

League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County
Minutes of Annual Meeting, May 21, 2016
Columbia Restaurant/Ybor City

Welcome and Opening Remarks: Shirley Arcuri, President of the Hillsborough County League of Women Voters offered opening welcome at 9:20 AM. She cited the “sell out” crowd that have come to the meeting. After some instructions about forms on the tables, she turned the meeting over to Susan Greenbaum, who introduced the guest speakers.

Two sides of a proposed new highway project, called the **TBX**, were presented. Debbie Hunt, Director of Transportation Development at the Florida Department of Transportation, presented the rationale and track of the project that will affect portions of I-75, I-4, and I-275, and explained why it offered the best solution to current problems on those routes. The dissent was argued by Christopher Vela, an architect and member of the Barrio Latino Commission, who is president of Sunshine Citizens, the main opposition group. He cited the destruction of neighborhoods and evidence that this kind of traffic project does not reduce congestion. The brief presentations were followed by questions from the audience about impacts, costs, community consultation, etc.

State of the LVWHC Shirley Arcuri, president of the Hillsborough County league, began by recognizing 10 former branch presidents who were in attendance. She congratulated the state league for success in the law suit for fair districts in Florida. Commendations also were given to winners of this year’s Lifetime Achievement and Potter awards. Doris Weatherford, longtime member and prolific author, won Lifetime, and the Potter award went to Dr. Rick Garrity, a veteran environmentalist who has agreed to chair our Natural Resources Committee. Facilitating the growth of solar power in Florida is a priority of the League. We support and have worked to educate voters about Amendment 4 on the Aug. 30 ballot. Shirley concluded by thanking Susan Greenbaum for chairing the meeting and Mike McKinney, former president, long time board member, who was leaving the board as of this meeting.

Appointment of Parliamentarian: Shirley Arcuri appointed Mary Mahoney to be Parliamentarian; Mary read a statement of Rules of Order governing the meeting.

First item was approval of the *2015 Annual Meeting Minutes*, submitted by Susan Greenbaum, Secretary. Mike McKinney moved approval; Dena Leavengood seconded, all approved.

Second item was approval of the *FY 2015 - 2016 Financial Report*, by John Teti, Treasurer (summary table below). Susan Greenbaum moved approval; Mike McKinney seconded, all approved.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY		
Treasurer's Report Summary Level - thru April 2016		
2015-2016	Budget	1-May-16
REVENUES		
A. Dues	\$8,250	\$9,770.92
B. Contributions	\$750	\$1,336.80
C. Fund Raising (LAA)	\$11,500	\$9,780.00
E. From Reserves-Education Fund		
F. FYI	\$2,500	\$1,184.28
H. Grant Income - Close the Gap		\$1,550.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$23,000	\$23,622.00
EXPENDITURES		
A. OPERATING COSTS	\$1,827	\$1,743.38
B. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES	\$550	\$162.70
C. DELEGATES , TRAVEL AND AFFILIATIONS	\$2,800	\$0.00
D. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE LEAGUE	\$6,750	\$6,033.38
E. BULLETIN - VOTER	\$1,300	\$951.28
F. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES	\$8,973	\$5,889.95
G. PUBLICATION OF LEAGUE POSITIONS	\$0	\$0.00
H. ACTION ACTIVITIES	\$800	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	23,000	\$10,964.39
Net		\$8,841.31
LWVHC Fund Balance	10,964.39	\$19,805.70
Notes		
REVENUES		
A. Dues; \$1,205 in prepaid dues have been received for 2016-17		
H. Grant Income - Close the Gap \$500 activity through 2016 calendar year		
EXPENDITURES		
C. DELEGATES , TRAVEL AND AFFILIATIONS		
C1. National Convention/Council; Event yet totake place		
C2. State Conferences; Event; Event yet to be expensed		

Board and Committee Reports

Membership: Idelia Phillips reported on membership for the year. The League roster is available on the website, <http://hclwv.org/> We have experienced an 11 % growth and continue to reach out to younger and diverse voters through social media, on campus, and various ethnic community events and organizations.

Membership Data

Type of Membership	FY 2014	FY 2015	2016 Memberships Current as of 4.26.2016
Individual	99	110	120
Household	30	29	28
2 nd Household	30	29	28
Student	5	6	4
Lifetime	1	0	0
Total	165	174	181

Programs (FYI): Sandra Sroka

FYIs for this past year continued to focus on topics in support of local and State League priorities, building upon partnerships with community organizations like the Tampa Kiwanis Club, the Tiger Bay Club, USF Office of Community Engagement & Partnerships, and sister Leagues within the Tampa Bay Area. A mixture of lunchtime, evening and Saturday programs were held in an effort to accommodate diverse schedules and geographic representation. A listing of the FY 2015-2016 follows:

August – The Cheese Please evening with Doris Weatherford speaking about the history of women as influenced suffragette movement to commemorate Women’s Rights to Vote.

September –Invited guest, LWVF President Pamela Goodman, addressed the impact of redistricting in Florida and offered a preview into this year’s LWVF priorities.

October – A Candidate Forum luncheon was co-hosted with Tampa Kiwanis Club.

November –The Hillsborough, St. Petersburg and North Pinellas County Leagues worked together to host a Saturday morning brunch and silent auction featuring syndicated columnist and LWVF Board Member, Paula Dockery, for a fascinating peek into “Reflections of a Woman in Politics”.

December – Our annual festive member Holiday Party sharing good cheer as we greet the old year “good-bye” and usher in the new year to come.

January – Started off on a roll with working toward LWV national consensus questions on “Money in Politics”. It was an evening of lively debate.

February – “Open Carry and Gun Safety” was a hot legislative and LWVF topic this year. In addition to a well-attended Press Conference at Tampa City Hall, LWVHC co-hosted a program with Tampa Kiwanis Club featuring former City of Tampa Police Chief, with Jane Castor as guest speaker.

March- Our program was the annual Sydney & Thalia Potter and Life Time Achievement Awards honoring Rick Garrity and Doris Weatherford, respectively.

April – Lest we forget the ever continuing struggles of funding Forever Florida, for Earth Day Month in April, LWVHC hosted a Saturday morning presentation and guided walking tour of one of our County’s prized Regional Parks. Hillsborough County’s Parks and Conservation Manager, Ross Dickerson gave us a “hot off the press” look at a County study on ELAPP: A Return on Your Investment.

May – We are concluding our annual year with a very hot local topic “The Pros and Cons of Tampa Bay Express”. This is but one element of a much broader discussion and hot topic on transportation and transportation funding in Hillsborough County and for our Tampa Bay region.

Commission on the Status of Women: Linda D’Aquila

In October the COSW Fall Issues Forum Advisory Council was established to assist with the *2015 Fall Issues Forum*, “**The Grocery Gap: Who has Access to Healthy Food and Why it Matters.**” The forum focused on hunger in Hillsborough County, drew a diverse audience and served as a clearinghouse of information related to food insecurity in our community

The Advisory Council drafted a Manifesto of Hillsborough County Women’s & Children’s Health Priorities to highlight the County’s most pressing needs and to provide a guideline for future *COSW Fall Issues Forum* topics. These priorities were presented to and enthusiastically approved by the BOCC.

Youth Excellence & Achievement (YEA!) Awards; The BOCC created the “YEA! Awards” in 2010 to recognize Hillsborough County students who make a difference in our community. The COSW reviews the nominations and selects the honorees. The BOCC presents the awards during a Board meeting each spring. This year there were 40 nominations submitted to the County.

The Hillsborough County Women’s Hall of Fame was established by the BOCC in 2011 and is permanently housed in the Tampa Convention Center. On May 8, 2015 we inducted the late Josephine Stafford, pioneering lawyer; Sylvia Carley, Ph.D., distinguished college administrator and Matilda Martinez Garcia, Hispanic heritage advocate at the annual luncheon. The LWVHC supports this event and League members regularly volunteer at the luncheon.

At the LWVHC Annual Holiday Party League members received a most welcome holiday surprise! COSW Treasurer Kim DeBosier reported the COSW recently established the “Friends of the COSW,” a 501(c) 3 support organization, to administer all financial transactions related to COSW activities and events.

DeBosier then presented a check for \$1,000 to President Arcuri in appreciation for the League providing this service to the COSW over the past few years. In particular, DeBosier thanked former and current League Treasurers, Nick Strippoli and John Teti, for their time and expertise.

VOTER Newsletter: Linda D'Aquila

We published eight editions (six monthly, a December-January, and a Summer issue) of *The VOTER*. *The VOTER* will be published in early June; take a summer break and publish again in early September.

The VOTER is almost exclusively distributed electronically with less than a dozen printed copies sent through the mail. A current copy of *The VOTER* is always available online at www.HCLWV.org.

The VOTER welcomes all submissions aligned with the League mission. Submissions are accepted at VOTER@HCLWV.org

Outreach and Website: John Teti

Website address is www.HCLWV.org,
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HCLWV>.

The website has undergone some page updates thanks to our USF Intern, Mckinzie Step. We survived several major Denial of Service hacks which took our site down three times last fall for 8 days total. Major Security fixes were installed in Sept-Oct 2015 time frame.

"Members Only" 52 or 34% of Membership with email addresses. Members wishing to access files need to email John to set up a password.

Constant Contact; we now have 172 members who have provided email addresses (95.6%) saving us more than \$2,755. Our cost for the remaining members was \$152 through 10 months.

East Pasco: Mike McKinney

The purpose of the East Pasco/New Tampa LWVHC Unit is to increase awareness of good governance and to promote LWV membership in the New Tampa and eastern Pasco County area. The Unit will be hosting a summer program on June 30 featuring an opportunity to meet the candidates, Voter Registration, and an update on the upcoming 2016 elections by Pasco County Supervisor of Elections, Brian Corley. The event is open to the public.

Kass Pilczuk was appointed to succeed Mike as the East Pasco representative on the board.

Voter Services: Mickey Castor

2015 was not an election year, so VOTER REGISTRATION efforts were minimal, including HCC South Shore campus, MLK Day at Allen Temple AME and an exciting day at the Bulls Market at USF in March where *everyone* wanted to register!

The LWVHC powerpoint, "*Making Democracy Work by Engaging Young Voters*," is an effective tool for audiences both young and older. It was again used at Williams Magnet Middle School during National Teach-In Day and was well received by students and faculty. It has also been used at Ybor Rotary Club and South Shore Democrats Club to inform adults and also get links from them to youth groups, such as the USF Rotaract Club.

Other presentations were the Hillsborough County Newcomers Club, a presentation to a district meeting of AME churches and Roy Kaplan's USF class on Social Justice and Democracy. At all presentations a pitch is made for voter registration, the deadlines for registering are explained and the importance of voting is emphasized.

Healthcare: Dena Leavengood, Chair

Our focus in 2015-2016 was to advocate local, state and national League Health Care positions by monitoring and participating in local, regional, state and national government efforts; recommending, advocating and taking action on positions on behalf of the LWV and other partners; and informing and educating the League and the public on health care issues, including the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Medicare, Florida Medicaid and expansion; health disparities; children, women's, aging and veterans health; Public Health, Genetically Modified Foods (GMO's), human and sex trafficking, nuclear power, fracking, climate change and other energy and environmental issues impacting public health, etc.

The Health Care Committee focused on expanding health care coverage in Florida under three LWVF Memoranda of Understanding to Close the Gap Campaign for a Healthier Florida, with supporting local grants totaling \$2800 in 2015-2016; and LWVHC Health Care Committee Chair also served as LWVF Health Care Chair and statewide Close the Gap Campaign coordinator through January 15, 2016.

The LWVHC Health Care Committee also actively monitored and responded to legislative action on local, state and national levels affecting health care and public health; and monitored and/or was represented at, and participated in, local, state and national meetings, conferences, teleconferences and webinars including:

Education: Pat Hall reported that the committee continued work on the charter school project. Information collected about real estate profits contributed to media coverage of that issue. [my notes are very skimpy. Please add or correct.]

2016 LWVF Council: Sandra Sroka; 5 Hillsborough County members went to the Council workshops; Sandy Sroka, Shirley Arcuri, Mickey Castor, Liz Johnson and Idelia Phillips.

Adoption of Proposed Programs for 2016-2017, Mickey Castor, Past President

As proposed and adopted, the programs are: 1. Social Policy, Health Care (*Dena Leavengood, Chair*); 2. Natural Resources (*Dr. Rick Garrity, Chair*); 3. Government, (*Mickey Castor, Chair*); 4. Education, (*Pat Hall, Chair*)

Adoption of Proposed Budget for 2016-2017: Mary Mahoney, Budget Committee Chair

The final proposed budget for the LWVHC was sent to members on May 11, 2016. Proposed revenues and expenditures total \$24,200 each. Mary moved, Shelley Blood seconded, all approved.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Nancy Granda, Chair

The following candidates were submitted by the 2016 Nominating Committee:.

Board: President, Sandra Sroka; President-elect, Idelia Phillips; Vice President, Jean Yglesias; Treasurer, Liz Johnson; Study & Action, Shirley Arcuri; Voter Services, Mickey Castor; FYI/Hot Topics, Kathleen Moore/Jean Yglesias;

Election of Officers and Directors: Shirley Arcuri, No nominations were submitted from the floor. The proposed candidates were all elected. New officers were sworn in by the Honorable Barbara Twine Thomas.

Directions to the Board from the Membership: Sandra Sroka

Forms were placed on all tables, discussion was brief. Liz Johnson volunteered to lead a new committee on transportation. Mike McKinney suggested we give more priority to scheduling events outside of working hours to enable greater attendance. Written responses were turned over to newly sworn president Sroka.

Address from new president: Sandra Sroka

President Sroka expressed gratitude for her election as president. She noted the important role the League has played in the past, and the important challenges we face in the coming year. She invited members to become involved in directly impacting issues concerning education, solar energy, healthcare for the most vulnerable, transportation in Hillsborough County, gun violence, and so important to our democracy, providing non-partisan fact based voter

information. She thanked Shirley Arcuri, for her leadership over the past three years. On behalf of the board she presented Shirley with a small gift.

Hearing no further business, she moved to adjourn at 10:58 AM

Submitted by Susan Greenbaum, Secretary, League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County