



VOTER

You are invited to two Holiday Parties!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE ST. PETERESBURG AREA

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

TUES., DEC. 1ST
6 P.M. - 8 P.M.

AT THE HOME OF JULIE RYCZEK
12255 - 6TH STREET EAST
TREASURE ISLAND

FAMILIES AND FRIENDS ARE
WELCOME TO ATTEND

RSVP BY NOVEMBER 27TH
896-5197

PLEASE SEE PAGE 2.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
NORTH PINELLAS COUNTY

HOLIDAY GATHERING

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 12TH
2 P.M. - 4 P.M.

AT THE HOME OF
SUSIE RODENBECK
1618 SPARKLING COURT
DUNEDIN SEE PAGE 2

FAMILIES AND FRIENDS ARE
WELCOME TO ATTEND

RSVP - 734-3405

GOOD FOOD, LIBATIONS AND
HOLIDAY CHEER

Sandhill Crane Migration

Hike/Kayak/Canoe, Jan. 30-31,
Payne's Prairie near Gainesville
Cost: \$125 members; \$150 guests. See page 4.

U.S and Rising Powers

Mon., Dec. 7 at 2 p.m.
Pinellas Park Public Library
7770 - 52 St. N. See page 3.

CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 1 Tues. 6-8 p.m. **LWVSPA HOLIDAY PARTY.** Ryczek home, 12255 Sixth St. E, Treasure Island. Toy collection for Christmas Toy Shop. See page 1
- 7 Mon. 2 p.m. **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE.** The U.S. and Rising Powers. Pinellas Park Library, 7770 - 52 St. N. Contact: Vollie Riskin, 519-3724. See page 3.
- 8 Tues. 6 p.m. LWVSPA Board of Directors, 175 - 56 Ave. S Contact: Amanda Patanow, 641-3023.
- 12 Sat. 2-4 p.m. **LWVNPC HOLIDAY GATHERING,** Rodenbeck home, 1618 Sparkling Court, Dunedin. See page 1.
- 14 Mon. 9-noon PINELLAS LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION HEARINGS, St. Petersburg City Hall.
- 15 Tues. All day BILL OF RIGHTS DAY.
- LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY
- 30 Sat Noon JOINT MEETING WITH AAUW AND PINELLAS LEAGUES. Speaker: Dr. Susan Macmanus. Clearwater Main Library.
- 30-31 Sat-Sun SANDHILL CRANE MIGRATION KAYAK TRIP. See page 4.

Welcome new members!

Rosemary Farrow 11/09 H. 452-3772
515 - Fifth St. N, #2, 3370
E-mail: rosesneaker@aol.com

John W. Mason 10/09 H. 898-9178
One Beach Drive SE #2702, 33701
E-mail: jmas4@yahoo.com

Maria McCourt 10/09 H. 813-961-8777
14520 Koll Ridge Dr., Tampa FL 33625-3339
E-mail: miamparo@hotmail.com

New e-mail address

Joanne Shrewsbury joshrew@verizon.net

2009-2010 Officers and Directors

President	Amanda Patanow
First Vice President	Julie Ryczek
Second Vice President	Lisa Meyers
Treasurer	Pam Meador
Secretary	Judy Hall

Directors:

Mary Berglund
Judithanne Scourfield McLaughlan
Elise Behnke Minkoff

From page 1

LET'S CELEBRATE THE SEASON

Holiday Open House,

12255 - 6 St E, Isle of Capri, Treasure Island
DIRECTIONS: Take Gulf Blvd. or Central Ave. to Treasure Island. Turn left from north, right from south onto 116th Av. Turn left onto 2nd St. East; right onto Capri Blvd.; left onto 6th St. East. House is on the right.

IF YOU SO CHOOSE, BRING A NEW UNWRAPPED TOY FOR THE ST. PETERSBURG CHRISTMAS TOY SHOP WHICH SERVES OVER 3,464 LOCAL CHILDREN IN NEED.

Holiday Gathering

1618 Sparkling Court, Dunedin
DIRECTIONS: Take Alternate 19 through Dunedin, turn right (east) on Curlew (SR586) At next stop light, turn right on County Rd. 1, turn right on second street on right, Sparkling Court, second house on the left.

Come discuss the U.S. and Rising Powers

By Joe Wells, Co-chair, International Relations Committee

On Monday, December 7th, the International Relations Committee will host a presentation and discussion about “The U.S. and Rising Powers,” one of the topics in this year’s Foreign Policy Association Great Decisions discussion program co-sponsored by LWVSPA and LWVNPC. Joe Wells will introduce the topic.

After the fall of the Berlin wall in November of 1989, and the subsequent collapse of the Soviet Union, the United States enjoyed a decade as the world’s sole, unrivaled great power. In the 1980s and early 1990s (with a GDP approaching 80 percent of the US GDP and a population only half as large) Japan appeared to be on the road to becoming the new global superpower. But Japan’s financial markets never liberalized enough for the yen to play an important international role, its economy collapsed for the entire decade of the 1990s, its population is in decline and its influence in the Asian region is being eclipsed by its neighbor, China. Since the beginning of the 21st century China, to some extent, India and, more recently, a resurgent Russia, are the rising powers influencing how global challenges are being met and how, and whether, international conflicts can be peacefully resolved.

Using purchasing power parity exchange rates for the calculation, China has the world’s second largest national economy. It has the world’s largest current account surplus and the largest holdings of foreign exchange reserves and its growth has averaged 10 percent per annum for the past 30 years. In the second quarter of 2009 while the rest of the world was struggling with economic survival and the economy of the United States shrank at an annual rate of 1 percent, China’s Central Bank said that country’s economy surged at an annualized rate of 14.9 percent. At the same time China is making significant progress in its efforts to modernize and strengthen its military presence in the Asian region.

China’s need for energy to support its impressive growth rates limits its willingness to join the United

States and others in efforts to control the Iranian government’s production of nuclear fuel or to force the Sudanese government to stop the genocide in Darfur since Iran and the Sudan are important suppliers of oil to China. On climate control, where negotiators from more than 180 countries have been working for over a year to develop a framework for a new climate control agreement to be discussed at the upcoming summit meeting in Copenhagen in December, China’s representative to these talks has stated unambiguously that the summit meeting will fail if the United States and other developed countries continue to seek legally binding cuts in emissions for developing countries.

United States efforts to promote the establishment of democratic regimes around the world face a significant challenge from the example set by the authoritarian regime in China and the impressive

economic results that government has achieved over the last 30 years. On October 9th, Vladimir Putin’s political party, United Russia, held a top level meeting with senior Chinese Communist

Party officials in Suifenhe, China, to explore how the Chinese have successfully managed to have its one-party political system maintain such tight control over the country while accomplishing such significant economic growth, when the Russians have had so much difficulty keeping its economy on a growth tract.

What role do China and the other rising powers play in developing answers to the challenges of global warming? How is the demand for oil in the developing world affecting the course of international relations? What impact does the success of the authoritarian one-party system in China have on prospects for international peace and stability?

Please join us for a discussion of these and other important challenges U.S. policymakers face as the international balance of power changes to accommodate the rising powers. The meeting will be held at **2 p.m. on Monday, December 7th, in the Pinellas Park Public Library, 7770 – 52nd St. N, Pinellas Park**. Everyone is welcome – and encouraged to bring guests!

For more information call 896-5197 (LWVSPA), or 447-4138 (LWVNPC) «

U.S and Rising Powers

Mon., Dec. 7 at 2 p.m.

Pinellas Park Public Library

7770 - 52 St. N

Leaguers: Don't Miss this ONCE in a LIFETIME Opportunity!

See One of Florida's 7 Natural Wonders: The Sandhill Crane Migration

What: Annual Crane Migration Hike/
Kayak Cross Creek

When: January 30/31st, 2010

Where: Payne's Prairie (in and
around Gainesville area)

Why: League Fellowship and
Enjoying What we Work so Hard to
Preserve

Cost: \$125 Members \$150 Guests
Accommodations Extra

Includes: • Guided hike of Payne's
Prairie Crane Reserve

• Guided kayak/canoe of Cross
Creek

• Lunch at The Yearling Restaurant
at Cross Creek

• League Dinner in Gainesville Res-
taurant with speaker

• Optional and extra: Tour of Marjo-
rie Rawlings home with host of PBS movie
"In Marjorie's Wake"



Get a taste of Old Florida at The
Yearling Restaurant, at the site of
Marjorie Rawlings home with the
star of the PBS movie "In Marjorie's
Wake", League member Leslie
Poole, Adjunct Professor Rollins
College. Dinner in lovely historical
downtown Gainesville with other
League members

RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

Send your check payable to:

League of Women Voters of Florida
Florida Wonders Trip

540 Beverly Court, Tallahassee, FL
32301 -2506

Questions: Contact Crystal Goodi-
son: 352-870-2907
cgoodison@gmail.com

Organizers: Crystal Goodison (former Alachua
pres. and Leslie Poole,

Adjunct Prof at Rollins College, LWV member)

**Limited to the First 50 enrollees: Get your
check in now!**

Food, Feathers, Fun, and Fiction!

Hike (easy three mile round trip flat) along Payne's
Prairie State Preserve as you watch thousands of
Sandhill Cranes in their Migratory Stop as we hike
with a guide who will share local history and ecol-
ogy

Canoe/kayak in Cross Creek, novelist Marjorie
Rawlings' backyard and subject of her book: *Cross
Creek*. Wild eagles, 'gators, lots of water birds

A beautiful first time-beginner kayak/canoe run,
the Creek meanders under a canopy of oak, maple
and moss-draped cypress.

Payne's Prairie Website:

www.floridastateparks.org/paynesprairie/

GAINESVILLE HOTELS (make your own accom-
modations) These are centrally located for the
weekend activities.

• Sweetwater Branch Inn Bed & Breakfast - Charm-
ing B & B in downtown Gainesville.

www.sweetwaterinn.com

(352) 373-6760

• Paramount Plaza Hotel & Suites

www.paramountplaza.com

(352) 377-4000

• Residence Inn (Has suites good for sharing with
2-4 people)

[http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/gnvfl-
residence-inn-gainesville/](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/gnvfl-residence-inn-gainesville/)

(352)-371-2101

• Hampton Inn & Suites Hotel - Downtown Gaines-
ville

www.hamptoninnandsuitesgainesville.com

(352) 240-9300

Misconceptions about immigration are challenged during forum

By Karen Coale LWVSPA, Immigration Committee

This was radio station WMNF's tag line when reporting on the Immigration Forum on its evening news following the event. This 10-minute piece thoroughly covered the League's position on immigration and was supported with quotes by the panelists and a League member.

This educational forum was held on November 10th at the St Petersburg Times Auditorium. Through the excellent facilitation of the moderator, Rob Lorei -- News Director of WMNF Radio and Managing Editor and Moderator of Florida This Week on WEDU TV, the panel of immigration lawyers provided a vivid description of the current state of immigration in the United States.

Using the League's Position on Immigration as a framework, Lorei asked the panelists probing questions. In their responses they covered the history of how immigration has evolved and what is not working today and why. They also challenged some of the myths about undocumented immigrants and

described the dilemmas they face, as do some of the businesses that hire them. Often there is too much emphasis on enforcement of existing immigration laws and not enough on problem solving.

There are many complex issues involved with comprehensive immigration reform. Through the tutelage of our excellent panelists we have a far better understanding of these issues, and are better positioned to advocate for the changes outlined in the League's Position when federal legislation is on the Congressional agenda -- hopefully early in 2010!

Thank-you to our moderator, Rob Lorei, and the panel of immigration lawyers: William J. Flynn, III Esq. and Jennifer Roeper, Esq. of Fowler White Boggs; and John E. Dubrule, Esq. of Gulfcoast Legal Services;

Thankyou to Julie Ryczek for her welcoming remarks and explanation of the League's process in formulating our Immigration Position. Thank you to the Immigration Committee (Mary Berglund, Terry Bryant, Dwight Lawton, Maria McCourt, Kathy Mossing and Vollie Riskin) which has worked for several months planning, organizing and advertising this event. And thanks to Pat Richardson for designing the fliers.

Thank-you to all who came and for your interesting questions during the Q&A portion of the program. «



Rob Lorei, moderates panel consisting of attorneys William J. Flynn III, John Dubrule and Jennifer Roeper.

Representatives from two Pinellas Leagues meet to discuss mutual interests

On October 31, 2009, representatives of the League of Women Voters of the St. Petersburg Area and the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County met at the Pinellas Park Library to discuss consolidation and collaboration. Committee members of the SPA League are Mary Berglund, Judy Hall, Elise Minkoff and Pat Richardson. North Pinellas members are Elizabeth Mannion, Ann McDowell, Judy McSwine and Sallie Parks. The Committee designated Elise Minkoff and Judy McSwine to be co-chairs. Peg McGarrity, executive director LWV of Florida and Marti Folwell, ex-officio LWNNPC President, also attended.

Both Leagues gave background information outlining the need for collaboration and possible merger. LWNNPC noted that there is a drastic decline in its "aging" membership. LWVSPA reported a sharp downward trend in its membership due to purging its membership list but noted that numbers are now increasing again. It was noted that trends in membership, attendance and volunteer support are also being identified at a national and statewide level. Peg McGarrity described the merger of South Palm Beach County and West Palm Beach Area Leagues and offered recommendations for steps to be taken: collaboration efforts before any formal merger, identification of issues pro and con, approval by both LWV and LWVUS Boards and finally, approval of the majority of members of each League.

Action

Pinellas Legislative Delegation continues public hearings

• **Mon., Dec. 14** from 9 a.m. to noon at St. Petersburg City Hall Council Chambers, 175 Fifth St. N. Final action will be taken on local bills.

Information, updates and forms are at www.pinellascounty.org/delegation. «

At a previous informal discussion held in August, 2009, some collaborative efforts were addressed such as the possibilities of issuing one joint Voter and organizing several joint meetings. Pat Richardson, editor of the LWVSPA Voter, described how a collaborative Voter might look and asked for the latitude to combine the Voter or have LWNNPC provide insert pages. It was noted that there is a duplication of reporting on LWV issues and a duplication of mailing addresses. In summary, there was unanimous agreement to enter into a joint Voter on the basis of trust and fairness. Judy McSwine volunteered to work with Pat Richardson on providing mailing lists and news items for LWNNPC.

Collaborative efforts to conduct joint meetings and events was deemed efficient and it was agreed that such efforts could increase member retention as well as highlight membership recruitment. Event locations and future programs were discussed as well as publicizing of League events.

Finally, there was an agreement to take back to the two League Boards the idea of a collaboration on events and the Voter. The co-chairs will identify upcoming dates for future meetings at the Pinellas Park Library and other venues. Sallie Parks summed up the tone and tenor of the meeting by urging "don't let anything be a barrier, let's clear things out of the way and strengthen ourselves in voice and in numbers; we can do it." «

Marilyn Maginley resigns

The LWVSPA Board of Directors has accepted with regret the resignation of Marilyn Maginley as a director. We appreciate Marilyn's contributions to our Voters Service activities and her excellent help to the Board and the League as a whole.

Join the League of Women Voters today!

It's easy! Just send your check to: _____ I'm renewing my membership

League of Women Voters, P O Box 11775, St. Petersburg, FL 33733 Date _____

\$52 Individual membership • +\$26 each additional household member • \$26 student dues

Also, here's my extra contribution to the League. \$ _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Business Ph. _____ Cell Ph. _____

E-mail address _____ Fax _____

Voters Service

League staffs tables at Circus McGurkis, Art Arbor

By Mary Berglund, Voters Service Chair

On Oct. 24th at Circus McGurkis and Nov. 7th at Art Arbor we had good weather and willing League members to staff our League tables at these annual events.

For the past few years Circus McGurkis, the People's Fair, has been held at Lake Vista Park. It was started in 1971 by peace activists and features arts and crafts, music and activities for all ages and types. An amazing number of dogs of all sizes and shapes also attend with their owners.

The 29th Art Arbor Festival at Boyd Hill Nature Preserve featured live music, arts and crafts, a food court, wildlife shows, a library book sale and more.

LWV cosponsors Meet the Candidates Event

By Marilyn Maginley, Voters Service Committee

On Sat., Oct. 17 LWVSPA and Saturday Morning Market co-sponsored a Meet the Candidates Event at the Market at Progress Energy Park/Al Lang Field. All the candidates running for the St. Petersburg City Council and mayor were in attendance at some time between 9 and 2 while the Market was open. They each had a table on the sidewalk just out-



Mary Berglund answers voters' questions while staffing a League table at Circus McGurkis on Oct. 24th.

Thanks to Lisa Meyers we have a new display board—lightweight and eye-catching. Many thanks to those who staffed tables at one or both of these events: Carolyn Crider, Judy Hall, Marilyn Maginley, Lisa Meyers, Amanda Patanow and Joanne Shrewsbury. «

side the stadium entrance. The Market was very well attended and the candidates had an opportunity to talk to the voters and distribute their brochures. The dramatic change in the weather from the sultry day on Friday to a sunny, breezy day with low humidity on Saturday was welcomed by all. Thanks to Julie Ryczek and Maria Roman for helping out. «

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE ST. PETERSBURG AREA
P.O. BOX 11775, ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33733
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-profit orgn.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 5978
St. Petersburg, FL



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

This issue of the St. Petersburg Voter includes information of interest to members of the League of Women Voters of North Pinellas County.

St. Petersburg Area VOTER

Published monthly except July

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LWVF Web site	www.lwvfla.org	
LWVUS Web site	www.lwv.org	

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Join the League of
Women Voters today!