



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF POLK COUNTY

**MAKING**  
DEMOCRACY WORK®

September 2019

www.lwvpolk.org

## Upcoming Events

**Friday, September 6th**

*Board of Directors Meeting*

**Thursday, September 19th**

***Constitution Day  
Celebration***

**Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>**

*National Voter Registration  
Day*

**Wednesday, September  
25th**

*Advocacy Training*

**September Dates TBD**

*Voter Registration at SEU and  
Florida Polytechnic*

**October 4<sup>th</sup>**

*First Friday*

**October 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>**

*2019 Polk County Solar & EV  
Tour*

**October 11<sup>th</sup> (tentative)**

*Board of Directors Meeting*

**October Date TBD**

*October Hot Topic!*

**November 1<sup>st</sup>**

*First Friday*

**November 8<sup>th</sup> (tentative)**

*Board of Directors Meeting*

**December 6<sup>th</sup>**

*First Friday*

**December 13<sup>th</sup> (tentative)**

*Board of Directors Meeting*

## Constitution Day Celebration

Thursday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

1003 Lake Hollinsworth Drive, Lakeland

Longtime supporters of the LWV, Tom and Paula Mims, will host a very special Constitution Day celebration at their splendid home on Lake Hollingsworth. Invitations have gone out to League members and other guests. You can **RSVP** and reserve seats for your group by emailing [info@lwvpolk.org](mailto:info@lwvpolk.org) using "Constitution Day party" as the subject. Tickets are available at the event, but to avoid the line, you can RSVP *and* buy your tickets at <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/cd2/>--just click on the "donate" button.

As well as delicious hors d'oeuvres and wine, the evening will provide an opportunity to recognize past LWV Polk leaders, and unveil future League plans. We will welcome Patricia Brigham, current LWV Florida president, among other special guests. This fundraiser (\$25 per person for LWV members; \$50 per person non-members) will help make possible our plans for observing the double centennial in 2020: the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the founding of the LWV (see below).

***A huge thank you to Tom and Paula Mims for making this event possible!***

## Looking Ahead to the Centennial

According to the national LWV website, our organization's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday will be February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020, AKA Valentine's Day! The League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920 during the convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. The convention was held just six months before the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote after a 72-year struggle.

Source: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

**Watch this space! Or better yet, come to our **Constitution Day Celebration** to find out what LWV Polk has planned!**

## 2019-2020

### LWV Polk Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

**President**, open

**Vice president**, Andy Crossfield

**Secretary**, Barbara Wallace

**Treasurer**, Terry Lauretta

**Past president**, Jessie Gomez

**Membership**, Linda Donaldson

**Media**, Jerry Weeks

Charlene Bennett

Karen Freedman

Sharon Masters

Eileen Swiler

#### Additional Committee and Action Team Chairs

##### Natural resources:

**Climate action**, Rick Garrity

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

**Juvenile justice**, Andy Crossfield

**Voter registration**, Larry Rankin

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

**Speakers Bureau**, Trudy Rankin

**Healthcare**, Catherine Price  
**Immigration**, Iveliss De La Fe

**Education**, open

**Gun violence prevention**, Leander Ausilio

**Libraries**, Lillian Blessing

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**Newsletter editor**, Katy Pace Byrd,  
byrdkp@gmail.com

## Committee & Action Team Highlights

Our committees and action teams are always on the go, even in the lazy days of summer. Please note at left some vacancies in the leadership of a few of our hard-working committees and teams.

- **Membership:** We need two volunteers to generate recruitment ideas and staff a table at upcoming events like First Friday and Hot Topics! Recruitment and welcome brochures are in development. Please consider this opportunity to help the League thrive! Contact **Linda Donaldson** [lindajdonaldson@yahoo.com](mailto:lindajdonaldson@yahoo.com)
- **Climate Action:** This group continues to promote solar energy use and equitable net metering rules for all solar owners including Lakeland Electric customers. The LWV Polk Solar Co-op successfully helped several residents install rooftop solar. LWV Florida has drafted a climate emergency declaration, with our local group developing Polk sustainability guidelines. Contact Charlene Bennett [charleneben@earthlink.net](mailto:charleneben@earthlink.net) The 2019 LWV Polk County Solar & EV Tour is part of the 24<sup>th</sup> annual national tour. For dates, times, and RSVPs, visit [www.nationalsolartour.org/map/](http://www.nationalsolartour.org/map/) This **free** community event will showcase home and business solar installations throughout our county. Several tour sites also feature electric vehicles, so you can learn about driving green too! Have a solar home you would like to add to the tour? Contact **Karen Freedman** [kefreedman@hotmail.com](mailto:kefreedman@hotmail.com)
- **Gun violence prevention:** A meeting of Moms Demand Action led by League chair Leander Ausilio was held in August. The League plans two actions: first, the production of a video with children asking their parents to store ammunition separately from weapons in the home; and second, a signature drive for a petition to ban assault weapons. (The language of the petition is currently under review by the Florida Supreme Court.) Contact **Leander Ausilio** [oyaji\\_lee@msn.com](mailto:oyaji_lee@msn.com)

### Like the League!

Like the League on Facebook at all levels:

**The League of Women Voters of Polk County**

**League of Women Voters of Florida**

**League of Women Voters of the U.S.**