



Collier County VOTER

Vol. 26, No. 8

League of Women Voters of Collier County

March 2001

*General Meeting, Monday, March 19, 2001
Norris Room - The Depot*

**** 10:30 a.m. - Lively League**

The Re-Unification of Korea

Donald J. Healey - C.I.A., Ret.

12:00 p.m. - Luncheon (see note on back page)

12:30 p.m. - Program

RUSSIA: STATE AND SOCIETY

Dennis P. Vasey - Colonel, U.S. Army Ret.

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Note: Lunch reservations are \$12, which includes the program. Call Miriam Kalett at 435-9040 by 3/16. Program only is \$3. Members making reservations are responsible for the reservation unless it is canceled by 3/16.

The League of Women Voters of Collier County, is a nonpartisan political organization, encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government through education and advocacy.

The Collier County VOTER is published monthly, October through May

**** As a courtesy to our speakers, please arrive at 10:30 a.m. for a timely start**

President's Message

Dear League members,

March is a busy time for many reasons! Be sure and check your League calendar so as not to miss the many interesting events taking place. Our legislative questionnaires have gone out and several Collier county Leaguers will represent us in Tallahassee for the Legislative Seminar the 25, 26, 27th of March. If any of you are interested in going to Tallahassee, please talk to Pat or to me about it right away!

The Election Resources Committee is very interesting! The committee is made up of the following: Jennifer Edwards, Supervisor of Elections; Alda Pierce, Pres. of LWVCC; Mike Carr, Collier Republican Chair; Chuck Mohlke, Collier Democratic Chair; and Wade Keller, Chair of the Libertarian Party the Reform Party Chair has not attended.

We have been presented information about a GIS system that will interface with our voter regulator system. This system will produce maps. We also have voted to recommend more staffing for the Elections Office. In the future, we will be looking at the touch-screen and other types of voting machines.

Last week we received an update from Sen. Burt Saunders' and Rep. Dudley Goodlette's offices.

Thank you all for your continued monetary support. Our League is one of the busiest in the State and we monitor many important issues!

We'll keep you posted!

Sincerely,

Alda Pierce

"What's on Folks Minds These Days" 14th Annual "Collier County Telephone Survey"

Please participate in this year's Telephone Survey to gather the opinions of Collier residents on existing conditions and various services provided by the county. For many years, the League has volunteered to help the county in conducting this survey and will do so again this year.

Residents to be interviewed are selected at random from voter registration rolls in all five districts. The questionnaire is developed by the firm of Fraser & Mohlke, with recommendations and directions from county departments and agencies. The purpose of the survey is to help the county be informed of any new trends or concerns that may have emerged over the past year.

Five to six weeks, beginning April 23, will be the time to complete 250+ interviews, including at least 50 residents per district. Typically each League member will complete 15 interviews.

The community survey is the type of project the League does very well and benefits in several ways: (1) Fraser and Mohlke contribute \$3.00 to the League for each completed interview; (2) League members 'one on one' outreach to our community at-large helps the county with its future plans; (3) we enhance the League's reputation with local leaders in a positive way.

I hope that we may again call on our experienced interviewers and other members will volunteer to participate for the first time. Call Pat Clark to volunteer or with any questions - 263-2216.

GOVERNMENT

Kathleen Slebodnik, Chris Straton, Co-Chairs

Our next meeting will be March 22, 10:00 a.m. in the League Conference Room.

At our last meeting, members expressed concerns regarding Ordinance 2000-82, and wanted more information. It allows the voters residing in Pelican Bay to elect seven -cont'd-

Lively League and Program

The International Relations Committee is pleased to present two distinguished gentlemen this month as our speakers, Mr. Dennis P. Vasey, Col. U.S. Army Retired and Mr. Donald J. Healey, C.I.A., retired.

Mr. Healey will speak to the Lively League on the Re-unification of North and South Korea and its possibilities.

As a member of the C.I.A., for 28 years, he was part of the Operations Division and spent time in France, Italy, Hong Kong, Saigon, Cambodia, his last post being Chief of Station in Tokyo. He also spent four years in New York, assigned to the United States Mission to the United Nations.

Mr. Healey retired at the top of the Senior Intelligence Service and went on to be a member of the 25th Class of the State Department's Senior Seminar and the Inspector General's Office of the C.I.A.

He studied at St. Peter's College, Georgetown University and Ecole Sciences Politiques, majoring in history, philosophy and political science.

Mr. Healey is a member of several associations, including Naples Council on World Affairs and Great Decisions Group of the Foreign Policy Assn. With his wife Maureen, they divide their time between Naples and New Jersey.

Colonel Dennis "Duke" Vasey, will share his observations concerning the Russian Federation and its society in our afternoon program. After over fifteen years since his last visit, he traveled back to Russia this past summer, accompanied by his wife Janet.

Colonel Vasey's interest in Russia began at Ladd Field, Alaska, which was a cold-weather test facility for Army equipment and material and as a transfer point for lend-lease aircraft destined for Russia.

When assigned to Logistics and Security Assistance Directorate, European Command, Colonel Vasey could place greater emphasis on his Russian interest during a period when Major Vladimir Putin (current President of Russia) served as a KGB officer in the German Democratic Republic where he worked in political intelligence-gathering.

During his 36-year Army career he was a logistician in the Aviation Branch. He is a master Army aviator; parachutist, and air assault qualified. He earned the Army Staff Identification Badge, Korean Mechanics Badge and was inducted into the Infantry Officer Candidate Hall of Fame.

He holds a Masters of Arts in Human Resources Management from Pepperdine University and a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from the University of Nebraska, Omaha.

Currently President of the Naples MacFriends Users Group, he also serves as an advisor to Sheriff Hunter and volunteers computer skills to the serious habitual offender and joint assessment management team.

Government -continued-

supervisors to make taxing decisions beyond what is currently allowed by their appointed Municipal Services Taxing Board Unit, and has implications of semi-cityhood.

League opposed cityhood for Pelican Bay when the question came up several years ago. We have invited David Roellig who currently serves on the MSTBU to discuss this ordinance with us. Interested League members are always welcome.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Alda Pierce, Chair

The International Relations committee will meet on April 6 - 9:30 a.m. at the home of Alda Pierce. The speakers will be Walter and Betty Strombeth. The Strombeths taught at Fudan University in Shang Hai. They were sponsored by United Board of Christian Higher Education in Asia and were asked to teach comparative Religions, not any particular religion. Dr. Strombeth (Walter) has a Ph.D. in Philosophy and a Bachelor of Divinity Degree from Yale University.

There are openings to this day in Chinese Universities to teach and compare religions. Betty thought she would teach English conversation, but one month before leaving the U.S. she was asked to teach English writing to 180 graduate students! Betty has a degree from St. Olaf's College. We look forward to hearing the Strombeths and welcome questions from our group! ***

SOCIAL POLICY

Ann Campbell, Chair

At our monthly breakfast meetings, along with the omelets and fruit plates, we have been taking in a wealth of information about important issues. "Wealth" is the operative word; a recurrent theme is funding, whether talking about access to mental health services or the work Dorothy Ferguson is doing with the School Readiness Coalition. (The Neighborhood Health Clinic chooses not to accept government funding; they provide their services through volunteers, donation and a small fee system.) Our legislative delegation has told us that funds are low!

The Collier County Health Care Review Committee continues to track issues such as Healthy Kids Insurance, dental care, indigent health care, and the School Nurse Program. There will to be a Town Hall Meeting Wednesday, March 21, 7:00 to 9:00p.m., at Golden Gate Community Center. Hopefully civic, business, professional groups, churches, and the public will come together to comprehend the issues and do some creative thinking. The health of this community is our problem, after all.

Thanks to Bob Troesch, Collier County Tobacco Prevention Coordinator, for meeting with us in February. We learned about the activities of Collier County S.W.A.T., Students Working Against Tobacco, and other activities funded by the 1997 Tobacco Settlement. Joanne Quinn told us about her project for after-school activities for teens. A survey revealed that they chose dance above most other activities so Joanne coordinated a very successful pilot program.

From March 14 through April 14 there will be a photographic exhibit at International College entitled, "Children of Children: Portraits and Stories of Teenage Parents." The exhibit is funded by the Women's Fund of the Community Foundation of Collier County, The United Arts Council, and the Collier Teen Pregnancy Prevention Community Initiative. Join us on March 14, 8:00a.m. -cont'd-

Pam Cox, Administrator, Manor Care Health Services, Inc., will help us understand the debate about elder care and litigation reform and more. ***

JUSTICE

Katherine Todd, Chair

In February, Mike Orlando, Deputy Public Defender in charge of the Collier County office, spoke to the committee about the work of the Public Defenders Office.

Recognizing that the indigent are particularly vulnerable when involved with the law enforcement and judicial systems, the office has as its mission: protection of the innocent; fair and equal treatment for the guilty; protection of the civil and constitutional rights of the accused, particularly the 4th amendment right of protection against unfair search and seizure; identification of mental health and competency issues.

Mandated by state statute and funded by both the state and the county, the office currently has 11 attorneys, one investigator and seven administrative support staff. It handles approximately 5,500 cases per year, representing a full range of misdemeanors and felonies. The state pegs the level of funding to the number of cases handled. Low salaries and high turnover pose chronic problems.

Cause for concern: overcharging - both in the severity and the number of the charges; a dramatic change in the sentencing structure over the past five years allows judges far more latitude in imposing high-end sentences; Florida leads the country in the prosecution of juveniles as adults.

On the positive side: creative sentencing alternatives, quite often tied to treatment, are available. Programs such as Project Recovery, drug offender probation, and the teen and drug courts provide bright spots in the system.

March 15 - 10:00 a.m. meeting at David Lawrence Center, 6075 Golden Gate Parkway: We will explore collaboration between the justice and mental health systems as we discuss mental health referrals with staff from the David Lawrence Center. Anyone with questions should contact Katherine at 430-7955 or khtjw@juno.com. ***

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Date	Time	Event	Location
Mar 14 Wed	8:00a.m.	Social Policy	Pacific 41 Restaurant
15 Thu	10:00a.m.	Justice	David Lawrence Center
19 Mon	*10:30a.m.	Lively League/General Meeting	Norris Room - The Depot
22 Thu	10:00a.m.	Government	League Conference Room
Apr 2 Mon	12:00p.m.	Board Meeting	1st National Bank
5 Thu		April VOTER Mailing	League Office
6 Fri	9:30a.m.	International Relations	Alda Pierce's Home
11 Wed	8:00a.m.	Social Policy	Pacific 41 Restaurant
16 Mon	*10:30a.m.	Annual Meeting **	Norris Room - The Depot
19 Thu	10:00a.m.	Justice	-to be announced-
22 Thu	10:00a.m.	Government	League Conference Room
May 7 Mon	12:00p.m.	Board Meeting	1st National Bank
10 Thu		May VOTER Mailing	League Office
14 Mon	*10:30a.m.	Lively League/General Meeting	Norris Room - The Depot
18-20		Florida LWV Convention	Tampa, FL

*** NOTE: Time change
A Reminder Please**

Lunch reservations or cancellations need to be received *no later* than noon on the Friday preceding the date of the General meeting.

Please reserve either through the telephone committee callers or by calling
Miriam Kalett at 434-9040 or LWVCC office at 263-4656.

In order to avoid a most un-League-link confusion at the 'eleventh' hour, it is very important that we be able to provide our members and guests to be served with ease. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

**** Copies of the proposed revisions to the LWVCC By-laws will be made available to interested members at the March meeting.**

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March Topics

Korea: Re-Unification

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RUSSIA: STATE AND SOCIETY