

The Voter

Issue: 2015-08

January 2015

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JANUARY AT A GLANCE

Government Committee

Monday, January 5

9:30-11:00 a.m.

[Clive/Daniel Home](#)
Community Room

2777 Tamiami Trail N.

Luncheon and General Meeting

Monday, January 12

12:00 p.m.

[Naples Hilton Hotel](#)

5111 Tamiami Trail North

Social Policy Committee

Wednesday, January 14

January 12 Luncheon and General Meeting: ACCESS TO VETERAN'S HEALTH CARE SERVICES

The How, When, and Where for Vets in Southwest Florida



SPEAKERS:

Dr. Elsa M. Zayas, Associate
Chief of Staff, Southern
Clinics, U.S. Veterans
Administration

Clark Lo, Administrative Officer, Southern Clinics, U.S. Veterans
Administration

Heriberto (Eddie) Hartnack: Veterans Services Officer, Collier County
Public Services Division

Continuing our focus on access to health care services in our community, we turn to a system of care delivery about which most of us know very little. There are an estimated 30 to 40 thousand veterans living in Collier County. We asked our speakers to explain how those who are eligible for health benefits go about finding access to doctors and other health care professionals in the VA system. We will learn what types of specialty services are available locally and regionally and how many veterans are served.

They care for female and male veterans from WWII, and on. Eddie Hartnack, the "go-to" person for Vets needing help in Collier County is the local gatekeeper and facilitator for Veterans Services of all types.

Where: Naples Hilton Hotel, 5111 Tamiami Trail North

When: Monday, January 12, 2015

* Registration: 11:45 a.m.; lunch promptly at noon

* Program: 12:30 p.m.; General Meeting: 1:30- 2:15 p.m.

Cost: \$25.00 per person- Program only: no charge

Reservations are essential. Please [click here](#) or call 239-263-4656 and leave a message by Thursday, January 8, before noon.

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

Audiovisual and other expenses associated with our 2014-15 General Meetings are underwritten by a generous donation from

The Walker Group
at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management

12:00 p.m.
Wilderness Country Club

Goodlette Frank Road

Lunch with Leaders

Thursday, January 15

12:00 p.m.

Growth Management Office

Horseshoe Drive

directions to be forwarded
upon RSVP

**Environmental Affairs
Committee**

Thursday, January 22

9:30 -11:00 a.m.
North Collier Government
Center
2335 Orange Blossom Drive



General Meetings at Hilton Naples

Monday, January 12, 2015, 11:45 a.m.

Monday, February 9, 2015, 11:45 a.m.

Monday, March 9, 2015, 11:45 a.m.

Monday, April 13, 2015, 11:45 a.m.

Lunch With Leaders

Joyce Fletcher

We continue our focus on Collier County Government by arranging to meet with Nick Casalanguida, Administrator of the Collier County Growth Management Department, and Jamie French, Deputy Administrator.

This department has over 450 employees and is responsible for all aspects of growth management including planning for future growth and regulatory compliance activities related to development. This department is responsible for roads, storm water and natural resource systems, beaches and unincorporated airports, traffic patterns, and the GPS support resources for hurricane or natural disasters.

When: Thursday, January 15 at noon

Where: Growth Management Office on S. Horseshoe Drive.

Only LWVCC members may attend and reservations are on a first come first serve basis. The first 15 responders will be invited to respond with lunch orders and given exact directions to the meeting. Lunches will be ordered in advance and the cost will not exceed \$10.

RSVP: jbletcher@embarqmail.com

President's Message

Becky Newell, President



I'd like to wish you all a Happy New Year! I'm excited about our upcoming plans for the League in 2015, and I hope you'll all join me in attending many of our meetings and activities.

Be sure to check our [online events calendar](#) to keep up to date on our busy schedule. For many of the events, you can sign up to attend directly from the online calendar. Just click on the event, scroll to the bottom of the screen, select the number of registrations you'd like to make, and click "Register." Once the meeting organizer has been notified of your reservation, you'll receive a confirmation email.

Please remember that at our committee meetings - Environmental Affairs, Government, Social Policy, Justice, and Education - and at our general meetings, guests are always welcome! If you have friends who may be interested in joining the League, invite them to join you at a committee or general meeting to get a taste of what we do.

One more reminder: if you are on Facebook, please "like" [our League's](#)

[page](#). Every time you interact with the page by liking and sharing our posts and by commenting on them, you help increase our reach in the community.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our local League!

Feel free to contact me at becky_newell@comcast.net.

Environmental Affairs Committee

Susan Calkins, chair



Managing Our Water: Permits, Promises and Perils will be the topic of our January 22, 2015 meeting. **Please note the date change.**

Our speaker, Clarence Tears, served as director of the Big Cypress Basin of the South Florida Water Management District from 1996-2012 and was recently elected to the Collier Soil and Water Conservation Board. He has had a 33-year career in water resource management, including recent work in China. Don't miss this meeting!.

He will talk to us about our water supply and how to manage this essential resource. He will address topics such as, where our water comes from; who can access the supply; and are there threats to the quality and supply of our water.

Speaking of water, do you know how many millions of gallons can be withdrawn from our aquifers for oil exploration and drilling in Collier County? Does the amount of water needed pose a threat to nearby wetlands and private water supply wells? Who has the right to know the chemicals being used in the extraction process? Can these chemicals threaten the safety of our drinking water? What precautions have been taken to assure that water contamination does not occur? How many drilling permits have been given by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection? Do you want to know more about the status of oil exploration and drilling in our county? If so, be sure to sign up for the February 9th LWVCC General Luncheon meeting, *Oil Exploration and Drilling in Collier County: What You Need to Know*. Bring a friend or two--or more!

Mark your calendars for a February 19th morning field trip to a Golden Gate home supported completely by solar power. How easy is it to "go solar?" Details in the next issue of the VOTER.

When: Thursday, January 22, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Where: North Collier Government Center, 2335 Orange Blossom Drive, Community Room

RSVP: Susan Calkins at calkritas@aol.com

Government Committee

Sandy Parker, chair



Government Committee members have at least two things in common: we knew little or nothing about Collier County or Florida government before joining the Committee, and we wanted to learn.

Each member, having chosen a topic to follow, gives a 3-minute update to the group after doing a little bit of research before each meeting.

Between November and February, we'll follow county government. County government. Topics include Collier County economic development efforts, along with the business incubator/accelerate issues; human trafficking; the Bayshore/Gateway Triangle Community Redevelopment Area (CRA); the Board of County Commissioners' 2015 legislative priorities; and the East Naples RaceTrac rezoning request.

Next, we'll turn to state government. We will meet every other week during the 60 day legislative session that begins in March, following bills of interest to committee members.

If you want to learn more about your community and your government, join us and at our next meeting. Please RSVP to ensure sufficient copies of handouts are available. No prior knowledge is required. If you are not already on our no-obligation email list to receive Committee updates and would like to be, please email me.

When: Monday January 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Where: Clive/Daniel Home, Community Room, 2777 Tamiami Trail N.

RSVP: sparker101@gmail.com.

Justice Committee

Charlotte Nycklemoe



January marks the beginning of our Juvenile Court observations. Our committee members will be observing detention hearings, writs, delinquency arraignments, dispositions, shelter hearings, pre-trials and delinquency hearings.

Our members will observe the court with the intention of learning answers to the following questions. Once our CC juveniles are sentenced, where do they go? Do they have family? Guardians? Do they waive their rights? Who represents them? Do they stay in CC? Are they assessed for mental illness? Are they a product of domestic violence? What is their ethnicity? What is the impact of the newly formed Unified Family Court on these juveniles?

Do you feel motivated by compassion to learn about the obstacles "our" kids face in the justice system? Join us! Our CC children need all the help we can give them. It's not too late to join our committee. Just contact me and I will bring you up to speed.

There will be no January meeting, as our regular meeting falls on Martin Luther King Day.

Contact: drchargar@gmail.com, or 239-455-2261.

Membership Committee

Lydia Galton, chair



New Members:

We are pleased to welcome new members to our League:

Cynthia Marino-Clark, Julie Domenick, Jeanne and Arthur Johnson, Patricia Aiken-O'Neill, and Sarah Berg

Renewals:

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please go on line and do it as quickly as possible in order to remain active on our roster. If you have decided not to renew, a note to that effect would be greatly appreciated.

New Member Orientation

We have scheduled a "New Member Orientation" on January 6th at my house. If you failed to received an invitation or missed an orientation in the past, just let me know. We will be happy to include you.

Please feel free to contact me at lgalton@comcast.net.

Social Policy Committee

Ann Campbell, Chair



Finding Affordable Quality Health Care for Low Income Seniors

Our group has visited and/or heard about the Friendship Health Clinic of the Senior Friendship Centers in past years. Volunteer physicians and dentists, along with other volunteer professionals, provide primary and specialty medical care, dental care, medication assistance and other services to more than 1200 Collier County older adults and their families each year at their location on Pine Ridge Road. The original clinic site was once a church, now a restaurant across from Naples City Hall.

We have invited Executive Director Allie Harrison to our Wednesday, January 14 meeting at noon at the Wilderness Country Club where we will have a light lunch. Our friend and long-time Director Betty Gamel, ARNP, is retiring in January. Allie will tell us about changes coming to the clinic beyond the "changing of the guard". There is exciting news!

At our December meeting we learned of a wide range of mental health services in the community from Margot Escott, LCSW, representing the Mental Health Association of Southwest Florida. For information on their support and program services, go to <http://www.mhaswfl.org>. We are troubled to hear that few psychiatrists in Collier County are willing to accept Medicare patients.

When: Wednesday, January 14, 2015, 12:00 p.m.

Where: Wilderness Country Club, Goodlette Frank Road

Cost of lunch is \$11.00.

RSVP: acamp1082@aol.com.

Book Club

Charlotte Nycklemoe, chair

Abundance - the Future is Better Than You Think - by Peter Diamandis and Steven Kotler, "offers a vision of the future that's truly awesome in both the most traditional and modern understandings of the word; it's as big as it is awe inspiring..."

Futurist.

Mark your calendars! I think you're going to like this book!

WHEN: Thursday March 19, 2:30 -4:00 p.m.

WHERE: The home of Charlotte Nycklemoe

RSVP: drchargar@gmail.com, or 239-455-2261

News from the State

Becky Newell

Deirdre Macnab, President of the League of Women Voters of Florida has announced that the state League has hired Viletta "Vi" Coombs as its new Executive Director. You can learn more about Vi [here](#).

LWVF has also announced its priorities for 2015:

1. Make Florida healthier: Ensure the Legislature TAKES the \$51 billion in federal funds to ensure the health care gap is closed and our lowest income workers have affordable access to health care.
2. Ensure a well-planned implementation of Amendment One that both protects the Everglades and helps repair and protect our declining springs and rivers.
3. Passage of a law to allow electronic voter registration, already passed in 24 states, making registration more accessible, cost effective and accurate.
4. Prevent any further expansion of vouchers, draining our public schools of desperately needed funds, and creating a parallel school system with no accountability.
5. Stop the passage of laws that will make it easier for students and visitors to carry guns in our K-12 schools and universities.
6. Get a Floridians' for Fair Democracy amendment on the ballot for 2016.

The dates for LWVF's two statewide events for this spring are:

- Capitol Impact Days in Tallahassee, FL March 10-12, 2015. [Click here to register.](#)
- State Convention in Delray Beach, FL May 15-16, 2015. [Click here to register.](#)

For more information from the League of Women Voters of Florida, [click here](#).

News from the National League

Ann Campbell

In recent weeks the National League:

- Joined coalition partners in a December 12 letter to President Obama urging him to veto the FY2015 Omnibus Appropriations bill. The bill includes the most corrupting campaign finance provisions ever created. The President signed the FY2015 bill on December 17.
- Reminded members that the Federal Election Commission (FEC), the federal agency in charge of our nation's campaign finance laws, is now receiving public comment about steps they should take "to address corruption in the political process". Members are urged to tell the FEC to act to stop the secret money polluting our elections and end coordinated expenditures by outside groups
- Reported that League members are invited to attend part or all of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) session at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 9 to 20 March 2015. Space is limited and registration is required with Suzanne.maltz6@gmail.com. The LWVUS will be sponsoring a special panel discussion - Women Parliamentarians: Achieving Economic & Social Improvements. LWVUS is working with the governments of Chile, Germany Philippines and Turkey to host and co-sponsor the event and will host a reception for our delegation during the first week of the session.
- Invited local Leagues and individual members to submit suggestions for legislative priorities for the upcoming session in January. The LWVUS Board sets priorities using this filter: opportunities for the League to make an impact; program decisions made at Convention and/or Council; member interest; and resources available to manage effectively. Realistically, the Board says, they will have to expend resources on defending voting rights and threats to existing campaign finance law, good climate change work and the Affordable Health Care Act. Members are asked to balance their legislative suggestions against the importance of fighting for core League issues. Suggestions for LWVUS advocacy priorities may be emailed by January 12 to Advocacy Committee Chair Chris Carson at carsonlww@yahoo.com. Indicate whether the suggestions are from an individual member, a committee, board or membership meeting.

For more information on National League projects [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.