



The Voter

The League of Women Voters of the Space Coast



Volume 30: No. 9

May, 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.

**League of Women Voters of the Space Coast
Will host**

“State of the County Program”

When: Thursday, May 20, 2010

Time: 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Place: Government, Building C,
Commission Chambers,
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera

Guest Panelists County Manager Howard Tipton,
Emergency Management Director Robert Lay
Sheriff Jack Parker
Superintendent of Brevard County Schools
Dr. Brian Binggeli

Moderator Vice President of LWVSC Ayn Samuelson
There will be a question and answer period
from the general public.
This is an opportunity for citizens to meet and listen to
first-hand information from their county leaders.
The event is free and the public is encouraged to
attend.

took questions. Mr. Wilcox told us that he was looking for action late in the session against the Fair Districts amendments and that “shell” bills are ready to prevent their passage.

Perhaps the most useful session of the entire seminar took place back at the hotel when Caroline Emmons-Schramm of the Orange County League and Corinne Miller from Palm Beach County spoke on educating voters before the election when the two Fair Districts amendments will be on the ballot. *(continued on Page 6)*

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Space Coast League Report from Legislative Seminar

The Space Coast League was represented at the 2010 Legislative Seminar, March 22-24, by six members: Ruth and David Schechter, Robert Bickley, Bonnie Orban, Fern Patton, and Martha Bradshaw. Only the Orange County and Tallahassee chapters had more members there among the approximately 85 persons attending.

The Welcome Reception and Dinner on the first evening took place in an impressive setting, the 22nd floor of The Capitol building overlooking the city, government buildings, university campuses and the surrounding countryside from the Gulf to Georgia. The program included presentation of the League’s “Making Democracy Work” Award to Secretary of State Kurt Browning and remarks by the Secretary. After President Deirdre Macnab had spoken briefly in observance of the League’s 90 years of “educating, energizing and empowering voters,” Ben Wilcox, our Legislative Advocate, provided some information about the legislative session’s direction and then

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President's Corner

Ruth Schechter

Dear League Members,

At this time of year we seem to be speeding up to slow down! We have many activities going on and some starting up while others are slowing down to take a summer break!

In May we'll be involved with the Supervisor of Elections Office in many of the local high schools, registering students and helping with the Voter Education process. If you would like to help this effort - call Barbara Jagrowski and volunteer.

Also in May don't forget to PROMOTE, then attend the State of the County Program being planned by our Local Government Committee. (See front page.) Tell all of your friends and let's have a real crowd. I know we'll all be appreciative of the information that will be presented.

The Board of Directors will meet in May at Barbara Jagrowski's and in June at Priscilla Griffith's before breaking for the summer. This summer's break will be a bit longer than usual as we are not scheduling an August meeting and will reconvene our schedule of monthly meetings to begin September 2nd at the Schechter's.

Does this mean all League activity is shut down? NO!! It does not. Ayn Samuelson will do her usual fine job of coordinating with *Florida Today* and the Tiger Bay Club setting up televised candidate forums. She will need Timers, Card Carriers and other help. If you are asked or would like to volunteer to help, please do! I've asked Bonnie Orban to "volunteer" to help with the State League Voter's Guide publication sometime this summer. Doreen Archer and Connie Hogerty have agreed to champion "Fair Districts" from now until it's passed in November! They will probably need help as well - please, please, help them. Fair Districts is crucial - and we have never been so close to being able to see this change in our state!!!

So - you might ask what are you doing?? Well, David and I are taking a long planned road trip. We're going from here to Seattle, Washington and back. We'll be leaving July 1st and will not be back until August 15th. It's going to be great!!!

This League has such wonderful leadership who do such a good job all the time but especially when asked to step up --- if you should need something while I'm gone, call Carol MacDonald, she's in charge!!!

I'll be around until the 1st of July then I can't wait to tell you all about our trip!!

In League, Ruth



Voter Service Report

Ayn Marie Samuelson - Chair

Student Voter Registration

During April and May, the League will be partnering with the Supervisor of Elections Office at our area high schools. The SOE will be conducting student government elections, while the League will register and pre-register students. Since the student government elections will involve all students, eligible students will also be able to take advantage of the opportunity to register to vote. Not only will this work well to ensure that students have the option to register, it also will not compete with numerous other school events that are available to students on a daily basis. Packaging this for convenience and availability should produce the optimum use of League efforts for the highest number of registrations. Carol McDonald and Barbara Jagrowski are spearheading this effort to register voters. Please be ready to volunteer when they call. We need your help.

Upcoming Candidate Debates

Candidate debates will begin July 12th for primary elections for various county and state offices and will pick up again in the early fall for the general election. The 2008 elections provided the first year for the partnership among League, *Florida Today*, WBCC and Tiger Bay in bringing debates/forums to the public through live, televised and internet streamed media. Citizens will have the opportunity to attend the forums live at the BCC Cocoa campus, watch the forum (and re-runs) on WBCC or watch the forum as it is streamed on *Florida Today*. The live audience will have the opportunity to submit written questions to the candidates during the debates/forums.

The League will be in charge of supplying a "workforce" of timers and question collectors, and that is where our membership comes into play. We will have the materials for you to use. So, please volunteer to assist during these important forums that allow citizens to see their candidates in action.

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

I am glad that more emphasis is being given to children's nutrition. The article by Megan Downs, in *Florida Today*, entitled "Schools serving up a healthier fare" (March 28, 2010) discusses recent changes that have taken place at public schools in Brevard County. For example, children's school lunches include whole wheat pizza, more low fat options, fruits and vegetables. It is also reassuring to know that a basic nutrition class is mandatory to all entry-level cafeteria managers. Another plus is the nutritional information that parents can access through Brevard County's Web site on the items in their children's school menus. Moderation is also part of the nutrition education that the Brevard school district is providing to parents and children. The article pointed out that students have the opportunity to select a "healthy choice" meal (e.g., fruit, salad, chicken wrap) every day, but they do not always do that.

The US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) School Meal Initiative (SMI) for Healthy Children states that school menus should include the following:

- No more than 30% of total energy from fat,
- No more than 10% of total energy from saturated fat
- At lunch, 1/3 and at breakfast 1/4 of recommended daily allowances for energy, protein, vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium and iron.
- Fourteen grams of fiber per 1000 kcal.

Childhood obesity is a concern to school food service directors. They are required to provide school lunches and breakfasts that follow the above dietary guidelines, that taste good, and that sell well in order to keep the prices low.

Lazor, K., Chapman, N., & Levine, E. wrote the article "Soy Goes to School: Acceptance of Healthful, Vegetarian Options in Maryland Middle School Lunches" (*Journal of School Health*, 2010, Vol. 80, Issue 4). The authors conducted research to study how well students responded to soy foods that are low in saturated fat, calories, fat, and cholesterol in their school meals. Students from 5 middle schools participated in the plate waste study. Four meat-based food items were substituted by soy-based foods ("hybrid" beef patties, soy nuggets, soy chicken-less slices & soy macaroni and cheese). Trained observers randomly collected trays with and without test items. The leftovers meals were weighed and the amounts were measured by using a proportional odds model that compared the amounts and proportions of the food that was consumed. They also used a model to account for differences between schools. The result was positive in that these middle school students consumed about the same amount of soy-based foods as traditional school lunch foods. The

researchers concluded that soy-based food is a good choice for school meals because on average they have more iron, less cholesterol, less fat and more fiber than traditional food.

The Brevard public school district states that in the latest review of the School Meals Initiative (SMI) the district-wide nutrient analysis for breakfast and lunch showed that all nutrient standards set by the {USDA} federal guidelines are met in our public schools. Kevin Thornton, the Director of Food and Nutrition Services says that the "Five Star Quality and Performance inspections, profit and loss statements, staffing plan and temporary services, use of technology, implementation of a purchase card program are among the changes that the new program has adopted with success." The Brevard Office of Food and Nutrition Services Department has received four USDA Best Practice Awards (<http://foodservices.brevard.k12.fl.us>).



Finance

Barbara Jagrowski – Chair

Fundraising Wrap-up

The 2010 fundraiser has come to a very successful end. Twenty-seven households participated and your League raised \$1230.00. After expenses of \$59.58, League had a net profit of \$1170.42.

We wish to thank the following members for their generous support:

Elizabeth Cady Stanton level: Jill Jefferies.

Susan B. Anthony level: Doreen Archer, Joan Borders, Frances Bradford, Georgia and Mike Brock, Laurette Bryan, Patricia Caulfield, Clarice Costello, Kathy Davison-Lees, Georgette Walsh Diaz, Ann Downing, Selma Hoffman, Connie and Daniel Hogerty, Priscilla Griffith, Camille Johnson, Marilza Novaes-Card, Bonnie Orban and Robert Bickley, Karen Raboin, Carol Riley, Frances Salerno, Ruth and David Schechter, Brigitte and David Sinton, Jean and Dick Tweed, and Lucia Watson.

Carrie Chapman Catt level: Carol McDonald, Joann Jacobs, Barbara and Jerry Jagrowski.

In Memoriam

Condolences to the family of
Barbara Bashford
Member of Space Coast
League of Women Voters



Natural Resources

Maureen Rupe – Chair

Lawsuit to Save the Florida Panther

Due to dwindling numbers, a few years ago, the state tried to mate the Florida Panther with the Texas Cougar. Did they think the cubs would not be a cross-breed? It certainly wasn't a Florida Panther, and the experiments were terminated as the cross breed cubs had serious cranel problems. The government said, "Well the two breeds are only a few chromosomes apart." Well...we are only a few chromosomes from a chimpanzee.

Environmental and community groups are suing the Federal Administration over its refusal to declare 1.3 million acres as critical habitat for the endangered Florida panther that was agreed to under the Endangered Species Act.. The lawsuit targets Fish & Wildlife Service, which has not said no to any development since 1993, even when it destroys panther habitat.

There are approximately 100 panthers remaining in the Florida wild. They have been endangered since 1967, but Fish and Wildlife has never designated anywhere as critical to save the panther from development. The lawsuit was filed in Federal Court on February 10, 2010. Federal officials have two months to respond.

But in a letter from Fish & Wildlife, the agency once again rejected a critical habitat designation saying "We believe our current strategy and priorities are the best paths forward at this time." So I guess when the last pair of panthers is in a zoo, and they desperately try to mate them without success, then our Florida panther will be gone forever, and this will happen.

Last year alone, there were 24 panther deaths, 17 of them were killed by cars. Someone even cut the head off of one, probably as a trophy.

Many thanks to the environmental and community groups that have put their time and money to try to save the Florida panther.

Florida Forever in Danger

Florida Forever is also in danger of extinction. The program was not funded last year for the first time in 2 decades. Under Florida Forever, the state has protected 2.4 million acres of wildlife habitat. Those that oppose funding say the state can't afford it, but the other side states this is a perfect buying time with our lower prices.

We are heavily depending on tourism with an ever growing ecotourism as a big attraction. Brevard County has its Environmentally Endangered Lands Program and its National Wildlife Preserves, which could be built and expanded. An example of what we could have is

the Annual Birding Festival. Think of the tourism we could have if we had the equivalent of the Birding Festival all year.

Update

Please add this information to your membership book.

~We Welcome New Members~

Daniel Faden
3750 Ponderosa Road
Valkaria, FL 32950
mjpf@bellsouth.net

William Brossand
366 Riverside Drive
Indialantic, FL 32903
Eyedoc1@netlink.net

Changes & Corrections

Maryann Tomasik's zip code is 32927

Joy Calcagni's correct e-mail address is
joy.calcagni@gmail.com

Name Correction
Frances Salerno

previously found in membership book under
Frances Christoph-Salerno

New e-mail address for JoDee Wilfong
Rgw-jci19@att.net



The next Space Coast Voter should be coming to you in late August (September edition) since we do not publish a Voter for June, July, and August.

However, you can be informed about upcoming events or news by going to our website that is
www.lwv-spacecoast.org

We plan to list dates and information for the forums that will be held before the primaries in August.

We welcome our new members and look forward to more volunteers becoming involved in our activities.

If you have a special interest, please contact one of the board members.

Enjoy summer!



International Relations

Mary Nicolay

Special Envoys in American Foreign Policy

Historically the U.S. Government has used special envoys to deal with diplomatic issues. Benjamin Franklin was sent to Paris, Nicholas Trist to Mexico, the Iran-Contra affair was done with secret emissaries in the mid 80's, the examples go on. As the country has grown in population and power the need for a formalized institution caused the creation of our State Department. With this growth also came the inability of the President or the Secretary of State to oversee every international issue that had to be dealt with. Embassies have been established, foreign service personnel trained and deployed with in depth knowledge of the particular country they serve in. The ambassadors are appointed by the Secretary of State with the President's Ok and must be approved by Congress before they can serve. To get around the congressional approval process and to establish the President's particular interest in an issue he or she may directly appoint an EMISSARY, one sent on a mission by another, or an ENVOY, a person delegated to represent one government in its dealings with another.

It is interesting that after these appointments ambassadors are often overlooked, i.e. who is the ambassador to Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan? We do know however that George Mitchell is the Special Envoy to the Middle East and that Richard Holbrooke is the Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan. Ambassadors often are not personally close to the President and are not necessarily distinguished statesmen. They are generally career diplomats or they are receiving political pay back for supporting the President.

Opposition to special envoys or representatives arises often because the mission may be rushed, the envoy may lack specialized knowledge and important contacts, publicity attending their visits can arouse excessive or premature expectations, operating through special representatives can demoralize regulars in the diplomatic service and personalizing a particular policy sometimes robs the mission of its bureaucratic support.

On the other hand, special envoys or representatives can be effective if they are disciplined, have a personal connection and ready accessibility to the President, have national and international stature, be statesmen and distinguished to impress the interlocutors. Skills of negotiation are more important than expertise in the area. They must be able to build effective teams and have an acceptable personality (not be seen as a "loose cannon"). Lastly the time must be right for the special negotiations.

Jules Cambon, French diplomat 1845-1935, said it best, "The best instrument at the disposal of a Government wishing to persuade another Government will always remain the spoken words of a decent man (or woman)."

Halting Atrocities in Kenya Great Decisions Discussion on March 9, Submitted by Karen Raboin

Kenya is a nation in Africa, slightly smaller than Texas, comprised of 80% Christians, 10% Muslims and 10% other religions. It is a land of tropical climate with a fertile agricultural area called the Rift Valley and a coastline on the Indian Ocean. It has a population of 39 million. It is a land of unrest.

Halting Atrocities in Kenya led to an interesting discussion of the genocides that have occurred since the Great Holocaust of the Second World War. When the knowledge of the massacres by the German Nazi party reached the ears of the world, many people vowed, "NEVER AGAIN! Sadly, this is not so.

Since the Holocaust of the 1940s, many massive genocides have occurred. Read the following. Understand that these numbers are published estimates (but close) and consider the effects on the people.

- 1970: Cambodia. Khmer Rouge slaughtered masses. 15,000 tortured 20,000 found murdered in mass graves
- 1988: Iraq. Saddam Hussein gassed Kurds. 50,000-100,000 dead 65,000 refugees
- 1992: Bosnia-Herzegovina. Serbs attacked, raped and killed Muslims.
- 1994: Rwanda. Hutu government slaughtered Tutsis. 800,000 dead
- 1996 Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Civil wars and constant ethnic strife caused millions of deaths. 5.5 million dead since 1998 5.5 million refugees 45,000 estimated to be dying every month of preventable diseases and malnutrition.
- 2000 Zimbabwe. Robert Mugabe punished the opposition. 3.4 million fled abroad. 1 million internally displaced
- 2003 Darfur Government ordered mass killing of black Muslims 400,000 dead 2.7 million refugees
- 2007 Kenya The presidential election results erupted into rioting and mass killings. 1300 dead 600,000 displaced

In Kenya, the president has control of all assets and powers. He awards these to his tribe. In the presidential election of December 27, 2009, *(continued on Page 6)*

(continued from Page 5) the incumbent president was Kibaki of the Kikuyo tribe. The challenger was Odingo of the Luo tribe. Odingo was ahead in the election by 1.2 million votes. At this point, the government-controlled electoral commission declared Kibaki the winner.

Rioting began. The Luo began attacking the properties of the Kikuyu. The police and army then began brutalizing the angry people. People from four tribes were driven from their homes. In the early aftermath of the election, 1300 were dead and 600,000 displaced. The beginnings of genocide were erupting.

This is where things changed. The resolve of "Never Again" had fathered a movement that grew into the Responsibility to Protect (R2P), a movement to stop all genocides. R2P redefined sovereignty as "contingent upon a basic respect for human rights." The UN endorsed this principle. The intent is to use diplomatic, legal, economic and military pressure to prevent genocide. Now other world governments and the UN would act.

The neighboring heads of states sought to intervene. When this failed, Kofi Annan (past president of the United Nations) agreed to mediate a settlement. His team took 41 days to reach an agreement between the hostile sides.

The first step was to put an immediate stop to the violence and restore the rights of the people. The second step was to help those whom had been displaced. Then the election needed to be resolved. Last, and on-going, was an agreement to explore an end to the long-term problems: poverty and injustice.

The first three goals were reached and the last is still on-going. Did the R2P prevent a genocide? As of now, it appears so. Work continues on long-term problems.

Do we care? There are practical reasons to care. Genocide threatens our interests because it feeds on and fuels other threats in weak and corrupt states. We share great costs for feeding and housing refugees. We share costs for managing long-lasting regional crises. It costs even more to send our troops. Along with these reasons, failing to act compromises our credibility and leadership in the world.

The United Nations is now acting on genocide as well as implementing the International Criminal Court to bring to justice those involved in atrocities. It's a beginning.

The March 23rd meeting of International Relations was led by Sue Mart on the subject of Transnational Organized Crime (TOC).

The demise of the Soviet Union led to a new organized group referred to as the Russian Mafia. The break up of Yugoslavia led to organized crime coming

from the Balkans. These are only two of the many world wide crime groups. They are involved in a variety of illegal activities including narcotics, human trafficking for prostitution, extortion, body parts, black market weapons, pirated DVDs, fake designer purses, etc. Sue recommended three books that she used in researching this subject. They were *McMafia: a Journey Through the Global Criminal Underworld* by Misha Glenny, *Illicit: How Smugglers, Traffickers, and Copycats are Hijacking the Global Economy* by Moisés Naím, and *Global Outlaws: Crime, Money, and Power in the Contemporary World* by Carolyn Nordstrom.

The authors attributed from 10% to 20% of gross domestic product (GDP) to criminal transactions. Organized illegal activities have always existed but it is more evident now and spreading in our global economy. Carolyn Nordstrom stated in her book that drug traffickers in Afghanistan dispose of cell phones after a week's use so they can not be traced.

The most alarming part of the subject is that these illegal groups are connected to terrorists. Terrorist groups are often getting financing for their causes by becoming a part of organized crime. Governments of the world need to work together to fight illegal crime and terrorists.

Legislative Seminar Report (continued from front page)

They explained that after similar legislation had been found unconstitutional, the proposed Amendments 5 and 6 were drafted taking into account flaws that were found; there are two amendments, one creating standards for *legislative* redistricting and another for *congressional* redistricting, so that neither addresses more than one issue. The audience saw how effective colored maps can be in showing voters how their local area has been gerrymandered, dividing communities and creating some districts that are so large that even conscientious legislators find it difficult to serve their constituents well.

There were ten guest speakers during Breakfast with the Legislators on Tuesday morning at the Governors Club. Some spoke only briefly as they were en route to meetings and the session, but Senator Paula Dockery of Lake Park spoke for several minutes on various issues. As she is running for governor on the Republican ticket, listeners were especially interested in her comments.

Both houses were to recognize the League's observance of the 90th anniversary, but by the time our group had gotten through security and seated in the House gallery, the acknowledgement had already occurred and the House recessed after only a few minutes. (continued on Page 7)

(Legislative Seminar continued from page 6)

On the Senate side, we were present and stood with other members when the League was recognized by that house. Some of us who were particularly interested in the discussion of Senate Bill 6 (education) sat and listened to that discussion well into our lunch hour. Senator Haridopolis was on the floor but did not speak, while Senator Altman presented an amendment to SB 6 which he then withdrew.

Fern Patton had made appointments for our group with most of the Brevard representatives, so during the afternoon Ruth, David, Martha and Fern tacked back and forth from the House to the Senate side keeping our appointments during which the legislators were asked to support or oppose various measures according to the League positions. Representative Tobia was thanked for co-sponsoring the Civics Education Act, and Fern expressed appreciation to Representative Crisafulli for his introduction of House Bill 969 which gives Space Florida flexibility in spending funds already appropriated to more aggressively work to attract commercial space business to Florida.

Bills on which the League had taken a position and which were mentioned to the legislators included SJR 2420, "Taxpayer Bill of Rights" or TABOR; Ruth pointed out that taxpayers in Colorado, the only other state which has adopted similar legislation, found it so disastrous that they subsequently voted to suspend the law. The League urges legislators to close the loophole on collection of sales tax on Internet sales and to delete the exemption for sales of bottled water. The League opposes campaign financing legislation known as "Pay to Play," which creates new campaign fundraising accounts under the direct control of legislative leaders. In addition to locking down control of members in each chamber who want to receive campaign funds from the leader, "Pay to Play" also will be less transparent because reporting on these "Leadership Funds" will be required quarterly rather than within 10 days.

Senator Altman was unable to return from a committee meeting in time to meet with the Brevard group, and we had to forgo our appointment with Senator Haridopolis, whose office and hallway were full of people waiting to see him, in order to keep our appointment with Representative Crisafulli.

The long day ended with dinner at the Paradigm Club followed by Hot Topics talks on both sides of Amendment 4, the Hometown Democracy amendment which will be on the November ballot. Ross S. Burnaman, a Tallahassee attorney, spoke in favor of the amendment, while Lynn Tipton, executive director of the Florida City and County Management Association, spoke in opposition.

There was a Voter Service session at the hotel after dinner, and "Grab and Go" breakfast the next morning as members began departing for home.

Attending the Legislative Seminar demands a lot of energy because days are long and so much information is presented, but it is certainly worth the effort. As a first time attendee, I thank the Space Coast League for the opportunity to go and recommend participating to anyone who can go in the future.

Martha Bradshaw

Calendar for May 2010

~Members Welcome at All Meetings~

May 6, Thursday	Board meeting and potluck at home of Barbara Jagrowski, SunTree at 10 a.m. for old and new board members
May 10, Monday	Children's Committee Suntree Library at 1:30 p.m.
May 11, Tuesday	International Relations Meeting at Satellite Beach Library 1p.m. to 3 p.m. "Global financial crisis and its effects."
May 20th, Thursday	"State of the County Program" Government, Building C, Commission Chambers, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera
May 22nd Saturday	Health Care Committee Cocoa Library 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.
May 25th, Tuesday	International Relations Meeting at Satellite Beach Library 1 p.m to 3 p.m. "China looks at the world: the world looks at China."

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