

# The Voter

Issue: 2017-05

FEBRUARY 2017

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## February Luncheon and General Meeting Learning About the Health of Collier County's Children via the Public School Setting



Collier County, the third largest county east of the Mississippi, is spread over 2,034 square miles in area, and the School District (CCPS) has around 47,000 students in 50 schools. These schools are organized in K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 distribution with several schools also serving pre-Kindergarten students. The League believes that our members and the voting public should be aware

of the many challenges faced by CCPS and other Florida school districts that go beyond teachers, tests and textbooks.

Special Instructional services are provided in the K-12 schools, including counseling, psychological services, speech therapy and diagnostic specialists in primary education. There are exceptional child education (ECE) programs for all types of handicapping conditions and a Challenge Program for gifted children.

Meeting the health needs of the school children by providing first aid, supportive care, and other interventions in order to support attendance is a daily challenge that we will learn about from our team of panel members:

- Eileen Vargo, RN, CCPS Director of Health Services.
- Christene Parker, RN, Director of the CCPS School Nurse Program through Naples Community Hospital.
- Adam Fundora, RN, Collier County Health Department

Access to health care is an important League issue. We are looking forward to finding out how healthy this large and diverse population of children is and how we are meeting their health care needs.

**When: Monday, February 13, 2017.**

**Where: Hilton Naples Hotel, 5111 Tamiami Trail North.**

**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, February 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.**

**FEBRUARY AT A  
GLANCE**

## Justice Committee

Tuesday,  
February 7, 9:30 am  
Community Foundation  
of Collier  
1110 Pine Ridge Rd  
Suite 200

## Social Policy Committee

Wednesday  
February 8, 12:00 pm  
Wilderness Country  
Club  
101 Clubhouse Drive

## Environmental Affairs Committee

Thursday,  
February 9, 9:30 am  
Community Foundation  
of Collier County  
1110 Pine Ridge Rd.  
Suite 200

## LUNCHEON AND GENERAL MEETING

Monday  
February 13, 11:45 am  
Hilton Naples  
5111 Tamiami Tr. N.

## Sun Power: What's Next for Solar in Florida

Monday February 13,  
6 - 7:30 pm  
Kapnick Center  
Auditorium  
Naples Botanical  
Gardens  
4820 Bayshore Dr.

## Government Committee

Monday,  
February 20, 10:30 am  
Community Foundation  
of Collier County  
1110 Pine Ridge Rd.

## President

**Charlotte Nycklemoe**



### Future Leadership for LWVCC

As we approach the new year our thoughts turn towards future leadership of our organization. The secret to a healthy, vibrant organization is the reviewing of its' vision, goals and purpose through fresh eyes and new perspectives together with those who have institutional knowledge and experience. A changing of the guard is vital to the planning, health and vitality of an organization. This year brings to an end my position, several board positions and a few committee chair positions.

Members of our nominating committee are: Becky Newell ,Chair, Paul Kardon, Vi Steffan and Jan Eustis. I encourage you to submit your name, or the name of someone who you think will be a good leader, to the nominating committee. The most important qualification required is *passion*! You must be passionate in your desire to protect the right of all citizens to vote! You must be passionate in your desire to secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all! You must be passionate in your desire to promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive! For those of you who are thinking, "I lack the knowledge to lead", not to worry . . . past leaders are at your fingertips, willing to guide and assist you along the way!

In addition to thinking about new leadership, Committees need to start their 2017-18 program planning process. Some committees have already begun the process. The program plans need to be submitted to the board for the March meeting then onto the Annual Meeting in April for membership approval.

An *Open Primaries* study is scheduled to take place on March 2. For more information please refer to our Website, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter. Details will be forthcoming! Save the date!

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) .

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## Thank you!

The responses to our Appeal keeps growing! This month we're thankful for the generous donations from Barbara Balsler, Robin and Dave Larkin and Vi Steffan.

We have lots of work to do in 2017: Enable more members to attend LWV conventions and seminars, Leadership training, Marketing, Hot Topics, Consensus meetings.....and much much more! Keep those donations coming!

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## Environmental Affairs Committee

Susan Calkins, Co-Chair Patti Forkan Co-Chair



At our February 9 meeting, we'll continue learning about mineral rights and exploration on federal lands and particularly at the Big Cypress National Preserve. Last year, some of our members traveled to Big Cypress to meet with Don Hargrove, NPS Mineral Management Specialist. We are fortunate that Mr. Hargrove is able to come to us this time. He'll give us a quick overview on drilling in Big Cypress; an update on the Burnett Plan of Operations for seismic testing, as well as information on the revised 9b Regulations, which regulate oil and gas exploration on non-federal lands.

All League members are welcome to attend this meeting. Please RSVP.

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

When: Thursday, February 9, 9:30 - 11am

Where: Community Foundation Room  
1110 Pine Ridge Rd. Suite 200

RSVP: [Linda Denning](#)

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## Sun Power: What's Next for Solar in Florida

The Environmental Affairs Committee invites you and your friends to attend a panel presentation moderated by Neville Williams, solar entrepreneur, journalist and author of *Chasing the Sun* and *Sun Power*.

The presentation features panelists Mary Dipboye, founder of Florida's first solar co-op and a FLSUN advisory board member; James Henderson, President of William C. Huff Companies, a solar powered business facility; and Chad Wasburn, Deputy Director Naples Botanical Garden, a LEED Gold Standard institution. The panel discussion will be preceded by a presentation of The Florida Solar Energy Center, University of Central Florida.

We encourage you to bring your questions. Did you know that HOA's may not prohibit citizens from putting solar on their roofs? Let's join with other Leagues throughout Florida as we work together to make Florida a true

*Sunshine State.*

**When:** Monday, February 13, 6pm - 7:30 pm

**Where:** Kapnick Center Auditorium , Naples Botanical Garden  
4820 Bayshore Dr., Naples

**RSVP:** [Patti Forkan](#)

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## Government Committee

Sandy Parker, Chair Pat Howard, Vice Chair



This month, we will shift our focus to the Florida Legislative Session that officially runs from March 7 - May 5. We will monitor efforts to restructure funding for higher education, reduce mandated K-12 student testing, limit the rising cost of Medicaid, buy land for water storage near Lake Okeechobee and more. House and Senate Committees have begun to meet, and more than 300 bills have already been filed with more to come.

Join fellow Leaguers as we explore some of the bills being considered and monitor their progress during Session. No experience necessary. All members and guests are welcome.

**When:** Monday, February 20, 10:30 am - noon

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

**RSVP:** [Pat Howard](#)

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## Justice Committee

Claire Lang, Co-Chair Bernice Schmelz, Co-Chair



In January, two representatives of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), Nely Rodriguez and Julia Perkins, added to the committee's knowledge of trafficking issues in our immediate area and the region. The presentation began with an overview of the formation of the CIW 20 years ago; their 3-pronged approach, which includes prevention, training and prosecution; and the role they have played in bringing trafficking issues to the forefront both locally and nationally. For example, the CIW has been involved with Federal agencies in 8 slavery cases resulting in the liberation of at least 1200 workers, and one of which resulted in the return of \$100,000 in wages to workers.

In February, we add to our knowledge when Linda Oberhaus, Director of the Shelter for Abused Women and Children, will share the work of the Shelter in serving the area's victims of trafficking, future services planned for victims, and how the community can assist in this work. We are excited to have Ms. Oberhaus, who has more than 25 years of professional experience in the human services field and has served the local Shelter since 2007, speak with our committee and hope many of you will join us. This is a public meeting and we urge you to invite others to take the opportunity to hear one of our outstanding community leaders

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, February 7, 9:30 -11:30 am

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

**RSVP:** [Bernice Schmelz](#)

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## Membership Committee

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



Please welcome our new members: Mimi Azrael, Jacqueline Chizever, Cynthia Cromwell. John Goodlet, Carl Hedman, Patricia Jans, Connie Preu and Elizabeth Sandbeck.

Our membership continues to grow. In large part, this is due to your bringing friends to our meetings, and making them feel welcome. Thank you for all your support!

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

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## Social Policy Committee

Ann Campbell, Chair



Tatiana Fortune, MSW, Director at the Golden Gate Senior Center, will join us on Wednesday, February 8 at noon at the Wilderness Country Club. Collier County's second center has grown in membership and services. We are excited to learn about the programs there and, perhaps, schedule a future field trip. All LWVCC members are invited and guests are welcome at our committee meetings.

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

When: Wednesday, February 8, noon

Where: Wilderness Country Club  
101 Clubhouse Drive

RSVP: [Ann Campbell](#)

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## 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, 9:45 am

Where: Hilton Naples  
5111 Tamiami Trail N.

RSVP: [Marcia Maloni](#)

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## News from the State League

Charlotte Nycklemoe

Attention: LEAGUE WARRIORS

We are heading into the 60-day Florida Legislative Session, March 7 through May 5, 2017. March 28-29 will be historical, because halfway through the session, LWV Florida descends upon Tallahassee! [You simply must be there.](#)

We have many opportunities and *many, many* battles this session:  
Election reform and voter protection,  
Sensible gun legislation,  
The best education possible for our youth,  
Protection of our land and water resources and  
Healthcare for all Floridians.  
*Your voice has never been as strong and as needed as it is this year!*

Our priorities pose opportunities as well as threats. LWVF will be standing strong, speaking loudly and smartly with *your voice!*  
Mark your calendars for March 28-29 when members from across the state convene in Tallahassee with a unified voice to our legislature.

Many events are planned culminating with our Annual Gala in the historical Senate Chamber meeting, speaking, and listening to one of the largest freshmen class of legislators ever. *They will know who LWVF is that night!*  
[Please register today!](#)

While we have worked hard to keep registration prices the same as last year against rising costs, we would deeply appreciate your consideration of additional support of the Gala as a host!

Each year, I am amazed at the level of commitment and passion that I see from all of you.

I look forward to joining you and being amazed again this year!

In League,  
Pamela Goodman  
President, League of Women Voters of Florida

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## News from the National League

Ann Campbell

Last month the National League:

Supported the January 21 Women's March on Washington and distributed information to assist members to advocate for the League's priority federal issues.

Joined other good government groups in a letter urging U.S. Senators to cosponsor legislation to address financial conflicts of interest of the President and Vice President. The legislation, introduced by Senator Warren (D-MA), ensures that those elected as President will be required to take the steps essential to eliminating any conflicts of interest, appearances of conflict, and Emolument Clause problems they will face as President.

Called for action to stop the repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), stating that repeal means undoing numerous protections for the American people. "The League will not stand by while members of Congress dismantle protections for the health and well-being of the American public", the LWVUS wrote, "Stand with the League today and tell your Senators to oppose repeal of the ACA."

Reported that the League can register up to 20 members to attend the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, March 13-24, 2017, in New York. The priority theme during this 61st session will be "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work". To attend meetings and events in the UN as a LWV UN delegate, you are asked to contact [Suzanne Strassevitch](#) or League members may self-register to attend events conducted in parallel with the Commission meetings.

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

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## 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.