



The Voter

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



Volume 33: No. 3

November, 2012

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.



Celebrate the League of Women Voters



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, November 15
Time: 4 P.M. to 7 P.M.
Where: Hester Wagner Community House in
Melbourne Village.
The address is 6100 Hall Road
Melbourne Village, FL 32904

Reservations: Please call Doreen Archer at 321-622-4071 by Monday, November 12 so that we know how many will be attending. There is no cost.

We hope you will join us to celebrate being a part of this wonderful national organization.



December Holiday Party



Our Holiday Luncheon is Tuesday, December 4th.

The board has approved a recommendation from the Children's Committee suggesting that members bring donations to the Holiday Party to help the homeless children in our community. There are over 1350 homeless students in Brevard County. Other details about these children are found on Page 3. Suggested donations are found on Page 5 under Board Bytes.

Where: Eau Gallie Yacht Club
When: Tuesday, December 4th at 11:30 A.M.
Cost: \$25.00

Additional details on this event will be found in the December Voter.

In This Issue

President's Report	2
Finance	2
Voter Service	2
Children's Committee	3
International Relations	4
New Member	4
Natural Resources	5
Board Bytes	5
Find Your Customized Ballot	6
League Photos	7
Calendar	7

President: Barbara Whitley
321-674-6070

whlyhome@digital.net

Editor: Lucia Watson

321-779-6758

lucbil_99@yahoo.com

LWVSC: Phone # 321-254-7183

www.lwv-spacecoast.org

Underwriter of the Month

Flamingo Printing

1785 Waverly Place
Melbourne, FL 32901
321-723-2771



President's Corner

Barbara Whitley

Hello Leaguers and Hello Autumn,

We have made it through the first ten months and only have two more to go. Looking back on the past couple of months with the League it reminds me of a story I read to my children. I think of the little cho cho train that has the tall hill to climb. She looks up the hill and thinks; I have never climbed a hill that high. I may not be that strong but I think I can do this one day at a time. With help from a few others I think I can, the little cho cho said . NO, I will.climb this hill and before she knew it was done. What gets her to the top?. Is it because she just keeps on moving or because she has many hands helping her push?

You are thinking what is Barbara talking about this time? I am talking about all of the work of the ladies and men of the League who take on the various jobs in the League. They register voters, hand out Voter Guides, distribute voting information. This is not just in Melbourne but in all areas of Brevard from Micco to Mims.

League members were speakers at a meeting in Merritt Island and one in Indian Harbor Beach as well as Palm Bay and Cocoa. They also had a luncheon with a speaker from Palm Beach who came to give a presentation on the Health Care Act.

This was the Space Coast League's train that kept on rolling to keep things moving. It had many people doing their parts, moving it to the top with a lot of planning and energy to get it to the top and it got to the top. These were ladies and gentlemen speaking, registering, explaining, moderating. coordinating, and educating.

THESE ARE AMERICANS
ALL VOLUNTEER
THIS IS WHY AMERICA WORKS

Yours in League
Barb

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.



Finance

Barbara Jagrowski – Chair

SAVE THE DATE

2013 POLITICOS ON PARADE FUNDRAISER

The 6th POLITICOS ON PARADE fundraiser is scheduled for Friday, January 25, 2013 at 11:00 am at the Eau Gallie Yacht Club.

This is your League's one big fundraiser of the year. There will be all newly elected officials modeling the latest men's and women's fashions in a fun and entertaining way.

There are many jobs, large and small, to be filled and I hope that you will volunteer your time and talents. No previous experience is needed. **Call 321-259-5942 or email jandbjagrowski@earthlink.net to help.**

POP Committee



Voter Service

Voter Service is the Heart of the League. Consider volunteering to fill this important chair for League of Women Voters of the Space Coast. Many thanks to Barbara Jagrowski for filling this position in the interim period.

Thank you to the following members who registered voters: Barbara Jagrowski, Joyce Calese, Marilyn Collins, Barbara Dutton, Barbara Hoelscher, Linda Kyvik, Cheri Roberts, and Terri Myers.

Members who spoke to groups or represented the League.: Barbara Jagrowski to Newcomers Club, Ruth Schechter to Brevard Symphony Orchestra South Guild, Doreen Archer to PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Gays and Lesbians) and Federally Employed Women group, Connie Hogerty to Progressive Alliance.

Barbara Jagrowski was moderator for the following candidate forums:

- October 3rd and 16th Grant/Valkaria
- October 24th – Malabar
- Possibly moderating Mayoral race for Cocoa Beach.

Voter guides were distributed to 17 county libraries, Brevard County government Center, city halls, Central and Melbourne Chambers of Commerce.



Children's Committee

Marguerite Orban – Chair

At the time this Voter was being organized, Chair Marguerite Orban was preparing to attend the Florida Association for the Education of Young Children (FLAEYC) conference from October 11th to October 14th at the Marriott World Center in Orlando. FLAEYC is the state affiliate of NAEYC which is National Association for the Education of Young Children.

This conference is an opportunity for anyone working with children from birth to 2nd grade to obtain training in various areas. There are many tracks: Directors/ Administrators, classroom teachers, childcare, parent and professional development are just a few. Diane Levin, Ph.D will be talking on "So Sexy, So Soon"- Children are growing up in an environment saturated with images of sexual appearance and behavior that they do not understand. Holly Elissa Bruno, M.A.J.D. will give a session dealing with directors and administrators. Mel Jurado, Ph.D will talk on Servant Leadership: Success Foundations for Child & Program Outcomes. There will be sessions on music, art, math reading, play and school readiness ideas. Exhibitors will have booths featuring the latest books, toys and furniture available. The Conference will also have a track on Public Policy. There are usually about 2,500 people who attend. Marguerite Orban, chair of the Children's Committee is the Financial Officer for FLAEYC and will take part in the conference.

At the children's committee meeting in October we were pleased to have Dr. Sally Shinn from Brevard County Schools speak to us. Ms. Shinn is the homeless liaison for students at risk.



Dr. Sally Shinn

In May of 2012 Brevard County had over 1350 homeless students in Brevard County Schools.

Following is a summary of Ms. Shinn's presentation:

Definition of Homelessness

- Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- Sharing the house of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship or a similar reason
- Living in hotels or motels (due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations.)
- Living in cars, parks, travel trailers, campgrounds, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard house, bus or train stations or similar settings.

Signs that a child may be homeless

Lack of continuity in Education

- Attendance at many different schools
- Lack of personal records needed to enroll
- Inability to pay fees
- Gaps in skill development
- Mistaken diagnosis of abilities
- Poor organizational skills
- Poor ability to conceptualize

Poor Health/Nutrition

- Lack of immunizations and/or immunization records
- Unmet medical and dental needs
- Increased vulnerability to colds and flu
- Respiratory problems
- Skin rashes
- Chronic hunger (may hoard food)
- Fatigue (may fall asleep in class)

Social and Behavioral Concerns

- A marked change in behavior
- Poor/short attention span
- Poor self esteem
- Extreme shyness
- Unwillingness to risk forming relationships with peers and teachers
- Difficulty socializing at recess
- Difficulty trusting people
- Aggression
- "Old" beyond years
- Protective of parents
- Clinging behavior
- Developmental delays
- Fear of abandonment
- School phobia (student wants to be with parent)

(continued on Page 4, 2nd column)



International Relations

Mary Nicolay – Chair

The guest speaker for the International Relations Group on November 13th is Professor Scott Tilley from Florida Tech. He will speak on **TECHNOLOGY AND ITS EFFECT ON SOCIETY**. Dr. Tilley is faculty member of Florida Institute of Technology's Computer Science Department. He writes the TECHNOLOGY TODAY column in Florida Today newspaper. He recently co-authored a book with Tauhid Parveen titled **SOFTWARE TESTING IN THE CLOUD MIGRATION AND EXECUTION**. If his talk is anything like his newspaper column come prepared to hear a very understandable discussion.

Meetings are held at the Satellite Beach Library from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. Visitors are welcome.

The following is a synopsis of an article from TIME magazine 9/10/12 read by **Kathryn Kowalski**.

"Outstanding novels about conflicts seem to have a long gestation period." **ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT** debuted 11 years after Armistice Day. Joseph Heller's **CATCH TWENTY TWO** trailed V-E Day by sixteen years and Tom O'Brien's **THE THINGS THEY CARRIED** was published 17 years after the last troops left Vietnam. Now the first serious contenders about the Iraq war are starting to find their way into bookstores.

The first book mentioned is a first rate piece of satire entitled **BILLY LYNN'S HALFTIME WALK** by Ben Fountain. The book follows a nineteen year old Private Lynn and his seven squad mates, whose valor during a battle in Iraq catapulted them to fame and earned them a two week tour across the U.S.. The most satisfying scenes occur when the squad refuses to play along with the charade, confronting their admirers with the reality of what infantrymen do.

The second book **FOBBIT** by David Abrams also uses satire, but has trained its sites more squarely on the U.S. Army as an institution. The term Fobbit is derisive slang for the non-combatant troops who spend the majority of their time in mega facilities the Army calls Forward Operating Bases that have all the comforts of a small city.

The third book reviewed is **YELLOW BIRDS** by Kevin Powers. The book is an elegiac, sober and haunting coming of age story. The author is an Army vet with extensive combat experience in Iraq which is obvious to the reader.

The article author, Jim Frederick writes that history suggests that we may have to wait another decade before we know which novels will define the Iraq and

Afghanistan wars. If these three books are any measure of what is to come, the competition should be fierce.

The three new books are now available in the Brevard County library system.

The International Relations Group will not meet in December. We encourage members to attend the holiday luncheon at the Eau Gallie Yacht Club on Tuesday, December 4.

The group will resume meeting on January 8th, 2013 at the Satellite Beach Library.



Welcome to New Member

Mary Margaret Page

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



(Children's Committee Report continued from Page 3)

- **Need for immediate gratification**
- **Anxiety late in the school day**

Unpreparedness for School

- **Incomplete or missing homework (no place to work or keep supplies.**
- **Unable to complete special projects (no access to supplies.)**
- **Lack of basic school supplies**
- **Loss of books and other supplies on a regular basis**
- **Concern for safety of belongings**
- **Refusing invitations from classmates.**

Please consider bringing a donation to our holiday luncheon in December to help homeless children that are living in Brevard County.



Natural Resources

by

Maureen Rupe -

Florida's Water & Land Conservation

Amendment by Maureen Rupe

There is a Florida wide effort seeking to get a 2014 constitutional amendment to reestablish funding for land conservation lost in the state legislature's budget cuts. The Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment, if passed, will amend the Florida Constitution to set aside one-third (33 percent) of Florida's existing documentary stamp tax revenues for funding strictly water and land management and restoration conservation purposes for the next 20 years. These purposes would be for such things as acquiring conservation and recreation lands, managing existing conservation and recreation lands, protecting water supply critical lands that are for and restoring degraded natural systems. Florida's existing documentary stamp tax is generated when real estate is sold. If voters approve the initiative, the amendment would take effect January 1, 2015.

Florida's tourism economy depends on our springs, rivers, lakes, beaches, and parks. There are important funding needs in the state, but we can't afford not to protect our land and waters. For the last two decades the state has used this same funding for water and land conservation. The state has cut funding for Florida Forever, and currently spends less than \$1 for every person in Florida for water and conservation efforts as the legislature has been diverting funds for other purposes. The only thing this amendment does is ensure the funds are not diverted.

The amendment was founded by a number of environmental organizations including: Florida Conservation Alliance, The Conservation Fund, Conservation Trust for Florida, Defenders of Wildlife, 1,000 Friends of Florida, Florida Audubon, the Trust for Public Land, the Florida Wildlife Federation, the Sierra Club's Florida Chapter, the Alachua Conservation Trust and The Nature Conservancy.

They need everyone's help. The state has made it harder than ever to bring a citizen initiative to the Florida ballot. The group has to gather approximately 1 million signatures to ensure they have the required 676,811 verified signatures to get it on the ballot. They need help to spread the word, to gather signatures from friends or family, or volunteers to gather signatures by either ordering petitions from their headquarters at (850) 629-4656 or by completing the online volunteer form on their website.

There are eleven bad amendments on the ballot this November. None of the amendments have been brought forward by the citizens of the state. All were brought forward by the Florida Legislature, They have exempted themselves from the 75 word ballot summary rule, and wrote hundreds of pages. This is how we are losing our voice. We the citizens must use the law to bring petitions to government and to ballot.

Reference: <http://floridawaterlandlegacy.org/index.php>



Board Bytes

- Many thanks to Tony Dutton for agreeing to lead the Florida Constitutional Amendments presentations on Saturday, October 13th at two Brevard County libraries.
- 108 members.
- National PMP is \$31 per member and State PMP is \$15 per member.
- Children's Committee continues to be involved with Kid Care (getting insurance to uninsured children up to 18 years of age.) but is waiting for more information.
- Thanks to Flamingo Printing for donating the "Be Ready to Vote" posters.
- Linda Kyvik is chairman of committee for "Celebrating the League", **Wine and Hors d'oeuvre Party on Thursday, November 15th** at Hester Wagner Hall in Melbourne Village from 4 P.M. - 7 P.M. Organizational meeting on Friday, October 19th at Linda's home.
- Susan Little is organizing our February, 2013 Timely Topic that will be **Solar Power**.
- The attendance for the Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act, Timely Topic program in September was very well attended..
- **Members are encouraged to bring donations for homeless children in Brevard County to the holiday luncheon on December 4th. Needed items include underwear, sanitary pads, deoderant, small packages of laundry detergent. shaving supplies. Toothpaste and lotion are also needed.**
- Thanks to Marilyn Collins for coordinating speaker requests in Prscilla Griffith's temporary absence.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF FLORIDA EDUCATION FUND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 11, 2012

Contact:
Deirdre Macnab
407-415-4559
League of Women Voters of Florida
floridaleague@earthlink.net

VOTERS CAN FIND A CUSTOMIZED BALLOT, CANDIDATE AND ISSUE INFORMATION AT LEAGUE'S BE READY TO VOTE WEBSITE

Tallahassee, FL--A customized sample ballot for every voter in Florida, accompanied by extensive information about the candidates and issues that they'll be voting on: that's the latest feature of the League of Women Voters of Florida Education Fund's nonpartisan online voter resource, BeReadyToVote.org.

"With less than a month before Election Day, this is a wonderful resource for Florida voters," said League President Deirdre Macnab. "All a voter needs to do is plug in their address, and his or her sample ballot is generated. If the voter needs to determine their polling place or precinct, BeReadyToVote.org can help them find that, too."

The BeReadytoVote.org sample ballot tool provides access to facts about all presidential, congressional, legislative, and Supreme Court judicial candidates, including professional, career and educational information, as well as financial data about their campaign contributions. Other items available on the site include written position statements, videos, answers to the League's candidate questionnaire and links to the candidates' websites.

The customized ballot tool also includes the constitutional amendments, with links to additional information about them, including the League's pros and cons.

The site produces a downloadable reference sheet that voters can print and use when voting, as well as a host of voting-related resources to help make the democratic process easier.

"With this year's extremely long ballot and 11 complex constitutional amendments, we are encouraging all voters to preview their ballots and their choices before going to the polling booth. This online resource allows voters to take all the time they need to study the national and statewide candidates and issues," Macnab said. "Widespread use of this tool can help combat voter confusion and keep the lines moving faster on November 6, preventing long wait times at the polls."

###

The League of Women Voters of Florida, 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. For more information, please visit the League's website at: www.TheFloridaVoter.org.

Photos from September Timely Topic



Alberta Wilson



Fern Patton



Priscilla Griffith



Clarice Costello



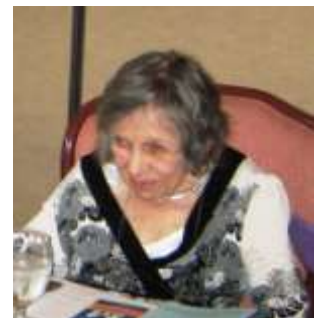
Lynn Shaffer



Joyce Calese



Alex Gunnels



Jean Tweed



Hugh & Mary Nicolay



Marilza Novaes-Card



Carol Robitschek



Vera Walker

~November Calendar - Members welcome at all meetings~

Wednesday, November 7th - Board Meeting at Suntree Library at 10:15 A.M.

Monday, November 12th - Children's Committee at Suntree Library at 1:30 P.M.

Tuesday, November 13th - International Relations Meeting at Satellite Beach Library 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. Speaker is Dr. Scott Tilley speaking on Technology and Its Effect on Society.

Thursday, November 15th "Celebrate the League"-Wine and Hors d'oeuvre Party at Hester Wagner Hall in Melbourne Village from 4 P.M. to 6 P.M.

Monday, November 19th - Health Committee at Suntree Library - 6 P.M. to 7:50 P.M.

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

Issue Date: November 2012

League of Women Voters of the Space Coast

P.O. Box 360823

Melbourne, FL 32936-0823

www.lwv-spacecoast.org