



# The Voter

## The League of Women Voters of the Space Coast



**Volume 31: No. 5**

**January, 2011**

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.

Mark your calendars and reserve **Friday, January 28, 2011** for

### Politicos on Parade 2011.

This bi-annual Luncheon and Fashion Show sponsored by Space Coast League of Women Voters is an enjoyable afternoon to see old friends and meet new ones. It is the main fundraiser for Space Coast League.

The **Eau Gallie Yacht Club** is the lovely setting for this event and fashions are being provided by **Talbot's** for the ladies and **Jos. A Bank** for the men.

Our models are newly elected officials from Brevard County which extends 70 miles from North to South:

**Sybrina Anderson** - Brevard County Soil and Water Conservation District

**Mary Bolin** - Brevard County Commissioner District 4

**Stephany Eley** - West Melbourne City Council

**Kristine Isnardi** - Palm Bay City Council

**Rita Pritchett** - Titusville City Council

**Carl Beatty** - Malabar City Council

**Dr. Michael Krupp** - Brevard County School Board District 1

**Mitch Needelman** - Brevard County Clerk of the Courts

The menu from Eau Gallie Yacht Club for our luncheon is a choice of:

**Prime Rib of Beef**

**Stuffed Cantaloupe with Chicken Salad**

or **Vegetarian** on request.

Lunch will start with **soup** and finish with mouthwatering **strawberry shortcake**. Rolls, butter, tea and coffee are included in the \$35.00 cost.

The event starts at 11:30 a.m. The address of **Eau Gallie Yacht Club** is 100 Datura Drive, Indian Harbour Beach. A cash bar will be serving drinks at 11:30 and lunch will be served about noon. The fashion show is scheduled to begin at 12:45 p.m. Raffle tickets for the 50/50 drawing may be purchased at any time during the event. Background piano music is being provided by Sandy Stanley.

Reserve your seats by calling **Doreen Archer** at **321-622-4071** no later than **Friday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**.

A check should be made out to **LWVSC** and mailed to **Brigitte Sinton, 6629 Canal Road, Melbourne Village FL 32904**. Please indicate your entrée choice. Your check is your receipt.

The success of this event depends upon participation of our members and friends. If you cannot attend, consider a donation.

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#### THIS SPACE FOR RENT! WOULD YOU LIKE TO PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS OR SERVICE?

This **VOTER** is distributed not only to our local members, but is sent to other Leagues, many local legislators, as well as our libraries.

If these are the kinds of people you would like to reach with your message, consider becoming one of our monthly **underwriters**.

For Information- call **321-254-7183**



## President's Corner

Ruth Schechter

Dear League Members,  
I'm baack! (Yes, I know that is misspelled - playing on a phrase from an old horror movie!)

Thank yous to a wonderful Board of Directors who carried on under the guidance of Carol MacDonald and have been busy and productive in a very busy year!

The Amendments we were supporting passed. Though we will have to keep a sharp eye on the legislators when they begin the redrawing of the districts to make sure that they are indeed following the new law of the state! Wouldn't it be wonderful if they would make a real effort to get it right - equal to the effort that they have made for the past 50 years to do it wrong! One can dream!!

Ayn Samuelson (VP Voter Service) is collecting a group of volunteers to help with the updating of Contact and will have our new effort to the printer soon.

We're coming up on our once every other year fund raising effort - our Politicos On Parade fashion show -- where we invite some newly elected officials from county or cities to serve as models. This event is always well attended and we particularly need your help this year - put a table together or just bring a couple of friends to the Yacht Club on January 28<sup>th</sup>. See the front page of Voter for reservation information.

I want to bring your attention to the State LWV plan to have Legislative Seminar *combined with* LWV Convention this year. These are the two most important activities the State LWV does every year and they are offering a "twofer" in this year of hard economic situations! Hopefully the Space Coast League can come up with some funds to help support those of our membership who can and will take the time to go to Tallahassee by 5pm on March 23rd with end time of 5pm on March 26<sup>th</sup>. This is the very best of both State events and if you are at all interested contact any member of the Board of Directors and let them know of your interest! I would love to take a crowd to Tallahassee this year!

I know that if you participate, you will learn a lot and enjoy the activities!

On a personal note - thank you to all of you who sent cards and said prayers! It worked! I'm now fine and healthy - good doctors, quick attention and much loving support from my family and friends like you!

In League,  
Ruth



## Board Bytes

- 124 Members
- Workers are still needed to help format the **2011-2012 Contact**. Please call Ayn Samuelson at 321-773-8167 if you are willing to help with this worthwhile project.
- Legislative Interviews will be conducted soon. If you would like to participate in these interviews, please call Doreen Archer at 321-622-4071
- Local Government committee will be meeting in January. Call Priscilla Griffith for details at 321-723-7101 if you would like to join this group.
- A financial planning workshop will be conducted at the January Board Meeting. All members are welcome.
- Politicos on Parade 2011 committee reported that they are hoping that members invite their friends to join us for an enjoyable afternoon of food, fashion and entertainment.

## Update

We welcome two new members this month. Please add this information to your membership book.

Jean Ann McMurry  
7405 Orchestra Lane #1310  
Melbourne, FL 32940  
321-622-6102  
[jeanann314@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanann314@yahoo.com)

Brigitta Hawkins  
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Titusville, FL 32780  
321-302-8797  
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**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

**Marilza Novaes Card – Chair**

The state of Florida took a positive step by adopting Bill CS/HB 105 concerning Civics Education at Middle Schools this year. As members of the LWV we understand the importance of civic involvement to individuals' growth as well as to society as a whole. I often wish that young people would have more opportunities to become active in civic issues. The National Assessment of Educational Progress points out that seventy-five percent of students in the United States don't receive appropriate civics education <http://secondarypgms.brevard.k12.fl.us/MiddleSchoolCivicsEducation.pdf>. The following are summaries of articles on this topic that I would like to share:

Aida B. Balsano's article entitled "Youth Civic Engagement in the United States: Understanding and Addressing the Impact of Social Impediments on Positive Youth and Community Development" (Applied Development Science, 2005, Vol.9, No. 4) addresses this issue. Mr. Balsano points out that civic engagement has a positive short term and long term impact on young people. He states that youth can benefit psychologically and academically at the same time that they promote civic society. The article discusses research that shows that when young people and adults share civic experiences, they acquire collective benefits. According to the author, in 1996, Yates and Youniss examined 44 studies of youth civic involvement. Ninety-five percent of the studies took place in the United States. They found out that youth who experience civic engagement are more likely to develop high self-esteem, participate in social activities, be more able to resolve social and interpersonal issues, and have a better understanding about their abilities. Research also indicates that engagement in civic activities will protect the youth from risky behaviors and give them the opportunity to develop in a positive way.

Mr. Balsano discusses how society benefits from youth civic engagement. He emphasizes the importance of young people's participation in the political processes of civil society. The author explains that the youth who is involved in civic commitment can contribute by educating, organizing and participating in social justice issues, making sure that we maintain a democratic system.

The article addresses parents as role models. Parents who are active in their communities teach their children the importance of civic responsibility by serving their communities and being politically active. It also discusses the importance of schools in providing students with opportunities to engage in civic issues and experiences. Studies show that many American schools

"lack ecologically sensitive training in civic education and skills for both teachers and youth, by the lack of opportunities for youth to discuss social issues in their civic education classes". Nevertheless, schools can reach many young people and could make a huge contribution by becoming more involved with community-based organizations. The author mentions data from the National Center for Education Statistics, 1999, that show that 31% of students that were doing volunteer work in their community had found civic opportunities on their own instead of through their high schools.

Pamela Zeiser wrote the article "Building Better Citizens: Increasing the Level of Civic Education Among Teens in Jacksonville, Florida" (National Civic Review, 2001, Vol. 90, No.3). This program was funded by the Deer Creek Foundation and the Kirbo Foundation. The author describes the Building Better Citizens program to educate young people to become engaged in civic issues and activities. It provides information on local and federal government and offers opportunities for students to become involved in issues related to their community. It teaches young people about the needs in the community and the meaning of being a "responsible and involved citizen". The program educates the youth on the electoral process, voting, and political candidates. It discusses the value of volunteering and the role of non-profit organizations. This program is in response to the low participation of the youth as voters, high school seniors' lack of civic knowledge and the indifference that many young adults have towards the government and its processes. A unique characteristic of this program is that it is aimed at disadvantaged youth in alternative schools instead of at students that already have leadership skills. The Building Better Citizens program was employed at the PACE Center for Girls in Jacksonville, Florida. The participants were nineteen girls with criminal, social and academic problems.

The students in this program visited Democratic and Republican party headquarters, City Hall, participated in a mock presidential election, attended lectures and presentations from non-profit organizations, wrote journals, shared information with students that did not participate and volunteered at a community homeless shelter. Pre-tests and post-tests were used as a way to measure changes in civic education and attitudes. They included questions such as what is the role of elected representatives, who is the governor of Florida and can citizens help to solve problems in the community, among others. Results showed that the average grade on the pre-tests was "F" and on the post-test was "B-". Ms. Zeiser stated that the students enjoyed the program and many of them continued to volunteer in the community.

*(continued on Page 4 second column)*



## Natural Resources

Maureen Rupe – Chair

### Local Climate Change Effects

The City of Satellite Beach (City), Florida, voted in the fall of 2009 to conduct a study to assess the city's vulnerability to rising sea level and to help facilitate talks of potential adaptation strategies. This project was one of the first in Florida to try to seriously address what is the potential consequences of global sea-level rise, which is forecasted to rise a meter or more by the year 2100. There's a lot of information in the city's 30-page study, which makes it hard to summarize it into a short article for the *Voter*, but I'll try.

The city was able to obtain funds from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Ready Estuaries (CRE) Program made available through the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program. The program's goal is to "enhance local efforts to develop a climate change adaptation plan that may not occur or otherwise be limited by inadequate financial resources". The city promoted objectivity by basing the scope of work on sound scientific principles and the best scientific information available.

The study showed the City will probably lose 5% of its land during the initial 2 ft of sea-level rise, which will probably be limited to fringing wetlands and canals, but the next 2 feet will probably submerge 20% more of the city, including critical assets, important roads, and residential neighborhoods. Once the sea level reaches a 6-foot increase, 52% of the city is gone. Besides the flooding and submergence, the study stated every stage in the sea-level rise will also compromise the functionality of the city's emergency evacuation routes and it's gravity driven storm-water system.

The Satellite Beach study's results also suggested the city has approximately 40 years to figure out how to formulate and implement a city adaptation plan, as it seems 2050 is the timeframe where the "tipping point" will occur. Tipping Point meaning, where impacts on how important elements of the city will change from "minor inconveniences" to major disruptions. As a result, the City of Satellite Beach's Comprehensive Planning Advisory Board has approved a series of updates and revisions to the City's Comprehensive Plan. If the changes are approved by the City Council and Florida's Department of Community Affairs, the new Comprehensive Plan will provide a basis to help reduce the City's vulnerability to sea-level rise.

Unfortunately, no other local government in Volusia, Brevard, and Indian River Counties have looked at anything to seriously address either climate

change or sea-level rise. This may be due to some people's perception about the scientific uncertainty of climate change, or and that "climate change" programs will require financing from local governments already struggling to meet existing demands. It becomes questionable whether anything Satellite Beach could do will have any effect if all other local governments do nothing. How would the city survive if no one can reach it except by boat?

The City of Satellite Beach's study may be found at: [http://www.spacecoastclimatechange.com/documents/forum\\_10\\_26\\_10/CC\\_manuscript.pdf](http://www.spacecoastclimatechange.com/documents/forum_10_26_10/CC_manuscript.pdf)



*(continued from Page 3)*

She points out that these students developed leadership skills and showed appreciation for the help they received in completing this program. At their graduation they selected patriotic American songs instead of any other kind of music.

The Building Better Citizens program is still taking place in Jacksonville and has expanded into the southern United States. Wouldn't it be great to have a program like that, on a larger scale, throughout the whole country?

In order to fulfill the requirement for civics education in middle schools (Florida statute S. 1003.4156, F.S.), students will have one semester of civics education as part of their eighth grade U.S. History course. This is not much of a change for Brevard County schools because they already had some civics education, state and federal government studies as part of their curriculum. A separate civics course is not required by law. (<http://secondarypgms.brevard.k12.fl.us/MiddleSchoolCivicsEducation.pdf>). Is this enough to make our children develop an interest in our democratic system and become active citizens?



## Tour of Florida Solar Institute

Susan Little

Would anyone be interested in taking a tour of the Florida Solar Institute in Cocoa? It is affiliated with UCF and has done much research in energy efficiency of buildings. The tentative dates would be **February 10th** or **February 17th** and I would need at least 15 people to set up a tour. If interested, please email me at [littaylor@excite.com](mailto:littaylor@excite.com).





## Book Review by Ruth E., Almeida

Roubini, Nouriel & Stephen Mihm. *Crisis Economics*. 2010, 301 pages plus notes and index.

The economist, Nouriel Roubini, was one of the few who predicted several years in advance the current fiscal crisis in the U.S. and its global reverberations. Economic policies and their effects are not easy to understand for the uninitiated which includes most people. However, the fall out of such ignorance has profound effects on our society and governance to include social and political stability as well as financial viability from the individual to the government to the world population as a whole. This means jobs, pensions, medical and educational funding—in short everything that requires \$ (money) which is—everything.

Roubini has broadened his analysis to include the global interactions of the economy and has identified many of the fault lines that could result in future financial melt downs. Whether governments will take the long view depends greatly on the political will of each country (notably the U.S. ) to confront these fiscal shortcomings before it is too late .

We have often heard that we are spending our children's and grandchildren's inheritance by our profligate economic behavior and political unwillingness to address bad economic decisions both as individuals and as a nation. If Roubini is correct and the economic situation is spinning out of control much faster than anticipated, we may have a chance to experience an even more severe financial meltdown in our own lifetime as well.

Even those with a low tolerance for fiscal jargon and economic math should find the first and last chapters worthwhile. It may explain the attraction of some voters to the message of the tea party whether you endorse their agenda or not.

Worth you time and effort. Ruth E. Almeida



## International Relations

### Mary Nicolay - Chair

January 11th the International Relations Committee will have a review of the year 2010. There will also be assigning of topics for the coming months in the Great Decisions Booklets. Anyone interested in joining the group is encouraged to attend the meeting at 1 p.m., at the Satellite Beach Library. For further information phone Mary Nicolay, 723-6169.



## Arms Control

In late November and early December the national League was encouraging its members to contact their Senators to vote in favor of the new START Treaty.

Elisabeth MacNamara, President, League of Women Voters of the United States had a letter published on November 10<sup>th</sup> in the *New York Times*: "As your editorial correctly notes, America needs Congress to finish its work, and the Senate should lead the way by ratifying the New Start treaty.

This would be the first arms control treaty between the United States and Russia in a decade. It calls for regular inspections and timely exchanges of information regarding nuclear arsenals. The treaty would not only reduce the number of deployed nuclear weapons in both the United States and Russia but could also influence other nations to follow suit.

The League of Women Voters believes that the New Start treaty, which passed the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on a bipartisan vote, is essential to maintaining a stable strategic relationship between the two nations. We are not alone. During Senate hearings earlier this year, high-ranking members of the Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush 41, Clinton and Bush 43 administrations testified in support of New Start."

The League has provided articles on this subject that can be reprinted in local *Voters*. Following is a background article written in 2009 by Ellen Z. Berg and Ralph Kuiper entitled *Intorduction to the Work of the LWWUS Arms Control Task Force*.

On December 5, 2009, the bilateral Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, one of the cornerstone treaties intended to reduce and control the use of nuclear weapons, will expire. The Treaty entered into force in 1994 after being negotiated for much of the 1980s. The options for the signatories – the United States and Russia – are to allow the Treaty to expire, to extend it for five years so negotiations can continue or to adopt a new agreement this year. Preliminary negotiations have already begun, with new reduction targets set by Presidents Obama and Medvedev this past summer.

The world order has changed considerably since the Treaty was negotiated. In this changed world, there are more nuclear nations, and acts of terrorism have raised fears that nuclear bombs and other weapons of mass destruction will fall into the hands of non-state actors. Concerns about weapons proliferation, mishandling of fissile materials and the wide distribution of conventional arms have raised concerns about global security. (*Arms Control Article continued on Page 6*)

*(continued from Page 5)* **Arms Control**

In response, the Obama administration has adopted the view put forward by the bipartisan quartet of George Schultz, William Perry, Henry Kissinger and Sam Nunn, and is committed to pursuing a world free of nuclear weapons. First steps include submitting the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty to the Senate for ratification this winter, as a precursor to playing a strong leadership role in the Non-Proliferation Treaty discussions in May of 2010.

With this backdrop the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) decided it was appropriate to form a task force to review its 1983 Position on Arms Control for "relevance, usefulness, and practical application." Despite all that has happened in the last 26 years, the Task Force finds the principles and language of the Position to be broadly applicable today. However, it anticipates suggesting some revisions once its deliberations are complete.

The LWVUS Arms Control Task Force is comprised of six at-large members: Ellen Z. Berg (Seattle, WA), Ralph Kuiper (Los Altos, CA), Ann Lakhdir (Westport, CT), Lois Requist (Benicia, CA), W. Michael Slattery (Maribel, WI) and Donald J. Turner (Norcross, GA). The Task Force is advised by three LWVUS Board Members: Stephanie Johnson (chair, Arkansas), Judy Duffy (Minnesota), and Elisabeth MacNamara (Georgia). The Task Force has collaborated and discussed issues through a series of teleconferences and emails.

The Task Force identified and reviewed a number of issues and has written information papers that can inform the members and the Board to help in arriving at potential updates to the Position. The articles will be posted on the LWVUS website to inform and engage the members on arms control. The following is an initial list of articles that may be augmented or updated over the next few months:

1. The Arms Control Backstory and the LWVUS Position,
2. Geopolitical Factors Relevant to the Position,
3. Summary of the Relevant Treaties and the Need for Urgency,
4. Disarmament and the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons,
5. Weapons Proliferation to States and Non-State Actors,
6. Missile Defense Systems,
7. The Emerging Issue of Conventional Weapons.
8. Chemical and Biological Weapons

Presently, deliberations of the Task Force have identified areas of concern for relevance, usefulness and practical application that are explored in more depth in the articles. These areas of concern include:

1. What is the appropriate U.S. leadership role in multilateral agreements, diplomacy and verification?
2. How are international policy statements, agreements and negotiations involving two or more countries, which are being constructed, address constraints or compliance issues?
3. What is the situation regarding states, which hold or are developing nuclear weapons outside of international law? Such states include India, Pakistan, Israel, North Korea and Iran.
4. What is the situation of non-state actors or terrorist organizations regarding the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction?
5. What is the status of international collaboration between stakeholders, intelligence agencies, embassies, UN organizations and others seeking to stem the proliferation of weapons to non-state actors?
6. What is the status of detection and verification technology designed to monitor the development and testing of weapons of mass destruction?
7. What is the status of accountability measures for nuclear weapons and fissile materials; for biological and chemical weapons?
8. What is the status of missile defense systems in U.S. defenses?
9. What are the economic and social conditions concerning the proliferation of conventional weapons and the resulting violence?

Ultimately, it is felt that the time is ripe for the United States and the world to be free of nuclear weapons and move forward with safeguards against their proliferation. Also, it is hoped that the information developed by the Task Force can help individual members be better informed citizens on this important subject and be well prepared to contribute to the public discourse that is certain to become more intense over the coming months.

League members Ellen Z. Berg (Seattle, WA) and Ralph Kuiper (Los Altos, CA) are members of the LWVUS Arms Control Task Force.

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Arms Control Task Force

Photos from November Timely Topics



Carol and Carl Andren



Brigitta Hawkins



Vera Walker and Danielle Abbott



Anne Dewey



Alison White and Jean Ann McMurry



Karen Raboin

Calendar for January 2011

Thursday, January 6,  
Monday, January 10  
Tuesday, January 11,  
Friday, January 28

~Members Welcome at All Meetings~

Board Meeting - Home of Brigette Sinton - Melbourne Village 10 a.m.

Children's Committee - Suntree Library at 1:30 p.m.

International Relations Meeting Satellite Beach Library 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Politicos on Parade Luncheon and Fashion Show at Eau Gallie Yacht Club - 11:30 a.m.

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