



The Voter

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



Volume 34: No. 9

May 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.



Two May Events

Celebrate the League - Meet and Greet on May 1st

The Board of League of Women Voters of the Space Coast is hosting "Celebrate the League" and inviting all League members and friends who might be interested in joining League to a

Wine and Hors d'oeuvre Party.

When: Thursday, May 1st

Time: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Where: River House Club House

115 N. Indian River Drive, Cocoa, FL 32922

(directions to River House Club House found on Page 3)

Reservations: to Doreen Archer at 321-622-4071 by Monday, April 28th, so we know how many will be attending. **There is no cost.**

Timely Topics on May 15th

"The Impact of the Economic Development Commission in Brevard County"

Guest Speaker is Lynda Weatherman, President and CEO of the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast (EDC) (Short biography of Ms. Weatherman on Page 7)

Public is Invited.

When: Thursday, May 15th

Where: Tuscany Grill at 7640 N. Wickham Road, Melbourne

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Menu: Chicken or Salmon Acropolis - Your choice sautéed with artichoke, red peppers, sundried tomatoes, and calamata olives, in a lemon and white wine butter sauce served over pasta.

Rigatoni Ala Grill - Italian sausage sautéed with roasted red and green peppers, onions, tomatoes, and Italian herbs tossed with rigatoni.

Eggplant Rollatini - Thin sliced battered eggplant stuffed with a garlic ricotta blend, baked and topped with mozzarella, and served over spaghetti and marinara.

All entrées served with house salad and Italian Bread with Pesto Dipping Oil, and one non alcoholic drink.

Cost: \$22.00

Reservations: Doreen Archer at 321-622-4071 no later than Sunday, May 11th.

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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.



President's Corner

Marilynn Collins & Priscilla Griffith

Dear League Members,

We had a good turnout for our Annual Meeting on April 5th and enjoyed Orange County Leaguer Nancy Rudner's presentation on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. I would like to recognize our newly elected/re-elected Officers and Directors: 1st Vice President Tony Dutton, 2nd Vice President Connie Hogerty, Treasurer Brigitte Sinton, Joyce Calese, Barbara Dutton, Alberta Wilson and Maria Mogollon-Seemer. Congratulations to our 2015 Nominating Committee – Chair Fran Baer, Annie Frame and Fern Patton. Two members from our Board of Directors will be appointed at the May board meeting to also serve on the Nominating Committee.

As we begin our 2014-2015 Year, I would like to review our activities and accomplishments of the past twelve months. We were pleased to have five leaguers attend the 2013 League of Women Voters of Florida (LWVF) Legislative Summit and Convention in Tallahassee. Voter Service Chairs Tony and Barbara Dutton returned ready to spearhead a petition drive initiated by the Florida Water and Land Legacy to place an amendment on the 2014 ballot to guarantee funding for Conservation efforts in Florida. We thank them for their leadership and Tony's motivational skills which resulted in our League collecting close to 2,200 signed petitions. The statewide campaign, which included other local Leagues and many conservation organizations, was successful and the citizens of Florida will have the ability to vote on what is now called Amendment 1 – Water and Land Conservation. Our League will be proactive in educating voters to "Vote Yes on Amendment 1" in the months leading up to Election Day. We will do outreach programs with a Power Point Presentation. If you would like to be trained to give the presentation and/or know of an organization that would like to have a presentation, please contact Co-President Priscilla Griffith who is our Speaker's Bureau Chair.

Our Health Care Committee has been very active with outreach programs educating on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and Medicaid Expansion. We thank Co-Chairs Jo Shim (who also attended 2013 LWVF Convention) and Connie Dobrin and their committee for their hard work. The committee will continue their Outreach this program year. Training sessions for the Power Point presentation are planned for the spring. If you would like to join the committee, participate in outreach and/or know of an organization that may want to have the presentation, please contact Jo or Connie.

Our Social Policy/Children's Committee participated in the LWVF study on Charter Schools. The results from our League and the 17 other Leagues that participated were integrated into 18 Statements that were discussed by our League members at a Consensus Meeting in January. We thank Lucia Watson, the point person for the study, Committee Chair Maria Seemer and the committee for their research into the Charter Schools in Brevard County. Positions have been developed based on the findings from the study and will be voted on at the Council Meeting in Tallahassee on April 11. The Committee also hosted a Timely Topics on Foster Care in Brevard and worked to increase awareness of Florida Kid Care Insurance available for children under the age of 19.

The Natural Resources Committee kept us advised on updates with the Indian River Lagoon and efforts to pass stricter fertilizer ordinances in Brevard County. A Timely Topics with guest speaker Marine Resources Council Executive Director Linda Souto educated us on the status of the Lagoon and we participated in "Hands Across the Lagoon" to increase awareness of the problems and the need for restoration. In August, Tony Dutton represented League of Women Voters of Florida at the Senate Select Committee on the Indian River Lagoon and Okeechobee Basin promoting our support of action to clean up the Lagoon and support for the proposed Conservation Amendment. Thank you to Natural Resources Chair Susan Little and Consultant Maureen Rupe for their efforts this year.

I presented our League's positions on Medicaid Expansion and the proposed Conservation Amendment at the Brevard Legislative Delegation in November. Many League members also attended with League buttons displayed, showing their support. Several of us also attended the Regional multi-county Legislative Delegation held in November at the Port. Voter Service Co-Chair Tony Dutton gave several presentations to local organizations on Election Reform, Early Voting and Voter Registration.

The International Relations Committee had another great year studying Global Issues and participating in the Great Decisions Program. The Committee hosted a Timely Topics Program with guest speaker Jane Wilson speaking on Conflict Resolution in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We were very happy that Jane decided to become a member of our League.

Two special events were held this program year. The first was "Florida's Water & Land Conservation Crisis" with LWVF Natural Resources Chair Chuck O'Neal and Alike Moncrief, Field Director for Florida's Water and Land Legacy held in September. The second was "Honoring Women of Action" with our special guest speaker LWVF President Deirdre Macnab in February. **(continued on Page 7)**



Children's Committee

Maria Mogollon-Seemer – Chair

Two of our members attended the No Labels Event in March. Permission was given to reprint or use this updated article from the national office of No Labels, Mr. Anthony Pingnelli.

Who Is No Labels?

These days, fighting and gridlock, even government shutdowns, have become the norm in American politics. With the country deeply divided and the parties evenly balanced, we're stuck in a cycle of constant political battles that get us nowhere. Instead of engaging in serious discussions about how to grow our economy, create jobs, reduce the deficit and tackle the difficult challenges we face, our elected officials are often more concerned with scoring political points. Meanwhile our global competitors are moving ahead and prospering with coordinated national strategies.

With this backdrop, No Labels believes the time has come for a new governing process in American that will finally replace the culture of conflict and division with a politics of problem solving and consensus building.

The new governing process is built around the concept of a national strategic agenda – a shared vision for this country based on achievable goals that both sides of the political divide develop together and agree on. The concept is simple: We believe we can only move forward as a nation if we first agree on where we need to go.

As a starting point, No Labels put forth several broad goals in early 2014 that, according to our polling, are priorities for many Americans. These goals, outlined in our first e-book, *No Labels: A Shared Vision for a Stronger America* are:

- Creating 25 million new jobs over the next 10 years.
- Reforming Medicare and Social Security so they are secure for another 75 years.
- Balancing the federal budget by 2030.
- Making American energy self-sufficient by 2035.

We intend to spend the next 18 months engaging our political leaders, as well as business leaders, academics, policy experts and citizens in conversations and debates to fine-tune these goals, present policy options for attaining them and then work to build consensus around the best most popular ideas.

In mid-2015, we will produce a national strategic agenda based on these mutually agreed-upon goals and policy ideas that will be front and center during the next presidential campaign.

As of February 2014, 79 members of Congress had signed onto this new governing process and the number continues to grow.

No Labels takes its cue from other moments in our history when our leaders, however divided, accomplished much by working toward the same goals. For instance, President Clinton and House Speaker Gingrich didn't agree on many things in the mid-90's. But once they both agreed to the goal of balancing the federal budget, it happened.

At No Labels, we've spent the last three years building the infrastructure for bringing Democrats and Republicans together for this kind of discussion, debate and consensus building. We have the only forum for regular cross-party meetings and problem solving on Capitol Hill. More than 90

members of Congress make up our congressional Problem Solvers coalition. These are members from both chambers and both parties who are dedicated to reaching across the aisle and working together. We've also gained the support of half a million citizens across the country, who are hungering for more constructive action from our leaders.

We have a proven track record of bipartisan successes. In July 2013, No Labels unveiled a package of legislative initiatives, all of which were introduced with bipartisan support. Among these common-sense bills are:

- No Budget No Pay, a version of which was signed into law by President Obama in early 2013.
- The 21st Century Health Care for Heroes Act, signed into law in December 2013 as part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

As we turn our attention to a national strategic agenda, we're as committed as ever to the politics of problem solving. The culture of gridlock and inaction is unacceptable if we want to prosper as a nation and maintain our competitiveness in the world. Please join us to make this moment ours and make the politics of problem solving a reality.

Their website is www.nolabels.org.

Thanks

Thank you to our members who serve on the telephone committee. Their work is greatly appreciated.

Chair – Martha Bradshaw

Jan Bancroft

Teresa Barrett

Connie Hogerty

Pat Huggins

Fern Patton

Carol Riley

Best Wishes to Carol Riley, a long time member who recently moved to Virginia.

Directions to River House Club House

From the south: US 1 to Peachtree Street just before Cocoa water tower. Turn right, go to blinking red light to make left turn onto Forrest Ave. Turn right on Mulberry Street, about ½ block just before public library. 115 River Drive condo is on the right. River House is across Indian River Drive east of the two-story condominium buildings along the river.

From the east: 520 past Whitley Bay condominium; turn right onto Indian River Drive. Go to end of 2nd block to turn left for library or condo parking off Mulberry Street.

Parking: Use parking spaces west of condo buildings or the library's parking lot and walk to River House. There is no parking adjacent to the building itself. A ramp leads to south door, but there are a few steps to be negotiated for the door on north side.



Natural Resources

Susan Little – Chair

Report from Maureen Rupe

–Natural Resources Consultant.

HB 703 to Reduce Govt Water Protections

According to an article in the Sunshine State News, House Bill 703 passed the House Agricultural and Natural Resources Committee on Monday 3/31/14. The bill plans to reduce government control of wetlands, springs and stormwater protections in Florida. The bill sponsored by Rep. Jimmy Patronis, R-Panama City, has the support from Associated Industries of Florida, the Florida Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Florida Farm Bureau Federation. Supposedly, the bill is to reduce duplication, as its supporters say there are enough state standards to protect wetlands, springs, and prevent local storm water protections, instead of allowing local controls as part of the permitting process. Also in question is a section that would allow larger developments to have water use permits up to 30 years, and water use permits up to 50 years, if they participate in water storage programs. Audubon Florida, 1000 Friends of Florida, Reef Relief, and Progress Florida, among others, are opposing the bill, stating the Department of Environmental Protection doesn't do enough to protect those waters.

A March 10th Ocala Star Banner Editorial states the bill "would, in effect, repeal (local) comprehensive plan policies, implementing regulations and other land-use controls related to" wetlands, springs and farmland runoff "that have been adopted since July 1, 2003." Another section of the bill would invalidate provisions some counties have made that raise the threshold for making changes to the local comp plan, rules made by local boards to meet local growth needs. This bill not only harms the environment, it also removes local control. Both are things Florida citizens should oppose.

Reference:

<http://www.sunshinestatenews.com/story/house-committee-passes-hb-703>

<http://www.ocala.com/article/20140311/OPINION01/140319963>

Committee Votes No to Big Cypress Swamp Oil Drilling

The Broward/Palm Beach New Times reported a Department of Environmental Protection Advisory Committee voted no to a request by the Dan A. Hughes Company, a Texas oil company wanting to drill in Collier County. Those opposing drilling were local citizens making up a group called Preserve Our Paradise. The group is concerned about traffic

congestion, hazardous waste, as well as air and groundwater pollution. Also opposing were South Florida Wildlands Association, which states the drilling would have too great an impact on the adjoining Florida Panther project which protects approximately 160 panthers. Although a small victory, it may be for naught, as the Big Cypress Swamp Advisory Committee can't veto a permit, and the DEP has already given Hughes preliminary approval to drill the property.

Reference:

http://blogs.browardpalmbeach.com/pulp/2014/04/big_cypress_swamp_advisory_com.php

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report

On March 31, 2014 in Yokohama, Japan, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released its findings in a report titled "Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptations, and Vulnerability, from Working Group II of the IPCC. The IPCC is the International body for assessing the science related to climate change. It was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Environmental Program. The report was taken from inputs of a coalition of hundreds of scientists and institutions which have studied fresh water resources, terrestrial and ocean ecosystems, coasts, food, urban and rural areas, energy and industry, human health and security, livelihoods and poverty. The IPCC Press Release states "The report concludes that responding to climate change involves making choices about risks in a changing world. The nature of the risks of climate change is increasingly clear, though climate change will also continue to produce surprises. The report identifies vulnerable people, industries and ecosystems around the world. It finds that risk from a changing climate comes from vulnerability (lack of preparedness) and exposure (people or assets in harm's way) overlapping with hazards (triggering climate events or trends). Each of these three components can be a target for smart actions to decrease risk."

"Observed impacts of climate change have already affected agriculture, human health, ecosystems on land and in the oceans, water supplies, and some people's livelihoods. The striking feature of observed impacts is that they are occurring from the tropics to the poles, from small islands to large continents, and from the wealthiest countries to the poorest.

Reference:

<http://www.ipcc.ch/>



Voter Service

Tony Dutton – Chair

Will Brevard County Discourage Early Voting?

Florida law (Sec. 101.657) requires each county Supervisor of Elections (SOE) to allow early voting before any election that contains state or federal races. Accordingly, there will be early voting in Brevard County this year before the August 26th primary election and the November 4th general election. The law also specifies the types of sites where early voting may be held and the minimum numbers of voting sites, days and hours.

Sometime soon, within the next three months, our Brevard SOE, Lori Scott, will announce the (a) sites, (b) days and (c) hours when she will schedule this year's early voting. One of the most basic tenets of the League of Women Voters is, and has always been, that elections should be conducted in a manner that gives every qualified voter as great an opportunity to vote as is reasonably possible. We expect our elections officials to further that principle.

Thus far, however, in discussions with community groups, our SOE has said that she proposes to permit this year's early voting to be conducted only at the minimum number of sites required by law, for the minimum number of days required by law and for almost the minimum number of hours required by law. Is that reasonable?

(a). The law specifies that, "Each county shall, at a minimum, operate the same total number of early voting sites for a general election which the county operated for the 2012 general election." In 2012 Brevard County had eight early voting sites. Our SOE proposes to operate the same number in 2014, even though the Florida Legislature has designated eight additional types of sites where voting may be held. In defense of that position, she claims that some of the sites selected will be larger with room for more voting machines, that the county has new, more efficient machines and that more people now vote by mail. That may be so, but is it a good excuse for not providing more voting sites that will be easier for voters to reach?

(b) The law also specifies that early voting must begin no later than the 10th day before the election and end no later than the 3rd day before the election, a total of eight days. It gives the SOE the discretion, however, to begin voting as early as the 15th day and to extend it to the 2nd day before the election. Our SOE proposes not to use any of those discretionary days, but to do only the minimum required by law. Such action is especially questionable as to the ability to vote on the Sunday before the election. Weekend voting, especially Sundays, is often needed for those who work six days a

week or on untraditional Monday-Friday schedules. Also, the Sunday just before an election is popular because voter interest is at its highest and is a day when many civic and religious groups encourage their followers to vote. Is there any good excuse for denying to our Brevard County voters the number of days allowed under the law and especially that last Sunday?

(c) Additionally, the law specifies that early voting "shall be provided for no less than 8 hours and no more than 12 hours per day at each site". Our SOE proposes to permit voting on the three required weekend days only for the minimum 8 hours required by law. Her justification for this limitation is that, on the five weekdays of voting, she will permit 10 hours. But is that reasonable? The Legislature has decreed that we may have 168 hours of early voting. Our SOE has said she intends to permit only 74 hours, less than half (44%) of the authorized hours.

If we believe that our SOE should do more to encourage and permit voting in Brevard County, we, as citizens, should let her know as soon as possible, before she announces her selected sites, days and hours, by telephone calls (321-690-6833), e-mails (soe@votebrevard.com) and letters to the newspapers.

~Welcome to our New Members~

Janet Keller

Mandy Keller

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



Voter Editor

Lucia Watson

Thank you for replying to my e-mail for those who have e-mail concerning preference on how you would like to receive your *Voter*. The majority of members have chosen to receive their *Voter* by e-mail. However we will continue to mail our *Voters* to other members. As a reminder, we do not publish in June, July and August. Your September issue will arrive later in August. During the summer our communication will be through e-mails, phone calls and updates can be found on our website.



Health Committee

Jo Shim & Connie Dobrin Co-Chairs

One of the health issues that the Health care committee decided to focus on in the 2014-2015 program of work is HIV/AIDS. The following article highlights some pertinent global, national and state data.

HIV/AIDS Overview

With an estimated 35.3 million people living with HIV disease worldwide, HIV/AIDS is still a significant health issue. Globally there are some encouraging statistics including a 33% decline in new cases since 2001 and an even better 52% decline in new infections in children. One of the areas where there has been great success in both treatment and prevention is mother to child transmission. Infection rates have now declined to less than 5% when effective interventions are applied. Unfortunately, there is still significant lack of access to treatment worldwide.

In the US there are an estimated 1.1 million people living with HIV disease and 15% are unaware of their infection. In spite of ongoing and innovative prevention efforts, the number of new HIV cases has remained constant in recent years with approximately 50,000 new infections each year. Men who have sex with men (MSM) continue to be the group with the greatest number of infections, and among races/ethnicities, African Americans continue to be disproportionately affected. Mother to child transmission rates in the US are less than 1% when pregnant mothers take prescribed anti-retroviral drugs. The US budget for HIV/AIDS has grown steadily during the course of the epidemic and by 4.9 billion since 2009. In 2014 the total HIV/AIDS budget is 29.7 billion which included 6.5 billion for global initiatives.

Florida is also greatly impacted by the HIV/AIDS epidemic and ranks third in the US in the total number of AIDS cases and second in the number of HIV cases. Treatment for uninsured patients is provided through the Florida Department of Health and funding for anti-retroviral drugs comes through a variety of programs including Ryan White funds and the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) as well as Medicare and Medicaid. In recent years, Florida has seen more cases of HIV/AIDS in people aged 50 and older. In 2012, 23% of new HIV cases reported in Florida were in this age group as were 42% of Floridians living with HIV disease.

With the advent of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) changes are anticipated in how HIV treatment and care is administered. AIDS advocates favor Medicaid Expansion for those living with HIV disease as it has the advantage of providing complete health coverage. This is very advantageous as the needs of HIV/AIDS patients are often complex and Ryan White funds were not

designed to provide comprehensive care. This may be an important area to explore as we continue to advocate for Medicaid Expansion in Florida.

References:

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2013/10/28/how-the-aca-will-affect-people-with-hiv-and-aids/3285897/>
<http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/aids/>
<http://kff.org/global-health-policy/fact-sheet/u-s-federal-funding-for-hivaids-the-presidents-fy-2014-budget-request/>



International Relations

JoDee Wilfong led the discussion on Defense Technology and wrote this article.

Defense Technology

New drone strikes, intelligence disclosures, and the resulting outcries from at home and abroad seem to occur almost daily. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), megadata collection and cyberarms are part of the new technologies we use to protect our troops, and our country; we can also use those same technologies to wage hi-tech war and to spy on our friends and enemies, and our own citizens. Do these technologies meet the standards called for in the U.S. Constitution and International Laws of War?

In the Great Decisions article and a 2009 TED Talk Peter Singer described some of the new weapon technology systems and identified essential questions concerning future applications and development. His TED Talk showed how robotic weapons were used during the Afghanistan/Iraq wars. The U.S. military has routinely conducted drone air strikes in war zones; drones and robots are part of the military's warfighting effort. The CIA conducts its own, more secret drone war, mainly concentrating on air strikes in Pakistan's border region, as well as some in Yemen.

Singer also states, "Robots are emotionless. They see an 80-year-old grandmother in a wheelchair the same way they see a T-80 tank: they're both just a series of zeroes and ones." Serious ethical and legal questions arise from the use of robotic weapon systems that cannot discriminate between civilian and military targets and/or are used to kill targets without due process or oversight from the U.S. Congress or international institutions.

Many Americans see the National Security Agency (NSA) surveillance program as a violation of the Fourth Amendment in the U.S. Constitution. Recently, two federal judges have come to opposite conclusions. The issue will eventually be decided in the Supreme Court. Benjamin Wittes of the Brookings Institute, spoke to the issue of the tension between liberty and security saying, **(continued on Page 7)**

(President's Report continued from Page 2) Both were well received and well attended and resulted in new members for our League.

Co-President Priscilla Griffith and I also send our thanks to Connie Hogerty who has served for six years as Membership Chair and will now serve as 2nd Vice President; to Doreen Archer, our Finance Chair; to Voter Editor and Web Master Lucia Watson; to Treasurer Brigitte Sinton; to Karen Raboin for her service as 2nd Vice President; to Anita Smith and Mary Margaret Page who served as Hospitality Co-Chairs; to Martha Bradshaw and her Telephone Committee and to Fran Baer and the 2014 Nominating Committee. A big thank you goes out to member Marcia Booth who is coordinating our Recycling Awards Program in our public school system. This year's program focuses on increasing awareness of our local landfill and what we can do to reduce waste.

Susan Little and I will be representing our League at the 2014 LWVF Legislative Summit and Council on April 9-11 in Tallahassee. We will share our experience with everyone at our May 1st "Celebrate the League" Meet & Greet. Also, mark your Calendar for our May 15th Timely Topics with guest speaker Lynda Weatherman, President and CEO of the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast. Details are on the cover page.

As this is our last Voter until September, I wish you all a wonderful summer. We will be in touch via e-mail, our website and by phone. If you have any suggestions for programs or issues you would like our league to discuss, please call me at 321-773-8490 or e-mail me at marilynn.collins@gmail.com.

In League,
Marilynn

(International Relations Article continued from Page 6) "I don't mean to say that security and liberty are never in tension with one another, they are sometimes . . . But, they're not pervasively, and always in tension. And if you want to maximize liberty, the optimal amount of NSA surveillance is not zero . . . NSA surveillance enables the government to protect us from all sorts of actors that want to threaten our liberty."

Spying on friends – Jennifer Sims, Chicago Council on Global Affairs, says . . . "revelations that the National Security Agency has been tracking allied foreign leaders aside, spying on allies – even friendly ones – is nothing new in international politics . . . That everyone does it is, of course, no excuse for intelligence run amok . . . In international politics, friendship is a misnomer. Relations among states cannot – or at least should not – entail true trust. States exist to keep their respective nations safe, and even allies can put each other at risk. In a world full of complex interests, countries cooperate where they can but seek information where they must, weighing the risks to alliances, international institutions, and strategies as they go . . . allied governments, which know their own intelligence histories well, would do best to respond to disclosures with temperance instead of heated rhetoric."

We're living in a dynamic digital age, where international intelligence agencies collect information on other governments, corporations, and individuals, corporations sell our private information, criminals hack into our financial accounts, and powerful hi-tech weapons are readily available to states and non-state actors alike. Whom or what should we fear more? Should NSA activities have more oversight and transparency, including budget costs? Do we need to be more realistic about our interpretation of the U.S. Constitution and the threats to our liberty from at home and abroad?

Timely Topic's Speaker Lynda Weatherman has been with the EDC (Economic Development Commission) in Brevard County since 1994 and serves as CEO. She is responsible for attracting new business and investment and retention and growth of existing industry throughout the Space Coast. Ms. Weatherman is a Florida native, earning her B.A. in Social Science/Education from the University of South Florida and a Master's degree in Economic Development from the University of South Mississippi. She has a second Master's degree in International and Urban Planning from the University of Hong Kong.

~May Calendar – Members welcome at all meetings~

Thursday, May 1st – Celebrate the League Meet and Greet at 115 River Drive, Cocoa from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 7th – Board Meeting and Lunch catered by Green Turtle - 10 a.m. at Las Olas at 1215 Highway A1A S.B.

Saturday, May 10th – Children's Committee at home of Doreen Archer 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday, May 13th – International Relations Committee meeting at Satellite Beach Library at 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Energy Independence led by Jane Wilson

Thursday, May 15th – Timely Topics at Tuscany Grill at 11:30 a.m.

Monday, May 19th – Health Committee Meeting at Suntree Library at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, May 27th – International Relations Committee meeting at Satellite Beach Library at 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Topic is Food and Climate

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