

The Voter

Issue: 2016-02

February 2016

In This Issue

[General Meeting](#)

[President's Message](#)

[Lunch With Leaders](#)

[League 101](#)

[Development Subcommittee](#)

[Social Media Workshop](#)

[Education Committee](#)

[Environmental Affairs Committee](#)

[Government Committee](#)

[Justice Committee](#)

[Membership Committee](#)

[Social Policy Committee](#)

[Voter Services](#)

[Book Club](#)

[News from the State League](#)

[News from National League](#)

[About Us](#)



February 2016 LWVCC LUNCHEON & GENERAL MEETING Behind the Bench: A Look Back in Time

Judge Mary Evans was elected to the Circuit Court bench by the voters of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit in August of 2014. She has a well-rounded view of the law, having represented clients in family law, domestic violence and dependency proceedings. Currently, she is assigned to Domestic Relations, Circuit Domestic Violence, Juvenile Delinquency, Juvenile Dependency and Truancy Court. She was the past president of the Lee County Bar Association and is a Supreme Court Certified Family Law Mediator.

The Justice Committee members of the League of Women Voters Collier County have had the privilege and honor to have first-hand observational experience of seeing Judge Evans in action; she has proven to be a fair-minded and impartial, compassionate, yet firm representative of the court.

The program will be centered around the judge's first full year in office; trends and types of offenses being committed, severity of the crimes, diversion programs; are they working? Recidivism rates, challenges, successes and what has she learned over this time on the bench.

Please note the change in the starting time for lunch.

Where: Hilton Naples Hotel, 5111 Tamiami Trail North

When: Monday, February 8, 2016

Registration: 11:30 am, with lunch promptly at 11:45 am

Program: 12:15 pm

General Meeting: 1:15 - 2:15 pm

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

Program only: beginning at 12:15 pm. No charge or reservation needed.

To make lunch reservations, please [click here](#) or call 239-263-4656 and leave a message by Thursday, February 4, before noon.

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

Audiovisual and other expenses associated with our 2015-16 General Meetings are underwritten by a generous donation from

The Walker Group at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management

FEBRUARY AT A GLANCE

Government Committee

Monday, February 1 9:30 -
11:30 am
Clive Daniel Home
2777 Tamiami Tr. N

Education Committee

Tuesday, February 2
10:30 am to noon
North Collier Government
Center
2235 Orange Blossom
Drive

Social Media

Monday, February 8
9:30 to 11 am
Hilton Naples
5111 Tamiami Trail N.

Luncheon and General Meeting

Monday, February 8
11:45 am
Hilton Naples
5111 Tamiami Trail N.

Social Policy Committee

Wednesday,
February 10, noon
Wilderness Country Club
101 Clubhouse Drive

Environmental Affairs Committee

Thursday, February 11
Season's at Naples Cay

Government Committee

Monday, February 15
10:30 to noon
The Season's at Naples
Cay

President's Message

Charlotte Nycklemoe, President



As we approach February, it is time for committees to begin preparing their programs for the 2016-17 year to be submitted to the membership at our annual meeting in April. Can it really be time already to talk about the 2016-17 year? It must be true that the older we get, the faster time goes by!

As I contemplate the April annual meeting, I am recalling the accomplishments of this past year; one of the highlights is the completion of our two studies, Constitutional Amendment and Money in Politics. I am so proud of all the participants' thoughtful questions and our leaders, Sandy Parker and Robin Larkin. I wish each one of you could have been present to hear the Questions Panel members, Liza McClenaghan, Wendy Riedel and Kathy Ryan, as they deciphered and interpreted the consensus questions. A huge thank you to Ann Campbell for compiling and reporting the results of our consensus which will now be submitted for local board approval and subsequently forwarded to National to be discussed at the June National Convention. Our collective voices will be heard at our Florida Legislature and the United States Congress.

The League is so much more than just listening to the speakers at the luncheons. This is *your* organization and it is shaped by the decisions and focuses of the committees, sub committees and ad hoc committees. This is where your voice is heard. We need to hear your voice as we plan for 2016-17.

I encourage you to review the [Impact on Issues 2014-2016](#) booklet. This booklet is designed to help League leaders use LWVUS public policy

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](#).

Lunch with Leaders

Please join us for a most informative hour with Tom Wedlock, Sergeant, Juveniles at Risk, Sheriff's Department. A 15 year history of working with juveniles at risk qualifies Tom to speak to the trends and behaviors of our Collier County youth who are at risk. Are we as a community meeting their needs? How? What happens to *our* CC kids when they are in detention? Where do they go after they are released? Do they recidivate? What about the kids who fall through the cracks? What are we doing that works and what's not working?

Please reserve your place at this eye-opening session. You will be amazed as we munch on our brown bag lunches. First come, first serve! Space is limited!

When: Friday, February 19, at noon

Where: Collier County Courthouse, 6th Floor Conference Room
3315 Tamiami Trail E

RSVP: [Charlotte Nycklemoe](#) or phone 239-455-2261

Justice Committee

Monday, February 15
10:30 am
Clive Daniel Home
Community Room
2777 Tamiami Tr N

Lunch with Leaders

Friday February 19
noon
Collier County Courthouse
6th Floor Conference Room
3315 Tamiami Trail E

League 101

Tuesday, February 23
9:30 to 11 am
North Collier Government
Center
2235 Orange Blossom
Drive



Everything You Wanted to Know About the League But Were Afraid to Ask

Are you a new member interested in learning more about the League? Have you been a member for a while and want a refresher? Then *League 101* is for you!

In this informative session, past League presidents Robin Larkin and Ann Campbell will cover:

- 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 where to learn more about them,
- Our voter service activities and our role in the upcoming elections,
- And more!

This is a great opportunity to meet fellow League members, learn some League basics and ask any questions you may have.

When: Tuesday, February 23, 9:30 - 11:30 am

Where: North Collier Government Center
2335 Orange Blossom Drive,

Please [click here](#) to register by February 18.

Development Subcommittee

Robin Birnhak, Chair



The Bright Ideas Session scheduled for February 12 and sponsored by the Development Committee will be postponed until later in the season. In the interim, please be thinking of ways our local league can raise funds. You may recall that we operate with a trim, no fat budget and that only \$18 of our basic \$65 dues stays within the LWVCC to carry out our programs. The remainder is sent to the state and national organizations.

Website and Social Media Workshop

Have you thought about using social media but aren't quite sure how to get started or how to protect your privacy on Facebook or Twitter? Or do you have questions about how to find information on our LWVCC website? Please join us before our February 8 luncheon to learn about how to use these valuable digital tools.

To get the most out of the session, be sure to bring your smartphone, tablet, or laptop to the workshop.

When: Monday, February 8, 9:30 - 11:00 am

Where: Hilton Naples

RSVP: [Becky Newell](#) or call 239-290-2260

Education Committee

Mary Lou Boll, Chair



Our guest at the January meeting of the Education Committee was Anne Hartley, an educator at FGCU since 2008. Anne explained her interest in public education; she has been attending local school board meetings and is struck by the divisiveness in the board and the level of dysfunction. From behaviors she has observed she believes that those who state they are looking for local control mean control by a particular faction with a specific political agenda.

School board elections are extremely important, and many residents are not aware that these elections are often finalized in the August primary. The League will hold candidate forums during the summer, after the slate of candidates is finalized. We will notify our members of the dates and times of the forums, and we encourage you to attend. If you will not be in Naples during the summer, you will be able to watch the forums online. Candidate profiles will also be available on the LWV Collier County website.

We encourage everyone to complete the entire ballot when they vote, being sure to vote in all the local races.

When: Tuesday, February 2, 10:30 am

Where: Community Room of the North Naples Government Center
2235 Orange Blossom Drive

RSVP: [Mary Lou Boll](#)

Environmental Affairs Committee

Susan Calkins, Chair

Fracking Alert



Legislation (HB 191 and SB 318) giving all "matters relating to the exploration, development, production, processing, storage, and transportation of oil and gas" to the state." is moving rapidly through the Florida State Legislature. Many concerns, such as the vast amounts of water used in fracking, are not addressed in this regulatory legislation. Senate Bill 318 is currently in the Appropriations Committee, the last stop before going to the full Senate for a vote. The House has already approved the companion bill (HB191) by a vote of 73-45.

Act now! Call Appropriations Committee Chairman Tom Lee at 866-583-2908. As chairman, Senator Lee has the power to keep this bill from getting to the floor of the Senate (a chairman can kill a bill by refusing to put it on the committee agenda). Or he can work with other committee members to amend the bill. Lee is open to our concerns, as are others, but they need to hear from us. Let Chairman Lee know we want local control --- the right to ban/regulate drilling in our communities. We want to safeguard our water supply. Calls to the following committee members would also be very helpful:

Charlie Dean: 850-487-5005

Gwen Margolis: 877-434-0011

Oscar Brayon: 888-498-2945

Thad Altman: 888-793-4597

The Floridians for Solar Choice Amendment will not be on the 2016 ballot (for the backstory on this, come to our next meeting). However, it is important to continue to collect signatures; these signatures are good for 24 months so this amendment can be placed on the 2018 ballot. Meanwhile, the impacts of climate change, especially sea level rise, will be discussed by Smithsonian scientists at two evening presentations: February 5, at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida and February 6, at [Rookery Bay National](#)

[Estuarine Research Reserve](#). An update on our LWVCC efforts to see a regional coalition formed to address sea level rise will be presented at our next meeting.

Did you know the Town of Big Cypress is now called Rural Land West with plans for 8800 residences? A number of new town sites have been proposed to accommodate the hundreds of thousands of new residents expected to eventually be living east of 951. The placement of these towns will have major environmental impacts on the land itself (agricultural and wetlands), as well as the wildlife inhabiting these areas. The economic impact on the county for infrastructure like roads, water supply, sewers and schools etc. will also be significant. As the county takes on the major task of reviewing its growth management plans for our eastern lands, committee members are attending the RFMUD public meetings being held by [Collier County Planning Department](#).

Interested in these issues? Join us for our Environmental Affairs Committee meeting and don't forget that you can keep up with a variety of environmental issues online; sign up for [Eco-Voice](#) and [Florida Conservation Coalition](#).

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

Where: Season's at Naples Cay

RSVP: For access to the gate, contact [Susan Calkins](#).

Government Committee

Sandy Parker, Chair



This month, the Government Committee will have two meetings. On February 1, we will focus on education-related bills before the Florida Legislature. On February 15, we will focus on bills related to the Environment and to Ethics and Elections. In addition at both meetings, members will report briefly on bills they are following in other areas. There are many bills of concern to League members this session. Join us to learn about them from fellow League members.

When: Monday, February 1, 10:30 am to noon

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

RSVP: [Sandy Parker](#)

When: Monday, February 15, 10:30 am to noon

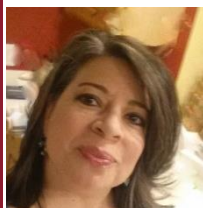
Where: The Seasons at Naples Cay

RSVP: [Sandy Parker](#)

Future meetings will be on Mondays from 10:30 am to noon on 3/7, 4/4 and 5/9 at Clive Daniel Home. All members and guests are welcome to attend. RSVP requested to [Sandy Parker](#).

Justice Committee

Linda Flores, Chair



The Justice Committee has embarked on a fact-finding mission; over the past several months, we have engaged a speaker's bureau from within the community to assist in the identification of gaps in services and programs that affect juveniles at risk and their families. Armed with this knowledge, we will now visit various community resource sites such as Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, Goodwill and Youth Haven for one-on-one meetings with the site leaders. These visits will help further define the segment of youth most in need of mentoring

services.

Come join us as we share our findings and commit to making a difference in our community!

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." (Nelson Mandela)

When: Monday, February 15, 10:30 am to 12 pm

Where: Clive Daniels Home
2777 Tamiami Trail North

RSVP: [Linda Flores](#) or Mobile:239-239-5160

Membership Committee

Jan Eustis, Chair



A warm welcome to all new members. Please be sure to include them at your table and in your conversation as they learn the ropes.

The new members at the *Suffragist Level*:

Leslie Bruner
Dina Sewell
Michael Finkel
Myra and Van Williams
Liz Jaffe
Marianne Kearns
Deborah Giso

Diana Walsh is a new member at the *Susan B. Anthony Level*.

We have several new members and some long-standing members whose working schedules do not allow them to join us during our daytime, weekday meetings. Our president Charlotte Nycklemoe is discussing alternative meeting times with a few of you. This is a wonderful opportunity to expand our membership and incorporate fresh energy and ideas into our League. If you would like to participate, please let me know; you will be included as we move forward on this initiative.

If you need a LWVCC name tag, we take orders at every general meeting, adjacent to the sign in desk.

Almost all of you have renewed your membership for 2016. If you have not, please stop at the membership table at the general meeting and drop off your check. Or, you can go on line to renew at our [LWVCC website](#) or mail your check to LWVCC, P.O. Box 9883, Naples Florida 34101.

Share the League with a friend! The best way to expand our membership is to bring somebody to our next General Meeting!

Feel free to contact me at [Jan Eustis](#) or 239-872-5709.

Social Policy Committee

Ann Campbell, Chair



The Area Agency on Aging is there to help.

On Wednesday, February 10 we will get together with Marianne Lorini of the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida/Aging and Disability Resource Center who will talk about their structure, the services and programs they provide, SHINE, and Health and Wellness initiatives. Sounds like a wealth of information for our committee! To visit their website [click here](#).

Follow-up on our January meeting about Palliative Care: Shannon Brown, ARNP, clinical coordinator of the Palliative Care program at Naples Community Hospital and Heather Baker, administrative director at NCH Brookdale Center joined us to talk about the increase in awareness of the value of this type of patient care throughout the country. It is a multidisciplinary approach that focuses on providing patients with relief from the symptoms, pain, physical and mental stress of a serious illness, whatever the diagnosis. Shannon stressed the importance of Advanced Planning for healthcare, the need to have Advanced Directives and to have them widely distributed to health care providers, hospitals, attorneys and family. We talked about the need to have end of life choices respected, honored, and to have our care matched to our wishes as far as possible. AVOW Hospice has plans for a Palliative Care Center and NCH will open an outpatient clinic for Palliative Care in March. Shannon tells us that Medicare pays for palliative care services provided by nurse practitioners, MD's, and in some states a few other professional entities.

We will have a light lunch at a cost of \$11.00. Please reserve your place by Monday, February 8. All LWVCC members are invited and guests are welcome.

When: Wednesday, February 10, at noon

Where: Wilderness Country Club

RSVP: [Ann Campbell](#)



Voter Services

Joyce Fletcher, Chair

LWVCC is partnering with other organizations to plan a year long schedule of candidate and issue forums during this election year. Partnering organizations in addition to LWVCC are Collier Citizens Council, Great Naples Chamber of Commerce, Greater Naples Leadership, Collier County President's Council, Greater Naples Better Government Committee, Naples Press Club, Pelican Bay Property Owners Assn, East Naples Civic Assn, Golden Gate Area

Civic Assn, Golden Gate Estates Area Civic Assn.

The schedule as of now is:

- April 7: Florida House Districts 80 and 103 and Senate District 23
- April 13: Collier County District 3
- May 3: Collier County District 5
- May 18: School Board Districts 2 and 4
- September 27 and 29: Fire District Commissioners
- October 4: Constitutional Amendments and Referendums
-

Please join us for our next meeting.

When: Wednesday, March 2, 10-11:30 am

Where: North Collier Government Center
2235 Orange Blossom Drive

RSVP: [Joyce Fletcher](#)

Book Club

Marcia Maloni, Chair

Book for March is *Soldier Girls* by Helen Thorpe

When: Thursday, March 3, 2016

RSVP: For time and place to [Marcia Maloni](#)

News from the State League

Charlotte Nycklemoe

Subject: No Appeal...Our Senate Map is FINAL!

Yesterday the Senate announced that the Legislature will not appeal Judge Reynolds' adoption of the Senate district map submitted by the Fair Districts Coalition! That's right - NO APPEAL!

Over 5 years ago, 63% of Florida voters - Republicans and Democrats alike - amended our state constitution to outlaw the drawing of districts to favor political parties or incumbents. We all knew that rigging districts to favor the politicians was just plain wrong. But we needed to make it illegal. And we did!

Sadly, the legislative leaders did not get the message. Intentionally ignoring the amendments, they drew Senate and Congressional districts that blatantly violated the language we worked so hard to put in our Constitution. As President Obama lamented in his State of the Union address last week, they continued choosing their voters, rather than the other way around. But in Florida, that sordid practice is now unconstitutional.

The President challenged citizens to band together to fight gerrymandering. Well, for once my friends, Florida is ahead of other states! Make no mistake, for the first time in Florida's history, we now have Senate and Congressional maps that give Floridians the opportunity to elect Senators and Congressional Representatives that reflect the political choices of voters - not legislators.

In other words, YOU are one of the citizens the President was talking about - only YOU got the memo long before he made his speech! Because of your contributions (money and work), Florida is way ahead of the vast majority of states. We have done something about this pernicious problem of gerrymandering. We have changed Florida in a monumental way.

So, many of you are asking if there is anything more for us to do. The Senate map is final and written in stone by a court order and will be used this year and until the next redistricting in 2022. And when the map is redrawn after the next census, this map will be the basis for the next.

The Congressional map has also been finally approved. But one member of Congress is asking a federal court to take us back to the old gerrymandered districts. Oral argument in that case will not be until March 25. However, we are very confident that this challenge will not succeed and the approved map will stand in place until 2022 as well.

You know, our success here is a monument to the power of people over politics. But it is also a monument to the skill, dedication and commitment of our extraordinary legal team. David King has led our fight in court. His small law firm has had, in many instances, to decline other work so that they could devote their time to this very important litigation. They have had to advance money for costs of expert witnesses, depositions, trial exhibits and more. And they have done their work with unparalleled excellence - working nights, weekends, and sacrificing holidays with their families.

We must finish paying them for all they have done [Please make a contribution to help defray the cost of this litigation](#). Your contribution now will make a difference. Your continued support will help us finish the last remaining legal fight and it will help pay the bills for the battles we have won.

Your contribution will be a sign of your support and appreciation for all our legal team has done!

As always, I send my deepest appreciation for your deep commitment to democracy. And I hope you can and will help us finish this off!

All the best,

Ellen Freidin, Esquire

League of Women Voters of Florida | 540 Beverly Court | Tallahassee |

FL | 32301-7530

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

News from the National League

Ann Campbell

Last month the National League:

- Joined comments sent to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) on proposed regulations governing training for Affordable Care Act (ACA) navigators. The comments argue that ACA navigators should provide an opportunity for applicants to register to vote while applying for coverage through health care exchanges as provided by the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).
- Praised the climate agreement in Paris for putting people before polluters when the world's countries agreed to reduce carbon pollution. For more information on the historic agreement reached in Paris check out LWVUS' most recent blog. This is an historic moment in the fight against climate change.
- Invited League leaders to join the Convention/Program Planning Google Group now up and running! Sign up to join the Convention/Program Planning Google Group to discuss all Convention related issues including program as well as logistics, bylaws and budget. The Convention/Program Planning Google Group provides a space for state and local League and ILO leaders and LWVUS Board and Staff to discuss topics related to the [June 2016 LWVUS Convention](#) and [Program Planning 2016-2018](#).

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.