



Communications Committee Report to the Board 2022-23

Summary:

The Communications Committee is responsible for most of the League's communications with its membership and the public, including the media. We supervise the League newsletter, The VOTER, and the League website, hclwv.org.

Accomplishments:

Our primary achievement this past year was the launch of our new League website, created by one of our generous members who is continuing to act as webmaster as needed. This included a number of meetings with leaders on design and organization of the site, as well as working with our administrative assistant, membership chair and webmaster to update the League roster. We continue to update the website as needed.

We created and distributed email messages regarding our events and activities to our membership, local community organizations, and our media contacts. Going forward, we have a new volunteer who will manage our mailings.

On social media, we posted regular information on the League's Facebook page, about issues we support or oppose, and on community activities. We created Facebook events for significant events. We have a new volunteer who is managing our twitter page. We have a volunteer from USF who has worked with our voter protection committee to update our Instagram page and design posts about the importance of voting locally; we hope to save some of these posts for future campaigns in 2024.

We worked with several action groups to organize, promote and/or coordinate activities.

Upcoming Important Dates or Events:

We are preparing to update our League brochure and all materials, including nametags, with our new name, the LWV of Hillsborough and Pasco Counties. At the time this report was submitted, we were waiting to hear from the National LWV on our name change request.

We continue to work with the Voter Protection Action Group to promote voting in local and state races in 2024.

Other Information:

We are very much in need of volunteers to assist with the activities of this group going forward, particularly for our Facebook and instagram platforms.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Wilson, Chair



**League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion & Social Action
Dr. Idelia Phillips
Annual Report to the Board
April 17, 2022**

Summary:

Initiated and participated in several Diversity, Equity and Inclusion & Social Action activities.

Accomplishments:

- Participated in FI LWV meetings.
- LWVFL voter registration certification
- Partnered with the Gamma Theta Omega chapter, AKA, Inc. for voter registration activities.
- Participated with the NAACP regarding Political Forums.
- Participated with Gamma Theta chapter, AKA, for voter education and engagement activities.
- Continue to review LWVHC operations through a diversity, equitable and inclusion lens.
 - Plans include:
 - Survey of board, then the membership
 - Report of survey results
 - DEI training for the membership

Upcoming Important Dates or Events:

Other Information:

- Plans in place to recruit additional members; several new members have expressed an interest in DEI and Social Action.

Respectfully submitted,

Idelia Phillips, Chair



**League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County
Education Action Group/Damaris Allen, Chair Annual Report
May 2023**

Summary:

Our primary purpose is to advocate for students in Hillsborough and Pasco Counties and across the State of Florida. Specifically, to fully fund our K-12 public schools including faculty and staff, school facilities, and safe transportation; to ensure transparency and oversight of all public money spent on education; and to address issues impacting student mental health, safety, transportation, and curriculum.

Accomplishments:

- Worked with other public school advocacy organizations (including but not limited to the Alliance for Public Schools, Hillsborough Public School Advocates, Hillsborough County PTA, Florida Collaboration Project, and Families for Strong Public Schools) to reach our objective that all Florida students have access to:
 - Local public schools that have the flexibility to meet their unique needs
 - Caring, committed, qualified teachers and education support professionals including mental health support professionals and services
 - Well-maintained, clean, safe school facilities, including ample classroom space equipped with updated technology and all supplies needed to support curriculum
 - Current curriculum developed by educational experts that is science-based
 - Safe transportation to and from school
 - Equity in curriculum, assessments, teacher qualifications, and resources at all schools receiving public funds
- Spoke at Hillsborough County School Board meetings; met with state legislators and district staff on issues and/or legislation impacting public education objectives including but not limited to public school funding, charter and voucher school standards, the need for college and career counseling, and a reduction of high stakes testing.

Upcoming Important Dates or Events:

- The Education Action Group meets monthly on the 2nd Monday 11:30 am – 12:30 pm.

2022-2023 Objectives are to continue to work with the school district and state legislators to:

- Fully fund public education as required by the Florida constitution “for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high-quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high-quality education.”

Respectfully submitted,

Damaris Allen, Chair



Healthcare Action Group Annual Report 2022-23

Summary:

Healthcare Action Group strives to inform, educate and support health issues that directly affect our community, while uniting with organizations that work on health-related issues supported by the HCLWV, LWVFL and LWVUS. We support the implementation of health equity including access to affordable quality healthcare, expansion of Medicaid, Mental Health and Substance Abuse services, and protect the Affordable Healthcare Act (ACA). We stand behind Reproductive Services and the Constitutional right for women to have the right to make reproductive choices and have available services, including abortion. We strive to offer informative and educational events on vital healthcare issues and upcoming legislation.

Accomplishments:

This past year was spent creating awareness and value of health care services. Gene Earley, Division Director of Health Care Services for Hillsborough County along with Dr. John Curran, Chair Hillsborough County Health Care Advisory Board, spoke to members explaining the services for the underserved members of our community. We also were informed by Katie Rodgers Turner, Hillsborough County Navigator for Health Care, who carefully clarified how the Navigator teams work together to make sure citizens know what health services are available to them. Additionally, when the Navigators became responsible for Florida Medicaid Redetermination Plan, we assisted in expanding communication. This was the first time the examination update was taking place and it was important that people were aware of having to be redetermined to receive Medicaid or lose health care services. And we walked together at the Abortion Rally in Tampa and continue to reach out to Local and State representatives on the LWV position on reproductive rights.

Currently, we are working on a resource health services guide and reaching out to other organization to join in their community health care programs.

Other Information:

As we move forward, we will join efforts with other action groups and create new ways to continue to educate and inform about healthcare.

We want to become a stronger partner with Environment and Climate, as this too affects health, focusing on safe drinking water and environmental health. And always Voter Services. We are examining health care resources for economically disadvantaged mothers and their children and how we can partner together. And of course, the possibilities continue as we work to support LWV healthcare initiatives.

We meet the first Monday of the month at 6 PM, by zoom. We are a small but mighty group that welcomes members to participate.

Respectfully submitted,

Co-Chairs: Angela Birdsong and Laurie Winkles, Co-Chairs



Membership

Fiscal Year 2022-23 Annual Report to the Membership

Summary:

During FY 2022-23 Membership held five events (see details in "Accomplishments" below).

The most challenging activity during the year was the transition from our old method of tracking membership data to a new database on the redesigned Hillsborough League website. The new database made it easy for us to transition to a new annual membership model, which provides twelve full months of membership regardless of when you join or renew.

There is a plan for the National League (LWVUS) to take over administration of all member-related interaction including dues payments and membership information.

Accomplishments:

Member Events in FY 2022-23

New Member Orientation & All-Member Update

The zoom meeting was held on September 12 with about 25 in attendance. The agenda included an orientation, updates from Action Group Chairs, and a presentation on the proposed program change to be voted on by members at the Holiday Party (the next all-member event).

Walking Tour of Ybor City

Ten members and their guests enjoyed the Ybor City history walking tour, guided by the Tampa Bay History Center, on October 15.

Annual Holiday Party

The annual holiday party was a super event with over 50 members attending. Kudos to those amazing party planners!

Women's History Month Observance

The event held on March 20 in observance of Women's History Month was attended by 25 members and guests. In addition to social time, there was a discussion about women's history in the United States with a focus on the fight for women's suffrage. League member, Doris Weatherford, led the discussion and fielded questions from the group. Pat Hall won a copy of Ms. Weatherford's latest book in the raffle drawing.

2023 Annual Meeting

As of this writing, the annual meeting is scheduled for May 16 at the Marshall Center on Tampa's USF campus. Featured Speakers will be Dr. Mary R. Anderson, a political science professor in the Department of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Tampa, and Dr. Lakshmi Jayaram, President, and Founder of the Inquiry Research Group. They will relate the preliminary results of their research on "What Motivates Women to Run for Public Office."

Other Notable Accomplishments

In August 2022, a new online membership database was implemented as part of the redesigned Hillsborough League website. The work was accomplished with the amazing voluntary assistance of League member, Debra Bellanti. The transition to this database required a complete download of member data from the then current data sources and an upload to the new program. The new database has significantly more resources for capturing, using, analyzing, and providing member information to the leaders of our



organization so that we can improve communication and involvement of all members. It replaced three previous data sources with one, reducing the amount of recordkeeping and the potential for human error.

In January 2023, our board approved a change to our annual membership method. Prior to January, membership dues were collected based on the fiscal year and all memberships expired on June 30 in each year regardless of when during the year the member had joined or renewed. Beginning February 1, the annual membership began to be calculated based on when payment was received, and expired at the end of the month 12 months after payment. The reasons for the change were primarily to make membership more fair and less confusing, and also because the new membership database allowed this method to be tracked automatically.

At the last National League biennial convention, the membership voted to transition League structure to a new model. One of the most significant changes was to the way member information and dues are managed. Instead of being managed locally, or at the state level, all member interaction will take place at a “one stop shop” website supported at the national league level. The new model will require members to join and renew, and pay for, their membership at a national website. The portion of these dues owed to state and local leagues will be transmitted to them. The new method will eliminate the “per member payment” we currently send on to State and National from here. The work on this transition is ongoing and is slated to be completed in 2024.

Other Information:

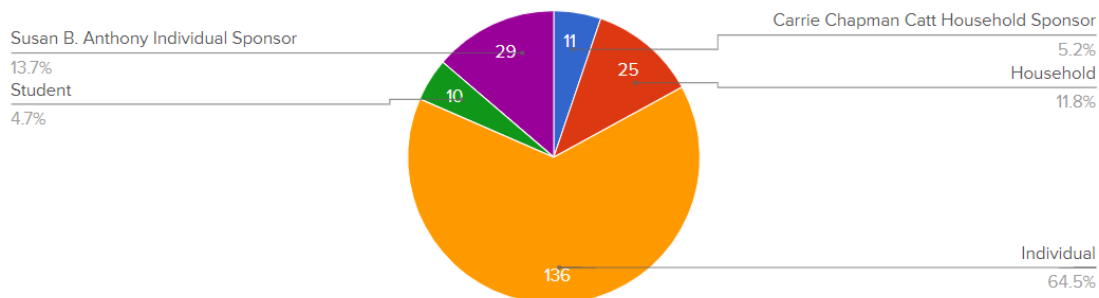
Membership Statistics:

New members joining in Membership Year 2022-23 – 74

Renewing members in Membership Year 2022-23 – 170

Total Membership as of April 30, 2023 - 244

The following chart summarizes our member totals and types (note these are accounts, not individuals; there are more individuals due to household accounts):



***Respectfully submitted,
Deborah Kauffman, Membership Chair***



**-League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County
Nominating Committee-Annual Report to the Board
April 2023**

The Committee prepared a slate of candidates for elected leadership positions to be voted upon at the Annual Meeting. The Slate includes one vacant position for President-Elect.

Accomplishments:

See above. The Committee also helped during the year with respect to immediate vacancies on the Board of Directors.

Upcoming Important Dates or Events:

Annual Meeting to be held on May 16, 2023. Slate to be sent to all members one month before Annual Meeting.

Other Information:

Background

Our elections are governed by our Bylaws. Some elected positions are designated in the Bylaws as being for one-year terms and some for two-year terms. The terms of the President and President-Elect are set forth as being for one-year terms, while the terms of the Vice President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer are set forth as two-year terms. The Recording Secretary is to be elected, in the ordinary course, in odd-numbered years, and the Vice President and Treasurer in even-numbered years. An early departure from a position may disrupt this odd and even system and may require an election in a year when an election for that position might not ordinarily be held. The Bylaws state that we can have up to six elected Directors whose terms are two years, with half elected at each annual meeting. Again, an early departure from an elected Director position may require an election when one would not ordinarily be held for that Director position. Also, while most Board positions are elected by the membership, some are appointed. Up to six additional Directors may be appointed. While three Nominating Committee members, including the Chair, are elected, two others are appointed and must be Board members. The elected Nominating Committee members may not be on the Board. Vacant positions may also be filled by appointment. All appointed positions end at the next Annual Meeting.

Moving to this year's election, please note that three current elected Directors are serving terms that end in 2024. They are Sheila McCants, Idelia Phillips and Laurie Winkles. **Timothy Burke is nominated for President and Teresa Potter is nominated to replace this Treasurer unexpired position. *Laurie Winkles is nominated for Vice President and Cindy Wilson is nominated to replace Laurie's unexpired Director position. Sheila McCants and Idelia Phillips will remain on the Board.

The slate of candidates running for election is as follows---

Slate

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| • President | Timothy Burke | Term expires 2024** |
| • President-Elect | Vacant | |
| • Vice President | Laurie Winkles | Term expires 2024* |



• Recording Secretary	Betsy Braden	Term expires 2025
• Treasurer	Teresa Potter	Term expires 2024**
• Director	Caryle Cammisa	Term expires 2025
• Director	Louan Tolbert	Term expires 2025
• Director	Ida Williams	Term expires 2025
• Director	Cindy Wilson	Term expires 2024*
• Chair, Nominating Committee	Idelia Phillips	Term expires 2024
• Nominating Committee	Mary Switzer	Term expires 2023
• Nominating Committee	Christine Bright	Term expires 2023

Current Board Members whose terms are up in 2023 and are rotating off are Emily Hinsdale and Norin Dollard. Chris Conn is resigning her position as Vice President.

Appointments by the new Board to Director positions and to the Nominating Committee will take place soon after the Annual Meeting. We encourage those rotating off the Board as well as others interested in Director and Nominating Committee positions subject to appointment to let the new Board know of your interest. Directors attend regularly held Board meetings. They are also asked to chair an action team or take on another similar task.

We look forward to another productive year. Thanks to all.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Pickren, Chair



**League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County
National Popular Vote Action Group, Shirley Arcuri Report to the Board
April 2023**

Summary:

National Popular Vote has a goal of electing the President by popular vote in 2024 using the Electoral College system established in the Constitution. The League of Women Voters of the U.S. has advocated for popular vote since the 1970's and it now seems in reach.

The League of Women Voters of Florida is one of the founding members of a taskforce known as Floridians for National Popular Vote (FL4NPV). Other members are: Common Cause Florida; National Popular Vote; Make Every Vote Matter; Conservatives for National Popular Vote. Our committee is the liaison between LWVHC and the state taskforce.

Accomplishments:

Participation in regular monthly Zoom calls with the State Taskforce.

January 2023: mailed postcards to each member of the Florida House committees to which the NPV bill has been referred urging a public hearing on the bill.

March 2023: : mailed postcards to each member of the Florida Senate committees to which the NPV bill has been referred urging a public hearing on the bill.

Upcoming Important Dates or Events:

Monthly Zoom calls with the State Taskforce on the first Thursday of every month from 5:30 – 6:30 pm.

Other Information:

- We need members trained with available PowerPoint presentations to educate local League members and other organizations and to solicit organizations for these presentations.
- We need members to contact local legislators by email, phone and in-person meetings to educate them on NPV and act as a resource for questions.
- We need members to draft letters to the editor and assist national spokespersons with obtaining meetings with editorial boards.
- We need members to choose articles to submit to the Monthly Voter to educate our members.

To learn more about NPV, contact me at NPVIC@hclwv.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley Arcuri



Speakers Bureau Annual Report 2022-2023

Summary

The Speakers Bureau receives requests from organizations and then connects them with board members, committee chairpersons, and others who have expertise in the content area.

Accomplishments

Through various internet applications like ZOOM and Google Meet, as well as in-person events, our speakers educated voters and young people on many topics, including: Redistricting; Constitutional Amendments; The Importance of Voting; Transportation Referendum; Voting Rights; Critical Race Theory and Systemic Racism; and Healthcare Navigators.

Our local speakers this year included: Christine Bright, Norin Ph.D., Dr. Joan Holmes, Deb Kauffman, Beverly Ledbetter, Idelia Phillips Ph.D., Teresa Potter, Laurie Winkles. The President of our Florida League of Women Voters, Cecile Scoon, also presented information on Critical Race Theory and Systemic Racism to a Criminology class from the University of Tampa.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill McDannold, Chair



**League of Women Voters of Hillsborough County
Transportation Action Group, Emily Hinsdale Report to the Board
April 2023**

Summary:

Hillsborough County reported 219 traffic fatalities in 2021. This is more than tragic; this impacts equity, access to voting, access to medical care, access to education, and affordable housing. The Transportation Action Group will continue to make safety and equal access to safe transportation a priority in all League endeavors.

Accomplishments:

Submitted a letter of support for the City of Tampa's successful \$5.4 million grant application for the US Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities grant to redevelop a section of I-275 at Ashley Drive.

Supported the unsuccessful 2022 transportation referendum on the Hillsborough County November 2022 ballot.

- Met with then County Commissioner Kim Overman to discuss the referendum.
- Hosted a **Coffee** with the Candidates event on the November 2022 transportation referendum.
- Submitted letters in support of the referendum to area publications.

Participated in the No Roads to Ruin Coalition's successful effort to end the Florida Department of Transportation's proposed toll roads across the state, known as M-CORES.

Other Information:

The committee's monthly reports to the board have focused on these regional transportation issues to educate and inform voters:

- 2018 Transportation surtax' legal defeat and ongoing efforts to secure collected taxes for Hillsborough County
- 2022 Transportation referendum
- Influx of federal infrastructure grant funds to both City of Tampa and Hillsborough County
- No Roads to Ruin Coalition's successful effort to block toll road expansion across the state
- Regional road development projects and safety projects
- Florida legislative bills impacting transportation in Hillsborough and surrounding counties

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Hinsdale

Voter Protection Committee Annual Report 2022-2023

Summary:

Voter Protection is a sub-committee of Voter Services that focuses on voting/election issues other than voter registration and getting out the vote. Specifically we are concerned with voter suppression, electronic ballot counting machines and their vulnerability to hacking and how to educate/motivate citizens to vote in all elections, local, state and federal and to vote down ballot.

Accomplishments:

- Created a book mark that emphasizes how voting impacts our daily lives. Our local League allocated funds for printing our bookmarks that were then distributed through Hillsborough County Public Libraries, shared at voter registration tabling events and distributed to home bound folks via Meals on Wheels;
- Had our “This is why your vote matters” flyer published in Creative Loafing and La Gaceta.
- Spearheaded the poll monitoring project in our county, recruiting and coordinating volunteers for the general election. Five members served as poll monitors at several voting sites during early voting and on Election Day;
- Monitored the canvassing board post election;
- Participated in weekly State Voices calls;
- Coordinated the League’s post card project in Hillsborough. Volunteers completed and mailed 500 postcards to returning citizens advising them that there is help available to determine their eligibility to vote.
- Coordinated and participated in voter registration events.
- Recently, we’ve been working with a student at USF who is very social media savvy. We’ve provided her with material that she can use to produce images and videos that we can then post at appropriate times throughout the year and during election season. We hope to recruit someone who can do this on a regular basis or become more proficient ourselves.

Other Information:

The Voter Protection Sub-Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month, usually via Zoom, but occasionally in person. You can reach Lynne Price, co-chair, at voterprotection@hclwv.org for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Price



Voter Services Action Group Annual Report 2022-23

Summary:

The highlight of the year for our members was the return to in-person community events post – Covid. We had a highly successful voter registration drive at the HCC Dale Mabry Campus and plan to become a consistent presence on campus. One of our primary goals was to proactively develop member expertise and leadership infrastructure within the Voter Services Action Group.

Accomplishments:

- This year we had 41 members certified to register voters.
- Hosted 21 in-person events this last year.
- Published Vote411 Voters Guide for the General and Municipal Elections in Hillsborough and Pasco County.
- Received a \$500 grant to support National Voter Registration Day activities.

Goals we are still working toward:

- Increasing the number of Spanish speaking action group members to 10.
- Implementing the Voter Girl Project. Implementation was delayed due to Covid but planning for a September/October 2023 launch.
- Developing relationships with community partners.

Other Information:

- We continue to pivot and plan our voter registration activities around Florida legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Conn, Chair