



# The Voter



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

**Volume 36: No. 3**

**November 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.

## Timely Topics Luncheon

League of Women Voters of the Space Coast &  
Brevard Federation of Teachers - Retirees Chapter present

### Human Trafficking

Speakers are Dr. Anthony Davis Sr. of Titusville and  
Karla Hernandez-Mats from Miami. Please read biographies of  
speakers on Page 6.

When: Thursday, November 20th

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Where: Holiday Inn

Address: 8298 N. Wickham Road in Melbourne/Viera

Menu: Chicken Normandy  
Crab Stuffed Tilapia  
Vegetarian on Request

Entrees served with vegetables, starch, carrot cake and beverage.

Cost: \$22.00

Reservations to Doreen Archer at 321-622-4071 by 5 p.m. on  
Sunday, November 16.

Public is Invited.



Vote yes on Amendment 1, Water and Land Conservation :

- Amendment 1 protects Florida’s Water and Land for future generations, and ensures safe drinking water for our families. It will restore funding to safeguard rivers, lakes, beaches and springs, will support restoration of Florida’s Everglades, and will preserve wildlife habitat.
- Amendment 1 will NOT increase taxes. It dedicates one-third of the existing fees collected when real estate is sold. This is the same funding source that Florida has used for conservation for more than two decades.
- To learn more to help pass this important amendment, please visit the campaign website at [www.VoteYesOn1FL.org](http://www.VoteYesOn1FL.org)

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## Underwriter of the Month

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



## President's Corner

**Marilynn Collins & Priscilla Griffith**

Dear Leaguers,

Election time is almost here. As a matter of fact, at the time of this writing, absentee ballots have just been delivered into voters' mailboxes. Our League is very busy participating in the last push to secure passage of Amendment 1, the Water and Land Conservation Amendment which appears on the ballot. Our State League is working with Florida's Water and Land Legacy Campaign to call absentee ballot voters to encourage them to Vote Yes on 1. Space Coast League was assigned a list of about 2,100 names. The list was divided up and parceled out to our members who were willing to make the calls. A big thank you to all who participated.

Voter Service Chair Tony Dutton kept up a record pace with Candidate Forums and Amendment Presentations. Forums for County Commission and School Board were co-sponsored with different organizations including North Merritt Island Homeowners Association, Brevard Parents Action Committee, Brevard Teachers for Change, North Brevard Professional Women's Network, Space Coast Tiger Bay Club, the Junior League of South Brevard, Inc., and the Indian River Colony Club. League member Mary Hillberg served as moderator for all but one of the forums. Leigh Holt from Tiger Bay Club moderated the Indian River Colony Club forum. We thank them both for their expertise. Amendments Presentations were given by member Sharon Reynolds-Mixon to the Space Coast Realtors Association, Friends of Ulumay and to Girl Scout Troop 156. Tony presented to Barefoot Bay Homeowners Association, Brevard Association of Women's Lawyers, Indian River Colony Club, Junior League of South Brevard Sustainers, Heritage Isle Democratic Club, the Central Brevard Newcomers Club and Suntree Rotary Club. Thank you, Tony and Sharon for all your hard work. We ordered 22,000 copies of the League of Women Voters of Florida Nonpartisan Voter Guide of which 15,000 were delivered to the Central Brevard Library for distribution. The other 7,000 were delivered to Doreen Archer for distribution by our membership. Thank you Doreen for acting as our distribution center.

Our training through the League's Membership and Leadership Development Program is scheduled to begin soon with scheduled monthly telephone conference calls with Sandy Sheets, a trained coach and former president of the League of Women Voters of Polk County. Lucia Watson, Susan Little and I will be on the first call. We will share our education with you as we progress.

I hope to see you at our November 20<sup>th</sup> Timely Topics. Please mark your calendars for the following events. We will have a booth at the 3 R's and Beyond Recycle Festival, 10 am to 2 pm on November 15, at the POW/MIA Park, riverside on U.S 1, just north of the Pineda Causeway; our Holiday Party will be held on Saturday, December 6, at the Tides Club, located at Patrick Air Force Base at 11:30 am and our biennial Politicos on Parade Luncheon Fashion Show is scheduled for Friday, 11:30 am on January 30, at the Indian River Colony Club.

I want to wish each and every one of you a wonderful Thanksgiving and to take this opportunity to thank the dedicated people who serve on our Board of Directors as well as our Off Board Chairs, their active committee members and our members at large who have made this such a very productive year for the League of Women Voters of the Space Coast.

In League,  
Marilynn

~Welcome to our New Members~

**Jean Harris**  
**Vince & Helga Lamb**  
**Krista Soboh**  
**Diane Conaway**  
**Kim Torres**

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)

**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.**



## Voter Service

Tony Dutton – Chair

### Is Florida Ready for ERIC?

The Providence (R.I.) Journal reported recently that, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, Rhode Island has about 770,000 adult citizens and that 73.5 % of them are registered to vote. However, that state actually has more than 748,000 registered voters, 97 % of its adult population, on its election rolls. The Journal also reported that, “20 of Rhode Island’s 39 municipalities, from the largest city to the smallest town, had more registered voters than it had citizens old enough to vote.” How is this possible? Can it happen in Florida?

It is possible, and it can happen in Florida, because people die, get married and re-register under new names or move, especially between states, regularly. And there presently is not a secure and reliable program in Rhode Island - or in Florida - to track such voters. Election administrators in Rhode Island, Florida and a majority of the other states walk the tight line of making sure their voter rolls are accurate while avoiding the removal of any eligible voters. As of September 2014, 11 states (not including Rhode Island or Florida) and the D.C. believe they have found a solution to the problem: the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).

ERIC, a nonprofit organization, was established in 2012 by the Pew Charitable Trusts and IBM. It is independently governed and paid-for by the states that belong to it (States having available federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds may use some of those funds to pay ERIC costs.). Under the ERIC program, participating states submit their encoded voter registration lists, birth dates, motor vehicle registration and driver license information to a data center. There it is combined with the Social Security Death Index, Postal Service data and other resources to identify individual registered voters and, importantly, eligible voters who might not be registered; thus making voter registration drives more successful.

The Report and Recommendations of the bipartisan “Presidential Commission on Election Administration”, submitted to the President in January 2014, unanimously endorsed voter information sharing among states and said, “The interstate data that ERIC provides to participating states allows those states to account for ongoing changes in voters’ names, addresses, and registration statuses and to prepare for upcoming elections. For the 2012 election, for example, ERIC identified more than 750,000 records of voters who appeared to have moved within a state participating in ERIC. It also identified more than 90,000 records of voters who appear to have moved from one ERIC state to another, and more than 23,000 records of deceased individuals still on the rolls. Moreover, it identified 5.7

million potentially eligible but unregistered voters in the participating states.”

Is Florida ready to join ERIC? Available information is that the Florida association of Supervisors of Elections received a presentation at its Spring, 2014 conference. Also, the Florida chapter of the national nonprofit organization, State Voices, to which the League of Women Voters of Florida belongs, has considered the issue. We will have to see what steps, if any are taken after the election by the next administration and its Secretary of State.

What about Rhode Island? The candidate of one of the major parties for Rhode Island Secretary of State in this year’s election said, when asked, “Rhode Island has held off on joining ERIC, to wait for more states to be part of the consortium, especially Florida, to which a large number of Rhode Islanders move.”



## Board Bytes

- 8 new members since beginning of September
- Plans are developing for Politicos on Parade 2015. Date for this event is Friday, January 30, 2015. Politicos on Parade is a fundraiser every second year. Our models for the fashion show will be citizens who have won elections in Brevard County in November of 2014. This luncheon and fashion show will be held at Indian River Colony Club.
- Jo Shim, Co-Chair of Health Committee has joined the Central Florida Health Care Expansion Committee and continues to participate in weekly conference calls. This group is working to bring organizations together to collaborate on outreach and awareness for ACA and Health Care Expansion activities in the Central Florida Area.
- At our holiday luncheon on December 6th we will be collecting donations for the homeless children in Brevard County Schools.
- Hospitality Chair is needed. This position can be a shared responsibility. The Chair arranges venues for Timely Topic Events and takes reservations for the events. Call a board member for more information. Thanks!
- The Board approved members purchasing personal name badges at League events. See Page 4 for details if you are interested in buying a personal name badge.



## Natural Resources

Susan Little – Chair

Report from Maureen Rupe

Natural Resources Consultant.

### East Central Florida Corridor Task Force

The East Central Florida Corridor Task Force is a Rick Scott Initiative, which is set up to make Orange, Osceola and Brevard Counties into a Super Region. A large portion of this plan is in reaction to the Osceola County North Ranch Sector Plan which requires an East - West corridor (both expressway plus rail) running from the Orlando International Airport area and extend East to connect with the Pineda Extension in Brevard. The other components of this plan includes the Port Canaveral expansion, the multi model 528 extension, and All Aboard Florida.

This proposed east/west expressway may provide some short-term relief for those traveling from Melbourne to the Orlando airport and those traveling in the opposite direction, but the primary reason for its construction seems to be to open the North Ranch in Osceola Count to development. It is the road that encourages development, which eventually creates the need for the road.

An October 4<sup>th</sup> Orlando Sentinel story by Keven Spear, titled “Deseret Ranches, future metropolis would dam creeks for water” states Deseret Ranches and Osceola County are planning for 500,000 residents on 133,346 acres of ranch southeast of Orlando by the year 2080. That’s not counting the huge development currently in progress in Viera directly opposite that planned development. In an overview of the East Central Florida Corridor Task Force Final Report Draft, it states the combined population of Brevard, Orange, and Osceola counties will rise from 2.0 million in 2012 to 3.8 million in 2060.

This Pineda corridor cuts a huge wildlife corridor in half, and besides cutting a huge path through protected St. Johns River protected conservation areas, a huge concrete bridge is proposed to be built across the St Johns River in the heart of the River Lakes Conservation Area and the West Viera Wilderness Park, which both were supposed to be protected in perpetuity.

What about sustainability? Where do they or we get our water? Do we drain all our rivers and lakes? If we can’t protect our water resources with the people we currently have, how do we do it with another ½ million people? The Orlando Sentinel story says no problem. They will dam creeks in the Deseret Ranches. But the story also said “The idea of damming Wolf and Pennywash creeks resurrects an option from a dark age for Florida’s environment, an era that inflicted damage the state is still repairing. I’m told the idea to dam these

creeks was abandoned in 1973 when it was realized the idea was environmentally devastating. I guess no one seems to learn from history.

The final plan goes to the governor on December 9, 2014.

Reference:

[www.ECFCorridorTaskForce.org](http://www.ECFCorridorTaskForce.org)

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/breaking-news/os-deseret-reservoir-controversy-20141004-story.html>



### Personal LWV of Space Coast Name Badges

Some League members have inquired about purchasing a personal name badge to wear at League events. They are 3 inches by 1.25 inches, made of plastic with a magnetic back so it is not necessary to put a pin in clothing. At the October board meeting approval was given for all members to buy a badge that matches the existing badge that some board members have recently purchased. Lucia Watson has volunteered to coordinate this project. The cost will be approximately \$12. It could be slightly more depending on how large the order will be. It will be necessary to send your check before the order is placed. Please let Lucia know if you are interested or have questions by calling 321-779-6758 or e-mailing at [lucbil\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:lucbil_99@yahoo.com).



### LWVUS Position on Human Trafficking

**The following position was adopted by delegates at the 2014 LWVUS Convention.**

The League of Women Voters opposes all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking. We consider human trafficking to be a form of modern day slavery and believe that every measure should be taken and every effort should be made through legislation and changes in public policy to prevent human trafficking. Prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers should be established, and existing laws should be strictly enforced. Extensive essential services for victims should be applied where needed. Education and awareness programs on human trafficking should be established in our communities and in our schools.



## International Relations

Joyce Calese

The November meeting will be **Monday, November 3**. The change in date is due to the library being closed on Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> for Veterans Day.

We are starting to prepare for studying the topics of 2015 by the Foreign Policy Association. Booklets can be purchased. We will study and discuss the topics starting in February and ending in May. We meet twice a month during those months to cover the 8 topics. Our meetings are held at the Satellite Beach Library and the public is welcome to attend.

A summary of the Great Decisions topics for 2015 follows:

### **Russia and the Near Abroad**

As calls for closer ties with the EU failed to be met, Ukrainians took to the streets in November 2013. As the movement later known as the Euromaidan, or "Euro Square," pulled western Ukraine closer to its European neighbors, another powerful force threatened to tear away the country's eastern half: Russia. Putin's pushback against European expansionism has the West wondering: If Putin's Russia isn't afraid to take an aggressive stance against Europeanization in Ukraine, what does that mean for the rest of Russia's neighbors?

### **Privacy in the Digital Age**

The idea of "privacy" has undergone significant changes in the digital age, as has the idea of privacy "harm." Fearful of British spying, influence and intervention, the founding fathers granted citizens significant protections in the Constitution. Now, the tables have turned: Concerns about what some see as a U.S. "dragnet" and unwarranted privacy intrusions have compelled other countries to revamp their own privacy protections. Legislation, both at home and abroad, hasn't kept pace with technological developments, leaving some wondering if privacy as we know it is long dead.

### **Sectarianism in the Middle East**

Many of the current conflicts in the Middle East have been attributed to sectarianism, a politicization of ethnic and religious identity. From the crisis in Iraq and Syria to the tension between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the struggle between Sunni and Shi'i groups for dominance is tearing apart the region and shows no signs of abating. But for all the religious discourse permeating the conflict, much of its roots are political, not religious. How does sectarianism fit into a larger narrative of the Middle East? How have governments manipulated sectarian differences? And finally, what is the U.S. doing about it?

### **India Changes Course**

Fed up with corruption, dynastic policies and ineffective public services, Indian voters catapulted Narendra Modi and his Bharatiya Janata Party to power in the country's 2014 elections. For voters, Modi embodied real change and an India that wasn't stumbling, but running, to greatness. But for the U.S., change in India brings its own set of unknowns, heralding an age ruled by a prime minister new to national office and other policymakers who have been out of the public eye for a decade. Now, the U.S. has to determine how to best secure its interests as India asserts itself on the world stage.

### **U.S. Policy Toward Africa**

Africa is in the midst of an unprecedented transformation. The continent is home to some of the fastest growing economies in the world, and it has become a draw for foreign investors from across the globe. After the "Obamamania" of 2008 died down, though, the realization that Obama wasn't going to overturn, or even prioritize, U.S. Africa policy kicked in. Still, the U.S. has promised to promote "strong institutions, not strong men," and to favor good governance and healthy economies over profit. How can U.S. policy live up to its promise and values while securing its interests in the region?

### **Syria's Refugee Crisis**

Syrians have for a century welcomed over a million refugees from Armenia, Palestine, Iraq and other countries around the region. Now, thanks to a multiyear civil war, they are on track to become the source of the world's largest refugee population in a matter of months. As Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and other neighbors strive to accommodate the millions of Syrians, the risk of allowing Syrians to become dependent on emergency aid and forming a "lost generation" remains. Ultimately, though, the safety of displaced Syrians rests with the whole international community.

### **Human Trafficking in the 21st Century**

Human trafficking represents a multibillion in international trade per annum and continues to be one of the fastest growing criminal industries. While undeniably a global phenomenon, the U.S., as one of the world's leading human trafficking importers, bears a special responsibility to combat this practice. The U.S. and the international community have adopted various treaties and laws to prevent trafficking, but to truly understand and combat the issue, they must find the root causes enabling traffickers to exploit millions of victims.

### **Brazil's Metamorphosis**

Brazil — it's the "B" in the acronym BRICS, five emerging economies once seen as soon-to-be superpowers. *(continued on Page 7)*

## Biographies of Speakers for Timely Topics



**Dr. Anthony D. Davis Sr.**, is the Senior Pastor and Founder of No Limit Ministries in Titusville, FL. In addition to ministry work, he is very active in the community serving as the Chairman of the Orange County Domestic Violence Task Force and the East Coast Human Trafficking Task Force, Orange County Domestic Violence Commission, Orange County Fatality Review Committee, Board Chairman for the Florida Abolitionist. He also sits on the Board of Advisors for the Harbor House, is the Board Chair for the not for profit company Abuse Intervention Monitoring, and the Vice Chair of the Greater Orlando Human Trafficking Task Force. He is an author of two books and a public speaker. Dr Davis, is a former Air Force Special Agent who investigated hundreds of cases, and Circuit Court Investigator. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology, a MBA in Executive Leadership, and an Honorary Degree in Divinity. He is married to Charlayne Davis and has three adult children.

**Karla Hernandez-Mats** is a first generation American, born and raised in Miami of Honduran descent. She was elected Secretary/Treasurer of the United Teachers of Dade County (UTD) and is also on the Board of the UTK Teaching Excellence Foundation. Ms. Hernandez-Mats has a Bachelor's degree from Florida International University in Emotionally Handicapped Education and a Master Degree in Business Management from St. Thomas University. Prior to being elected to office, she was a teacher of special needs children for 10 years. In June 2014 she was appointed to be the Chairperson of the American Federation of Teachers Women Rights Committee.

Within the last year, Mrs. Hernandez-Mats has become involved in creating awareness with issues concerning Unaccompanied Minors and Human Trafficking. During this past summer, she was instrumental in facilitating the passing of a resolution "Against Human Trafficking and Sex Trafficking of Children" at the National Convention of the American Federation of Teachers in LA, CA. She has participated in Miami events that promote awareness of these issues, and just this October, she traveled to Washington DC for the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute to urge Congressmen/women to address the concerns of unaccompanied children and their educational concerns.

## 3 Rs and Beyond Family Festival

To increase awareness of the impact sustainable practices can have on the natural resources in our county, Recycle Brevard, in partnership with Preserve Brevard, is organizing the **4th Annual 3Rs and Beyond Family Festival**, a celebration of sustainability, on **Saturday, November 15, 2014**. It starts at 10am and goes until 2pm at the **POW/MIA Park** just north of Pineda Causeway at 5995 N. US Highway 1, Melbourne, FL 32940.

The festival is free, fun, and educational for all ages!

There will be various informative exhibitors and educational, family-friendly activities such as:

- Guest speakers

Lily, 3rd grader and science fair award winner who changed her community's recycling habits.

River Grace, 2013 winner of the Broadcom MASTERS National Science Competition, and his father Dr. Michael Grace, Associate Dean and Professor - Biological Sciences at Florida Institute of Technology, who practice conservation together.

- Films

*Bag It* and films from The Story of Stuff Project.

- Collection of Reusables and Recyclables

Donate gently-used toys, clothes, and shoes to our local Devereux, the largest non-profit provider of child welfare, behavioral health, and intellectual/ developmental disabilities services in the state.

Bring your electronics, household appliances, and other unwanted items to donate to Goodwill. Goodwill donation truck will be at the festival.

- Toy Swap

Children will bring their gently-used toys to swap one-to-one in a toy swap

- Creative Recycled Art Contest

Vote for your favorite recycled art entry to select the People's Choice winner for this contest.

- Live Performance

Interact with animal characters from the Indian River Lagoon, brought to life by students from Viera Studio for the Performing Arts

- Oyster mat-making and clean-up by kayak presented by Brevard Zoo
- Earth-friendly crafts presented by Eastern Florida State College
- On-the-go recycling bins making presented by Florida Tech Environmental Club
- And much more!

The League of Women Voters of the Space Coast supports and, alongside organizations like Brevard County Natural Resources Department, Brevard County Solid Waste Management Department, Brevard Nature Alliance, Anglers for Conservation, Surfrider Foundation, to name a few, will participate in this family festival to bring information to citizens in our community.

We hope to see you there!

## International Relations article

(continued from Page 5)



After economic troubles in the 1990s, Brazil has risen to new global prominence – it's drawing in more investment, working on global issues ranging from climate change to peacekeeping, and even hosting the 2016 Olympics. But some of Brazil's trickiest problems – deep divisions over how to tackle serious income inequality, weak civic institutions and poor regional leadership – have held it back."

([http://www.fpa.org/news/index.cfm?act=show\\_announcement&announcement\\_id=380](http://www.fpa.org/news/index.cfm?act=show_announcement&announcement_id=380))

## League Photos



**International Relations Group**  
Ruth Almeida, Jane Wilson, Joyce Calese  
Mary Nicolay & Lucia Watson



**Materials distributed at  
League Forums & Events**



**Karen Raboin & Anne Dewey**



**Doreen Archer & Pam Kendrick**



**Krista Soboh & Alberta Wilson**



**Tony Dutton, Priscilla Griffith &  
Maureen Rupe**

### ~November Calendar – Members welcome at all meetings~

Monday, November 3rd – International Relations Committee at Satellite Beach Library – 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. (note date change as regular meeting day is 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month.) The library will be closed on Nov. 11th for Veterans Day.

Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting at Suntree Library at 5:30 p.m. (small meeting room)

Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual 3 R's and Beyond Family Festival at POW/MIA Park 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> – Children's Committee Meeting at home of Doreen Archer – 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, November 17<sup>th</sup> – Health Committee Meeting at Suntree Library at 6 p.m.

Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> – Timely Topics – "Human Trafficking" at Holiday Inn in Viera at 11:30 a.m.

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