

President's Message

Director Ed Carlson's slide presentation on the history and wonders of Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary proved to be a real treat for members at the February Lively League meeting. The slide showing an otter and young alligator warily eyeing each other in close proximity was priceless -- title, 'Thinking Otter.' Thanks are due to Alda Pierce and the International Relations committee for arranging an interesting program on the operations of the CIA. Don Healy's focus on the significant role women continue to play in the Agency was a revelation to me.

A word about primary elections -- open or not. The upcoming Presidential Primary on March 14th is not. Only those who declare a political party affiliation can vote in this election. However, the Florida Constitution now provides for open state and local primaries when candidates of one party are unopposed by candidates of another party. Then all registered voters, regardless of party affiliation may vote in that election.

Defense of the State Growth Management Act is a top priority issue for League's throughout Florida this year. I plan to speak for our League at the DCA's public hearing on February 29 in Ft. Myers to present our perspective from Collier County.

The Florida Legislature will convene early in March and changes to the Growth Management Act will be under consideration during this session. The March Lively League focus and discussion will be a call for action by members on this important issue. The General Meeting will call for action of another type -- a petition drive and campaign for the appointment of an independent reapportionment commission to redraw Florida districts following the 2000 Census. One glance at a map of Florida's current districts would make anyone dizzy. Let's all get behind this campaign. See you soon.

Pat

LWV

March Meeting Kicks Off "People Over Politics" Campaign

In last month's VOTER, we introduced you to the League's People Over Politics campaign, an effort to place before Florida voters in November a constitutional amendment which will establish an independent reapportionment commission to draw the lines for our congressional districts.

This citizen's petition initiative campaign will take a concerted effort by League members and others throughout the state, but the reward will be a commission relatively free of legislative control and the end to "bug splat" districts drawn to favor politics over people.

To kick off our effort in Collier County, Tom Eubanks, State Coordinator of People Over Politics, will come down from Tallahassee to be our speaker in March. Tom is a veteran of many campaigns at all government levels and has had international experience as well. He is a political consultant, fund-raiser, and communications director. We are pleased to meet him in person and hear the strategy for this project.

In addition, we have asked Mary Morgan, who supports this effort as does her state organization of election supervisors, to briefly share with us the changes an independent commission could make in her office. She has accepted our invitation, and we look forward to hearing her comments.

Kathleen Slebodnik
Government Committee Chair

Welcome to New Members!

Wendy DeJonge	Katherine Todd
4356 Mistle Thrush Lane	3402 Timberwood Circle
Naples, 34119	Naples 34105
Home - 593-3557	H - 430-7955
FAX - 593-3558	

Roster Correction

Marcy and Robert Flinn
375 Fifth Avenue S., #304



League of Women Voters of Collier County
660 9th St. N., Suite 35B, Naples, FL 34102
Office Phone and Fax: 263-4656

President:	Pat Clark (263-2216)
Membership:	Grace Crandell (262-5541)
Voter Editor:	Needed
Mailing:	Cathy Motley (263-7760)

Please Help with Our "People Over Politics" Campaign

In this VOTER you will find two petitions. The first, Amendment One, sets standards to be followed in apportioning or creating legislative or congressional districts. The second, Amendment Two, actually creates an independent nonpartisan commission to apportion legislative and congressional seats which replaces apportionment by the legislature.

This citizens' petition initiative is a state-wide effort to place these two amendments on November's ballot for voter consideration. Here is how you can help.

Please read and sign both petitions and bring them with you to our General Meeting on the 20th. Better yet, have another household member or neighbor sign them,

bring them with you, and sign yours at the meeting. We will have additional copies available for you to sign.

If you know others who would like to support this effort, your blank petitions can be duplicated.

Notice that the signer can use either their Voter Registration Number or their date of birth, so the signer does not have to have their Voter Registration Card with them; they must be, however, registered to vote in Florida.

If you are unable to attend out meeting on the 20th, sign and mail your petitions to the LWVCC office, 660 9th Street N., Suite 35B, Naples, FL 34102 We will send them to Tallahassee.

A little effort on everyone's part will go a long way to remove the worst part of politics when district lines are drawn. Please take the time to help.

Justice Committee

On February 1, a few members of the Justice Committee observed the Teen Court in action. It was an eye-opening experience, though hearing those low voiced, shy teenagers voices was a strain for all of us. We saw three cases, all first offenders, all misdemeanors. The judge was Frank Baker or a lawyer substituting for him. The lawyers were teen volunteers assisted by local lawyers, pro bono. A lawyer assisted the clerk and the Sheriff's Office Explorers Club were volunteer bailiffs. It was great! There was questioning, cross-examinations, objections, summations -- real court with teens in charge, under the supervision of the Collier County legal folks and Lori Wallace, the coordinator. Anyone can attend, Tuesday nights, 6-8 pm.

Dorothy Ferguson
Justice Committee Chairman

Invest in Education

If you would like to make a contribution to the education of Collier county's youngsters, consider becoming a Reading Partner to children in Pre-kindergarten through second grade. After a brief training session, Partners are asked for a nine week commitment, making this an ideal volunteer activity for winter residents. If you enjoy older children, join the Page Turner Program assisting middle school students. A third opportunity is to become a mentor, meeting with students once a week on the school campus throughout the school year.

Time is a key investment in the future of our children. For more information please call the Collier County Education Foundation at 543-4755, E-mail cce@mediaone.net

Nancy Wolfe
Education Chairman

LWVCC Tours

Florida Gulf Coast University

Computers are checked out in the same manner many of us check out library books, and personal computer hookups abound in classrooms, libraries and campus apartments! Ten League members saw first hand the role the computer plays in modern education when they toured the new Florida Gulf Coast University on January 17th.

Only three years old, this region's new university will enroll six thousand students in the coming academic year. The new campus buildings, white with their bright green roofs, sparkle in the sunlight and new construction still continues with a science building and additional student apartments under way.

Many of the students are non-traditional students, men

and women commuting between home, job and campus as they continue their education. But those students who live on campus are housed, not in dormitories as in past years, but in convenient campus apartments. League members observed with interest the small dishwashers in each apartment, a real plus since there are no central cafeteria facilities and students do their own cooking.

While League members looked at the lakeside recreation area with a sand beach where volleyball courts and small boats are available upon presentation of a student ID card, they also were reminded that FGCU is expanding its graduate university education.

As a final note, Florida residents, upon request, may obtain a library card to the FGCU library at no charge. If you would like to visit the university on your own, take exit 19 off of I-75 next to the large discount mall and simply follow the signs.

Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location
Tues. Feb 29	2:00-5:00 PM 6:00-9:00 PM	DCA Public Hearing Growth Management	Harborside Convention Center 1375 Monroe St., Ft. Myers
Fri. Mar 3	9:30 AM	International Relations Teaching in China	Alda Pierce's home Bob & Nancy McGreevy
Mon. Mar 6	12 NOON	LWVCC Board Meeting	1st National Bank
Wed. Mar 9	8:00 AM	Social Policy Ann Campbell, 263-1755	Pacific 41 Restaurant 173 9th Street S.
Fri. Mar 10	9:30 AM	Government Committee Kathleen Slebdonik, 775-3491	League Office
Fri. Mar 17	10:00 AM	Natural Resources Committee Lenore Reich, 566-2352	League Office
Mon. Mar 20	10:45 AM 12:30 PM	Lively League Meeting General Meeting	Norris Room, The Depot
March 26-28		LWVF Legislative Seminar	Tallahassee, Florida
Mon. Apr 3	12 NOON	LWVCC Board Meeting	1st National Bank
Fri. Apr 7	9:30 AM	International Relations Program To Be Announced	Alda Pierce's home 262-4708
Wed. Apr 12	8:00 AM	Social Policy Committee Ann Campbell, 263-1755	Pacific 41 Restaurant 173 9th Street S.
Fri. Apr 14	9:30 AM	Government Committee Kathleen Slebdonik, 775-3491	League Office
Mon. Apr 17	10:45 AM 12:30 PM	LWVCC Annual Meeting General Meeting	Norris Room, The Depot

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660 9th Street North, Suite 35B
Naples, FL 34102

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