



The Voter



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

Volume 34: No. 7

March 2014

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

~Joint Educational Field Trip~ On Saturday, March 8th

Come join us for a field trip to the Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science, Lunch, and the Planetarium at the Eastern Florida State College on the Cocoa College Campus.

Neighboring League members from Orange, Volusia, Seminole and St. Lucie Counties are invited so it is a wonderful opportunity to meet other League members in the State and share ideas.

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science
at 2201 Michigan Avenue, Cocoa, FL 32926

Lunch: A Sandwich Buffet at the museum. During lunch the Museum Education Director will give a brief history on the formation of the Museum. There is also an adjacent Nature Walk for those who are interested.

Afternoon Activity: A short drive will take us to the Planetarium of the Eastern Florida State College on the Cocoa college campus. This is located at 1519 Clearlake Road, Cocoa, FL 32922

Cost: \$25.00 which includes lunch and admission to both venues.

Reservations: Doreen Archer darcher14@cfl.rr.com or call 321-622-4071 by Tuesday, March 4, 2014. Directions and any further information will be sent to all who make reservations. Checks can be written to League of Women Voters Space Coast and mailed to LWVSC at 6629 Canal Road, Melbourne Village, FL 32904.

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Underwriters are needed for The Voter. Please call Doreen Archer at 321-622-4071 for more information.

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.

Annual Meeting - Saturday, April 5 - see Page 6



President's Corner

Marilynn Collins & Priscilla Griffith

Dear League Members,

Our special February 7th luncheon "Honoring Women of Action" was a great success with 110 in attendance. Florida League President Deirdre Macnab, our keynote speaker, gave an inspiring presentation reminding us how much League has accomplished, how much more work there is to do and how one person can make a difference. She encouraged our members to become involved by joining committees and bringing a friend to a League meeting. Our strength is in our numbers and we will never give up advocating for the issues we believe in. The standing ovation that each of honorees, Polly Cordell, Joan Borders, Mary Eason, Alberta Wilson and Maureen Rupe received was very moving. Each of these ladies truly exemplifies how an individual can, through dedication and perseverance, enact lasting positive change in our society.

A very special "Thank You" to Doreen Archer, who chaired the event and designed and printed our programs, to Connie Hogerty for the lovely table decorations and to the rest of the committee including Mary Margaret Page, Anita Smith, Brigitte Sinton and Lucia Watson. We appreciate your efforts for a job well done.

As our State League Board of Directors was holding their quarterly Board Meeting in Brevard County after our special event, our Board was invited to attend their meeting. It was good to connect the faces behind all the names that serve the League at our state level and to share our thoughts about the upcoming activities for League. We also had the privilege of meeting the League's new lobbyist, Debbie Harrison Rumberger. Debbie reports that the state League is actively preparing for the 2014 Legislative Session and that forward momentum is taking place on Medicaid expansion and protection for the Indian River Lagoon, the Everglades and Florida's springs.

On the local front, at our February Board Meeting, our Committee Chairs presented their 2014-2015 Program of Work; Finance Chair Doreen Archer presented the 2014-2015 Budget; and Nominating Committee Chair Fran Baer presented the proposed slate of Officers, Directors and the 2015 Nominating Committee for Board approval. All of the above were approved and will be voted on at our Annual Meeting on April 5th at the Black Tulip Restaurant in Cocoa Village. In addition to our business meeting and lunch, our Health Committee has arranged for Orange County League member Nancy Rudner to give a special presentation on the current status of the Affordable Care Act. Nancy is a nurse practitioner with a doctorate in

health policy. She has been working with the League on health care reform for several years.

Mark your calendar for the Joint League Educational Field trip being sponsored by our League on March 8, 2014. Invitations have been sent out to our neighboring Leagues to join us for a tour of the Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science, buffet lunch and a special viewing at the Eastern Florida State College's planetarium. All the details are on the front page. This is a social event and the perfect time to invite a friend to learn about League and meet League members in a casual setting.

Our big annual state gathering combining Legislative Summit and Council of Leaders (in odd years it is Legislative Summit and Convention) into back to back events is scheduled for April 9-10 for Legislative Summit and April 11 for Council of Leaders. Legislative Summit is a two day conference during legislative session that includes seminars and trainings on understanding League positions and advocating with civility, briefings with legislative leaders in the Cabinet room of the Florida Capitol, lobbying legislators and attending members-only luncheons and dinners. Council of Leaders is a day-long League conference for leaders from local Leagues all around Florida. Leadership training is offered by state board members, elected officials and leadership experts. Attendees will also approve the budget for the coming fiscal year, be updated on organizational changes in the state League and participate in key decision-making for the coming year. We encourage our members to attend. Legislative Summit only is \$125; Council of Leaders only is \$125. For both the cost is \$225. For those under age 30, the combined price is \$175. These are Early Bird rates available until March 9th. To book the conferences, call the state office at 850-224-2545 or go online by going to www.thefloridavoter.org, click on TRIPS, click on LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT, click on "HERE" FOR MORE INFORMATION. The above conference costs do not include lodging which will be at the Doubletree Hotel in downtown Tallahassee; the cost is \$139 per night. To reserve a room at the Hotel, call 850-224-5000 and tell the reservationist that you are with the League of Women Voters in order to receive the special rate. If you are interested in attending one or both of these conferences, our League may be able to help with registration fees. Please call me if you have questions, or would like to attend.

Please read the reports from our hardworking committees and if you are interested in joining one or more of the committees, please give the Chair a call.

In League,

Marilynn



Children’s Committee
Maria Mogollon–Seemer – Chair

Combating Human Trafficking by Clarice Costello

On January 22nd I attended a symposium on Human Trafficking hosted by Congressman Bill Posey and Devereux Florida Viera Campus.

The key to ending human trafficking is awareness. The more we can spotlight the problem the better. To that end, I will be going to several meetings and a workshop at Devereux in February.

The exploitation of children is a blight on our society and it is happening everywhere. Whenever there is an event (convention, football game, etc.) prostitutes, both adult and children, male and female, are sent in. For every prostitute you see or hear about, multiply that by 10 to 15. It is a horrible and depraved crime.

Two terms used are smuggling and trafficking. Smuggling is bringing people across national borders. It is generally voluntary on the part of the person being smuggled. Trafficking is a crime against a person. It is exploitation based, involuntary and doesn’t necessarily involve border crossing. It is for sex and/or labor. These victims are put into involuntary servitude. They are told they will receive pay for the services; but, the pay is very little if not at all because they are charged for room and board. Often, room will be the back of a truck and food will be minimal.

It is estimated that 27 million people are being trafficked worldwide and 800,000 to one million in the United States alone. It is estimated to be a \$27 billion industry. Of those being trafficked, up to 50% are minors. 2,200 children go missing every day. Florida is the trafficking hub (3rd in the nation) because of the demand for hotel, farm workers and prostitutes.

Human trafficking is the second largest criminal industry and the fastest growing one in the world. It is very profitable and hard to find. Victims are brainwashed and seldom will testify as they are afraid or cannot communicate with the outside as they are being “imprisoned” and often they don’t speak English.

Homeland Security works with local law enforcement in finding and prosecuting the offenders who bring victims into this heinous crime. Instead of charging the victims, especially children, with a crime, we must help them. To that end, Devereux has a program especially for children who have been victims of trafficking.

In 2000, two anti-trafficking laws were passed:

- In the United States the Trafficking Victim Protection Act.
- Internationally the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking

If you know of or suspect trafficking, call the Department of Homeland Security at 866-347-2423 or 866-632-2433. It is the obligation of the citizens to protect our communities.

Ask Your Dentist

Children’s Committee continues to collect items for Homeless Students in Brevard County. Ask your dentist if he or she would donate the small toothpaste tubes and toothbrushes to these students. All donations are greatly appreciated.



International Relations

Mary Nicolay – Chair

The International Relations Group continues to meet twice a month until the end of May. Meetings are held at the Satellite Beach Library from 1-3 pm. On March 11th Ruth Almeida will present the topic ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES. On March 25th, Martha Bradshaw will lead us in a discussion on TURKEY. Both women have studied the topics extensively. Members can be reading in their GREAT DECISIONS BOOKLETS on these subjects and come prepared for interesting dialogues. Guests are welcomed.

Great quote I know NOT where from but so true as in countries like Syria and Egypt at this time.. " We need to understand that liberation is a process not an event. "



Health Care Committee

Jo Shim & Connie Dobrin Co-Chairs

The Health Care Committee continues to actively support and monitor the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). During the next two months we will be partnering with other community based organizations to disseminate ACA information through presentations or distributing literature at local events. In April the committee will schedule training for potential speakers to become familiar with the Florida League’s three ACA presentations. If you would like to become more involved in health care issues, please consider attending a committee meeting, contacting us with questions on the ACA, responding to health care action alerts and letting us know if you would like a committee member to give a presentation to an organization or small group that you belong to.



Natural Resources

Susan Little – Chair

Report from Maureen Rupe–Natural Resources Consultant.

Due to questions from Voter readers, this is additional information on the Shiloh Launch Site Proposal.

More Info on Proposed Shiloh Launch Site Issue

In the January 10th Orlando Sentinel, Mark Matthews of the Washington Bureau wrote a story titled “SpaceX may pick Texas over controversial Merritt Island launch site,” which stated Space X is getting concerned with all the attention at the Shiloh site and may just go with the Texas site. However, the story also stated that Space Florida wants Shiloh for a commercial launch site with or without SpaceX. Frank DiBello, president of Space Florida, was quoted in the story saying “We are going ahead with Shiloh with or without SpaceX.” As one alternative, SpaceX is also looking at Blue Origin. Blue Origin, by Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, would take a much longer period to generate jobs, as it has yet to launch one of its space launch vehicles. The Orlando Sentinel story reported Brevard needs this desperately, after all the layoffs within the county after the retirement of the Space Shuttle.

The Orlando Sentinel story also stated Audubon Florida had joined an environmental group coalition opposing the proposed Shiloh Launch Site. I obtained a copy of a resolution by the Everglades Coalition. This Coalition wasn’t mentioned in the Orlando Sentinel story, but I assume it’s the same coalition discussed. “...The Everglades Coalition Resolution opposes the development of the Shiloh Space Complex within the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge because of threats to public lands and wildlife and the Indian River Lagoon and because existing alternatives exist for launches within Kennedy Space Center.” Earlier in the resolution, it gives an overview of the importance of the health of the lagoon to the restoration of the Everglades, and gives the large number of deaths of wildlife we have had in the IRL in 2013. It also states the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge has the largest number of endangered and threaten species within any national refuge in the United States. It goes on that due to the type of operations projected to be performed on the 200 acres, the project poses significant risk to the lagoon and the refuge, and states there is enough other space on Kennedy Space Center to conduct operations. In the January 8th and 9th, Florida Today stories, titled “Environment, space collide at proposed Shiloh launch site,” and “Environment, history, space collide at site,” both by Jim Waymer, the issue is converging from three

aspects: 1) Space Launch, due to the number of jobs that have been lost in North Brevard, and the fact Florida is no longer the only place available to make space launches. Space advocates say they have to have an area outside the federal area to entice commercial launches, or other locations around the country are going to push Florida pretty much out of the space race; 2) Environment, due not only to the water quality issues the Indian River Lagoon is facing, but also as the Florida Today article pointed out a Jan. 3 letter from Cynthia Dohner, regional director, to FAA from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, that the species that could be affected by this decision are “16 federally listed threatened and endangered species; 1 federally designated candidate species; 4 federally designated at-risk species; 6 state-listed animals, as well as federally protected bald eagles and other migratory birds.” This list is definitely not something that can easily be mitigated. The third aspect is Historical. Shiloh contains one of the most historical significant sites due to an ancient slave plantation, and Indian mounds that Historians say must be protected for future preservation and discovery.

We are truly in a quandary. We must not let our space program be pulled from Florida, we must protect our Indian River Lagoon and our environment, and we must ensure we protect our history. How we can keep our place in the space race without destroying the others, is the million dollar question.

Reference:

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/business/os-shiloh-spacex-florida-20140110,0,6122648,print.story>

Resolution of the Everglades Coalition, no author given, no date given

<http://www.floridatoday.com/article/20140209/ENVIRONMENT/302090029/>

~Welcome to our New Members~

Jewel Collins
Audrey Grayson
Terry LaPlante
Barbara M. Peete

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

Program of Work for 2014–2015

Information to be voted upon at
Annual Meeting on April 5, 2014

There are no changes in Positions for 2014-2015

Health Care Program

1. Monitor and support implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to include:
 - a. Health insurance access and enrollment via the ACA marketplace at www.healthcare.gov
 - b. Assistance with the ACA insurance enrollment process through access to Navigators in Brevard
 - c. Medicaid expansion in Florida
 - d. Impact on Medicare services and supplemental insurance
2. Continue to monitor application of and changes in the Florida Medicaid program.
3. Collaborate with the Children’s Committee to:
 - a. Collect information on the status of Medicaid funding for children
 - b. Monitor and support efforts to provide basic health care for all children in Brevard county
 - c. Support outreach to increase enrollment in the Kidcare program for eligible children
4. Monitor funding and services available for the following major health issues in Florida:
 - a. Mental Health
 - b. HIV/AIDS

Local Government Program

A one year study of the office of a non-partisan inspector general in local governments (county and municipal).

This study will include:

- a. qualifications and method of selection
- b. duties of office
- c. legal status of office
- d. limitations of office
- e. independence of office
- f. current examples and their effectiveness
- g. staffing of the office
- h. salary, etc.

Natural Resources

1. Monitor and act on the protection of the Indian River Lagoon System, all surface waters and the St. Johns River. This includes, but is not limited to, monitoring the Wetlands Guidelines implemented by the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard, advocating stricter fertilizer ordinances for the county, and monitoring the BMAPs (Basin Management Actions Plans) as set forth by the FDEP (Federal Department of Environmental Protection).
2. Encourage recycling by all Brevard residents and businesses to keep our waters clean.
3. Provide timely information to the public regarding alternative energies and the public policies that guide the implementation of alternative energy, both for the electrical grid and for personal conveyance.
4. Monitor and act on offshore drilling issues in Florida.
5. Monitor growth policies of the county and surrounding region as they affect Brevard County.

Social Policy/Children’s Issues Program

1. Monitor and report the results of Brevard County’s Public Schools status and student achievement results.
2. Monitor and report the implementation of Common Core or Florida standards in the Brevard County School District.
3. Collect information on status of Medicaid funding for children in Florida in collaboration with League of Women Voters of the Space Coast Health Committee.
4. Monitor and support efforts to provide basic health care for all of Brevard County’s children.
5. Research and create awareness of child trafficking in Brevard County.
6. Support the homeless children in Brevard County.
7. Monitor and report the status of early childhood education efforts in Brevard County.
8. Review relevance of the current Social Policy/Children’s Issues Positions.

Report of Nominating Committee

Fran Baer – Chair
 Additional Members – Joyce Calese, Fern Patton, Doreen Archer, Priscilla Griffith

Slate of Officers and Elected Directors for 2014

Annual Meeting

1st Vice President Anthony Dutton 2014-2015
 2nd Vice President Connie Hogerty 2014-2016
 Treasurer Brigitte Sinton 2014-2016

Director Joyce Calese 2014-2016
 Director Barbara Dutton 2014-2016
 Director Alberta Wilson 2014-2016
 Director Maria Mogollon-Seemer 2014-2015

Nominating Committee for 2015

Fran Baer – Chair
 Annie Frame and Fern Patton
 These three members will serve with two members of the Board of Directors who will be appointed by the Board after the 2014 Annual Meeting.



Voter Service

Barbara and Tony Dutton Co-Chairs

Voter Service Goals for 2014-2015

1. Communicate and Coordinate with Brevard County Supervisor of Elections on early voting, voter registration, voter rolls and other issues as appropriate.
2. Conduct high school and other voter registration programs as appropriate.
3. Sponsor or assist in organizing and conducting candidate forums and community voter education programs as requested or as appropriate.
4. Participate in efforts by the LWVF to improve and maintain fair voting practices throughout Florida as requested or as appropriate.
5. Begin preparation of 2015-2016 Directory of Elected Officials. (CONTACT)
6. Communicate and coordinate with the LWVF and other Florida LWV chapters on activities of mutual interest.
7. Prepare articles for THE VOTER, from time to time, as appropriate.
8. Endeavor to have all LWVSC Board members and Off Board Chairs qualified to register voters.
9. Pursue the creation of an online Voters’ Guide for the LWVSC.
10. Conduct get-out-the-vote campaign.



Board Bytes

- 115 members on Board Meeting Day. 4 new members joined at our Women in Action Luncheon so we now have 119 members.
- We will plan to have some board meetings on Saturdays or evenings so more members will be able to attend our meetings.
- Board members will submit updated job descriptions so new board members will be aware of responsibilities and procedures.
- League of Women Voters of the Space Coast will be listed in the soon to be published Boomer Guide.
- Proposed 2014-2015 Budget will be mailed with renewal membership letters or e-mailed to members who have already joined for 2014-2015.
- Fran Baer encouraged members to attend an upcoming event of the Retired Teachers of the Brevard Federation of Teachers on **March 6th** at 1007 S. Florida Avenue, Rockledge, FL 32955 to learn about **“No Labels”**. No Labels is a citizens' movement of Democrats, Republicans and independents dedicated to a new politics of problem solving. Please call Fran at 321-264-1465 to reserve a seat.
- “Celebrate League” that was postponed last November will be held on May 1st.
- Legislative Summit and Council will be held in Tallahassee on April 9 -11.

Annual Meeting

Mark Your Calendars.

The Annual Meeting for League of Women Voters of the Space Coast will be held on Saturday, April 5, 2014

This year’s meeting will be held at Black Tulip Restaurant in Cocoa Village. The address is 207 Brevard Avenue, Cocoa, FL 32922 .

The doors will open at 10:30 A.M. and the meeting will start at 10:45 A.M. Lunch follows the meeting.

Menu choices and deadline for reservations will be published in the April Voter that arrives at your door in March.

We are looking forward to seeing you.

Photos from "Women in Action" Event



Deirdre Macnab, Polly Cordell & Marilynn Collins



Deirdre Macnab, Mary Eason & Marilynn Collins



Deirdre Macnab, Joan Borders & Marilynn Collins



Deirdre Macnab, Alberta Wilson & Marilynn Collins



Deirdre Macnab, Maureen Rupe & Marilynn Collins



Sheriff Wayne Ivey and Sandy Sanderson



~March Calendar - Members welcome at all meetings~

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

Saturday, March 8th - Joint Educational Field Trip at 10 a.m. (see Page 1)

Tuesday, March 11th - International Relations Committee meeting at Satellite Beach Library at 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Ruth Almeida will present the topic, Israel and the United States.

Sunday, March 16th - Children's Committee Meeting at home of Doreen Archer at 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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

Tuesday, March 25th, - International Relations Committee meeting at Satellite Beach Library at 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Martha Bradshaw will present the topic, Turkey.

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