



MONDAY— DECEMBER 19

Lively League...10:30 am

Our League turned 30 this year. Join us as we celebrate this milestone anniversary of taking action to further our mission in Collier County, the region, the state and the country. Historian Barbara Elliott will help us reminisce with scrapbooks of our League activities. Lunch will follow.

General Meeting...12:30 pm

“Tales of Tallahassee” is rescheduled with Representative Mike Davis as our speaker. This program that was cancelled by Hurricane Wilma is too important to miss. Learn what happened in Tallahassee during the 2005 Legislative Session. Hear about the goals for the 2006 Session. This is our chance to ask our legislator why there is no support for the Equal Rights Amendment. Bring your questions and get your answers! The 2006 Legislative Session doesn’t begin until next March but much of the legislators’ work is underway now as they meet in committees.

Where: Norris Center, 8th St. Naples, opposite City Hall. When: December 19, 2005.
Lively League... 10:30AM... Lunch 12 Noon... General Meeting 12:30PM
Lunch cost is \$12.00. Reservation deadline is Noon, Friday, December 16. Call the League at 263-4656
Reservations must be honored or canceled before the deadline.

LWVCC Committee Chairs	
Voters Service	Sandra Brown
Natural Resources	Nicole Ryan
Justice	Dr. Bernice Schmelz
Education	Dr. Kathleen Ryan
Government	Chris Straton
	5
Work Force Housing Co Chairs:	Chris Straton
	Kathleen Slebodnik
Social Policy	Ann Campbell

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President's Message

This is actually the first message I have written since Wilma cancelled our October meeting and disrupted our lives. My thoughts and concern are for Jeannett Boucher and Renee Hansen for their dislocation from their homes. I hope all can get back to "normal" soon. Most of those to whom I have spoken are grateful for the fact that our lives have not been severely affected.

Now is the time to join a committee. Please contact the chair of the committee. To help with hospitality or a telephone tree please contact me. As I write this we need a chair for the International Relations Committee. There is a long standing committee. Please contact me if you would be interested in being the chair.

Thank you all so much who have renewed your membership. Please send in your annual dues if you haven't done it yet. Save the board the need to call you to ask you to renew.

I hope you are getting signatures for reapportioning Florida on the 2006 November ballot. We have the power to make a difference to amend Florida's Constitution if we act now. We must collect petitions to place these critical measures on the ballot in 2006. With your participation in collecting signed petitions Florida will have the opportunity to take self-interest out of the process of drawing legislative seats. Contact me to get petitions. If you would prefer to get the petitions online go to <http://www.committeeforfairelections.com/> and download the petitions or forward them to others to get them involved in this important project.

Come to the December meeting to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the League in Collier County and reminisce with scrap books of our League with Historian Barbara Elliott at ***Lively League***. I am delighted that Representative Mike Davis was able to reschedule his time with us to make up for the October meeting Hurricane Wilma cancellation.

Sheilah Crowley

Legislative Delegation

The 5 State Representatives and 2 State Senators who represent Collier County will be here on Wednesday, December 14, 2005 at 2:00 p.m. to hear from their constituents on matters of local interest. Sheilah Crowley has registered to address our local legislators on growth management issues which may be addressed at the 2006 Legislative Session in Tallahassee. The meeting will take place at the Board of County Commissioners Chambers on the 3rd floor of the Administrative Building (Bg. F) at the Government Complex at Airport-Pulling and U.S. 41.

Issues '06

Initiated by Representative Mike Davis last year, this is now an annual event in which issues affecting all of Southwest Florida are raised and discussed. This year's event is on Friday, December 16, from 9 a.m. -2 p.m. at FGCU for \$40 (meals included). Contact Chris Straton.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL LEAGUE

Following is a sample of activities at the National Headquarters. For more information go to www.lwv.org/ and click on October 2005 LeagueE-Voice Newsletter

Oppose Restrictions on Voter Registration!

The LWVUS is working hard to oppose an amendment to the Federal Housing Reform Act, H.R. 1461, which would limit the ability of American citizens to engage in our democratic process

League Announces Exchange Program with Kenya

The LWVEF announced a new initiative under its global democracy program, "Kenyans Working Together for Good Governance: Civil Society, Government, and Members of Parliament."

President Maxwell's Trip to Mongolia and Korea

President Maxwell recently returned from Mongolia and Korea, which she visited as part of the U.S. State Department's new program, CitizenConnect – a non-partisan pilot program that offers Americans the opportunity to connect with grassroots organizations overseas.

Letter to the U.S. Senate Urging Full Funding for HAVA

LWVUS signed on to a letter urging members of the U.S. Senate to support full funding for the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA).

League Signs Letter in Support of Presidential Public Financing

LWVUS signed on to a letter urging members of the U.S. House of Representatives to reject an effort to kill the presidential public financing system.

Energy Bill Nearly Defeated

The League worked hard to defeat the Barton Energy Bill that barely passed the House of Representatives, 212-210, in a raucous vote on October 7. Opponents like the League succeeded in stripping several harmful provisions from the legislation before it came to the floor.

League Asks Senate to Oppose Torture

The LWVUS urged members of the Senate to support an amendment to H.R. 2863, the Department of Defense appropriations bill, proposed by Senator John McCain concerning interrogation of military prisoners. The amendment that barred "cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment" passed overwhelmingly.

League Responds to Post-Hurricane Attacks on Social and Environmental Programs

The League has been concerned by the many attempts to use the aftermath of the hurricanes as a pretext for rolling back important social and environmental protections. Read the letters that the League has signed on to with like-minded organizations to oppose gutting our environmental protection laws and cutting programs for human needs.

Membership

A warm welcome is extended to the new members who joined the Collier County League since our last Voter was published:

Sandy Diamond

Linda Olbrych

Judy Weintraub

Susan Millstone

Carter Straton



On November 18th, we hosted our second “coffee” of the season for new and prospective members. At the meeting, Sheilah Crowley (president) provided an overview of the League, Sandy Brown (Voter Services chair) talked about what we do as League members, and Kathy Ryan (Education chair) gave participants several specific ideas about how to begin to get involved.

We plan to hold similar get-togethers monthly, with the next one scheduled for December 6th. If you are a new or prospective member and would like to attend one of these meetings, or if you know someone who might be interested, please contact Sandy Parker, Membership Chair.

Please send in your membership renewal form if you have not already done so!

**Your membership in LWVCC enables you to “make a difference”
To your community...your state...and your country.**

If you would like a ride to any of our League meetings, or if you’re willing to offer a ride to one of our members, please let us know! Your participation is important to us!

Sandy Parker, Membership Chair



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF COLLIER COUNTY**

**2005-2006 LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
and The VOTER newsletter subscription**

Please enter information exactly as you wish it to appear in our records:

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____
 Telephone _____
 Email _____

Annual Dues:

- \$_____ \$60.00 for individual membership
- \$_____ \$90.00 for two-member household membership
 2nd member's name _____
- \$_____ \$30 for student membership

I would like to help support the League of Women Voters of Collier County's activities with an additional contribution:

- \$_____ Contribution to the General Fund (much needed to strengthen League, take action on political issues and build membership; not deductible)
- \$_____ Contribution to the Education Fund (tax-deductible. You may use a separate check payable to LWVCC Education Fund for donation records if desired. We will provide a written acknowledgement of your contribution.)
- \$_____ Total check enclosed payable to "LWV of Collier County"

Please circle areas of interest and ways you're willing to help our League:

<u>Areas of Interest</u>		<u>Ways to Help</u>
Education	Government	Voter Publishing/Mailing
Justice	Natural Resources	Membership
Social Policy	Voter Services	Office Functions
International Relations	Housing	Hospitality

What would you like to see the League address this year? _____

Please mail this form with your check(s) to:

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLLIER COUNTY
 P.O. Box 9883 ... Naples, FL 34101



LWVCC Members Participate in Government 101 – Part 2

October 17th began for participants of Government 101 – Part 2 with a meeting with **Jennifer Edwards, Supervisor of Elections**. We learned quite a bit about the voting population of Collier County. Specifically:

- There are 179,048 active registered voters in Collier County. Of these, 52% are registered as Republicans, 24% as Democrats, 4% as one of 22 “other parties,” and 20% have “no political affiliation.”
- 77% of those registered actually voted in the 2004 Presidential/General Election.
- Collier County has more active registered female voters than males (53% to 47%).
- And it is estimated that Collier County will have 213,000 registered voters by the year 2008, an increase of 7% each year!

These are just some of the interesting things we learned in our meeting with Supervisor Edwards.

Next we met with **Guy Carlton, Tax Collector**. In his 25 years in office, Mr. Carlton has taken on much more than had been done by the Tax Collector’s office in the past. Not only do they process over \$782 million in Ad Valorem taxes and \$35 million in Non Ad Valorem amounts each year. They also handle almost \$15 million in garbage collection billings, as well as express titling for vessels and motor vehicles, and the complete driver’s license service usually associated with state departments of motor vehicles.

Did you know that you can pay your county taxes by credit card? Did you know you can make payment over the internet? These recent innovations were introduced by Mr. Carlton to make paying taxes just a little bit easier for residents of Collier County.

Our next stop was a meeting with **Dwight Brock, Clerk of the Circuit Courts**. According to the Florida Constitution, the Clerk of Courts wears many hats. He is Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts, County Comptroller/Treasurer, County Auditor, County Recorder, and Secretary/Ex-officio Clerk to the Board of County Commissioners.

In response to a question from our group, we learned that a recent priority for the Clerk’s office has been implementing and ensuring strict compliance with a 1998 amendment to the Florida constitution. Previously, the court system was funded locally, in our case by the Board of County Commissioners. Effective July 1, 2004, local governments were relieved of this obligation. As a result, the State raised all court fees and service charges to offset the loss of funding from the Board.

Our final stop of the day was at the new addition to the Naples Jail Center, which is being opened in a phasing-in process. After being welcomed by **Chief of Corrections Scott Salley**, we toured the facility with members of his staff.

(cont.)

The new facility features state-of-the-art technology. For example, inmate visitation takes place from the prison dormitories, using video links to a remote location. Inmates' telephone calls are made from stations that take pictures of the inmate placing the call, and record the number called and the conversation itself. (Inmates hear a recording before the call is put through, informing them that their call will be recorded.)

When fully operational, the new facility will accommodate 432 inmates as well as the booking and medical components of the Naples Jail. The old jail will be renovated once the transition is completed.

In sum, Government 101 – Part 2 was even better than Part 1. Kudos again to board member and Government Committee chair Chris Straton for organizing such an interesting and informative event.

Sandy Parker

Government 101 was a two-part program organized by Chris Straton, Government Committee Chair, to give League members a chance to meet with the men and women who run our local government. In last month's Voter, we covered Government 101 – Part 1.

**Now Your Friends and Family Can Contribute
to the League of Women Voters On-line!**

Do your friends or children ever ask, "What can we get you?" for Christmas/Hanukkah, or for your birthday?"

Well, why not ask them to make a tax-deductible contribution to the League of Women Voters of Collier County Education Fund in your honor?



Network for Good is the Internet's leading charitable resource — an e-philanthropy site whose goal is to connect people to charities via the Internet — using the virtual world to deliver real resources to nonprofits and communities. Every single charity featured on Network for Good — including our local League's Education fund -- qualifies for 501(c)(3) non-profit status from the IRS — and that means every donation is tax-deductible.

Network for Good is at www.networkforgood.org. Simply type "League of Women Voters of Collier County" in the "search" bar, then click on "League of Women Voters of Collier County Education Fund." To make a donation on behalf of or in memory of another person, enter the person's name where indicated. You will have a chance to send an eCard to that person at the end of making a donation. This is an easy way for you to help your family members "make a difference" through your membership in the League!

SOCIAL POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Katrina, Wilma, and the Red Cross

Nothing compares with hearing a story from those who were there. Having watched it all on TV and coming away feeling confused and dissatisfied, we were looking forward to meeting with our Red Cross experts Pat Lawrence and Ann Bleakley to get their take on the hurricane response situation. We were not disappointed.

- We were reminded that the Red Cross is the only non-governmental organization (NGO) regulated under the National Response Plan. They are under a congressional mandate, but receive no money from the government. The Red Cross is run by volunteers with a small paid staff to coordinate things 99 cents of every dollar goes directly to the clients served.

- The mission of the Red Cross is immediate emergency assistance. They are up and running within twenty-four hours of being called. Clients are helped with what they need to survive, with a limited focus: food, water, shelter, a change of clothing.

- Each event has unique problems, requiring new solutions. After a disaster a detailed damage assessment is conducted, street by street, in order to determine how many families are displaced. Then aid is dispensed according to need. (With Katrina's unusual circumstances, damage was assessed according to zip code and a lump sum was given for food and clothing, a total of \$300 per person).

- Following Katrina, 172 evacuee families came to Collier County. They were provided up to 30 days in hotels by FEMA and credit cards by Red Cross, the amount depending upon family size. The Collier County Health Department published a booklet listing the locations of clinics and Florida paid for medication refills for 30 days. One result of Katrina publicity was an outpouring of calls by people wanting to volunteer. Training classes were set up, producing 326 new volunteers. Twenty Red Cross volunteers from Collier were dispatched to the Gulf Coast to help in the aftermath of Katrina.

- As Wilma approached Collier from the west, Collier County Emergency Management made the official call to the Red Cross to open and set up shelters. More than 8,000 people were placed in 13 shelters staffed by 152 Red Cross Volunteers. Thirty-five of the folks trained after Katrina volunteered to be shelter managers!!

- In addition to the shelters, where school cafeterias feed the people (paid for by the Red Cross), there were mass feeding sites set up around the county, run by volunteers with the Southern Baptist Convention who show up in large trucks in which they cook food. Again, the bill is paid by Red Cross and Red Cross volunteers hand out the hot meals.

- Communication remains the biggest problem, number one on the "let's fix this" agenda. With phones out of commission, cell phones down and satellite phones extremely rare and expensive, staying in touch can be an issue. Local ham radios were a big help.

(The Red Cross still needs contributions, with an estimated cost of hurricanes in 2005 reaching over \$2 billion.)

Ann Campbell, chair

How is Homeland Security Working In Collier County?

Hurricane Wilma put our Emergency Operations Center into motion. We were lucky and recovered fairly quickly. What if this was not a natural disaster but one caused by a terrorist attack or a massive chemical spill? Who would have been in charge? What is being done to prevent man-made disasters? Would our recovery been as quick? Intrigued by these questions? Join the Government committee as we engage in a conversation about how homeland security is working here.

Anyone wishing to participate in this activity is invited to attend a planning meeting on Friday, December 2, 2005 at the home of Chris Straton. Please call or email so that I can give your name to the guard.

Chris Straton, Government Chair

JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Would you like to learn more about juvenile probation in Collier County and the probation officers? Then join us for the next **Justice Committee Meeting on Monday, December 12, at 9:00 a.m. at the Naples Branch Library on Central Avenue. Tracie Foss, Juvenile Probation Supervisor with the Department of Juvenile Justice will be our speaker.** We will also be discussing our program for 2006-07 and topics for future meetings. Please contact me by December 8 if you are planning to attend.

The committee meets on the second Monday of the month October through March, generally at 9:00 a.m. at the Naples Branch Library. Topics for future meetings will be announced in the January VOTER. If you have topics you would like addressed, please feel free to contact me.

Bernice Schmelz, Justice Chair

SOCIAL POLICY COMMITTEE

December Meeting

Continuing on the subject of Disaster Response/Homeland Security, our meeting on Wednesday, December 14 at 8 a.m. at Crissy's Wild Side Cafe, will feature Judy Nuland, MSN, RN, Disaster Coordinator, Collier County Health Department. All members and guests are welcome. Reservations are necessary. Please contact Ann Campbell.

Ann Campbell, Social Policy Chair

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The International Relations Committee will meet 10 a.m. on Friday, December 2 at the home of Nancy Wolfe. Contact Nancy Wolfe.

League of Women Voters of Collier County
P. O. Box 9883
Naples, FL 34101
Tel 239-263-4656 E-mail: lwvcc@naples.net

Welcome new and returning members

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Government Committee	Friday, December 2	10 a.m.	Straton House
International Relations	Friday, December 2	10 a.m.	Wolfe House
LWVCC Board Meeting	Monday, December 5	Noon	River Park Community Center
Justice Committee	Monday, December 12	9 a.m.	Naples Branch Library
Social Policy Committee	Wednesday, December 14	8 a.m.	Crissy's Wild Slide
Legislative Delegation	Wednesday, December 14	2 p.m.	County Commissioners Chambers
Issues '06	Friday, December 16	9 a.m.	FGCU
Lively League	Monday, December 19	10:30 a.m.	Norris Center
Monthly General Meeting	Monday, December 19	12:30 p.m.	Norris Center
LWVCC Board Meeting	Monday, January 2	Noon	River Park Community Center

The VOTER is published monthly, during the winter season, by the League of Women Voters of Collier County. Editor: Jennifer Walker, Publisher: Alan Walker. Next issue will be January 2006. Please send newsletter items to Jen Walker. Deadline is for January issue is December 15.