



# The Voter

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



Volume 33: No. 5

January , 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.



~Politicos on Parade ~



## Luncheon & Fashion Show

**When:** Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> , 2013  
**Where:** Eau Gallie Yacht Club  
100 Datura Drive,  
Indian Harbour Beach, FL  
**Time:** 11:30 A.M. for cash bar followed by lunch at noon.  
**Menu:** London Broil with Bordelaise Sauce  
Stuffed Cantaloupe with Tuna or Chicken Salad  
Vegetarian Plate  
**Cost:** \$40.00  
Reservations & menu choice to Barbara Jagrowski at 321-259-5942  
or e-mail [jandbjagrowski@earthlink.net](mailto:jandbjagrowski@earthlink.net)  
by Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
or mail your check made out to LWVSC to Brigitte  
Sinton, 6629 Canal Road, Melbourne Village, FL 32904  
Remember to include your lunch choice on your check.

Since the dining room holds just 110 people, be sure to sign up ASAP. (as soon as possible)  
Space Coast League of Women Voters will be presenting POLITICOS ON PARADE VI Fashion Show and Luncheon Fund Raiser. As you enjoy a delicious meal from the Eau Gallie Yacht Club's kitchen, you will be entertained by an all-star cast of Brevard County's newly elected officials modeling the latest fashions. We will also be celebrating the League's 93<sup>rd</sup> year of public service with all the profits from this event earmarked for expanded citizen education on voting rights and other important local, state and national issues. We count on you to be there and encourage you to invite your friends to celebrate with us. If you are unable to attend, do please consider making a donation to the cause.

Fashions will be provided by Patchington, Lane Bryant and The Men's Wearhouse, all located at the Avenue Mall in Viera. Confirmed models at press time were Lisa Cullen, Brevard County Tax Collector, Wayne Ivey, Sheriff, Palm Bay Mayor, William Capote, and Grant Valkaria Council Woman, Lisette Kolar.

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### Underwriters of the Month



MEN'S WEARHOUSE®



## President's Corner

**Barbara Whitley**

Welcome to 2013.

Happy New Year to all our Leaguers.

May this year be the best year.  
 May this year have the most smiley moments.  
 May each problem be one that can be quickly solved.  
 May all the children have happy faces.  
 May all the foods that taste good have the fewest calories.  
 May our hands reach out to help not hurt.  
 May our eyes see the good in people before our mouths taste the bitterness of dark words.  
 May we say on December 31, 2013 that this WAS the best year ever. Barb

As we start the New Year we can't forget that although we had a great party and a wonderful holiday luncheon we still have work to do. As this year begins we start with our "Politicos on Parade". We have many busy hands working to make this a success. This is always a fun event and a good way to start League's New Year.

May your face be one that I get to greet as you come through the door of the Yacht Club.

Other plans have been made for speakers for February and March who will educate and inform us about local activities. The best thing a League can do is bring up-to-date information to its members. An informed member is the best advertisement for a League. When a Leaguer is asked "where did you hear about that?" and the answer is; "I heard it at a Timely Topic meeting of the LWV." This is the moment the light goes on and a thought is planted. This is "an invitation moment," time to say; "Why don't you come with me next month?"

The committees are working on some interesting issues. Please, think about joining one of the areas that may suit your interest. And as the light just went off in my head, I encourage you to invite a friend. We encourage all members to join a study group. The various areas are listed in your membership book so if you are interested, give the Chair a call.

So as this began, I will end it here with...

My best wishes to you for a peaceful, enlightened and safe New Year.

As always,  
 Barb



## Welcome to New Members

**Rebecca Fiedler**

**Floridaia Young**

**Elaine Girard**

**Marie Perry**

**Lady Marie Louise Grundy**

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



## Board Bytes

- 118 members
- Board members donated \$100 to Space Coast Pops in Vera Walker's name.
- Celebrate the League on November 15<sup>th</sup> was very successful. Thanks to all board members who provided the food and thank you to the committee who worked on this project. Linda Kyvik was chairman. Committee members were, Marilyn Collins, Mary Nicolay, Brigitte Sinton, and Lucia Watson.
- Politicos on Parade Luncheon will be \$40 per person.
- Budget for 2013 will be worked on soon. LWVSC new financial year starts April 1, 2013.
- Continuation of Vera Walker biography will continue next month.

## In Memoriam

**Condolences to League Member,  
 Clarice Costello and her family in the loss of  
 husband, William B. Costello Jr. on  
 November 12<sup>th</sup>.**



**Children’s Committee**

**Marguerite Orban – Chair**

**What is the McKinney – Vento Act?**

At the beginning of the Reagan Presidency, most programs associated with homelessness were administered and funded at the local level. The first federal task force on homelessness was created in 1983 to provide information to local governments on how to obtain surplus federal property – Title V.

As pressure grew to address the problems of homelessness, the federal government became an active participant, and Congress passed a few small parts of the Homeless Persons, Survival Act in 1986. Later that year, legislation was introduced as the Urgent Relief for the Homeless Act, which, after an intense advocacy campaign, was passed by large bi-partisan majorities in both houses of Congress in 1987. After the death of its chief Republican sponsor, Representative Stewart McKinney of Connecticut, it was renamed the McKinney Veneto Homeless Assistance Act and was signed in law by President Reagan in July, 1987.

The Act consisted of fifteen programs related to services to the homeless population. Title V11 authorizes several programs administered by the Department of Education, the Department of Labor and the Department of Health and Human Services. The Act has been amended several times but continues to address the needs of a population that is still under represented and about which a great deal is not known.

According to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act, every child has the right to an education. In 2001, Title X Part C of the No Child Left Behind Act, Sec. 725, the term “homeless children and youth “was clearly defined to include those who are sharing the housing of other persons, those who have a nighttime residence that is not designed for nor usually used for regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, and those who are living in cars , abandoned buildings, train and bus stations and the like.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act requires school districts to ensure homeless children have access to education and other services that they need to meet the same academic achievement standards as all students All school districts must designate a Homeless Liaison, who must ensure that homeless children are identified, that children enroll in and have full and equal opportunity to succeed and that children and parents receive services. Whenever feasible, children should continue in their “school of origin” (the school that they attended prior to becoming homeless) and transportation must be provided to get them there.

**Thanks**

Thank you to all the members of the League of Women Voters of the Space Coast who brought to our Holiday Luncheon such a generous amount of toiletries and other needed items for our homeless youth. The hope of the Children’s Committee is that we shall continue to supply some of these toiletries to be distributed through the school liaison. Members of the committee are willing to take donations at any time. Those of you who travel or have family members who travel regularly may have accumulated shampoos, lotions, etc. from hotels. These donations would be appreciated.

Chair, Marguerite Orban delivered the donations to Dr. Sally Shinn at the offices of the Brevard County Schools. Dr. Shinn was most appreciative of the donations and said “many thanks” to all who donated.

Some of our members who were not at the Holiday Luncheon asked if money could be sent for this cause.

Checks can be mailed to  
 Dr. Sally Shinn  
 Brevard County Schools  
 2700 Judge Fran Jamieson Way  
 Viera, FL 32940

**The checks are written to Brevard Schools Foundation with a notation that the donation is to be spent on the homeless.**

If you mark it for **student’s emergencies** it can be used to buy food for the homeless students. Dr. Shinn said there was a great need for food due to the holiday vacation time arriving.



**Local Government**

**Priscilla Griffith**

Local Government Committee will be meeting on **Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at Sun Shoppe and Café at 540 E. New Haven Avenue, Melbourne, FL. All members are welcome to join this committee.**

**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.



## International Relations

### Mary Nicolay – Chair

The INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS GROUP will meet again on Tuesday, January 8, 2013 from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. at the Satellite Beach Library.

Cheryl Roberts, member of the International Relations Group, will be the speaker. Her topic will be **WEAPONS AND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION**. These subjects have been a focus in her career.

Ruth Almeida will be reviewing a recent publication on International Affairs.

Topics for the coming months using **GREAT DECISIONS** materials will be assigned. The issues to be covered this year are:

- EGYPT,
- NATO,
- MYANMAR AND SOUTHEAST ASIA,
- HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION,
- IRAN,
- CHINA,
- THREAT ASSESSMENT.

If there is an area you would like to present, please tell Mary Nicolay. Booklets have been ordered and will be passed out in January.

Please join us as we explore issues affecting our country and world.



### Moving Beyond Election Reflections

By: Elisabeth MacNamara, President of The League of Women Voters

11/29/2012

Segments from Blog. Full Blog is found at [www.lwv.org./blog/201211](http://www.lwv.org./blog/201211)

Only a few short weeks have passed since Election Day, but it already feels like a lifetime ago. Now is the time to reflect back on the 2012 election and look toward what's to come in 2013.

We recognize that we will be continuing the fight to protect voters in 2013 and beyond; currently, we're awaiting decisions from three courts, regarding the future of Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin's voter photo ID law. Additionally, we anticipate more attempts to restrict voting both nationally and in state legislatures. [The Supreme Court recently agreed to hear a case on the Voting Rights Act](#), potentially jeopardizing key voting rights safeguards that have been in place for decades.

We will also continue efforts to engage as many new voters as possible.

[On the ninety-second anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment](#), we re-launched our one-stop online elections resource, [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org). Throughout 2012, over two million voters used this resource to find answers to their most pressing questions: am I registered, who's on my ballot and where is my polling place, as well as whether or not to expect any changes in the voting process since the last election. VOTE411.org will continue to be an invaluable elections resource providing information for voters in elections in 2013 and the years to come.

In addition to registering thousands of voters and protecting the rights of untold voters, these volunteers helped millions of voters learn about the candidates. Leagues across the country distributed millions of voters' guides and hosted hundreds of candidate debates from school board up to U.S. Senate, in order to help educate voters in their communities. In non-election years, these same volunteers will convene their neighbors in important discussions about the issues facing their communities and our country.

Facing larger-than-ever threats of big money in our elections this year, Leagues also utilized their experience and solid reputations to battle back against the onslaught of deceptive political ads. Through our [Truth in Campaign Advertising Project](#), League members encouraged local television stations to reject deceptive political ads and/or provide viewers with nonpartisan, objective analysis of the political ads being run on their stations. We hope a new trend of [stations fact-checking campaign ads](#) will become the norm as an integral part of the community service local media provide voters. We also supported the DISCLOSE Act, which would have required full disclosure of political campaign advertising spending in federal elections, and [were disappointed when the Senate refused to even debate the issue](#). [Leagues nationwide](#) put pressure on their elected officials to stop the flood of secret money by supporting disclosure in general and the DISCLOSE Act specifically. In 2013, we will continue to battle back against the influence of secret money in our political process and to ensure voters have all the information they need before they vote.

The League will continue to work with legislators and other officials and offer our support in creating an election system that is free, fair and accessible to all eligible voters.

We look forward to partnering with voters and supporters across the country to accomplish this work.



## 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)

### Article by Maureen Rupe

North Merrit Island Refuge Launch Complex continued from article in December 2012 VOTER on page 6.

On November 16th, I went to a Space Coast Audubon meeting In Rockledge, where Dale Ketchum of Space Florida was making a presentation on the proposed Florida Launch Complex north of Kennedy Space Center. The Launch complex would be on 150 acres around the Volusia/Brevard County line, which the state is asking the Federal government to deed back to the state. It was stated that the land was taken from the state by eminent domain back in 1963. The presentation seemed geared completely on primarily bringing commercial launches for the company SpaceX, founded by former PayPal entrepreneur Elon Musk, to an area near the current Kennedy Space Center. Mr. Ketchum, Space Florida's Chief of Strategic Alliances, stated the launch complex wouldn't be limited just to SpaceX, the complex wouldn't be bringing a lot of direct jobs to the area, but the hope was in having a commercial launch complex close to the current NASA center, would spur additional investments from satellite processing companies, suppliers and others to the local area. Space Florida is also hoping to draw an investment by SpaceX for spacecraft refurbishment within the general area. Mr. Ketchum also stated there was a lot of competition among states and Puerto Rico to build a launch complex for SpaceX and other commercial launch companies. Space Florida is trying to ensure Florida stays as a major player in space Launch. It was stated there was already an environmental study in progress for a site 2 miles north of the Mexico border near Brownsville, Texas for a SpaceX launch facility.

The presentation also briefly mentioned the state was also trying to have NASA deed over the Shuttle Landing Facility and runway to the state. Jim Kuzma, Space Florida Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer stated NASA was required to either destroy or hand over the runway by October 2013 as the landing facility was no longer part of NASA's mission. Space Florida is trying to ensure all options are open to commercial vendors, whether it's for vertical or horizontal launch.

Charles Lee, Director of Advocacy at Audubon of Florida, spoke after Space Florida stating his "exceedingly skeptical" view of the proposal. To date he had heard no acknowledgement of the proposal from

any federal agency. Mr. Lee stated the proposal started as a public release to the newspapers, with all federal and state legislators. He was concerned on why launch facilities couldn't be consolidated in the general location of the landing facility, instead of in the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and the Canaveral National Seashore.

During the question and answer period, many of the members of the group stated their support for the space industry, as many of their members worked or still work at the Kennedy Space Center, but from an environmental perspective, he was very concerned. The proposed launch complex is directly west of the Mosquito Lagoon, which is the one of the largest fish hatcheries on the east coast of the United States. If an accident happened and there was a large contamination spill in the Mosquito Lagoon, it would be disastrous, as except for the Hanover Canal, the lagoon is completely landlocked. Space Florida representatives stated there were safety rules to keep that from happening, and they would be responsible for the clean-up if an accident happened. Dale Ketchum stated it was only kerosene. I know kerosene floats on top of water, but a large spill of any contaminate in the lagoon would be devastating for fish and birds in the area.

I hope things can be worked out to allow a location where commercial space launch can take place and that it still ensures the protection of our fishing industry and the rest of the environment. Space Launch has always been and should be maintained in Brevard County. I'll keep everyone posted as more information is provided.

## Fertilizer Ordinance Hearing

The board of Space Coast League of Women Voters unanimously voted to support the passage of a **strict ordinance** on fertilizer use in the county. Doreen Archer, Francis Clifford, Connie Hogerty and Maureen Rupe attended the meeting of the County Commission on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> in support of the stricter regulations.

The stricter regulations were:

- 1. Only allow fertilizers containing at least 50% slow release nitrogen. No fertilizers in Brevard containing phosphorus unless soil testing proves that it is needed.
- 2. Ban fertilizers application within 15 feet of a waterway.
- 3. Ban fertilizers containing phosphorus and nitrogen in the rainy season from June 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>. Use fertilizers containing iron instead.

*(continued on Page 7)*



## VOTER PROTECTION GROUPS CALL FOR ELECTION REFORM TASK FORCE

**November 13, 2012**

Tallahassee, FL--In response to Florida's general election disaster, a coalition of voter-protection organizations today called urgently for creation of an election reform task force.

Gathering at press conferences held simultaneously in Miami and Orlando were representatives of the League of Women Voters of Florida, AARP, National Congress of Black Women, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, Florida Institute for Reform and Education, Florida Coalition on Black Civic Participation, Lawyers Committee For Civic Rights Under Law, SantLa Haitian Neighborhood Center, South Florida Jobs with Justice, Florida Votes Count, Equality Florida and the Hispanic Coalition.

Outlining the many problems voters experienced during early voting and on election day, League of Women Voters of Florida President, Deirdre Macnab said, "A week ago today, Florida voters saw the culmination of a general election process that can be summarized in one word: "Unacceptable."

The group called today for immediate and joint action by the legislature and the governor: "We are formally calling on the governor and the legislature to follow the example of 2000 and appoint a multi-partisan task force chaired by trusted leaders." The group recommended appointing a cross-section of knowledgeable stakeholders with expertise in elections, supported by adequate budget and staff, to develop a blueprint for successful election reform.

Speaking with one voice, the group urged: "We must finally put Florida's shameful election disasters behind us. We ask that this task force begin its work quickly and deliver its final recommendations to the 2013 Legislature at least two weeks before the 2013 session begins, allowing time for bills to be filed."

The groups cited a litany of problems:

Cuts in early voting days and lack of standardization in early-voting hours across Florida's 67 counties,

Insufficient election budgets, facilities and equipment throughout the state,

Expanded use of provisional ballots and ill-conceived voter purges,

A record-length ballot overloaded with complex, confusing amendments,

Lines requiring waits of up to 6 or 7 hours, inconveniencing many and excluding many others, including the elderly, disabled citizens, and voters who didn't have the time or stamina to wait in hours-long lines,

The four-day delay in knowing the results.

Cathy Kerns, representing the AARP said, "Voting is one of our most important rights. Florida's elected officials have a responsibility to act to lighten the burdens and lower the barriers that many voters encountered on Election Day 2012. Those barriers were especially high for older voters. Lowering those barriers is important for all, regardless of age or ability."

According to up-to-the minute research, the burden on minority voters was disproportionate. University of Florida Professor Michael C. Herron and Dartmouth College Professor Daniel A. Smith looked at the racial/ethnic and partisan composition of early voters in Florida, along with details about voters who were forced to wait in line on Saturday night in Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties, and who ended up casting their ballots after midnight. They found that minority voters, and in particular black voters, suffered disproportionately from this year's unfair practices and that minority voting was suppressed.

Victor Sanchez from the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, said, "Latino voters in the State of Florida deeply cherish the right to vote. When faced with unparalleled voter suppression efforts, we have chosen to respond by condemning efforts to place obstacles and impede free and fair elections."

Voter activist LaVon W. Bracy added, "The entire nation is again looking at the State of Florida. The voting process from October 27 - November 6 was embarrassing and unacceptable. What Governor Scott and the Florida Legislature did under the guise of protecting the vote is immoral. The total disregard for democracy must be challenged and changed."

Maribel Balbin, president of the Miami Dade League of Women Voters, added, "It is clear that Florida's 2012 election process was shameful and unacceptable. Miami Dade was one of the worst, with some of the longest lines and most lengthy delays in counting ballots."

League President Macnab said, "The state simply can't afford to be in the national spotlight once again--as a punch line for late-night comedy--as this could have a profound and damaging impact on our ability to compete for jobs and new businesses moving to Florida."

After the election fiasco in 2000, a bipartisan task force similar to the group's proposal was assembled by then-Governor Jeb Bush, with almost all of its recommendations implemented under Governors Bush and Charlie Crist. *(continued on Page 7)*

(continued from Page 6) **Election Reform Task Force** All this changed in 2011 after the Legislature passed HB 1355, which reduced early voting hours and instituted the other provisions that led to this year's problems.

Macnab stressed that immediate attention is necessary: "We must move forward together to put Florida's election disasters behind us."

**Fertilizer Ordinance Hearing**

(continued from Page 5)

These more restrictive rules were passed by the advisory Brevard County Local Planning Agency. However, the Commission did not pass the more **restrictive rules** on December 11<sup>th</sup>. With a 3 to 2 vote they did pass some new restrictions including regulating phosphorous application, use of nitrogen in fertilizer and application of fertilizer within 10 feet of a waterway. Blowing grass clippings into storm drains is prohibited and there is some banning of fertilizer use during threats of storms or flooding.

**Photos from Celebrate the League and Vera Walker's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday**



Ann Downing, Sue Mart & Bob Mart



Barbara Dutton, Barbara Whitley, Barbara Mason & Barbara Jagrowski



Long time member, Vera Walker - 100 years old

~January Calendar - Members welcome at all meetings~

Wednesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> - Board Meeting at Suntree Library at 10:15 A.M.

Tuesday, January 8<sup>th</sup> - International Relations Meeting at Satellite Beach Library 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. Subject is WEAPONS AND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION with Cheryl Roberts. These subjects have been a focus in her career.

Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup> Local Government Committee Meeting at Sun Shoppe and Café at 540 E. New Haven Avenue, Melbourne, FL.

Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup> - Children's Committee at Suntree Library at 1:30 P.M.

Monday, January 14<sup>th</sup> - Health Committee at Suntree Library - 6 P.M. to 7:50 P.M. (Library is closed on January 21<sup>st</sup>)

Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> - Politics on Parade - 11:30 A.M. Eau Gallie Yacht Club, Indian Harbour Beach, FL

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