

The VOTER: LAA Edition! *February 2024*

Fellow League members,

Between 2006 and 2020, the League of Women Voters of Hillsborough and Pasco Counties annually celebrated distinguished individuals for their contributions to our local community and the state of Florida. COVID interrupted this. We are happy to sponsor these awards and host our 16th annual Lifetime Achievement Awards event in 2024!



We are devoting the February issue of our Voter newsletter to this event because it is our league's premier event where we honor the LWV of Hillsborough & Pasco Counties Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients. Please see below for everything you need to know about our 2024 LAA Event, including this year's winners, ticket and sponsorship info, and previous award winners. Please reply to this email if you have any questions not answered here. **We hope you will be able to join us to celebrate this year's honorees!**

For other issues, watch your inboxes for more Calls to Action emails as we move through the legislative session. And join us for next week's Monthly Issues Update meetings (details and registration links below).

**LWV of Hillsborough & Pasco Counties
Lifetime Achievement Awards Luncheon
Shanna & Bryan Glazer Family JCC
522 N Howard Avenue in Tampa**

February 28, 2024
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Meet Our 2024 Honorees



Sharon Streater
Lifetime Achievement Award
2024



Carlton Ward Jr.
Sydney & Thalia Potter
Civic Leadership Award 2024

We are recognizing **Sharon Streater** for a lifetime of service to her community, including most recently her 34 years as the Lead Organizer at HOPE, the Hillsborough Organization for Progress and Equality. Until her retirement in late 2023, Sharon was teaching, training, coaching, and organizing as HOPE grew to 26 member congregations. HOPE, a direct action community organization, unites diverse congregations to improve the quality of life in Hillsborough County. Please go [HERE](#) for more details on her accomplishments.

We are honoring **Carlton Ward, Jr.** for his dedication to the preservation of the natural environment in Florida, particularly his Florida Wildlife Corridor project, which pieces together large tracts of land that include farms, ranches, and natural habitats to form a corridor of protected lands that spans the entire state. Motivated by eight generations of family heritage and a drive to bring new attention and protections to the state's under-appreciated

wild heart, his mission is to inspire appreciation of the endangered wild places that are often hidden in plain sight but very much need our attention to be saved. Please go [HERE](#) for more details.

To Buy Tickets & Sponsorships

Individual tickets are \$55 each. Click below to purchase one or more. If you are having difficulties ordering your ticket(s) online, please contact Teresa Potter at president@hclwv.org or 813-787-7328. We want to make sure to reserve seats for our members who wish to attend.

[Click here to buy Individual Tickets](#)

Opportunities to support the luncheon range from \$25 to \$4000. A table of 8 is \$550 and includes recognition. Click below to learn more!

[Sponsor a Table and/or Purchase an Ad in the Program](#)

Previous Lifetime Achievement Award Winners

First Awarded in 2006:

Senator Helen Gordon Davis
Congressman Sam Gibbons
Governor Robert "Bob" Martinez
The Honorable Betty Castor
The Honorable Jan Kaminis Platt
The Honorable Dottie Berge MacKinnon
The Honorable Frederick B. Karl
The Honorable t. Terrell Sessums
The Honorable Donald Castor
The Honorable Mary Figg
Doris Weatherford
The Honorable Arthenia Joyner
Geraldine McKinnon Twine
The Honorable Fran Davin
Liana Fernandez Fox, PhD

Previous Potter Award Winners

First Awarded in 2008:

Sydney and Thalia Potter

Roger P. Stewart

Alan "Mr. River" Wright

Delia P. Sanchez

Dana L. Shires, M.D.

Matilda Garcia

Evangeline Best

Jan Tomlinson Smith

Dr. Rick Garrity

Joe Guidry

Jane and Gary Gibbons

Dena Gross Leavengood

Please invite a Young Guest!

Finally, a reward for all of you who have read this far. We are encouraging all HCLWV members to bring a young guest with them. We are defining young in this instance as anyone younger than Carlton Ward, who is 48. If you would like to bring a young guest but can't afford to, a member has offered to cover the cost. Write to voter@hclwv.org. Please reach out if you know one who would like to attend.

Retired USF Professor Susan MacManus told Café con Tampa last week that two issues will get young voters to the polls this year -- climate change and education. Let's hope that the Path of the Panther fits the climate change rubrick and let's get young voters to this lunch.

More Ways to Support Florida Panthers

The Florida Museum of Photographic Arts in Ybor City is currently showcasing a collection of Mr. Ward's photographs. This captivating exhibition celebrates Florida's wild heart through the story of our state animal - the Florida panther. The photographs in the exhibit, which are featured in the new

National Geographic film and book, Path of the Panther, provide an unprecedented portrait of the panther amidst Florida's wildest landscapes. From the remote cypress swamps of the Fakahatchee Strand, to the headwaters of the Everglades, the photographs will transport viewers into a hidden Florida that deserves to be seen and protected.

The exhibit is on view through March 17, 2024. The museum is located at 1630 E. 7th Avenue Ybor in Tampa. Admission is \$10-12. Learn more [HERE](#).

And a new Protect the Panther license plate, now available to Florida motorists, features a striking photograph taken by Mr. Ward in 2018 of the first female panther documented north of the Caloosatchee River since 1973, along with her kitten.



The new license plate can be purchased at the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles or by checking with your local tax collector office for availability. Fees from the license plate go directly into the Florida Panther Research and Management Trust Fund, which is a critical source of funding for the states's panther-related research, monitoring, and conservation efforts.

Upcoming Member Meetings

Feb. 5, 6-7 pm, Monthly Issues Update Meeting (repeat). Register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9876543210>

Feb. 7, 9-10 am, Monthly Issues Update Meeting. Register at <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/9876543210>

Feb. 26, 6:30-8:30 pm, HCLWV Board. All members welcome. Meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84852744779>

Feb. 28, 11:30 am-1:00 pm, Lifetime Achievements Award luncheon. See more [here](#).

Check the League's website [calendar of events](#) throughout the month for new meetings and events.

Want to know what's coming up? You can now subscribe to our HCLWV Events Calendar so our events show up on your online calendar! Find the subscribe link just below the calendar heading [here](#).

EMPOWERING VOTERS. DEFENDING DEMOCRACY.

League of Women Voters of Hillsborough and Pasco Counties
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