

The Voter

Issue: 2016-01

January 2016

In This Issue

[General Meeting](#)

[President's Message](#)

[New Member Coffee](#)

[League 101](#)

[Money in Politics Consensus Meeting](#)

[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](#)



Mike Ellis

JANUARY 2016 LWVCC LUNCHEON & GENERAL MEETING

Beyond Repair Shop Medicine

The title of our program was suggested by our two speakers from the Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida (HCN), CEO Mike Ellis and vice-president of operations, Dr. Emily Ptaszek.



Emily Ptaszek, PsyD

Formerly known as CHS Healthcare, the network began in Immokalee in 1977 to serve migrant farm workers and their families. HCN has expanded throughout Collier County providing care through numerous practices and partnerships. Among the highlights of our program will be hearing how HCN integrates behavioral care into its overall Family and Women's Care, including its primary Pediatric and Dental Care for over 60% of Collier

County's children. The League of Women Voters strongly supports access to health care for all residents, which isn't easy to accomplish, so we are looking forward to learning how HCN became a *medical home* for over 40,000 people.

Where: Hilton Naples Hotel, 5111 Tamiami Trail North

When: Monday, January 11, 2016

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

Program: 12:30 pm

General Meeting: 1:30 - 2:15 pm

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

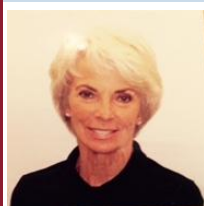
Program only: beginning at 12:30 pm. No charge, no reservation needed.

To make lunch reservations, please [click here](#) or call 239-263-4656 and leave a message by Thursday, January 7, 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



President's Message

Charlotte Nycklemoe, President

Happy New Year Everyone! Are you ready for a wild 2016? We have a remarkably busy year ahead of us: elections, candidate forums, Money in Politics consensus meetings, Social Networking workshop, Legislative

Summit bus trip Lunch with Leaders, Bright Ideas, LWV 101 and in addition we have our committee meetings and luncheons. Whew! Sounds exhausting, doesn't it? But you know what? We are up to the task! Our membership is growing exponentially each month and

JANUARY AT A GLANCE

Government Committee

Tuesday, January 5

9:30 - 11:30 am

Club at Olde Cypress
7165 Treeline Drive

Education Committee

Tuesday, January 5

10:30 am to noon

North Collier Government Center

2235 Orange Blossom Drive

Voter Services Committee

Wednesday, January 6

10 - 11:30 am

North Collier Government Center

2235 Orange Blossom Drive

Luncheon and General

Meeting

Monday, January 11

11:45 am

Hilton Naples

5111 Tamiami Trail N.

Social Policy Committee

Wednesday,

January 13, noon

Wilderness Country Club

101 Clubhouse Drive

New Member Coffee

Tuesday, Jan 14

9 -11 am

Contact Jan Eustis

Environmental Affairs

Committee

Thursday, January 14

11:30 am - 1 pm

Conservancy of Southwest Florida

1450 Smith Preserve Way

Environmental Planning Center

building

2nd Floor Board Room

Justice Committee

when I see the resumes of our members, I'm astounded! What we have in our midst is the greatest collection of energetic, enthusiastic, educated, skilled, movers and shakers assembled in Collier County. This is our year to *shine*! Look for details throughout the Voter.

I'm particularly excited to announce a Social Networking Workshop prior to our February luncheon at the Hilton. If you are unfamiliar with Facebook, Twitter, and our website, you are missing out on the latest and up to date information provided by our League, our State League and Leagues throughout the state. Please plan on attending! This is the digital age and we must learn how to use these tools to access information - no matter how much kicking and screaming we do while being pulled into the 21st century!

Please register early for our January 11, luncheon since a large crowd is expected. Ann Campbell and her committee have worked endlessly to present you with a fantastic, informative program on Healthcare.

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 at drchargar@gmail.com. Check out our website at: www.lwvcolliercounty.org and don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

New Member Coffee

New members are invited to meet our local League leaders, get to know other new members, and learn about opportunities for involvement. We look forward to having you join us.

When: Thursday, January 14, 9:00- 11:00 am

Where: The home of Jan Eustis

RSVP: [Jan Eustis](#) or 239-872-5709



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, we 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.

League 101 will be held twice this season. Choose the session that's best for you!

When: Tuesday, January 26 or Tuesday, February 23

9:30 - 11:30 am

Where: North Collier Government Center
2335 Orange Blossom Drive, Naples 34109

Space is limited. Please register by January 21 for the January session and by February 18 for the February session by emailing [Sandy Parker](#).

Monday, January 18

10:30 am

Clive Daniel Home
Community Room
2777 Tamiami Tr N

Money In Politics Study

Wednesday January 20
9-11:30 am

Country Club of Naples

185 Burning Tree Drive

Book Club

Thursday, January 21

Contact Marcia Maloni

League 101

Tuesday, January 26
9:30 to 11 am

North Collier Government Center

2235 Orange Blossom Drive

Money in Politics Study

Sandy Parker and Robin Larkin, Co Chairs



Register Now for the January 20 Consensus Meeting.

The League believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process. Yet what we have today is far from that ideal.

What should be the goals and purposes of campaign finance regulation? What constitutes political corruption? In what way(s), if any, should spending to influence an election be limited? Which of several possible actions, if any, should the LWV support to achieve the goals of campaign finance regulation?

Join us in a discussion of these questions. Any consensus we reach will be considered by the National League as it updates its Position on Campaign Finance in the coming months.

To prepare to actively participate in our discussion, please:

1. Read [Money in Politics - Introduction and Overview](#).
2. Read [Study Guide on Money in Politics](#).
3. Read two of the League's [recommended background readings](#)

When: Wednesday, January 20, 9-11:30 am

Where: Country Club of Naples, 185 Burning Tree Drive, Naples 34105

RSVP: [Sandy Parker](#) or [Robin Larkin](#) to register or ask questions. This is a meeting you won't want to miss!



Development Subcommittee

Robin Birnhak, Chair

The LWVCC operates on a slim budget. There are times, however, when our program expenses exceed revenues and members find themselves subsidizing League activities to make up the shortfall. In light of this the LWVCC has formed a Development Subcommittee to augment chapter revenues. Robin Larkin, Patti Forkan and Robin Birnhak will lead this effort.

The group will focus on two fronts: working closely with committee chairs, officers and the membership to identify League programs and activities in need of additional funding to achieve their full potential, and raising funds from the local business community, foundations and individuals. Fundraising is not a usual activity for this League, but it is a worthwhile effort to secure and expand the League's important work.

The Development Subcommittee will hold a Bright Ideas Session to brainstorm ways to raise funds. This will be a social yet serious get-together. League members, all of whom are renowned for their thoughtful and imaginative responses to real world situations, and their spouses or other guests are invited.

When: Friday, February 12, 4 - 6:00 pm

Where: Robin Larkin's home

RSVP: [Robin Larkin](#) by February 1, to affirm your attendance and the name of an accompanying guest. All guests' names must be supplied to the guard gate in advance of entry.

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

At the December 15 meeting of the Education Committee, Myra Shapiro was our guest. Myra is one of the founding members of the Naples Alliance for Children, an organization so active in promoting the best in education and services for children. Her topic was early learning, and she generously gave each person present a copy of the 2015 Resource Directory published by the Alliance. She especially stressed the importance of the Early Education Teacher. Currently only those persons who are passionate about early childhood stay in the field because the wages are so low. Myra gave us advice and direction about resources we can tap to focus our advocacy. She also volunteered to become a member of the committee and we welcome the expertise!

Our guest for the January meeting will be Anne Hartley, a member of the faculty at FGCU, and a frequent spokesperson in support of public education. You may have seen her letters to the editor, and have recognized in them her deep knowledge and spirit. Please join us to enhance our own ability to support our fine public schools in Collier County.

When: Tuesday January 5, 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

Our January 14 meeting will begin at 11:30 am rather than the usual 9:30 am; the time change is *for this month only*. There will be updates re: oil exploration in the Big Cypress Preserve (the Western Everglades) and the status of pending regulatory oil drilling legislation as well as other relevant information from the Everglades Coalition Conference.

In addition, there will be a presentation, by Senior Natural Resources Specialist Amber Crooks, related to the impending development of eastern Collier County. The region is home to the endangered Florida panther, as well as other listed, endangered species. Since development of this area can harm these species, property owners and developers must apply to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for an Incidental Take Permit prior to construction. A Habitat Conservation Plan is required as part of that application. What does it mean to *take* species? Who is responsible for the development and implementation of the Habitat Conservation Plan? What input, if any, do community members have in the development of the plan? Please join us for the answers!

Thanks to all who turned in Solar Choice petitions! Remember, the drive is not yet over; we need to keep collecting signatures! If you need more forms contact me or go to [Floridians for Solar Choice](#) for more petitions or for any questions you may have. Alli Brown, volunteer coordinator for Floridians for Solar Choice, works closely with LWVF and is most helpful.

When: Thursday, January 14, 11:30 am - 1 pm

Where: Conservancy SW FL
Environmental Planning Center building, 2nd Floor Board Room

RSVP: For more information contact [Susan Calkins](#).



Government Committee

Sandy Parker, Chair

From January through March, we will focus on activities of the Florida Legislature, with each Committee member choosing a bill to follow and report on at each bi-weekly meeting.

At our January 5 meeting, Committee member Liza McClenaghan will teach us to track the progress of a bill through the House and Senate websites with a presentation and online demonstration.

If you bring a laptop, iPad or similar wi-fi-enabled device (optional), you will be able to follow along.

After the presentation, members will have three minutes each to present their bill(s). It's a great opportunity to learn what's happening in Tallahassee from fellow League members!

When: Tuesday, January 5, from 9:30 - 11:30 am

Where: The Club at Olde Cypress
7165 Treeline Drive

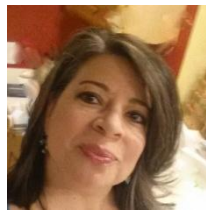
RSVP: *Space for the this meeting is limited.* Please let Sandy know if you will attend.

All League members and guests are welcome to attend. To receive no-obligation committee updates and meeting reminders, email [Sandy Parker](mailto:Sandy.Parker@floridaleague.com).

Future Committee meetings will be on Mondays from 10:30 am to noon:

1/18 and 2/15 at The Seasons in Naples Cay

2/1, 3/7, 4/4 and 5/9 at Clive Daniel Home



Justice Committee

Linda Flores, Chair

How does the Juvenile at Risk (J.A.R.), Mentoring Program work? What are the most common risk factors affecting the youth being served? What is the entry point for the child? Who can appoint a child into the J.A.R.? Where do the gaps in social services lie? How do they train their mentors?

Sergeant Thomas Wedlock of the Youth Relations Bureau will answer all our queries and more.

Come join us! This will prove to be an informative session and great forum for discussion.

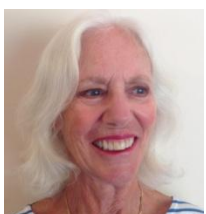
"We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give." (Winston Churchill)

When: Monday, January 18, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Where: Clive Daniels Home ,

2777 Tamiami Trail North

RSVP: [Linda Flores](mailto:Linda.Flores@floridaleague.com) or Mobile:239-239-5160



Membership Committee

Jan Eustis, Chair

A warm welcome to new members, Leslie Bruner, Anna Christina Cardon, Frankie Ferguson, and Dena Liston.

This time of year we are all absorbed in the holidays. It is my expectation that come January, we'll see an increase in our league membership!. **THE MEMBERSHIP**

RENEWAL DEADLINE IS JANUARY 31! If you haven't already done so, please renew NOW!!!

Support the Collier County League! Please remember that, when you pay your dues, the first \$47.00 goes to the state and national Leagues. Both Susan B. Anthony and Carrie Chapman Catt levels provide more funding to our local League however, they are not tax deductible. A check made out to the LWV Educational Fund is a tax deductible way to support the Collier County League.

At the risk of beating a dead horse, the renewal procedures are below. You may renew your membership online at the [LWVCC](#) website. First log in then go to the *Members* heading in the blue field, click on *Members* then in the drop down menu choose *Renew Membership*.

You may also renew by mailing your check to LWVCC, P.O. Box 9883, Naples Florida 34101.

The levels of membership are:

	INDIVIDUAL	FAMILY
Suffragist	\$65.00	97.50
Susan B. Anthony	\$100	132.50
Carrie Chapman Catt	\$200	232.50
Associate*	32.50	

*Members who joined after April 1, 2015, renew their membership December 31, 2016.

We are fortunate that Ann Lewellan has agreed to manage name tags for us. If you need to order a name tag, or if you ordered one in the past, please see her (or me) at the sign in table at the General Meeting; she or I will take care of it for you. Many thanks, Ann!

Looking forward to an exciting year! Feel free to contact me at [Jan Eustis](#) or 239-872-5709.



Social Policy Committee

Ann Campbell, Chair

Access to Palliative Health Care is Expanding in Collier County

We will get together to meet with Heather Baker, executive director of the NCH Brookdale Geriatric Center and Shannon Brown, ARNP, Clinical Coordinator for Palliative Care at NCH.

A couple of years ago, we learned about palliative care and how it differs from hospice. We learned that palliative care 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 and Heather will tell us about NCH's efforts to provide more palliative care services in the hospital setting and in the community, which will include an outpatient clinic in the future. The cost of lunch is \$11.00. All LWVCC members are invited and guests are welcome.

When: Wednesday, January 13, at noon

Where: Wilderness Country Club

RSVP: [Ann Campbell](#)

Follow-up on our December meeting about Collier County EMS. Chief Walter Kopka and his Assistant Chief gave us an overview of his department, told us about the extensive training and continuing education required to become a paramedic and showed us what a day in the life of a first responder might be like. Collier EMS receives 39,000 calls to 911 annually or 100 to 150 calls a day. Chief Kopka tells us that 70% of the calls result in transport to the hospital. With 25 ambulances, EMS provides consolidated service in Collier County including search and rescue and transport to trauma centers via helicopter. (Collier

does not have a trauma center).

The majority of patients transported are over 75 years of age. Many calls are for fall-related injuries. Others include, strokes, heart attacks and general illness. Patients have the right to choose whether to go to the hospital. When someone has fallen but a medical problem is not apparent, calls can be made to a non-emergency number (252-9300) for assistance. The 911 dispatchers are medically trained to ask pertinent questions. To help emergency responders to assist callers faster and more effectively, Kopka recommends creating a safety profile on **Smart 911**. To sign up for free, [click here](#). Then go to the SIGN UP TODAY box and fill out the online form to create an account for your safety profile.

Collier County has 2000 Automated External Defibrillators(AEDs) registered and located in churches, golf courses, fitness centers and in private homes. These life-saving devices are simple to use. They are regularly inspected and 911 dispatchers can tell emergency responders to expect them to be available and hopefully in use before they arrive at the scene. The EMS goal from call to arrival on scene is 6 minutes or less.



Voter Services

Joyce Fletcher, Chair

2016 is a very busy year for elections and the Voter Service Committee. There are many opportunities to get involved with LWVCC during an election year. The first election will be March 15, 2016 for the Presidential Preference Primary and for Naples City elections.

LWVCC will sponsor candidate forums for Naples City Council and Mayor races on January 25 and 27 at 6 pm in Naples City Council Chamber. We will be making plans for these forums at our January Committee meeting. Please plan to attend or contact Joyce Fletcher with your availability to assist.

When: Wednesday, January 6, from 10 - 11:30 am

Where: North Naples Government Center
2235 Orange Blossom Drive

RSVP: [Joyce Fletcher](#)

Book Club

Marcia Maloni, Chair

Books for this season are:

Thursday, January 21, 2016, *Euphoria* by Lily King

Thursday, March 3, 2016, *Soldier Girls* by Helen Thorpe

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



News from the State League

Charlotte Nycklemoe

Request Absentee Ballots for 2016 Elections

Going to be out of town or unable to vote on your local election day? Then now is the time to act. And at the same time make sure your absentee ballot for the 2016 presidential election is secure.

The League of Women Voters of Florida reminds voters wishing to cast an absentee ballot that they can make a request or renew an absentee ballot with a simple phone call to their local Supervisor of Elections. Renewals can also be made online or via mail.

An absentee ballot requested in 2015 is good for two general election cycles under Florida law, (FS. 101.62(1)(a)). After that initial period, however, the request must be renewed or it

will automatically sunset.

Any Florida voter can request an absentee ballot. The League is concerned that many seasoned voters may not realize that their standing absentee ballot request has expired.

The popularity of absentee voting in Florida continues to grow with each election cycle. Voters are urged to vote on THEIR schedule and call to ensure they continue to receive absentee ballots through the 2016 presidential election and beyond.

The League encourages voters to make a habit of updating their voter record at least once a year. It's important. Be Ready!

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:

- Reported that the U.S. Supreme Court recently heard arguments in *Evenwel v Abbott*, a case out of Texas, that has the potential for drawing state and local legislative districts so that districts would be determined by the total number of voters rather than the total population. The League submitted an amicus brief in *Evenwel* that supports the current practice of drawing district lines based on population counts.
- Announced that Leagues will have an opportunity to offer input to the LWVUS program for the 2016-2018 biennium. This is an important part of the League's grass roots process and it will culminate with adoption of a program of education and action at the LWVUS Convention in Washington, DC in June 2016. The LWVUS Board suggests that we begin by looking at current League positions as found in *Impact on Issues* or *LWVF's Study and Action*. Program Planning involves proposals to retain or discontinue positions as well as voting for new studies and/or action on current positions. Program planning materials will be posted in the Convention section of the League Management website. The Program Outreach Committee is chaired by [Barbara Zia](#). The deadline for submitting LWVUS Program Planning response forms is March 1, 2016.
- Invited League members to sign up for a Program Planning webinar to be held on January 7 from 7-8:00 pm Eastern Time. Program Outreach Chair, Barbara Zia and Advocacy Chair, Chris Carson will provide information about the program planning process and report on LWVUS activity in 2014-2016. Space is limited. We are asked to make sure we can attend before registering. For further information or questions, contact [Betsy Lawson](#).

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.

