



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF COLLIER COUNTY**

**VOTER**

**April 2006**

**Volume 31 Issue 7**

**MONDAY—APRIL 17**

**Annual Meeting...10:30 am**

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting will take place at the Norris Center in Cambier Park. The annual meeting information; Proposed Budget, Proposed Program, Proposed Bylaw changes and Nominating Committee Report are included in this Voter for you to review before the meeting. This is a scripted meeting, which should move quickly so that we have time to socialize before lunch.

**General Meeting.....12:30 p.m.**

Mimi Gregory, president of the Naples Council on World Affairs, will speak on “Women’s Rights in the Middle East” at our afternoon meeting. Actively involved in international affairs for the past 25 years, she has been on “Leadership Missions” with the Council to Lebanon, Kuwait and Egypt. Mimi’s contributions to various French organizations were recognized in 1990 when she was knighted by the French Government as a “Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters.” During the 90s she devoted a great deal of energy to helping refugees of the Balkan War which took place in her ancestral home country, the former Yugoslavia.

Mimi has lived and worked in Paris and is currently president of the Bonita Springs chapter of the Alliance Francaise, an organization she founded and that has grown to more than 250 members. She has served as Vice President of the National Board of the Alliances Francaises in the United States for three consecutive terms; serves on the board of the World Affairs Council of Boston; and is a member of the Executive Committee of the National Board of World Affairs Councils of America.

Where: Norris Center, 8th St. Naples, opposite City Hall. When: April 17, 2006

Annual Meeting ... 10:30 a.m. ... Lunch 12 Noon... General Meeting 12:30 p.m.

Lunch cost is \$12.00. Reservation deadline is Noon, Friday, April 14. Call the League at 263-4656

Reservations must be honored or cancelled before the deadline.

**Membership Committee – 2005/2006 Annual Report**

We are pleased to report that 54 new members joined our League from April 1, 2005 through March 18, 2006, an increase of 49% over our 111 members at the beginning of the fiscal year. We had a net increase of 31 members after non-renewals, etc., bringing our current roster to 142 members. The importance of a strong, active membership cannot be over-emphasized – our members’ informed and active participation in government enables us to make a difference in our community! Happily, our newest members are starting to spread the word about the League’s good work and interesting meetings, and this is resulting in even more new members. We look forward to continuing to grow our membership, and to beginning to focus on membership retention, in the coming year.  
Sandy Parker, Chair

**President's Message**

It has been my honor and privilege to be the president of your League for the past two years. I thank a very active and supportive Board for the progress we have accomplished to make this League a vital organization in good financial condition. Best of luck to the new Board and officers.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Sandy Brown our Voters Service Chair who was injured in an automobile accident on her way home from a busy day of League activities.

Congratulations to the website committee! Our Education Fund has received a Professional Development Grant in the amount of \$1,980.00 to hire a consultant to develop a new and interactive website from the Collier County Community Foundation.

**Remember, "Democracy is NOT a spectator sport!"** Please do participate in our Action Alerts when you are requested to contact your legislator.

This is the final Voter of this "Season." Expect your next Voter in October. Please do look for new members as you enjoy a happy and safe summer.

Sincerely Yours In League,

*Sheilah Crowley*

**LWVCC Board Members**

President	Sheilah Crowley	261-5441
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President – Administration & Publicity	Jennifer Walker	793-6562
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Membership	Sandy Parker	513-1595
Secretary	Nancy Wolfe	566-7469
Treasurer	Marjorie Joder	597-6981
Hospitality	Nancy Wolfe	566-7469
Voters Service	Sandra Brown	348-1128
Natural Resources	Nicole Ryan	403-4220
Justice	Dr. Bernice Schmelz	455-4984
Education	Dr. Kathleen Ryan	593-7818
Government	Chris Straton	597-8849
International Relations	Alda Pierce	262-4708
Work Force Housing	Co Chairs: Kathleen Slobodnik	775-3491
	Chris Straton	597-8849

**LWVCC Off Board Members**

Social Policy	Ann Campbell	263-1755
Historian	Barbara Elliott	596-5049

**Hospitality Committee Annual Report**

Thanks to Janet Smith who handled our luncheon arrangements and reservations and our telephone committee for several years. She is relocating to Florence, Massachusetts and we wish her well. Thanks to Nancy Wolfe for graciously finishing the year for Janet. Thanks also to those LWVCC members who have helped her with her chores during that time: Elinor Bedell, Jane Lahy, Marilyn Bogen, Barbara Yaeger, Duffy Holland, Grace Crandall, Betty Rittgers, Carol McCann, Sandy Diamond and Susan Bookbinder.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Welcome, New Members:** A warm welcome is extended to the new members who joined our League since the last Voter was published:

Freyda Albin 910 Villa Florenza Dr. Naples, FL 34119 239-455-4326 <a href="mailto:falbin@swfla.rr.com">falbin@swfla.rr.com</a>	Diane Block 836 Regency Reserve Dr. #504 Naples, FL 34119 239-304-5953 <a href="mailto:dblock836@aol.com">dblock836@aol.com</a>	Audrey & Bill Demas 1325 7 <sup>th</sup> St. South -#6-C Naples, FL 34102 239-435-1880 <a href="mailto:seajaw2@aol.com">seajaw2@aol.com</a>
Patricia Doherty 1225 Sarah Jean Circle #102 Naples, FL 34110 239-566-3300 <a href="mailto:PatAnnDoherty@aol.com">PatAnnDoherty@aol.com</a>	Judie Grossman 103 Colonade Circle Naples, FL 34103 239-262-8860 <a href="mailto:judieg34103@yahoo.com">judieg34103@yahoo.com</a>	Ilene Leff 6639 Mangrove Way Naples, FL 34106 239-596-1169 <a href="mailto:ileneleff@aol.com">ileneleff@aol.com</a>
Myrna Levin 6573 Marissa Loop #1802 Naples, FL 34108 239-566-1886 <a href="mailto:myrna37@aol.com">myrna37@aol.com</a>	George Lopes 309 Goodlette Rd #206A Naples, FL 34102 239-435-9749	Jane Siegel 23721 Stonyriver Place Bonita Springs, FL 34135 239-947-7055 <a href="mailto:Plethora22@earthlink.net">Plethora22@earthlink.net</a>

**A Special Thank You To Members Referring Members:** Susan Bookbinder joined our League last June, having never participated in League before, and quickly became an involved, caring and active member. To share her enthusiasm, Susan invited a group of friends to a coffee in her home to learn about League. As a result, we thank Susan for four of this month's new members. We also thank **Trudy Weisberg**, who joined our League last September, and is responsible for another of our new members this month!



**Information Sessions for New and Prospective Members:** Our next get-together will be on Monday, April 10th, from 10 – 11:30am. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Sandy Parker, Membership Chair, 513-1595 or [parkfein@swfla.rr.com](mailto:parkfein@swfla.rr.com)

**Please Mark Changes In Your Membership Roster:**

Correction to zip code:

Passidomo	Kathy	<a href="#">34103</a>
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While the 2006-2007 membership roster will be available in the fall, a mid-year Roster is now available. Pick one up at the April 17 General Meeting, or contact Sandy Parker, Membership Chair, to make other arrangements.

## Report of the Nominating Committee for 2006-07

*In accordance with LWVCC Bylaws, the following slate of officers and directors is submitted for election by the membership at the Annual Meeting.*

### **Slate of Officers:**

Officers Nominated:

President	1 year term	Chris Straton
1st Vice President	1 year term	Sandy Parker
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	2 year term	Jen Walker
Treasurer	2 year term	Marjorie Joder

Completing the 2<sup>nd</sup> year for Nancy Wolfe:

Secretary	Jeannette Boucher
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### **Directors Nominated for a 2 year term:**

Nicole Ryan  
Susan Bookbinder  
Dr. Bernice Schmelz

Completing the second year for Dr. Kathleen Ryan:	Joyce Evans
Completing the second year for Chris Straton:	Nancy Wolfe
Continuing the second year of an elected term:	Kathleen Slebodnik

**Nominating Committee for 2007:** Ann Bleakley, Chair; Sheilah Crowley, Trudy Weisberg

Submitted by: Ann Campbell, Chair; Elinor Bedell, Ann Bleakley, Marjorie Joder, Chris Straton

## RECOMMENDED BYLAWS REVISION ARTICLE VI

***Sections to be deleted are printed in bold italics; new sections are underlined.***

Section 2. Dues: Annual dues shall be automatically adjusted whenever there is a change in the state or national dues. The amount for local use shall be set by members at the annual meeting and shall be payable October 31. Any member who fails to pay her or his dues by January 15 of the following calendar year shall be dropped from the membership rolls. Dues received from those joining after April 1 shall be credited to the amount due the following October 31. ***The dues for an Associate members (student members and second family members living in the same household) shall be on half of the regular dues.*** Dues for student members, for a second individual or family member who shares the same household and for Associate Members shall be one half of the regular members dues. Associate members are persons under 18 years of age, non-citizens, and members of other Leagues who are seasonal attendees of the LWVCC.

### League of Women Voters of Collier County Proposed Program for 2006-2007

*Sections to be deleted are printed in bold italics; new sections are underlined.*

#### EDUCATION

- Support measures to encourage high academic achievement, educational enrichment, equality of opportunity, and meaningful parent and community awareness and involvement in our schools.
- Monitor the school improvement program at all times.
- Support adequate funding for public education.
- Increase member awareness of challenges confronting Collier County schools and of achievements attained by the District.
- ***Study the question: Does Florida have a fair and reliable accountability system that measures the achievement of all students whose education is provided by public expenditure?***
- Actively support the inclusion of social studies in the curriculum.

#### GOVERNMENT

- Monitor the Collier County Growth Management **and Comprehensive Plans for Collier County and the City of Naples.** and report back to members.
- ***Monitor*** Observe every regularly scheduled Board of County Commissioners, County Planning Commission, and Metropolitan Planning Organization meetings **elected boards and councils and appointed advisory boards** for League visibility. **good government practices.**
- ***Study charter government.***
- Increase member knowledge and take action on national LWV legislative priorities.
- Increase member knowledge and take action on state LWV legislative priorities
- ***Study the question: Should Collier County institute a single district within the county for primary and general elections? The study would address the concept of allowing voters to vote at any voting center.***
- Initiate action to redistrict Collier County Commission and School Board Districts for 2008 election, redistricting to be based upon criteria established for independent non partisan commission and the residence of sitting Commissioners and School Board members.
- Develop questions to be raised by our coalition partner The Women's Network for Change with candidates for the upcoming elections, obtain responses, and communicate responses as a means of educating our members about candidate positions on issues of interest to League.
- Encourage attendance at Southwest Florida Legislative Delegation meeting at Florida Gulf Coast University and encourage participation of other regional Leagues.
- Increase member knowledge of the 5 Collier County Constitutional Officers and understanding of their roles, responsibilities and current issues.

#### HOUSING

- Support a strengthening of the programs of Collier County's general purposes government and the cities of Everglades City, Marco Island and Naples, to implement the goals, objectives, policies and programs of their respective comprehensive Growth Management Plan Housing Elements, by means of rigorous enforcement of their land development codes and applicable building, environmental, health and housing ordinances.
- Encourage the elimination of substandard housing in Collier County and its municipalities and support efforts by all local government units to ensure that owners of rental units maintain their properties in conformance with local codes and ordinances.
- Encourage timely enforcement of applicable codes and ordinances to ensure that rental properties are well maintained and that tenants are assured of safe, sanitary, living conditions.
- Support the development of safe, sanitary alternative housing for farm workers, low-income families and retired persons living on limited incomes.

- When appropriate, support public funding to construct below-market-rate housing for low and very low-income families.
- Support efforts to provide home-ownership opportunities for low-income families.
- Study the ***issue of workforce housing in Collier County***. range of existing and publicly and privately proposed initiatives to address the workforce housing needs of Collier County, the housing needs of those residents whose income is between 80% and 150% of the county's median income, as defined by the county.

#### INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- ***Study Monitor*** and evaluate how the United States is promoting peace in an interdependent world by strengthening international organizations and fostering long term development, with an emphasis on humanitarian policies as presented by LWVUS.
- Maintain a keen awareness of the major world events and stand prepared to respond to appropriate "Action Alerts."

#### JUSTICE

- Monitor the operation of the adult and juvenile criminal systems in Collier County, including court functions, sentencing practices and detention facilities. Place particular emphasis on rehabilitation programs and alternatives to incarceration for appropriate adult and juvenile offenders in Collier County.
- Support programs for those who have been court-referred and who need continuing care and help for substance abuse.
- Monitor ***the operation of the Sheriff's DRILL Camp, including the aftercare component*** the development of the new prevention services unit of the Collier County Sheriff's Office.
- Monitor the operations of the Collier County Juvenile Detention Center and Assessment Center (JAC), with particular emphasis on the ***Assessment Center JAC.***
- Participate in the work of the Juvenile Justice Council including the JAC and the Substance Abuse Coalition.
- Support the PACE (Practical Awareness Cultural Education) Center program for girls.
- Monitor and participate in local task force's activities to curb human trafficking.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES

- Monitor and comment on amendments/revisions to both the Collier County and City of Naples Comprehensive Plans and Land Development Regulations that affect our natural resources.
- Monitor various Collier County and Naples City Boards and Committees that are concerned with natural resource issues.
- Support measures that link land use and water use planning.
- Monitor the progress of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan and continue participation in Everglades Restoration through the Everglades Coalition.
- Support the City of Naples Land Trust efforts to preserve green-space.
- Encourage and participate in Conservation Collier, Collier County's land acquisition program.

#### SOCIAL POLICY

- Monitor and support local efforts to provide basic health care to those in all age groups not otherwise covered.
- Monitor and promote programs for Collier County schools that provide comprehensive health education, health services and a safe healthy environment.
- Monitor the privatization of the Department of Children and Families as it affects children in Collier County.
- Support measures to provide adequate living and working conditions in Collier County.
- Monitor and support implementation of quality Universal Pre-K programs in Collier County.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLLIER COUNTY EDUCATION FUND  
PROPOSED PROGRAM 2006-2007**

**VOTER SERVICE**

- Continue efforts to educate the community on voting and assist with voter education.
- Support the National Voter Registration Act and assist in its local implementation.
- Sponsor televised candidate forums as appropriate.
- Continue to co-sponsor "Know Your Community Government Teen Program" with 4-H and Collier County public schools.
- Prepare a new Voter's Guide following the General Election.
  - Participate in the Democracy Network (DNet) project.
  - Provide voter registration and pre-registration information to all Collier high school 17 and 18 year old students.

**Voter Service Annual Report**

This past year Voter Service has been involved with registering and educating voters. The upcoming election dates for Collier County and registration dates were provided in the VOTER. We continued to distribute our Voters Guides throughout the community.

Information was shared on the inequity of our local districts due to population growth in districts 3 and 5 was also in our VOTER.

A successful Naples City Council Candidate Forum was televised multiple times to the community. We have cooperated with the Supervisor of Elections and are currently preparing to help with registration in the area high schools. Know Your County Government again had a successful 27<sup>th</sup> year thanks to our very able members, Ann Campbell, Denny and Duffy Holland and Chet Rivel.

Chris Straton, Government Chair, and I volunteered to serve on the FL LWV Alternate Voting Study.

Our activities generated some positive publicity and I thank Sheilah for her support and backing these past two years.

Sandra Brown, Voter Service

**LWVCC Website Redesign Update**

The Community Foundation of Collier County has awarded our League's Education Fund a Professional Development grant of \$1,980.00 to help pay for a consultant to develop our new and interactive website. This grant enabled us to retain Exploritech, a Naples-based website design firm, whose development of our new Home Page is already underway. We will notify our members by email when the new website becomes available in the spring.

Online Roster: One of the many advantages of the new website is that members will be able to update their contact information (address, phone number, and email address) online through a password-protected portion of the website. Members will also be able to access each other's contact information in this online Roster, in the same way they look up this information in their paper Rosters today. Members who would prefer not to be listed in the online roster should notify Sandy Parker (513-1595 or [parkfein@swfla.rr.com](mailto:parkfein@swfla.rr.com)) before April 15th.

Sandy Parker, Website Committee Chair

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLLIER COUNTY  
GENERAL FUND - PROPOSED BUDGET 4/01/06-3/31/07**

	BUDGET 2005-06	ESTIMATED ACTUAL 05/06	PROPOSED 2006-2007
<u>REVENUE</u>			
1. DUES	\$6,960	\$7,920	\$8,000
2. CONTRIBUTIONS	1,517	2,123	1,405
3. LUNCHEONS	2,520	2,515	2,520
4. BANK INTEREST	10	10	10
5. TOTAL REVENUE	\$11,007	\$12,568	\$11,935
 <u>EXPENSES</u>			
6. RENT-STORAGE	\$ 1,080	\$708	\$600
7. TELEPHONE	300	230	250
8. P. O. BOX RENT	20	20	20
9. SUPPLIES	150	51	140
10. ADMINISTRATIVE POSTAGE	100	92	180
11. INSURANCE	550	527	550
12. STATE FILING FEE	62	61	61
13. MEMBERSHIP	150	180	200
14. ROSTER	0	0	150
15. CONVENTION/COUNCIL	400	438	500
16. SEMINARS/CONFERENCES	400	405	675
17. VOTER PRINTING	1,000	910	750
18. VOTER BULK POSTAGE	400	350	400
19. NATIONAL DUES	2,500	2,441	2,965
20. STATE DUES	1,510	1,339	1,586
21. COALITION DUES	50	50	50
22. LWV OF FL-LOBBY FUND	200	200	200
23. LUNCHEONS AND ROOM	2,135	1,764	1,988
24. WEBSITE/OPERATIONS EXP.	0	0	670
25. TOTAL EXPENSE	\$11,007	\$9,766	\$11,935
26. ANTICIPATED SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		\$2,802	
27. CONTRIBUTION TO ED FUND		( 2,500)	
28. ANTICIPATED SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		\$ 302	
29. RETAINED SURPLUS BEGINNING OF YEAR		8,798	
30. ANTICIPATED SURPLUS END OF YEAR		\$9,100	\$ 9,100

NOTE: A MINIMUM SURPLUS OF \$8,000 IS NECESSARY TO COVER STATE AND NATIONAL DUES AND OPERATING EXPENSE FROM APRIL TO SEPTEMBER WHEN WE BILL DUES AND TO COVER BUDGETED CONTRIBUTIONS IF NOT RECEIVED.

Submitted by the Budget Committee: Sandy Parker, chair; members: Jeannette Boucher, Marjorie Joder and Chris Straton.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLLIER COUNTY PROPOSED BUDGET -  
EDUCATION FUND 4/1/06 TO 3/31/07**

	BUDGET 2005-06	ESTIMATED ACTUAL 05-06	PROPOSED 2006-2007
<b>REVENUE</b>			
1. CONTRIBUTIONS	\$3,050	\$2,444	\$ 712
2. ADOPT A PRECINCT	0	0	3,200
3. COMMUNITY FND GRANT	0	0	1,980
4. BANK INTEREST	12	2	0
5. CONTRIBUTION/GENERAL FD	0	2,500	0
6. FUND RAISING	0	120	0
7. WEB FUND DONATIONS	0	706	0
8. TOTAL REVENUE	\$3,062	\$5,772	\$5,892
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>			
9. STORAGE RENT	\$1,080	\$708	\$600
10. TELEPHONE	300	230	250
11. SUPPLIES	100	0	0
12. ADMINISTRATIVE POSTAGE	0	0	100
13. INSURANCE	500	528	550
14. STATE FILING FEE	62	61	62
15. P. O. BOX RENT	20	20	20
16. NATL CONVENTION/COUNCIL	400	438	2,000
17. VOTERS SERVICES	100	60	100
18. VOTER'S GUIDE PRODUCTION	500	0	1,000
19. WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT	0	0	2,640
20. WEB SITE MANAGEMENT	0	0	70
21. TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,062	\$2,045	\$7,392
22. ANTICIPATED SURPLUS (DEFICIT)		\$3,727	(\$1,500)
23. RETAINED SURPLUS BEGINNING OF YEAR		1,309	5,036
24. ANTICIPATED SURPLUS END OF YEAR		\$5,036	\$3,536

NOTE: A MINIMUM SURPLUS OF \$3,000 IS NECESSARY TO COVER KNOWN OPERATING EXPENSES IN THE EVENT ANTICIPATED CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NOT RECEIVED AND OTHER SOURCES OF REVENUE ARE NOT AVAILABLE IN A PARTICULAR YEAR.

Submitted by the Budget Committee: Sandy Parker, chair; members: Jeannette Boucher, Marjorie Joder and Chris Straton.

### **Education Committee Annual Report**

The education committee continued to monitor the actions of the Collier County School Board and the State legislature regarding education issues. The League supports measures that encourage high academic achievement, educational enrichment, equality of opportunity, and meaningful parent and community awareness and involvement in the schools. The committee aims to increase member awareness of both the challenges facing the Collier County School Board and its achievements. The League also supports the inclusion of social studies in the curriculum for all students.  
Kathy Ryan, Chair

### **Government Committee Annual Report**

The Government Committee conducted Government 101 which was a 2 ½ day opportunity to meet with the Constitutional Officers, Board of County Commission and state and federal legislative aides. Two Government 101-Short Courses were also conducted. Members were provided with a detailed explanation of the Collier County transportation plan for the next 25 years. We also had the opportunity to learn about Florida's Sunshine Laws and how it affected membership on Commissioner appointed committees. We initiated a Book Discussion Group, attended the Collier County Legislative Delegation, continued our involvement with Action Alerts at the State and National Level, attended the Southwest Florida Regional Delegation Forum at FGCU, conducted a Lobbying Workshop for our members and hosted a Transportation General Meeting. League participants included Ann Allen, Susan Bookbinder, Sandra Brown, Sheilah Crowley, Joyce Evans, Nancy Kahn, Linda Olbrych, Sandy Parker, Kathy Ryan, Gladys Warshauer, Trudy Weisberg, Stephen Weisberg, Nancy White, and Nancy Wolfe. In partnership with the Social Policy and Justice Committee we have begun the study of Homeland Security in Collier County.  
Chris Straton, chair

### **Justice Committee Annual Report**

The Justice Committee has focused on juvenile issues this year. In addition to visiting the Juvenile Detention and Assessment Center and learning about their assessment and screening tools, members heard about juvenile probation, the work of the Gang Unit and the Delinquency Prevention and Enforcement Bureau of the Sheriff's Office, and the newly formed Substance Abuse Coalition of Collier County, Inc. The Committee was concerned to learn about the high recidivism rate for early D.R.I.L.L. graduates, which resulted in the closing of D.R.I.L.L. in December 2005. However, we are encouraged by the ground breaking of a new PACE Center for Girls, which will be able to serve 80 girls, and by the new Services/ Mental Health initiatives of the Sheriff's Office that will be available to both arrested and non-arrested youth 8-18. We are also encouraged by the plan to open a 24/7 residential drug treatment program for juveniles at the former D.R.I.L.L. site. These activities are consistent with the Florida League's Juvenile justice position which is "... a juvenile justice system that encourages diversion and recognizes the special concerns of children and their families."

The committee has also maintained its interest in the work of the Coalition Against Human Trafficking and joined the Government Committee in visiting the new jail.

We thank members Ann Allen, Barbara Bartlett, Ann Campbell, Christine Greider, Renee Hansen, and Duffy Holland who monitor and participate in the activities of various justice related agencies and coalitions in the community and always have the welcome map out for new committee members.

Bernice A. Schmelz, chair

### **Housing Committee Annual Report**

League has strong positions regarding housing for very low and low income households. We discovered, however, that these positions did not address the serious housing crisis in Collier County for households with incomes above poverty levels but unable to afford market rate homes. This is the level we have termed gap housing.

This year our committee began a study to list options available in the private and public sectors, learn what other communities have done, and develop criteria to evaluate the various solutions that address the housing situation.

Committee members are: Chris Straton, Joyce Evans, Sandy Parker, Marjorie Joder, Sheilah Crowley, Bonnie Michaels, and Kathy Ryan.

Kathleen Slebodnik, Chair

### **Social Policy Committee Annual Report**

We began our monthly committee meetings in November with a report on the local Red Cross response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma by resident experts Ann Bleakley and Pat Lawrence. We continued with the disaster response/Homeland Security theme in December with Judith Nuland of the Collier County Health Department. In January, Don Williams of the Mental Health Association of Collier County addressed the mental health needs of hurricane victims along with the many education and prevention services provided by his agency. We revisited Universal Pre-K and quality child care services in February with a presentation by Jean Mekeel of Step By Step. In March, the subject was "Meeting the Health Care Needs of the Underserved in Collier County" with a most informative presentation by Dr. Keith Riley, Medical Director of Collier Health Services, Inc. (CHSI), and the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile.

Dr. Riley came to Collier as the first public health dentist in 1965 when the permanent population was 3,800 and there were 10,000 migrant indigent children; now there are 40-50 thousand. Dr. Riley says that the needs are the same, just more people! He spoke of the services provided by CHSI throughout the county including Horizon Primary Care Center in Golden Gate, the only one for indigents in the county. The needs are great and the problems dizzying! (Too many to include here.) We will be watching the progress of the exciting new program involving groups of FSU medical students who will be coming to Immokalee for training.

At our final meeting on Wednesday, April 12, we will return to emergency response issues with Collier County Emergency Management Director Dan Summers and Emergency Medical Services Director Jeff Page. As always, the breakfast meetings are at Crissy's Wildside Café at 8:00 a.m. with a cost of \$8.50. Contact Ann Campbell at 263-1755 or email [acamp1082@aol.com](mailto:acamp1082@aol.com). if you would like to attend.

I would like to acknowledge the loyal participation of Social Policy Committee members: *Ann Bleakley, Jeannette Boucher, Sheilah Crowley, Barbara Elliott, Judith Gartner, Tammie Golden, Renee Hansen, Susan Bookbinder, Gail Maiocca, Pat Lawrence, Lillian Lopes, Louise Porter, Dee Senft, Nancy Wolfe, and Barbara Yeager.*

Ann Campbell, Chair

### **Natural Resources Committee Annual Report**

The past six months have seen a wide variety of environmental issues in the news - locally, regionally and nationally. The following issues were of primary focus for Natural Resources during the past year.

#### **Defense of the Endangered Species Act**

Last fall, Congressman Richard Pombo (CA) introduced a bill (HR 3824 – the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act of 2005) in the House that would have seriously weakened the Endangered Species Act. Our local League voiced concerns over this Legislation. Unfortunately, it was quickly passed through the House and approved. The Senate is now taking up the issues and the results seem uncertain at this time. While a comprehensive look at the Endangered Species Act is likely overdue, the result should be a comprehensive plan for listed species protection and recovery, not the systematic dismantling of the Act. In order to provide for recovery and the protection of habitat for listed species, the Senate will likely need to start from scratch on a reauthorization bill. We will wait to see....

#### **Water Woes**

It seems that 2005 was a year of tremendous water problems, which are continuing into 2006. Red tide blooms are occurring in a pattern considered by some to be more frequent, of longer duration and more damaging than ever before. In addition, blue-green algae has been plaguing our inland waterways to the north in Lee County. With the continued discharge of waters from Lake Okeechobee through the Caloosahatchee River, there are serious questions being asked by many, including the Lee County Board of County Commissioners, as to what our South Florida Water Management District intends to do to protect water quality. Again, we wait to see....

#### **Southwest Florida Basin Rule Challenge**

Our League chapter sent a letter to the South Florida Water Management District in support of creating a new set of rule for water treatment on new development project in Southwest Florida. This new rule has been in the works for many months and has been discussed in numerous stakeholder meetings. The hope is that a new standard, or rule, will be drafted to set the criteria for water treatment and management in new residential development projects. At this time, the District and the stakeholders are still working on moving the draft rule through the rule-making process. We are hopeful that this standard will be the model for statewide water quality in the future.

#### **Everglades Coalition**

Continued advocacy for restoration and constant vigilance for securing water for nature first was the reiterated theme for this year's Coalition meeting. While this is not a new theme, the Everglades Coalition Conference was a great opportunity to become reinvigorated. While the conference had an overall upbeat feel, there is still tremendous concern on the part of many environmental groups that land acquisition south of Lake Okeechobee in the sugar farming areas needs to be a more central focus in order to ensure that restoration of the Everglades is successful. Restoring the flow of water south of the lake cannot occur if there are sprawling subdivisions on former sugar fields. Another concern is there is no completed contingency plan if Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) technology - the concept of injecting water into the ground to be withdrawn later - does not work as intended for storing the necessary water for restoration.

As you can see from the synopsis of these issue, there is still much to be done, and much to advocate for. If you have any questions on the above issues, please give me a call at (239) 403-4220.

Nicole Ryan, chair

### Justice Committee Meeting

Mon., March 13 the Justice Committee met with The Honorable Lauren Brodie to learn about the newly formed Juvenile Substance Abuse Coalition, whose mission is education, detection, and prevention of substance abuse among juveniles. It represents the merger of three former groups and is presently housed in the Administration Center of Collier County Schools, with a hotline to the David Lawrence Center. The emphasis this first year is on public awareness. The Coalition plans to have booths at school Open Houses to educate the public about the existence of the Coalition and its goals. The National Guard provided training sessions for the staff. A search is presently being conducted for an Executive Director of the Coalition, and a grant writer, Barry Williams, has been hired and housed in an executive suite with a phone.

The Department of Juvenile Justice is creating a day treatment center and a live-in substance abuse treatment center at the former Drill Academy. 85% of juvenile arrests are drug related. Every third day a child goes to an emergency room for treatment of a drug overdose. Despite the prevalence of juvenile substance abuse, the schools provide only one health class to address this serious topic.

Judge Brodie took us through the court processing of juvenile offenders, beginning with their arraignment, the appointment of a public defender if necessary, the requirement that an adult must accompany the juvenile to court, the requirement of parental involvement which may be court ordered under threat of arrest if necessary, and the paucity of diversion programs, which results in Collier County having the highest juvenile commitment rate in Florida. Judge Brodie spoke of some of the many problems confronting the juvenile justice system, such as having only one Creole-speaking deputy despite the increasing Haitian population.

Ann Allen (For Bernice Schmelz, Justice Committee Chair)

### Inside the Beltway

Following is a sample of activities at our national headquarters. For more information you can go to [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

#### **Do Not Vote to Gut the Campaign Finance Laws** - Mar 10, 2006

*The LWWUS and other national reform organizations urged members of the House of Representatives to support H.R.4900, the "Internet Free Speech Protection Act of 2006," and oppose H.R. 1606, which would open huge soft money loopholes in the campaign finance laws.*

#### **Oppose Any Effort to Strike or Weaken the Disclosure Provision for Grassroots Lobbying in Lobby Reform Legislation** - Mar 08, 2006

*The LWWUS and other national reform groups urged members of the U.S. Senate to support the provision for disclosure of grassroots lobbying campaigns in S. 2128, the Lobbying Transparency and Accountability Act of 2005.*

#### **Support Lobby Reform Legislation** - Mar 07, 2006

*The LWWUS and other national reform groups sent a letter to the U.S. Senate urging support for lobby reform legislation that effectively addresses the issues of enforcement, travel, disclosure, the revolving door and gifts.*

#### **Oppose H.R. 1606 and Support the Center for Democracy and Technology's Proposal** - Mar 06, 2006

*The LWWUS and other national reform groups sent a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives urging opposition to H.R. 1606, which would grant an exemption for Internet communications from campaign finance laws, and supporting an alternative approach by the Center for Democracy and Technology.*

League of Women Voters of Collier County  
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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

<b>LWVCC Board Meeting</b>	Monday, April 3	Noon	River Park Community Center
<b>New Member Meeting</b>	Monday, April 10	10 a.m.	Page 3
<b>Social Policy Committee</b>	Wednesday, April 12	8 a.m.	Crissy's Wildside Café, Page 11
<b>Annual Meeting</b>	Monday, April 17	10:30 a.m.	Norris Center, Page 1
<b>General Meeting</b>	Monday, April 17	12:30 p.m.	Norris Center, Page 1

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