



# The Voter

The League of Women Voters  
of the Space Coast  
[www.lwv-spacecoast.org](http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org)



**Volume 34: No. 3**

**November, 2013**

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

**~~Two November Events~~**

**Timely Topics at Satellite Beach Library**

Satellite Beach Library Address - 751 Jamaica Blvd. Satellite Beach

**On Monday, November 4th**

**Topic is Conflict Resolution**

**Time - 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.**



Speaker is Jane Wilson. Jane Wilson is an attorney who has worked overseas for much of her career. Since November 2002, she has worked and lived in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), managing electricity, gas, and energy efficiency technical assistance projects pursuant to

subcontracts in support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Read the rest of her biography on Page 5.



**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 21st  
**Time:** 4 P.M. to 7 P.M.  
**Where:** Melbourne Village Hall  
The address is 535 Hammock Road.  
Melbourne Village, FL 32904

**Reservations:** Please call Anita Smith at 321-255-3002 by Monday, November 18th so that we know how many will be attending. There is no cost.

*(Directions to Melbourne Village Hall are found on Page 3.)*

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

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## President's Corner

Marilynn Collins & Priscilla Griffith

Dear League Members,

As temperatures are cooling down here in Florida, we can only hope that temperaments in Washington have done the same thing. As of this writing on October 6th, we are in a government shut down which is negatively affecting millions of citizens. The inability of our representatives to do their job causes loss of trust in our government. What's good for the country as a whole seems more than ever to fall from importance as partisanship reaches new heights. A statement by League Founder Carrie Chapman Catt made at the League's founding in Chicago in 1920 seems very appropriate today. Perhaps our representatives in Congress should take heed.

"In the League of Women Voters we have an anomaly; we are going to be a semi-political body. We want political things; we want legislation; we are going to educate for citizenship. In that body we have got to be non-partisan and all-partisan. Democrats from Alabama and Republicans from New Hampshire must work for the same things".

It has been a very busy past few weeks for our League. Our September 21st special Timely Topics Luncheon, "Florida's Water and Land Crisis" with guest speakers, Chuck O'Neal, Natural Resources Chair for our State League and Alik Moncrief, Field Director for Florida Water and Land Legacy, was a great success with 77 guests and many new faces in attendance. Guests were educated, petitions were signed in support of the proposed amendment to Florida's constitution in support of conservation and our League received some new members. Chuck O'Neal's presentation on water issues was so well received that our county staff requested to have a copy of it. Our challenge now is to keep the pressure up on finding and funding solutions to our water issues including protecting our aquifer, land acquisition, protection of our estuaries, beaches and natural habitats. A big thank you goes out to all our League members who worked on this event including Lucia Watson, Doreen Archer, Tony & Barbara Dutton, Priscilla Griffith, Brigitte Sinton, Mary Margaret Page, Anita Smith, Joyce Calese, Jo Shim and Connie Hogerty.

League members turned out to participate in the Second Annual Voter Registration Day on September 24th with tables at the Cocoa and Melbourne campuses of Eastern Florida State College. We showed our support at "Hands Across the Lagoon" on September 28th on the Melbourne Causeway gathering over 200 petitions for the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment. For the week ending October 4th, our League took first place for the number of petitions

collected, 220. As of October 4th our League has collected almost 1,300 petitions!!! We send a special thank you to Tony and Barbara Dutton who are the driving force behind our success. The Petition Drive formally ends on November 30th, so if you have not signed and/or would like petitions, please contact Tony Dutton at 242-1161. Volunteers in the above events included Tony & Barbara Dutton, Doreen Archer, Lucia Watson, Susan Little, Brigitte Sinton, Ann Downing and myself.

Our League is setting up appointments to meet with our local State Representatives to discuss League's issues, in particular, support of the expansion of Medicaid in our state. On September 17th, LWV Florida and the Presidents/CEO's of Tampa General Hospital and the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce reiterated their call for our state to accept the federal money for Medicaid expansion. This action would expand healthcare to nearly 1 million citizens and would bring in \$51 billion in federal money over the next 10 years and create a projected 120,000 new jobs.

Mark your calendar for November 4th at 1 P.M., for a Timely Topics event with our International Relations Committee. This presentation is free and will be held at the Satellite Beach Library. See 1st Page and International Relations Committee report for details. Be sure to check out Voter Service Report for details on the Brevard Legislative Delegation Meeting on November 12th and the Central Florida Legislative Delegation Meeting on November 19th. Our Second Annual "Celebrate League" Meet and Greet Party will be held on Thursday, November 21st at the Village Hall, 535 Hammock Rd, in Melbourne Village from 4 P.M. to 7 P.M. Please note that this is a different building than last year. Wine and Hors d'oeuvres will be provided courtesy of your Board of Directors. We all had a great time last year getting to know each other better. Leaguers love to talk and discuss. We encourage members to bring a friend who may be interested in joining our League. Come whenever you can and stay as long as you like. RSVP to Anita Smith at 321-255-3002 by Monday, November 18th.

It is hard to believe that 2013 is almost over. This year's Holiday Party is in the planning stage. Details will be available in the December Voter.

I know it is a few weeks away, but I want to wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving.

In League,

Marilynn



## Voter Service

### Barbara & Tony Dutton – Co-Chairs

The 2014 Session of the Senate and House of Representatives of the Florida Legislature will run from Tuesday, March 4, 2014, through Friday, May 2, 2014. While all proposed laws and changes to existing laws will be voted on in that 60-day period, much of the Legislature's work is being done now -- during the several months preceding the March commencement date. At this time legislative committees are appointed, proposals for new laws or changes to existing ones are made, conflicting positions are resolved (or not resolved) and bills are drafted.

Legislators from the different counties and areas of Florida customarily hold open meetings at this time of year to allow individuals and organizations in their areas to express their thoughts about the issues that relate to them with regard to the upcoming Session. Under its Chair Rep. Tom Goodson, the Brevard County Legislative Delegation Meeting (Goodson (D.50), Crisafulli (D.51), Workman (D.52) and Tobia (D.53) and Senators Gardiner (D.13) and Altman (D.16)) will be held on Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00 to 5:00 PM, at the Brevard County Commission Chambers in Viera. The Space Coast League has requested an opportunity to speak about its concerns at the Meeting and will be represented by our leadership. This will be an excellent opportunity for our members to participate in government and to see and hear our local legislative representatives in action. We all should try to be present and to show the strength of our Space Coast League and our concern for the issues that relate to us and that the League has endorsed.

Additionally, Rep. Steve Crisafulli (D.51), Chair of the Central Florida Legislative Delegation, comprising the seven central Florida counties of Brevard, Lake, Polk, Orange, Osceola, Seminole and Volusia (10 Florida Senators and 26 Representatives), has scheduled a meeting of that Delegation, open to the public from 1:30 to 3:30 PM, on Tuesday, November 19, 2013, at the offices of the Canaveral Port Authority. The Space Coast League, together with the other central Florida Leagues, will be represented at the Canaveral Meeting and will participate in a joint statement of our positions. Like the Brevard County Meeting, this gathering will give us all a chance to hear what legislative initiatives are being proposed by individuals and organizations in central Florida. We hope to see as many of us as possible at this event.



## Directions to Mebourne Village Hall for Celebrate the League on November 21st

Village Hall, 535 Hammock Road.  
Entrance road off of 192 is Dayton Blvd.

Off of 192 (New Haven) turn **north** onto Dayton Blvd. This road is the western boundary of Target shopping Center which is on the north side of 192 (New Haven Ave.) Go to end of road; turn right onto Hammock Road; round the curve and the Village Hall will be on your left.

## ~Welcome to our New Members~

**Judy Merlo**  
**Xylpha W. Schwehm**  
**Cheryl B. Smith**  
**Nita Carabetta**

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](http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org)



## Board Bytes

- Underwriters are needed for The Voter.
- Volunteer needed to co-chair the Health Committee.
- Space Coast League Legislative Priorities sent to state office were: #1 Education, #2 Social Policy, #3 Natural Resources.
- Luncheon with State President Deirdre Macnab on Friday, February 7, 2014 will be at Suntree Country Club.
- Discussion on having a Facebook Page on our website. If you would be interested in helping with this project, contact Marilyn Collins, president.



## Natural Resources

**Susan Little – Chair**

### Report from Maureen Rupe–Natural Resources Consultant.

#### Florida Fertilizer Ordinance

The Florida Fertilizer Ordinance was mandated by the state to control Nitrogen and Phosphorus. These are two of the undeniable reasons the Indian River Lagoon is dying. Florida's state ordinance is weak and is practically useless. The counties and cities have the right to adopt strict ordinances, which the legislature tried to preempt last year and failed.

The Space Coast League of Women Voters joined many environmental groups that support a stricter ordinance suggested by the Turtle Coast Sierra Club and the Partnership for a Sustainable Future, Inc. The stricter ordinance includes: 1) a ban on applying Nitrogen and Phosphorus during the summer rainy season; 2) no Phosphorus application without a soil test that justifies it; 3) at least 50% slow-release Nitrogen; 4) a 10-foot fertilizer-free zone around water bodies. As a note, you can currently buy fertilizer without Nitrogen and Phosphorus in Florida.

The County Commission voted on a stricter ordinance, but wouldn't ban nitrogen during the rainy season, and Melbourne voted to go with the weaker state ordinance. Rockledge took the lead and voted for the strong stricter ordinance, and so has Indian River County. We have been meeting with city leaders along the Indian River Lagoon that have a fertilizer ordinance on their agenda.

Titusville was next and their Environmental Advisory Board, at their last meeting, voted to recommend Titusville implement the stricter ordinance, but going one step further, and adding a requirement not to use Phosphorus period. At the September 24th Titusville City Council Meeting, all five Council members voted for the Environmental Advisory Board recommendations, and even added support for a program to give homeowners and groups incentives to plant mangroves and other grasses that will be of great help to the lagoon. The city will have a public meeting on the draft ordinance in the near future.

On September 25th, Grant Valkaria Town Council discussed the state's weaker ordinance. We spoke at that meeting, and the Council voted unanimously to turn down the state's ordinance. They will now have a workshop and invited us to speak. A much stronger ordinance has been in effect on Florida's West Coast for a few years with great success.

On October 17th (which is now over), Brevard County is holding a Workshop on the state of the

Lagoon. Panel will include the Brevard County Commissioners, U.S. Congressman Bill Posey, Members of the State Legislature, Space Coast League of Cities Leadership, Troy Rice of the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program, Marine Resource Council Director Dr. Leesa Souto, Dr. Grant Gilmore of the Estuarine, Coastal and Ocean Science Inc., and Keith Winsten, Brevard Zoo. The purpose of the meeting is to try to educate the elected officials that our lagoon is in such bad shape, it is passing its tipping point. I guess they haven't been reading the headlines for at least the past 20 years. I will write next month on the results of this meeting.

There are more of us every day that are rattling the cages of elected officials, from homeowner's on the river to fishermen who fish in the river. If the river dies, so will our economy and our quality of life.



## International Relations

**Mary Nicolay – Chair**

The International Relations Group is pleased to present TIMELY TOPICS Monday, November 4th, at the Satellite Beach Library from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Please join us to hear Jane Wilson, USAID worker, talk about the work of her agency and her endeavors in Bosnia Herzegovina, BH. Her topic is CONFLICT RESOLUTION.

Great Decisions topics will begin in February of the new year. Connie Hogerty is collecting the prepaid fee of \$ 21 dollars for the study guides. Please consider joining us for these interesting discussions of international affairs.

December 10th we will meet at the Ruth Funk Museum on the campus of Florida Tech for a tour. We will be led by our group member Docent Brigitte Sinton. There will also be offered a student led stroll through the FIT Botanical Gardens. It is a lovely way to begin our holidays.

Looking forward to seeing you at our meetings.

### **Volunteer Needed for Phone Committee**

This is not a time consuming position but it is so important to contact our membership.

Please volunteer by e-mailing or calling Phone Committee Chair, Martha Bradshaw.

**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

**Maria Mogollon-Seemer – Chair**

### Uninsured Children

The U.S. Census Bureau reports that there are over 6 million children who lack health insurance in the United States. 500,000 of these children reside in Florida, (which ranks near the bottom in providing children with access to quality health care) and about 15,000 of these live here in Brevard County. So how do we provide health insurance to these children?

One solution is KidCare. Florida KidCare is the State of Florida's high-quality, low-cost health insurance for children. The program was created through [Title XXI of the Social Security Act](#) and [reauthorized in 2009](#).

About 70% of these uninsured children could have health insurance and access to healthcare, but because the parents of these children are often unaware that they qualify for KidCare coverage or are faced with many obstacles, they don't enroll them in KidCare.

In Brevard County as of August 2013 we had 6,264 children enrolled in Title XXI, also known as the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). These are children who do not qualify for Medicaid but whose families cannot afford private insurance. Medicaid or Title XIX is a state and federally funded entitlement program. In August 2013 there were 41,429 children enrolled in Medicaid in Brevard County.

Our local KidCare coalition has targeted enrollment efforts and through a grassroots outreach campaign, we are working tirelessly to help spread information about KidCare. Our Children's Committee has joined the Coalition and hopefully we can get the message across so that the remaining uninsured children who qualify and are eligible for existing KidCare coverage, receive it.

There is one group of children who cannot qualify for KidCare. They are children of LEGAL immigrants but that have been in the U.S. fewer than five years. **Rep. Jose Felix Diaz**, R-Miami, will try again in 2014 to extend health coverage to these children. Diaz filed **HB 7** to repeal a provision denying coverage under KidCare to a child who has been in the U.S. for fewer than five years. Similar bills have died in committees the past two sessions. Diaz has said that if preventive care is offered by KidCare, then visits to hospitals and illnesses because of a lack of healthcare would be reduced, so then his proposal should reduce overall health care costs.

Our Committee is also monitoring the continued implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in Florida. As you well know, Florida has rejected \$55 billion over 10 years to expand Medicaid funding and therefore provide health insurance to an additional 1.2

million low-income Floridians. And obviously if more parents had access to healthcare their children would too.

One group hoping to change that is KidsWell Florida. KidsWell Florida is a three-year project funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies and carried out by a team of key leaders from five statewide advocacy groups: Florida CHAIN, The Children's Movement of Florida, the Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy, The Children's Trust of Miami-Dade, and Florida Children's Healthcare Coalition. They have started a campaign to have citizens call their legislators and demand this additional coverage. Only time will tell if they will succeed.

### *Continuation of Jane Wilson Biography from Page 1*

Prior to working in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ms. Wilson had the position of Vice President of Regulatory and Government Affairs for two international energy multi-national corporations (Entergy and Enron). Her professional career has included working in approximately 35 countries including South America, Asia, and Europe, establishing policies and regulations related to restructuring and developing competitive protocols in all facets of the electricity and gas industries. Earlier in her career, Ms. Wilson worked as a litigation attorney in private practice.

Since 2010, she has been Vice President and the BiH Country Project Director for the American company Advanced Engineering Associates International, Inc.'s (AEAI) subcontract. As such, she manages both the Enterprise Energy Efficiency Project (3E) and the Regulatory Energy Assistance Project (REAP).

The REAP project continues the energy reform effort begun with USAID funding in 2001, when Ms. Wilson worked as Resident Advisor, beginning in 2002, establishing the electricity reform legal framework and assisting in the formation and establishment of Bosnia and Herzegovina's three electricity regulators. The REAP project currently is working to integrate BiH into the regional and European Union energy markets.

The 3E project promotes energy efficiency technologies by developing pilot projects in public buildings. The project has a large public relations component to increase awareness of the benefits of energy efficiency.

### **Education**

Ms. Wilson has a Juris Doctor and a Master's degree in International Studies.



## Congress

### The League's History

07/05/2013 | by Gretchen Knell found on [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

Congress has been a part of the League agenda for many years. In 1944, the League adopted as a Program focus: "Strengthening governmental procedures to improve the legislative process and relationship between Congress and the Executive." In 1946, the LWVUS worked successfully for passage of the Legislative Reorganization Act. In 1954, the League unsuccessfully called on Congress to coordinate and simplify its budgetary procedures.

In 1970, the League undertook a comprehensive study of Congress, leading to a 1972 position on specific changes to make Congress more responsive to citizen needs. League members urged Congress to open the doors to its committee and hearing rooms, free up access to leadership positions and coordinate its budgetary processes.

League support of procedural changes and the 1974 Budget Reform and Impoundment Control Act led to many improvements:

- new committee procedures that modified the seniority system and made committee membership more representative of diverse interests;
- rule changes for more adequate staffing;
- electronic voting;
- modification of the Senate cloture rule;
- moves to open all committee meetings and proceedings to the public, except when matters of national security are involved;
- reorganization of the budget process, so that Congress can establish priorities and evaluate the budget package as a whole.

The League has continued to assess proposals for additional procedural changes in Congress. In 1986, the League urged the Senate to provide for radio broadcast and trial closed-circuit television coverage. In 1989, the LWVUS successfully urged the House to enact an ethics reform package that included limits on honoraria and outside income. In 1998, the League joined 13 national groups in urging the Senate Majority Leader to eliminate the use of "secret holds" in the Senate. The League and 52 other groups endorsed draft legislation to put Congressional Research Service reports and products on the Internet.

In 1991, the League announced its opposition to term limits for members of the U.S. Congress on the grounds that such limits would adversely affect the accountability, representativeness and effective performance of Congress, and by decreasing the power of Congress, would upset the balance of power between

Congress and an already powerful presidency. The 1992 LWVUS Convention reaffirmed opposition to term limits and authorized state and local Leagues to use national positions to take action on term limits for state and local offices.

In 1993-1994, the LWVs of Washington and Arkansas participated in suits challenging state term limits laws based on the U.S. Constitution. In 1995, after hearing the Arkansas case, the Supreme Court agreed that term limits imposed by states on the U.S. House and Senate are unconstitutional. Proposals to amend the Constitution to allow or set federal term limits failed to receive the necessary two-thirds majority in both houses. The League vigorously opposed the proposed amendment through testimony, lobbying and grassroots action. In 1997, the League again successfully lobbied House members on this issue.

In 1999, the LWVUS and the LWV of Missouri filed an amicus brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals in *Cook v. Gralike*, challenging a Missouri law requiring the phrase "disregarded voters' instruction on term limits" to appear on the ballot next to any candidate's name who had not taken certain actions related to term limits. The law was struck down by the Appeals Court, both because it was a backdoor attempt to impose term limits and because it burdened the election process. The state LWV and the LWVUS subsequently filed amicus briefs with the Supreme Court while the case was considered on appeal.

In 2007 and 2008, the League responded directly to congressional scandals that demonstrated a failure in the mechanisms that regulated ethics and lobbying. The League pushed Congress to enact lobbying reform measures to set fundraising limits on lobbyists and lobbying firms; change the gift, travel and employment relationships among Members of Congress, lobbyists and lobbying firms; and institute new and effective enforcement mechanisms.

In 2008, the House passed new ethics procedures, including new ethics rules, disclosure requirements for campaign contributions "bundled" by lobbyists, and a new ethics enforcement process. The League also supported strengthening the investigative powers of the new Office of Congressional Ethics by providing access to subpoena power so investigators would be able to compel cooperation from outside entities and individuals, congressional staff and Members.

In 2010 and again in 2012, the League and coalition partners sent a letter to the Speaker urging him to preserve and strengthen House ethics rules and standards of conduct.

September Timely Topics - "Florida's Water & Conservation Land Crisis" Photos



Aliki Moncrief, Tony Dutton, Marilyn Collins



Aliki Moncrief & Terry LaPlante



Sharon Reynolds-Mixon & Charlie Mixon



Marilynn Collins & Keith Winsten



Fern Patton & Annie Frame



Maureen Rupe, José Alonso, Connie Dobrin



Jean & Dick Tweed

~November Calendar - Members welcome at all meetings~

Monday, November 4 - Timely Topics at Satellite Beach Library from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Topic is "Conflict Resolution" Speaker is Jane Wilson.

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

Sunday, November 10th or November 17th- Children's Committee Meeting at Home of Doreen Archer (Exact Date will be determined later)

Monday, November 18, - Health Committee at Suntree Library - 6 P.M.

Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> - Celebrate the League - Meet and Greet at Melbourne Village Hall - 4 P.M. to 7 P.M.

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