Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy

We continue this week to introduce you to the amazing, talented, and accomplished members of our board.

Meet Your Board (cont.)

Margaret Boeth

My favorite subject to teach 5th graders is American History and U.S. Presidents. I told my husband, “If we ever move to a capital city, it would be fun to work in the legislature to see how it really functions.” My wish was granted in 1985, when we moved to Tallahassee. I joined the League of Women Voters and then got a job during session to work as an assistant to a secretary of a Florida Legislative representative. What an eye-opener!!! After session I was hired to work in the Attorney General’s Office as a Program Administrator and Research Training Specialist in Crime Prevention where I remained over 28 years.

After retiring I became actively involved in the League as an LWVT board member and secretary and then as Voter Services Chair. I am passionate about securing our democracy through education and am appreciative and honored to serve as a League member.

Trish Neely

In 1968 I was a college freshman in Ohio. It was a presidential election year during very turbulent times. (Sound familiar?) The Vietnam War and the Civil Rights Movement were tearing at society’s core and divisiveness ran amok. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy were assassinated. Members of my high school graduating class were being drafted into war; many came home scarred; many
did not come home. Old enough to die, but not old enough to vote – that was our rallying cry. It was my first taste of what it feels like to be disenfranchised. Too many continue to be excluded for political reasons. In 1968 I became a lifelong advocate for voting rights, fairness, and inclusion for all.

I attended my first League meeting in the 70s – it resonated with me and I stayed. Although I have not always been an active member due to life events, the League has remained an important compass. I learned to march and protest on campus, but I learned the art of successful advocacy with the League – something I continue to practice in representing the League’s positions with our Legislators.

My family and I have called Tallahassee home since 1985. I raised a family, retired in 2017 from a successful career, and I have found much here to appreciate and love. We have a vibrant community because we are rich in diversity. As your Board Member and Membership Chair, I am committed to tap into that diversity and invite new voices, new ideas into our organization. Our transformation journey succeeds when our membership better reflects our community, and our priorities include input from all. I am very honored to serve.

Solar Energy

It is Time to Take Action to Save Solar Customer Rights!

An attack on solar rights for customers and the regulatory jurisdiction of state and local governments is taking place at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The New England Ratepayers Association (NERA), funded by fossil fuel interests, has filed a petition that asks the FERC to "declare that there is exclusive federal jurisdiction over wholesale energy sales from generation sources located on the customer side of the retail meter." In other words, NERA makes the case that any behind-the-meter, or customer-sited, energy generation is a wholesale sale, subject to FERC jurisdiction.

In effect that would stop states and local governments from having jurisdiction over net metering fair credit. In Florida that would limit the Public Service Commission and locally the City of Tallahassee and Talquin Electric Cooperative.

Currently, for solar generated in the city by customers at home and businesses or churches, the city provides the retail rate. If more solar energy is generated than used, the excess is banked on the electric meter. The petition would only allow a lower wholesale rate (what it costs the utility to produce electricity). The result is that customers would receive less money for solar energy they generated.

In Florida, Solar United Neighbors, in partnership with the Florida LWV, has helped start 50+ co-ops around the state, resulting in $36 Million+ of solar on Florida rooftops. One of those in 2018 was in Leon County, a LWVT collaboration with many partners.
Solar United Neighbors, Vote Solar and the Energy and Policy Institute are urging you to take action by writing a letter to urge FERC to deny the Petition. See [www.SaveSolar.org](http://www.SaveSolar.org) for that action and other advocacy you can do while you are “Safer at Home.” Comments are due by June 15.

*Steve Urse, Climate Change and Sustainability Committee*


P.P.S. If you would like the webinar that explains this in more detail, contact me at surse2@comcast.net

### New Members

Regina Sheridan  
Kelly Otte  
Izik Akyollu-Denizman and Can Denizman  
Lynne Corbett

### SBA Members

Thanks to all who have renewed, and a special thank-you to those (listed below) who recently joined or renewed at the SBA level:

Gaynell Waldo  
Martha Onate  
Lynne Corbett  
Pat Curtis  
Natholyn Harris  
Carol Brittain

### What's Happening this Week

N.B.: Even if not so noted, many of these may be virtual meetings. Always check.

8 Monday 12:00 p.m. [Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (CSWG)](https://www.utilitydive.com/news/secretive-groups-petition-to-ferc-could-end-net-metering-as-we-know-it/576400/)
Organization and Bylaws Meeting. Virtual Meeting.

15 Monday. 12:00 p.m. Tallahassee Downtown Improvement Authority Meeting. City Hall, Florida Room. 300 S. Adams Street.

15 Monday. 1:30 p.m. Capital Region Transportation Planning Agency (CRTPA). City Hall, 300 S. Adams Street.

16 Tuesday. 3:00 p.m. Board of County Commissioners Virtual Public Hearing.

16 Tuesday. 3:00 p.m. Board of County Commissioners Regular Meeting. Virtual Meeting.

16 Tuesday. 5:30 p.m. Transit Advisory Committee Meeting. Gemini Building, 408 North Adams Street.

16 Tuesday. 6:00 p.m. Leon County School Board Business Meeting. Virtual Meeting.

16 Tuesday. 6:30 p.m. Code Board Public Hearing. Renaissance Center. 435 North Macomb Street.

Learn More at the links below to our Website and Social Media:

Or Contact Us at lwvtallahassee@gmail.com
850-309-3005

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