

President's Message

We go to press on the eve of the general election so we are not able to congratulate the winning candidates in this column. We can look back on the election campaign, though, and share with our members our voter service activities that went on right up to the election. Voter service is one of the most important and satisfying activities in League!

Chair **Nancy Fischer** and volunteer registrars signed up 1000 voters in Collier County. Congratulations to Nancy and her committee! There was standing room only at a second forum for candidates, this time in Immokalee's Community Center. Co-sponsored by League and the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce, the forum featured the three candidates for district five of the Board of County Commissioners, the two candidates for the office of Sheriff, and County Judge candidate **Brenda Wilson**. League members **Dorothy Fitch, Bettie Gulacsik, Denise Coleman, Fred Thomas, Anne Goodnight** and **Nancy Fischer** took part in the program. Ninety people attended our October program on the proposed ten constitutional amendments. LWVCC distributed over 1800 copies of the Florida VOTER Special Election Edition, including 55 copies that **Dorothy Fitch** mailed out along with other information requested by citizens about the candidates and their positions. **Dorothy** manned the office phone to respond to the scores of calls which came in requesting information about the election and the issues. Whew! I, for one, was impressed by the level of interest on the part of the voting public this election season. Maybe we, as voters, are taking back the system!

On another note, we are pleased to recognize LWVCC Past President **Marcy Flinn** who has been appointed to the local advisory committee tasked with searching for a president for the new Florida Gulf University, and **Denise Coleman**, County Extension Director, who is the recipient of a NACo Achievement Award for her "Pro-Action" program in the community of Immokalee.

Ann

Growth management to be focus of November program

The topic for League's November General Meeting is "Growth Management — Where does Collier County Stand?"

Speakers **Stan Litsinger**, Collier County Growth Management Section Chief, and **Bob Blanchard**, Director of the Long Range Planning Department, will address topics of particular interest to the League. These areas of interest include concurrency, the implementation of the local comprehensive plan, the implementation of the state comprehensive plan, and the three-tier structure as constituted by the state.

Mr. Blanchard has been in his present position for three years, coming to Collier County from Palm Beach County and originally from the Pacific Northwest. He has been in professional community planning for fifteen years.

Mr. Litzinger has been a Collier resident since 1986 and has held his present position as Growth Management Chief since 1989. He is responsible for implementation of Collier County's Growth Management Plan, preparation of the Capital Improvement Element and administration of the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance.

League members, their guests, and members of the public should find this program very timely.

Mary Lou Althoff, Publicity Chair

The Voter Staff

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Other Staff members:

**Dorothy Fitch
Cathy Modley
Charlotte Westman**

League Office: **263-4656**

State League selects 1993 legislative priorities and issues of concern

Legislative priorities

These issues will be the focus of League lobbying activities during the 1993 legislative session:

- Maintenance of the essential elements of growth management: concurrency, implementation of local comprehensive plans, implementation of the state plan, the three-tier structure as constituted
- Health Care: according to the LWVUS position with an emphasis on children's issues of nutrition and pre-natal care
- Children: reinstatement of day care licensing regulations
- Tax and budget: revenue sources, SWIM funding, children's services, education funding

Issues of Concern

These issues are assigned to the LWVF Board to be monitored and acted on when necessary:

- Solid Waste/Recycling
- Wetlands
- Sentencing Guidelines
- Freedom of Choice
- Merit Selection and Retention of Judges
- Voter Registration
- Redistricting Commission

1993 League Calendars now available!

1993 League calendars are now available at \$3.50 each. Pick up your supply at the next General Meeting or call the League Office (263-4656). Much used and enjoyed by active Leaguers, they also make thoughtful gifts.

Committee Comments

Education

Education Chair Carol Hidy has been asked to represent the League of Women Voters of Collier County on a countywide committee to profile a Superintendent of Schools. Carol is enlisting help from members of the committee, which, when this task has been completed, will then pursue other projects which meet League's goals. Call Carol at 566-2627 to become involved.

International Relations

The International Relations Committee, chaired this year by Anne Portman, will begin its study of International Trade at its first fall meeting, Friday, November 20th, at 9:00 a.m. at Anne's home, 587 Bay Villas Lane. Committee members are asked to read Lester Thurow's *Head to Head: The Coming Economic Battle Among Japan, Europe, and America* in preparation for the study. New members are welcome and may call Anne at 597-5041 for further information.

Justice

This committee, chaired by Renee Hansen, will continue to explore our county's court system, its related agencies, and alternatives to incarceration for appropriate offenders.

On Wednesday, November 18, the committee will meet at 9:00 a.m. with Court Counselor Tom Traxinger, who evaluates and makes treatment recommendations for court referred offenders in need of help for substance abuse. Unfortunately, space for this one meeting is very limited, and only the first five who call Renee can be accommodated.

Future committee meetings will include interviews with the Court Administrator, Court Mediator, Guardian Ad Litem, and possible visits to the misdemeanor and criminal courts.

Renee would particularly like to welcome new members and urges old members to join this committee. Call her at 598-3293.

Second phase of LWV national health care study begins

The issues of financing and administration will be addressed during Phase 2 of the League's study of the U.S. health care system, according to LWVCC's co-chairs Donna Fiala and Jackie Shelton.

In preparation for consensus taking in January, plans are being made to study three main financing models: an employer-based system, coupled with a new state or federal program for the uninsured financed by general revenues and a payroll tax from employers that elect not to provide health benefits; a national insurance plan, financed through general taxes in place of individual insurance premiums; and private market-based reform fostering competition in the private sector. Study will also focus on how the health care system should be administered.

Those interested in participating in this second phase of the study should contact Donna (774-

Glossary

Cost-Shifting: Practice of charging more for care provided to insured and self-paying patients to make up for the losses of low government reimbursement rates and providing care to nonpaying patients (unreimbursed care). Many argue that cost-shifting could be limited by providing reimbursed care for everyone.

Global Budgeting: Cost control mechanism whereby hospitals are allocated a prospective fixed amount of money for operating expenses. Hospitals are therefore encouraged to cut costs and use resources in the most efficient manner.

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League report on beach nourishment symposium

by Charlotte Westman, Natural Resources Chair

By now the question of the availability of tourist tax money to renourish beaches is past history. At this writing we do not know whether or not the 2 percent tourist development tax referendum has passed. If it has passed, \$2 million will be provided the first year and grow steadily as tourist numbers grow. Even with funds available, it appears it would take two years before any renourishment could take place as studies, planning, decisions concerning technologies, necessary permitting, etc., would first have to be addressed.

In any case, a retrospective of a beach nourishment symposium recently attended by Mary Louise Houston and the writer seems appropriate. The League had heard much of the information presented at a previous symposium, same place, but this one was particularly geared to present facts concerning beaches as both natural and economic resources. We noted that, though it is part of the countywide beach management plan, Marco Island was not discussed.

The first speaker, Kirby Green, Director of the State DNR, gave an overview concerning economics, different systems, community benefits, access and recreational beaches, natural resources including sea turtle nests, shoreline retreat, armoring and other beach erosion pressures, and marine issues.

John Fitch, Ph.D., former Tufts professor who is currently President of The Conservancy of Naples, discussed the dynamics of constantly changing beaches, the need for adequate sand supply, the effects of major storms, rising sea levels, and man-made disturbances such as alterations of the shoreline through dredging. Dr. Fitch also referred to the importance of monitoring and evaluation before nourishment and the importance of learning from other projects concerning origin of the sand, particle size, compatibility with the original sand, length of the beach project, desired width, timing considering weather constraints and prohibitions during periods of heavy bird use and/or turtle nesting, as well as other habitat considerations.

Brian Flynn, from Dade County's Department of Environmental Resources, discussed the longevity of nourished and renourished beaches. He suggested that the following questions must be addressed before proper planning can take place: Will the project last? Does it stop erosion and provide stormwater protection? Does it provide a recreational beach? The Miami project, begun in 1975, is 10-1/2 miles long and has had four successful sectional renourishments within the past ten years.

Ray Miller, an engineer with Wilson, Miller, Barton and Peek, said that the Naples beaches are basically stable in comparison to other areas of the state, but they are eroding. They have been eroding for thirty years. He declared the tourist tax appropriate and said it would protect our ad valorem tax source.

Stan Tate, President of the Florida Beach and Shore Preservation Association, spoke about the importance of our beaches to the tourist industry.

William B. Stronge, Ph.D., one of League's 1989 luncheon speakers, referred to the value of the beaches as to stormwater protection and recreational uses and discussed percentages of use as related particularly to access availability and to public parking. His central theme was that property appreciates in value with beach nourishment and results in the generation of higher ad valorem taxes as well as profits to owners.

Richard Moss, Ph.D., Director of Florida Institute of Technology in Tampa, the final speaker, has been active with the Long Boat Key project. He discussed cost benefits and feels they far outweigh the overall cost.

Our League's Natural Resources, Land Use and Local Government joint committee has been conducting a "walking survey" of the condition of our beaches, with periodic monitoring, for some four years. This symposium was, then, of special interest to us. A more detailed report will be made to members of the Natural Resources Committee.

Calendar

The League Office, where many meetings are held, is located at 660 9th Street N., Suite 35B, Naples

Nov. 16	Mon.	Noon-1:30	Norris Room The Depot	NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING
Nov. 18	Wed.	9:00 a.m.	Call for location and reservations, 598-3293	Justice Committee meets with Court Counselor Tom Traxinger <i>Chair: Renee Hansen, 598-3293</i>
Nov. 19	Thurs	7:30 am.	First Watch Restaurant 1400 Gulf Shore Blvd. N.	Health Care Committee Breakfast Meeting <i>Co-chairs: Donna Fiala, 774-7119, and Jackie Shelton, 775-7115</i>
Nov. 20	Fri.	9:00 a.m.	Home of Anne Portman 587 Bay Villas Lane	International Relations Committee International Trade Study <i>Chair: Anne Portman, 597-5041</i>
Nov. 20	Fri.	Noon	League Office (Bring your lunch)	Natural Resources/Local Government Committees meeting jointly <i>Natural Resources Chair: Ginger Westman, 394-1421 Local Government Chair: Bettie Gulacsik, 597-7558</i>
Dec. 7	Mon.	Noon	(Bring your lunch)	Board Meeting

**Be a part of the voice that is heard in government and on issues . . .
Join the League of Women Voters!**

*The League welcomes new members, both women and men. A brochure and
membership application may be obtained by calling the League Office, 263-4656.*

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