

NATURAL RESOURCES

Nicole Ryan, Chair

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His accomplishments include founding an office of the Legal Environmental Assistance Foundation in Knoxville, and founding a research center focused on sustainable development at the University of Tennessee where he previously taught environmental law as an adjunct professor in the law school. Davis was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Tennessee Environmental Council, a statewide coalition, in 1991. He has experience working on land use, water pollution, and solid and hazardous waste issues in Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia and other Southeastern states.



Davis also has government experience and worked as an environmental policy analyst in the Governor's Office in California in the early 1980s.

He has been widely published and speaks nationally and internationally on environmental topics. Davis earned his law degree from the University of Tennessee. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in chemical engineering from University of Cincinnati in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Something to look forward to

Naples Botanical Garden

Will be the site for our *Annual Meeting* On April 21st

Don't leave Naples too soon!

Is the Southwest Florida EIS Dead in the Water?

The Southwest Florida Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was initiated after the plans for Florida Gulf Coast University were approved in the headwaters of the Estero River.

Due to the size and potential impacts of the new university, it became increasingly apparent that a change needed to be made immediately regarding the way that the Army Corps of Engineers reviewed development permits for our area.

In response to overwhelming concerns, the Corps drafted an EIS for Southwest Florida that encompassed 1,556 square miles in Lee and Collier Counties. The general purpose of the EIS was to design a better system for considering where development



should and shouldn't be allowed.

The EIS ultimately called for cumulative impacts to be addressed when permitting wetlands destruction. This would deviate from the current policy of simply considered development on a project-by-project basis.

Ultimately, the purpose of the EIS should be to give wetlands additional protection. Wetlands are important for groundwater recharge and filtering pollutants from runoff. In addition, wetlands are crucial for many listed species, such as wood storks.

As the Western Everglades, protection of our natural resources is critical. Allowing permits for wetlands destruction to continue

at the current rate will result in negative impacts to our resources in Southwest Florida.

Unfortunately, the Corps is still permitting the destruction of hundreds of acres of wetlands and has not finalized the EIS. In order to avoid the same costly mistakes of the Eastern Everglades (with an \$8 billion price tag) we must insist that "business as usual" not be allowed to continue.

A report by the National Wildlife Federation, Florida Wildlife Federation and Council of Civic Associations, that outlines their concerns over the delay in EIS implementation was recently released. To read a copy of this report, visit <http://www.nwf.org/nwfWebAdmin/binaryVault/roadtoruin.pdf>

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Alda Rowe-Pierce, Chair

Our committee will meet on Friday, January 10, at 9:30 a.m., at Alda's home.

The subject will be, "Why Africa Matters" with a tape from a Chautauqua Institution lecture by H.J. Blij, of Columbia University. We will have a discussion of this and other timely events following this presentation.

Please note the change from the usual meeting date because of the holidays. If you are interested is attending and need more information, call Alda at 262-4708.

HOLIDAY SOCIAL
December 13th
 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
 The Monaco Beach Club
 RSVP by 12/11
 263-4656 / lwvcc@naples.net
 Please leave your name
 Guest names are required by the
 Monaco Gatehouse Security.
 You will be directed to parking.
 See You There!

MEMBERSHIP

Janet Smith, Chair

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ronnie Blumenthal 594-7257
6040 Pelican Bay Blvd. #D-104
Naples 34108

Dorothy Smallwood 695-3781
P.O. Box 110
Everglades City 34139

Joan Wilde 455-2774
642 Vintage Reserve Circle #3-D
Naples 34119

James Flagler 798-5378
3403 Boca Ciega Drive
Naples 34112

Christine Lahy 213-3382
250 Seventh Ave. S.
Naples 34102

EDUCATION

Nancy Wolfe, Chair

A field trip is being planned ! Our destination will be the Lorenzo Walker Institute of Technology.

Leaguers have already had the opportunity to visit Gulf Coast High School, Florida Gulf Coast University, International College and Avalon Elementary School.

Stay tuned for an update next month.



SOCIAL POLICY

Ann Campbell, Chair

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IS FIRST SOCIAL POLICY TOPIC

The Social Policy Committee met on Wednesday, November 13 for a breakfast meeting with Robin Postill, MSW, LCSW, Program Director for The Shelter For Abused Women of Collier County (SAWCC).

A commanding and thoroughly informed speaker, Robin reviewed for us some of the important facts about domestic violence: what it is, what to do if it is present in one's own situation or that of a friend or relative, how children are affected, what legal protections there are.

SAWCC's new facility has opened and residents have moved to the new sixty-bed site on November 1. In addition to the shelter, the new facility houses administrative offices and the counseling center.

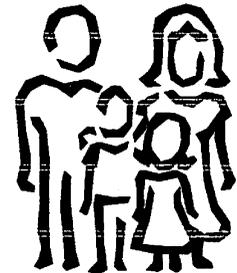
The center provides 24 hour crisis counseling on a confidential basis with access to Spanish and Creole translators (775-1101); their website - www.naplesshelter.org - offers anonymous 24 hour information and is linked to the Sheriff's Office of Victim Assistance website. Robin pointed out that domestic violence is a vastly underreported and under-discussed crime. SWACC provided a total of 7000 outreach/shelter services in a year's time.

Complicating SWACC's ability to help clients is the deficit in affordable housing in Collier County. When moms have to find employment in order to become self-sufficient, there are often problems in finding subsidized child care slots.

Domestic violence victims who happen to be undocumented aliens are faced with a mountain of problems due to their ineligibility for public services. SWACC's staff and volunteers do their best to help their clients with all of these issues.

We came away from the meeting with an enhanced appreciation for the work that is done by the Shelter staff. The Shelter for Abused Women is the only program of its kind in Florida which does not receive financial support from county government.

One third of its funding comes from donations and bequests, one third from state and federal grants and the United Way, and one third from their resale store, Options.



Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11, at 8 a.m., at Crissy's Wild Side Cafe.

The subject is the new amendment to the Florida Constitution which mandates a voluntary pre-kindergarten program for all four-year-olds.

We have asked Dorothy Ferguson, who is a consultant in child care and who works for the School Readiness Coalition, to help us to sort it all out. Dorothy is also a League member.

This is a breakfast meeting at a cost of \$8.00. Call me if you would like to attend - 263-1755 or e-mail acamp1082@aol.com.

| <i>Officers</i> | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| President | <i>Claire MacMillan</i> |
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| Justice | <i>Dr. Kathleen Korb</i> |
| Office | <i>Pat Clark</i> |

KNOW YOUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Sheilah Crowley, Chair

Our committee will meet right after the League meeting on December 16, to firm up the calendar for February and March and distribute assignments.

Please contact me if you would like more information about this great program or may want to participate this coming year.

(Continued from page 1)
President's Notes

First Vice President Connie Norton.

Members Chuck Mohlke and Alice Fraser, presented the results of the Annual County Survey of residents. They and County Manager Mudd stressed the important community service LWVCC members provide by conducting the survey each year. A big thanks goes to Pat Clark and her team of willing volunteers.

- ◆ Election Day preparations and activities are over. Our League played an important role in helping to teach voters how to use the new electronic voting machines and stood at the ready to serve at the last minute as poll workers at the request of Supervisor of Elections Jennifer Edwards.
- ◆ Candidates Forums were conducted and viewed on county television channels. Pat Clark, who organized the forums and Rosemarie Henson-Rowe, Voter Service Chair and their assistants did a great job. They deserve much praise and a good respite, after a particularly busy election season.
 There will not be much resting this year quite yet, as it is time to begin the new **Voters' Guide** production.
 LWVF board of directors have adopted their **Legislative Priorities for the 2003 Legislative Session**. You will see them listed in January's **VOTER**.
- ◆ Our dues bills and reminders have all been sent and we are expecting nearly

100% responses. Please don't forget your League as you busy doing planning your holiday gifts and activities.

Speaking of holiday activities, I look forward to seeing each of you at our Holiday Party and also at the General Membership meeting December 16th at the P.D.C.

- ◆ We will all be ready to enjoy food, beverage and companionship of fellow members, government officials and community leaders at the Annual Holiday Party on December 13.

Your Board of Directors of LWVCC and I, wish everyone a joyous holiday season surrounded by friends and other loved ones.

My request this holiday is for some of you loyal Leaguers to help in preparing brief articles about League interests and activities.

We have been invited to contribute to the regional media! The process for submitting information has now been streamlined. If we can find two or three people to each write one or two brief articles, our League will be able to enjoy increased publicity and will extend our educational outreach in the local community.

Yours in League and friendship,

Claire MacMillan
 President



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLLIER COUNTY FLORIDA

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The League of Women Voters of Collier County, is a non-partisan 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.

CALENDAR

| DATE | TIME | EVENT | PLACE |
|--------|----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dec 11 | 8:00 a.m. | Social Policy | Crissy's Wild Side Cafe |
| 13 | 4:00-6:00 p.m. | <i>HOLIDAY SOCIAL</i> | The Monaco—See page 3 |
| 16 | 10:00 a.m. | General Public Meeting | P.D.C. Auditorium |
| 29 | | Deadline <i>VOTER</i> submissions | |
| Jan 6 | 12:00 p.m. | Board Meeting | P.D.C. Conference Room |
| 8 | 8:00 a.m. | Social Policy | Crissy's Wild Side Cafe |
| 9 | | <i>VOTER</i> mailing | League Office |
| 10 | 9:30 a.m. | International Relations | Colonade Club House |
| 20 | 10:00 a.m. | General Public Meeting | P.D.C. Auditorium |
| Feb 3 | 12:00 p.m. | Board Meeting | P.D.C. Conference Room |
| 7 | 9:30 a.m. | International Relations | Alda Pierce's Home |



Reservations for Lunch are \$12, including the Program. Please call the League office, 263-4656, by 12/13 with your reservation. Program only, is \$3.
Members are responsible for their reservation unless it is cancelled by 12/13