



The Voter



The League of Women Voters
of the Space Coast
www.lwv-spacecoast.org

Volume 34: No. 4

December, 2014

Mission: The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



Holiday Luncheon
Saturday, December 6, 2014

Where: The Tides at Patrick Air Force Base
Address: Located on Highway A1A between Satellite Beach and Cocoa Beach
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Menu: Salad: Hearts of Romaine Caesar
Entrées: Tenderloin with Mushrooms
Asparagus Sauté
Cheddar Chive Mashed Potatoes
or
Lemon & Artichoke Chicken
Montreal Grilled Vegetables
Oven Browned Potatoes
or
Vegetarian on Request
Dessert: New York style Cheesecake
Cost: \$22.00

Reservations to Doreen Archer at 622-4071 NO LATER than 5 p.m. on Sunday, November 30.


At this holiday time we want to join with other organizations in the community to aid victims of human trafficking and sexual assaults in our community. Please read article on Page 3. We welcome your donations of items or gift cards (i.e. Wall-Mart, Drug stores, etc.)

Please bring items to our Holiday Meeting or contact Maria Mogollon-Seemer if you are unable to attend the luncheon but would like to donate to this worthy cause.

In This Issue

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| President's Report | 2 |
| Children's Committee | 3 |
| Health Committee | 3 |
| Voter Service | 4 |
| Name Badges | 4 |
| Board Bytes | 4 |
| Natural Resources | 5 |
| Florida's Land & Water Legacy | 5 |
| International Relations | 6 |
| New Member | 6 |
| League Photos | 7 |
| Calendar | 7 |

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 **Pianist wanted for January 30th Politicos on Parade**
Please call Doreen Archer at 622-4071 if you would volunteer or know someone who could play during the Fashion Show

Underwriters are needed for The Voter. Please call Doreen Archer at 321-622-4071 for more information.



President's Corner

Marilynn Collins & Priscilla Griffith

Dear Leaguers,

This is the last Voter Newsletter of the Year and what a year it has been. The General Election has dominated our activities for the past few months with numerous candidate forums, Amendment Presentations and specifically the passage of Amendment 1. "WE DID IT!" rings loud and clear with the passage of the Water and Land Conservation Amendment as 4.2 million Florida Voters cast a YES vote. With a mandatory 60% of the votes for passage, the citizens spoke loud and clear with 75% voting yes on 1. Amendment 1 is a mandate to our legislators to make our environment a top priority in the 2015 Legislative Session. I want to thank all the volunteers who participated in the last weeks of the campaign by making phone calls in support of Amendment 1 and placing signs at early voting and polling locations.

For those of you who were not able to attend our successful "No Labels" Timely Topics in November, we were honored with the 2014 Project of the Year Award by the Marine Resources Council for our initiative on Amendment 1. Co-President Priscilla Griffith accepted the award which was presented by Marine Resources Council Board Member Maureen Rupe, who also serves as our Natural Resources Consultant. We thank the Marine Resources Council for this recognition and the lovely framed photograph by Arnold Dubin of two roseate spoonbills.

Lucia Watson and I participated in the first phone conference with our Coach Sandra Sheets with the MLD (Membership, Leadership, Development) Program which was initiated at the national level. We discussed our goals of increasing our membership level along with attracting younger people, offering training opportunities such as forum moderating and public speaking and having social meetings around the county. We will be meeting quarterly by phone conference with Sandra.

The State League office has requested all local leagues to submit their top three legislative priorities for the 2015 Legislative session. A description of the six main categories can be found at the State League's website. Go to www.thefloridavoter.org, click on Resources, then click on Program. Our League has chosen: 1. Social Policy in Florida 2. Natural Resources in Florida 3. Education in Florida. Top issues for all Florida Leagues will include advocating for Medicare Expansion and Restoration of Voting Rights.

The State League's Biennial Convention is scheduled for May 15-16, 2015 in Delray Beach. This is a weekend-long statewide conference for all Florida

League members during which important organizational decisions are discussed. Delegates representing their local Leagues vote on important League business, including budgets, by-laws, state Board elections, and policy priorities. The venue is the Hyatt Place Delray Beach, 104 NE 2nd Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33444. The phone number is 561-330-3530. The Convention fee is \$150; rooms range from \$149-\$159 per night. We encourage our members to attend. The League has funds to cover fees for two attendees. If you are interested, please contact me. Our fantastic LWVF President, Deirdre Macnab's term will be coming to an end, so we will have an opportunity to thank her in person for her years of service.

On a sad note, I have to report that longtime Board Member Connie Hogerty has resigned from the Board. Connie was our Second Vice President and had for many years served as Membership Chairperson. We thank her for her years of service and wish her a complete recovery from her recent back surgery.

Our December calendar includes our board meeting on December 2nd at 5:30 PM at the Suntree/Viera Library. Remember board meetings are open to all members, please join us and bring your ideas. Our Holiday Party, featured on the cover page, will be held at the Tides Restaurant on December 6th. I hope you can all attend. We will be collecting items to help victims of human trafficking; details are in the Children's Committee article on page 3. Please add our biennial fundraiser, "Politicos on Parade" to your calendar. This popular luncheon fashion show will be held at the Indian River Colony Club's Colony Hall on Friday, January 30, 2015 at 11:30 AM. Palm Bay Mayor William Capote has agreed to be our emcee. Ladies fashions will be from Frankly, My Dear in Cocoa Village and men's fashions will be courtesy of Men's Wearhouse of Palm Bay. Newly elected officials will be our models and will be announced in the January Voter.

Wishing you all a Happy Holiday Season and looking forward to a productive 2015 for our League.

In League,

Marilynn

The League of Women Voters of the Space Coast will promote in all aspects of the League's activities, a philosophy of inclusion that reflects the diverse composition and issues of the community.



Children's Committee
Maria Mogollon-Seemer – Chair
HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING REQUEST

Traditionally we collect items for the homeless children of Brevard County at our annual and holiday meetings. This year we would like to collect for the victims of human trafficking and sexual assault victims in our community.

As you know, the East Coast Human Trafficking Task Force is working to provide backpacks filled with essential items to these victims. The backpacks would be provided to local law enforcement officers, as well as the Sexual Assault Victims Services program, so that each victim would have the essential items needed during their time of crisis.

We will be collecting your donations at our holiday meeting. You can also provide cash contributions, or gift cards (i.e. Wal-Mart, drug stores, etc.).

If you are unable to attend the meeting or prefer sending these, please mail to Maria Mogollon-Seemer or contact her for pick up.

Items Needed:

- **Canvas or Nylon Backpacks**
- **T-shirts (sizes small – 3x)**
- **Sweat/Yoga pants/Shorts (sizes small – 3x)**
- **Flip Flops**
- **Tampons/Pads - Assorted**
- **Underwear/Sports bras (Assorted sizes)**
- **Body Sponges**
- **Shaving Razors**
- **Wash cloths/Hand towels**
- **Brushes/combs**
- **Toothbrushes/Toothpaste**
- **Pocket Size Tissues**
- **Hair Bands**
- **Socks**
- **Bars of soap**
- **Deodorant**
- **Shower Gel**
- **Shampoo 13 oz. or travel size**
- **Conditioner 13 oz. or travel size**
- **Body Lotion**

The Social Policy/Children's Committee wishes you all a happy holiday season and we thank you for your continued support!



Health Committee
Jo Shim & Connie Dobrin Co-Chairs

Health Care Committee – Dates to Keep on Your Calendar



1 December - World AIDS Day

World AIDS day is a global initiative that has been observed on 1 December every year since its inception in 1988. It was developed as a way to raise awareness, fight stigma and improve HIV and AIDS education. Even though there are now many effective drug regimens for treating HIV, it is concerning that there are approximately 50,000 new cases of HIV infection in the US each year. Globally about 34 million people are living with HIV and many still do not have access to treatment. Efforts to develop an effective vaccine for the HIV virus continue with many new studies planned to start in 2015.

The theme for World AIDS Day 2014 is “Focus, Partner, Achieve: An AIDS-free Generation.” Highlighting the fact that so much progress has been made been made in research, treatment and diagnostics that the vision of a world free of HIV is a realistic goal.

The [red ribbon](#) is the global symbol for solidarity with HIV-positive people and those living with AIDS. Consider wearing a red ribbon on World AIDS Day to show your support. If you are interested in taking part in World AIDS Day activities in Brevard please contact the Health care committee for more information.

15 November - Affordable Care Act Year Two

The next Open Enrollment period for the Health Insurance marketplace runs from 15, November 2014 – 15, February 2015 for coverage that begins as early as January 1, 2015. For more information access the ACA web site at HealthCare.gov.

If you have questions or would like to join the Health Care Committee please contact Jo Shim shimjo2001@yahoo.com or Connie Dobrin mike-connie@oleanderpointe.com



Voter Service

Tony Dutton – Chair

Why Your Vote May Not Have Counted

The Brevard County Canvassing Board, consisting of our county Supervisor of Elections, a County Court Judge and the County Commission Chair, met on the Friday after the November 4th general election to review the more than 1,000 “provisional ballots” that had been voted during the election. To refresh our recollections, any voter claiming to be properly registered in Florida and eligible to vote, but whose eligibility cannot be determined by the election clerks, may vote a provisional ballot (for example, someone whose name has been changed or who forgot to bring her identification to the polling place).

The Canvassing Board reviewed all those ballots, sometimes by category and sometimes on a case-by-case basis. A look at some of the common problems that voters encountered at the polls, may help us and our families and friends avoid them in future elections. For example:

Ⓡ By statute voter registration books are closed on the 29th day before each election. More than 40 voters had registered to vote within the 29 days before the November 4th election. Their registrations are valid, but only for future elections. Their votes were not counted.

Ⓡ A few individuals had registered in time, but, in doing so, had left blank at least one required information space on the Voter Registration Application (The S.O. E.'s office asserts that they each had been so notified before the election.). Their votes were not counted.

Ⓡ Other voters had not voted for more than four years. Their registrations had “expired”, and their names removed from the voter rolls. Their votes were not counted.

Ⓡ In a number of cases, the clerks could find no evidence that the voters had ever registered to vote in Florida. They were, like all persons coming to the polls, permitted to submit a provisional ballot, but, of course, their votes were not counted.

Ⓡ Almost 50 voters cast their ballots on November 4th in precincts other than the ones in which they were registered and chose not to go to their home polling places (Note: During early voting voters may vote at any voting site in the County.). Their votes were not counted.

Ⓡ Inexplicably, some voters submitted mail-in/absentee ballots before election day and then appeared at the polls to vote again. Their votes were not counted.

Ⓡ The good news; a substantial number of voters neglected to bring their identification to the polling

place. However, because their names were registered in the precincts in which they had appeared to vote, and their signatures matched the registration files, the Canvassing Board permitted their votes to be counted.

Proper voter registration being the key to making our votes count, making sure that we are registered to vote at our current residences and with our current names is very important. Perhaps we can all learn a lesson from those who misunderstood or forgot to take care of the details.

Tony Dutton, Voter Service Chair
November 10, 2014



Personal LWV of Space Coast Name Badges – \$12.00

Lucia Watson is coordinating the order for name badges for League members who would like a name badge. Please call Lucia at 321-779-6758 or send an e-mail.



Board Bytes

- 130 members
- Discussion of how to attract new members
- Jo Shim attended an ACA training in Tampa on November 1st. This event was sponsored by Florida Chain.
- League members have been invited to attend the World AIDS day Pot Luck supper and program at Project Response office in Melbourne on December 1st.
- Audrey Grayson, new Speaker's Bureau Chair will be developing a PowerPoint presentation.
- Politicos on Parade will be at Indian River Colony Club on Friday, January 30. Save the Date! Details will be in January, 2015 Voter.
- State 2015 Convention will be May 15 to May 17, 2015 in Delray Beach, FL
- Members will be participating in 4th Annual 3Rs and Beyond Family Festival on November 15. Flyers will be distributed: **Did you know that you have a right to plant a Florida-friendly landscape! See Florida Statute 373.185 and you have the right under Florida law to use energy saving renewable resources! See Florida Statute 163.04.** No deed restriction covenant or similar binding agreement may prohibit your use of solar collectors, clotheslines or other energy saving devices according to Florida law. Nor can such covenants restrict your right to landscape design that results in water conservation



Natural Resources

Susan Little – Chair

Port Canaveral News

by Maureen Rupe Natural Resources Consultant

The Port Canaveral Authority was turned down from any of the \$584 Million Tiger Grants funds for use of the various port projects. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) awarded Highway projects 47% of the available dollars; transit got 27%, maritime 13% and rail 11.5% throughout 47 states and Washington D.C. Florida received \$20 Million for the Tamiami Trail/ Everglades Restoration project.

On October 28th, I attended a Port Authority meeting, hoping for any updates on the Port St. John Barge Plans. John Walsh said nothing about Port St. John and concluded his report when Port Board Member Jerry Allender asked about the Port St John barge plans. Walsh said “we have backed off the Port St John plan due to Sunrise Landings’ objections. We are now looking farther north.

One project in Port Canaveral’s expansion plans is to run 11-miles of railroad from the north side of the Port across the Banana River and up Merritt Island to connect to the Kennedy Space Center’s railway system. Rail cars would take cargo through Kennedy Space Center eventually connecting with the North/South Railway either on the north of Kennedy Space Center in the Mims area, or on an alternative crossing the Indian River parallel to S.R. 405.

There are two public scoping meetings in November, both too late to notify League Membership through the Voter. One on November 18 at the Eastern Florida State College Titusville Campus Gymnasium and the second on Nov. 19 at the Radisson Resort at the Port Convention Center in Cape Canaveral. Each meeting’s agenda is for a one-hour presentation followed by 3 hours for public comment.

The League of Women Voters of the Space Coast is closely monitoring this 11-mile KSC/Indian River Rail project as it has potential to result in significant environmental impacts. Environmental impacts are not only due to filling in wetlands and submerged land for the proposed rail connection prior to trestle and bridge sections going west to Merritt Island. Impacts also include future plans for a partial or full relocation beyond SR 401 and on the north side of the Port’s current submerged land region on land currently controlled by NASA. If eventually approved, it could mean filling in as much as 100 acres of the Banana River north of the current Port Canaveral.

Note: Tiger Grants were part of the Consolidated Appropriates Act 2014 which was signed in January of this year. The Bill funds much of the Federal 2014 activities, including \$600 Million for National

Infrastructure investments referred to by DOT as Tiger Discretionary Grants.

Reference:

<http://www.dot.gov/tiger>

<http://www.portcanaveralraileis.com/index.html>

**VOTE
YES ON 1** 75 % Voted Yes on
Amendment 1

Florida’s Land and Water Legacy Press Release of November 7, 2014

“The intent of the Water and Land Conservation Amendment, as ratified by the voters, is to restore spending for a highly successful group of long -standing programs authorized in Florida statutes. The amendment was drafted so that no implementing legislation is required; the Legislature could simply appropriate funds to existing water and land conservation programs.

Amendment 1 will absorb state spending currently authorized under state law for existing debt service for Preservation 2000, Florida Forever, Save our Everglades, and Save our Coasts Bonds.

Amendment 1 will enhance state spending currently authorized through trust funds and other programs approved under state law for:

- Land Acquisition through the Florida Forever
- Conservation Easements through the Rural and Family Lands program
- Everglades Restoration
- Land acquisition for Everglades Restoration and Northern Everglades, and Estuaries
- Water Resource Protection and Restoration (Surface Water Improvement and Management)
- Access and management of state- owned lands and water management lands
- Greenways and Trails
- Florida Communities Trust
- Historic Preservation
- Florida Recreation and Development Assistance Program

Spending on water and land conservation will help Florida’s economy by protecting water resources, providing access to public lands, and keeping working lands, farms, and forests as part of Florida’s rural landscapes.

(continued on Page 7)



International Relations

Joyce Calese

Our December meeting will not be at the Satellite Beach library this month. We are going to visit the Foosaner Art Museum in Melbourne. The date is **Thursday, December 11th** and we will meet at **10:30 a.m.** at the museum. The Foosaner Art Museum is located at 1463 Highland Avenue in the Eau Gallie section of Melbourne. Those who are interested in having lunch after the tour of the museum, we will dine at a restaurant in the Eau Gallie section. The exhibits that we will be seeing on that day are: **Luminous Landscapes: Paintings by Larry Leach and Carol Brown Goldberg: Recent Sculpture.** Please call Ruth Almeida at 242-0448 to say you are coming. We welcome all to join us for an interesting tour and also a time to socialize.

The League of Women Voters is involved in many worthwhile projects but less known to many are the League's positions on International Relations. "The goal of League of Women Voters and International Relations is to promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations."

The League was formed in 1920 approximately six months before the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution gave women the right to vote. Believing that international cooperation was necessary, the League would have favored the United States joining The League of Nations. Carrie Chapman Catt, League founder was also President of the International Alliance of Women, an organization that still exists today.. She was president of this organization from 1902 to 1923.

After world War II ended, the League of Women Voters launched a nationwide campaign to build public understanding of the agreements setting up the United Nations and was proud to be one of the nongovernmental organizations first affiliated with the United Nations. This relationship still exists today.

The League supported aid to developing countries in the 1950's and in the 1960's it was influential in educating citizens which lead to normalizations of U.S. relations with the People's Republic of China. In the 1970's the League worked for making multilateral process for building a new structure for international trade. In the 1980's the League formed positions on Arms Control and on Military Policy and Defense Spending. The League supported international negotiations and agreements to reduce the risk of war and prevent the development and deployment of nuclear weapons and worked against the costly, technologically suspect and destabilizing national missile defense program. A 1986 position provided further definition to the League's efforts to promote

peace, with special emphasis on human rights, sound management of natural resources and economic development. Highlights of the 1990's were supporting training and education projects to build political participation in emerging democracies.

"In the 2000's the League expanded its global democracy program and updated its position on the United Nations and International Trade." It continues its strong support for the United Nations and added its support for the International Criminal Court.

Due to New Jersey and New York being located close to United Nations headquarters, some of their members have been very involved with United Nations activities. The League of Women Voters has one official and two or three alternate League Observers to the United Nations. In 2014 they have participated in the United Nation's 58th Commission on the Status of Women and the summit on climate change in September with leaders from around the world

You can read a detailed account of League's positions on the 5 topics: United Nations, Trade, U.S. Relations with Developing Countries, Arms Control, Military Policy and Defense Spending at <http://www.lwv.org/content/international-relations>

Our local League, LWVSC has a very active group who study international topics. New members are encouraged to join us. Starting in early 2015 we will be discussing the topics in the 2015 Great Decisions publication by Foreign Policy Association. The date of our January meeting is Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at the Satellite Beach Library from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

~Welcome to our New Members~

Sharon Skaggs

Please add new members to your membership book. Addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of new members will be sent to you by e-mail. If you have friends who belong to League of Women Voters of the Space Coast who do not receive e-mail, it would be helpful if you could contact them and give them addresses and phone numbers of new members to add to their membership books. We discontinued printing this information in our *Voters* because of privacy concerns. Our *Voters* are distributed to libraries and other community locations. They are found on line at our web site, www.lwv-spacecoast.org

75 % Voted Yes on Amendment 1

(Continued from Page 5)

Florida's Water and Land Legacy is the sponsoring committee of Amendment 1, the Water and Land Conservation Amendment, which was approved by more than 4.2 million voters in the November 2014 election. It represents a coalition of more than 400 organizations and businesses and more than 50,000 citizens from across the state. To learn more about Florida's Water and Land Legacy, please visit www.VoteYesOn1FL.org."



Susan Little and Brigitte Sinton



Bill and Mary Hillberg



Fran Baer



Priscilla Griffith & Maureen Rupe



Terry Mott & Susan Little

~December Calendar – Members welcome at all meetings~

Tuesday, December 2nd – Board Meeting at Suntree Library at 5:30 p.m. (small meeting room)

Saturday, December 6th – Holiday Luncheon at The Tides at PAFB at 11:30 a.m.

Thursday, December 11th – International Relations Committee – 10:30 a.m. at Foosner Art Museum

Monday, December 15th – Health Committee Meeting at Suntree Library at 6 p.m.

Voter: Monthly publication (except June, July, August)

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