding group of Get Out the Vote (GOTV) volunteers of the 2020 election season, including both our **voter outreach** team, led by **Linda Donaldson** (social media and roadside signage), and our **voter registration** team, led by **Larry Rankin** (returning citizen postcard writing and phone banking, distributing registration materials in food lines, serving as election protection volunteers, participating in driving caravans with the SOE, distributing LWV FL non-partisan Voter Guides, and before COVID, face to face registration). Many of our volunteers acted in multiple ways, with close communication between the two teams' efforts and other community groups.

Please review our LWV Polk Honor Roll on page 4. **All** contributed their energy, talent, and experience! We know that as a League, we can continue to accomplish even more work on the issues about which we all care so much!

As LWV FL President **Patti Brigham** stated in *The Florida Voter* newsletter on December 6th, "We all should continue to reflect on our wins this year, especially thinking of how the League helped turn out the vote at record levels. I encourage you all to continue to celebrate our phenomenal election cycle but to simultaneously gear up for our next fight: 2021's legislative session."

The leadership of LWV Polk looks forward to rejoining "the fight" with you in 2021. Best wishes to all of you for a wonderful holiday season with friends and loved ones, as safely that can be managed in this pandemic year. Be well and be safe!

Vicki Lowe and Sandy Sheets

Committees & Action Teams

Education, chair open

Gun violence prevention,
Leander Auliso,
oyaji_lee@msn.com

Healthcare, chair open

Immigration, chair open

Juvenile justice, Andy
Crossfield, see page 2

Libraries, chair open

Media, Jerry Weeks,
geraldibus1@gmail.com

Membership, Linda
Donaldson,
lindajdonaldson@yahoo.com

Natural resources:

Climate action, open
**Banning plastic bags &
straws in Polk County**,
Sharon Masters,
smasters4549@icloud.com

Nominating (for 2021),
Natalie Alexich, see page 2

Speakers Bureau, Trudy
Rankin,
trudycorryrankin@gmail.com

Voter outreach, Linda
Donaldson, see above

Voter services, open

**Women's reproductive
health**, Eileen Swiler, see
page 2

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

The League of Women Voters
of Polk County (group
and community pages)

League of Women Voters of
Florida

League of Women Voters of the
U.S.

Overheard at Our Last Board Meeting

Even in the midst of our frantic GOTV activities (see Co-Presidents' Message on page 2), committee and action team work has continued, including membership, climate action, DEI, and the Speakers Bureau. Board members researched and discussed the possibilities for a memorial in honor of former LWV Polk president and longtime member, community volunteer, advocate, and leader, **Edie Yates Henderson**.

In coming months, program chair **Emily Crain** will work with all team chairs to develop their 2021 programs, the bylaws will be reviewed and revised as needed, the budget for 2021-2022 will be developed, and nominations for new board officers will be solicited in advance of LWV Polk's annual meeting in the spring. Committee chairs should review their programs in the 2020 Annual Meeting booklet, and several key committees have new vacancies caused by retirements of the incumbents for which we'll be seeking to recruit new leadership. The first quarter of 2021 will be busy!

Civics for \$500, Please Alex!*

by Natalie Alexich and Katy Pace Byrd

We in America have come to enjoy so many freedoms that we often take them for granted. Sometimes, we forget how much it means just to be a U.S. citizen, especially in the eyes of the rest of the world. Immigrants are required to study civics—American history and government—to prepare to take their citizenship tests. But how much do **we** know about our own history and system of government? Take the "LWV Jeopardy Challenge" below!

A: *Bars discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex and national origin by employers and labor unions, and creates a federal EEOC with the power to file lawsuits on behalf of aggrieved workers*

Q: **What did Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act do?**

A: *Amendment VI & Amendment IV, respectively (also see Amendment XIV)*

Q: **What Constitutional Amendments address "due process" and "search and seizure"?**

A: *Taxation without representation, limiting of judicial powers, quartering troops, dissolving legislatures, suspending trial by jury*

Q: **What were the top five grievances (of 27 total!) listed against King George III in the Declaration of Independence?**

How did you do? What would you like to learn more about? Take out that public library card or fire up that computer! A world of information is at your fingertips!

*We sadly acknowledge the recent death of *Jeopardy* host Alex Trebek. He will long remain in our memory as **the** iconic host of one of the best TV game shows of all time.

~LWV POLK HONOR ROLL~

Thanks to our Volunteers!

**Robin Williams Adams
Jean Baker
Donna Brigman
Jim Byrd
Denise Chambers
Judith Darby
Linda Donaldson
Martha Edwards
Nancy Estes**

**Jiwa Farrell
Jessie Gomez
Breezi Hicks
Anne Huffman
Meredith Kehler
Betty Martin
Beatty Raymond
Emily Rodriguez
Sue Schultz
Nancy M. Simmons
Sofia Sotillo
Shelly Swenson
Eileen Swiler
Colleen Vann
Angela Waddell
Ann Weeks
Michel Ann Wiley**

**Natalie Alexich
Charlene Bennett
Terry Brigman
Katy Pace Byrd
Andy Crossfield
Asa Donaldson
Paula Douglas
Carole Essy
Patricia Dunn Fierstein,
 special volunteer from Tampa
Karen Freedman
Julie Hart
Barbara Howlett
Charlene Hypes
Vicki Lowe
Susan and Kim Michel-Hall
Maurice Raymond
Barbara Scarpa
Nancy E. Simmons
Claudia Slate
Barbara Stampfl
Peggy Smith
Stuart Swiler
Joan Verret
Barbara Wallace
Jerry Weeks**

Welcome New Members!

**Mary Pope
Terry Dorr
Ivette Herrera-Singh**

