



Upcoming Events

January 3rd

*BOD meeting
noon, 4005 Cheverly Drive
East, Lakeland*

January 9th

*History of 19th Amendment
Exhibit Opening, Polk
County History Center, 100
East Main Street, Bartow
(see page 4)*

January 9th, 10th, 11th

The Remarkable Susan
*6 pm, Polk County History
Center, 100 East Main
Street, Bartow; reception
following opening night
performance (2 pm on the
11th)*

January 14th

*Banning plastic bags &
straws meeting, 11 am,
Keke's Breakfast Café at
Merchants Walk, 3615 S.
Florida Ave., Lakeland*

January 20th

*Martin Luther King, Jr.
Holiday*

January 21st

*Deadline for February
newsletter information to
byrdkp@gmail.com*

January 25th

*New member social and
orientation, 2-4 pm, 1477
Grand Cayman Circle,
Winter Haven (see page 4)*

The Play's the Thing!

All three performances of "The Remarkable Susan" in the historic courtroom of the Old Polk County Courthouse in Bartow (January 9th, 10th, 11th) have **SOLD OUT!** Attendance is actually free, but reservations are required. If you have a reservation but do not think you will be able to attend, please contact Abigail Davis at abigaildavis@polk-county.net. Then, others on the waiting list can be contacted and offered your unused seats.

"The Remarkable Susan" tells a remarkable story, which will be acted out by drama students at the Harrison School for the Arts. In a detailed account available at <https://www.famous-trials.com/anthony/444-home>, constitutional law scholar Douglas O. Linder (U of Missouri-KC School of Law) describes how Anthony and her sisters and a number of other women registered to vote in Rochester, New York in November 1872, were arrested, jailed, indicted, and ultimately tried in June 1893. Before a packed court room, Judge Ward Hunt -- whom Anthony described as "small-brained" -- directed the jury to return a guilty verdict.

Throughout the months between her arrest and trial, Anthony and other suffragists wrote and lectured widely to publicize the case, and although Judge Hunt blocked Anthony's wish that the case make its way up to the highest court of our land, the suffragists were seen by many as having won the public opinion battle.

Performances of "The Remarkable Susan" promise to be riveting! Many thanks to **Andy Crossfield** for his shepherding of this project for the League, the students and faculty of **Harrison School for the Arts**, and **Myrtice Young** and her staff at the **Polk County History Center** for their leadership and support of the play. **See pages 3 and 4 for more Centennial news!**

LWV Polk Annual Dues for 2020-2021

Dues for FY 2020-2021 (April 1st, 2020 thru March 31st, 2021) are payable between January 1st and March 31st and thereafter. You may pay your annual dues (\$60 individual, \$90 household) by check to PO Box 934, Lakeland, FL 33802-0934, or by credit card at www.lwvpolk.org/join-renew-or-donate.html. Please consider paying your dues at the Susan B. Anthony level (\$100), in honor of our Double Centennial. Thank you!

2019-2020

LWV Polk Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

President, open

Vice president, Andy Crossfield,
usandy@aol.com

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SPOTLIGHT ON 2020

March 17th

Presidential Preference Primary Election

Deadline to register February 9th

August 18th

Primary Election

Deadline to register July 20th

November 3rd

General Election

Deadline to register October 5th

Source:

<https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/for-voters/election-dates/>

Speakers Bureau

LWV members **Sharon Masters** and **Juanita Zwaryczuk** are now trained on a new PowerPoint presentation for our centennial, "The Fight for Women's Suffrage." Two speaking engagements with the new presentation have already been booked, and more will take place throughout the coming year. "League members willing to volunteer in our . . . Speakers Bureau are in great demand. Using skills perfected in their professional lives or attained through experience and LWVFL training, speakers are provided with material and presentation guidelines." (Source: www.lwvfl.org) Choose a topic from the list in which you are particularly interested, and contact Speakers Bureau Chair Trudy Rankin at trudycorryrankin@gmail.com.

*2020 Census
Open Primaries
Banning Plastic Bags
Election Reform
Solar Energy
Voter Registration
Gun Safety
Fracking*

The Stolen Girls of Americus, Georgia

LWV Polk is always seeking audiences throughout the county: community organizations, church groups, women's clubs, and the like. Contact Trudy if you know of a group in need of a speaker.

Committee News

Bill Foege is now chair of the climate action team, which has several projects in the works, including work on a joint project with the Sierra Club, "Ready for 100." A number of communities in the U.S. have already made the transition to 100% clean, renewable energy. Bill's e-mail is wfoege@tampabay.rr.com. **Mary Lee Duncan** will head up LWV Polk's new committee on the 2020 Census to ensure a fair count in this pivotal year. LWV Florida has prioritized this cause, (as well as open primaries, election reform, and the celebration of the double centennial). Contact Mary Lee at MLDMJKHPNS@aol.com if you would like to assist with this critical effort. Speaking of election reform, February's Hot Topic will address this issue with a presentation by **Kristen Carlson** on February 8th at the Public Library on Lake Morton (large conference room to the left of the entrance, 1:30 to 3 pm). **Sharon Masters** will convene the action team seeking to ban plastic bags and straws in Polk County on Jan 14th (see calendar for time and location). This team's research continues with its awareness and action phase set to begin soon.

**Additional Committee and
Action Team Chairs**

Natural resources:

Climate action, Bill

Foege,

wfoege@tampabay.rr.com

**Banning plastic bags &
straws in Polk County**,

Sharon Masters, see
above

Juvenile justice, Andy
Crossfield, see above

Voter registration, Larry
Rankin, lallenr@gmail.com

**Women's reproductive
health**, Eileen Swiler, see
above

Speakers Bureau, Trudy
Rankin,
trudycorryrankin@gmail.com

Healthcare, Catherine Price,
catprice2199@gmail.com

Immigration, Ivelisse De La
Fe, ivelisse3@gmail.com

Education, open

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

Libraries, Lillian Blessing,
lillianblessing@gmail.com

Census, Mary Lee Duncan,
MLDMJKHPNS@aol.com

**Don't Forget to Like
Us on Facebook!**

The League of Women Voters
of Polk County

League of Women Voters of
Florida

League of Women Voters of
the U.S.

In 2020, Keep Your Eye Out for This Flag!



National Woman's Party activists watch Alice Paul sew a star onto the NWP Ratification Flag, representing another state's ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment (photo source: www.crusadeforthevote.org)

Every star sewn on the flag represented a state that ratified the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the amendment that in 1920 gave women the right to vote. When the 36th star had been sewn on, representing Tennessee's ratification on August 18th, 1920, Alice Paul unfurled the flag from the second floor balcony of the National Woman's Party headquarters.

LWV Polk is the proud recipient of a modern version of this beautiful purple, white and gold flag, thanks to **Jerry and Ann Weeks**. Look for it at our commemorative events throughout the coming year. Thanks to Jerry also for submitting this article and photo to the newsletter. For more on the history of ratification, check out the National Park Service's web site on women's history:

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/womenshistory/19th-amendment-by-state.htm>

For more about Alice Paul and her brave and determined colleagues, be sure to check out the screening of "Iron Jawed Angels" on March 15th at the Public Library on Lake Morton in Lakeland at 2 pm. The LWV Polk March newsletter will have more about this event.

Celebrating the Centennials with the 19th Amendment Coalition

A coalition of more than 15 organizations in Polk County has planned a wide array of events throughout this centennial year of the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to our Constitution which allowed women the right to vote. Members of the coalition (in addition to LWV Polk) include: Polk County History Center, Polk County Library Cooperative, Polk County Association of Women Lawyers, Polk County Supervisor of Elections, Polk County Democratic Executive Committee, DAR-Bartow, DAR-Lakeland, DAR-Lake Wales, DAR-Winter Haven, Kathleen Area Historical Society, Davenport Historical Society, The Vanguard School, American Association of University Women, Women's Club of Winter Haven, Polk State College, Harrison School for the Arts. Thanks to **Andy Crossfield** and **Sharon Masters** for representing LWV Polk on the coalition!

To kick off Polk County's Nineteenth Amendment celebrations, the Polk County History Center will open a year-long exhibit in conjunction with the opening night of "The Remarkable Susan." This dynamic exhibit, entitled "The 19th Amendment at 100 Years: A Milestone of Democracy for Women's Suffrage," will include stories of Florida champions of women's suffrage.

Other coalition-planned events include: a suffragette tea, a concert of female composers performed by the Imperial Symphony Orchestra, lectures, film (see page 3), and a theatrical performance about the life of Eleanor Roosevelt. You can keep tabs on everything that is happening by visiting www.polk-county.net/history-center and www.polkarts.org

LWV Polk will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the LWV on February 13th with an event for the League's National Day of Action. Keep your eye on your LWV e-mail and the February newsletter for more details.

The Classifieds

Welcome New Members!

Michele Nunez
Mary Lynch
James Lynch
Elizabeth Ramos
Ellen Savoie
Frank Savoie

All newer members are invited to a social -- which will include a brief presentation, "LWV 101" -- to be held on January 25th! Watch your mail box for your written invitation! Contact Linda Donaldson at lindajdonaldson@yahoo.com if you have questions. We look forward to meeting you!

WANTED: Hot Topics Coordinator!

Hot Topics are monthly presentations by LWV Polk members on issues of great interest. Hot Topics are coordinated with Trudy Rankin, chair of the LWV Speakers Bureau. These educational talks fulfill part of the core mission of the League to educate voters. If you would like to handle this key area for the League, contact Jessie Gomez at jgomezlww@gmail.com

Good news for the one who volunteers: Hot Topics speakers for several months in 2020 have already been selected!