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## YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

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Haley Richards and  
Ellen Roston, *Co Presidents*  
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Vivian Faircloth, *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.*  
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Ray Hudkins - *Open Primaries Study*  
Elizabeth King - *Money in Politics*  
Carolyn Kolb - *Natural Resources*  
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Courtney Winstead - *Program Planning*  
Cathy Scott, *Membership*  
Paula Montgomery, *Education*

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Gene Feicht, *International Relations Naturalizations*  
Janet deLorge - *Constitutional Amendment Study*

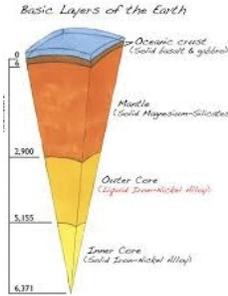
### Nominating Committee

Betty Vickers, *Chair*  
Ann Davis  
Carolyn Kolb  
Cathy Scott  
Rosemary Hays Thomas

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

[www.TheFloridaVoter.org](http://www.TheFloridaVoter.org)  
LWVF facebook page

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)  
LWVUS Facebook page



## White-Paper & Panel on Deep-Well Injection Saturday, October 17, 2015

**Panel:** Dr. Enid Sisskin, UWF professor  
Linda Young, Director of Florida Clean Water Network  
Mary Gutierrez, Executive Director of Earth Ethics Inc.  
Tryon Library, 1200 Langley Ave. – Program 10:30 am

A white-paper, produced by the Natural Resources Committee, and a panel discussion on the subject of Deep-Well Injection will be featured at the October meeting of League of Women Voters Pensacola Bay Area. Panelists will be Dr. Enid Sisskin, UWF professor of public health, clinical and health sciences; Linda Young, director of the Florida Clean Water Network, and Mary Gutierrez, executive director of Earth Ethics Inc. and co-chair of the LWV Natural Resources Committee.

## “Let the Sun Shine In” - Discussing the Solar Ballot Initiative

### Wednesday, October 14, 2015



**Panelist:** Dan Gardner, co-founder of  
Compass Solar Energy  
Alvin Peters, the LWV solar initiative  
director

**Sign in at 5:15; program  
starting at 5:30 pm**

Downtown Library, Meeting Room B 239 N. Spring Street

*Giving Floridians a Voice and a Choice on Energy in the Sunshine State*

A Florida constitutional amendment has been proposed that would allow more Florida homes and businesses to generate electricity by harnessing solar power. This meeting's principal speakers will be Dan Gardner, co-founder of Compass Solar Energy, and Alvin Peters, the League of Women Voters' solar initiative director. The discussion will include the history of solar energy, the proposed state amendment, the pros and cons being advanced, and how citizens can become involved.

Ballots and buttons will be distributed for those wanting to collect signatures.

For more information, contact Mary Gutierrez at 850-549-7472 or [mary.earthethics@cox.net](mailto:mary.earthethics@cox.net). The meeting is free and open to the public.

**Follow - Up** *School to Prison Pipeline II - Should Our Youth Spend a Lifetime Behind Bars?*

**October 26, 5:30 pm** at Franco's Italian Restaurant - \$15

RSVP to Paula Montgomery 438-8891 or [montpns@aol.com](mailto:montpns@aol.com)

This section of the Pipeline will cover the actions of the legal and court system as well as the impact of incarceration on the youthful offenders, their families and their community. ( See Calendar page 4.)



Haley Richards

## Co Presidents' Message

Many thanks to **Patty Hightower** for the excellent presentation about the Escambia County school budget at our September monthly meeting.



Ellen Roston

Our participation in two national studies and one state study continues rapidly. Ray Hudkins heads up our State study on the Open Primary, Elizabeth King on the National study on Money in Politics and Janet deLorge on the National study on Amending the US Constitution. It is very unusual for us to be participating

in three studies simultaneously and we thank the heads of those committees. Please contact us if you are interested in participating - it is a great way to learn about how the League operates and to meet your fellow members.

For the National study on Amending the US Constitution, please read the *September Voter* and respond to the five issues on evaluating the amendment proposals. Send your responses to **Janet deLorge** (jgde1@aol.com) by November. Part II of this study will be sent to you shortly in a separate mailing and we will be discussing this part and trying to reach consensus at our November meeting.

The Money In Politics study materials will also be sent to you in a separate mailing.

Haley will be hosting a membership social with a Social Media theme for members who want to explore the use of Facebook. Mark your calendars - October 25 from 2 to 4 pm. Reservations will be required as only so many people can fit in Haley's house. Please call 453- 0730 or email ekroston@aol.com to make a reservation. Look for your invitation via Mail Chimp shortly.

*Haley Richards and Ellen Roston,*  
Co Presidents

Our Condolences to the family of League member, Marcia Boney on her recent death.

### Welcome New Members ! Pamela Bousquet & Cristina Scott

Members' contact information is contained in the Membership Roster only. If you have not received the latest one from August 25<sup>th</sup>, contact Cathy Scott at basketbabe at mchsi.com.

Have you checked out our Facebook page lately?  
See it [here!](#)

## Voter Service Committee in Action

Charlyle Parrish, Chair, 932-0854



Leaguer Vivian Faircloth assists Escambia County Supervisor of Election staff to register students at UWF.

This year the Voter Services Committee was able to join both the Santa Rosa and Escambia County's Supervisor of Elections' office in two events, *Constitution Day* at PSC (all four campuses) and *National Voter Registration Day* at UWF. I want to thank Sammy Carroll, Janet deLorge, Vivian Faircloth, Paula Montgomery and Cathy Scott for representing the League at these events. Approximately 75 forms were processed. Of those, 27 were personally done by our League members. That's a wonderful accomplishment. Though many were updating their voter records, a significant number were new registrations, including a 17 year old who was registering. David Stafford stopped by the main campus of Pensacola State College site.

Vivian Faircloth, our League sleuth, keeps us all on our toes by finding pertinent articles in various state newspapers. Recently she brought to our attention an article in the Tampa Bay Times, July 28, 2015 edition relative to voter registration.

"Secretary of State Ken Detzner' s office is telling Florida's 67 election supervisors that updated hardware on the state voter database is "ready to go live." An alert from Division of Elections Director Maria Matthews went out Monday evening after details emerged of a critical state audit of the agency's management of the Florida Voter Registration System (FVRS). In addition, county election supervisors, who have repeatedly criticized Detzner for a lack of communication, called the audit findings "troubling.""

So that we can head into the 2016 election year well prepared and ready to conduct voter registration events and make public presentation, *I urge you to join the Voter Services Committee at our October 19, 2015 meeting, 1:30 - 3:00 pm at the Downtown Library on Spring Street. Staff*

from the offices of the Supervisor of Election offices in Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties will be updating us on the new laws, state of the State's voter registration procedures, registration changes etc. This will be an exciting year. ◇

## Funding Education with Patty Hightower

Andrea Walker, 723-2112

Escambia County School Board District 4 Representative Patty Hightower spoke on "Funding Education" September 19th at the Tryon Branch Library. Ms. Hightower said she was speaking for herself and was not representing the school board.

*Article IX Section 1 of the Florida Constitution states:*

*(a) The education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida. It is, therefore, a paramount duty of the state to make adequate provision for the education of all children residing within its borders. Adequate provision shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high quality education and for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of institutions of higher learning and other public education programs that the needs of the people may require. [http://ballotpedia.org/Florida\\_Constitution](http://ballotpedia.org/Florida_Constitution)*

Escambia County has 40,000 plus students. The Florida Education Finance Program equation combines sales tax and state funds but has lots of loopholes and tax breaks which hurt funding. Education funding is a combination of federal, state and local funds. The equation can be found at <http://fsba.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/2014-15-FEFP-101.pdf>.

A few specifics about this equation are as follows: **1)** The basic student allotment is \$4,154. **2)** Money allotted for safe schools is spent on resource officers in the high schools. **3)** Extra remediation comes from Supplemental Academic Instruction. **4)** \$1.8 million is allotted for reading with a Department of Juvenile Justice supplement. **5)** Digital classrooms are requiring the Chromebook. Fifty percent of instructional materials must be digital. Four schools are piloting the Chromebooks. **6)** \$9.9 million covers 60 percent of transportation costs. In Escambia County lack of sidewalks makes it unsafe for walkers.

"State funds are mostly from sales tax. The money collected locally is sent to the state for distribution to provide equality in the funding in the state. Florida is a model for equity." The budget starts July 1 but is approved in September <http://www1.escambia.k12.fl.us/Board>. If the numbers decline in the Full Time Equivalency count, then the schools do not get the money.

The State tells the school board what the millage rate will be. The district millage levies have decreased each

year from 9.2 in 2000 to 7.1. Despite statements to the contrary, we are not given more each year than the year before. Strings are attached whenever more is given. Ten million goes to teachers.

Senator Gaetz obtained extra funding for counties with large military areas that do not have as much money available from property taxes.

By function, most of the general fund goes to instructional education. Federal grants go to the state then are doled out. The General Fund for Escambia County has \$608,377,470. The operating fund is \$354,258,044. Hightower believes more money needs to be spent on teachers and leaders. "It's all about the people," she said. "If we want to attract good people, we have to pay them." We have fully staffed schools.

"Lottery dollars are used to enhance. They are not used for every day expenditures. This money is used to reward schools that improve their scores, Bright Futures scholarships, voluntary Pre-K and higher education." Funding levels are determined by the Florida Legislature and Florida Department of Education (<http://www.flalottery.com>).

Right now Escambia County has created a financially sound district with a healthy surplus and a good bond rating. "Health care kept us from getting the surplus. We are able to build schools because of the generosity of the citizens who voted to continue the 1/2 cent sales tax. Bond money for a new middle school in Beulah and an elementary school near Ransom amounts to \$20 million for each. Charter schools receive \$150,000. Charter schools are public and receive the same funding. Our district has done an excellent job of saving for a rainy day.

"Education funding is always a hot topic because they're trying to find a different way. Teachers in Florida are our own worst enemy. We continue to improve despite receiving no more money." We know that educators are valued more in other countries.

Hightower recommends two books: Amanda Ripley's *The Smartest Kids in the World* and Jamie Vollmer's *Schools Cannot Do It Alone*.

Q and A:

- The Florida ranking of per pupil expenditure is in the 30 percentile.
- The Board helps with Charter School supervision, but we are not their board," and they do a quarterly report.
- Schools have a part time IT specialist, and she recommends our grandchildren go into IT.
- Our property taxes are sent to the state then redistributed to the 67 counties.
- Zero tolerance for weapons and drugs is legislated. Escambia County does not expel students but sends disciplinary assignments to alternative schools.
- She says we're doing better, and in Florida, Broward County is a good model. ◇

**Editor's Note:** Material for the two national studies, the Constitutional Amendment Study and the Money in Politics Study, will be sent in a separate mailing. The material which had been included in the September Voter will be included for your convenience. Expect this in approximately two weeks. If you do not see it in your inbox, check your junk mail folder. It will also be found on the [LWVPBA website](#) home page and under publications. VJFaircloth

## Calendar

### October

6 Tuesday, 5:30 pm **Board Meeting** at the Downtown Library on Spring Street in the Conference Room. Members are always welcome.

14 Wednesday, 5:15 sign-in Program 5:30 pm. Downtown Library, Meeting Room B, 239 N Spring Street, **“Let the Sun Shine In” - Discussing the Solar Ballot Initiative.** **Panel:** Dan Gardner and Alvin Peters. ( See page 1). Contact Mary Gutierrez, 549-7472.

17 Saturday, 10:30 am program. **General League Meeting,** New Tryon Branch Library, 1200 Langley Ave. Panelist: Dr. Enid Sisskin, Linda Young and Mary Gutierrez. Topic: **White-Paper and Deep-Well Injection discussion.**

19 Monday, 1:30 -3:00 pm, **Voter Service Committee** Downtown Library Spring Street, *Santa Rosa & Escambia Counties Supervisors of Elections.* Updates in voter registration and initial plans for 2016 activities. Contact Charlyle Parrish, 932-0854

20 Tuesday, 10:00 am Azalea Trace, **International Relations,** Great Decisions discussion on *The U.S. and Africa*, led by

Henry Trimble. For further information contact Gene Feicht at 479-3352

20 Tuesday, 3:00 pm **Money in Politics Study Committee,** Azalea Trace in Terrace One, For information, contact Elizabeth King, chairperson, at 920-246-0904 or kinge3324@gmail.com.

25 Sunday, 2-4 pm, **Social Media Social** at Haley Richards’s, 1301 E. Desota Street, Pensacola. RSVP with Ellen Roston, 453-0730 or [ekroston@aol.com](mailto:ekroston@aol.com). Seating is limited. Connect with other Leaguers and learn how to connect with social media.

26 Monday, 5:30 pm, **School to Prison Pipeline II, Should Our Youth Spend a Lifetime behind Bars? A public forum and panel discussion** at Franco’s Italian Restaurant, 523 East Government Street, This section of the Pipeline will cover the actions of the legal and court systems as well as the impact of incarceration on the youthful offenders, their families and their community. Dinner is available for \$15 payable at the restaurant. RSVP to Paula Montgomery 850-438-8891. Sponsored by LWV, Coffee Party, ACLU and Escambia Youth Justice Coalition.

27 Tuesday, 5:30 pm, **Natural Resources Committee,** Main Library downtown. Contact Mary Gutierrez, 549-7472.

## Join the League of Women Voters Today!

It's easy! Just send your check to:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ♦ P.O. Box 2023, Pensacola, FL 32513

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_ New Mbr? Yes/No  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Other ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Add Family Member(s): \_\_\_\_\_

DUES: \$55.00 Additional Mbrs @ \$27.50 Contribution \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_  
 I am interested in the following areas (Circle all interests)  
 Dues are \$27.50 for a student enrolled in a certificate or degree program.  
 Education Natural Resources Social Policy Speaker's Bureau  
 Voter Service I'm renewing my membership Growth Management Website Observer Corps  
 Membership Legislative Action Hospitality Naturalization  
 Newsletter Voter Registration Publicity Social Media

Membership dues and gifts to the League of Women Voters are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes. (Tax deductible contributions require a separate check written to the LWV Florida Education Fund and should be sent to our local treasurer.)



League of Women Voters  
of the Pensacola Bay Area  
PO. Box 2023  
Pensacola, FL 32513