

The Voter

Issue: 2016-01

October 2016

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2016 LWVCC LUNCHEON & GENERAL MEETING

The Honorable Joseph G. Foster

Judges and amendments - Get ready for the November 8 General Election

Have you been confused by how, when and why we select, elect or vote to retain judges? And why is it so hard to learn about them before we vote?

Judge Joseph G. Foster, a Circuit Court Judge elected to the Bench of the 20th Circuit in 2012, will explain the process and answer our questions. He has been in Florida for 16 years and has practiced Law in both Ohio and Florida. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Case Western Reserve Law School, *cum laude*. He is actively involved in our community and has been honored by a number of organizations.

We will also briefly review the 4 amendments to appear on the ballot and what it will mean if we pass or reject them.

Where: Hilton Naples Hotel, 5111 Tamiami Trail North

When: Monday, October 10, 2016

Registration: 11:45 am; lunch promptly at noon.

Program: 12:30 pm

General Meeting: 1:30 - 2:15 pm

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

Program only: beginning at 12:30 pm. No charge or reservation needed.

Please note: No cash will be accepted at the door.

To make lunch reservations please [click here](#) or call 239-263-4656 and leave a message by Thursday, October 6, 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.

OCTOBER AT A GLANCE

Luncheon and General Meeting

Monday, October
10, 11:45 am
Hilton Naples
5111 Tamiami Trail N.

Lively League

Monday October 10,
10:00 am
Naples Hilton
5111 Tamiami Trail N.

Amendment Forum

Monday, October 10,
6 to 7:30 pm
Norris Center
755 8th Avenue, S

Environmental Affairs Committee

Thursday, October 13
9:30 to 11:00 am
Community
Foundation Conference
Room
1110 Pine Ridge Road
Room 200

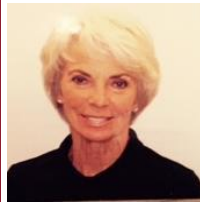
Government Committee

Monday, October 17,
10:30 am
North Collier
Government Center
2335 Orange Blossom
Drive

Candidate Forum for BCC

**Candidates for
Districts 3 and 5**
Monday, October 17
6 to 7:30 pm
Collier County
Commissioners Board
Room
3299 Tamiami Trail E

President, Charlotte Nycklemoe



Get ready to roll Leaguers! Here comes the 2016-17 Season!

The thought of seeing everyone soon to begin our next season excites me to no end! Welcome back everyone! From those of us who have remained in Naples for the summer, we have missed you and are anxiously awaiting your return.

Election year - 2016! Wow! What an experience it has been being your President during this tumultuous election year but I wouldn't trade it for anything. What a wonderful opportunity for a leader to meet with all the candidates and all the people who work so hard to inform our community of the issues at hand. As we come to the close of our election season on November 8, I can't help but think that the process by which the League informs and advocates to the residents of our community is like observing a well-oiled machine.

Check out our Lively League article and our Main Program for October 10 and see what we have in store for you! Take a look at what our committees are doing. How about that increase in membership! Amazing! What a dynamic group we will have assembling throughout the year. Can't wait!

See you in October!

Feel free to contact me with any questions, [Charlotte Nycklemoe](#). Check out our website at: www.lwvcolliercounty.org, and don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Lively League: Our Florida government - a Primer for Collier County Voters

Weak governor. Part-time legislature. Closed primary. Gerrymandering. Charter government. Unincorporated Collier County. Do you know what these terms mean and how they affect you? Come learn about Florida government at the state, county and city levels, and the backgrounds, responsibilities and terms of office of the elected officials who represent you. Whether you are a new or long-time resident, understanding Florida's government will help you be a more informed voter. Presented by Sandy Parker, LWVCC Government Committee Chair.

Note: Lively League programs are open to LWVCC members only.

When: Monday, October 10 from 10:00 - 11:30 am

Where: Naples Hilton
5111 Tamiami Trail N

RSVP: [Sandy Parker](#)

Education Committee

Mary Lou Boll



In the recently published Naples News guest commentary, author Robin Birnhak made the following statement on behalf of the Education Committee: *"It is the League's position that public education is essential to a functioning democracy. It is required for a free and open society. Public education is universally available to all students no matter their abilities, disabilities, gender or sexual orientation, social standing, their race, ethnicity, religion, values, or economic status. It is funded by taxpayers and is free from religious and political ideologies."*

Based on these thoughts, members of the committee are pleased that Collier County School Board candidates who share this philosophy have been elected; we look forward to a school board that works together on behalf of the students.

Since I am stepping down as Chair of the Education Committee, this is my last Voter submission. There is a search for a new leader for the committee. Perhaps it is you?

Environmental Affairs Committee

Susan Calkins, Chair



The League of Women Voters of Florida advises a *NO* vote on Amendment One this November. Wonder why? Interested in the back story to this amendment?

Neville Williams, a solar energy advocate, author of numerous articles and two books on solar energy (and LWVCC Patti Forkan's spouse), will be with us to respond to these and other questions about the status of solar energy in Florida. In addition we will focus on how to get over 40% of voters to [vote no on one!](#)

Additionally, committee members who met throughout the summer will provide brief updates on current issues such as development in eastern Collier County, oil drilling in Big Cypress, and vulnerability to sea level rise in Collier County.

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

When: Thursday, October 13, 9:30 - 11 am

Where: Community Foundation Conference Room
1110 PineRidge Rd #200

RSVP: [Patti Forkan](#)

Government Committee

Sandy Parker, Chair **Pat Howard, Vice Chair**



Do you want to know more about the issues being addressed at the county and state level and how government works? Would you like to meet regularly with a group of smart, involved, interesting women and men? Do you want to be a more informed voter? Then the Government Committee is for you!

Andy Solis, newly-elected County Commissioner for District 2, will join us as we kick off the season at our October meeting. We will also discuss the newly-forming Observer Corps and changes to our ever-popular Lunch with Leaders program.

The Government Committee will meet on the third Monday of each month from October through April, 10:30 AM - noon, and twice-monthly during the state Legislative session. Most meetings will be at the North Collier Government Center. All members and guests are welcome to attend.

When: Monday, October 17, from 10:30 am - noon

Where: North Collier Government Center
2335 Orange Blossom Drive

RSVP: [Pat Howard](#)

Justice Action Committee

Claire Lang, Roving Chair

The Justice committee has been preparing information on human trafficking which will be our focus in the ensuing months. Human trafficking is the third largest illegal industry in the US today: first is drugs, second is illegal gun trade and third is human trafficking - a three billion dollar industry.

We have researched the topic on many levels; active groups, media and legislature in order to to enable us to draw attention to and aid these unfortunate *slaves*. Human trafficking is divided into three categories: illicit sex, forced labor and organ sales. The problem is nationwide: Florida is ranked fourth in the trade, after California, New York and Texas. Join our Justice Action Committee to learn more!

Our speaker in November will be Susan Crough who is from SWFL Regional Coalition Against Human Trafficking.

When: Monday, November 7, 9:30 am

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

RSVP: [Claire Lang](#)

Membership Committee

Jan Eustis, Co-Chair Robin Larkin, Co Chair



We usually take the summer off in Membership, but not this year! We were busy! We have enrolled 27 new members since the last issue of the Voter. This brings our membership up to 193!

Welcome to: Phyllis Barolsky, Renate Boer, Colleen Brady, Pam Brown, Genia Corban, Pat Clancy, Edward D'Ancona, Susan Golden, Angela Goodness, Charlie Hill, Brian Kelly, Susan Mann, Lynn Martin, Sara McFadden, Janet Hoffman-Morris, Melissa Ringer, Marsha and Harry Ryan, Patti Salvagio, Mary Schell, Haleh Tabrah, Emily Thoemke, Nancy Webster, Alison Westcott, Anne Wood, Denise Zutz.

What is most important is that we hope to engage all our members year round. For those who are here during the summer, we had two informal summer events. The first was organized by the Environmental Affairs Committee featuring a talk on the impact of development on Collier County, the second was an opportunity to just meet and catch up. Both were very well attended.

Questions or comments: [Jan Eustis](#) and [Robin Larkin](#), Membership Co-chairs.

Voter Services

Chair, Joyce Fletcher



We will sponsor two forums in October; we need volunteers for both forums.

Amendment Forum, co-sponsored with a community coalition
Monday, October 10, from 6 - 7:30 pm
Norris Center
755 8th Avenue South

Candidate Forum for County Commission Districts 3 and 5
Monday, October 17, from 6 -7:30 pm
County Commissioners Board Room
3299 East Tamiami Trail

Please contact [Joyce Fletcher](#).

Book Club

Marcia Maloni, Chair



Why is America living in an age of profound economic inequality? Why despite the desperate need to address climate change, have even modest environmental efforts been defeated again and again? Why do hedge-fund billionaires pay a far lower tax rate than middle-class workers?

Jane Mayer attempts to answer these questions and more in her book *Dark Money*.

We will meet in the small private room at Bravo's. If there is a large number of attendees I will change the location of the meeting. Please RSVP by November 8.

When: Tuesday, November 15, 12:30 pm

Where: Bravo Restaurant at Mercato
9119 Strada Place

RSVP: [Marcia Maloni](#) by November 8.

News from the State League

Charlotte Nycklemoe



Tallahassee, Fla.- Sept. 26 - The League of Women Voters of Florida is pleased to announce the appointment of Anna Eskamani to our State Board of Directors." Anna brings a millennial mind and a profound history of accomplishment to our Board. We are thrilled to add her to our team of distinguished professionals who volunteer their time and talents on a daily basis encouraging strong nonpartisan civic education and engagement in Florida," said Pamela Goodman, LWVF President.

Anna is not afraid of change, she leads it. The Senior Director of Public Affairs and Communications for Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida, she manages the nonprofit's public affairs, field, and communications work through its 22 counties. An Orlando native, Anna's parents are both from different parts of Iran but found each other - and love - in the Sunshine State. Anna attended Orange County Public Schools and then the University of Central Florida (UCF), where she obtained two bachelor degrees, two master degrees, two certificates, and is now pursuing her PhD in Public Administration. In addition to her work at Planned Parenthood, Anna is an adjunct professor at UCF, a frequent guest contributor to numerous publications and serves on several nonprofit and advocacy boards. Anna identifies as a feminist, and is committed to building collective power within her community and throughout the state. When she is not traveling across the state and working from her car, Anna loves to read, spend time with family and friends, run, and visit Florida's state parks. She has been a longtime member of the League of Women Voters, first becoming a member at age 20 and working with then President Deirdre Macnab to establish a reduced membership rate for students. She then served as a board member for the Orange County League of Women Voters for 3 years.

News from the National League

Ann Campbell

Over the summer the National League:

Held its 52nd national convention in Washington, DC, in June, at which a new president, Chris Carson, and board were elected, a budget adopted and planning begun for the national program - the campaign for Making Democracy Work. " That means accelerating the pace of change within the League and having a bias toward action, taking advantage of alternative engagement opportunities, focusing our agenda, and wrestling with the tough questions of whether our current structure and approaches reflect a 21st century organization." (Chris Carson)

Asked League members to lobby their members of congress on legislation that would repair the Voting Rights Act to its full powers. This legislation, the [Voting Rights Amendment Act](#) will level the playing field and ensure that all Americans have fair and equal access to the voting booth

Announced that the League will partner with the [United Nations on Alliance 8.7](#) in an effort to bring an end to Human Trafficking which, along with forced labor, affects 21 million people all over the world including here in the United States.

Joined partners on a [letter to the U.S. House opposing H.R. 5053](#), legislation that would eliminate the requirement for 501(c) groups to disclose their donors to the IRS.

Sent [comments to the U.S. Census Bureau](#) regarding the decision to continue using the "usual residence" rule. The rule counts incarcerated citizens at their prison addresses rather than their home address. The League believes that the Bureau's decision undermines the redistricting process in states across the country by distorting state and federal legislative districts. This upsets the balance of power and disproportionately under represents minority populations in communities across the country.

Joined the Election Protection Coalition and its member groups on an [open letter](#) to the Democratic, Republican, Green and Libertarian parties. The letter addresses political calls for increased presence of law enforcement officials and election observers at polling places in November. The League and others believe that a continued call for protection against voter fraud will dissuade voters, especially communities of color, from participating on Election Day.

Filed an Amicus Brief in *A. Philip Randolph Inst. v. Husted*, joining Project Vote and Common Cause in 6th Circuit Appeals Court. The brief argues that methods used by the state of Ohio to remove voters based on their voting status from the voting rolls should be prohibited. Purging voters from the rolls because they didn't vote in previous elections creates confusion for voters and is in direct violation of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) and the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

For more information [click here](#).

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.

Visit our website at www.lwvcolliercounty.org for our current list of officers, directors and off-board members, our Program, Diversity Policy, Nonpartisan Policy, By-laws, Minutes, and more.

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