



***Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.***

**April 2022**

**Volume 16 Issue 1**



## **Co-President Char Griffin**

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

That pretty much sums up what the League of Women Voters does. It's a big job. It's an important job. It's one I'm passionate about pursuing, and I hope you are too.

Our fiscal year starts in April and runs through March 2023. During these 12 months we will be

- registering voters in under-served communities
- encouraging all local candidates to respond to questions for our online voter guide (Vote411) so voters can make an informed choice
- running candidate forums and/or candidate meet-and-greets
- educating voters about amendments through our Speaker's Bureau
- keeping voter apprised of deadlines, locations, and voting procedures through our website.
- teaching voters the ins-and-outs of **Vote by Mail** laws so their ballots aren't rejected

We are playing an important role in our community. Be proud!

You are a member of an organization that is making a difference. Feel empowered!

Democracy is not a spectator sport. Become involved!

Your participation will not only help us, but it is also the best way to feel a part of our League and get to know some great people.

I'm looking forward to working with you this year!

Yours in the League

## CO-PRESIDENT MARY KAY ROSINSKI

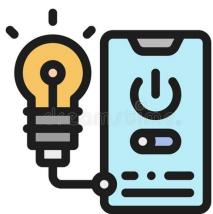
We have had some outstanding speakers at our general membership meetings. And Rod Broker at our annual meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup> did not disappoint. He gave an interesting presentation about the history of the Pledge of Allegiance. The form of the pledge used today was largely devised by Francis Bellamy in 1892. It went like this: "I pledge allegiance to my flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Over the years it was revised to include "to the flag of the United States of America" and other additions. Originally, children saluted, then raised their arm toward the flag.



More great speakers to come! Hope to see you at our next meeting on April 25.

Mary Kay

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### April General Meeting Monday April 25 10 AM Manatee Recreation Center

Patrick Walsh with Covanta Energy will speak on "Trash to Electricity" Hope to see you there!

### Attention Villages Residents

The District will offer its next Resident Academy from 830 AM to 130 PM on April 20 at Eisenhower Regional Recreation Complex. Residents can learn about the functions and responsibilities of the Village Center Community Development District and other information to understand your local government and services. Register at [district.gov](http://district.gov) or at any regional recreation complex.



### Demographic Survey

The LWVFL has been working on Diversity,



Equality, and Inclusion (DEI). In an effort to track improvements, the LWVFL would like to establish a baseline of our current membership. They have created a demographic survey to capture this information. The survey, which takes only minutes to complete, can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

## Board Meeting Highlights

- We got a great deal on *Be a Voter* tee shirts LWVTRI members wear at our voter registration drives, so we are ordering a batch. Join the registration effort and we will give you one! Contact Carol VanNoy, [denny.carol@gmail.com](mailto:denny.carol@gmail.com) if you want to join the effort.
- The *Be a Voter* videos we used in 2020 are being updated with the dates associated with the 2022 elections.
- Our March 2022 event, *Uprooting Prejudice: Conversations for Change*, was so successful, Dorothy Stephen Duncan is chairing a committee for the fall of 2023. They will investigate what we can do as an encore. Interested in helping? Contact Dorothy at [Dorothy.j.stephens@gmail.com](mailto:Dorothy.j.stephens@gmail.com)



## Voter Services

### VOTER REGISTRATION:

Thanks to all of the members who have taken the time to read the State League Materials and take the State Quiz to be certified to register voters. We have had great success with the Lake Sumter State College drive and are still working on scheduling voter registration dates at Central Florida College, in Ocala.



We have an upcoming voter registration event, scheduled on Juneteenth, Saturday, June 18, 2022, from 9:30 to 4:30, in Ocala. In the next week, I will recruit volunteers for this event.

We are collecting pledge cards from all of the people we register, as well as from those already registered to vote who stop by our table. When we publish Vote411, in July for the Primary and in September for the General, we will call, text or email all of the people for whom we have pledge cards to tell them about Vote411, early voting, Vote by Mail and to urge them to vote.

**Co-Chair Needed:** We need a volunteer to manage the voter registration activity, while I manage the Candidate Information portion of Vote411. That member would recruit members, from those who have been State Certified,

to staff the Voter Registration Events that are suggested by the Youth Registration Project and the Community Events Coordinators; designate the shifts for each event; send the necessary instructions to members who will staff those shifts; and coordinate with Jeannie Hamilton the materials to be taken to each event; and collect and retain completed pledge cards. In July and September send email from League Gmail account or texts from the State Voices vehicle, to registered voters who completed pledge cards, announcing publication of Vote411 and encouraging them to vote.

### **VOTE411:**

Training: During April, I will recruit volunteers to collect candidate information for Vote411. We will hold training for Sumter and Lake County volunteers in early May.

**Develop Questions:** In May, we will begin working on questions to be asked candidates in Vote411. We will ask the volunteers who take the Vote411 Training to provide questions for us to ask the candidates. Our candidates will be County Commissioners, School Boards, City Councils, Mayors, Water and Soil Districts, and Villages Community Development District Supervisors. If you have suggested questions for any of these positions, please send them to me: [denny.carol@gmail.com](mailto:denny.carol@gmail.com).

**Technical Assistance:** We need someone to help with the technical end of Vote411, i.e., setting up the races, importing the Candidate Information Spreadsheets, helping candidates upload photos, etc.

To volunteer for any of the opportunities discussed above, please contact Carol Van Noy, [denny.carol@gmail.com](mailto:denny.carol@gmail.com) or 352-446-1660



### Welcome to our New Members

Dr. Billie Navojosky  
Dr. Jean Christopher  
Cynthia Snavely

### Speaker's Bureau

Please keep the Speaker's Bureau in mind when your other organizations are looking for a speaker. We are able to do either in person or Zoom presentations. Contact Jeannie Hamilton for more information.



### BOOK REVIEW ~ *Kathy Porter*

#### ***My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor**

As I watched the Senate confirmation hearings

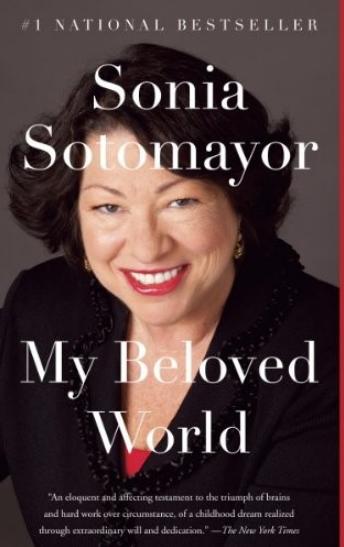
for Ketanji Brown Jackson, and was so very impressed by her comportment as she acquitted herself beautifully despite baseless attacks on her judicial record, the hearings brought to mind the fascinating autobiography of Justice Sonia Sotomayor. I knew that had to be my choice for this month column.

Justice Sotomayor writes in a candid, often humorous style, and gives us an intimate look at her life. Born in 1954, she is of Puerto Rican descent and grew up in the projects the South Bronx with an alcoholic father and her mother, a nurse. Diagnosed with juvenile diabetes at the age of seven, she began giving herself daily insulin injections.

Her relationship with her mother was often distant and became more strained after her father died when she was nine. The light in her life was her paternal grandmother who gave her “protection and purpose.” However, it is her mother’s love of education that nurtured Justice Sotomayor’s desire to excel.

The following quote epitomizes the essence of Justice Sotomayor. “There is indeed something deeply wrong with a person who lacks principles, who has no moral core. There are, likewise, certainly values that brook no compromise, and I would count among them integrity, fairness, and the avoidance of cruelty.”

*My Beloved World* details Justice Sotomayor’s exemplary life and career, and should be at the top of your reading list. The book reinforces the fact that we are so fortunate to have such an exceptional justice as Sonia Sotomayor on the U.S. Supreme Court.



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**MARK YOUR  
CALENDAR!**

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**April 25** - Patrick Walsh from Covanta Energy on *Trash to Electricity* (rescheduled from September)

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Many thanks to Karen West for her years of faithful service as Membership chair. Gail Formanack took over as the new membership chair on April 1st. You can expect to have an email reminder from her ([formanag@gmail.com](mailto:formanag@gmail.com)) prior to your anniversary date. Please pay your dues locally rather than joining

directly with LWVUS.

Effective April 1, 2022, members may now renew their membership online and pay with a credit card. The link to the membership renewal page is <https://www.lwvtrifl.org/renew.html> You may also navigate to this from the main top menu “Become a Member.” New members may register, current members may renew, and you can update your directory information if you have moved, have a new phone number, etc. Of course, you may still send a check through the mail to our treasurer, Bernadette Aley, 1106 Monterry Lane, The Villages, FL 32159. Please fill out the member interest survey when joining or renewing. We would like to get you involved in an area of League work that interests you.

Gail hopes to eventually access the [lwvtrimembers@gmail.com](mailto:lwvtrimembers@gmail.com) email, but currently there are technical issues so please use her regular email at [formanag@gmail.com](mailto:formanag@gmail.com).

**As of April 1, local dues have been increased by \$2.00 for individual (\$62) and household memberships (\$87).** The amount retained by our local organization will increase from \$13.50 to \$15.50 (individual) and \$15.00 to \$17.00 (household). The Susan B. Anthony membership level includes a \$40.00 additional donation retained in the general fund so will remain at the \$100.00 level. This increase will cover the fees incurred when paying by credit card.

If you have forgotten the password for members only for our website, or have any other membership questions, please [contact Gail Formanack](#).

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## **Editor Musings**

Please get all related articles to me by the **MONDAY AFTER THE GENERAL MEETING**. Please continue to use the [newsletter email](#)

Yours in the League,  
Beth

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