



The Voter



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

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November 2015

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.

November Timely Topic

“Access to Health Care in Brevard: Targeted Outreach”

This presentation will include an overview of the Affordable Care Act and updates for the 2015-2016 enrollment period.

Guest Speakers are Keith Heinly and Leann Chaney.

Mr. Heinly and Ms. Chaney are employed at United Way of Brevard. Mr. Heinly is the Community Impact Manager and serves as the Lead Marketplace Navigator in Brevard County for the Federal Exchange Market. Ms. Chaney is a Marketplace Navigator who works with Keith’s team assisting consumers with the Health Insurance Marketplace in Brevard County. Her primary duty is to provide outreach and education to raise awareness about the Marketplace and the availability of Navigators.

When: Saturday, November 21
Time: 11:30 a.m. - Social Hour , Lunch at Noon
Where: Holiday Inn in Viera
8298 N. Wickham Road

Menu: Grilled Caribbean Roast Port Loin
Chicken Breast Normandy
Chef’s Choice Vegetarian (on request)
All entrées served with Soup Du Jour, Carrot Cake
with Cream Cheese Frosting, rolls, coffee or tea.

Cost: \$22.00
Reservations to Doreen Archer at 321-622-4071 or darcher14@cfl.rr.com no later than November 16, 2015 with name, phone number and choice of entrée.
Pay at the door with cash or check. Thank you.

Public is Invited.

Additional Information on Keith Heinly and Leann Chaney

United Way of Brevard (UWB) was selected by the University of South Florida (USF) as the consortium partner for Brevard County. Keith works in collaboration with USF as one of 11 statewide consortium partners to conduct public education. He completed the required 20 hours of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services training and passed all required exams to ensure appropriate understanding of relevant exchange-related information. He was also vetted through extensive background checks through all required Federal and State processes. (continued on Page 7)

In This Issue

President’s Report	2
Education	3
Memoriam	3
Natural Resources	4
International Relations	5
Health Committee	6
New Members	6
Board Bytes	6
League Photos	7
Calendar	7

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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.



President's Corner

Fran Baer & Priscilla Griffith

Is It Time?

Dear Leaguers,

We have all heard it before. There is a time for everything under the sun. Right? Let's talk about Port Canaveral, again, especially since it remains unsettled, is a top news story, and has major impact on our Space Coast community.

We said in order for our League to take a position on the Port's Expansion, a Timely Topics was in order. And so it came to pass, successfully from the many comments. Despite the absence of any Port Commissioners, a very knowledgeable panel spoke of the various view points concerning the expansion plans and responded to excellent questions from the record setting audience. Time did not permit for all the questions, but we collected them and asked the panel to respond in writing to those questions addressed to them. Now, while space does not allow for all the responses, we will print one each.

Q to Sue Ford: During your tenure as a Port Commissioner, what was the vision of the port in terms of serving the community? When did cruise ships become part of Port Canaveral's plan?

A. "When I left the Port at the end of 1990, we had 3 cruise ships. They were from Premiere Cruise Lines (the big red boats) that had a partnership with Disney. They would be dwarfed by the huge ships that we have today. At that time, we had built 2 parks on the Port Channel with a 3rd one planned. Today, they have taken away the one Park and have no more plans for the 3rd one. There is only one park left where people can fish and where there are rest rooms, picnic tables and a boat ramp with parking. I fought for the cruise industry, seafood industry, parks and tourist type businesses so that we didn't have to have more heavy industry in such a small Port with no buffer from sensitive environmental areas and the City of Cape Canaveral."

Q to Marcia Gaedcke (Titusville Chamber of Commerce): We just read the CPA has dropped to 3rd place regarding Cruise Ports, but you said it is nearing 1st. Which is it?

A. "I guess the short answer is there are various ways to calculate this. There is an article naming Port Everglades second behind Port of Miami, and then there is another article that says with the gaming ship, Port Canaveral jumps to second over Everglades. I have been told that Port Canaveral is on track with growth to be the number one cruise port, but when I asked for clarification from the Port directly, they sent the following information:

With more than 4 million passengers annually, Port Canaveral is among the top three busiest cruise ports in the world.

Port Canaveral expects to increase to 11 home port ships and 14 annual port of call stops.

Port Canaveral expects to increase to 11 home port ships and up to 200 port of calls by 2016.

Cruise passenger traffic is expected to grow to 5 million in 2015, 6 million by 2017 and doubling to 8 million by mid-2020's.

You can see that Florida accounts for the largest percentage of the cruise business compared to any other state. We are fortunate to have the top three cruise ports in our state."

Q. to Ted Lund (freelance Outdoor writer): We hear a lot about 58 reasons that the Air Force gave to John Walsh that rail couldn't run through the air force station. What do you know about that document and what has changed? How did those 58 reasons disappear?

A. "It's not difficult to make things vanish when they never existed. Walsh started telling about the "58 Reasons" at public meetings. Then he started citing them in private meetings and personally told us that he would get us copies. As the story started to grow legs, he started to realize maybe he had overexposed himself. Then, he attempted to hide behind exemptive privilege, claiming that the information was being withheld by the USAF. I contacted the USAF and they had no idea what he was talking about. Eventually they linked it back to an outdated PowerPoint that wasn't even developed in relation to the port but rather for civilian space exploration (Space X, I believe.) ...The USAF released a redacted version of the presentation that was the basis for his "58 Reasons" the day after his apology appeared in Florida Today and The Orlando Sentinel..."

Q. to Greg Weiner (EDC): How do you feel hotels at the Port will affect the hotel business in the nearby cities?

A. "In our opinion, the addition of four 5 star hotels at the Port will increase the amount of off-boat spending and will not adversely affect the hotel business in nearby cities."

The remaining questions and responses are available by contacting Fran Baer at fbair@cfl.rr.com

For almost a year now, our League has been actively pursuing answers and diligently studying the issues surrounding the Port expansion. Notes from numerous Natural Resources committee meetings as well as other venues, and attendance at public Port and County Commission meetings will attest to the extent we have gone to understand the impact of this complex, controversial issue. And now the time has come for us to move forward with a thoughtful, factual decision.

(continued on Page 3)

President's Corner – (continued from Page 2)

Consensus is needed and all LWVSC members are asked to attend the LWVSC Board meeting, Wednesday, Nov. 4, 2015 at 10:15 a.m. at the Suntree Library. Opportunity will be given for input. If you cannot attend and wish to share your thoughts, please do so by emailing Fran.

You will want to attend this meeting for another reason. Patti Brigham, Orange County League and Florida League Board member will present a power point on Gun Safety and Open Carry Laws, one of the State League's legislative priorities. In order that we have enough chairs set up, please RSVP to Fran your plan to attend.

On another note, as a follow-up to last month's article, the following Presidential candidates appeared at the NoLabels' Problem Solver Convention in New Hampshire, Monday, Oct. 12, 2015:

Chris Christie
Lindsey Graham
John Kasich
Martin O'Malley
George Pataki
Bernie Sanders
Donald Trump
Jim Webb

Fran



Education Committee
Linda Scales – Chair

High Stakes Testing and Accountability in Florida

Goodbye FCAT. Hello FSA (Florida State Assessment) and FSA EOC (End of Course) testing. Florida has new assessment tests meant to better assess how students are mastering the new Florida Core Standards which were implemented into K-12 classrooms for the 2014/2015 school year as a progression from the Next Generation Sunshine Standards.

The FSA tests were given for the first time near the end of that same school year to students in grades 3-10 in English Language Arts (ELA), students in grades 3-8 take the Mathematics FSA. Students in grades 5 and 8 take the Statewide Science Assessment. EOC assessment tests are aligned with the Florida Core Standards and are given to students in any grade completing courses in Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Biology 1, U.S. History, or Civics (or their equivalent courses). These tests replace the Mathematics FSA.

The FSA tests are computer based and modeled after tests written for the state of Utah by a company

called the American Institutes for Research. This company was hired by Florida with a three year contract and three optional one year contracts. The total contract is worth \$220 million and states that all the test questions be written specifically for the FSA by 2016.

However, according to a review by Alpine Testing many of the questions did not meet this criterion. In fact 33% of the questions for the third grade ELA and 20% of tenth grade ELA did not match the standards. Furthermore, 21% of fourth grade math and 19% of Algebra 1 questions did not match the Florida Standards.

Amazingly, these numbers are acceptable enough for State Education Commissioner Pam Stewart to declare the tests valid. Alternatively, they are **not** acceptable to the Florida Association of District School Superintendents (FADSS) who released a statement on September 30th, 2015 stating: "The overall purpose of the accountability system should be to improve student performance and inform instruction. However, our current accountability system is based on a flawed and incomplete process that ultimately yields flawed and incomplete data upon which high stakes decisions are being based for students, schools and our communities."

Dr. Blackburn, our new Brevard County Schools Superintendent has stated that the FADSS have "drafted four key recommendations we believe are necessary to protect our students and staff from unreliable data and the high-stakes ramifications associated with unreliable results". With all that being said, it does not even begin to address the lack of computer technology infrastructure funding required to administer these high stakes test in a timely fashion and without glitches or breakdowns in the system. This issue wasted many hours of instruction time and caused much frustration for students, teachers and parents.

By now you may be asking yourself what can I do? Everyone can help by going to www.brevardschools.org click on Legislative Outreach, access the links for more information, then click on the Legislative Committee Emails and send a message to all in support of Brevard County Schools Legislative Platform and the FADSS recommendations.

In Memoriam

Condolences to family of

Lee Brayton

League member, Jo Ann Jacobs is the sister of Lee and they often attended League events together.



Natural Resources Susan Little – Chair

Utilities vs. The People : Solar Choice?

by Maureen Rupe

Florida is supposed to be known as “The Sunshine State,” technology has improved, and solar costs have dropped significantly, so you would think we would be a leader in solar power. Wrong. Florida is ranked third in its capability for solar energy production, yet Florida is one of only four states that only utilities can sell solar electric energy.

You would think the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) purpose is to ensure we have high efficiency goals, to ensure our residents are getting the most for the dollar, can lower energy use and save money on our bills. Wrong again. Late last year, the PSC (based on recommendations by utilities including Florida Power & Light) voted 3-2 to cut goals of the state’s utility companies by more than 90 percent. At the same meeting, the commission voted to let the statewide solar rebate program expire at the end of 2015.

Florida’s utilities are now fighting an initiative that would create solar competition for them. The Solar Choice Initiative is being promoted by Floridians for Solar Choice (FSC). You can download the petition from their web site --

<http://www.flsolarchoice.org/> -- According to a Tampa Tribune article titled “Initiative could dramatically increase solar power production in Florida,” by Mike Salinero, “Here’s how it would work: A homeowner who wants to install solar, but can’t afford the up-front costs, can instead “buy” the electricity produced by the solar arrays from the company that installed them. Proponents say the electricity will be cheaper than power from the utility company. Once the solar panels are paid off, the resident owns the power source, ensuring low utility bills for a decade or more.” This is cheaper electric at the end of each month, and eventual ownership of your own solar power system.

To confuse the issue, Florida utilities are behind Consumers for Smart Solar, <https://smartsolarfl.org/> with a similar Constitutional Initiative, but one that keeps solar as it is now, with monopolies of utilities in control of electric. It states on its site that the Florida for Solar Choice is the shady petition, but the opposite seems to be true.

The great concern is that folks will not know the difference between the two petitions. When asked to

sign a solar petition, we need to be careful on what we are signing. Please educate yourself on the differences between these ballot initiatives. Ask the person collecting to tell you who they are collecting for and to explain the meaning of the ballot initiative.

Remember it this way:

Against residential Solar Power is “Consumers for Smart Solar.” Smart means Dumb.

For residential Solar Power is “Florida for Solar Choice.” Remember Choice means your Choice.

Florida for Solar Choice Ballot Language:

Limits or Prevents Barriers to Local Solar Electricity Supply

Limits or prevents government and electric utilities to impose barriers to supplying local solar electricity. Local solar electricity supply is the non-utility supply of solar generated electricity from a facility rated up to 2 megawatts to customers at the same or contiguous property as the facility. Barriers include government regulation of local solar electricity suppliers’ rates, service and territory, and unfavorable electric utility rates, charges, or terms of service imposed on local solar electricity customers.

Consumers for Smart Solar Ballot Language:

Rights of electricity consumers regarding solar energy choice

This amendment establishes a right under Florida’s constitution for consumers to own or lease solar equipment installed on their property to generate electricity for their own use. State and local governments shall retain the ability to protect consumer rights and public health and safety, and to ensure that consumers who do not choose to install solar are not required to subsidize the costs of backup power and electric grid access to those who do.

Reference:

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2014/12/01/3597747/florida-psc-energy-efficiency-vote/>

<http://preps.ocala.com/article/20151008/OPINION/151009800?Title=Editorial-An-inconvenient-truth-in-Florida>

<http://www.tbo.com/news/politics/initiative-could-dramatically-increase-solar-power-production-in-florida-20150117/>

<http://www.flsolarchoice.org/>

<https://smartsolarfl.org/>



International Relations

Joyce Calese

The International Relations Group will be meeting again on Tuesday November 10 at the Satellite Beach Library from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Early in 2016 we will study topics in the Great Decisions 2016 publication.

Great Decisions 2016 Topics are:

Middle East

The Rise of ISIS

The Future of Kurdistan

Migration

The Koreas

The United Nations

Climate change

Cuba and the U.S.

We studied Development Assistance at our October Meeting.

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE by Martha Bradshaw Purpose and Priorities

Our country's first experience with foreign assistance was as a recipient of French aid during the Revolution. Now the United States donates billions of dollars for official development assistance (ODA). Aid is given for a variety of purposes: Chinese aid is often to gain access to raw materials; Russian, to increase influence in "the near abroad." In this country government aid beginning with the Marshall Plan in 1948 and through the early 1950's, was dedicated to reconstruction of Western Europe; 2% of US GDP was devoted to aid. In the later 1950's, Mutual Security agreements strengthened countries like Korea, Taiwan, Iran, Turkey and Greece who appeared to be threatened by Communist expansion. President Kennedy in 1961 signed the Foreign Assistance Act and created U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) by executive order. The 1970's saw a shift to basic human needs. In the 1980's, stabilization of foreign currencies and financial systems were the focus. In the 1990's, USAID's priority became sustainable development, assistance to help countries improve their own economic situation.

After 9/11, the emphasis has been helping Iraq and Afghanistan rebuild infrastructure, basic services, their governments and civil society.

Other rationales for assistance are the commercial interests of the U.S. as donor, as well as seldom-disputed humanitarian concerns.

Objectives

According to "Foreign Aid: An Introduction to U.S. Programs and Policy," there are five strategic objectives of US aid: peace and security; investing in people; governing justly and democratically; economic growth;

and humanitarian assistance. (Tarnoff and Lawson, CRS 2011)

Trends

Recent years have seen an increased proportion of assistance going to economic and humanitarian aid. By sector, USAID's top three are health and population, humanitarian aid, and government and civil society. Another trend is moving military assistance programs, along with anti-narcotics, to the defense budget.

Recipients

In FY2012, the U.S. gave \$42 billion in aid to 186 countries. Sub Saharan Africa with 18 of the poorest countries in the world received \$7.2 billion in aid. Thirteen countries in South and Central Asia received more than twice that: \$15.1 billion. The top 5 were: Israel, \$3.075 billion; Afghanistan, \$2.327 billion; Pakistan, \$2.102 billion; Iraq \$1.683 billion; and Egypt, \$1.557 billion.

Spending & Comparison with Other Countries

When polled, most Americans believe our foreign aid amounts to about one-fourth of federal spending. In actuality, the \$42 billion spent overseas for aid in 2012 was only 1 per cent of the total U.S. budget.

Forty-Two billion dollars is the largest total amount spent by any nation. But when our country is compared to other developed nations in terms of spending as a percentage of Gross National Income, the measure used by economists, we rank far below most of Western Europe, the UK. and the Nordic countries in particular. We, the richest nation on earth, rank between Portugal and Italy in aid spending as a percentage of GNI.

Some Agencies Administering Assistance Programs

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has for over 50 years administered the bulk of our country's bilateral aid programs, including disaster relief, global health, democracy, Food for Peace, and more than half the HIV/AIDS funding. In 2010, more than 70% of USAID's staff of 8,844 were working overseas managing implementation of programs by hundreds of contractors, consultants, and NGO's.

Department of State administers narcotics, law enforcement, refugee relief, weapons proliferation, and democracy promotion. The Director of Foreign Assistance is a State Department position created to coordinate foreign assistance programs.

Department of Defense administers "all traditional aid-funded military assistance programs." Certain assistance programs to Iraq and Afghanistan, including Defense Health and counter-drug, have been shifted to DOD.

The Treasury Department administers U.S. contributions to and participation in the World Bank and other multilateral development institutions.

(continued on Page 6)

International Relations (continued from Page 5)

UN Goals

In 2000, the United States joined 189 world governments in committing to achieve by 2015 the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight goals aimed at poverty and hunger reduction, basic education, promoting gender equality, maternal and child health, and environmental sustainability. The greatest progress was in reducing extreme poverty and hunger. Extreme poverty, living on less than \$1/day, was reduced by half from 50 to 25 percent of the world's population. However, by 2013, of the world's 7 billion people, 1.1 billion were subsisting below the current standard of \$1.25/day.

In meeting other goals, there was varying success, much of which can be attributed to progress in China and India.

At the United Nations summit on development in September, 193 nations ratified a set of goals for 2015-2030. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 associated targets are criticized for being unfocused, too numerous, and too ambitious. They represent progress, however, in that unlike the MDGs, they were developed by consensus of those involved. Donors are putting more emphasis on data collection and measuring results. The priority now is on local community investment, requiring business and civil society to participate; every country is expected to show progress.



Health Committee

Jo Shim & Connie Dobrin Co-Chairs

Affordable Care Act (ACA) Open Enrollment

There was some very encouraging information provided at the Florida Chain Conference held in Orlando at the end of September. Conference participants learned that nearly 944,000 people signed up for health care through federal exchanges during the latest special enrollment period, which ran from Feb. 23 to June 30, with the largest number coming from Florida, according to data released by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). ACA Open enrollment for 2015-2016 runs from **November 1st 2015 to January 31st 2016**. In Brevard the United Way is again funded to provide ACA Navigator Services. Navigators Keith Heinly and Leann Chaney will be the guest speakers at the Timely Topic scheduled for November 21, 2015.

The Health Care Committee will be hosting a table at the Palm Bay "Take Back the Night" Event scheduled for Friday, October 30th 2015. Please contact Jo Shim or Connie Dobrin if you would like to assist.

Helpful Health Care Websites:
<https://www.healthcare.gov/marketplace-deadlines/2016/>
<http://kff.org/>,
<http://floridachain.org/>
<http://thefloridavoter.org/>

If you would like to take a more active role in League activities please consider joining the Health Care Committee. Contact co-chairs Jo Shim shimjo2001@yahoo.com and Connie Dobrin mikeconnie@oleanderpointe.com for meeting dates and times.

Welcome To Our New Members

Susan C. Webb
Mary R. Bowman
Gina Lindhorst
Barbara Mulligan
Jay Ann Preston
Rita Hewett

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 since our *Voters* are distributed to libraries and other community locations. Newsletters are found on line at our web site, www.lwv-spacecoast.org



Board Bytes

- 140 members
- 6 Board members participated in national Voter Registration Day on September 22 at 3 Brevard County libraries.
- We have a table reserved for Aging Matters Event on Thursday, October 22nd at Bill Posey Conference Center in Viera.
- Participating in event on Nov. 13, 2015 to express our appreciation to Senator Thad Altman for his efforts to implement Amendment 1, the Water and Land Legacy Amendment, as the voters intended with an emphasis on purchasing conservation land to protect Florida's lands and waters.

Additional Information on Keith Heinly and Leann Chaney continued from Page 1.

Keith's role as a Navigator is to identify and assist uninsured families in understanding insurance options through the Federal Health Insurance Marketplace and provide guidance in completing the application. Other responsibilities include interviewing uninsured families to obtain information needed for the online application, explaining the application process, program requirements and timelines to eligible individuals, completing the online application process if necessary, and conduct computer-based enrollment at community sites in certain geographic locations.

Keith received his Bachelor Degree in Social Work from Florida State university and his Master of Divinity from Emory University. This work experience includes case management, Qualified Mental Health Professional therapist, and many years as a United Methodish Missionary.

Leann Chaney is a Marketplace Navigator assisting consumers with the Health Insurance Marketplace here in Brevard County. Her primary duty is to provide outreach and education to raise awareness about the Marketplace and the availability of Navigators. She is available to give presentations and table at community events.

Prior to joining Keith Heinly's team at United Way of Brevard, Leann worked as a Benefits Connection Specialist at Second Harvest Food Bank. She continues to work with Second Harvest Food Bank each summer as a Childhood Program Coordinator overseeing four summer feeding sites here in Brevard County.

Leann received her Bachelor's degree in Business and Social Science with a minor in Nonprofit Management from UCF in 2012. Additionally, she received certification from the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance.



Fran Baer, Susan Little, Barbara Dutton & Marilyn Collins



Doreen Archer, Marcia Booth & Lucia Watson

~November Calendar - Members welcome at all meetings~

Wednesday, November 4 -	Board Meeting - Large Room at Suntree Library at 10:15 a.m.
Friday, November 6 -	Boomer Bash at Exploration Tower at Port Canaveral - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tuesday, November 10 -	International Relations Meeting at Satellite Beach Library 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Monday, November 16 -	Health Committee Meeting at Suntree Library at 6 p.m.
Tuesday, November 17-	Education Committee Meeting at home of Doreen Archer at 11:00 a.m.
Wednesday, November 18	New Member Orientation at Suntree Country Club 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday, November 21-	Timely Topic - "Access to Health Care in Brevard: Targeted Outreach" at Holiday Inn in Viera at 11:30 a.m.
	Date, Time and Location of Local Government Committee and Women's Issues Committee will be announced later.

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

Issue Date: November 2015

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Men Are Welcome to Join LWV!

PLEASE CHECK YOUR INTERESTS

- Education
- Fund Raising/Finance
- Health Care
- Hospitality
- International Relations
- Justice
- Legislative Action
- Local Government
- Membership
- Natural Resources
- Publicity & Public Relations
- Speaker's Bureau
- Telephone Committee
- Voter Service
- The Voter newsletter/mailing
- Website
- Women's Issues

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete the information below and return
with your check made payable to
League of Women Voters of the Space Coast

Mail to: LWV Space Coast
6629 Canal Road
Melbourne Village, FL 32904

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Phone _____

New Member _____ Returning Member _____

ANNUAL DUES

- \$50.00 for Individual Membership
- \$75.00 for Household Membership
- \$25.00 for Student Membership