

The Voter

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January Luncheon and General Meeting

Carol S. Weissert, Director of the Roy Collins Institute



Ready for a New State Constitution?

The 2017-2018 Constitution Revision Commission and You

Every 20 years since 1977, a Commission is appointed to examine and propose changes to Florida's Constitution, as required by the Constitution itself. The 2017-2018 Constitution Revision Commission will be the third of its kind in history. Next month, the 37 people who will serve on the Commission will be named. Beginning in the spring, they will hold public hearings throughout the state for citizens to share ideas and provide input on potential changes. Taking the suggestions into consideration, the Commission will deliberate and recommend constitutional amendments to appear on the 2018 ballot. A 60 percent vote will be required for each proposed amendment to pass.

The [Partnership for Revising Florida's Constitution](#), led by the [LeRoy Collins Institute](#) at Florida State University, was formed to educate the public about the Constitution Revision Commission, engage them in the process, and empower them to vote on the proposals in 2018. At our January General Meeting, Institute Director Carol Weissert will help us prepare to participate and inform others.

Where: Hilton Naples Hotel, 5111 Tamiami Trail North.

When: Monday, January 9, 2017.

Registration: 11:45 am, with lunch promptly at noon.

Committee Reports: 12 to 12:30 pm.

Program: 12:30 pm.

Cost for lunch: \$25.00 per person, reservation required.

Program only: No charge or reservation.

To make lunch reservations please [click here](#) or call 239-263-4656 and leave a message by Thursday, November 10, before noon.

If you have any questions about the event, contact [Tina Palmese](#).

**Audiovisual and other expenses associated with our 2016-17 General Meetings are underwritten by a generous donation from
The Walker Group at
Morgan Stanley Wealth Management.**

JANUARY AT A GLANCE

LUNCHEON AND GENERAL MEETING

Monday
January 9,
11:45 am
Hilton Naples 5111
Tamiami Trail N.

Justice Committee

Tuesday, January 10,
9:30 am
Community Foundation
of Collier County
1110 Pine Ridge Rd
Suite 200

Social Policy Committee

Wednesday
January 11,
12:00 pm
Wilderness Country
Club
101 Clubhouse Drive
December

Environmental Affairs Committee

Thursday, January 12,
Community Foundation
of Collier County
1110 Pine Ridge Rd.
Suite 200

Government Committee

Monday,
January 16,
10:30 am
North Collier
Government Center
2335 Orange Blossom
Drive

League 101

Thursday,
January 19,
4:45 - 6:30 pm
Community Foundation
of Collier County
1110 Pine Ridge Rd.
Suite 200

President

Charlotte Nycklemoe



2017! What an opportune year to show the mettle of the League of Women Voters! People are searching for organizations to join that have credibility during this critical political year. They are begging for organizations that will provide facts, knowledge, and advocacy on issues that are facing our communities today. Who better to fill that void than the LWVCC we are over 200 voices strong and we stand with the voices of our sister Leagues throughout Florida.

To prepare us in leadership skills and knowledge, I draw your attention to the Powerful Leadership Demanding Action workshop in Orlando January 27 - 29. What better way to gain knowledge than by hobnobbing with our fellow leaguers across the state and participating in workshop sessions taught by experienced instructors? I am attending! Who will join me? KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!

Happy New Year to all! I look forward to all that we can accomplish in 2017!

Feel free to email me with any questions, [Charlotte Nycklemoe](mailto:Charlotte.Nycklemoe@lwvcc.org). Check out our website [LWVCC](http://www.lwvcc.org) and don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/lwvcc) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/lwvcc).

Thank you!

To date we have received \$3,360 in response to our letter of appeal. A wonderful outpouring of support for our educational fund came from the following contributors: Ann Campbell, Karen Cleg, Sheila Crowley, Julie Domenick, Frankie Ferguson, Patricia Forkan, Elaine Frerick, Susan Golden, Ray Kalich, Paul Kordon, Wendy Lord, Nancy Nodell, Charlotte Nycklemoe, Tina Palmese, Linda Penniman, Margaret Plank, Angel Raudner, Karen Sendik, Susan Sterner, Diana Walsh and Denise Zulauf.

Donors to the general fund are Robin Birnhak, Renate Boer, Nancy Kahn, Nancy Nodell, Martin Wolman and Barbara Yeager.

With your financial support we will be able to provide educational information to our community on these topics: sea level rise, land-use and growth in Collier County, human trafficking, voting issues, school nurse program staffing and monitoring our public officials.

League 101

Robin Larkin

Everything You Should Know About League to be Effective and Involved.

Are you a new member interested in learning more about the League, maybe wanting to get more involved? Have you been a member for a while and want a refresher? Then League 101 is for you!

In this informative session, past League president Robin Larkin will overview:

- How the League operates at the local, state and national levels.
- How we decide what issues we'll focus on from year to year.
- How the League's positions on political issues are decided and more!

This is a great opportunity to meet fellow Leaguers, learn some League basics and ask any questions you may have. We'll cover the important information and still have time to socialize, sip a beverage and nosh on cheese and crackers. I look forward to seeing you!

When: Thursday, January 19, 4:45 - 6:30 pm
Where: Community Foundation of Collier County
1110 Pine Ridge Rd #200
RSVP: [Robin Larkin](#)

Environmental Affairs Committee

Susan Calkins, Co-Chair Patti Forkan Co-Chair



Last month, twenty-four LWVCC members and guests observed the immense solar field which will power the first and purportedly the largest, *solar city* in the U.S. --- the planned eco-friendly town of Babcock Ranch. We were impressed! Our solar focus will continue February 13, with an evening program that explores the growing solar co-op movement in Florida, with the LWVF leading the way to advance residential solar. Our January meeting will address two issues which return to the Board of the County Commissioners early in 2017: how the county plans to address sea level rise and the renewal of the Conservation Collier land acquisition program. All three of our recently elected Commissioners have stated their support for renewing this program, as well as their support for county planning which addresses sea level rise.

We're saving February 9 to continue learning about mineral rights and exploration on federal lands particularly at Big Cypress Preserve. Interested committee members need to be on the lookout for either a field trip to Big Cypress that morning or a visit in town with our NPS contact Don Hargrove. Details to follow ASAP.

Lastly, remember the 32nd Annual Everglades Coalition Conference is being held January 5-8 at the Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort. Register at the [Everglades Coalition](#).

Remember you can keep updated on environmental happenings in our region by signing up for the electronic [Eco-Voice](#) - it's free!

When: Thursday, January 12, 9:30 - 11am
Where: Community Foundation Room
1110 Pine Ridge Rd. Suite 200
RSVP: [Patti Forkan](#)

Government Committee

Sandy Parker, Chair Pat Howard, Vice Chair



Burt Saunders, newly-elected County Commissioner for District 3, will be our guest at our January meeting. Saunders is an attorney with [GrayRobinson](#) working on legislative affairs for various governmental entities including Collier County and serves as the Village Attorney for the Village of Estero, Florida. His [campaign priorities](#) included fixing roads and investing in infrastructure protecting and preserving the environment, prioritizing public health and safety, and maintaining low County taxes for families and local businesses. Saunders served as Collier County Attorney (1982 - 1986), Collier County Commissioner (1986 - 1994), State Representative (1994 - 1998) and State Senator (1998 - 2008). We have asked him to meet with us informally to share his thoughts and plans for his term in office.

Also at the meeting, as we prepare to turn our attention to the Florida Legislature next month, Committee members will brief us about the incoming Florida Senate and House leaders, and how to research bills online.

If you are new to the League, to Florida, or just want to continue learning how our government works, join us! All members and guests are welcome.

When: Monday, January 16, 10:30 am - noon

Where: North Collier Government Center
2335 Orange Blossom Drive

RSVP: [Pat Howard](#)

Justice Committee

Claire Lang, Co-Chair Bernice Schmetz , Co-Chair



The Justice Committee speaker in December, Marisol Schloendorn, with the Human Trafficking Unit of the Collier County Sheriff's Office, noted that the Sheriff's Office has been addressing this issue since 2004. She helped us understand the difference between smuggling, trafficking and exploitation, and also prostitution and trafficking. She also shared examples of a Collier area sex trafficking case and an exploitation case involving a local restaurant.

Our January speaker, Nelly Rodriguez, a member of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers human trafficking team, will provide us with information on local issues and work specifically involving labor trafficking. Nelly will be joined by an additional team member.

We welcome all LWV members and guests to join the Justice Committee in learning more about the status of trafficking and who is working on this issue in our area.

When: Tuesday, January 10, 9:30 -11:30 am

Where: Community Foundation of Collier County
1110 Pine Ridge Rd. Suite 200

RSVP: [Bernice Schmetz](#)

Membership Committee

Jan Eustis, Co-Chair Robin Larkin, Co-Chair



Welcome to new League members: Linda La Rue Brown, Binh Lieu, Susannah Phillips, Robert Phillips, Mark Phillips, and Augusta Rosenauer.

League Name Badges

Please contact Anne Lewallen if you ordered a name badge from her during the November Luncheon and General Meeting, to confirm your order.

If you joined after April 1, 2016, your membership does not need to be renewed until December 31, 2017.

The first three membership levels include a membership in the local, state and national Leagues. When you choose the Susan B. Anthony or Carrie Chapman Catt level of membership, a portion of your dues will stay with our Collier County League to support us in developing and promoting local programs and activities.

Suffragist	Individual \$65 Family \$97.50
Susan B. Anthony	Individual \$100 Family \$132.50
Carrie Chapman Catt	Individual \$200 Family \$232.50
Associate	\$32.50

You may renew by mail or online.

To renew your membership online, you may use PayPal or a credit card.

1. Go to our website [LWVCC](#).
2. Log in using your user name (your email address) and password.
3. Click on the Members tab, then choose Renew Membership.
4. Read and follow the directions.

To renew by mail:

Make your check out to the League of Women Voters of Collier County (LWVCC) and mail it to:

League of Women Voters of Collier County
P.O. Box 9883
Naples, Florida 34101

If you renew by mail, please include any information that has changed in the past year such as a new email address, street address, or phone number. Also, please let us know if you'd like to get more involved. We need good people!

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to our League, we would greatly appreciate it. You may do this by mailing a check to the LWVCC at the above mailing address. The check should be made out to the LWVCC Education Fund. Or you may go to the [LWVCC](#) website to donate by credit card or check.

Questions: [Jan Eustis](#) and [Robin Larkin](#)

Social Policy Committee

Ann Campbell, Chair



With a new year and what feels like a new era, we will have a Social Policy Committee update at our January meeting. We will take a look at some of our key program issues and plan for our February General Meeting and beyond. As always, all League members and guests are welcome.

We will have a light lunch (salad and beverage) at a cost of \$11.00.

When: Wednesday, January 11, at noon

Where: Wilderness Country Club

RSVP: [Ann Campbell](#)

Wine and Wisdom

Jan Eustis and Robin Larkin

We had a fun gathering in December at The Wine Loft with Charlotte wrapping up our 2016 busy year and providing inspiration and enthusiasm for 2017. Our next Wine and Wisdom will be in February... please stay tuned!

When: February, date to be determined.

Where: Meeting place to be determined.

Contact: For information contact: [Jan Eustis](#) or [Robin Larkin](#)

Book Club

Marcia Maloni, Chair



J.D.Vance's publishing debut, *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* will be our March book group choice. We will meet prior to the March League Luncheon.

When: Monday, March 13, 2017, prior to March Luncheon

Where: Hilton Naples
5111 Tamiami Trail N.

RSVP: [Marcia Maloni](#)

News from the State League

Charlotte Nycklemoe

LWVF Kick off 2017: Powerful Leaders Demanding Action! Due to overwhelming requests following our Council workshops last May, we are serving up an even bigger and better training and networking program for all members.

The Powerful Leaders Demanding Action Workshops we are developing include:
Elections Debriefing: Suggestions for other Leagues to use and ways LWVF can improve in Voter Service implementation;

Media Training: What they want, What to do: Mock Press Interviews;

Public Speaking: PowerPoints from every League;

League Leadership: Enthusiasm, Ingenuity, Inspiration;

What's a Hot Topic: Timely subjects, Engaging members and guests;

Today's Technology to increase efficiency: Webinars, free Conference Call service, Google Groups and Google Drive, etc.;

Mobile League: What can you do with your smart phone?;

New membership orientation: Local Leagues share their process;

Fundraising successes and strategies; and

Social Media: How to make your website WOW!

Network with our State Action Groups on our key Issues and perfect your presentation of these issues!

Your LWVF workshops are designed to engage and inspire you. Our training retreat at the Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando will provide you with tangible examples and messaging tools you need for improving your current methods and/or providing you with information you didn't know you needed! Some of the LWVF' brightest minds and most innovative leaders will kick off our Powerful Leaders Demanding Action effort and we want you to plan on attending. [Register Now!](#)

When: January 27-29, 2017, Registration fee: \$99,
Where: Rosen Plaza

Friday night will include cocktails (one drink ticket) and hors d'oeuvres with two special guests.

Saturday will be a very full day of exciting workshops and includes a LWVF luncheon.

News from the National League

Ann Campbell

Last month the National League:

Joined an amicus brief with LWV Oregon in a groundbreaking climate change lawsuit. A federal judge ruled that youth plaintiffs could continue with their historic lawsuit in Juliana et al v. United States.

Partnered with the environmental community on an ad asking President Obama to permanently protect the Arctic and Atlantic from offshore drilling. The President responded by excluding the Arctic and the Atlantic from the five-year oil and gas leasing program. Nearly 10,000 League members and supporters have asked President Obama to extend permanent protections to these two areas.

Shared a letter to the U.S. Senate that the League and partners wrote urging Senators to not misuse the appropriations process by adding poison pill riders that would undermine our nation's campaign finance system. Along with the Brennan Center for Justice, Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause, CREW, Democracy 21, Demos, Every Voice, Issue One, People for the American Way, Public Citizen, Represent.US, The Rootstrikers Project at Demand Progress and U.S. PIRG, the League said, "Any effort to rewrite the Nation's campaign finance laws and to restrict related campaign finance measures must be done by regular order and through the legislative process." The authors stated, "Poison pill riders have no place in any budget bill. We urge you to oppose any campaign finance riders or other poison pill riders from being included in any funding measures for FY 2017."

Invited League members to sign up for the DC League of Women Voters Google Group, LWV DC. Full Rights Alert. The group will provide an opportunity to receive information and exchange ideas about ways to promote full voting rights and statehood for the people of Washington DC. To sign on, contact LWV DC Full Rights Alert Google Group administrator [Ann Vonder Leippe](#).

For more information visit our website at [The National League](#).

About Us

The [League of Women Voters of Collier County](#), a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Our goal is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.

Please visit our [website](#) for the current list of officers, directors and off-board members, our Program, Diversity Policy, Nonpartisan Policy, By-laws, Minutes, and more.