



# The Voter

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



**Volume 34: No. 1**

**September, 2013**

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

## FLORIDA'S

### Water & Conservation Land Crisis

**Come, Join Us and Bring Friends to September Timely Topics**

**Guest Speakers are Chuck O'Neal and Aliki Moncrief.**



Our Speakers have impressive backgrounds. Chuck O'Neal is a graduate of Duke University with a degree in public policy and mathematics. Aliki Moncrief received her B.A. from Emory University and J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Chuck O'Neal is chairman of the LWV of Florida's Natural Resources Committee. His background in business and local television productions has helped focus media attention on the plight of our natural resources. Ms. Moncrief has an extensive background in environmental issues.  
*(Speakers backgrounds continued on Page 4)*

**When: Saturday, September 21, 2013**

**Where: Suntree Country Club  
1 Country Club Drive  
Melbourne, Florida 32940**

**Time: 11:30 A.M.**

**Cost: \$20.00**

**Menu:**

- London Broil
- Chicken Piccata
- Pasta Primavera

Included with your entrée is a crisp garden salad, chef's potato or rice, seasonal vegetables, rolls & butter, freshly brewed coffee, iced tea or soft drinks.

**Reservations: to Doreen Archer 321-622-4071 by Wednesday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Make checks payable to League of Women Voters of the Space Coast. Mail to LWVSC at 6629 Canal Road, Melbourne Village, FL 32904.**

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## Thank you

**Thank you to our members who did not request reimbursements for expenses at State Convention in Tallahassee.**



## President's Corner

Marilynn Collins & Priscilla Griffith

Dear League Members,

We hope everyone has been having an enjoyable summer and we are all grateful that the tropics have been quiet so far. Our League on the other hand has been far from quiet the past couple of months as we plunged into "Petition Drive" mode under the leadership of Voter Service Co-Chairs Tony and Barbara Dutton.

After the League of Women Voters of Florida voted at the April Convention in Tallahassee to endorse a proposed Amendment to Florida's constitution, they left it up to the local Leagues to decide if they wanted to get involved. Our board voted unanimously to respond to the call for action and has been working with Florida's Water and Land Legacy, Inc. (FWLL), the initiating organization for the proposed Water and Land Conservation Amendment that will guarantee funding for critical conservation and restoration efforts. Over 300 organizations have endorsed the proposed amendment. In order for citizens to place an amendment on the ballot for 2014, individual petitions must be signed by 683,149 registered Florida voters in support of the amendment. FWLL has set a goal of 250,000 signed petitions by November 30th. Our League has collected 400 signatures and all participating organizations have collected a total of 143,359 signatures as of August 9th. A big thank you goes to 42 of our members who are participating in this petition drive. If you would like to get involved by getting petitions signed by family and friends or by volunteering for collecting signatures with another League Member at a local library, please give Tony or Barb a call at 254-1161. You can also find a link at our website, [www.lwv-spacecoast.org](http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org), to learn more about the amendment and to download a petition for signing.

Get your calendars ready, for our programming year is rapidly filling up. First up is our Timely Topics Luncheon featured on the front page. September 11th is the RSVP deadline for this critical discussion on the health of our waters and our environment. Chuck O'Neal will give a Power Point presentation on water and environmental issues along with discussing the health of our Indian River Lagoon. Alike Moncrief will explain the proposed Amendment to our Florida constitution and how critical its passage is to protect Florida's most cherished waters and natural resources. A "Q & A" session will follow the program. September 24th is National Voter Registration Day; we plan to participate. Call Tony or Barb at the above number to learn about training to be able to register voters and to volunteer. Next up on October 16th, our Children's

Committee will host a Timely Topics on Foster Care in Brevard. The International Relations Committee will host a special presentation on "Conflict Resolution" on November 4th at the Satellite Beach Library. November 21st, is the date for our second annual "Celebrate the League" Social and our ever popular Holiday Party will be held in December on a date to be announced. We are very excited about our planned Celebrity Luncheon on February 7, 2014 at the Suntree Country Club with our very own Deirdre Macnab, president of the League of Women Voters of Florida as our honored celebrity. Deirdre was recognized by the Florida Commission on the Status of Women as the recipient of their 2012 Florida Achievement Award and selected as the Orlando Sentinel's 2012 Most Influential Central Floridian of the Year.

On a sad note, it is with regret that since our last communication, the board accepted the resignation of our 1st Vice President and Healthcare Committee Chair Linda Kyvik due to health issues. We are thankful to Linda for leading our Health Committee in a productive and busy year including educating the public on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. Linda continues to support the Healthcare Committee with e-mail updates on health related issues. We will also be losing the talents of Children's Committee Chair Marguerite Orban who will be moving to Washington State to be with her daughters. Marguerite is a longtime member of our League and has been a dedicated advocate for Brevard's children. We will miss her and wish her happiness in her new home.

Your Board of Directors has been working very hard as have all the committee members. If you have time to give, think about joining one of our committees. Remember, too, that members are welcome at our Board Meetings. Sitting in and listening is a great way to learn about what we do. We would also welcome your participation and input. Give me a call at 773-8490 if you would like to attend or have any questions. Date, time and location of the meetings are listed in the Calendar Section of the Voter.

In League,

Marilynn



## Board Bytes

103 members

Membership books have been mailed. If you find an error or there is a change in your information, please contact a board member.

Tuesday, September 24th is National Voter Registration Day.

Discussion on having a social secretary to send cards to members from time to time. Would you like to volunteer?



## Children's Committee

Marguerite Orban - Chair



### The State of Foster Care in Brevard

Geo A. Ropert, APR Director of  
Communications, Brevard Family Partnership

When asked to author an article on the state of Foster Care in Brevard County, there were so many good things I could think of about which to write that I would well exceed my allotted word space covering more than a couple. Over the course of the last ten years, since Brevard transitioned from a state-run to a locally developed and managed child welfare system of care, improvements across the entire spectrum of programs and services to protect children from abuse and neglect - and care for them when they do occur - have led to better outcomes for everyone involved, including families and the community but especially the children.

#### Foster parenting in Brevard - a paradigm shift

Of particular importance has been a shift to improve the foster care experience for both the children placed in homes and the families that care for them. In 2010, Brevard Family Partnership, the lead agency for child welfare in Brevard, became involved in the Quality Parenting Initiative (QPI), a national movement developed to ensure every child removed from a home due to abuse, neglect or abandonment is cared for by a foster family who provides skilled, nurturing parenting while helping the child maintain connections with their family. QPI recognizes that the traditional foster care "brand" or impression may not be perceived positively and could deter some families from considering this important role in our community; e.g., "Foster parents are only in it for the money," which by the way is completely erroneous. You don't get rich on \$15.00 a day, but by foster parenting you become richer in many other ways.

Brevard is fortunate to have many caring, dedicated foster parents in our system that go above and beyond every day. We're also fortunate to have great partnerships with our case management agencies, Children's Home Society of Florida and Devereux Florida and over 50 community service providers that train, license and support foster families. The goal of QPI is to ensure that all current and new parents receive the training, knowledge and skills to be a "quality" parent and a valued member of the team. QPI is an effort to rebrand foster care, not simply by changing a logo or an advertisement, but by changing the core elements underlying the brand, including: defining and articulating the expectations of caregivers;

professionalizing their roles as critical partners in the system of care; and aligning the system so that those goals can become a reality.

What has resulted in Brevard is a sea change in how foster parents are perceived with an emphasis on the important role they've assumed, not only in providing a safe place for a child to temporarily live but in actively participating in that child's life. Quality foster parents ensure children in their care remain in school, get to medical or therapeutic appointments, attend and participate in outings and activities that all children enjoy, and partner with the biological parents in achieving the goal of family reunification. As a result, we've seen children grow and excel in their out-of-home surroundings, we're seeing more education, medical and mental health and emotional issues addressed in timely manners, and we're seeing foster parents working in tandem with biological parents to help complete the latter's case plans and reunify their families.

#### Understanding and addressing child trauma

Unless one has lived through it, few can understand the trauma that is often associated with living in abusive or neglectful surroundings, especially as a child. Add removal from the homes and families they know and the psychological and emotional impact can be dramatic. To address that aspect of trauma, Brevard Family Partnership is launching its Trauma Informed Care & Positive Youth Development initiative, led by world renowned child development expert and Harvard graduate, Dr. Andrew Schneider-Muñoz. Dr. Muñoz is now the Chief Advancement Officer & Senior Research Scientist at BFP's newly established National Center for Innovation and Excellence. BFP also contracted with Lydia Joyner a successful, former Brevard County foster youth to help transform the local foster care system. Foster parents and all system of care partners are being trained to be attuned to and responsive to that trauma and are learning how to address, deal and respond more effectively to the needs of children and youth as they enter care.

In June, BFP and The National Center for Innovation and Excellence hosted a Trauma Informed Care summit at the Holiday Inn and Conference Center in Viera for social service and community sectors that have interaction with children in the system of care. Attendees included front-line caseworkers, executive and support staff from partner organizations and members education and healthcare. The event provided insights into recognizing and treating children and youth who have suffered trauma and featured several former foster youth who are nationally recognized for having rose to success in their chosen fields. In the coming months, additional training will be provided to key stakeholders and participants in the system of care. All of this is in an effort (*continued on Page 5*)



## Healthcare

### Health Care Committee Report

The Health Care Committee remained active during the summer and is preparing for a busy fall season. Efforts are currently centered on making information on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) available to the community and joining state LWV initiatives to encourage implementation of the Medicaid expansion section of the act in Florida. Enrollment in the online insurance exchanges begins on October 1<sup>st</sup> and if you are interested in learning more please contact a member of the committee or review information available on the following web sites:

<http://www.thefloridavoter.org/for-members/speakers-bureau>

<http://kff.org/health-reform/>

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

The committee is looking for venues to give presentations on the ACA, Insurance Exchanges and Medicaid Expansion so please let us know if you are part of a group that would like to know more. We also need help with contacting the local media and local Florida House and Senate representatives in regards to Medicaid Expansion. This is an important part of the ACA as it makes medical services available to families and individuals who do not qualify for insurance coverage through the insurance exchanges. The Florida legislature has decided not to expand Medicaid thus excluding low income, legally employed, state residents from health care services. This also means that tax paying Floridians are paying into a federal system that is providing Medicaid expansion funding in other states while similar services for Florida residents will be unavailable. The State LWV Health Care committee is working on partnering with other organizations to bring pressure to bear on the Florida legislature to call a special session to readdress the Medicaid Expansion issue.

**The committee meets at the Suntree library on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 16 September at 6:00 pm and all league members are invited to attend.**

Jo Shim

Health Care Committee

### 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.

## Crime Prevention Tip of the Week



From the Desk of **Sheriff Wayne Ivey**

### Credit Card Fraud

Credit Card Fraud is one of the fastest growing crimes in the country. A very common method used by criminals is to "Skim" the victims credit card using a wireless credit card reader. Once the card is "skimmed" it can be uploaded onto a computer and then downloaded onto the back of a different card to be utilized by the criminal. One of the most common places a credit card can be "skimmed" is at a restaurant where a small skimmer is used to capture the credit card information when the card is taken to pay.

We are a convenience driven society that is accustomed to sitting at a table and letting someone take our credit card from our sight.

To avoid becoming a victim, it is recommended as a preventative measure that you pay at the register with your credit card where it will not leave your sight. The next time you get ready to pay your bill please ask the server if you can pay at the register. This measure will not offend the service provider while allowing you to keep absolute control over your credit card, giving you the peace of mind that you have not just become credit card fraud's next victim.

Remember, the majority of waiters and waitresses are hard working good people who would never compromise your personal information, but all it takes is one and both your good credit and good name have been stolen!

### Speaker's Backgrounds continued from Page 1

Chuck is currently working with Dr. Bob Knight and Dr. Todd Kincaid on restoring the Wekiva River to its former health by addressing groundwater pollution in the Upper Floridan aquifer by a regional wastewater treatment facility. Organizing an educated, motivated core of speakers at public hearings is his prescription for the Natural Resources Committee's maximum impact on public policy.

In 2011 Aliko became the Executive Director of Environment Florida, a grassroots environmental advocacy organization working on both state and federal environmental policy. Recently, she became the Field Director for Florida's Water and Land Legacy, a largely volunteer-driving campaign to put a critical water and land conservation amendment on the ballot in 2014.





## Finance

**Doreen Archer – Chair**

### Let's talk money.

Have you ever wondered why our League needs to do fundraising?

Do you think that your dues should cover the League's expenses?

If so, may I present some clarification.

Your individual dues are \$50.00 per membership year. Of that, \$31.00 is sent to the League of Women Voters of the United States for the required PMP which is Per Member Payment or, if you will, your national dues. Of the remaining nineteen dollars, \$15.00 is sent to the League of Women Voters of Florida, for the state Per Member Payment (your state dues).

WHICH LEAVES A WHOPPING \$4.00 FOR ALL OUR LEAGUE'S EXPENSES. (or about four hundred or so dollars for the year.) In a future report, you will learn what National does with your \$31.00, but now let us look at some of our Space Coast League's budget items to see what must be done with your \$4.00.

A report of the expenses for the membership year April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013 was presented by our Treasurer at the Annual meeting.

The Incorporation fee, telephone, Post Office Box and the Web Hosting fee amounted to \$763.14.

Printing the VOTER, the postage permit and the mailing cost amounted to \$2225.54, of which \$800.00 was offset by underwriters recognized in the VOTER. For the current year we have a similar number of underwriters, whose donations are not tax-deductible.

Donations for the production of CONTACT are tax-deductible if these are payable to the League of Women Voters of Florida Education Fund. – LWVFEF.

CONTACT is considered an educational publication.

What is the difference in these donations, you might ask.

Our local Space Coast League is a 501(c)4 organization, and the work that we do (VOTER, informational meetings, etc) is considered advocacy based on issues. We do not pay any Federal taxes, but we are required to pay State sales tax on purchases, printing, etc. even including the restaurant bill for our luncheon meetings!

The Florida League has a fund that has a 501(c)3 designation. This is the LWVF ED. Fund, and in that fund, our League has an account, known as the Accrual fund. Anyone wishing to make a donation to the Space Coast League, for which they want a tax deduction, may do so, provided that the check is made to League of Women Voters of Florida Education Fund with LWV - Space Coast on the memo line. The check should still be

given or mailed to our Treasurer, who then forwards it. Our League can use these funds for specific purposes.

If you know of anyone, person or business, that might sponsor a VOTER for \$250.00 (not deductible) or who would maybe make a donation to the ED fund (tax deductible), please talk to them, or give their name and address to me, so that I may send a letter to them.

Thank you. I hope this information has been helpful to you.



*(continued from Page 3)*

to transform the way children in Brevard are cared for following experiences of abuse or neglect.

### **Kids just want to be kids**

At the end of May 2013 (the most current data available at the time of this writing) there were 237 youth in licensed out-of-home care, including foster and group homes. All of these children have one thing in common: they want to experience childhood or adolescence the same way others who live in their own homes do. In the past, extreme caution and fear of liability dominated the care of foster youth and greatly limited their ability to do many of things.

In April, Gov. Rick Scott signed House Bill 215, also known as the "Let Kids Be Kids Bill" that recognizes the importance of allowing children in foster care to take part in everyday activities, without the involvement of case managers, provider agencies or the court system. The "Reasonable and Prudent Parent" standard incorporated in the bill allows foster parents to give foster children permission to do daily, age appropriate activities such as joining a school athletic team or going to the beach with friends. The bill promotes the concept that all children deserve the opportunity to have a normal, family-like upbringing. The legislation is meant to empower caregivers to make decisions that focus on the health and safety of children while also boosting their emotional and developmental growth.

"Children in foster care deserve to be treated like any other kid in the state, and this new law will help to accomplish that," said bill sponsor, Representative Ben Albritton (R-56). Senate sponsor, Senator Nancy Detert (R-28) said, "In our quest to protect children in our care we have, in essence, bubble wrapped them and prevented them from leading normal lives. Under this new bill, foster care kids will still be protected but they won't be red flagged as 'foster care kids.' This bill will allow them to live a more normal life." Tanya Wilkins, Florida's Advocate for Foster Care and Adoption said, "These changes will allow foster parents to encourage sports and music, slumber parties or even part-time jobs – activities that build self-esteem, develop friendships and help define a child."



## International Relations

### Mary Nicolay – Chair

The International Relations Group will resume meeting on **September 10th from 1-3 pm at the Satellite Beach Library**. This group remains open to League members and the public. We study global issues in a non-threatening, non-partisan atmosphere. We meet once a month September thru January. February thru May, the group meets two times a month with materials provided by the Foreign Policy Association titled GREAT DECISIONS used as study guides.

The GREAT DECISIONS BOOKLETS, \$ 21.00, will be prepaid to avoid problems. Connie Hogarty has graciously agreed to accept these monies and will be ordering the materials the first of the coming year

**The following schedule of topics is for the remaining calendar year:**

September 10th, 2013, Rhoda Bosley will be leading the discussion on summer reading. Please note the attached list of books that will be reviewed.

October 8th, 2013, HUMAN SLAVERY, SELLING GIRLS, speaker to be announced.

November 4, 2013, CONFLICT RESOLUTION, guest speaker, Jane Wilson, USAID worker, lawyer, in Bosnia/Herzegovina. This will also be the TIMELY TOPIC meeting for the general membership

December 10th, 2013, the group will tour the RUTH FUNK MUSEUM on the Florida Tech campus

Please consider joining our stimulating discussions.

The following are Rhoda's suggested readings for the September meeting. Other book reviews are welcomed. ( I suggest reading SHOP CLASS AS SOULCRAFT by Mathew B. Crawford )

**1. The orphan master's son** by Adam Johnson

This is a novel which won the Pulitzer Prize for 2012 – it is set in North Korea where the author lived for a year to research the book. It is a chilling expose of NK society, written as a novel.

**2. The President's Club** by Nancy Gibbs & Michael Duffy

Everyone should read this enthralling book – behind the scenes of the relationships between US Presidents, especially after they have retired ; they can still give support & sometimes advice ( wanted or unwanted!) to the next, newest man in this lonely job. (Hoover to Bush 2)

**3. Foreign Policy begins at home** by Richard Haas

I heard of this new book on TV. I have not read it yet, but it may be very interesting.

These might seem a bit too serious, so for a lighter note:

**4. The first ladies detective agency** by Alexander McCall Smith

Set in Botswana – a delightful book, easy to read and funny – Mma Ramotswe is a special lady with a warm attitude to lift the spirits.

**Karen Raboin led our discussion on Humanitarian Intervention earlier in the year.**

**Humanitarian Intervention by Karen Raboin**

Since the days of the Holocaust, humanitarians have been working to find ways to protect people from mass killings (war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and other mass atrocity crimes. The words of “NEVER AGAIN” have run loudly through the years...but the development of a strategy is very difficult.

To protect people from mass killings, it is often necessary to challenge an independent nation. States (or nations) are considered SOVEREIGN. To intervene in a sovereign nation has historically meant the beginning of war.

The organization that seems the best suited to this task of intervention is the United Nations (UN). In 2005, the UN adopted a policy meant to protect populations from mass atrocities. It is called the **R2P- Responsibility to Protect**. The R2P states that if a government does not protect its citizens from mass atrocities, then the UN has a responsibility to do so.

In 2001 The ICISS (International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty) created procedures to be followed. The first principle is to find out as early as possible that a crisis is about to erupt.

The tools that the UN has adopted begin with **prevention**. This could be sending peacekeepers, sanctions, rewards, punishments and refugee camps.

When prevention fails, the next step is to react with stronger measures. This would include military actions but would begin with the least intrusive ones. War measures include air strikes, no-flight zones, refugee camps and finally all-out warfare with soldiers on the ground.

According to the ICISS, each intervention that requires military action must be followed by help in rebuilding the community. It should never be the goal to replace an existing government but to aid it in rebuilding a stronger, more protected citizenry.

Two of the most recent humanitarian crises have been in Libya and Syria. Deposing a leader is NOT a goal under the ICISS rules.

The UN Security Council is that body that decides whether or not to intervene. Russia and China have vetoed an intervention in Syria. There are other reasons for non-intervention in Syria. The opposition forces are not united in ideology, only in their goal to get rid of President Bashar al-Assad. The Syrian army has thousands of Russian-supplied sophisticated surface-to-surface missiles, anti-aircraft artillery and advanced radar. Syria's defense systems are located around densely populated cities and attacking them would cause massive collateral damage. The topography and geography are difficult, make it hard to defend a no-fly zone. Also an intervention (*continued on Page 7*)

*(International Relations continued from Page 6)* could unleash chemical warfare. Mostly there is not international consensus for outright war against Syria. Of course this story has yet to unfold...but the mass killings continue.

Let's think about a different type of intervention. Humanitarian Intervention is meant to save lives. Military interventions have a serious, moral, political and economic price. However, there are other ways to save lives at a much smaller cost. WE can save lives by funding public health programs in the developing world. We can save lives by aiding victims of natural disasters. WE can save lives by assisting refugees fleeing violent conflict.

Two million people die each year from vaccine-preventable diseases. Millions more die from easily treatable infectious diseases like malaria and infectious diarrhea. This is an annual total more than twice as large as the Rwandan genocide and more than 200 times the number of civilians who died in Kosovo.

In the words of one of hundreds of bloggers, Moishe writes "...If you want peace, end war. To do that you have to make a monumental investment in the un-glamorous day-to-day things that feed into wars: poverty, injustice, and prejudice...."



Anita Smith & Yvonne Hubbard



Tony Dutton, Linda Kyvik,  
Joe Shim & Barbara Dutton



Lee Brayton & Joann Jacobs



Ruth & David Schechter, Polly Cordell



Brigitte & David Sinton



Francis Clifford

**~September Calendar - Members welcome at all meetings~**

Wednesday, September 4 - Board Meeting at Suntree Library at 10:15 A.M.

Tuesday, September 10th - International Relations Meeting at Satellite Beach Library 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.

Rhoda Bosley leading discussion on summer reading. (see Page 6)

Monday, September 16th - Children's Committee at Suntree Library at 1:00 P.M.

Monday, September 16th - Health Committee at Suntree Library - 6 P.M.

Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup> - Timely Topics at Suntree Country Club "Florida's Water & Conservation Land Crisis" at 11:30 A.M.

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