



**Calendar**

**January 1<sup>st</sup>**

*New Year's Day*

**January 5th**

**Closing the Gap #74:** *Jiwa Farrell, noon via Zoom (see page 2)*

**January 10<sup>th</sup>**

**DEI Book Group:**  
*Presentation on The Crusades of Cesar Chavez, part 2*

**January 11<sup>th</sup>**

*First day of 2022 Florida Legislative Session*

**January 12th**

**Closing the Gap #75:** *Norm Cotton and Ray Allen, noon via Zoom (see page 2)*

**January 14<sup>th</sup>**

*Committee reports due to Emily Crain, emily.crain@gray-robinson.com*

**January 17th**

*Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*

**January 19th**

**Closing the Gap #76:**  
*Healthcare Committee on Monitors for Moms, noon via Zoom (see page 2)*

**January 26th**

**Closing the Gap #77:** *Eileen Swiler, noon via Zoom (see page 2)*

**January 21<sup>st</sup>**

*BOD Meeting, noon via Zoom*

**January 24<sup>th</sup>**

**DEI Book Group:** *Group discussion of Devil in the Grove (see page 2)*

**Nominating Committee to Begin Its Work**

As another year rolls in, the members of LWV Polk's 2022 nominating committee—**Marcia Boyce, msboyce11@gmail.com**, chair; **Jiwa Farrell; Linda Donaldson**—begins its work in anticipation of our annual meeting in the spring. Why so early and what nominations are needed?

Our bylaws call for **every officer except the treasurer** to be elected annually. (The current treasurer is in the middle of a two-year term expiring in 2023.)

The bylaws also allow the nomination of a person to be **president elect**. That person shall be included on the board, and is slated to become president automatically upon the expiration of the president's term.

In addition, **two positions on the board of directors** have two-year terms expiring at the 2022 annual meeting. Two others in the middle of two-year terms will expire in 2023. Lastly, people to fill three remaining board positions with one-year terms are appointed by the board at its first meeting following the annual meeting.

The nominating committee also should find **two candidates for next year's nominating committee** (in this case the nominating committee of 2023), **with one of those nominated as chair**, and the third member of the committee to be appointed by the board.

The nominating committee is required to submit the candidates' names to the membership **one month before the annual meeting**. Thus, if our annual meeting takes place in mid-April, the slate must be sent to the membership in mid-March. In practice, the board reviews the nominating committee's report some time **prior** to that mailing (which would also include the proposed budget for 2023-24).

**Any voting member of LWV Polk may send suggestions to the chair of the nominating committee, and NOW is not too soon! msboyce11@gmail.com**

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**2021-2022  
LWV Polk Board of  
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*\*Terms end in 2023; all others  
end in 2022.*

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Florida  
League of Women Voters of  
the U.S.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday: Then and Now**

Martin Luther King, Jr. was a civil rights activist, author, Baptist minister, and Nobel Peace Prize winner. He learned from Mahatma Gandhi the concept of *satyagraha*, nonviolent action to achieve political aims, such as access to the ballot box. He was assassinated in 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee.

According to Wikipedia, "the campaign for a federal holiday in King's honor began soon after his assassination.

President Ronald Reagan signed the holiday into law in 1983, and it was first observed three years later. At first, some states resisted observing the holiday as such, giving it alternative names or combining it with other holidays. It was officially observed in all 50 states for the first time in 2000."

King would have turned 93 years old on this coming January 15<sup>th</sup>, and the federal holiday bearing his name will be observed on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

This year, access to the ballot box has come under threat, with voter suppression laws passed in a number of states. Some members of MLK, Jr.'s family (MLK III and Dr. Bernice King) have announced that if the US Senate has not passed the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act and The Freedom to Vote Act, they will be unable to observe their father's birthday as in the past. Rather, they suggest that supporters put pressure on members of the Senate to pass this legislation on January 17th, doing away with the filibuster if necessary.

**Tell Your Friends, Neighbors and Colleagues!**

Community Read of *Devil in the Grove: Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland Boys, and the Dawn of a New America* by Gilbert King. A panel discussion will be livestreamed in February, date TBA. [byrdkp@gmail.com](mailto:byrdkp@gmail.com) for more info and a /reading/study/discussion guide.

**Closing the Gap Lineup for January**

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, **Andy Crossfield** will moderate as patient advocate **Jiwa Farrell** will speak on lupus, covid, and hydroxychloroquine.

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, **Norm Cotton** and **Ray Allen** will present information about a new initiative in Polk County, a project for remembrance of the lynchings that occurred in Polk County, and community reconciliation.

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, **Paula Mims** and members of the healthcare committee will discuss Monitors for Moms, a new LWV Polk collaboration with the March of Dimes and others organizations. And on January 26<sup>th</sup>, **Eileen Swiler** of LWV Polk's reproductive health and justice committee will present on the state of reproductive rights in Florida.