



The Voter

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



Volume 33: No. 7

March, 2013

Mission: The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

~Timely Topics ~

Crime & Mental Health

Speakers are Blaise Trettis & Wayne Holmes



Blaise Trettis was elected Public Defender for the Eighteenth Circuit for Brevard and Seminole counties in 2012. Mr. Trettis graduated from the University of Florida with honors with a degree in business administration. He then went on to attend and graduate from Stetson University College of Law.

Blaise Trettis



Wayne Holmes received his BA from Florida State University School Criminology and his JD from Cumberland School of Law. He has been an Assistant State Attorney for the State Attorney's Office of the 18th Judicial Circuit for Brevard and Seminole Counties since November, 1979.

Wayne Holmes

When: March, 20, 2013

Where: Indian River Colony Club
1700 Old Glory Road
Viera, Florida

(The Old Glory Road is on the east side of Murrell Road, at the second traffic light north of Wickham Road)

Time: 11:30 A.M.

Menu: Chicken Francais
London Broil

Entrées served with roasted potatoes and green beans
Vegetarian on request
Key Lime Pie for Dessert

Cost: \$20.00

Reservations & Menu choice to
Doreen Archer at 321-622-4071
by Friday, March 15, 2013

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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.



President's Corner

Barbara Whitley

Hello Leaguers;

Welcome to March.

This is the month that is suppose to herald the beginning of spring; however here in Florida it is hard to tell spring from a nice summer day. It was just 80 degrees recently and my poor cat's coat is once again confused. The Vet says that her fur is confused and still thinks she is a Northern cat and hasn't agreed to the move South.

In our League March is the "changing of the Guard" month. So this will be my last month to speak to you. I want you to know I have enjoyed my time with you as president and have had the pleasure of meeting and working with some interesting and diverse people.

It has been an interesting and busy year for many of our members. They have been very busy with voter registration and voter education. Space Coast Leaguers are in all parts of the county offering voter registration. Still others were offering voter education to the public about who was running where and where to vote. Yet others were doing voter forums. It has been a busy and hectic year for all.

My thanks to all of you for the hard work that you put in and the phone calls and planning that you did to make it all come together.

Politicos on Parade was such a success and enjoyable to see everyone dressed up. Everyone sure looked good. We all got a different look at Sheriff Ivey. He makes quite a good model and our County Commissioner is no slouch herself. All our models knew how to strut their stuff. What fun!

That really was a great fun event.

Least we forget the League has some big challenges ahead of it. It is changing from the old League and starting to take on a new face and some new procedures. It is going to take people to come forth and be a part of the change. We are talking about making instant communications and quick responses. The League is going to be a vehicle to feel the pulse of the people. It will become more of a two way street and the word study will not mean months or years but perhaps a month or even a day. The information highway is a fast moving superhighway and the League can't be left behind.

Our job, as Leaguers, is to be fair, non partisan, ask questions and study the problems. Be knowledgeable about the subjects and make good judgments but be non-judgmental.

So enough is said about the future. Now it has been a crazy, busy two years as your President. I want to thank you for allowing me the privilege. I enjoyed the adventure. I want to thank all those who stepped in to fill the gaps I left when I had to work. You did a much better job then me.

Again, thank you, it is never enough.
Keep on keeping on Leaguers.

Barb

Welcome to New Member



Diana Perez Domencich

Please add new members to your membership book. Addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of new members will be sent to you by e-mail.

If you have friends who belong to League of Women Voters of the Space Coast who do not receive e-mail, it would be helpful if you could contact them and give them addresses and phone numbers of new members to add to their membership books. We discontinued printing this information in our *Voters* because of privacy concerns. Our *Voters* are distributed to libraries and mailed to government offices. The *Voters* are found on line at our web site, www.lwv-spacecoast.org.



Board Bytes

- 122 members
- \$1185.09 net from Politicos on Parade
- Health Committee is looking for a possible donation or discount for a LCD projector for giving presentations on PPACA (Patient Protection Affordable Care Act)
- New CONTACTS 2013-2014 will be distributed throughout the community the middle of March.
- Thanks to the Nominating Committee for their work. Chair of this committee was Ann Downing. Committee members were Frank Clifford, Connie Hogerty, Linda Kyvik, and Carol Riley.
- Thanks to Barbara Jagrowski and her committee for all of their work on Politicos on Parade.



Children's Committee

Marguerite Orban – Chair

Our guest columnist this month is David Lawrence Jr. The article was originally printed in the *St. Petersburg Times* and reprinted with permission from the author.

Earliest years critical for good educational results

David Lawrence Jr.

[St. Petersburg Times](#)

Dec 6, 2011

The greatest American "invention" was the public school. Yet we surely need to do some things differently. Most of all, we need to bring the children to formal school ready - and eager - to learn. Editor's note: David Lawrence Jr., president and co-chair of the Children's Movement of Florida and retired publisher of the Miami Herald, spoke in Tampa last week to a joint gathering of the Florida School Boards Association and the Florida Association of District School Superintendents. Here are those remarks, adapted and condensed for publication.

The greatest American "invention" was not the light bulb or the telephone or even the Internet. It was the public school.

Yet we surely need - without diminishing any basic principles - to do some things differently. Most of all, we need to bring the children to formal school ready - and eager - to learn. Listen to this from the latest issue of *New Republic* in an article headlined "The Two-Year Window: The Science of Babies and Brains." Jonathan Cohn makes the "connection between trouble in very early childhood and later in life" and goes on to say: "The first two years, however, happen to be the period of a child's life in which we invest the least."

Think about the first several years of life as the "feeder pattern" to public school. Let's start with a few truths:

90 percent of brain development occurs during the first five years of life, setting the path for all of life.

We know from research that a dollar spent wisely up front in a child's life has a return of seven dollars or more that won't need to be spent on police and prosecution and prison - not to mention the billions we spend on remedial education.

Ours is a country where two-thirds of mothers with children between birth and age 5 work outside the home. For most parents (including three of my own children with their children), child care is the very real world. Child care is the "feeder pattern" to the public school system. Only high-quality child care contributes to positive and real outcomes for children. Meanwhile, up to 80 percent of child care in America is not much more than "storage and warehousing."

National research tells us that about 30 percent of all children enter formal school significantly behind; most of those children then get further behind.

Even if we know all this, we don't act as though we really know it. Thus, we are challenged by real-world consequences:

The research tells us that if a hundred children leave first grade not really knowing how to read, by the end of fourth grade, 88 of those 100 remain mediocre readers. It is not impossible, but it is terribly difficult to get children back on track if the early years have been neglected.

Two years ago, a group of senior retired generals and admirals reported: "75 percent of young people ages 17 to 24 (cannot) enlist in the military because they fail to graduate high school, have a criminal record, or are physically unfit." Is this not a national security issue?

The author Clayton Christensen, in his book *Disrupting Class*, says: "A rather stunning body of research ... suggests that starting ... reforms at kindergarten, let alone in elementary, middle or high school, is far too late. By some estimates," he writes, "98 percent of education spending occurs after the basic intellectual capacities of children have been mostly determined."

Ours is a country where half of our high school graduates lack the written, spoken, thinking and problem-solving skills that employers seek. The wisest, most cost-effective solution isn't in fixing fourth grade, seventh grade or somewhere in high school, but rather getting the earliest years right so a child can have momentum throughout life.

This summer I visited a child care center where I read *Old MacDonald Had a Farm* to 3- and 4-year-olds. The cover showed Mr. MacDonald in overalls with a straw hat and bunny ears popping through. Not one child knew what a bunny rabbit looked like. Most of these children are going to be way behind in first grade - and maybe forever. It made me want to cry. These children are coming to your schools - our schools.

How can it possibly make sense that we spend \$51,000 to incarcerate a juvenile and less than \$3,000 for a child in pre-K? I do not want anyone to tell me that we cannot afford to do right by children. Do not tell me that times are tough - I know they are - and that children should wait for "better times."

In a state of wisdom, in a country of wisdom, children would be the highest priority of elected leaders - higher than roads, higher than prisons, higher than anything. This is simply the American dream.



International Relations

Mary Nicolay – Chair

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS GROUP
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FLORIDA is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. The INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS GROUP OF THE LWVSC holds the same principles while studying and discussing major foreign policy topics using GREAT DECISIONS materials. As individuals the members of the group cast ballots on their opinions at the end of each issue studied. The FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION receives the ballots and shares the results with United States Government agencies and elected officials. Florida has the largest number of Great Decision participants with California, New York, Colorado and Arizona following. This past year, 2012, there were 20,623 returned ballots. The National Opinion Ballot Report is available to all interested and can be read on the web site www.fpa.org.

The International Relations Group works to increase understanding of major international public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The group's meetings are open to the public and take place currently in a public library.

Last years 2012 topics included: Cuba, Technology and Its Effect on Society, A U.S. State Department Rep spoke on Afghanistan, Middle East Realignment, Promoting Democracy, Mexico, Cybersecurity, Exit from Afghanistan and Iraq, Oceans, Indonesia, and Energy geopolitics.

In 2013 the Great Decision topics are The Future of the EURO, Egypt, NATO, Myanmar, Humanitarian Intervention, Iran, China in Africa and Threat Assessment.

League member and also a member of this committee is Cherie Roberts. She spoke to us in January and is sharing highlights of her presentation in the following article.

NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY

By Cherie Roberts

Nuclear non-proliferation is the international effort to stop the spread of nuclear weapons. The nonproliferation establishment operates through a collective of governments, international non-governmental organizations and voluntary regimes that share information to focus worldwide attention on those countries that may want to develop nuclear weapons. Behind the scenes, these countries and regimes work to strengthen security at nuclear power plants, research

reactors where nuclear material could be diverted by countries or non-state groups, or act as watchdogs to prevent the sale of technology or equipment that could be used to aid a nuclear weapons program.

The U.S. government has a robust nonproliferation program. I worked in the nonproliferation field for 20 years at the Department of Energy (DOE). DOE plays a key role because of its management of the U.S. nuclear weapons complex and its experts from the national laboratories that know about nuclear weapons technology. As the U.S. nuclear stockpile has been reduced, many of these scientists have migrated from work on weapons to the nonproliferation field to ensure security around the world. The expert that knows how to build a nuclear weapon is the best expert to detect another country's clandestine program. DOE works with the Departments of State and Commerce, and receives its direction from the National Security Council.

While nonproliferation is not a foolproof effort to prevent nuclear weapons development, it has been successful in the past 20 years in securing the vast stockpiles of nuclear materials after the collapse of the Soviet Union from falling into the wrong hands, placing roadblock in a country's efforts, and making the cost of the budding program more expensive.

Examples of successful nonproliferation efforts include an agreement reached with Russia in 1993 to buy highly enriched uranium from dismantled Russian weapons that was processed into low enriched uranium. Over the last 20 years, the U.S. has purchased 450 metric tons of highly enriched uranium from Russia's dismantled nuclear weapons that has been used in fuel elements at U.S. nuclear power plants providing 19% of our electricity. This effort was known as SWORDS TO PLOWSHARES because it eliminated highly enriched uranium equivalent to 18,000 nuclear weapons.

In addition, my work included securing nuclear fuel elements containing enough plutonium to make 775 nuclear weapons. The material was located in Kazakhstan. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the staff at the reactor received no funds to continue security or operation. The U.S. (through the Department of Energy) assisted by packaging the fuel elements and, with the Kazakh government assistance, transporting them to a secure site in 100-ton casks for long-term storage. This material was particularly vulnerable because Kazakhstan is located in central Asia.

There are plenty of proliferation challenges in the world today. Two of the biggest concerns are Iran and North Korea. Iran remains a major concern because of its unwillingness to open its nuclear activities to the international inspectors and its efforts to build an extensive nuclear fuel cycle. *(continued on Page 5)*



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

Article by Maureen Rupe

New State Senate Bill to Override All Future Land Conservation

Florida Senator Alan Hays has introduced Senate Bill 584, which places the following requirements for the state, county or municipalities to purchase land for conservation:

- (1) An accurate inventory, not more than 1 year old, of government-owned property is made public;
- (2) Sufficient funds are approved in the state's/county/municipality annual budget for the maintenance of existing properties;
- (3) An analysis by the state/county/municipality describing the annual cost of maintenance of the proposed land purchase is completed;
- (4) An equal amount of public property not being held in conservation is returned or sold at fair market value to the private sector.

Items 2 and 3 obviously make good sense, but item 1 could cause problems as it could mean listings of multiple levels of government and agencies. Item 4 is particularly troubling. It not only is trying to negate home rule of counties and municipalities; it also is trying to negate the current petition "Florida's Water and Land Legacy." The Florida Water and Land Legacy is a coalition of the state's leading conservation organizations including Audubon Florida, Sierra Club, The Trust for Public Land, Florida Wildlife Federation, and many others, that are collecting signatures for a constitutional amendment to create a stable and long-term funding for conservation programs like Florida Forever and Everglades restoration.

Senator Alan Hays represents District 11, which includes parts of Marion, Lake, Sumter, and Orange Counties. You should send your concerns about this bill to your legislators and to its sponsor, Senator Alan Hays.

Senator Alan Hays
871 S Central Ave, Umatilla, FL 32784 (352) 742-6441
1104 Main Street, The Villages, FL 32159 (352) 360-6739
hays.alan.web@N.gov

References:

<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2013/0584>

Fertilizer Ordinances in Brevard

On December 11, 2012, the Brevard County Commission passed a weaker Fertilizer Ordinance than was recommended by Brevard's Land Planning Agency (LPA). Since they have not been able to convince the

county commission where they will do nothing that remotely is not job creation friendly, environmental groups are trying to educate the cities in hopes that at least some governmental entities will try to protect the Indian River Lagoon. On February 6, 2013, the Rockledge City Council tabled the items to fully read all the inputs to ensure their ordinance is more restrictive than it was initially written. The City of Melbourne will be discussing municipal Fertilizer Ordinance on February 26th at 6:30 pm at the Melbourne City Hall.

The Brevard County Commission did vote to encourage homeowners to test the soil before applying fertilizer and to select brands with little or no phosphorous and with slow-release nitrogen. In addition, the fertilizer ordinance discourages fertilizing during the rainy summer months. The trouble is, you can recommend just about anything. How can it even be a law if the law doesn't tell anyone to do anything, but only recommends. It does show they are not serious about protecting the Indian River Lagoon.

The League of Women Voters of the Space Coast Board of Directors voted unanimously to support the passage of a strict Ordinance on fertilizer use in the county. The three items the Leagues asked for were:

1. Fertilizers containing nitrogen should be at least 50% slow release nitrogen. Fertilizers here in Brevard should not contain phosphorus unless soil testing proves that it is needed in a specific area.
2. Fertilizers should not be applied within 15 feet of a waterway.
3. There should be a 4 month ban on fertilizers containing phosphorus and nitrogen in the rainy season from June 1st through September 30th. Fertilizers containing iron can be used instead.



International Relations

(article continued from Page 4)

North Korea has tested nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles that can deliver a nuclear weapon to another country, and vows to continue its program.

Many people ask why the U.S. should fund a large portion of the international nonproliferation regime. It is in U.S. interests to keep loose nuclear materials, scientists with special capabilities, and technology necessary to build nuclear weapons away from terrorist groups or countries wanting to join the "nuclear club". A weapon developed by terrorists could be used against U.S. interests abroad. Use of a rogue weapon anywhere in the world would be an incredibly destabilizing event that would certainly impact the U.S.



Healthcare

Linda Kyvik – Chair

The Health Committee has become focused on a goal of educating the public on the many ramifications of the ACA (Affordable Care Act) as it pertains to Florida. We discussed implementing education forums regarding the ACA. Our training presentation on February 2 was given by the LWVFla ACA expert Nancy Rudner. She hails from LWV of Orlando. We have decided that we will give presentations to small groups and in a panel format. If anyone is interested in helping with this cause, please feel free to **call Linda Kyvik at 266-5815**. It is never too late to learn, as this is a power point presentation. We will also have hand outs from the LWVF web site to give out. They are very readable and easy to understand. We are also going to contact someone from SHINE, which is the health advocacy group for Brevard County, to see if they can offer any other perspectives. We are also interested in acquiring an LCD projector. **If anyone knows of a business that has gone over from using these to using large screen TV's, and would be willing to donate to our LWVSC, please feel free to call Linda Kyvik about this.** This is a projector which hooks up to a laptop and projects the power point onto a screen or wall.

Special Thanks

At Politicos On Parade, we had a 50/50 drawing. Raffle tickets could be purchased and a winner was chosen. The winner receives half of the amount that had been collected in selling the tickets and the other half goes to profit for League of Women Voters of the Space Coast. Our winner this year was **David Sherman**.

Mr. Sherman is a server at Eau Gallie Yacht Club where our event was being held and what is special about Mr. Sherman is that he gave his winnings back to the League. We say many thanks for the \$116.00 donation.



Finance

Barbara Jagrowski

Barbara has contacted businesses, organizations and county offices to ask for contributions to underwrite our *Voters* that are published 9 months of the year and the CONTACT 2013-2014. CONTACT is the directory of elected officials that is prepared by League Members and distributed throughout the community.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for LWV Space Coast will be Saturday, April 6th. This meeting is early in the month so we wanted you to be aware of the date in this issue of *The Voter*. It will be necessary to make your reservation by Wednesday, April 3rd.

When: Saturday, April 6th

**Where: Indian River Colony Club
1700 Old Glory Road
Viera, Florida**

**Time: 10:00 A.M. (coffee will be served)
Lunch will be served at noon.**

Cost: \$20.00

**Menu: Dill Salmon and Rice
or
Tenderloin Tips and Rice
Vegetarian on Request
Green Vegetable
Cheesecake with strawberry topping**

**Reservations: Wednesday, April 3rd to Doreen Archer
at 321-622-4071**



Florida Legislative Session

The Florida Legislature will be in session from March 5, 2013 through May 3, 2013. Some League members will be in Tallahassee the second week of April to attend some sessions of the Legislature and speak with Representatives and Senators.

There are options for all of us to follow what is happening in our government. Newspapers and Television Stations have coverage of the events.

There is also a lot of information by going to our website at www.lwv-spacecoast.org. On the right hand side you will see a heading called **Important Links**. The link **The Florida Channel** is very informative with live coverage, updates, interviews and more.

A wealth of information about Florida government is also found under the links, **Florida Government** and **Online Sunshine**.

Photos from January 2013 Politicos on Parade



Trudie Infantini & William Capote



Lisa Cullen, Wayne Ivey, & Lori Scott



Lisette Kolar & Phil Archer



Lisa Cullen



Trudie Infantini



William Capote



Lori Scott



~March Calendar – Members welcome at all meetings~

Wednesday, March 6th - Board Meeting at Suntree Library at 10:15 A.M.

Monday, March 11th - Children’s Committee at Suntree Library at 1:30 P.M.

Tuesday, March 12th - International Relations Meeting at Satellite Beach Library 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. Subject is China in Africa led by Ruth Almeida

Wednesday, March 20th - Timely Topics Indian River Colony Club at 11:30 A.M. Subject is Crime and Mental Health with speakers: Blaise Trettis and Wayne Holmes.

Monday, March 25th - Health Committee at Suntree Library – 6 P.M. to 7:50 P.M. (Meeting changed from 3rd to 4th Monday only for this month.)

Tuesday, March 26th -International Relations Meeting at Satellite Beach Library 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. Subject is Humanitarian Intervention led by Karen Raboin. (This presentation was changed from February to March.)

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

Issue Date: March 2013

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