LUNCHEON MEETING: MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1993

Norris Room, The Depot

10:45 Lively League Issues*
11:30 Social  12:00 Lunch

12:30 PROGRAM: Florida Health Care Reform: The Impact of Community Health Purchasing Alliances (CHPAs)

PANEL: Marcy Flinn, Collier County Representative to District 8 CHPA; Past President, LWVCC
Kathleen G. Orr, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Florida
Edward A. Morton, Assistant Treasurer, Naples Community Hospital

For Noon lunch reservations ($8.50 for lunch and program), please call Pat Scudder, 775-9278, or the League Office, 263-4656, by Thursday, December 16. The price for attending the program only is $2. The public is welcome.

* Lively League Issues: What are the health services in Collier County public schools? Carol Zeedyk, community health nursing supervisor, will help us explore this timely issue. Join our discussion at 10:45 a.m.
President's Message

Our thanks to Wallace Hibbard and Michael Slayton for their informative presentations about our Everglades connection at our November General Meeting—a well-attended and much appreciated meeting.

It was a coincidence that on that same day, U.S. Senator Bob Graham was in the Big Cypress Preserve taking steps to establish a “boot camp” there for delinquent teenagers. This topic is part of the ongoing study of our Justice Committee, which illustrates how pertinent and timely are the topics of our committees. The International Relations Committee and NAFTA, the Education Committee and Blueprint 2000, the Natural Resources Committee and water supply—just to name a few. These committees keep the LWVCC vital.

Correction to an item in my message last month: we will be interviewing State Sen. Ken Jenne and not State Sen. Fred Dudley.

Your president represented our League at the Academy of Teachers program held in November. It is amazing how many organizations in Collier have an interest in and are active in school problems and projects. There were 25 speakers, including our League.

The Board accepted with regret the resignation of Carol Hidy as co-chair of the Education Committee because her time in Collier County has been curtailed. We will miss her.

Upcoming is our Holiday Party. The Board sponsors this party as an opportunity for Leaguers and guests to meet socially and exchange holiday greetings. To those unable to attend and to our generous supporters, the Board extends best wishes for a happy holiday and a healthy and rewarding 1994.

Dec. 20 General Meeting
Florida Health Care Reform

Health care reform is coming and Florida is in the vanguard. The Health Care Reform Act of 1992 and the Health Care and Insurance Reform Act of 1993 have underlined a commitment to the achievement of universal access to health care in Florida. Our state is the first in the nation to begin the implementation of a statewide system based on the managed competition concept.

Cornerstone of the managed competition approach to reform is the health care purchasing alliance. At our December meeting we will describe how Florida’s 11 Community Health Purchasing Alliances, or CHPAs (pronounced “chippas”), will work, and we will explore the impact of CHPAs on the health insurance industry and on our community hospitals.

We are fortunate to have on our discussion panel Marcy Flinn, LWVCC member and the only representative from Collier County to the District 8 CHPA Board of Directors. The District 8 CHPA includes Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota Counties.

CHPAs are currently in their organizational phase. When operational, the CHPAs will form large health care buying groups that will provide

LWV of Collier County

President: Dorothy Fitch (261-0938)
Voter Editor: Mary Ann Fick (592-1849)
Staff: Jeannette Boucher
       Cathy Motley
League Office: 263-4656
Committees in action

Natural Resources Committee discussed the first stages of the upcoming two-year state study on fresh water resources in Florida. Virginia Corkran has agreed to chair this important water study.

The State League has furnished a comprehensive background report covering:

♦ How much fresh water do we have and can we expect to have?
♦ How are our waters distributed and managed?
♦ How is our water management and distribution paid for?
♦ How can we plan for our state water supply?

Our next meeting will be at 10 a.m., Friday, Dec. 17 in the League Office. All Leaguers invited!

Natural Resources Committee (263-4656)

Housing Committee: The LWVCC has been asked to coalesce with Affordable Housing of Southwest Florida, Inc. This is a “not for profit corporation dedicated to promoting support for the housing needs and issues of Collier County through community associations, government and the general public.”

Their goals are (a) To create a network to support affordable housing issues that affect our community and the surrounding area; and (b) Promotion and public relations for affordable housing crises that exist in Collier County. The League is pleased to be part of this organization with similar objectives.

On Nov. 9 Greg Mahalic, Collier County affordable housing director, presented results of a study on housing needs to the County Commissioners. The statistics firmly establish a definite need for more affordable housing in Collier despite the challenge made as to the validity of the figures.

—Fitch, Housing Committee (263-4656)

for small businesses and other groups of individuals the types of volume discounts large employers can secure from providers. Membership in a CHPA is optional. Networks of health care providers, called "accountable health partnerships," or "AHPs," will offer competitive prices for their services to CHPA members. The District 8 CHPA area has a population of more than 933,000 with a work force of almost 358,000.

How does the insurance industry view managed competition, specifically CHPAs? We have asked Kathleen Orr to give us the insurer’s perspective. Kathleen has worked for Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Florida since 1987. She served as director, corporate compensation and benefits, and is currently director, new markets development.

Where will CHPA members go when they need in-hospital care? Will the AHPs require that individuals enrolled in their plans receive care at a specific hospital, say, in Fort Myers? Will individuals select their own physicians?

These are a few of the many questions our members and friends will be asking of the panel. Naples Community Hospital’s Assistant Treasurer Edward Morton will tell us how managed competition might affect the hospital’s operations. And how might the rest of the community be affected? Will services be improved and costs contained for other individuals and/or groups? Join us on Monday, Dec. 20 for what promises to be an interesting meeting with answers to these questions and more.

Ann Campbell, Social Policy Chair

Dec. 20 Lively League Issue: school health services

Carol Zeedyk, senior community health nursing supervisor, HRS Collier County Public Health Unit, will discuss school health services. What do they consist of now and what should they be? Join us as we examine this timely issue at 10:45 a.m. before lunch and our General Meeting on Dec. 20.
Consensus on 2nd primary to be taken in January

Here is background to help you decide if the LWVF should retain or drop its current position on the second primary. Please study in preparation for our General Meeting, January 17.

LWVF members agreed in 1985 that the second or runoff primary should be eliminated but there was no consensus on the single primary nomination alternative favored by members. Since the position to eliminate the second primary was incomplete without the method of nomination, delegates at convention that year were asked to vote to add the provision that nomination should be by plurality, the method most favored by the League membership during the study. Thus, our current position is:

The second, or runoff, primary should be eliminated. Plurality nomination will determine the winner of the primary election.

Consensus Question
LWVF should retain the following position:

☐ Yes  ☐ No
Consensus on YES will retain the position.
Consensus on NO or no consensus will result in the position being dropped.

Within the last year, there has been interest among some League members to take action on the position. After discussion in state board meetings and with League members throughout the state, the board felt that there was enough uncertainty in members' minds that it was necessary to see if there is still member agreement on the position. The board proposed a program item to the 1993 convention and it was approved by the delegates.

History of the runoff primary

In the 19th century candidates for office were selected by the political parties, often in “smoke-filled rooms.” The public did not have access to the process. At the turn of the century, reformers advocated opening up the selection process to the rank and file voters through the primary election. In the South, where the Democratic party had become dominant, primary races were often entered by many candidates representing many factions. The second primary, or primary runoff, was put in place to assure that the candidate nominated had the broadest support within the party.

Critics have claimed that a reason for the runoff was to protect segregationist policies. Actually, African-Americans were already excluded through poll taxes, literacy tests, etc., and the loyalty of African-Americans at the time second primaries were being adopted was to the Republican Party.

17 states used it

Mississippi instituted the first primary runoff system in 1902. Since that time, 17 states (primarily in the South) have adopted the second primary system; four have since repealed it and four others have modified the runoff rules.

Florida adopted the second primary in 1929. Prior to that, Florida used the preferential ballot, but voters rarely bothered to indicate a second choice.

Close to a thousand cities throughout the country have made the second primary a permanent fixture in the nominating process. Several states have recently considered instituting runoff elections because of concern about the quality of office holders produced by less than majority vote (Maine, Kentucky, Connecticut and Alaska).

In 1988 Arizona instituted runoffs to allow majority voting to decide certain statewide offices in the general election.
December 1993 Collier County VOTER

Court decisions on 2nd primary

The second primary has withstood several court challenges. In New York City, after the primary election of a conservative Democrat to the office of mayor by 33% of the vote, the state of New York easily passed legislation in 1973 to require primary runoffs in New York City when a candidate did not receive at least 40% of the primary vote. The second primary was then challenged as violating an individual's due process as a voter.

Subsequent challenges and appeals resulted in reinstating the 40% super-plurality.

The Arkansas primary runoff, established constitutionally by the people in 1939 after the victories of several splinter candidates, was challenged under the Voting Rights Act in 1988, with Lani Guinier representing the plaintiffs. Following numerous appeals, the plaintiffs lost. The judge ruled that the second primary was a “bedrock ingredient of democratic political philosophy.”

Additional challenges, including that of Jesse Jackson in 1984 who claimed that such a system hurt women and minorities, also failed.

2nd primary and African-Americans

Research suggests that African-Americans may suffer from barriers to voting, but the second primary is not one. Attempting to remove the second primary because it disadvantages African-American candidates diverts attention from efforts to remove the real barriers to the election of African-Americans and their political influence (districting, absentee ballot abuse, registration abuses, lack of effective assistance at the polls, and lack of access to the “deep pockets of money.”)

The winner of the first primary does not have to use valuable financial resources to fund a runoff campaign, possibly depleting funds needed for the general election.

Important referendum topics, such as bond issues, will be decided in the only primary or in the general election where a higher turnout is expected.

Because there is a single primary, voters will pay more attention to the candidates.

Even though no candidate may get a majority of votes, a plurality may be an adequate indication of voter support. Voter turnout is often low in the second primary. One reason probably is the absence of the voter’s original choice. It is fair to question whether the second primary represents a majority any better than a plurality in the single primary.

Second primary candidates can target voters based on the calculated number of votes that are required to win with a low turnout, resulting in the non-targeted voter not receiving information and therefore being less likely to vote.

Overseas absentee voters would not have to use the advance absentee ballot plus the actual absentee ballot to assure their vote is counted.

CON: Arguments in opposition to eliminating the second primary (in favor of nomination by a majority):

Nomination by majority vote is the best way to assure that the candidate with the broadest appeal wins the nomination. Plurality nomination does not take into account the preferences of the voters. Nomination by plurality votes is greatly influenced by the number of candidates entered in any given primary race. A candidate can be nominated by a small percentage of the votes cast when there are multiple candidates.

Both major political parties encompass a broad range of political philosophies. The only way to determine the preference of the majority of the

(continued on following page)
registered party members is nomination by majority vote. In Florida the organizational party has no say in selection of state party nominees. In eight second primary races for state-wide offices 1986 through 1992, three of those majority winners (37.5%) would not have been the plurality winners.

- Majority election does not disadvantage parties when there are multiple candidates, as does plurality election.
- Majority election eliminates the opportunity for distorting the political process by encouraging multiple candidates to run.
- Majority primaries are more straightforward. If there are multiple candidates and a voter’s favored candidate fails in the first primary, the voter gets another choice. Plurality primaries create the “wasted vote phenomenon” when a voter knows his or her candidate cannot win. The alternative is to vote for a candidate more likely to win though less to the voter’s liking (a difficult decision even for a sophisticated voter), resulting in a distortion of the election process.

- “... plurality voting without a runoff encourages the politics of extreme factionalism—rule by small cliques or rabble rousers rather than individuals who are broadly acceptable to the electorate.
- A majority vote adds legitimacy to a nomination. The second primary campaign gives the two candidates an opportunity to broaden their appeal and build consensus. The winner then takes office with an enhanced ability to lead.
- Single-issue candidates are less likely to be nominated under the two-primary system.

Ed. Note: This material is excerpted from League of Women Voters of Florida publication No. 1359, August 1993. It was written by Penny Rosi and Jane Walker of the LWVF.
Justice Committee met in November with LWV member Kathleen Passidomo, president of the recently established Collier County Juvenile Justice Council. Florida statutes provide that the Council develop a County Juvenile Justice Plan to help prevent juvenile delinquency and to make recommendations for more effectively utilizing existing community resources in dealing with juveniles who are truant or who have been suspended or expelled from school, or who are found to be involved in crime.

Members of the Council include: district administrator of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS); chief judge of the circuit; school, county, city and judicial officials; and a parent and a student representative.

In December committee members lunched with Juvenile Court Judge Ted Brousseau, who discussed the juvenile court system and its problems.

At 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 5, the committee will meet at the Court House with Guardian Ad Litem Co-ordinator (and new League member) Ann Jackson. Leaguers are urged to join our committee and gain valuable insights in juvenile justice problems in Collier County. Call me.

Renee Hansen, chair (598-3293)

We will now study the ongoing Uruguay round of GATT negotiations, and their probable effects on U.S. and worldwide trade.

Our January committee meeting will be at 10 a.m., Friday, Jan. 14 at my home, 587 Bay Villas Lane.

Anne Portman, chair (597-5041)

Local Government Committee: On Dec. 8 members of LWVCC will be attending the Legislative Delegation meeting at the Collier County Courthouse. This meeting is important because it gives Collier Countians an opportunity to present their needs and wants to our senators and representatives.

Our League has been notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a study on how to modify the Central and Southern Project to restore the ecosystem of South Florida while providing for other water-related demands.

Workshops have been designed to gather the public's ideas about the important resources, problems and opportunities in the South Florida ecosystem as well as thoughts about ecosystem restoration.

A workshop meeting will be held at 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 13 at Fort Myers High School, 2635 Cortez Blvd. We plan to have at least one or two cars driving up there. If interested in attending, please call me or the League Office, and leave your name and phone.

Bettie Gulacsik, chair (597-7558)

Q. What can't a Leaguer be without?

A. A 1994 League calendar.

New LWV calendars are now available at $3.50 each. Pick up your supply at our meeting on Dec. 20 or call the League Office (263-4656) to reserve yours.
## Calendar

_The League Office, where many meetings are held, is located at 660 9th Street, No., Suite 35B, Naples_

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location/Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 13</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Workshop on Ecosystem</td>
<td>Fort Myers: Call</td>
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<td>Betty Gulacsik, 597-7558</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 15</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Holiday Party R.S.V.P. League Office</td>
<td>Mercy Bathey home</td>
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<td>4000 Gordon Dr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 17</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Natural Resources Committee</td>
<td>League Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 17</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>5:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Voter Service Committee Chair: Nancy Fischer, 591-8270</td>
<td>Nancy Fischer home</td>
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<td>2522 Sailor's Way (Lakeside)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 20</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>10:45 a.m.</td>
<td>LIVELY LEAGUE ISSUES &amp; GENERAL MEETING</td>
<td>Norris Room</td>
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<td>The Depot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 3</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>noon</td>
<td>Board Meeting</td>
<td>League Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 5</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Justice Committee Chair: Renee Hansen, 598-3293</td>
<td>Collier Court House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 7</td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Education Committee</td>
<td>League Office</td>
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League of Women Voters of Collier County  
660 9th Street North, Suite 35  
Naples, FL 33940  

Attention all Leaguers:  
See you at our Holiday Party on Wednesday, Dec. 15!