



# The Voter

The League of Women Voters  
of the Space Coast  
[www.lwv-spacecoast.org](http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org)



Volume 33: No. 6

February, 2013

**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.

## ~Timely Topics ~

### Florida Solar Energy Center



Our speaker is Dr. James Fenton, Director of Florida Solar Energy Center. James M. Fenton has been Director of the University of Central Florida's (UCF) Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC) since January 2005, where he leads a staff of 140 in the research and development

of energy technologies that enhance Florida's and the nation's economy and environment and educate the public, students and practitioners on the results of the research. In addition to his duties as FSEC Director, he leads a 12-member university and industry research team in a \$19 million U.S. Department of Energy research program to develop the next generation proton exchange membrane (PEM) fuel cell automobile engine. Dr. Fenton also serves as a Professor in UCF's Mechanical, Materials and AerospaceEngineeringDepartment  
<http://www.fsec.ucf.edu/people/bios/Fenton.htm>

**When:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013

**Where:** Tuscany Grill  
7640 N. Wickham Road  
Suntree, FL

**Time:** 11:30 A.M.

**Menu:** **Chicken Acropolis**, artichokes, sun-dried tomatoes, Kalamata olives and red peppers in a lemon scented white wine butter sauce over egg nest fettuccine.  
**Scampi Tuscany**, jumbo shrimp sautéed in garlic, tomatoes, basil and scallions in a Pinot Grigio-lemon butter over angel hair.

**Penne Basilico (vegetarian)** mushrooms, broccoli and Roma tomatoes sautéed with garlic and herbs finished with basil.

**Cost:** \$20.00

**Reservations:** Doreen Archer no later than 5 p.m. on Sunday, February 17, 2013

FSEC, created in 1975 by the Florida Legislature to serve as the state's energy research institute, is the nation's largest and most active state-supported renewable energy and energy efficiency research institute.

## In This Issue

President's Report	2
New Members	2
Board Bytes	2
In Memoriam	2
Children's Committee	3
Help Wanted	3
Natural Resources	4
Legislative Summit & Convention	4
Healthcare	5
International Relations	6
Photos	7
Calendar	7

**President: Barbara Whitley**

321-674-6070

[www.pcm-info.com](http://www.pcm-info.com)

Editor: Lucia Watson

321-779-6758

[lucbil\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:lucbil_99@yahoo.com)

LWVSC: Phone # 321-254-7183

[www.lwv-spacecoast.org](http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org)

## Diversity Mission Statement

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.



## President's Corner

### Barbara Whitley

Happy Hearts and Salutes to President's Month!!

Here it is the second month of the year and I am still working on my resolution list for January. I am behind and the year is only one month old. My mother had a saying that I would be dead and buried before I would find all my socks that matched. She knew me well. So how can I possibly get all those thank you notes written?

Just about the time I tried to get my Christmas card mailing address list changed over to my E-mail address book I now have to start on the Valentine list. This I call my kiddies list as it is made up of children, grandchildren and the little folks of friends who really enjoy getting the funny Valentine cards. How are you doing with your list of to do's?

Our League keeps moving on. January was not a good month for many of our members as it was the month of the FLU. Many of our members were on the sick list, just coming down list or just getting taken off the list. February (I pray) will be known as, We are glad we made it over the FLU month.

Our League is coming to the end of our organization's year. Yearly reports are due and plans for the coming year must be formalized and voted on by our organization. The State League's annual meeting is in Tallahassee and is scheduled for April. We must have our local plans ready before that meeting. Our Space Coast will be sending six delegates to this meeting. This is important for us and we are excited to be able to send so many delegates. This will give us better prepared leaders to assist us to study the many changing issues that we are facing here in Brevard County. This is a place where our delegates can learn of resources, meet helpful people and get more insight in how we all can work together to make this a better State of Florida for all of us.

We have all been impressed with the work our State League has been doing. There are local members who have expressed interest in being more involved in the State League. Being involved with the State League will give you the opportunity to see what others are doing. Maybe you would like to be on the State Board one day?

See you at League,

As always,  
Barb



## Welcome to New Members

Martha S. Tiller

Elizabeth C. Drumm

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 mailed to government offices. The *Voters* are found on line at our web site, [www.lwv-spacecoast.org](http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org).



## Board Bytes

- 120 members
- Budget Planning Committee of Barbara Jagrowski, Barbara Whitley, Brigitte Sinton and Kathy Wall are preparing 2013-2014 budget.
- New CONTACT information will be prepared in February and ready for distribution in March.
- Nancy Rudner, State League's expert on PPACA (Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act) will speak on Saturday, February 2, 2013. (see Health article, Page 5)
- Committees will be planning 2013-2014 programs. Plans will be brought to board in February and published in the March *Voter*.
- March Timely Topics on March 20<sup>th</sup> is being planned. Details in February *Voter*.
- Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at Eau Gallie Yacht Club.

## In Memoriam

Condolences to League Member,  
Yvonne Hubbard and family in the loss of  
husband, Norman Hubbard on  
December 30, 2012



## Children's Committee

Marguerite Orban – Chair

Our guest columnist this month is Patricia Williams. She is Guardian ad Litem 18th Circuit Recruitment Coordinator and Community Liaison.

We thank her for this article and you will find more information on this public/private partnership at [www.guardianadlitem.org](http://www.guardianadlitem.org).

Its 2:00 in the morning. The adults are screaming and fighting. A little girl and her baby brother can't sleep. There is a knock on the door. Someone in a uniform comes in and talks to the family. A nice lady asks if the children are ok; "no we're not".

The people they love may be hurting each other. The children put a few things in a bag; they are going to stay the night in a safe place. They wonder how they will get to school and who is going to feed their dog? Even small children know their lives are being turned upside down.

It may be determined that the children will be placed under court supervision. Throughout the complicated legal process, the children may see counselors or therapists. They may change schools, foster homes, placements or caseworkers. There will be strangers in their lives; there will also be a Guardian ad Litem. This is the person who, many times, becomes the consistent factor in their lives.

In Brevard County today, there are 186 'ordinary' people who are doing 'extraordinary' things for children. Children who have experienced abuse, abandonment or neglect in their young lives. Someone like **Marilza Novaes-Card**, a member of the League of Women Voters, (though there is nothing ordinary about her) she is a Guardian ad Litem. An advocate for a vulnerable child. She and the other 'average' citizens give 8 to 10 hours a month to make a difference in a child's life. They become their voice, their advocate during the process. Children need someone who will listen and to trust them; a person who can tell their story.

Guardians come from all walks of life. They could be married or single. There are men, women, young and not as young. There could be GEDs and PhDs. A person does not need to have legal or social service experience. The State of Florida requires that GALs take 30 hours of training, be 21 years of age, pass a fingerprint background screen and produce references from people who have known them for over 5 years. I will tell you it takes a little time, a place in your heart for children and a whole lot of common sense.

GALs are observers and information gatherers. They oversee and monitor the child's case. How does a lay person learn to do this? They take the Guardian ad Litem training which is held five times a year. The most recent session started January 19th at the Moore Justice Center. After training, new Guardians are placed with more experienced advocates/mentors. They also will work with an Advocate Coordinator who will be their liaison and support for any issues that arise.

You can learn more and pick up an application at [www.guardianadlitem.org](http://www.guardianadlitem.org). Visit the office to take a tour of the program. You can observe court and see how almost 700 children living in Brevard are being represented. **Call us at 321-690-6823 or evenings at 321-961-1280 to learn how you can be part of changing a child's future.**

If being a GAL volunteer is not possible then you might consider becoming a business or individual member of Friends of Children of Brevard (FoCoB). This nonprofit provides for the special needs of children represented by GAL. FoCoB will assist when a GAL knows of a need that is not being satisfied through channels. It might be a bed, ballet slippers or a bike to name a few requests. The bike is not just for fun. It could be so a young person can get to a part time job or school. Many requests to Friends of Children of Brevard are life changing for the children.

The League of Women Voters will certainly appreciate the dedication of the Guardian ad Litem volunteer. The League; a voice for citizens and force for change, working in their communities to protect and defend basic rights. A voice, a force, protecting and defending. A similar goal with the Guardian ad Litem program being the voice of those who would be silent.

## Help Wanted

We will be working on the new CONTACT, Directory of Elected Officials 2013-2014. This is published and distributed throughout the community. It is prepared as a public service by League of Women Voters of the Space Coast.

If you would like to work on this project, call Barbara Jagrowski at 321-259-5942 or e-mail at [jandbjagrowski@earthlink.net](mailto:jandbjagrowski@earthlink.net)



## Natural Resources

### Susan Little – Chair

If you would like to join the Natural Resources Committee, please call chair, Susan Little at 321-432-3843 or send an e-mail to [littaylor@excite.com](mailto:littaylor@excite.com)

"I'd put my money on the sun and solar energy. What a source of power! I hope we don't have to wait until oil and coal run out before we tackle that." Thomas Edison(1931)

Some people are starting to take notice of Edison's words. Like Prince Turki Al Faisal Al Saud of Saudia Arabia. He recently announced a \$109 billion dollar plan to revamp Saudi Arabia's electrical generation system. Within the next two decades the plan is to have 100% of electrical power come from non-fossil fuel sources. How will they fund this? By exporting the oil to other countries one of which is the United States. So, we funded their oil boom and now we will fund the greening of their economy. Is that how the US will lead the world to energy sustainability?

On **February 20th**, Dr. James Fenton will present an alternative view for Florida. We have so much sunshine that it does not make sense to import oil, whether from Saudia Arabia or another state. Solar power could provide jobs and cleaner air here in Florida. **Please plan to attend and find out how we can improve our economy and our air.**

## Article by Maureen Rupe

### Lost Forever

The Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) reported that there were a record number of panther deaths in 2012. There were 26 deaths, 17 on Florida roads. Within the first three days of 2013, two juvenile panthers have already been killed. The FFWCC has a theory. The population of panthers is currently 160, up from 100 in 2011, so the theory goes that the increase in deaths is due to the increase in juvenile panthers. Could it be that the FFWCC is allowing more construction in panther habitat areas? There are usually more roads when there are more buildings allowed in what was an animal's habitat. A lot of approvals are in conflict with the Conservation Plan for Panthers.

There is a project that has been in trial for the last 3 to 4 years to Save the Panther. The Texas Cougar is mated with the Florida panther. The cubs have some cranial problems. They say the Florida panther is only a few chromosomes from the Texas cougar. Well, we are only a few chromosomes from the Chimpanzee, but there's a world of difference there. There is a lot of money being thrown at this cross-mating project, when

the problem is really the taking of the panther habitat. Besides that, this hybrid is still not a Florida panther.

We will have to choose a new State Symbol when our current one is verified as extinct. I am sure some will say "So What," but when creatures are made extinct by man-made causes, there is a chain reaction that ultimately makes many impacts on the environment.

The South Florida Rainbow Snake has been confirmed by the National Wildlife Federation to be gone forever. Preston Robertson, Florida NWF general counsel says "the Florida panther and the manatee could be next." There are 111 threatened and endangered plant and animal species in the state of Florida.

Reference: Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission; 10/14/2011 Gasparilla Gazette

<http://www.fwc.com>

<http://bocagrandetalk.com/page/content.detail/id/515745/2-unique-species-extinct--manatee--Florida-panther-feared-next.html?nav=5054>

<http://www.endangeredspecie.com/states/fl.htm>



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF FLORIDA

## Legislative Summit & Convention 2013

**When:** Wednesday April 10, 2013 at 4:00 PM EDT to Saturday April 13, 2013 at 4:00 PM EDT.

**Where:** The Governors Inn Hotel  
209 South Adams Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

### Tentative Itinerary

#### Wednesday, April 10, 2013

12 - 3:30 p.m. LWVF/EF State Board Meeting  
4 - 5:30 p.m. Registration & League Items for Sale  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m. LWVF 2013 Old Capitol Gala

#### Thursday, April 11, 2013

6:30 - 7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast  
7:30 - 11:30 a.m. Legislative Briefing with Elected Officials

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tabling at the Capitol

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lunch on Your Own

1:00 - 5:30 p.m. Lobbying at the Capitol

6 - 8 p.m. Members' Dinner featuring Keynote Speaker

#### Friday, April 12, 2013

6:30 - 7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

7:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Registration & League Items for Sale

8 - 9 a.m. Caucuses (continued on Page 5)



## Healthcare

### Linda Kyvik – Chair

The Health Committee has become focused on a goal of educating the public on the many ramifications of the ACA (Affordable Care Act) as it pertains to Florida.

Jo Shimm and Linda Kyvik have been participating by listening to conference calls from the FloridaCHAIN Health Alliance every 2 to 3 weeks, with just 2 calls so far. There are many organizations across Florida that participate in these calls. They are keeping an eye on what is going on in Tallahassee as it pertains to Medicaid expansion and ACA start up in general. The information we have gathered from these phone calls is: Tallahassee tried to have a partial ACA, and the Federal Government said all or nothing. Tallahassee did not win that one. Tallahassee also refused to let the federal government set it up even though Florida is far far behind. As for Medicaid expansion, they held town meetings for constituents to let their feelings be known about this, without informing them about any facts. This led to, of course, people for and people against, without any knowledge behind some of the opinions. Phone calls will be continuing now that the holidays are over. They seem to be monitoring as fast as they can, trying to keep up.

The health speaker from Daytona LWV is sending Jo Shimm her information; we will be reading this and evaluating what we can use. This person has a history of health care in America which may be useful in talking about the ACA to the public. She also apparently has personalized information to make presentations less dry. We will review that at our January meeting which will be held Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup> due to Martin Luther King Holiday being on the third Monday and the county libraries are closed on that day.

Florida has the 4th largest population in the nation, with 2nd largest in the nation uninsured (includes working Floridians).

The four members of the Health Committee plan on attending two days of the State Legislative Summit & Convention 2013 in Tallahassee.

**A training session for League members who are interested in joining our Speakers Bureau to educate citizens on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2013 in the Suntree/Viera Library's large conference room from 10 A.M. to noon. Nancy Rudner, a member of the LWV of Orange County and the State League's expert on the PPACA will give a Power Point presentation. Handouts will be available.**

Members who are interested in participating are to call Health Care Committee Chair Linda Kyvik at 321-777-0849.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF FLORIDA

*(continued from Page 4)*

9 - 10:30 a.m. Workshops

10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Workshops

12 - 1:30 p.m. Buffet Lunch with Guest Speaker

1:45 - 5:45 p.m. Plenary Session I

6 - 8 p.m. BBQ Dinner at the League House

Saturday, April 13, 2013

7 - 8 a.m. Presidents' Meeting

7 - 8 a.m. MLD Coaches' Meeting

7 - 8 a.m. Budget Q & A and Caucus

7 - 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

7:30 - 8:30 a.m. Registration & League Items for Sale

8 a.m. Action Motions Deadline to Marilyn Wills

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Plenary Session II

12:30 - 1:30 p.m. Lunch on Your Own

1:30 - 4 p.m. Plenary Session III

4 p.m. Convention Adjourns

4:30 - 6:00 p.m. New Board Convenes

**Cost - Legislative Summit AND Convention: \$175.00**

**Legislative Summit ONLY: \$99.00**

**Convention ONLY: \$99.00**

Attending all or parts of this four day event is very educational. You meet members from other Leagues in the state. You can register online at <http://thefloridavoter.org/events/legislative-summit>.

You will also find information on hotel options on the website. Hotel costs are separate from the registration fee.

Each person is responsible for making their own reservation. Attending for 4 days is \$175. Attending only one of the two events is \$99.00.

Attendees may request reimbursement from LWVSC treasurer, Brigitte Sinton for the **registration fee**. You can contact Brigitte Sinton at 321-724-6928 if you have questions.



## International Relations

### Mary Nicolay – Chair

Please join us as the International Relations Group of the LWVSC studies and discusses GREAT DECISIONS topics.

Great Decisions is a program developed by the FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION. “The mission of the FPA is to contribute to a more vibrant democracy through citizen participation in the foreign policy process. FPA is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organization that serves as a catalyst for developing awareness, understanding of and informed opinion on U.S. foreign policy and global issues. It is the nation’s oldest organization devoted to citizen education in international affairs.”

We meet at the Satellite Beach Library from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.

#### Schedule with Dates and Topics

- Tuesday, February 12th – IRAN led by JoDee Wilfong
- Tuesday, February 26th, HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION led by Karen Raboin
- Tuesday, March 12th, CHINA IN AFRICA led by Ruth Almeida
- Tuesday, March 26th, EGYPT led by Mary Nicolay
- Tuesday, April 9th, MYANMAR led by (volunteer needed)
- Tuesday, April 23rd, THREAT ASSESSMENT led by (volunteer needed)
- May 14th NATO led by Ruth and David Schechter

The Great Decisions study booklets are now available for those who ordered them. Others may order the booklets from the Foreign Policy Association on line at [www.fpa.org](http://www.fpa.org)

#### 2013 Topic Descriptions

**Egypt** by Bruce Rutherford

The popular revolution that ousted President Hosni Mubarak in 2011 ushered in the promise of radical change. Two years later, what is the state of Egyptian democracy? How will the military and the civilian government balance power?

**NATO** by Mark Webber

How has NATO’s agenda evolved since its inception during the cold war? With its military commitment in

Afghanistan winding down and a recent successful campaign in Libya, what are the Alliance’s present-day security challenges?

**Myanmar and Southeast Asia** by Barbara Crossette

The West has welcomed unprecedented democratic reforms made by Myanmar’s government. What challenges must Myanmar overcome before it can fully join the international community? What role can it play in Southeast Asia?

**Intervention** by Thomas Weiss

The “responsibility to protect” doctrine has become central to modern humanitarian intervention. When should the international community intervene? Why did the West rush to intervene in Libya but not Syria?

**Iran** by John Limbert

Suspicion and a troubled history have blighted U.S.-Iranian relations for three decades. How can the United States and Iran move forward? Is the existence of Iran’s nuclear program an insurmountable obstacle?

**China in Africa** by David Shinn

What interests govern China’s engagement in Africa? Should China’s growing emphasis on political ties and natural resource extraction inform U.S. relations with African nations?

**Threat assessment** by Gregory Treverton

How can the United States address the challenges of a weak economy, homegrown terrorism and nuclear proliferation? What threats and opportunities are presented by the ascendancy of China and by regime change in the Middle East?

[http://www.fpa.org/great\\_decisions/index.cfm?act=s how\\_material&product\\_id=16823](http://www.fpa.org/great_decisions/index.cfm?act=s how_material&product_id=16823)

(There is also an article on **the Euro**. We have recently studied this subject so are not including a discussion on this topic now.)

Next month *The Voter* will have an article by member, **Cheryl Roberts on Weapons and Nuclear Non-Proliferation**. She spoke to our group in January. These subjects have been the focus in her career.



Karen Raboin & Brooke Goldfarb



Marilyn Hooper, Lady Grundy, & Yvonne Hubbard



Alberta Wilson



Bill & Jan Bancroft



Tony & Barbara Dutton



Becky Fiedler & Frank Clifford



Martha Bradshaw



Barbara and Jerry Jagrowski



Vera Walker



Ruth Schechter

~February Calendar – Members welcome at all meetings~

Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> – Training Session on Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act at Suntree Library at 10 A.M.

Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> - Board Meeting at Suntree Library at 10:15 A.M.

Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup> - Children's Committee at Suntree Library at 1:30 P.M.

Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> – International Relations Meeting at Satellite Beach Library 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. Subject is Iran led by JoDee Wilfong

Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> – Health Committee at Suntree Library – 6 P.M. to 7:50 P.M.

Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> – Timely Topics at Tuscany Grill at 11:30 A.M. Speaker is Dr. James Fenton from Florida Solar Energy Center

Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> –International Relations Meeting at Satellite Beach Library 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. Subject is Humanitarian Intervention led by Karen Raboin.

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

Issue Date: February 2013

League of Women Voters of the Space Coast

P.O. Box 360823

Melbourne, FL 32936-0823

[www.lwv-spacecoast.org](http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org)