



Upcoming Events

November 1st

*BOD meeting, noon, 4005
Cheverly Drive East,
Lakeland
First Friday, 6-9 pm, Munn
Park*

November 9th

Advocacy Training,
*10:30 am-noon,
Public Library on
Lake Morton (see
lead story)*

November 11th

Veterans Day

November 12th

*Banning Plastic Bags and
Straws in Polk County
Action Team Meeting,
10:30 am, location
TBA (see page 3)*

November 18th

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

November 21st

National Teach-in Day

November 28th

Thanksgiving

December 6th

*BOD meeting
noon; location TBA*

December 12th

*Holiday Party,
5-8 pm, 4005
Cheverly Drive East,
Lakeland*

Learn to Be a More Effective Advocate!

The League Hot Topic Series will present “How to Advocate Effectively,” on Saturday, November 9th, from 10:30 am to noon at the Lakeland Public Library on Lake Morton. A governmental affairs representative from LWV Florida will be the presenter.

What issues concern you most? Would you like to be able to persuade others to your point of view? Then, rsvp to Jessie Gomez at jgomezlwv@gmail.com.

LWV Polk Voter Registration Efforts Paying Off

As most of you are aware, voter registration is a key action of the League of Women Voters as a fundamental step toward fulfilling the League’s core mission of “ensuring that our elections remain free, fair and accessible.” [Source: <https://www.lwv.org/voting-rights>]

First Friday events and local colleges have proven to be good places to carry out new voter registration. In addition, LWV Polk celebrated National Voter Registration Day on September 24th by collaborating for the first time ever with the Polk County Voters League, the Lakeland branch of the NAACP, and the Polk County Supervisor of elections to add 65 new voters in our county from 15 venues in one day! Led by chair **Larry Rankin**, nine League volunteers helped make this great event possible: **Barbara Howlett, Elena Donaldson, Sue Schultz, Barbara Stampfl, Michael Ann Wiley, Nancy Simmons, Linda Donaldson, Julie Hart, and Betty Martin**. According to Larry, this was the “most fruitful LWV Polk voter registration (VR) event in recent memory.” Thanks to all!

LWV Polk Nominating Committee Seeking Candidates

We need to identify nominees for several LWV Polk officers for 2020, including the office of president. Starting to attend board meetings before the term begins would be extremely helpful for a smooth transition to 2020. Send suggested names to nominating committee chair Lisa Miller at lbmiller1101@yahoo.com, or leave her a message at 863-698-6240.

2019-2020

LWV Polk Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

President, open

Vice president, Andy Crossfield,
usandy@aol.com

Secretary, Barbara Wallace,
barbaraw6@gmail.com

Treasurer, Terry Lauretta,
terry.lauretta@bayliscp.com

Past president, Jessie Gomez,
jgomezlww@gmail.com

Membership, Linda Donaldson,
lindajdonaldson@yahoo.com

Media, Jerry Weeks,
geraldibus1@gmail.com

Charlene Bennett,
charleneben@earthlink.net

Karen Freedman,
kefreedman@hotmail.com

Sharon Masters,
smasters4549@icloud.com

Eileen Swiler,
seswiler@msn.com

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/>

Polk Solar and EV Tour a Huge Success!

Polk County was the scene of the largest grassroots, locally organized solar and EV tour in Florida—one of only five in the state, and one of 79 in the United States! Participants turned out for the self-guided tour on the weekend of October 5th-6th, which included eight solar homes, Bartow City Hall's rooftop solar array, and the Magnify Credit Union Lakeland Branch, Florida's first net-zero commercial building.

According to League member and tour chair **Karen Freedman**, who did yeoman's work in putting together and publicizing this year's tour, "The City of Bartow is Polk County's leader in providing its residents with affordable renewable energy . . . [with] one of the lowest utility rates in Florida" (quoted, "Polk County Solar Tours offering residents chance to see solar systems in action" by Kathy Leigh Berkowitz in the *Lakeland Ledger* online).

Meanwhile, the Magnify Credit Union building threw open its doors to visitors, offering refreshments, kids' activities, and guided tours all the way up to the solar panels installed on its roof. Credit Union employees offered well-informed commentary on what visitors saw, how the various building systems worked and interact with each other, and how this visionary building came to be built.

Thanks to Karen Freedman and climate action chair **Rick Garrity** for leading this great event!



Karen at Magnify Credit Union



Indoor cistern; three others are outdoors underground



"Sunny Boy" inverter turns DC current from roof panels into AC



Credit union employees lead a tour group up to the roof

Additional Committee and Action Team Chairs

Natural resources:

Climate action, Rick Garrity,
rgarrity@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

Don't Forget to Like the League!

The LWV is on Facebook!

The League of Women Voters of Polk County

League of Women Voters of Florida

League of Women Voters of the U.S.

Project Launch: Banning Plastic Bags and Straws

The rejuvenated action team engaging on the issue of banning single-use plastics is embarking on an exciting project for the future of Polk County. The team met on October 15th and developed **two objectives: research and awareness**. The group plans to develop a list of communities that have already been successful at or are in the process of banning such items. Individual communities will be targeted for further **research**, with a list available soon for anyone who would like to volunteer to aid in this research. The final result will be a booklet based on the group's findings to be used in educating our own county.

To raise **awareness** on the issue of plastic bags and straws in our local environment, action is being taken on several fronts, from use of already existing PowerPoint presentations to community groups, to participation in National Teach-in Day on November 21st, to the possibility of holding public school poster contests on this theme, to a community art installation on the environmental effects of plastics.

Are you interested in working on this issue? If so, there are lots of ways to help. You might consider coming to the team's next meeting on November 12th at 10:30 am, or perhaps volunteer to work on one of the individual research projects. The group hopes to accomplish most of its work through group e-mails, so that attendance at meetings will not be necessary once the overall project is underway. Or, you might consider whether a community group that you belong to would be interested in hosting one of the PowerPoint presentations! Or perhaps you would be interested in presenting to a community group yourself. However you would like to participate on this critical issue, please consider joining **Barbara Stampfl, Karen Freedman, and Sharon Kay Masters** by contacting Sharon at smasters4549@icloud.com.

2020 Census Now Hiring!

The 2020 Census is currently hiring census takers in Polk County. The pay is \$15 per hour plus work-related mileage (paid weekly). Paid training is provided. If you are interested, visit <https://2020census.gov/en/jobs.html> or call 1-855-JOB-2020. *"With increased growth in the country, getting an accurate and complete count of every person living within is crucial to ensure that each state receives funding to support the number of residents in each state. [In 2020,] the focus continues to be on reaching hard to count communities and ensuring these communities get included in the Census count."* (Source: www.lwv.org)

The Classifieds

Wanted!

WANTED: Volunteers

LWV Florida is looking for League members interested in working at the state level. For more information, contact LWV president Patti Brigham at patricia@lwvfl.org

WANTED: Venues and Volunteers

Do you know of places where LWV Polk might be able to set up a table to do **education** and **registration** of potential voters? Heavily trafficked places like grocery stores or other spots where folks gather, especially in underserved neighborhoods, would be ideal, as well as names and contact info for any group that would like a League voter registration team to visit. Contact voter registration chair Larry Rankin at lallenr@gmail.com if you have any venue suggestion or want to join Larry's trained cadre of volunteer voter registrars. Required free training will be provided!

WANTED: League News

The **deadline** for story ideas and information for this newsletter is the **third Monday of every month**. Action team and committee chairs are especially encouraged to submit events scheduled for the next month and activities already carried out by your team! Please send to Katy Pace Byrd at byrdkp@gmail.com. And thank you! Can't do it without you!

Marginalia

Check Out This Resource!

New to the League, or simply want to know more about what is going on statewide regarding various issues the League is working on? For a complete list of topics, schedules, and instructions on how to join in, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yy4vfhpo>. You don't have to contribute if you don't wish to, but can just listen and learn!

Kudos to Climate Action Team!

This hard-working group has been very busy, not only with the solar tour (see page 2), but calling on legislators, developing a PowerPoint presentation, and monitoring debates for commission candidates' positions regarding issues. Thanks **Rick Garrity, Charlene Bennett, et al.**

LWV Polk Membership Report

Chair Linda Donaldson reports that our local membership now stands at 119. She has developed a new member packet that will go out to all joining for the first time. The packet includes both the national and newly created local welcome brochures, lanyard with name tag, permanent name badge order form, membership card, and a letter welcoming new members to our local chapter. **Help staffing volunteer recruitment tables always welcome!** lindajdonaldson@yahoo.com