



The Voter

The League of Women Voters
of the Space Coast



Volume 32: No. 2

October, 2011

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

October Timely Topics

You are invited to lunch and a presentation

by

Lori Scott, Brevard County Supervisor of
Elections



Lori will be speaking on the new regulations in the Office of Supervisor of Elections. These regulations came from Tallahassee.

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Where: Tuscany Grill in Suntree
7640 N. Wickham Road
Melbourne, FL

When: Wednesday, October 19, 2011

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Menu:

- 1. Chicken Acropolis** Chicken sautéed with artichokes, red peppers, sun dried tomatoes, and calamata olives, in a lemon and white wine sauce over angel hair pasta.
- 2. Rigatoni Ala Grill** - Italian sausage sautéed with roasted red and green peppers, onions, tomatoes, and Italian herbs, tossed with rigatoni.
- 3. Vegetarian Eggplant Rollatini** - Thin sliced battered eggplant stuffed with a garlic ricotta blend, baked and topped with mozzarella, and served over spaghetti and marinara sauce.

All entrees served with house salad, Italian bread with pesto-dipping oil and a non alcoholic drink.

Cost: \$20.00

RSVP: Doreen Archer - 321-622-4071 by Sunday, October 16th at 5 p.m.

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Underwriter this month



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President's Corner

Barbara Whitley

Hello Leaguers:

As many of you know I am a newbie to the position of President of the Space Coast League and I am sure that it shows. I am fortunate that I have many supportive ladies who guide, poke and lead me in the right direction. They surround me. I am a slow learner, so I am still on a learning curve.

So, with this in mind, after three months on the job, let me tell you how I find the League, ladies and gentlemen and what they do. They are the most valuable asset that the League has or will ever have. They have unspoken clout by their history of asking unbiased hard questions and getting carefully at the crux of a problem. They work hard to be unbiased and after they complete a study they provide a report that shows in-depth understanding of every side of an issue. They collect and compare data, compile reports and button hole legislators. They have worked hard to earn the respect of the government and the community. They are the voice that makes a difference.

But at the same time they are very helpful to beginners like me. They are good mentors, advisors and are willing to share information and pointers. In other words, they welcome the opportunity to educate and have you as a participant

These ladies and gentlemen are the very foundation of our democracy: this is grassroots at its best. We are in a time of change when more than ever we need the voice of reason and fairness. The League, these ladies and gentlemen provide the guidelines that we need as so many new issues are coming with change.

Have you thought about joining a League study group? We would welcome you. We need particular help in studying Health Care issues or Justice. There is enough work for everyone. Come be a part of an organization that does make a difference.

Call, lets talk 725-1215 (7 to 10 p.m.)

Barbara Whitley

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.



Board Bytes

- 111 members
- New membership books were mailed in September. If you have not received your book, call Connie Hogerty at 636-0920.
- Board meetings will continue to be held at the Government Center in Viera and all members are welcome to attend. You can bring you own coffee or drink to the meeting.
- Please call a board member if you would like to know more about serving on the **Health or Justice** committees.
- Mitch Needelman will be the speaker at the November Timely Topics.
- We will plan to report in the March 2012 Voter our accomplishments of the year.
- Discussion on studying health issues such as immunizations.
- We will continue to spread information about the League in the community. Additional suggestions for making the League more visable are welcome.
- The large majority of League dues pay PMP to the national and state Leagues. (PMP stands for per member payment) Only \$5.00 stays with our local League from the \$50 per member dues.
- Ayn Samuelson will moderate the forum for candidates in Satellite Beach on Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. at Scotty Culp Municipal complex.
- Many thanks to Barbara Jagrowski who returned as Finance Chairman this year.



Welcome to our new members who joined during the summer time when the Voter was not published. They are listed in our new membership book and we look forward to seeing them at League events and hope that they will join one of our committees.

**Vicki Bryant
Charlene Horton
Eileen and Giles Norington
Marguerite Orban
Lydia Vollmer**



Children's Committee

Marilza Novaes Card – Chair

The information below is a follow-up on the bills related to children and youth that were signed by Governor Rick Scott (<http://www.flgov.com/bill-action/>):

CS2/HB 97 Health Insurance: Prohibits certain health insurance policies & health maintenance contracts from providing coverage for abortions; provides exceptions; defines the term "state"; provides that certain restrictions on coverage for abortions apply to certain group health insurance policies issued or delivered outside the state which provide coverage to residents of the state; provides that certain restrictions on coverage for abortions apply to plans under Employee Health Care Access Act. Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

CS2/HB 139 Child Care: Child Care Facilities: Revises criteria for child care facility, large family child care home, or family day care home to obtain & maintain designation as Gold Seal Quality Care provider; provides for certain household children to be included in calculations regarding capacity of licensed family day care homes & large family child care homes; provides conditions for supervision of household children on premises of family day care homes & large family child care homes; revises advertising requirements applicable to child care facilities. Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

CS3/HB 279 Certification of Child Welfare Personnel: Provides required criteria for approval of credentialing entities that develop & administer certification programs for persons who provide child welfare services; revises use of Child Welfare Training Trust Fund within DCFS; requires persons who provide child welfare services to be certified by third-party credentialing entity; allows entities to add to or augment preservice curriculum & allows entities to contract for training; provides for recognition for currently certified persons; authorizes approval of third-party credentialing entities.

Effective Date: October 1, 2011.

SB 404 Transition-to-Adulthood Services: Provides legislative intent concerning transition-to-adulthood services for youth in the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Provides for eligibility for services for youth served by the DJJ who are legally in the custody of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). Provides that an adjudication of delinquency does not disqualify a youth in foster care from certain services from the DCFS. Creates the College-Preparatory Boarding Academy Pilot Program for dependent or at-risk students, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

CS1/SB 504 Child Visitation: Requires probable cause of sexual abuse in order to create a presumption of detriment. Provides that persons meeting specified criteria may not visit or have contact with a child without a hearing and court order. Revises requirements for a hearing seeking to rebut a presumption of detriment. Revises provisions relating to hearings on whether to prohibit or restrict visitation or other contact with the person who is alleged to have influenced a child's testimony, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

CS1/HB 579 Pub.Rec./Regional Autism Centers: Provides exemption from public records requirements for all records that relate to client of regional autism center who receives services of center or participates in center activities & client's family; provides for release of specified confidential & exempt information by center under certain circumstances; provides exemption from public records requirements for personal identifying information of donor or prospective donor to regional autism center if such donor or prospective donor wishes to remain anonymous; provides for review & repeal of exemptions; provides statement of public necessity. Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

CS/SB 618 Juvenile Justice: Repeals provisions relating to legislative intent for serious or habitual juvenile offenders in the juvenile justice system, definitions of terms for a training school and the serious or habitual juvenile offender program, the serious or habitual juvenile offender program in the juvenile justice system, the intensive residential treatment program for offenders less than 13 years of age, and the designation of persons holding law enforcement certification within the Office of the Inspector General to act as law enforcement officers, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

CS1/HB 621 Child Custody: Provides that parent's activation, deployment, or temporary assignment to military service & resultant temporary disruption to child may not be sole factor in granting petition for or modification of permanent time-sharing & parental responsibility. Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

SB 702 Umbilical Cord Blood Banking: Requires the Department of Health to post on its website certain resources and a website link to specified materials regarding umbilical cord blood banking. Requires the department to encourage certain health care providers to make available to their pregnant patients information related to umbilical cord blood banking. Provides that a health care provider or health care facility and its employees or agents are not liable for damages in a civil action, etc. Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

CS1/HB 997 Juvenile Civil Citations: Requires DJJ to encourage & assist in implementation & improvement of civil citation & similar diversion programs; requires that juvenile civil citation & similar diversion program be established (continued on Page 4)



(continued from Page 3)

at local level with concurrence of certain persons; authorizes entities to operate civil citation or similar program; requires entity operating program to be selected consultation & agreement with state attorney & local law enforcement agencies; authorizes officer, on making contact with juvenile who admits to committing misdemeanor, to require participation in services based on needs assessment; limits civil citation program to first-time misdemeanor offenders unless approved by state attorney; requires program operator to report outcome to DJJ; provides that civil citation is not considered referral to DJJ; requires DJJ to develop guidelines for civil citation program; deletes requirement that copy of citation be sent to victim; requires juvenile probation officer to process original delinquent act as referral to DJJ in specified circumstances & refer certain reports to state attorney.

Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

HB 1029 Interstate Compact for Juveniles:

Reenacts provisions of compact notwithstanding repeal of those sections by s. 4, ch. 2005-80, Laws of Florida, effective 2 years after effective date of that act. Effective Date: May 31, 2011.

CS1/HB 1125 Health and Human Services:

Provides exemption from review by AHCA & requirement to file application for certificate of need with agency for certain Level III neonatal intensive care units under certain circumstances; removes limitation on eligibility for enrollment in approved health flex plan; revises definition of term "health care provider" to include orthotists, orthotic fitters, orthotic fitter assistants, pedorthists, & prosthetists; revises eligibility requirements for participation in Florida Health Choices Program; provides that statutory rural hospitals are eligible as employers rather than participants under program; permits specified eligible vendors to sell health maintenance contracts or products & services; requires certain risk-bearing products offered by insurers to be approved by OIR; provides requirements for product certification; provides duties of Florida Health Choices, Inc.; provides for certain risk-pooling data to be reported annually; authorizes personal identifying information of Florida Kidcare program applicant to be disclosed to Florida Health Choices, Inc., to administer program; requires AHCA to establish demonstration project in Miami-Dade County of long-term-care facility & psychiatric facility to improve access to health care by medically underserved persons. Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

CS1/HB 1127 Abortions: Requires that ultrasound be performed on woman obtaining abortion; requires that ultrasound be reviewed with patient before woman

gives informed consent for abortion procedure; requires that woman certify in writing that she declined to review ultrasound & did so of her own free will & without undue influence; provides exemption from requirement to view ultrasound for women who are victims of rape, incest, domestic violence, or human trafficking or for women who have serious medical condition necessitating abortion; provides grounds for disciplinary action for failure to comply with such requirements; provides rulemaking authority to AHCA. Effective Date: July 1, 2011.

HB 1247 Parental Notification of Abortion: Revises definition of term "constructive notice"; revises notice requirements relating to termination of pregnancy of minor; provides exceptions to notice requirements; revises procedure for judicial waiver of notice; provides for minor to petition for hearing within specified time; provides that in hearing relating to waiving requirement for parental notice, court consider certain additional factors, including whether minor's decision to terminate her pregnancy was due to undue influence; provides procedure for appeal if judicial waiver of notice is not granted; requires that court order contain factual findings & legal conclusions; requires Supreme Court reports to Governor & Legislature to include additional information; provides for severability. Effective Date: October 1, 2011, or upon the adoption of rules and forms pursuant to s. 390.01114(5), Florida Statutes, by the Supreme Court for purposes of the amendment of s. 390.01114, Florida Statutes, by this act, whichever occurs earlier.

CS2/SB 1366 Child Welfare/Mental

Health/Substance Abuse: Requires the DCFS, the DOH, the APD, the AHCA, community-based care lead agencies, managing entities, and agencies that have contracted with monitoring agents to adopt certain revised policies for the administrative monitoring of child welfare service providers, mental health service providers, and substance abuse service providers. Limits the frequency of required administrative, licensure, and programmatic monitoring for mental health service providers and substance abuse service providers that are accredited by specified entities, etc. Effective Date: June 21, 2011.

SB 2156 Gov ReOrganization: Transfers the functions and trust funds of the Agency for Workforce Innovation to other agencies. Transfers the Office of Early Learning Services to the Department of Education. Transfers the Office of Unemployment Compensation to the Department of Economic Opportunity. Transfers the Unemployment Appeals Commission to the Department of Economic Opportunity. Transfers the Office of Workforce Services to the Department of Economic Opportunity. Requires the Auditor General to conduct an audit of the Office of Early Learning Services, etc. Appropriation: \$10,000,000. Effective Date: July 1, 2011.



International Relations

Mary Nicolay - Chair

In September the INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE had as a guest speaker Geraldine Blanchard, the owner of Global Tours and Travel of Old Eau Gallie. She spoke on Haiti and the rebuilding of that country. Ms. Blanchard was born and raised in Haiti, educated at Catholic University of Puerto Rico and Daytona Beach Community College. We appreciate her insights. Barbara Conkle, Research Librarian and LWV member was the facilitator of the meeting. Barbara also provides valuable services to GREAT DECISION presenters during the year and develops a display each month at the Satellite Beach Library on current topics.

The October meeting will be a visit from Steven Kraft, former United States ambassador, who will speak on his current U.S. State Department role in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The meeting date and time are currently unscheduled and members will be notified by e-mail or phone. There will be a social hour before his talk which will take place at the home of Hugh and Mary Nicolay, 582 Acacia Avenue, Melbourne Village.

We look forward to November 15th at the Satellite Beach Library when Ruth Almeida will lead the discussion on "CAN THE EURO SURVIVE?"

On December 13th the committee will tour the RUTH FUNK CENTER FOR TEXTILE ARTS at the Florida Tech campus. A holiday luncheon will follow.

In January the topic will be "THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION". The speaker will be announced later. Please plan on joining us for these interesting meetings.



Local Government

Priscilla Griffith

The Local Government committee is meeting monthly but due to conflicts in schedules it is often not possible to list the date in our Voter before the publication goes to the printer. New members are welcome. Please call Priscilla Griffith if you would like to attend a Local Government meeting. Their meetings are held at Sun Coffee Shoppe at 540 E. New Haven in Melbourne. Mitch Needelman will be the speaker at the November Timely Topics. You may want to review the column from last month that was written by Marilynn Collins. Marilynn and Priscilla interviewed Mr. Needelman earlier in the year.



Space Coast Community Law School

The fall term of the Space Coast Community Law School will begin on Thursday September 22, 2011 and will continue until November 10, 2011. This is a project of the Brevard Bar Foundation to educate the public about legal topics and issues.

The seminars are held **Thursday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Brevard County Government Center, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Building C, Viera, Florida.**

This is a project of the Brevard Bar Foundation and is sponsored by the Florida Bar Foundation, the Brevard Bar Foundation, the law firm of Cianfrogna, Telfer, Reda, Faherty and Anderson, P.A., Brevard County Legal Aid and the Florida Design Group.

The speakers are local Judges and Attorneys.

The following topics will be addressed in this Fall session.

Employment Law
Consumer Fraud
Lien Law
Insurance Law
Worker's Compensation
Bankruptcy
Anatomy of a Trial Part 1
Anatomy of a Trial Part 2

Pre-registration is appreciated since space is limited. To register you can visit the website at www.spacecoastcommunitylawschool.com or www.sccls.com. You can also register by calling 321-269-6833 or e-mail can be sent to communitylawschool@yahoo.com

Fair districts Update

We are continuing to follow the story of map drawing for Fair Districts where two constitutional amendments approved by 63% of voters in 2010 force lawmakers to re-draw legislative and congressional districts without favoring incumbents, a political party or interfere with minority representation. Legislators were hoping that their public hearings during the summer would give them guidelines to follow in this work. However, there were many complaints that these events were a waste of taxpayer money.

Florida's constitution requires that legislators wait until January 2012 to vote on redistricting. Legislators have used that as a reason to accelerate the regular session schedule from March to January and they have agreed to start drawing maps this fall when committees begin meeting in mid-September.

Additional information can be found on line at www.FairDistrictNow.org.



Each year in September local Leagues are asked to choose three Legislative Priorities and send them to The League of Women Voters of Florida. These choices are from the Recommended LWVF Program 2011-2013 that was adopted at the 2011 LWVF convention.

This will be a guideline to the League Lobby Corps for the 2012 legislative session.

Government in Florida, Education in Florida, and Social Policy in Florida were the three selections that LWV-Space Coast board chose at the September board meeting.

Government in Florida – Promote an open government that is responsive to the people of the state.

A. Florida Constitution – Support basic law that assures a government responsive and accountable to the people of the state.

Issues for action:

- Actively promote and support the reapportionment process.
- Promote the strengthening of the Florida Commission on Ethics including the areas of independence, subpoena power and ability to levy fines and initiate an investigation.
- Support the extension of ethics reform to county and city government..

B. Finance and Taxation – Support a state fiscal structure that is equitable in its distribution of the tax responsibility and responsive to public needs.

C. Election Law – Support measures to protect, extend and encourage the use of the franchise and to advocate fair methods of financing political campaigns.

Issue for action:

- Support greater flexibility in the selection of early voting sites.

Education in Florida – Support for a free public school system for Florida with high standards for student achievement and with equality of educational opportunity for all that is financed adequately by the state through an equitable funding formula.

Issues for Action:

- Promote adequate funding of public education with no use of public funding for the expansion of funding of private education through a voucher program.
- Promote the extension of public school testing of student achievement to private schools, charter schools and any institutions that receive state funding.

Social Policy in Florida – Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice, and the health and safety of all Americans.

A. Children and Families – Support measures to meet special concerns of children and families, including countering intra-family abuse and providing for safe foster care and shelter care.

B. Farmworkers – support measure to provide adequate living and working conditions for farm workers.

C. Financing and Delivery of Health Care – Support measures to implement Florida health care in a manner consistent with the LWVUS position on health care reform.

Issue for Action:

- Support implementation of the Federal Health Care Reform Law in Florida, emphasizing access for all and control of costs.

D. Immigration – Support the rights of legal immigrants to prevention or reduction of poverty, a minimum basic level of health care at affordable cost, the well-being of children and families and access to free public schools with federal and state financial assistance to communities disproportionately impacted by immigration.

E. Libraries – Support full funding of eligible public library Systems as provided in Section 257.27 Florida Statutes.

Issue for Action:

- Support the continued funding of public libraries in the state.

F. Handgun Control – Support regulations concerning the purchase, ownership and use of handguns that balance as nearly as possible individual constitutional rights with the general interest and welfare of the community.

Space Coast League of Women Voters Board Meeting



President Barbara Whitley



1st V.P. Marilynn Collins & Secretary Susan Little



Barbara Jagrowski



Marilza Novaes-Card & Connie Hogerty



Treasurer Brigitte Sinton

Calendar for October 2011

~Members Welcome at All Meetings~

- Thursday, October 6,** **Board Meeting at 10 a.m. in Space Coast Room (2nd floor) of Building C at the Government Center located at 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Viera, FL 32940**

- Monday, October 10,** **Children's Committee - Suntree Library at 1:30 p.m.**

- Wednesday, October 19,** **Timely Topics with Lori Scott, Brevard County Supervisor of Elections at Tuscany Grill in Suntree at 11:30 a.m.**

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