



The Voter



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

Volume 38: No. 1

September-October 2018

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.

September Timely Topic

Review of the Ballot Amendments

There are many amendments on the ballot but don't be fooled or afraid!

This is a non-partisan event. The LWV does not endorse parties or candidates. However LWV will take a position on issues based on the outcome of studies completed and adopted as defined by LWV state and national procedures. We plan to share our positions and we are open to other points of view to be shared.

When: Saturday, September 22, 2018 at 11:30 am to 2 pm

Where: Suntree Country Club at
One Country Club Drive
Melbourne FL 32940

Menu: London Broil with a red wine mushroom sauce
Strawberry Salmon - pan seared with a strawberry and balsamic glaze.
Vegetarian Lasagna - Three cheese, spinach and carrots baked in a zesty marinara sauce.
Entrées served with a salad, chef's choice of potato and seasonal vegetables, coffee, tea and soft drinks.
A cash bar will be available.

Cost: \$22 for Members and \$25 for non members

Reservation Deadline is Saturday, September 15th.
However, reservation cancellations will be accepted only until September 13th.

Reservations can be made online at www.lwv-spacecoast.org (Meetings and Events) to register or members can call Doreen Archer with menu choice at 321-622-4071 or e-mail at doreenarcher1@gmail.com.

At the time of publication of this Voter, Amendment 8 (School Board Term Limits and Duties) was being challenged in the court for misleading wording.

Amendments that appear on the ballot require 60% to pass.

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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

Barbara Williams

Welcome Back from Summer Vacation

I hope everyone had a chance to beat the heat or relax and enjoy the heat, whichever you favor. My husband and I visited 11 National Parks and several National Monuments and State Parks this summer. Since I retired a couple of years ago, our nation's Parks have been a favorite get-away and every single one has been amazing, I could not pick a favorite. The parks are definitely a National treasure worth protecting. Which leads me to something else worth protecting, our democracy. Now that most of us are settling back in from summer adventures, it's time to focus on Making Democracy Work®, this is the campaign voted on at the LWVUS annual convention for League-wide focus. The LWVSC board has planned this season's events and our focus through the general election will be voter services. This includes education through candidate forums and events to cover the ballot amendments. We will continue youth voter registration and will be planning Poll Parties. I hope everyone gets to meet Sherry Jensen, our new Voter Services chair, she is doing an amazing job coordinating our voter services activities. Sherry stepped in after Susan Webb had to step down to support her family, so a big thank you to Sherry! The Voter Services chair is such an incredibly important position this election season and I want to encourage everyone to join in and support our efforts and the efforts of our other community organizations working to make our democracy work.

Let's go educate voters and get out the vote!

Barbara



2nd Vice President and Voter Services
Sherry Jensen

Voter Services is working hard this midterm election season to introduce Brevard County to its candidates. With our partners FLORIDA TODAY and Eastern Florida State College, LWVSC will host nine candidate forums and two ballot amendment discussions by the conclusion of the general election. All forums are broadcast live by WEFS-TV and both live streamed and archived at www.floridatoday.com. At the publication of this edition of The Voter, three upcoming forums and the ballot amendment discussions remain: Florida House of Representatives D50 on Sept. 12 at 7pm, followed by an amendment discussion at 8pm at the King Center, EFSC-Melbourne; Florida Senate D14 on Sept. 17 at 7pm, followed by an amendment discussion at 8pm at the Simpkins Center, EFSC-Cocoa; and US House of Representatives D8 on October 22 at 7pm at the Simpkins Center, EFSC-Cocoa.

Past forums include the races for School Board D1, D2 and D5; County Commission D2 and D4; and Florida House Districts 51 and 52, and can be viewed at www.floridatoday.com. Thank you to all of the LWVSC volunteers who have helped make the forums a success!

Voter Services, in partnership with the Education Committee, is excited to announce that we will have a presence in local high schools for National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday, September 25th. This will build on our efforts that last spring added 447 newly registered voters to the rolls from local high schools! To participate in this important event and other voter registration drives, all LWVSC members must complete the LWVSC Voter Registration Certification process. After reviewing brief training materials, completion of a short and simple online quiz will allow you to join us in our efforts to register voters! Please contact Sherry Jensen at sherrym@g.clemson.edu for access to the materials and quiz. Your certification remains active for two years after completion.

Finally, we are excited to host two Party at the Polls events as a part of the #VoteTogether initiative. The parties, one in North Brevard and one in South Brevard, will take place on Saturday, November 3rd at polling places during early voting for the general election. Two grants from Civic Nation will fund these parties with the goal of making civic engagement rooted in celebration and fun! Voter Services is still in the early stages of planning these events, but we envision parties with live music, food, family fun and more! If you have any contacts that would support our parties by donating supplies or food or providing entertainment of any type, please let us know.



- Thank you to all members who have renewed membership to League of Women Voters of the Space Coast. Those who have not renewed but would like to rejoin can renew on our website www.lwv-spacecoast.org or send a check to Brigitte Sinton at 6629 Canal Road, Melbourne Village, FL 32904. The check should be written to **LWV Space Coast**. If you have questions You can e-mail Brigitte at dfsinton@aol.com

Individual Membership is \$60.00

Household (2 individuals with same address) is \$85.00

Student - No charge until January 31, 2021

Susan B. Anthony Individual Membership is \$100.00

Susan B. Anthony Household Membership is \$125.00



Education

Fran Baer – Chair

The Education Committee cordially extends an invitation to all interested members to attend our monthly meetings. Eager to learn all we can, we have chosen to include speakers from the community whose specialties concern our Program of Work. These are informal presentations followed by informative questions, answers and discussion.

August 15th

Sky Beard, Executive Director, Early Learning Coalition of Brevard on services and needs for our youngest population.

September 12th

Paula Farrell, Resource Teacher, Brevard County Schools on mental health services for Brevard's students.

October 17th

Jackie Small, Elementary Guidance Counselor, Brevard Public Schools on the role of the School Guidance Counselor.

All three meetings are held at the Suntree Library beginning at 10a.m. and ending by 12:45p.m.

On November 14th

The committee will travel to the Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore Cultural Center in Mims for our meeting and a presentation.

Please come join us as we continue to support our students' education. Our futures depend on its quality.

For more information please contact Chairman Fran Baer at 321 543-2551 or fbaer@cfl.rr.com

Brevard County Charter Schools in 2018

by Laverne Bruffey & Lucia Watson

On Wednesday, July 18, we met with Stephanie Archer, Assistant Superintendent for Equity, Innovation and Choice, at BPS (Brevard Public Schools) headquarters in Viera. Stephanie's office is responsible for monitoring the financial health, curriculum, and student achievements of Brevard County charter schools.

Florida law established charter schools in 1996. All charter schools are public schools. They must be **non-profit**; however, charters may contract with a **for-profit** management company for various services. Several of our charters have service contracts with **for profit** management companies including Green Apple Management, Charter School Associates, and Imagine Schools. A new charter school planned for next year would have Academica, a large for profit Management Company based in Miami.

Each charter school's governing board has a contract with BPS and the board is responsible for day-

to-day operations. Charter school teachers must be certified in the subject they teach, however, administrators are not required to have the same credentials that are required in traditional public schools.

For the coming school year there are ten K-8 schools and two 9-12 schools. Pineapple Cove Classical Academy of West Melbourne is a new school opening in August, 2018 and Pineapple Cove Academy in Palm Bay will include 9-12 grade levels. For 2018 four charters received an A, two received a B, and five received a C. As of May 2018, there were 5,742 students attending charters in our county. That represents about 7.5 percent of total students in Brevard Public Schools. Of course, that results in traditional public schools receiving 7.5 percent less funding. For fiscal year 2016/17, more than \$39 million dollars were distributed to charters by BPS; including federal funds, primarily Title I. Title I Brevard charter schools include Emma Jewel, Imagine, Odyssey Preparatory, Odyssey Jr./Sr, Palm Bay Academy and Royal Palm.

When first approved the school receives a 5 year charter. If the charter school has received an A or B rating for 3 of 4 years, it is eligible for a renewal contract for up to 15 years. All of Brevard County charter schools require that students wear uniforms. The choice of clothing is determined by each school.

There are a variety of programs offered at Brevard County charter schools including Montessori, STEM, (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) STEAM, (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math), Classical and Green Programs. Charter schools are open to all students. However, each school has a certain capacity. Charter schools hold lotteries in early spring for incoming students. Like traditional public schools, priorities are given to families who already have a student enrolled and to employees who wish to enroll their children. When all the slots are filled, applicants are put on a waiting list. As charter schools must accept all eligible students, children who have Exceptional Student Services, Individual Education Plans (IEPS) may attend a charter school. An IEP team may decide that a student who has very specific services that may not be available in a charter schools would be enrolled at a feeder pattern traditional public school.

Charter.Tools is a software program that allows the charters to upload documents that BPS is responsible for monitoring. BPS makes two site visits per year to each charter. The fall visit is informal. The spring visit includes monitoring areas which are not uploaded to Charter.Tools. Charter Schools, like traditional public schools are subject to audits, such as financial, exceptional student education, and such.

(continued on Page 4 in second column)



Health Care Committee

Diane Conaway and Jo Shim

Co- Chairs

ACA Legislative Issues Summary

One of the major issues in the Health Care Committee's Program of Work is "Monitor and report on any changes to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and advocate for adequate health insurance coverage for all Floridians." Even though the committee has taken a short hiatus and will not be meeting again until September members have still been keeping up with recent changes.

Probably the most distressing news of the summer is what essentially amounts to a discontinuation of the ACA Navigator program. In the past, trained Navigators have been available, especially during open enrollment, to guide members of the public through selection of the most suitable and cost-effective insurance plans on the ACA marketplace. Funding for navigators has now been cut by 80% and we have already heard from the United Way that there will be no funding for a Brevard Navigator grant this year.

Another recent change is that insurers are now able to expand their use of short-term coverage plans that are cheaper and less comprehensive than Affordable Care Act (ACA) options. These plans will now be available for up to 36 months and are not required to include ACA benefits or consumer protections. The plans are also exempt from ACA protection limits on out-of-pocket expenses, set dollar limits for coverage, and can reject consumers due to pre-existing conditions. There is considerable concern that short-term plans will siphon off healthy people from the ACA Marketplace.

Finally, states now have the option to scale back essential health benefit (EHB) standards and risk adjustment payments. Essential health benefits were originally a signature part of the ACA that ensured all major health problems including emergency care, mental health treatment and preventive health screenings would be fully covered on all insurance plans. The option to weaken the risk adjustment program will result in reducing incentives for insurers to design plans that do not attract individuals with serious health needs. If states opt for these changes they would not go into effect until 2020.

Taken as a whole these changes seem to be a significant assault on the ACA. While there are still approximately 800,00 uninsured in the state of Florida it is disconcerting that those with insurance may be witnessing a slow decline in the quality of their coverage.

If you are interested in health care issues, please join us at our monthly meetings on the 3rd Monday of every month. Meetings will resume on Monday, September 17th - 6pm at the Suntree/Viera Library.



Education Article continued from Page 3

Charters must implement a scientifically based reading program. Every student must take the FSA (Florida Standards Assessment.) The school may amend their contract with BPS to change curricula. All curriculum expenditures must come from the charter's FTE budget.

Charters receive a proportional share of state money provided through Florida's School Safety Law enacted in 2018. BPS is not responsible for hardening charter school building or for hiring safety personnel.

When Campus Charter closed last year BPS collected all capital items such as furniture, fixtures and equipment. The building had been leased so real estate was no longer involved. After Campus Charter paid all of their bills a very small amount was returned to BPS.

On April 17, 2018, Legacy Charter was sent a ninety (90) day termination letter. In mid-August an administrative law judge will hear the case. There are multiple financial deficiencies that have been documented along with verifying teacher certification, compliance with curriculum and instruction, compliance for exceptional student education services and employee background screening. The School Board has the ultimate decision as to abide by the judge's decision or not. At the time of writing this article, the outcome on Legacy Charter had not been determined.



International Relations

Joyce Calese - Chair

After a summer break, the International Relations Group will meet in October, November and December and complete the study of the topics of 2018 Great Decisions. We meet at the Satellite Beach Library in the afternoon from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The public is invited.

Tuesday October 9 - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Topic is **Global Health Issues.**

Topic will be presented by Jo Shim. Jo's professional background was working with health issues in the world. Please join us.

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Natural Resources

Susan Little – Chair

Announcement of the Sept 13, 2018 meeting of the Natural Resource Meeting at the Suntree Library from 10:30 till noon? Our speaker will be **Sally Scalera** who is an Urban Horticulture Agent with the IFAS Extension in Brevard County. She is also a leader of the Master Gardner Classes that are given every year. **Her topic of discussion will be focused on healthy soils with tips for container gardens, vermicomposting, and using DIRT for carbon sequestration.** The meeting is open to the public but please RSVP on our Club Express Website www.lwv-spacecoast.org and click on the calendar to register, so that we will have enough handouts for all.

Florida's Polluted Water

by Maureen Rupe

I know everyone has seen and heard about the issues we have with pollution in the Indian River Lagoon. The entire state has been moving in this direction for a very long time. I read in a 06/20/18 opinion by Robert Knight titled "Florida's water laws have not been enforced" it described the remarkable characteristics of Florida, when he said, "Originally blessed with more than 1,200 miles of coastal shorelines, 20 million acres of freshwater wetlands, 7,700 lakes, 11,000 miles of streams, and at least 1,100 artesian springs, and their spring runs, the geography of Florida is about water." Robert Knight serves on the executive committee of the Florida Springs Council. His description sounds so amazing and I cannot understand how poorly we have treated this blessed place where we live. The editorial was overly concerned on the way Florida relies on Best Practices to protect our waters.

Robert Knight states "Now in 2018 it is painfully evident that Florida's water laws have not been enforced. FDEP reports that nearly 27,000 water body segments are not meeting standards. Red tide is killing fish and manatees off both coasts; guacamole-thick algal blooms are wreaking South Florida's natural resources economy; the Everglades, Florida Bay and the Florida Keys continue to be polluted by nutrient runoff; and thousands of Florida lakes, rivers and springs are officially impaired by excessive nutrient concentrations.

While water pollution results in great ecological and economic harm affecting everyone, the Florida Legislature, with the power to stop the downhill slide, is more responsive to the voices of agriculture and urban development than to concerned citizens. Fish and wildlife suffer the most, with declining populations due to loss of habitat."

The article also attacked Florida's Department of Environmental Protection's adoption of Basin

Management Action Plans (BMAP) for 24 of the largest springs that rely on Agriculture to use Best Practices to protect these springs to reduce nitrate nitrogen concentrations. It stated as an example Santa Fe Springs BMAP which did the same showed no reduction using these "Best Practices." The Florida Springs Council recommended "curtailing fertilizer use in "vulnerable karst areas by 80 to 90 percent." The editorial stated currently there are more than 1 billion pounds of nitrogen-containing fertilizer used per year in Florida's spring areas.

Ocala.com did a 07/31/18 editorial saying the same thing. Three years ago, DEP had set goals to reduce nitrate, and these Basin Management Plans are being challenged by a dozen individuals and groups around the state. Some of the challengers are from the Florida Homebuilders Association that say it's going to cost too much to put nitrogen-reducing septic systems that cost more. On the other hand, environmentalists are saying the BMAP doesn't go far enough, since these Agriculture Best Practices haven't reduced our water's contamination at all, let alone these arbitrary percentage levels.

Ocala.com stated DEP has put BMAPs on hold, but DEP says it is only tweaking the BMAPs, without seriously addressing nitrate pollution, or enforcement rules on yard fertilizer, septic tanks, or agriculture runoff, or our waters will continue to be imperiled and tainted.

Our economy, our health, and our quality of life now depends on what each of us do to save Florida.

Reference:

<http://www.gainesville.com/opinion/20180620/robert-knight-floridas-water-laws-have-not-been-enforced>
<https://www.cltampa.com/news-views/environment/article/20998738/water-pollution-florida-clean-air-act>



International Relations article continued from Page 4

Wednesday, November 7th - 12:30p.m. to 2:30p.m. at Satellite Beach Library (note slight change of day and time for this meeting)

Topic is **China's Geopolitics**

Topic will be presented by Sherry Jensen. Sherry and her husband recently returned from their 2nd trip to China.

Tuesday, December 11th - 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Satellite Beach Library

Topic is **Turkey: Partner in Crisis**

Topic will be presented by Molly Tasker. Molly has lived in foreign countries during her career as an attorney.

1st Vice President & 2nd Vice President for League of Women Voters of the Space Coast



**1st Vice President
Jo Shim MBA, MT (ASCP)**

Originally from the United Kingdom, Jo shim lived in South London prior to moving to the US. In the mid-seventies she spent three years living and teaching in Jamaica as a VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) volunteer. Following her move to the US, she enrolled in the Medical Technology program at the University of Central Florida and graduated in 1988 with a degree in Clinical Laboratory Science. Medical technology provided her with a very interesting career path and is the basis for many of her current advocacy interests. In 1994, Jo relocated with her husband to St. Croix in the US Virgin Islands. Once in the VI she took a position with the VI Department of Health working in HIV prevention and case management. Upon returning to Florida, she completed an MBA in Health Care Management, and worked at the Wuesthoff Reference Laboratory. Prior to her retirement in 2017, she was employed by Johns Hopkins University in an international program that provides support for clinical laboratories participating in US funded HIV and TB clinical trials.

Jo has always been a volunteer and an advocate, but it is only recently that she has been more interested in political advocacy. She currently serves on the LWV of the Space Coast Health Care Committee and in May of this year accepted the 1st Vice President position. Earlier this year she became the State chair of the LWV of Florida Reproductive Rights and Justice Action Team and was recently appointed to the City of Cocoa Sustainability Advisory Committee.



**2nd Vice President
Sherry Jensen**

A native of Kentucky, Sherry Jensen moved to Florida after completion of her PhD in Economics at Clemson University. Prior to her graduate studies, she worked in both the finance and automotive industries. Currently an Assistant Professor at Florida Institute of Technology, Sherry is passionate about teaching economics to both undergraduate and MBA students. She resides in Indialantic with her husband Matthew. Together they enjoy travel, both domestic and

international. Sherry loves to walk her dog, Morgan, and practice her new-found sport of rock climbing.



Keeping Up with the Latest through Social Media

The world of social media is very dynamic. Platforms like Facebook and Twitter became key in keeping up with the latest information, organizing events, and gathering support for a cause.

Our League has both a Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/LWVSpaceCoast>) and Twitter ([@LWVofSpaceCoast](https://twitter.com/LWVofSpaceCoast)) account and we currently have a group of five members helping generate content on social media.

I would like to invite **all committee chairs** to join this group and share information relevant to their committee and within their focus area with other members as well as the public in general. To participate in this group, use (or create) a Facebook account, like our page, and send us a message through the page indicating that you are a committee chair - please specify which committee, and are interested in contributing to the page.

I would also like to invite **all members** to like our Facebook page and follow us on Twitter if you have an account. That will keep you in the loop and will help us boost our online presence, reaching more people and bringing various topics we work on to your attention.

In an election year as important as this one, we must be connected and tuned in as much as we can. Please, join us online.

For the ones not familiar with Facebook or Twitter, we will be scheduling specific meetings to show the basics and go over questions you may have. Stay tuned!

If you have any questions, please contact me at Marcia@RecycleBrevard.org.

See you online,
Marcia Booth
Social Media Committee Chair



Please note that this Voter is for September and October. The next published Voter will be for November and December.

It will be published in late October.

League members will be receiving updates through e-mail. Please be alert for important news arriving in your e-mail box.



Help Make our Recycling Awards Even Better

Every year around this time, we start preparing for our annual League of Women Voters of the Space Coast Recycling Awards. We need to define a timeline, update forms, contact Brevard Public Schools and others involved, update our website, and so on. There is a lot to be done!

League members were invited in the past to take part in judging the work submitted and help us select awardees for the year. However, I would like to invite you to get involved in the whole process instead of just the selection part of judging projects.

The goal of the award is not only to recognize schools for their efforts, but also to raise awareness of the current situation and inspire them to do even more. We want to see all schools participate, but every year it is a struggle to get even a few to sign up.

This year, I would like to invite members to join me in getting things ready for the awards and putting our heads together to find ways to improve the process to help increase participation.

If you are interested in lending a hand and sharing some ideas, please contact me at Marcia@RecycleBrevard.org
Hope to hear from you soon!

Marcia Booth
Recycling Committee Chair

League Photos can be found on our website at www.lwv-spacecoast.org

On the menu under Get to Know Us is a link for Photo Albums

Calendar for September 2018

~Members are welcome at all meetings~

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday, Sept. 4 th | Board Meeting at Suntree Library 5:30 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. |
| Monday, Sept. 10 th | Local Government Committee Meeting at Suntree Library in small conference room
2 p.m. to 4 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Sept. 12 th | Education Committee Meeting at Suntree Library in small conference room
10:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Sept. 12 th | Candidate Forum - Florida House District 50 at Studio Theater, King Center Melbourne
Campus Eastern Florida State College, Melbourne, FL 32935 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. 8 p.m. is an
amendment discussion. |
| Thursday, Sept. 13 th | Natural Resource Committee Meeting at Suntree Library 10:30 a.m. to Noon. |
| Monday, Sept. 17 th | Health Care Committee Meeting at Suntree Library at 6 p.m. |
| Monday, Sept. 17 th | Candidate Forum for FL Senate Dist. 14 at Simpkins Center, Cocoa Campus Eastern Florida
State College 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. |
| Saturday, Sept. 22 nd | Timely Topic on the 2018 Ballot Amendments at Suntree Country Club 11:30 to 2 p.m. |
| Tuesday Sept. 25 th | National Voter Registration Day 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registering students at high schools in
Brevard County |
| Saturday, Sept. 29 th | Space Coast Pride Festival & Parade in Historic Eau Gallie in Melbourne, FL. LWV of the
Space Coast 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. |

(As additional dates of Meetings are known they will be posted on the calendar on the website.)

Issue Date: September 2018

League of Women Voters of the Space Coast - P.O. Box 360823, Melbourne, FL 32936-0823

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