



The Voter



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

Volume 34: No. 6

February 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.

~"Women of Action"~

With Keynote Speaker Deirdre Macnab
President of the League of Women Voters of Florida



When: Friday, February 7 at 11:30 a.m.

Where: Suntree Country Club
1 Country Club Drive
Melbourne, FL 32940

Cost: \$30.00

Please make checks payable to:
League of Women Voters Space Coast.
Mail to LWVSC at 6629 Canal Road, Melbourne Village, FL 32904

Menu:

- Chicken Mushroom Crepes
- Seafood Stuffed Sole
- London Broil
- Pasta Primavera

The meal will include a salad, bread, drink, entrée and warm cookies.

Reservations: Please call Doreen Archer at 321-622-4071 by Saturday, February 1st

We will be honoring:

Joan Borders, Polly Cordell and **Mary Eason** for introducing Rolling Readers to Brevard County.

Maureen Rupe for her environmental activity as President of the Partnership for a Sustainable Future and her many other community activities.

Alberta Wilson for her civic engagement with Central Brevard NAACP and presently serving as Chair of the Space Coast Chapter of the National Congress of Black Women, Inc.

These **Women of Action** (except Mary Eason) are members of our League.

Biographies of our Honorees are found on Page 3.

In This Issue

President's Report	2
New Members	2
Children's Committee	3
Biographies of Honorees	3
International Relations	4
Health Committee	4
Telephone Committee	4
Facebook	4
Natural Resources	5
Board Bytes	5
Orange County Timely Topics	5
Calendar	7

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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 League Members,

I hope you have updated your Membership Books with all of our new members. Three new members have joined since you received your January Voter. They are listed under "Welcome our New Members" on this page. If you live close to new members give them a call and offer a ride to a League event. Some people have trouble walking into a new situation alone. At meetings and events remember to introduce yourself if you see a new face.

Since my last report the Health Committee in association with the United Way of Brevard County hosted a very informative presentation on "Accessing the Health Insurance Marketplace" on December 16th in Cocoa Village. Guest speaker, Keith Heinly, the Lead Navigator in Brevard County gave a Power Point presentation followed by a Q & A session. He also shared many success stories of uninsured people acquiring coverage and of people saving money through the Health Exchanges. We thank Health Committee Co-Chairs Jo Shim and Connie Dobrin for organizing this presentation.

On January 4th our consensus meeting was held regarding the study that was done by our Children's Committee on charter schools. We thank Bob and Maria Seemer for hosting the meeting at their home and Bob for acting as facilitator. Everything went smoothly and the results have been forwarded to the State where they will be combined with the results of the other Leagues that participated. We will report on the statewide results as soon as they are available.

Our big event for February is our luncheon on Friday, February 7th when our **League Honors "Women in Action" with Keynote Speaker Deirdre Macnab, President of the League of Women Voters of Florida. Our Honorees are Joan Borders, Polly Cordell, Mary Eason, Maureen Rupe and Alberta Wilson.** They have all made a difference in the lives of our citizens. Please join us as we recognize them for their contributions. Our State League office has created an evite that has been sent out to all members and to our community leaders. Please share the evite by forwarding to friends and family. **Remember the deadline to RSVP is February 1st.**

Every two years state and local Leagues participate in the **LWVUS Program Planning Process** by making recommendations concerning program issues. The Program Planning process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study, review and update or concurrence. Our planning meeting will be at 10 A.M. on Wednesday, February 19th at Perkins

Restaurant, 8200 Wickham Rd. in Suntree. If you would like to participate, please RSVP to me by email or phone by February 12th. My contact information is on the first page of the Voter.

Our committees are planning their **Program of Work for 2014-2015**. The programs will be presented to the Board for approval at the February 5th Board Meeting and will be included in our March Voter in preparation for approval by our membership at our Annual Meeting scheduled for April 5th. The location for this year's Annual Meeting has not yet been selected. Remember, our monthly Board Meetings are open to our members and we encourage you to attend.

Our League is hosting a **joint League educational field trip on March 8th to the Brevard Museum of History & Natural Science and the Eastern Florida State College Planetarium & Observatory both located in Cocoa, Florida on March 8th**. Neighboring Leagues that have been invited include Volusia, Orange and Seminole counties. Cost is \$25 and includes lunch and admission to both venues. The day starts off at the Museum, 2201 Michigan Avenue, Cocoa, FL at 10 A.M. Please RSVP to Doreen Archer at 321-622-4071. This is a great opportunity to meet and share ideas with Leaguers from around the state.

In League,

Marilynn

~Welcome to our New Members~

Linda Meeuwenberg

Mary E. Hillberg

Linda Scales

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

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

Results of Consensus Meeting on Charter

School Study

On January 4th, 2014 we had our consensus meeting on the statements provided by the State of Florida League of Women Voters on the Charter School Study. With a turnout of 18% of our members (quite impressive), we reviewed the statements and reached consensus on 15 of the 18 statements. Comments were collected and recorded on flip charts on issues discussed by members. The results of our meeting were then approved by our Board and submitted along with our comments to the State League.

After feedback is collected from all 21 participating leagues covering 27 counties in Florida, they will be presented at State Council in April. At that time, the State League will decide if they will issue a position statement on Charter Schools.

Interestingly enough the Miami Herald Blog ran an article in early January stating that the House Choice and Innovation Subcommittee released a draft bill that would require charter school governing boards and school district to use a new model contract, where although the local School District would still approve charter schools in their District, the State Department of Education would now perform technical reviews of charter school applications. The Herald also stated that the House Choice and Innovation Subcommittee might also revive a proposal that would require school districts to share underutilized school facilities with charter schools. The Children's Committee will continue to monitor this interesting topic and keep you informed.

Our Honorees – Women of Action



Rolling Readers of the Space Coast was originally a community project for the American Association of University Women – Melbourne Branch. Three women –

Polly Cordell, Mary Eason, and Joan Borders, with the support of the AAUW board, and at the request of the Superintendent of Schools started the program in 1997 at some Title 1 schools. Today, Rolling Readers serves over 6,000 students enrolled in 26 Title 1 elementary schools. In March, every child will receive an age appropriate new hardback book. In November, 2013, Rolling Readers was recognized as the Brevard County "Organization of the Year".



Alberta Wilson's passion for equity, education, diversity, civic engagement and community awareness are reflected in the numerous volunteer leadership roles she has undertaken, and all the community service awards which she has received. She was appointed for six years by the late Governor Lawton Chiles to the State Board of Community Colleges and then by Governors Bush and Crist to the Board of Trustees of Brevard Community College (now Eastern Florida State College) for another six years. Alberta has served as president of the Central Brevard NAACP and the Cocoa-Rockledge Civic League, she is a former board member of the Salvation Army, Crosswinds Youth Services, the Sharing Center, the Maxwell C. King Center and the Brevard County Equal Opportunity Committee. She is currently the Interim Area Director Florida State Conference NAACP and chairs the Space Coast Chapter of the National Congress of Black Women, Inc. In addition, Alberta is very active in her church, Zion Orthodox Primitive Baptist, where she is a Church School teacher, chairs the Scholarship Committee and is Editor of the monthly newsletter.



Maureen Rupe is very well known for her environmental activism. She has fought for clean water, clean air and our Indian River Lagoon for many years. She is currently the President of the Partnership for a Sustainable Future, a coalition of many different organizations which are devoted to establishing and maintaining an economically and environmentally sustainable future for Brevard County. She is also a member of the board of the Marine Resources Council. Maureen has for a long time tried to persuade the County Commission and various City Councils to pass more strict rules for fertilizer use than the current State rules, and considering the current state of the Lagoon, there may be some success. Apart from the environment, Maureen has also been very involved in her community through the years, serving on the Parrish Medical Center board, the Brevard County Charter Review Commission, the 2011 Redistricting Committee, the Cape Canaveral Energy Center Advisory Panel, Brevard County Land Development and Procedures Committee and the Port St. John Homeowner's Association, which involved working with the county and the state to support the people of Port St. John in many issues that enhance the quality of life.



International Relations

Mary Nicolay – Chair

The International Relations Group will meet two times in February, March, April and May. Our first Great Decisions meeting will take place February 11th, at the Satellite Beach Library from 1p.m. to 3 p.m. Our meeting facilitator Cherie Roberts will lead us in discussing the topic THE STATE OF THE MIDDLE EAST.

Cherie Roberts worked in the field of nonproliferation for 20 years at the Dept. of Energy, primarily in the National Nuclear Security Administration. Her nonproliferation and arms control career continued as a contractor in nuclear energy development until her retirement. She is an informed, gifted speaker. We are fortunate to have her with us again. She will give us additional insight into this vital topic.

On February 25th we will again meet at the Satellite Beach Library from 1p.m. to 3 p.m. with JoDee Wilfong leading our discussion on DEFENSE SPENDING AND DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY. JoDee is a favorite presenter with our group. She is always so well versed on the topics and uses multiple resources to aid in our understanding. The author P.W. Singer wrote WIRED FOR DEFENSE and we will watch an interview he did recently. The Foreign Policy Association video DEFENSE ON A BUDGET will also aid in our discussion.

Please be reading on these issues and come prepared to take part in our discussions. You may wish to just listen and we encourage that activity, though we believe you will wish to participate in these non partisan, lively, friendly discussions. All are welcomed.



Health Care Committee

Jo Shim & Connie Dobrin Co-Chairs

In December, the Health Care Committee hosted a presentation by Keith Heinly on “Accessing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Health Insurance Marketplace”. Mr. Heinly is the Lead ACA Navigator for Brevard County and, as such, ideally placed to provide information on the process of applying for health insurance through the www.healthcare.gov website. His presentation covered basic information on the ACA application process through the federal insurance marketplace. He also touched on common pitfalls in the application process such as not having all relevant documentation (email passwords, tax returns,

pay stubs etc.) available prior to starting the process. The significance of the bronze, silver, gold and platinum policy designations was also explained. A common misunderstanding is that these are indications of the quality of health care coverage offered through a plan, whereas, in fact they indicate the amount of premium coverage; e.g. for a bronze plan the premium covers 60% of a claim and the insured person is responsible for 40%, compared to the platinum plan where the premium covers 90% of medical costs and the insured person pays 10%.

The Brevard ACA Insurance Navigator Program is operated by the United Way and funded through a grant from the University of South Florida. Mr. Heinly explained that although there had been initial problems with the website, more recently, the ACA application process had been going well. He added that Navigators were seeing applicants at designated libraries throughout the county and that, in general, the process was taking about an hour for applicants in possession of all necessary documentation. The presentation ended with an informative and interactive question and answer session.

Members of the Health Care Committee are available to speak to organizations and small groups on the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid Expansion. Please contact a member of the committee if you would like to organize a speaker for your group.



Phone Committee Message

Teresa Barrett, a new League member, has joined the Telephone Committee.

Some feel that notices in The Voter and sent via e-mail are sufficient and prefer not to be called regularly. **If you do not wish to be called, please tell the person who calls you this month. Thank you.**



Facebook

Many of our Leagues belong to Facebook. Our League is encouraged to join Facebook. Fourteen Florida Leagues responded that they have a Facebook page. League member, Marcia Booth has offered to help with this new venture. She will hold a class at Suntree library after we have League volunteers who would be willing to help with this project. Please call Marilynn Collins at 321-773-8490 if you would like to know more about Facebook and help with a Facebook page on our website.



Natural Resources

Susan Little – Chair

The Cocoa Beach City Fertilizer Ordinance is scheduled to be discussed and possibly passed on January 16th. (This Voter went to the printer before this meeting so results will be reported later.) Within the proposed ordinance, several issues are stricter than the County ordinance which is good. First of all, there is a restricted period when fertilizers would not be permitted. The restricted period is from June 1st thru September 30th but also is extended to any time that the soils are saturated. There is also a provision that no fertilizers will be allowed that contain phosphorus unless a soil test is done that shows a depletion of phosphorus. Planting native vegetation is to be encouraged along the shoreline and along canals through public education. The ordinance is Cocoa Beach Fertilizer Ordinance 1576.

Report from Maureen Rupe–Natural Resources Consultant.

Federal Review of Proposed Shiloh Launch Site

In a December 26 story titled "Shiloh launch complex is set for federal review", Orlando Sentinel stated the Federal Register indicated the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) gave notice to start public and federal agency comment period on the application. The FAA is the agency which regulates all non-government space-launch complexes.

The area in question is 200 acres owned by NASA and managed as part of the 140,000-acre Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge. Space Florida would like to make this area a state managed Launch Complex for Commercial Launches, and hopes to build two space launch complexes on 60 acres within that 200 acres area. Space Florida wants an area free of Federal red tape, but close enough to KSC to attract companies wanting to support both federal and commercial launches. Dale Ketcham, Space Florida's director of strategic alliances, told the Orlando Sentinel "It's the only place, we believe, that Florida could offer the capability for a purely commercial launch site."

Those against the idea are concerned with the National Wildlife Refuge abundant wildlife, lagoons, marshes, and beaches. Charles Lee of Audubon Florida told the Orlando Sentinel "You're basically talking about the first major deviation from close to 50 years of preservation as policy for the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge," Audubon Florida is one of the environmental groups against the project and is asking the Department of the Interior to intervene.

The following is exactly as stated in the December 26th Federal Register:

"SUMMARY: This Notice provides information to Federal, State, and local agencies, Native American tribes, and other interested persons regarding the FAA's intent to prepare an EIS that will evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the issuance of a Launch Site Operator License to Space Florida.

1. Space Florida, an independent special district and a subdivision of the State of Florida, proposes to construct and operate a commercial space launch site (the "Shiloh Launch Complex") and two off-site operations support areas.

2. The Shiloh Launch Complex would include two vertical launch facilities that would accommodate up to 24 launches per year (12 launches per vertical launch facility), as well as up to 24 static fire engine tests or wet dress rehearsals per year (12 static fire engine tests or wet dress rehearsals per vertical launch facility).

3. The launch vehicles would include liquid fueled, medium- to heavy-lift class orbital and suborbital vehicles.

4. In addition to the 24 launches per year, the first stage of the launch vehicle could return to and land at the Shiloh Launch Complex.

5. The proposed commercial space launch site is located on the west side of Kennedy Parkway North (State Road [SR] 3), which straddles Brevard and Volusia counties, Florida.

6. Space Florida would be required to apply for a Launch Site Operator License to be issued by the FAA.

7. The FAA will prepare the EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA; 42 United States Code [U.S.C.] 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] parts 1500-1508), and FAA Order 1050.1E, Change 1, Environmental Impacts: Policies and Procedures, as part of its licensing process.

8. Concurrent with the NEPA process, the FAA is initiating National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Consultation to determine the potential effects of the Proposed Action on historic properties.

9. The FAA will also consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act regarding potential impacts to federally-listed threatened and endangered species.

10. Pursuant to the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966, this EIS will comply with the requirements of Section 4(f)."

Comments can be provided by mail until Feb. 21, 2014 to:

Stacey M. Zee, FAA Environmental Specialist
Shiloh EIS c/o Cardno TEC Inc.
2496 Old Ivy Road, Suite 300
Charlottesville, Va., 22903 (*continued of Page 6*)



Natural Resources

Susan Little – Chair

(continued from Page 5) Comments can also be emailed to faashiloheis@cardnotec.com or faxed to (434) 295-5535.

Local public hearings are scheduled for the following two locations:

1. New Smyrna Beach High School, 1015 10th Street, New Smyrna Beach, Florida 32168. at 5 p.m. on Feb. 11, 2014, and
2. Eastern Florida State College (formerly Brevard Community College), John Henry Jones Gymnasium, 1311 North U.S. 1, Titusville, Florida 32796, 5 p.m. on Feb. 12, 2014.

- Both meetings will include an open-house workshop from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and overview of the environmental process by the FAA from 6:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m, and a public comment period from 6:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

- The open-house workshop portion of each meeting will consist of poster stations describing the proposed project and the NEPA process. The FAA and cooperating agency staff will be at the open-house workshop portion to answer general questions on the project and the NEPA process.

- During each meeting there will be a designated area focused on the Section 106 process and to gather public input on historic properties identification and what possible effects the proposed project might have on those historic properties.

Reference:

Powers, Scott (2013, December 26). Shiloh launch complex is set for federal review, Orlando Sentinel, smpowers@tribune.com or 407-420-5441



Board Bytes

- 114 members
- Thank you note from Sally Shinn at Brevard County Schools for our contributions to homeless students in Brevard County.
- A modified CONTACT will be published in "The Boomer Guide"
- National Program Planning Meeting will be held for all members at Perkins Restaurant on Wickham Road at 10 a.m. on February 19.
- Volunteers are needed to work on Facebook project.
- LWVF Legislative Seminar and Lobby Days on April 9-10 and Council of Leaders on April 11 in Tallahassee.

- LWVUS Convention – June 6 to June 10, 2014 in Dallas, Texas.
- We more than reached our goal for signed petitions for the Legacy Campaign. 14 districts have passed their necessary quotas and 5 more counties are needed for the Conservation Amendment certification.
- A reminder to our members to pass the required League test so our members are qualified to register voters for the League.
- Supervisor of Elections has adopted "electronic precinct registers" so 2014 voters who had moved to Brevard from another FL county will be able to cast a regular, no provisional, ballot.
- Tiger Bay Club has requested that League make a Conservation Amendment presentation. Tony Dutton will participate in this presentation.
- Speakers Bureau plans to offer speakers to organizations later in the year.
- Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, April 5th.



Timely Topics in Orange County

Some of our members plan to attend a Timely Topics luncheon and meeting for the Orange County League. The topic is very important for our League but attending this event is also an opportunity to meet members from Orange County League.

The cost is \$25. Details are below:

League of Women Voters of Orange County

RSVP: www.lwvoc.org

February 12, Wednesday

11:30 am. to 1:15 pm.

Sorosis Club, 501 East Livingston Street, Orlando, FL 32801

Contact: Charley Williams, c: 407.467.5515,

cjwilliams@g-e-c.com

"TROUBLED WATER: INDIAN RIVER LAGOON IN PERIL"

Panel:

Dinah Voyles Pulver, Environment Writer, Daytona Beach News-Journal

Tony Sasso, Executive Director, Keep Brevard Beautiful

Dr. Duane DeFreese, Scientist and Environmental Activist

Moderator:

Clay Henderson, Past President, Florida

Audubon; former member, Volusia County Council

October Timely Topics



Bob & Sue Mart, Yvonne Hubbard



Becky Fiedler



Valerie Holmes & Priscilla Griffith



Barbara Dutton & Joyce Cales

Holiday Luncheon



Sharon Reynolds-Mixon, Jane Wilson & Lilly Kohler



Debra Mischley



Karen Raboin



Bob Mart & Mike Draggich

Consensus Meeting



Carol Robitschek, Clarice Costello & Fern Patton



Connie Hogerty & Priscilla Griffith



Marilynn Collins, Doreen Archer Barbara & Tony Dutton

~February Calendar – Members welcome at all meetings~

Wednesday, February 5th - Board Meeting at Suntree Library at 10:15 a.m.

Friday, February 7th - "Women of Action" celebration with Deirdre Macnab, LWVF President as keynote speaker At Suntree Country Club at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, February 9th - Children's Committee Meeting at home of Doreen Archer at 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday, February 11th - International Relations Committee meeting at Satellite Beach Library at 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Cherie Roberts will lead discussion on topic, "The State of the Middle East."

Monday, February 17, - Health Committee Meeting at Suntree Library at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, February 25th, - International Relations Committee meeting at Satellite Beach Library at 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. JoDee Wilfong will lead discussion on topic, "Defense Spending and Defense Technology."

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League of Women Voters of the Space Coast

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