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Collier County VOTER

Vol. 27, No. 5

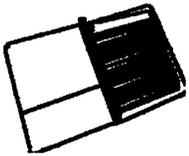
League of Women Voters of Collier County

DECEMBER 2001

General Meeting, Monday, December 17, 2001
Norris Room - The Depot



10:45 a.m. - Lively League

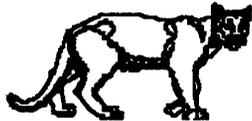


14th ANNUAL TELEPHONE SURVEY *The Results*



Speakers: Alice Fraser
Chuck Mohlke
[Details - page 3]

12:00 p.m. - Luncheon
12:30 p.m. - Program



Our Fragile



Environment

Speaker: James W. Beaver III
[Details - page 2]

Note: Luncheon reservations are \$12, including the program. Call the League office, 263-4656, by 12/14. Program only is \$3. Members making reservations are responsible for the reservation unless the reservation is canceled by 12/14. The public is always welcome.

The League of Women Voters of Collier County, is a nonpartisan political organization, encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government through education and advocacy. The Collier County VOTER is published monthly, October through May

President's Message

Dear League Members,

Thanks to everyone, many of our projects are going full-force as we get into the full swing of the season! People Over Politics is of on-going importance as well as all of the issues we endeavor to pursue!

We have a critical need for someone to fill the Government Chair vacated by Kathleen Slebodnik. Please consider taking time to do this important job.

Many thanks to Jamie Horsley for her presentation about women in China.

Another victory has been scored for the citizens of Collier County by the upgrading of our voting system. I had the privilege to be on the committee along with Mike Carr and Chuck Mohlke in exploring this important step forward. Supervisor of Elections, Jenefer Edwards did an excellent job in making sure that all factions possible were presented.

It is my hope that I will see you at our Holiday Party

Sincerely,

Alda Pierce



December Program

An analysis and summary report of this year's Telephone Survey will be presented for discussion at the Lively League program by Chuck Mohlke and Alice Fraser. Fraser and Mohlke Associates, with 14 years of experience in the design and analysis of the annual survey, are experts at identifying evolving trends and insights revealed by the survey.

Our General meeting speaker is James Beaver. He is a biological scientist and supervisor at the Office of Environmental Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, at Punta Gorda, Florida. He will give us an update on this area's environment concerns. He holds a BS and MS in Biological Science at FL State Univeristy.

His work involves regional wildlife habitat planning, review of Developments of Regional Impact, Comprehensive Plans, technical assistance and wildlife management planning and research for a twelve county area in southwest Florida.

Some research projects include resource inventories of the Southwest FL Aquatic Preserves, studies of mangrove trimming, impacts to seagrass, monographs of south FL habitats, including hydric slash pine flatwoods and geographic variation in butterflies and ecology.

He is a member of the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, Ecological Society of American-Wetlands and Applied Ecology Sections, Estuarine Research Federation, Colonial Waterbird Society, FI Academy of Sciences, Florida Entomological Society, FI Native Plant Society, Society for Conservation Biology, Society of Wetland Scientists and The Wildlife Society.



community leaders, elected officials and concerned citizens. Their goal is to have a Land Acquisition Referendum successfully passed by the voters of Collier on the November 2002 ballot. If successful, lands purchased through this initiative would be from willing-sellers only, and the county would pay landowners based on appraised value of their property.

Key pieces of land would be those that serve as wildlife corridors, flowway connectors, and lands that are environmentally sensitive, both within and beyond the urban boundary. Often, landowners who own environmentally sensitive properties want to do what is best for the environment, yet they may have no other option but to develop the land to make a necessary profit. With the start of a county land acquisition program, a new willing-buyer will be in place: Collier County.

With the rapid pace of development and the continuing increase in land value, there is not better time to have a county-based land acquisition program in place.

More important news will be forthcoming.

League of Women Voters of Collier County

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NATURAL RESOURCES

Leonore Reich, Chair

As residents of Collier County, we live in a unique and extremely fragile environment. In the 1990's, the population in our county increased by 65%. Collier County is now the third fastest urbanizing area in the United States.

With this increase in population, development often comes face to face with environmentally sensitive lands. Growth within and outside the urban boundary is going to continue. It is up to our community to put the mechanism in place that will protect lands that are of environmental significance. These lands, if preserved or restored, could have public value for passive recreation, education and the conservation of wildlife, natural resources and scenic beauty.

Though Collier County contains some of the most environmentally sensitive and unique habitats in Florida, we do not actively engage in land acquisition at the county level. Due to the lack of a county-based effort, Conservation Collier was formed. This group consists of nonprofits, governmental agencies, businesses, (continued,next column)

JUSTICE

Katherine Todd, Chair

In October members of the Justice Committee went on a detailed and comprehensive tour of the Collier County Jail. While it is always tempting to cite lots of facts and figures, the sobering implications of the visit are far more noteworthy.

While Collier County experiences exponential growth, its total population still falls substantially below that of a middle tier American city. Yet the jail routinely exceeds capacity and houses more than 600 individuals. Of that population the vast majority reflect familial trans generational patterns of substance abuse, teenage pregnancy, physical and sexual abuse.

Consider that approximately 80% of the crimes committed by adults in the state of Florida are drug and/or alcohol related. Now consider the drastic cuts to juvenile prevention and intervention programs moving their way through the state legislature. Consider that Florida leads the nation in the number of juveniles prosecuted as adults. Consider that incarcerated juveniles are more likely to repeat upon release. Just consider. ..

MEMBERSHIP

Beryl Paulson, Chair

Last call for renewal of your membership. There are still some members we have not heard from, and we'd like to urge you to send in your check right away. We want you to be with us in 2002.

It costs \$48 for one membership (\$14.00 of which we keep here in our local chapter) and \$72 for a household membership (two persons). Contributions for our Education Fund (tax exempt) and Action Fund are also gratefully accepted.

One more item, please check the 2001 Roster. Should there be any address changes, I do need to know right away. We will be glad to include your email address if you wish. Immediately following January 1, the 2002 Roster will be assembled and will be mailed as quickly as possible.

Hope to hear from you soon. Merry Christmas.

ACTION ALERT

The Equal Rights Amendment

by Katherine Todd

Remember the ERA? Remember that it did not pass all those years ago?

Well it's been reintroduced and only three more states are needed to ratify it this time around. Help make Florida one of those states! Speak up as a woman in the League of Women Voters; contact Senators Graham and Nelson and Representative Goss and urge them to sponsor a Florida resolution to ratify the ERA.

While women have made many gains in the past twenty years, consider the following: older women are
(continued - next column)

nearly twice as likely to live in poverty than are older men; women currently earn only 72.8% as much as men; the pension gap exceeds the earnings gap.

Two-thirds of the House and Senate must approve the amendment in order for it to move to the states for ratification. The language has not changed one whit:

"Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any other state because of sex. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article. The amendment shall take effect two years after the day of ratification."

If women are to have a legal basis for true equality in this country, we need this amendment.

Questions? Contact K.T. at 430-7955 or khtjw@juno.com.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Alda Pierce, Chair

The guest speakers for the December meeting of International Relations will be Dr. Ned Moser, and his wife, Alice. Dr. Moser was a medical missionary in Africa.

The meeting will be held at 517 Regatta Rd, the home of Alda Pierce., on Dec. 7, at 9:30 a.m.

14th Annual Telephone Survey

by Pat Clark

The analysis and results of the county wide telephone survey are in and will be the subject for the discussion at this month's Lively League meeting. The League's participation in the conduct of the survey was recognized by proclamation with thanks by the county commissioners this past June.

It is interesting to note that the folks randomly selected to be interviewed in all five county districts are not those citizens that are likely to routinely appear before the commission to protest or champion a cause or issue. They are residents of Collier, all registered voters, who are quietly busy working and managing their everyday lives, and they do indeed have opinions.

I found this year's questionnaire for the survey to be particularly interesting and relevant. Beyond basic demographic information, opinions were sought on existing conditions and services provided by the county and included an array of issues that await future decisions, such as water technology, waste management, growth, the election system and access to health care.

Please join us for what promises to be a very lively League meeting.

Welcome New Member

Kathleen Korb (Rev.)

1250 Wildwood Lakes Blvd.

Naples 34104 #101

353-8987 h

455-6553 o

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE
DEC 17 Mon	10:45 a.m.	Lively League / General Meeting	Norris Room - The Depot
24 Mon		VOTER Deadline	
JAN 4 Fri	9:30 a.m.	International Relations	Alda Pierce's Home
7 Mon	12:00 p.m.	Board Meeting	First National Bank
4 Thu		VOTER Mailing	League Office
16 Wed	8:00 a.m.	Social Policy	Pacific 41 Restaurant
17 Thu	10:00 a.m.	Justice (*Meeting Place Change)	Juvenile Detention Center*
21 Mon	10:45 a.m.	Lively League/General Meeting	Norris Room - The Depot
22 Tue		VOTER Deadline	
FEB 1 Fri	9:30 a.m.	International Relations	Alda Pierce's Home
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BEST WISHES TO EVERYONE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON !