

The Voter



The League of Women Voters of the Space Coast <u>www.lwv-spacecoast.org</u>

Volume 36: No. 8

April 2017

Misson: 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.

Two Important April Events

League of Women Voters Annual Meeting

Date: Saturday, April 8th

Place: Suntree Country Club at

One Country Club Drive, Melbourne, FL 32940

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with coffee for meeting and

election of Officers and Directors.

1 p.m. for Lunch

Menu: Deli Buffet with Variety of Salads, and Sliced Deli Tray with turkey, sliced ham, roast beef, Genoa salami, Swiss, Cheddar and Provolone cheeses, potato chips, deli breads & rolls, freshly brewed coffee, iced tea and soft drinks.

Reservations to Doreen Archer at 321-622-4071 or <u>doreenarcher1@gmail.com</u> by Thursday, March 30th.

Option 1 – Notify Doreen that you will only be attending the meeting. Option 2 – Notify Doreen that you will be attending the meeting and staying for the lunch. Cost of lunch is \$20.



"Celebrate the League" - April 27th

The Board of League of Women Voters of the Space Coast is hosting the 5th "Celebrate the League" and inviting all League members and friends who might be interested in joining League to a

Wine and Hors d'oeuvre Party.

This is an enjoyable social event. Camaraderie and long lasting

friendships are also benefits of League Membership.

When: Thursday, April 27th Time: 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: 115 River Drive River House 115 N. Indian River Drive,

Cocoa, FL 32922

The River House is located across the street from the 115 River Drive

Condominium. There is no cost.

Reservations to Doreen Archer at 321-622-4071 or doreenarcher1@gmail.com or you can make a reservation on www.lwv-spacecoast.org and click on Eventbrite option for "Celebrate the League". Deadline for reservations is Monday, April 24th.

in This issue	
President's Report	2
Voter Service	2
Local Government	3
Natural Resources	3
International Relations	4
In Memoriam	4
Biographies of New Board	5
Welcome New Members	5
Board Bytes	5
LWVSC Open Primary	
Consensus Report	6
Potiticos on Parade Photos	6
Calendar	7

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Diversity Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters of the Space Coast will promote in all aspects of the League's activities, a philosophy of inclusion that reflects the diverse composition and issues of the community.



For two years this column has attempted to focus our League on its mission of active, informed participation in government as we work to increase understanding and influence public policy issues through education and advocacy, in a nonpartisan, political forum.

Recognizing the importance of history to our mission, we have honored those leaders who have brought us to our present day. Some go back nearly one hundred years to suffragettes like Carrie Chapman Catt who breathed life into our organization and its mission.

Others honored in this column have been more recent, like Priscilla Griffith, whose service to our Space Coast League is legendary, raising us to the respected status which we pursue and must sustain in our community.

Today, this column comes with one last call as the leadership changes hands in our upcoming elections on April 8, 2017 at our annual membership meeting at Suntree Country Club beginning at 9:30 a.m.

That call is for continued action in the face of our changing world. It is our good fortune to have the leadership and energy to meet the challenges of responsive government, appropriate health care, healthful environment, comprehensive education, equitable justice, understandable international relations, adequate recycling, sensible gun safety, voter registration and our newest endeavor, women's issues.

Our committee chairpersons and their members are working diligently to study and address the issues critical to our very survival. Each and every member is needed to keep our mission alive.

At our general membership meeting April 8th, we will approve each committee's Program of Work developed by the committee members and presented by the Chairpersons. Progress is reported in The Voter each month with dates of committee meetings. Please follow these accounts and join a committee of your choosing to lend your ideas and energy.

We will also be approving the League's budget for the 2017-18 year. As you can see, there are so many reasons to attend and respond to this call for action.

On a very personal note, I write to you for the last time as President since my family has created a term limit which I must honor. It has been an incredible journey for me and I will always be grateful for the opportunity and the friendships within this remarkable organization of women and men dedicated to sustainable, credible action. Thank you all.

Fran Baer



Voter Service Tony Dutton - Chair FLORIDA VOTER REGISTRATION

UPDATE

Voter registration is one of the most important tasks of the League of Women Voters. But like almost all important matters, it is subject to certain rules. Voter registration applications may be submitted to certain government offices (mostly the County Supervisor of Elections) directly by the applicant, or they may be collected and submitted by a "Third Party Voter Registration Organization", a 3PVRO, that has been certified by the Division of Elections of the Florida State Department. The League of Women Voters of Florida (LWVF) is a 3PVRO. The Florida local Leagues operate under its authority.

Several years ago the Florida Secretary of State determined that certain local Leagues were not properly following the rules for gathering and submitting voter registration applications and threatened to cancel the right of the LWVF to be a 3PVRO. As a result the LWVF established procedures which every local League must follow when it does voter registrations. Those procedures include having each local League member who will register voters become "Certified" by successfully completing a LWVF Voter Registration Volunteer Quiz every two years.

The Certification requirement was first used four years ago, and records of local League members who are Certified to register voters are maintained by the LWVF. However, during the last year, because of the pressure of other business, the LWVF was unable to keep its Certification records up-to-date. Hence, it is requiring every local League member who may register voters to update her or his Certification by successfully completing the Voter Registration Volunteer Quiz on or after January 1, 2017. The new Certification will be valid for two years, through December 31, 2018. All of our Space Coast League members, especially new members, are urged to do so.

To take the quiz each member should:

- 1. Enter the LWVF website at"thefloridavoter.org";
 - 2. Click on "MEMBERS";
 - 3. Click on "REGISTER VOTERS";
- 4. Under "STEP 1", click on "View the League's guide for 2016 for conducting voter registration in Florida"; and
- 5. A simple 20-page PowerPoint will appear, with the Voter Registration Volunteer Quiz at its end.

The 12-question quiz is interesting and fun and may be taken repeatedly, if not passed the first time. (*Continued on Page 3*)



Voter Service Tony Dutton – Chair

(continued from Page 2)

Within minutes after completing the quiz each taker will receive on e-mail a certificate of completion.

We ask that a copy be forwarded to Sharon Reynolds-Mixon or Tony Dutton, our Voter Service leaders, at her or his e-mail address appearing in our Space Coast League Membership Book. If anyone needs any clarification, she or he may call Sharon or Tony at her or his phone number appearing in the book.



Local Government Ron Bobay Chair

The Local Government Committee has a priority to establish an Observer Corp during the current year. The co-chairs of this Committee have a good beginning with a number of volunteers to begin the process of observing the priority agencies, as well as, a number of additional agencies/municipalities. They have had their initial training with an additional makeup training scheduled. The purpose of the Observer Corp is to provide observation of Brevard governmental agencies at their Board meetings and workshops. A brief report form to the League Board will be provided monthly to help the League keep track of activities of interest to the League membership, as well as, assisting the agencies observed in communicating their message. If you have an interest in joining their efforts, please contact Sharon Mixon-Revnolds.

We need volunteers to staff a work group studying the role, responsibilities, and practicality of an Inspector General in County and Municipal government in Brevard County. Auditing and ethics responsibilities would be involved in the study group discussions. If you have an interest, contact Ron Bobay, Chair of the Local Government Committee.

We are also in the process of forming a work group to study Comprehensive Planning in Brevard County. This study will involve topics such as urban densities, balancing jobs, economic development, and quality of life. If you have an interest, contact Ron Bobay, Chair of Local Government Committee.

We also have a Sustainability work group that exists and would welcome new members. Contact Terry Mott if you have an interest.



Natural Resources Chair - Susan Little

Making State Parks Pay -by Maureen Rupe According to a couple of stories, Florida is trying to obtain some income on the side from our state parks. First, a March 1st Treasure coast story by Tyler Treadway, titled "Tree harvesting, cattle grazing at Savannas Preserver State Park?," claims "...nothing at Savannas Preserve State Park will be done just to make money...," but our Governor has stated our parks must cover their operating expenses, so any discussion tends to raise the eyebrows. The draft management plan "would allow for cattle grazing and timber harvesting." The Florida Department of Environmental Protection says "All money raised would be used for "future resource management actions." They also state cattle grazing is strictly to control invasive species, but "Cattle don't know a native plant from a nonnative," replied Diane Goldberg of Port St. Lucie and the St. Lucie County chapter of the Audubon Society. It must also be reported "Local environmentalists found some aspects of the plan they liked, including improvements to nature trails and kayak launches."

A second story on 88.5 WMNF by Sean Kinane, titled "Should logging be allowed in Myakka River State Park?," where WMNF News interviewed Jono Miller, an activist supporting Myakka River State Park. According to the interview, the draft management plan for this park, "...timber harvesting, fuel and stump harvesting, palm or palmetto frond harvesting. ..." would be allowed. Jono Miller stated "The thing that really piqued our interest was this palm frond harvesting. You know, Sean, there are legitimate reasons why park managers may need to, occasionally, remove pine trees or stumps. The stumps can damage equipment, but, there is no ecological benefit from cutting off the green fronds of our saw palmettos or our cabbage palm trees." "Currently, there's very little invasive plant problem there and this draft plan would allow the acreage to go up to 6% of the total amount of dry prairie and that could be over 800-acres of invasive plants and we can't understand why, when we have a pretty good situation now, we would allow it to deteriorate to over 800-acres of invasive plant species."

Having parks pay for themselves was never what Floridians pictured. Protecting the environment and providing public access is what we should be expecting and deserve.

(continued on Page 7)



International Relations Joyce Calese - Chair

April programs for International Relations are: April 11th – **Conflict in the South China Sea** led by Margee Smith and **Latin America's Political Pendulum** led by Diane Conaway.

Martha Bradshaw led our discussion in February on Trade Policy.

Trade Policy by Martha Bradshaw

One metric of a nation's economy is its balance of trade, the difference between imports and exports for a given time period. US exports show a deficit, or negative balance, when compared with the value of imports. Looking back to the time when goods production was local-to-local---produced solely within the country--some make the assumption that imports are always disadvantageous. Not taken into account are the number of jobs and contribution to productivity imports make. Now a global supply chain made possible by improvements in communication and transportation plays a vital role. Domestic manufacturers take advantage of components imported often from countries with less skilled and far less costly labor forces. According to the Wall Street Journal, about half the parts of a typical American car come from foreign sources.

American products are competitive with those from Asia and Europe because over 40 cents of each dollar's worth of components come from Mexico and 55 from China. In trade balance calculation, these externally produced intermediate goods are counted as imports even though they_ultimately are incorporated into products assembled and sold as American-made.

Most of the value of an iPhone is in research, design, engineering, materials, and transportation. Assembly in China contributes less than 4 percent of the manufacturing cost, yet the entire wholesale value is counted as a Chinese export to the US.

The Trump administration has threatened to impose tariffs on imports from Mexico. In that event, production will not necessarily return to the United States. Domestic automakers may shift production to other low-cost countries, resulting in several thousand US job losses. Volkswagen, Nissan, Honda, and Toyota also produce in Mexico for the US market. If they move production to their home countries, US parts makers will lose.

If the US imposes threatened tariffs of 45 percent on non-oil imports from China and 35 percent on Mexican, it is assumed those countries will retaliate with similar across the board tariffs, launching a full trade war. Inflation would likely follow rising import prices, and it is predicted that by 2019, employment would fall by 4.8 million private sector jobs, with highest losses in

nontrade service sectors--wholesale and retail sales, restaurants and health care. Other outcomes might be China's denying key components to supply chains, barring state-owned enterprises from doing business with the US, or not purchasing particular US products. US interests most likely to be harmed are Apple, Boeing, Nike, and auto manufacturers exporting to China, as well as soybean and corn producers.

Few economists believe that protectionism will return US manufacturing employment to previous levels. Automation, not trade, has been the cause of 85 percent of manufacturing job loss. Although there are fewer manufacturing jobs, US productivity rates and industrial output have been growing: fewer people are producing more goods.

Withdrawal from TPP and Changes in NAFTA

US participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership was for strategic reasons as well as economic. TPP would have provided US leadership in dealing with China's growing influence, reassuring allies in the region that the US was "fully anchored to the region." It was also intended to bring countries that had not respected intellectual property rights into conformity with Western-style rules and to improve standards of labor and environmental protection. Had China eventually joined, under TPP it too would have been required to meet the same standards.

Withdrawal from TPP is believed to have proven the US to be an unreliable negotiating partner and given China an opportunity to be the leader in the Pacific area. The 10 ASEAN members plus the six Free Trade Agreement (FTA) partners, Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, and South Korea are now discussing a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RECEP) with, due to China's influence, weaker labor and environmental standards and less protection for intellectual property. Asian countries will favor trade with others that are part of the deal, causing US export industries to lose market share, most likely to China.

With the possibility of US-imposed tariffs, Asian and Latin American countries are exploring new ties among themselves and elsewhere. Mexican businesses are developing backup plans, and Canada, which would be harmed by significant changes in NAFTA, has signed a free trade pact with Europe and is working on agreements with South American and Asian states.

In Memoriam Sue Mart

Sue was a long time active member and was still involved in the International Relations Group in 2016. Condolences to husband, **Bob Mart** who is also a League Member

Biographies of Officers who will be voted upon at April 8th Annual Meeting



Barbara Williams is nominated to be Co-President of LWVSC. Barbara Williams was born in Washington DC and raised in Maryland. She and her husband, Roger, moved to Brevard County Florida on St Patty's Day 29 years ago. She received a BS in Nutrition from

the University of Maryland, College Park and started her first career as a dietitian managing the foodservice for large nursing homes in Baltimore and Washington. After a few years she decided to change careers and went back to school to earn a computer science degree. She worked for Electronic Data Systems (while Ross Perot led the company and had everyone trained to "be an eagle") in Washington DC and Harrisburg, PA. After moving to Florida, she received an MS degree in computer science from FIT. She retired from Northrop Grumman in 2015. During her technical career, she supported test flights, briefed generals, led NATO and other software architecture teams. Her last position was department manager for an organization of over 200 engineers. Barbara joined the LWVSC in 2009 and since retirement she has been able to become a more active member.

Kathy Wall is nominated to be Co-President of LWVSC. Kathy's biography will be in the May Voter.



Sharon Reynolds Mixon is nominated to be 1st Vice President of LWVSC. Having grown up in Brevard, I have long-standing ties with this community. I was both educated here and served as a career

educator here. Over the years, I have volunteered as a Board member for the Satellite Beach Public Library, a speaker for the Children's Hunger Project, and an actress in many community theater productions.

I earned my BA at the University of Florida and my MLS at the University of South Florida, which prepared me to work with school libraries-hubs of democracy. Since joining our League in 2013, I have worked in facilitating a presentation on campaign finance reform, presented in support of the environmental protections of Amendment One, and orchestrated our new Observer Corps.

I believe in the importance of our League. Our activities improve our democracy by strengthening voter involvement. I would be honored to serve as your First Vice President and Voter Services Chair.



Audrey Grayson is nominated to be Secretary of LWVSC. Audrey Grayson has been an ardent volunteer since her arrival in Brevard County more than 20 years ago. She is on the board of

directors of the Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore Cultural Center in Mims Florida, leads several projects at her church and is a three-year member of the League of Women Voters Space Coast Chapter. She has served for several years as their Speaker's Bureau Chairperson.

She worked on the shuttle program in California and at Kennedy Space Center Florida for more than 20 years. Ms. Grayson retired from United Space Alliance in 2011. She owns her own photography business (Audrey Grayson's Mobile Photography, LLC). She is a freelance photographer and photojournalist. She holds a Bachelor in Arts from Pepperdine University located in Malibu California and Master's Degree in Computer Resources and Information Management from a local Webster University campus.

Ms. Grayson has two sons and 2 grandchildren. When she is not volunteering or writing or taking photographs, she relaxes with an audio historical novel.

Welcome to our New Members

Susan Arneson Kathy Freeman Denise Howland Margaret Anne Reeves Kim Kroflich Joy Morgan

We have 6 new members who have joined since our March Voter was printed. Addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of new members will be sent to you by e-mail.

You can add the information to your membership book that was published last summer.



Board Bytes

- Jacqueline Chandler is the new Chair of the Women's Issues Committee. You can contact Jacqueline at jchandler@iamproof.net if you would like to join or know more about this committee.
- Speaker's Bureau continues to present information to the community.
 Contact Audrey Grayson if a group in Brevard County would like to have a speaker.

League of Women Voters of the Space Coast Open Primary Consensus Report Results

League of Women Voters of the Space Coast held their Consensus Meeting on Saturday, March 4, 2017. Members received information on the Open Primary Study in the January, 2017 Voter and in e-mails that were sent to members. Twenty-one members participated in the Consensus Meeting. The purpose of the Open Primary Statewide Study is to answer the question: **Does our current Primary System hinder turnout?** The scope of the study was primary elections for Congress, State Legislature, Governor, other State Cabinet Officers and President. The study was extensive with 100 pages of the results that can be found on the state website, www.thefloridayoter.org

Printed below are the results from our League. Our results along with reports from other State League Consensus Meetings will be presented to the Florida League State Board.

Statement 1 - The Current primary system in Florida hinders voter turnout.

Agree X Disagree No Opinion

Comments: Had the wording been "may hinder" there would have been less discussion.

Statement 2 – NPAs (No Party Affiliation) and minor party voters deserve an opportunity to vote in all primary elections.

Agree X Disagree No Opinion

Comments: This generated a lot of discussion regarding the roles of parties.

Statement 3 – The primary system that would best serve the voters of Florida is: Rank order your top three 1 being your first choice.

1 – Instant Runoff Voter 2 – Open unaffiliated 3 – Open

Other choices were Closed and Top Two.

Comments: Good opportunity for the League to provide education on IRV to avoid confusion.

Statement 4 – The best election system for the Presidential Preference Primary would be which one of the following:

Closed **Open Unaffiliated X** Open

Comments: There was a lot of discussion due to role of parties. It was difficult to reach consensus.

Statement 5 – Threshold criteria should be established for write-in candidates to minimize political manipulation.

Agree X Disagree No Opinion

Comments: Preferred the wording "to mirror current requirements for announced candidates" rather than minimize political manipulation. This is a high priority.

6. Alone or in combination there are other factors that may improve voter turnout in Primaries. These are:

6A. Automatic registration of eligible voters at age 18 by an appropriate government agency.

Agree X Disagree No Opinion

Comments: Florida should be in alignment for Federal Motor Voter Act requiring notification of voter registration.

6B. Exclusive Vote by Mail

Agree Disagree No Opinion X

Comments: There were too many questions to come to consensus. There were a lot of questions about electronic mail voting, postage, matching signatures, etc.

6C. Make election voting portable with the county similar to early voting centers.

Agree Disagree No Opinion X

Comments: Could agree if there was no reduction in polling sites including precincts. Disagree if less voting locations.

6D. Statewide Election Day (same day) Registration

Agree X Disagree No Opinion

Additional Comments: Statements were too vague and did not state that local elections were included. Other than #5 and #6D the statements needed more clarification.



(Natural Resources Report continued from Page 3)

Reference: for article on Making State Parks Pay

http://www.tcpalm.com/story/news/local/indian-river-lagoon/health/2017/03/01/tree-harvesting-cattle-grazing-savannas-preserve-state-park/98590636/

http://www.wmnf.org/logging-myakka-river-state-park/

Lake Okeechobee Algae Alternative Waste of Money?

According to a March 2nd story in the Miami Herald by Mary Ellen Klas, titled "Sen. Negron goes to Washington; reports there will be no repayment for dike repair, no raising lake levels," the alternative fix by building up the dam for Lake Okeechobee, may not be a good solution to the Algae filled discharges we've had in the past. Senate President Joe Negron stated he had met with Florida's Senators, other Legislators, and the Army Corps of Engineers and found out a number of facts that should influence any decision on his and a "bill by Sen. David Simmons, R-Altamonte Springs, that would allow the state to provide an interest-free loan to the federal government to accelerate repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike in order to allow it to increase water storage in the lake."

- 1. If Florida gives money, it won't be reimbursed, so it replaces Federal Money with our state's money.
- 2. Levels won't be raised within Lake Okeechobee without a multiple year evaluation and won't be raised until that process is completed.
- 3. Letting discharges go south is already authorized, and just needs to know when and where. Big sugar and agriculture businesses might want to stop southern storage, but that is the best way to improve the Everglades and Lake Okeechobee discharges at the same time. Our representatives needs to stop fighting a southern solution for the sugar industry.

Reference:

http://miamiherald.typepad.com/nakedpolitics/2017/03/sen-negron-goes-to-washington-reports-there-will-be-no-repayment-for-dike-repair-no-raising-lake-lev.html

Politicos on Parade Photos Our models were:

Tina Descovich, Mindy Gibson, Karalyn Woulas, William Capote, Ed Martinez and Matt Susin











April Calendar - ~ Members are welcome at all meetings~

Tuesday, April 4th Board Meeting – Large Room at Suntree Library at 5:30 p.m.

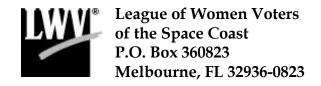
Saturday, April 8th
Tuesday, April 11th
Space Coast League Annual Meeting at Suntree Country Club at 9:30 a.m.
International Relations Meeting at Satellite Beach Library 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday, April 17th Health Committee Meeting at Suntree Library at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, April 25th
Thursday, April 27th
International Relations Meeting at Satellite Beach Library 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Local Government Committee Meeting at Suntree Library 10:15 to Noon.

Thursday, April 27th Celebrate the League Wine and Hors d'oeuvre Party at 115 N. Indian River Drive, Cocoa. (As additional dates of Committee Meetings are known they will be posted on member's calendar on the website.)

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



Men Are Welcome to Join LWV!

PLEASE CHECK YOUR INTERESTS

Education
Fund Raising/Finance
Health Issues
Hospitality/Events
International Relations Study Group
Justice
Legislative Action
Local Government/Observer Corps
Membership
Natural Resources
Publicity & Public Relations
Recycling
Social Media/Facebook
Speaker's Bureau
Telephone Committee
Voter Service
The Voter (monthly newsletter)
Website
Women's Issues

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Mail to: LWV Space Coast

6629 Canal Road

Melbourne Village, FL 32904

Name______

Address______

City/State_____

Zip_____

E-Mail Address_____

Phone______

New Member Returning Member

New Member_____ Returning Member_____

ANNUAL DUES

_____\$60.00 for Individual Membership _____\$85.00 for Household Membership _____\$25.00 for Student Membership