



The Voter

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



Volume 33: No. 1

September, 2012

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

~ Timely Topics ~

Affordable Health Care Act

Speaker is Laura Goodhue, Executive Director of Florida CHAIN



Laura has served as Executive Director of Florida CHAIN for four years leading the organization as the consumer voice on health access issues in Florida. CHAIN is Community Health Action Information Network. Prior to her organizing work she worked with Legal Aid of North Carolina on issues related to employment law and immigration. A graduate of American University with two Masters Degrees in Political Science and Latin American Studies, she has travelled extensively through

the southern hemisphere. In Florida, Laura developed a grassroots Civic School bringing low income families to the state capitol to train in effective lobbying. She also serves on the Policy Committee of the Health Council of South Florida, the Board of FIRE (Florida Institute for Reform and Empowerment) and the Florida Covering Kids and Families Board.

When: Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Where: Indian River Colony Club
1700 Old Glory Road
Viera, Florida

(The Old Glory Road is on the east side of Murrell Road, at the second traffic light north of Wickham Road)

Time: 11:30 A.M.

Menu: Chicken Princess (chicken breast and asparagus rolled in ham slice topped with hollandaise)

London Broil

Entrées served with roasted potatoes and green beans

Vegetarian on request

Orange sherbet for dessert

Cost: \$20.00

Reservations & Menu choice to

Doreen Archer at 321-622-4071

by Sunday, September 16, 2012

In This Issue

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| President's Report | 2 |
| Voter Service | 2 |
| Children's Committee | 3 |
| International Relations | 4 |
| Natural Resources | 5 |
| Board Bytes | 5 |
| New Members | 6 |
| Absentee Voting | 6 |
| League Photos | 7 |
| Calendar | 7 |

President: Barbara Whitley

321-674-6070

whlyhome@digital.net

Editor: Lucia Watson

321-779-6758

lucbil_99@yahoo.com

LWVSC: Phone # 321-254-7183

www.lwv-spacecoast.org

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

Barbara Whitley

Hello Leaguers,

I have spent some time thinking about how you can spot a League Member? Well you look for the person in the first row who is listening intently, taking notes and asking questions. They are non judgmental but let the facts speak for themselves. Often one question leads to another if you listen closely.

Now you can spot a Leaguer if you visit the Timely Topics Luncheon and listen to an informative speaker and meet other Leaguers. You just look at the name badge and you see member!

Have you seen the Indian River Lagoon? Many of our Leaguers not only saw the lagoon but heard a lovely talk by Laura Lee Thompson, historian of the lagoon who gave us a wonderful background speech and also some inside knowledge about what was happening to the lagoon.

Go to a candidate forum and you may see a Leaguer, who is the moderator, the timer or the one who is picking up the questions and being sure all the audience questions are being answered.

See those registering voters, yes, they may be Leaguers. Those men and women helping people coming to vote, yes they may be Leaguers. Want to know who is helping count the votes? You guess right, it may be a Leaguer.

Watch and see those ladies working for hours passing out forms to register kids for "Florida Kid Care". They need to get the form out before school started so many worked over time. That's Leaguers.

What's coming? Our League Health Chair has a speaker from CHAIN (Community Health Action Information Network) coming in September to talk about the Affordable Health Care Act.

If you are a Leaguer you have a lot to be proud of. You belong to a group of men and women who are interested in their community and look into the issues that affect all of us. They work to make America a better place for all of us.

If you aren't a member, we have room for you and an empty chair waiting for you. If you have an issue you would like to know more about there are Leaguers who can help you do the research.

Yours in League,
Barb



Voter Service

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

Responsibilities for this position are:

1. Work with Finance chair to determine budget for CONTACT (CONTACT is the *Directory of Elected Officials*, published every two years after a general election.)
2. Establish a committee to prepare CONTACT . that we publish in January after general elections.
3. Make sure that changes in between elections are noted in Voter and extra copies of CONTACT.
4. Respond to request for copies of CONTACT.
5. Arrange for moderators, timers and question collectors for candidate forums as requested.
6. Be familiar with the provisions of the Help American Vote Act, HAVA.

Call Barbara Jagrowski, **321-259-5942** for more information or you can contact any board member. We look forward to a new Voter Service Chair. At press time Barbara is very busy coordinating Voter Registration possibilities.

Election 2012 Special Edition Voter Guide,

Every election year, LWVF publishes a Special Edition Voter Guide that provides Florida voters with nonpartisan information about the elections. This information includes:

- Profiles on candidates running for state and federal public office, and their responses to LWVF questionnaires
- Information on Florida Supreme Court Justices up for retention
- Pros and Cons on proposed state constitutional Amendments

This publication should be available in mid-September. It will be available at all of Brevard County libraries and many other locations throughout the county.

If you would like to assist in distributing the Special Edition Voter Guides to other locations in the county, please contact Barbara Jagrowski at **321-259-5942**



Children's Committee

Marguerite Orban – Chair

Early Childhood Education and School Readiness in Brevard County.

In early June, Maria Mogollon-Seemer and Doreen Archer interviewed Sky Beard on behalf of the Children's Committee. Sky is the Executive Director of the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard, and this interview fulfilled item 5 in the committee's program of work, "monitor and report the status of early childhood education efforts in Brevard County."

The first question had to do with Head Start. The Brevard County Schools have been awarded the contract to administer Head Start, but the contract for Early Head Start has not been awarded. CDI which has been running Head Start temporarily since the Child Care Association lost the contract will continue to do so.

The Early Learning Coalition does not provide direct services to children, but is the conduit through which funding for school readiness is channeled. The Office of Early Learning in Tallahassee oversees all the coalitions in the state, and the local Coalition is responsible for checking eligibility of parents and training of providers.

The Florida legislature in the 2012 session paid a great deal of attention to school readiness.

HB 5103 was passed by both houses. This revised the duties of the Office of Early Learning, revised eligibility criteria for enrollment of children and many other revisions. The bill was vetoed by Governor Rick Scott, but was followed by a memorandum that mandated certain requirements for school readiness programs.

One of these measures was that children be tested at entry into the program and again at entry to kindergarten to ascertain the effectiveness of PreK. This is an excellent measure, which is one of the performance standards that has been used by the Federal Head Start program since the beginning. The State is developing a new tool for this testing, and Coalition staff will be trained so that they may train providers.

There are more than 200 standardized school readiness contract providers in Brevard County, but even so there is a waiting list. The waiting list is about 2000 children, and the average wait time could be 18 months. Even the "at risk" children referred by the Department of Children and Families have to wait for about six months for a slot.

The cost to parents for school readiness programs ranges from 84 cents to \$11.00 a day. Payment is on a sliding scale, based on family size and income. Parents have to verify employment and income.

At the time of the interview there was uncertainty about the funds for Brevard County. The memorandum signed by the Governor required an equitable based funding formula. Six models were originally proposed which in June had been whittled to three, one of which would be chosen for the state.

There was not to be any cuts in overall state funding but all three models indicated that Brevard County would lose funds. An update with Sky Beard in early August proved this to be so. In the chosen six-year model Brevard County coalition lost over \$800,000 which would amount to about five million dollars over the six years.

This will mean enrolling fewer children from the waiting list, but also have an economic impact on the private child care providers. Children are always at the bottom of the barrel – they do not vote!

Thanks

Thanks to League members who volunteered at the time of school registration to spread the news that **Florida KidCare** offers free or affordable insurance for children up to age 18. A child may be eligible for health insurance even if one or both parents are working. It is based on income and family size.

Services that are included are:

- Doctors visits
- Shots
- Surgery
- Vision
- Mental Health
- Check-ups
- Hospital
- Prescriptions
- Hearing
- Emergencies.

More information can be found at www.floridakidcare.org or calling 1-888-540-5437 (toll free number).

It is advised that one gathers the following documents before applying.

1. Income from employment, child support, or other income.
2. Child's Social Security number or date you applied for it if you have not received the card.
3. Information about any current or recent health insurance coverage for each child you are applying for, including cost to add your children to health insurance coverage if your employer offers it.
4. Amount of payments for daycare/after school care for each child or a disabled adult so someone in your household can work.



International Relations

Mary Nicolay – Chair

The International Relations Committee consists of as many LWV members who wish to attend and study international issues. The primary focus of study has been GREAT DECISIONS materials provided by the Foreign Policy Association. These materials are made available yearly for a minimal cost to members and consist of eight topics which are studied and presented by League members.. These meetings are scheduled twice a month during February, March, April and May. Committee meetings are held monthly September thru January when topics chosen by the group are discussed.

TOPICS FOR THE COMING MONTHS:

SEPTEMBER 11th, Open meeting. Members are asked to come prepared to speak briefly on a current international issue. Please bring books, articles and research to share with the group.

OCTOBER 9th, Martha Bradshaw, committee member who recently went to CUBA with the State of Florida League of Women Voters will discuss her impressions and research.

NOVEMBER 13th, Professor Scott Tilley from Florida Tech will speak on TECHNOLOGY AND ITS EFFECT ON SOCIETY.

Please join us for these interesting discussions.

Meetings are held at the Satellite Beach Library on the second Tuesday of each month from 1-3 PM.

Cyber Security by Martha Bradshaw

(Martha Bradshaw and Pat Huggins led our discussion on Cyber Security in April, 2012)

With the invention of microprocessors, since the early 1970's United States weapons labs have become able to make more lethal "smart" bombs whose use results in a lower loss of US life. In the twenty-first century the US military is capable of using cyber attack to devastate an enemy's homeland infrastructure without first having to defeat it in conventional warfare. Cyber attack may involve targeting others' business, financial, medical or government computers causing malfunction or disrupted data flow. Yet the US military itself has become increasingly dependent on technology including the public internet, the US unsecured power grid, communications and weapons systems, and locating devices. As dependence on technology has increased, so has vulnerability. Detecting, identifying with certainty, and countering enemy attack have become more difficult.

United States Cyber Command defends military interests, not civilian. Those interests, including infrastructure such as the electric power grid, public

water systems and telecommunications are the responsibility of the Department of Homeland Security. To date, however, civilian interests are regulated minimally, if at all. Corporations are responsible for defending themselves.

There is debate within the national security community both domestically and abroad as to whether a state of cyber war exists. Some experts maintain that because no one has yet died as a result of a cyber attack, there is no cyber war. Others cite the 2007 cyber attack on Estonia's banking system and an attack the following year on the command and control system of Georgia as the first incidents of cyber war; both attacks have been tracked back to Russian intelligence. Yet others say that the Stuxnet virus attack on Iranian nuclear facilities was the first use of cyber weaponry.

Cyber arms control would be difficult to achieve. When principles of nuclear deterrence are applied to possible cyber deterrence, we see many difficulties: It is undesirable to demonstrate US cyber capability to potential attackers; cyber attack can be launched by a non-state actor; the technology to develop cyber weapons (malicious computer code) is available to everyone; tracing an attack to the actual origination point may be impossible; military and non-military infrastructures are highly interconnected ; and one's own networks might be damaged.

If deterrence were ineffective and attack occurred on US military and/or civilian interests, the nature and target of a response pose significant problems. The crucial questions in reacting to a cyber attack are: When is response justified? To whom? And how? If justified, should response be a counter attack via cyber weaponry or by use of physical force?

There is no international consensus on whether the Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC) applies to cyber war. Although respected US advisory bodies believe it does, General Keith Alexander, head of both US Cyber Command and the National Security Agency (NSA), has told Congress that he believes presidential authority should be required for any attack on enemy systems.

In May 2012 the House passed the Cyber Intelligence Sharing and Protection Act (CISPA) which makes it easier for the federal government and private sector to share threat data. Because of privacy concerns the White House has threatened to veto the bill, which moved to the Senate. The White House supports a bill introduced by Senators Lieberman and Collins which would make cybersecurity oversight and private sector coordination a responsibility of the DHS.



Natural Resources

by

Maureen Rupe –

Our Water in Peril

Frank Stronach has asked for a state permit in Marion County to pump around 13 million gallons of water a day out of the Florida Aquifer to run his huge Adena Springs cattle ranch and slaughter house. Even with the recent rains, Florida is considered in the middle of an unprecedented drought. The Adena Springs project will have detrimental impacts on Silver Springs, possibly even killing it forever.

Audubon Florida, the Sierra Club, the Florida Wildlife Federation, the St. Johns Riverkeeper and the Florida Conservation Coalition (led by former Governor and US Senator Bob Graham) met in Tallahassee to discuss the issue, the first time all the conservation groups had met on a single issue. Studies are already saying Silver Springs could dry up in as little as 12 years, even without this added strain on our aquifer system.

I read an editorial on the Ocala StarBanner website by John Hare, a Chemistry Teacher in Ocala's Vanguard High School International Baccalaureate Honors Program. He's especially knowledgeable, as he owns 70 acres in the middle of the Adena Springs project, and has been supervising the student research for years on impacts to the Silver River ecosystem.

Apparently the land in that area is very cheap, less than \$1,000 per acre, as the land stays wet most of the time, as the clay soil doesn't drain well. If approved, the Adena Springs Ranch will be drawing 1 million more gallons of water per day than Ocala, a city of 55,000. The project will create around 100 jobs in the slaughter house, but the jobs do not require a high school education. This surely doesn't justify the nearly \$60 million in recreation and Tourism Silver Springs brings to that area?

According to a May 28th Story on CNN.com, Saving Florida's Springs", "the health of Florida's springs are failing, and governmental agencies are doing little to correct the problem." The reporter for this article stated he went down the river in 2010 and the river system is already severely damaged. Even though the springs are some on the strongest currents in the state, there were almost no sign of a sandy bottom, and besides algae is beginning to take over in a number of areas of the river.

Many expect the request to be approved, especially in the state's political climate, but a lawsuit against the state is also expected. Why is a story about Silver Springs important to all of us? It's the Florida Aquifer. Nearly 90% of Floridians are dependent on it, and as all the Aquifers are somewhat tied together, as we empty one, it will eventually impact all of them. There's

already salt intrusion due the amount of what being drawn out to date. If this resource is not protected, there will be no new development or people in Florida without desalination at an extortion price.

References:

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20120523/OPINION01/120529904/1076/opinion?Title=Editorial-Line-in-the-sand&tc=ar>

<http://ireport.cnn.com/docs/DOC-795798>

<http://www.ocala.com/article/20120520/OPINION/120519689?p=3&tc=pg>



Board Bytes

(during June, July & August when the Voter is not published)

- 105 members
- Resignation of Marilyn Hooper as Justice Chair.
- Resignation of Ayn Samuelson as 2nd Vice President and Voter Service Chair.
- Barbara Jagrowski is filling in as interim Voter Chair but League is waiting for a member to volunteer for this position.
- Court ruling allowed League of Women Voters of Florida to register voters again. This is all being coordinated through the state League.
- There will be two presentations on Saturday, October 13th to discuss the Florida proposed amendments that will be on the ballot on November 6. The morning session will be at the Cocoa Library at 10:00 A.M. and the afternoon session will be at the Eau Gallie library at 2 P.M.
- Linda Kyvik, Health Chair is looking for additional members. Meetings may be scheduled for an evening at a library.
- Maureen Rupe was appointed an Off Board Consultant for the Natural Resources Committee.
- Members volunteered to attend an orientation and pass out information at school registration time for Florida Kid Care. This program provides Health Care for children from birth to 18.
- September Timely Topic on Affordable Health Care will be at the Indian River Colony Club on Wednesday, September 19th.
- National PMP was increased \$1.00 per membership at the National League Convention in June, 2012.
- Discussion on having a social secretary to send cards.



Welcome to New Members

A new membership book will be published in September.

However, we would like to welcome our new members in this September Voter who have joined since the last Voter was published. These new members will be in your new membership book.

- Deborah D. Smith**
- Joyce Calese**
- Pamela Tuscany-Warren**
- Pat Dandrea**
- Cheryl P. Roberts**
- Diane Hawthorne**



Absentee Voting in Florida-

(Information from Brevard Supervisor of Elections Office)

What is Absentee Voting? It is sometimes called Ballots by Mail

1. All qualified (registered) voters are permitted to vote absentee under Florida law.
2. A request must be made to receive an absentee ballot.

How to Request an Absentee Ballot

You (or an immediate family member or legal guardian on your behalf, if directly instructed to do so) may request an absentee ballot from your Supervisor of Elections in one of the following ways:

in person;

- **Titusville: Government Complex-North, 400 South Street, 1st Floor**
- **Merritt Island: Central Brevard Service Complex, 2575 N. Courtenay Parkway**
- **Viera: Government Center, 2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Bldg. C**
- **Melbourne: South Brevard Service Complex, 1515 Sarno Road**
- **Palm Bay: South Mainland Service Center, 450 Cogan Drive SE**

by telephone;

- **Titusville: 321-264-6740**
- **Merritt Island: 321-454-6606**
- **Viera: 321-633-2124**

- **Melbourne: 321-255-4455**
- **Palm Bay: 321-952-6328**
- **TDD: 321-454-6608**

by mail;

- **Titusville: P. O. Box 1119, Titusville, FL 32781-1119**
- **Viera: P. O. Box 410819, Melbourne, FL 32941-0819**

On-line request form;

If you are mailing in your absentee ballot request you mail it to

Brevard County Supervisor of Elections in Titusville: P. O. Box 1119, Titusville, FL 32781-1119 or Brevard County Supervisor of Elections P. O. Box 410819, Melbourne, FL 32941-0819.

When a request is made the following information is required:

- the name of the voter for whom the ballot is being requested;
- the voter's address;
- the voter's date of birth;
- the voter's signature (if the request is written)

If a member of your immediate family or legal guardian is requesting an absentee ballot for you, the following additional information must be provided:

- the requestor's address;
- the requestor's driver's license number (if available);
- the requestor's relationship to the voter;
- the requestor's signature (if the request is written).

A request to receive an absentee ballot by mail must be received by the Supervisor of Elections no later than 5 p.m. on the 6th day before the election. Otherwise, you can obtain in person an absentee ballot up until and including Election Day. However, it must still be returned by no later than 7 p.m. on Election Day if the voted ballot is to count.

Details on early voting for the general election on Tuesday, November 6 will be listed in the October voter. Absentee Ballots and Early Voting are options to going to the polls to vote on election day.

Deadline to Register to Vote for General Election on Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Photos at League Events



Sue Mart and Barbara Howell



Marguerite Orban



Polly Cordell and Ina Fritsch



Maria Stahl and Marilynn Collins



Mary Nicolay



Charles and Barbara Whitley



Mike and Connie Dobrin



Barbara Dutton



Yvonne Hubbard



Clarise Costello

~September Calendar - Members welcome at all meetings~

Wednesday, September 5th - Board Meeting at Suntree Library at 10:15 A.M.

Monday, September 10th - Children's Committee at Suntree Library at 1:30 P.M.

Tuesday, September 11th - International Relations Meeting at Satellite Beach Library 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.

Wednesday, September 19th - Timely Topics at 11:30 A.M. at Indian River Colony Club

1700 Old Glory Road, Viera, Florida

Speaker is Laura Goodhue, Executive Director of Florida CHAIN. Topic is Affordable Health Care Act.

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

Issue Date: September 2012

League of Women Voters of the Space Coast

P.O. Box 360823

Melbourne, FL 32936-0823

www.lwv-spacecoast.org