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## YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

### Officers:

Elizabeth King *President*  
Charlyle Parrish, *1<sup>st</sup> Vice Pres.*  
Annelise Reunert, *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.*  
Art Parrish, *Treasurer*  
Gail Honea, *Secretary*

### Directors:

Melinda Beckett, *Education*  
Holly Picardi, *Women's Issues*  
Ellen Roston, *N R Liaison*  
Vivian Faircloth, *Communications*  
Shirley Lewis-Brown - *Rights Restoration - Second Chances*  
Paula Montgomery, *Education*

### Off-Board Action Team Leaders

Ann Davis, *Social Activities*  
Janet deLorge, *Naturalization*  
Mary Gutierrez, *Solar Co op Initiative*  
Penny Rice, *Education Observer*  
Cathy Scott, *Membership*  
Enid Sisskin, *Natural Resources*

### Nominating Committee

Haley Richards, *Chair*  
Bill Caplinger     Marilyn Badessa  
Gail Honea         Melinda Beckett

## Contact Us

[www.lwvpba.org](http://www.lwvpba.org)  
LWVPBA [facebook page](#)  
[lwvpba@gmail.com](mailto:lwvpba@gmail.com)  
Phone: (850)937-7769

LWV - [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)  
LWV Florida - [www.lwvfl.org](http://www.lwvfl.org)



Roz Fisher



Ben Stephenson

## Owning Our Bodies - Why it Matters

**April 27, 2019 - 10:15 AM**  
**Tryon Library, 1200 Langley Ave.**

**Note:** League General Meeting is rescheduled due to conflicts on Easter week-end.

**B**enjamin James Stevenson, a staff attorney for the ACLU of Florida, resides in Pensacola, where he litigates a broad array of ACLU issues. He has challenged numerous unconstitutional practices throughout Florida, including: the DMV's suspension of a driver's license for failure to pay court costs (Foster v. DMV); the clerk's refusal to enroll a driver on a reasonable payment plan to pay court costs (Washington v. Clerk); a government agency's denial of access to public records (ACLU v. City of Sarasota); and school officials' censorship of LGBT-supportive speech (Gillman v. Holmes School Board).

Stevenson graduated from the University of the South (Sewanee) and Florida State University College of Law. He joined the ACLU in 2007, after several years in private and government practice.

**Rosalind Fisher** is an instructor of Sociology at the University of West Florida. She has a M.S. degree in Community Development from Southern Illinois University and a M.A. in Sociology from the University of Kansas. Rosalind is a 27 year resident of Pensacola. She teaches Women's Studies and sociology classes at the University of West Florida. In 2015, Rosalind received the Mary Rogers outstanding teacher award in Women's Studies. Her teaching reflects her commitment to gender equity, social justice and human rights.



Ben Wilcox

## 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting May 11, 2019

Pensacola Yacht Club, 1897 Cypress St.  
Registration 9:30 am     Business Meeting 10 a.m  
Luncheon 12 pm

Luncheon Speaker: Ben Wilcox, Integrity Florida

Ben Wilcox began his career in journalism and served for over twenty years as the news director for the Florida Public Radio Network and public radio station WFSU-FM in Tallahassee. In 1999, he was named the executive director of Common Cause Florida. In that position, he was responsible for representing the position of Common Cause before the Florida Legislature on a variety of issues, including ethics reform, campaign finance reform, open government and redistricting reform.

In March 2012, Ben became the research director of Integrity Florida, a

Continued on page 5 - **Annual Meeting**



Elizabeth King

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I want to encourage you to attend our Annual Meeting on May 11, at 10 am, at the Pensacola Yacht Club. The reservation form is attached to this Voter. This meeting marks both an end and a beginning, with the end of my term as your president and will

highlight all the things the League was able to accomplish with your help this past year. Looking ahead, the membership will adopt local program, a new budget and elect Board members.

As your president I have learned so much about the community (to which I have recently returned) from all our Action Teams. Thank you for all work and support. I plan on continuing to be active in the League and trust you will be involved as well.

However, there are actions to be taken before the end of the Legislative session in early May. Important bills are under consideration in the legislature, with League support of some and defeat of others. Two issues of concern to our members are:

### 1. Amendment 4 Implementation

Although 64% of Florida voters supported the restoration of voting rights for felons who have paid their debts to society, bills have been introduced adding additional requirements before those individuals have their voting rights restored.

### 2. Proposed Initiative Amendments

The Florida Constitution requires a 60% positive vote for passage of an amendment; however a bill under consideration would change that percentage to 66% for passage of proposals through the initiative process.

You are strongly encouraged to read and respond to the weekly Capitol Reports from our League lobbyist in Tallahassee. Additionally, you can check the status of proposed legislation at [myfloridahouse.gov](http://myfloridahouse.gov) as well as [www.Flsenate.gov](http://www.Flsenate.gov) League members can play a role in defeating these two measures but it will happen only if you get involved.

*On February 15, 2020, the League of Women Voters will celebrate its 100th Anniversary. Our local League will plan a special celebration. One way you can acknowledge the 100th birthday of the League is to become a Susan B. Anthony member. (Susan B. Anthony membership is available to those who contribute \$100, in addition to membership dues, during the League year.)*

It is apparent that health care is going to be a major issue in the 2020 Presidential Election and is also a legislative priority of the Florida League. Consequently, our local League is looking for individuals to work on this issue. If you are interested in this topic, please let me know

at [lwwpba@gmail.com](mailto:lwwpba@gmail.com)

Our League will continue to collect petitions to ensure that BAWN (Ban Assault Weapons Now) will be on the 2020 Ballot through the initiative process.

Elizabeth

## Follow up for Backpack

Paula Montgomery

The Education Action Team and the Escambia Education Association sponsored a follow up program to the September showing of Backpack Full of Cash. The video of the panel discussion from the September event was shown to review the important points made by the Back Pack Documentary and local and state perspectives. The discussion centered around the impact on traditional public schools, the charter school movement and the increased use of vouchers. The primary impact is to weaken the schools attended by 90% of our students by diminishing their resources. After viewing the video, discussion was led by Vickie Mathis and Steve Marcanio of the Escambia School District. The extreme frustration comes from the legislature and the governor's encouraging by law of the privatization of our schools. The increases in funding for "Education" is actually money designated for security. The fact that Florida and Escambia County are having difficulty hiring and keeping teachers has a great deal to do with the fact that Florida teachers are paid \$10,000 less on average than the nation as a whole. The legislature does not address this; instead it focuses on widening the pool of children eligible for vouchers and increases the number of charter schools in the state.

Toward the end, of the program, postcards were distributed for messages to Senator Broxson to oppose the Senate bill increasing the scope of voucher availability. During the legislative session there will be occasions to call our legislators and let them know where we stand as their constituents. We are all encouraged to participate in Democracy by letting our voices be heard.



Paula Montgomery  
Vickie Mathis  
& Steve Marcanio

## MENTAL HEALTH AND OUR CHILDREN

Adele Lott,

I worked in the foster care and special education counseling systems for 26 years in rural upstate New York before I retired in 2012. During that time, I saw the number of children coming into our schools with mental health issues rise and the severity of those issues increase. At first, my colleagues and I attributed this to changes in diagnostic standards, changes in special education criteria, and changes in the demographics of school districts. But over time, the behaviors were real and could not be explained away so easily. Things were getting worse.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has recently confirmed that what we thought was happening was true. They have reported that 1 in 5 American children ages 3-17 have a diagnosable mental, emotional, or behavioral disorder in a given year. That is about 15 million of our children. Only about 20% of those are ever diagnosed and receive treatment. The CDC also states that recent research indicates that serious depression is worsening in teens, especially girls, and the suicide rate in that group reached a 40 year high in 2015. "Child and adolescent mental health disorders are the most common illnesses that children will experience under the age of 18", states Dr. Harold Koplewicz from The Child Mind Institute. The tendency to develop depression and bipolar disorder nearly doubles from age 13-18. Keep in mind that depression is very different than teenage "angst".

Why are these children not receiving the treatment they need? There are multiple answers, often intertwined. Frequently, conditions go undiagnosed. The frontline for recognizing behavioral disorders is often the school. With 25+ students per classroom per 40-minute period, high school teachers in particular are pressed to get to know each of their students well enough to recognize unusual behaviors. The student throwing the desk or threatening the teacher? Yes, they recognize that one. The one sitting in the back, never saying much and not making trouble, are often overlooked. And the counselor charged with a 350 student caseload, expected to manage the class schedule of each one in addition to handling college placement, IEP and disciplinary counseling, and romantic break-ups, friendship problems, and other common dilemmas of childhood as well as being on the look-out for emotional problems not brought to his/her attention? I don't think so. Even if an overworked parent recognizes something is wrong, they may/may not be able to take time off work to take their child to counseling appointments and may/may not have insurance to cover mental health. That's assuming they can find a mental health professional who will see their child and takes their insurance. After Hurricane Katrina, people in New Orleans had to wait upwards of 3 weeks to get a suicide assessment because of the lack of mental health professionals. The ratio of mental health professionals to population matters not whether you are in an urban or rural area. Take all of this into consideration and you begin to have an understanding why the mental health needs of youth go unaddressed.

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**What can we do? Understanding the magnitude of the problem is the beginning**

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What can we do? Understanding the magnitude of the problem

is the beginning. Supporting schools and municipalities in providing more mental health services by increasing the number of counselors and social workers in schools is a step in the right direction. Making sure community facilities provide evening hours for families, with sliding scales or free services when Medicaid is not available is also helpful. Supporting striking teachers when they ask for not only better pay but more counselors needs to be heard. Adequate mental health services, both ongoing and crisis services for youth and adults, is not too much to be expected from our government and our medical community. We should be asking for it and getting it. Educating and supporting parents in understanding what to look for and how to understand their teenager through their difficult years and where to turn when they have concerns or questions. And finally, fighting to remove the stigma of mental illness. Mental health is the responsibility of all of us. Our children are the responsibility of all of us. Awareness, advocacy, understanding.

**Condolences** to the family of Carolyn Kolb on the recent death of her husband, William Paul Kolb; to the families of "Keets" Rivers and Audrey Grill on their deaths; to Michelle Salzman on the death of her mother, Victoria "Vicky" Steele.



## The Right to Vote Will Not be Denied

Penny Rice, Education Committee

Last month Paula Montgomery, Charlyle Parrish, Penny Rice and Penny Fendt - along with Bill Caplinger and Dave Hoffman - presented a skit on the 19th Amendment to eight fifth grade classes at Beulah Elementary School. The skit depicted a polling booth in a small town, where two men at the polling station had to deal with three suffragists coming to vote-before the 19th amendment was passed.

Following the skit, the cast gave additional information on the background of the women's suffrage movement and related constitutional amendments. It was an enjoyable experience and, hopefully, the students became more aware of the importance of the vote.

## League of Women Voters Pensacola Bay Area Proposed Budget 2019-2020

Receipts	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
Dues	\$ 7,232	\$ 7,725	\$ 7,800
Member Contribution	2,000	1,600	1,600
Non-member Contributions	200	0	0
Fundraiser	500	800	400
Annual Meeting	1,500	1,800	2,000
Interest Income	0	0	0
Guide to Elected Officials	1,000	1,000	1,000
Grants (Ed Fund)	0	1500	0
Workshops/Forums	200		
From Reserves	1,328	<u>2,352</u>	555
Total Income	\$ 13,960	\$ 16,777	\$ 13,355

**Disbursements:***Operational Costs*

Supplies	200	\$ 100	\$ 100
Postage	25	25	25
PO Box Rental	70	80	85
Insurance/Filings/ Solicitation	600	625	700
Miscellaneous	100	100	100

*Board and Administration*

Board Expenses	50	50	50
Annual Meeting	1,500	1,800	2,000
Membership Services	50	75	100

*Delegate Travel/Affiliation*

Convention/Council (State)	800	800	0
US Convention		2000	0
Legislative Seminar	375	400	400

*Financial Support of League*

State PMP	1,972	1,943	2,025
National PMP	4,208	4,144	4,320
Lobby Fund Drive	400	400	400

*Voter*

Printing and Mailing	150	150	100
Postage	75	75	50

*Program*

Voter Service	150	125	200
Guide to Elected Officials	1,000	1,000	1,000
Natural Resources Committee	1,125	625	125
Women's Issues	125	125	0
Education Committee	610	685	525
Juvenile Justice		200	125
Study Material	0	350	125
Action	100	100	100
Website	100	100	100
Birthday/Workshop/Forum	<u>200</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>300</u>
Gun Safety			300

Total Expenditures      \$ 10,900      \$ 16,777      \$13,355

Submitted by the Budget Committee Ellwn K Roston, Chair, Vivian Faircloth and Art Parrish and Elizabeth King, ex officio.

## Proposed Slate of Officers & Directors 2019-2020

**Officers:**

Co-Presidents	TBD	2019-2020
	TBD	2019-2020
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Ellen Roston	2019-2020
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Annelise Reunert	2019-2021
Treasurer	Jo Matthews	2019-2021

**Directors:**

Jane Spruill	2019-2021
Charlyle Parrish	2019-2021
Shirley Lewis-Brown	2019-2021
Ann Davis	2018-2020*

**2016 Nominating Committee:**

Janet deLorge, Chair  
Linda Harris  
Elizabeth King

Note: \* Completing a vacant position.

**Submitted by the 2017 Nominating Committee:**

Haley Richards, Chair  
Marilyn Badessa      Melinda Bexkett  
Bill Caplinger      Gail Honea

**Returning Directors:**

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Annelise Reuner      2018-2020  
Director Shirley Lewis-Brown      2017-2019

## Proposed BYLAWS Changes - 2019

*This proposed Bylaws change was recommended by the Board and is presented for consideration by the membership at the Annual Meeting. Proposed deletions are shown by **strikeouts** and additions are **underlined**. All changes require a two-thirds vote for approval*

**ARTICLE IV OFFICERS**

Section 2. The President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and of the Board of Directors. The President may, in the absence or disability of the Treasurer, sign or endorse checks, drafts and notes. The President shall be, ex officio, a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee. The President shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the office of the President and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board. **In the event the Nominating Committee is unsuccessful in filling the nomination for President, the Executive Committee (composed of First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) shall serve in that capacity until the position is filled.**

## Proposed Local Program 2019-2020

### Public Education Campaign on Gun Safety

#### Focus of work:

Publication and Distribution of fliers on gun safety;  
Emphasis on Locked Cars containing firearms;  
Constitutional Ban on Assault Weapons Now  
(BAWN)

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nonpartisan research institute and government watchdog whose mission is to promote integrity in government and expose public corruption. He oversees the research arm of the Institute and is responsible for researching and writing reports on issues involving government ethics, money in politics, government accountability and transparency.

Two years later, Wilcox helped form the coalition "Citizens for Ethics Reform" that successfully placed a charter amendment on the ballot, creating an independent ethics board for the City of Tallahassee. He continues to work with the ethics board and the Tallahassee City Commission to develop ethics policy for the city.

Ben Wilcox became a friend of our local League during the period he served as a League lobbyist during legislative sessions. It is an honor to welcome him as our speaker for the 69th Annual Meeting.

## Empowering Voters Defending Democracy

### Welcome New member

#### Virginia LeMay Davis

Members' contact information is contained in the *Membership Roster*. If you have not received the latest one or have a correction, contact Cathy Scott, , basketbabe at mchsi.com or 396-5727.

**Susan B. Anthony membership** is a special category of League members who donate \$100 or more, in addition to membership dues, during the League year. Contribution may be made to our local League, the Education Fund, the tax deductible arm of the League or any combination of the two.



## Request for Volunteers for Voter Registration at Earth Day

DATE: Saturday, April 20, 2019

TIME: 2 hour shifts starting at 9am - 4pm

PLACE: Seville Square in downtown Pensacola (This is usually fairly shady spot and we will have a tent.)

The theme for Earth Day 2019 is Energy, Transportation, and Sustainability. To assist, contact Charlyle Parrish, 932-0854 or [ccparish@usa.net](mailto:ccparish@usa.net); to assist with distribution of information about plastics and related issues, contact Enid Sisskin, 261-0460.

## Calendar

### April

- 15 **Monday, Noon, Natural Resources Committee**, Downtown Library, 239 N. Spring Street, For information, contact Enid Sisskin, [esisskin@gmail.com](mailto:esisskin@gmail.com).
- 16 **Tuesday, 10:00 am International Relations**, Azalea Trace Auditorium, Great Decision discussion on *The Middle East*, Leader: Frank Beall For information, 607-7114.
- 27 **Saturday 2:30 pm Juvenile Justice**, Paula Montgomery's house, 641 Connell Dr. 32503, For information contact co-chair, Shirley Lewis-Brown at 479-4918.

- 27 **Saturday 10:15 am General Meeting Tryon Branch** Library 1200 Langley Ave, "*Owning our Bodies, Why It Matters*" Dr. Roz Fisher, UWF professor and Benjamin Stevenson, ACLU

### May

- 5 **Tuesday, 5:30 pm , Board Meeting**, Downtown Library, 239 N. Spring St. Members welcome!
- 11 **Saturday**, Plan to attend the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Registration 9:30 am, Business Meeting 10 a.m Luncheon 12 pm. Luncheon Speaker: *Ben Wilcox, Integrity Florida*. We will review and vote to approve the proposed budget, slate, bylaws and local League program plan for 2019-2020, followed by a luncheon. Make your reservations now. Registration form page 6.
- 20 **Monday, Noon, Natural Resources Committee**, Downtown Library, 239 N. Spring Street, Speaker: Dave Robau will discuss the Midtown Commerce Park Redevelopment. For information, contact Enid Sisskin, [esisskin@gmail.com](mailto:esisskin@gmail.com).

# 69th Annual Meeting

## Saturday, May 11, 2019

Pensacola Yacht Club, 1897 Cypress St.

Registration 9:30 am ♦ Business Meeting 10 a.m Luncheon 12 pm

### Luncheon Speaker: Ben Wilcox

The menu: Spinach Salad with Sliced Strawberries, Carrots and Pecan served with a White Balsamic and Shallot Vinaigrette Dressing

Chicken Picatta served with a Lemon Cream and Capers with Vegetable Medley and Spinach Orzo

Lemon Crème Cake \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian or Gluten-free selection upon request

Luncheon	# ___ @	\$32 _____
Individual dues		\$60 _____
Additional member/s		\$30 _____
Contribution for Advocacy	\$	_____

My separate tax deductible contribution to the Education Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Tax deductible contributions require a separate check written to LWVF Ed Fund and sent to the our Treasurer.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

For your convenience, make reservations by **noon May 8**, a link on [www.lwvpba.org](http://www.lwvpba.org), or send your **check to LWVPBA Treasurer, P.O. Box 2023, Pensacola, FL 32513**. *Your check is your reservation.* Cancellations after noon May 8th are non-refundable. For further information about reservations, call Melinda Beckett, 438-3898 or [lwvpba@gmail.com](mailto:lwvpba@gmail.com)

I am interested in the following areas (Circle all interests)

Education	Natural Resources	Juvenile Justice	Speaker's Bureau
Voter Service	Growth Management	Website	Observer Corps
Membership	Legislative Action	Hospitality	Naturalization
Newsletter	Voter Registration	Publicity	Social Media
Women's Issues	Gun Safety	Communications	Health Care



LWV of the Pensacola Bay Area  
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