



The Voter

The League of Women Voters
of the Space Coast



Volume 30: No. 7

March, 2010

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.

Community Services Connection

You are invited to attend an informative session about a new **free** resource that connects **families** and **seniors** in need with the wide array of service providers available in Brevard County

This exciting new resource is available 24/7 in the privacy of your home via the internet and can be accessed anonymously by anyone.

When: Saturday, March 6, 2010
Time: 10 AM to Noon
Place: Commission Room, Building C, 1st Floor, Brevard County Government Center

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, Florida

Reservations: info@wholechildconnection.com
 or call Doreen Archer (321) 622-4071

**Sponsored by The League of Women Voters of the Space Coast
 and the American Association of University Women**

in cooperation with Brevard Schools Foundation, Child Care Association, Early Learning Coalition, Brevard Alzheimer's Foundation and ets, inc., the statewide technology partner for Whole Child Connection and Whole Senior Connection.

Please turn to Page 7 for more information about this very important event.

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**March Underwriter
 The Center for Civic
 Education**



**Developers of
 We the People:
 The Citizen and the
 Constitution and
 Project Citizen**



President's Corner

Ruth Schechter

Dear League Members,

The March program dealing with both our children and our seniors is scheduled for the Government Center in Viera *very early in the month*. Please look for the pertinent information in this Voter and support our Children's Committee as they once again bring us important information that we should know. Don't miss it because it comes up so quickly! Bring friends!

In the middle of March we have a group going to Tallahassee to participate in LWV Legislative Seminar! If you want to be a part of that group, hurry and register (deadline March 1st)! Registration information is in the last Voter or on-line at www.lwvfla.org. We want as many as possible to participate in our 90th Birthday Celebration at the Seminar!

The insert in this edition of Voter is the information you need to see to participate in our Annual Meeting for the Space Coast League. We will be meeting at the Eau Gallie Yacht Club in Indian Harbour Beach on Saturday, April 10th. This is a very important meeting for our League - we will be electing our directors, revising our bylaws, and charting our program of work for the next year. We need and want your input into this process! Please join us for a lovely Yacht Club lunch and a serious business meeting.

In League,
Ruth



International Relations

Mary Nicolay - Chair

Schedule for Next Four Months

February 9th, The U.S. and the Persian Gulf, Kathryn Kowalski, leader.

February 23rd, The special envoy in American foreign policy, Mary Nicolay, leader.

March 9th, Halting atrocities in Kenya, Karen Raboin, leader.

March 23rd, Transnational crime: globalization's shadowy stepchild, Sue Mart, leader.

April 13th, Europe's 'far east': the uncertain frontier, Jean Tweed, leader.

April 27th, Enhancing security through peacebuilding, Priscilla Griffith, leader.

May 11th, The global financial crisis and its effects, Martha Bradshaw, leader.

May 25th, China looks at the world: the world looks at China, JoDee Wilfong, leader.

The International Relations Committee's Great Decisions Group is pleased that Barbara Conkle, Reference Librarian at the Satellite Beach Library has offered her assistance. Barbara taught Political Science and Women's Studies at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green before taking early retirement with her husband in 1997. She is a member of League of Women Voters of the Space Coast.

As a guest speaker for the International Relations Committee in January she provided a step by step guide for accessing current data bases. Another valuable service she will be providing Great Decisions facilitators will be printing out articles suggested by the author of each topic and having the reference books available.

Please visit the wonderful display she has developed at the library in Satellite Beach on the GD topics for the month and be aware that she leads Barbara's Book Chats monthly. We are grateful for her support.



Finance

Barbara Jagrowski - Chair

2010 STAY HOME FUNDRAISER

The response to the second "Stay Home...and write a check" fundraiser has been wonderful. Many thanks to all of you who have mailed in a check. If you have not yet contributed, it is not too late. **It's never too late. The event will wrap up by March 31st. It really is the easiest way going to raise funds to continue League activities.**



Please add this information to your membership book.

~We Welcome New Member~

Gail L. Pearson
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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.



Children's Committee

Marilza Novaes Card – Chair

Recently, I attended the Play Symposium sponsored by the Space Coast Association for the Education of Young Children (SCAEYC) in collaboration with Brevard County Public Schools and several local organizations. The emphasis was on the importance of play, creativity, and art in promoting the growth and development of young children and adults. Attendees were provided with a variety of “toys” such as pebbles, yard sticks, blocks and pieces of fabric. They were asked to play with the materials and later to share their creations, as well as thoughts and feelings about the experience. Educators were encouraged to provide time in their classrooms for children to learn and grow through play. It was emphasized that there is a need to allow time for kids to play alone and in groups. Children benefit when teachers encourage them to share their creations as well as their thoughts and feelings.

This topic is important not only to educators but also to parents, grand-parents and anyone else who spends time with children. Samuelsson and Johansson wrote an article called “Play and Learning – Inseparable Dimensions in Preschool Practice” (*Early Child Development and Care*, Vol. 176(1), Jan 2006, pp.47-65). The authors point out that it is common to encounter research and preschool practices that treat play and learning as separate dimensions. However, there have been some changes, lately. For example, the Department of Education in Sweden states that when children participate in play and joyful learning they develop collaboration, problem-solving skills, symbolic thinking, empathy and communication. Samuelsson and Johansson were interested in finding out whether play and learning could be integrated into interactions between children and teachers. Their observations took place during mealtimes and children’s playtime. They concluded that in both situations, dimensions of play and learning took place. They pointed out that teachers’ interplay with the students led to learning through encouragement, imitation, communication, joy, creativity, and creation of meaning.

There has been much criticism in the United States about the lack of time allowed for play in kindergarten. Miller and Almon have written an article entitled “Crisis in the Kindergarten: Why Children Need to Play in School” (*Education Digest*, 75(1), 2009, pp.42-45). They state that too much time is spent on tests in literacy and math skills, not allowing time for learning through play, exercising their bodies and using their imaginations.

The following is Miller and Almon’s call for action:

“We call on policy makers, educators, health professionals, researchers, and parents to take action as follows:

1. Restore child-initiated play and experiential learning with the active support of teachers to their rightful place at the heart of kindergarten education.
2. Reassess kindergarten standards to ensure that they promote developmentally appropriate practices, and eliminate those that do not.
3. End the inappropriate use in kindergarten of standardized tests, which are prone to serious error especially when given to children under age eight.
4. Expand the early childhood research agenda to examine the long-term impact of current preschool and kindergarten practices on the development of children from diverse backgrounds.
5. Give teachers of young children first-rate preparation that emphasizes the full development of the child and the importance of play, nurtures children’s innate love of learning, and supports teacher’s own capacities for creativity, autonomy, and integrity.
6. Use the crisis of play’s disappearance from kindergarten to rally organizations and individuals to create a national movement for play in schools and communities.”

The Nielsen and Monson authored a study entitled “Effects of Literacy Environment on Literacy Development of Kindergarten Children” (*Journal of Education Research*, Vol. 89(5), 1996). The authors examine the “environment” and “events” and their effect on the literacy development of two kindergarten classes (83 students). They concluded that the kind of environment and type of interaction that teachers have with the students should be an important part of the curriculum. They also concluded that the kids who attended an enriched literacy kindergarten environment made more gains in literacy achievement.

Corte and Wolanski wrote a book review on Jeynes’s “Standardized Tests and Froebel’s Original Kindergarten Model” (*Teachers College Record*, 108(10), 2006). The book contrasts the traditional Froebellian kindergarten model with the more contemporary testing of kindergarten children focused on building academic skills. The Froebel’s curriculum consists of the following dimensions: spirituality, creativity and play. The author states that this model has been used in societies such as Japan, China and Korea with great academic success. Corte and Wolanski believe that Sweden, where the literacy rate in one of the highest in the world, makes a better example. They state that the early education model in Sweden has more universal participation with a focus on play.

This is a fascinating topic and I am sure that we all have our own ideas of how little children learn best. Many researchers agree that changes to kindergarten and pre-K programs are essential to educational reform. Therefore, I hope you will have fun doing some additional reading on the topic.

LWV Space Coast PROPOSED BUDGET April 2010 - March 2011

INCOME**Donations**

Additions to Dues	800
Fund Raising	3,500
CONTACT	1,000
Other: Memorial Gift	200
Voter Service	400
VOTER Underwriting	1,800
We The People	500
Total Donations	8,200

Dues

Household	1,575
Individual	3,900
Student	25
Total Dues	5,500

Meetings

Annual meeting	900
Lunch	3,400
Total Meetings	4,300

Miscellaneous

Publications 100

Transfers

Transfer from Savings Acct	300
Transfer from Ed Fund	1,000
Total Transfers	1,300

TOTAL INCOME 19,500

EXPENSES**Administrative**

Committees	650
President	50
Secretary/Treasurer	50
Voter Services	100
Total Administrative	850

Conventions

Legislative Seminar	700
State Meeting	500
Total Conventions	1,200

Meetings

Operating 4,000

Annual Meeting	50
Donations	500
Fund Raising	1,850
Incorporation Fee	70
Insurance	200
Miscellaneous	100
Phone	450
Postage Bulk	400
Postage PO Box	100
Postage Permit	180
Printing CONTACT	1,800
Printing Directory	300
Printing VOTER	1,600
Publications	100
Stamps/Supplies	250
Web Hosting	150

Total Operating 8,100

Per Member Payments

National	3,200
State	1,650

Total PMP 4,850

Transfers

Transfer to Savings Acct	200
Transfer to Ed Fund	300

Total Transfers 500

TOTAL EXPENSES 19,500

Program of Work for 2010-2011

Health

1. Advocate health care as a National League priority.
2. Monitor the progress of the states that have enacted and are working on Universal Health Care.
3. Monitor Medicaid programs in the State and reform in Duval and Broward counties.
4. Apprise the membership as issues occur.

Justice

1. Investigate alternative placement for juvenile offenders other than incarceration.
2. Investigate if there are facilities in Florida that cater to juvenile offenders.
3. Investigate the educational opportunities provided to those juveniles detained in alternative housing.
4. Investigate and determine what is the recidivist rate of juveniles placed in an alternative program. Compare to that of the standard correctional facilities.

Local Government

1. Observe county commission meetings.
2. Research the current powers of the Clerk of the Courts.
3. Research the fiscal practices of the county with respect to
 - a. a citizen advisory board to make fiscal recommendations.
 - b. an annual county status report..
 - c. periodic review of special tax districts.

Natural Resources

1. Monitor and act on desalination in Brevard
2. Oppose the elimination of the Endangered Species Act.
3. Support adding Scrub Jays to the Endangered Species list.
4. Monitor and act on the protection of the Indian River Lagoon System, all surface waters and the St. John's River.
5. Monitor Viera West development.
6. Monitor MyRegion.org "How Shall We Grow" and the Century Commission.
7. Monitor Climate Change Issues.

Social Policy/Children's Issues Program

1. Monitor and take action on possible changes to any merit program related to children and teachers.
2. Continue to evaluate changes made in Medicaid for children.
3. Continue to take action on any position relating to children.
4. Review and take action on selected school board decisions.
5. Monitor and take action on selected issues involving the Pre-Kindergarten program.
6. Monitor and take action related to the implementation of class size rules.
7. Monitor Florida's access to federal SCHIP funds and work to safeguard the interest of children.
8. Network with other local groups and organizations in

an effort to make a bigger impact on children's well-being.

Positions starting on Page 5 of your Membership Book will stay the same.

Proposed Changes to LWVSC ByLaws

(Present Section 6 on Page 27 of Membership Book)

Section 6. Meetings

(a., b., c, shall remain as they are now)

d. will be added and read as follows:

Meetings may be held in person or by electronic means including but not limited to telephonic conferencing, video conferencing and E-mail. Telephonic and video conferencing meetings shall be called, noticed and conducted in the same manner as in person meetings. Meetings via E-mail may extend over a period of time (e.g. 1 week) with procedural requirements to include the following:

1. The president shall formally call a meeting by notifying each member of the Board of Directors, providing the agenda and meeting start and end time.
2. A quorum is established based on the number of Board members responses to the President's call.. A majority of members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.
3. All motions debates and notes are sent only to the President, who shall forward them to all members in the order received.
4. The time allowed for discussion and voting on a motion shall be specified by the President who shall send out a reminder alert as the vote closing time nears.
5. The meeting shall end at the specified time unless formally extended.
6. The president shall ensure that the Secretary has a record of the vote.

Section 7 Quorum will be deleted.

(Thanks to Patricia Wimmer for her work on this committee)

**Nominating Committee Report
Slate for 2010-2012**

2nd Vice President - Ayn Samuelson

Treasurer - Brigitte Sinton

Director - Marilza Novaes-Card

Director - Connie Hogerty

Proposed Nominating Committee for 2011

Karen Raboin - Chairman

Martha Bradshaw

Vera Walker

(These three would serve with two elected from Board of Directors)

(Thanks to Fern Patton - Acting Chair of Nominating Committee and the Committee)



Voter Service Report

Ayn Marie Samuelson – Chair

Get Ready for the 2010 Political Forums!

I met with *Florida Today*, Space Coast Tiger Bay and WBCC representatives on January 20th to discuss the upcoming political forums that will begin July 12th. We plan an ambitious schedule to ensure coverage of primary races and the general election races. The central location will be the BCC Cocoa campus, where the forums will be televised on WBCC and streamed live on the *Florida Today* website. All partners will assume certain duties to add to the success of the candidate forums. The League will time and collect questions cards, and we will also share the responsibility of moderating the forums. Working together, we can make this a successful project to present candidates to the citizens.

2010 Student Voter Registration

I met with the Supervisor of Elections (SOE) Outreach Project Manager on February 2nd to discuss collaboration between the SOE and the League with regard to student voter registration. In April and May, at the same time the SOE ventures into the area high schools to hold student government elections, the League will register students to vote. The purpose of this partnership is to enhance the efforts to register students as they directly experience voting via the touch screen voting machines.

State League and 2010 Elections

The State League will be publishing a Special Voter Edition with statewide candidates and ballot issue coverage. Pat Drago, the new state LWV voter service chair and I communicated about the template state has for an electronic Voter Guide. I am waiting to see what is offered and if we can easily incorporate it on the website. If you possess the expertise to assist in this endeavor, please step forward!

Counting and Certifying Ballots

Counting and Certifying Ballots at the Merritt Island Co-op election was carried out on February 2nd by the loyal and ever-ready-to-assist Bancroft family. As usual, they stepped up to the plate. The Co-op donated \$100.00 to the League through Voter Service.



Census Information

A lot of people think the census is an invasion of privacy, a nuisance of prying government, but the reality is it affects the quality of life for us and our families. Both federal and state governments use census data to distribute billions of dollars in funding for everything from education, public safety, libraries, housing, transportation, roads, bridges, job training,

health care, community development, and human services. During the 2000 census, the Census Monitoring Board determined that one uncounted person cost the community \$1,300 in local funding. If 1,000 people go uncounted, it will mean \$1.3 million dollars or more in lost funding. The count also determines every state's number of U.S. Representatives. Businesses use the data to determine where to locate factories and offices which can lead to new jobs in an area.

The 2010 census form should only take about 10 minutes to complete. It also doesn't matter whether you're a citizen or not. No individual's census information can be disclosed whether to a court of law or even the President of the United States. Census workers are highly motivated to protect individual information, as they are subject to a fine of \$250,000 and/or a five year prison term if found guilty of disclosing census information.

It also means jobs. According to a November 14, 2009 Business article in Florida Today by Susanne Cervenka, the federal government will be hiring up to 1,200 people in Brevard to conduct the census, with wages starting at \$13.75 per hour. More information on these jobs, and practice tests on reading, basic math and map reading can be found at www.2010censusjobs.gov. The article recommended applicants take the practice test multiple times to get used to the type of questions. The number of people hired will be determined on the number of people in the area that do not return their census forms.

Maureen Rupe



Board Bytes

State will be raising PMP(per member payment) by \$4.00 over a two year period.

We have 134 members with 9 members being Nationals.

If you are not interested in receiving *The Voter*, please notify a board member.

Plans are underway for State of the County Program in May. The tentative date is Thursday, May 20th.

Local Government committee will be observing the Brevard County Commission meetings.

Contributions are still welcome for stay at home fund raiser.

Save the Date

Annual meeting, April 10, 2010
Eau Gallie Yacht Club

Details in next Voter



Find Out:

- How to access services for you and your family. Have you ever wondered where to go to help your family, your parent or even a grandchild in need? Come and find how to get this information easily and for free.
- What kinds of services are available to us in Brevard County.
- What each service entails and how you may qualify for services.
- Who is using the Whole Child & Senior Connection and how YOU can too!
- About the amazing results we have already achieved.

Special Guests include:

- **Dr. Brian Binggeli** – Superintendent of Brevard Public Schools
- Marilyn “Bunny” Finney – member of the Brevard County Community Alliance, Governor’s Child Abuse Prevention and Permanency Advisory Council, Children’s Services Council of Brevard County and Brevard County’s Whole Child Sponsor
- Joe Steckler – Commander USN, Ret., founder of the Brevard Alzheimer’s Foundation and Brevard County’s Whole Senior Sponsor

Calendar for March 2010

~Members Welcome at All Meetings~

March 4, Thursday	Board Meeting at Home of Marilza Novaes-Card Indian Harbor Beach at 10:00 a.m.
March 6, Saturday	“Community Services Connection”
-	Brevard County Government Center Commission room, Building C 10 a.m. to noon Details on Pages 1 & 7.
March 8, Monday	Children’s Committee Suntree Library at 1:30 p.m.
March 9, Tuesday	International Relations Meeting at Satellite Beach Library 1p.m. to 3 p.m.
March 22-24,	Legislative Seminar Tallahassee, Florida
March 23, Tuesday	International Relations Meeting at Satellite Beach Library 1 p.m to 3 p.m.
March 27, Saturday	Health Care Committee Cocoa Library 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

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

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