

The Voter

Issue: 2015-03

March 2015

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MARCH AT A GLANCE

Government Committee

Monday, March 2

Wednesday, March 18 Monday,
March 30
9:30 to 11:30 a. m.

[Clive/Daniel Home](#) Community
Room

2777 Tamiami Trail N.

Luncheon and General Meeting

Monday, March 9

12:00 p.m.

March 9: 40th ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTES & GENERAL MEETING

featuring
TOPICAL FLORIDA EDUCATION ISSUES
presented by
Linda McDonald



If you believe education is an important element in building a vibrant, democratic society, you will not want to miss the remarks of our keynote speaker, Linda McDonald.

Linda is an educator with academic degrees and National Board Certification in the education of children with special needs. After an illustrious career in teaching during which she received the coveted Golden Apple Award,

Linda spent almost two eye-opening years lobbying for public education in Tallahassee. That transformative experience has left its mark.

Linda will share her insights regarding the education bills introduced this legislative season, the motivations of the sponsors, and their potential impacts on students, teachers, families and Florida's education system; the stance of the Florida Education Association (FEA), the teachers' union, regarding the bills; and the impending legal suits, in one of which the LWV is a plaintiff.

Where: Naples Hilton Hotel, 5111 Tamiami Trail North

When: Monday March 9, 2015

Registration: 11:45 a.m. with lunch promptly at noon

Program: 12:00 p.m. Anniversary Celebration

12:30 p.m. Program

1:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. General Meeting

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

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

To make lunch reservations, please [click here](#) or call 239-263-4656 and leave a message by Thursday, March 5, before noon.

Naples Hilton Hotel

5111 Tamiami Trail North

Social Policy Committee

Wednesday, March 11

12:00 p.m.

Wilderness Country Club

Goodlette-Frank Road

Justice Committee

Monday, March 16

9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a. m.

Clive Daniel Home
Community Room

2777 Tamiami Trail N

Education Committee

Tuesday March 17

10:30 a. m.

North Collier Government Center

2335 Orange Blossom Drive

Lunch With Leaders

Tuesday, March 17

12:30 p. m.

County Administration Building

3301 Tamiami Trail E

Environmental Affairs Committee

Thursday, March 19
4:00 p.m. -5:30 p.m.
Headquarters Library
2385 Orange Blossom Dr_

Book Club

Thursday, March 19
2:30 to 4:00 p. m.
Home of Charlotte Nycklemoe
contact Charlotte for directions



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**

40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A Trip Down Memory Lane!



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLLIER COUNTY

40th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION FOR A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Monday, March 9, 2015
12-12:30 pm at the March general meeting
Naples Hilton Hotel

Jeff Lytle will moderate while our former Presidents share the priorities from their terms in office

General Meetings at Hilton Naples

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

Lunch With Leaders

Our next Lunch With Leaders meeting will be with Commissioner Penny Taylor, who represents Collier County District 4 on the Board of County Commissioners. Commissioner Taylor was elected in November 2014, having previously served for ten years on the Naples City Council.

Lunch with Leaders is a monthly opportunity for LWVCC members to meet with local and government leaders in a small group for informal discussion.

All members are invited to attend, but attendance is limited to the first 12 to sign up. Unlike previous Lunches with Leaders, attendees are invited to bring their own lunch and beverage; lunches will not be available for sale.

When: Tuesday March 17 at 12:30 p.m.

Where: Commissioner Taylor's conference room, County Administration Building, 3301 East Tamiami Trail

RSVP: to register with Sandy Parker sparker101@gmail.com

President's Message

Becky Newell, President



Happy 40th anniversary to the League of Women Voters of Collier County! Our anniversary was featured in the January issue of The Journal (published by the Naples Daily News), along with the milestone anniversaries of several other local nonprofit organizations. If you haven't already read the article, [click here](#) to see it.

I hope you'll join us as we celebrate at our next general meeting on March 9. As I've been preparing for that meeting, I've spent a little time looking at a few issues of The Voter from our early days (although not as much time as Ann Campbell has spent with them, since she has updated our League history in preparation for our celebration!). Take a look for yourself - go to our website, www.lwvcolliercounty.org, and then select "Resources," then "Archive Library," and then "The Voter." You'll see a list of issues of our newsletter, dating back to 1979.

Here's to the next 40 years!

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

Education Committee

Robin Birnhak, chair



Committee members have major concerns regarding movements within the community, the state, and country to revamp public education. There is no question there is room for improvement, but the directions in which these changes are being prodded are antithetical to the LWV's stance on public education. Examples of reforms already instituted or currently promoted include the use of tax payer's money to support vouchers to private, frequently religious schools; the expansion of charter schools with limited oversight; the efforts to eliminate the Common Core as a method of teaching; the abolishment of any standards, rules or regulations established and enforced by federal education entities; the return of control over all educational matters to local districts including curricula, instructional materials, and testing; the restriction of the superintendent's role and the enhancement of parental oversight in all aspects of education.

The examples of reform cited above are representative of a host of efforts to severely restrict, if not eliminate, public schools in favor of private, for profit entities that operate without the constraints of public surveillance. Education Committee members are keeping a watchful eye on both the events in our community and on the School Board propelling us in this direction. We feel it is important to attend School Board meetings, to make short presentations as individual community members at those meetings, to submit letters to the editor of the newspaper, to communicate through internet outlets, and to inform and activate friends and acquaintances in organizations to which they belong.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Susan Block, CEO of the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida, met with members of the Education Committee on February 17 to discuss her organization, its role in early learning education and to answer questions regarding the status of early learning in Collier County. This topic represents an ongoing interest of members who, by virtue of their education, occupations and life experiences, believe this is an aspect of education that deserves far more attention and funding than it currently receives.

You are welcome to our next Education Committee meeting.

When: Tuesday March 17 at 10:30 a.m.

Where: North Collier Government Center
2335 Orange Blossom Drive

RSVP: robinbirnhak@yahoo.com or 262-1221

Environmental Affairs Committee

Susan Calkins, chair



A Shrinking Coastline: Sea Level Rise in South Florida

The League of Women Voters calls climate change one of the greatest environmental challenges of our generation and believes that *"By raising public awareness of the causes and likely impacts of climate change, helping citizens learn what they can do to protect the environment and building broad support for effective climate solutions, we can help put our country and our planet - on the path to a sustainable future."*

We hope you mark your calendar for the afternoon of March 19th when Dr. Harold Wanless, Professor and Chair of the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Miami, discusses one of those likely impacts of climate change - sea level rise.

Dr. Wanless has studied sea level rise for over 30 years and is an expert on the impact of sea level rise on coastal environments, including hurricane effects on coastal environments. He was recently quoted in *National Geographic February article Treading Water*, which examines Florida's vulnerability to the effects of climate change. He has advised policy makers at both local and federal levels and chairs the Science Committee of the Miami-Dade County Climate Change Advisory Task Force. Last summer he was among five of Florida's top scientists to brief Governor Scott on the impact of climate change, most notably sea level rise, on our state.

Moreover, Dr. Wanless is no stranger to Naples; he was a scientific advisor to the city on beach, lagoons and wetland management in 1978 and 1989-90, and has given presentations at the Rookery Bay National Marine Estuarine Research Center on the impacts of sea level rise.

With over three-quarters of Florida's population living in coastal counties and 1350 miles of coastline, we are one of the nation's most vulnerable states. And South Florida is considered to be one of the most vulnerable regions in the U.S. So invite your friends to explore what we in South Florida are doing and need to do, to confront these rising seas and assure the sustainability of our region.

When: Thursday March 19, from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Where: Headquarters Library, 2385 Orange Blossom Drive

Government Committee

Sandy Parker, chair



In March, the Government Committee will turn its attention to the state Legislature, while continuing to follow county issues of interest to our members. We will meet every other week during the 60-day legislative session that begins on March 3 and ends on May 1.

Committee members will follow bills related to school vouchers, school testing, reproductive choice, fracking and drilling, water quality, the budget and taxes, student financial literacy and more.

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 sparker101@gmail.com

If you want to learn more about your community and your government, join us these dates: Monday, 3/2; Wednesday, 3/18; Monday, 3/30; Monday, 4/13; Monday, 4/27 and Monday, 5/11.

When: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Monday, March 2; Wednesday, March 18; Monday, March 30;

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

RSVP: sparker101@gmail.com to ensure sufficient copies of handouts.

Justice Committee

Charlotte Nycklemoe



Our last committee meeting featured LWVCC member Jan Eustis who is a member of The Citizen's Foster Care Review Board, Inc. She presented a most informative program on how the Review Board facilitates the process of foster child placement in conjunction with the courts.

In keeping with our goal of learning and observing programs, agencies and organizations which interact with our youth, our next month's meeting will feature Donna Kordek, CASA of the Guardian Ad Litem Program and Alyssa Roman, Gulf Coast H.S. junior, a participant in Teen Court.

Our observations of Juvenile Court Hearings will also continue through the month of March.

Please mark your calendars now for our April luncheon when 20th Circuit Court Judge Christine Grieder will be our speaker.

When: Monday, March 16, 9:30 a. m. to 11:30 a.m.

Where: Clive Daniel Conference Room, 2777 Tamiami Trail N.

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

Social Policy Committee

Ann Campbell, Chair



Senior Citizens as Victims: What we should know.

We are going to revisit the subject of Elder Abuse at our Wednesday, March 11. We will meet at noon at the Wilderness Country Club. Angela Larson, Supervisor, Victim and Senior Advocacy Unit of the Collier County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) will speak about scams, fraud, ID theft and changes to the law that occurred last year under House Bill 409.

The CCSO has been out front informing the community about ID theft at well-attended public forums. This meeting will give us a chance to discuss that and other forms of abuse of seniors.

We will have a light lunch at a cost of \$11.00. Guests are welcome.

When: Wednesday, March 11, 2015, 12:00 noon
Where: Wilderness Country Club, Goodlette-Frank Road
RSVP: acamp1082@aol.com.

Book Club

Charlotte Nycklemoe, chair

Book selection for March: *Abundance* by Peter Diamandis and Steven Kotler

"Since the dawn of humanity, a privileged few have lived in stark contrast to the hardscrabble majority. Conventional wisdom says this gap cannot be closed. But it is closing - fast. The authors document how four forces - exponential technologies, the DIY innovator: Development Impact and You, the *Techno Philanthropist*, and the Rising Billion - are conspiring to solve our biggest problems. *Abundance* establishes hard targets for change and lays out a strategic roadmap for governments, industry and entrepreneurs, giving us plenty of reason for optimism. The authors claim we will soon have the ability to meet and exceed the basic needs of every man, woman, and child on the planet. *Abundance* for all is within our grasp."

When: Thursday March 19, 2:30 -4:00 p.m.
Where: The home of Charlotte Nycklemoe
RSVP:
or 239-455-2261

drchargar@gmail.com,

News from the State

Becky Newell

Recent news from the League of Women Voters of Florida:

- LWVF President Deirdre Macnab has announced that "...the League of Women Voters of Florida urges Florida's lawmakers to resist efforts to lift a ban on carrying concealed weapons on campus. It is striking that unanimously, every one of Florida's university presidents and campus law enforcement agencies oppose the bill making its way through the Legislature, overturning the current ban." She also notes that, in a recent statement, the State University System spoke out against the proposed legislation, saying that allowing concealed carry on college campuses "is contrary to the values we embrace and could create new challenges in our ability to provide a safe and secure learning environment."
- Former State Sen. Paula Dockery, who served 16 years in the Florida Legislature, is joining the board of the League of Women Voters of Florida. "I've long admired what the League does for our political process, and I feel that the League stands for many of the things that I believe in," said the Lakeland Republican who served as House Majority Whip, Environmental Protection Chair and General Government Appropriations Chair. She was the author and primary sponsor of the Florida Forever Act. She is currently a syndicated newspaper columnist, with columns appearing in more than 20 newspapers across Florida.

For more information about the League of Women Voters of Florida, visit www.thefloridavoter.org.

News from the National League

In recent weeks the National League:

- Reported that the League has joined an Amicus Brief in King v. Burwell, the latest challenge to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and it will determine whether tax-credit subsidies can be provided to applicants for health insurance through the federally-facilitated health exchanges or just to those using an exchange established directly by a state. The brief joined by the League focuses on the impact of the ACA on women's health and how the tax subsidies are essential to women's health and critical to the ACA's continued viability.
- Announced the following issues as LWVUS legislative priorities for 2015: First Tier: Voting Rights and Election Administration; Money in Politics; Second Tier: Climate and Environmental Protection; Immigration; Health Care, including Reproductive Choice.
- Determined that the Meeting Basic Human Needs Position can be used in communities in "working toward an income that meets basic human needs." The committee agreed that specific issues in relation to a "living wage" and income levels should be decided by Leagues working in their communities. The LWVUS Board also

agreed to call attention to the Meeting Basic Human Needs Position with Leagues since it contains many elements that address current needs in communities across the country.

- Noted that State Leagues have begun to inquire about taking action on calls for a federal constitutional convention in their state legislatures. The Board agreed that Leagues can oppose such calls when the LWV has a position opposing the substance of a proposal. For example, the LWV has a position in opposition to a "constitutionally mandated balanced budget for the federal government". Thus Leagues should oppose a call for a constitutional convention on a balanced budget. Likewise the LWV opposes term limits for members of the House and Senate and thus opposes a constitutional convention to establish such limits. The Board was quite aware of the pending League study on the processes of a constitutional convention, and agreed that completing that study should provide a position that would allow Leagues to take timely action on the procedural and process questions concerning a constitutional convention.
- Reported that a new study finds that some election officials are biased toward minority voters and Latinos in particular, especially when it comes to voter ID laws. These findings underscore the need for the League's work in combating voter discrimination and ensuring that our nation's elections are free, fair and accessible to all. LWVUS suggests that a local League can help combat discrimination at the polls is to set up meetings with local/state's election officials prior to an election to help ensure that poll workers and election officials are properly trained and understand the often new and ever changing election laws- especially photo ID.
- Shared that LWV President MacNamara offered testimony at a hearing held by the Federal Election Commission (FEC). The hearing follows a comment period where thousands of citizens expressed their concern over the need for stricter disclosure rules and to strengthen regulations on coordination between candidates and secret, dark money groups. President MacNamara called on the agency to update regulations on campaign finance laws to provide full disclosure in light of recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions Citizens United and McCutcheon v. FEC.

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.