



Collier County VOTER

Vol. 27, No. 8

League of Women Voters of Collier County

MARCH 2002

General Meeting, Monday, March 11, 2002
Norris Room - The Depot



10:45 a.m. - Lively League

Female Criminals THINKING AND BEHAVIOR

Speaker: Vickie Freeman - Licensed Mental Health Counselor
and Certified Addiction Professional

[Details - page 2]

12:00 p.m. - Luncheon

12:30 p.m. - Program

Juvenile Justice Today: Trying Times

Speakers: Kathleen Passidomo - Attorney and Juvenile Justice Advocate
Judge Franklin Baker - Collier County Juvenile Court

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Call For Nominations:
Officers, Board, Committee Chairs
Submissions are being accepted NOW

Note: Luncheon reservations are \$12, including the program. Call the League office, 263-4656, by 03/08. Program only is \$3. Members making reservations are responsible for the reservation unless the reservation is canceled by 03/08. 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 LWVCC Members,

Already we are in to the month of March, and have still a few more important things to take care of before our summer break!

We welcome your input, thoughts and participation in planning for the next year. There are many topics of high interest that we will consider and of course, election reform and re-districting are high on our agenda!

Each of our Program Chairs has done a wonderful job, and we look forward to their continuing projects with increased enthusiasm. All LWVCC members, both new and seasoned, are always invited to attend any committee meeting and event.

Claire MacMillan and Connie Norton, will be our representatives in Tallahassee, for the 2002 Legislative Seminar soon. Lobbying, learning and meeting our representatives with other League members at our state capitol is an excellent opportunity. (You too, could participate next year around this time.) We will be watching for their report.

Please let us know when you might lend a hand with one or more of the important endeavors involving League participation. Some elements include voter education, planning/development, computer/election data entry, hospitality/floral at the general meetings and special events planner, for example.

And last but certainly not least, the Nominating Committee is diligently at work gathering names for nomination and election at the April Annual Meeting. You may contact Joanne Quinn, or leave a message at the League office with your submissions.

Yours in League,

Alda Pierce

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Pat Pochopin	h 643-7500
4516 Parrot Ave.	0 774-8333
Naples 34104	
Gloria Laughlin	h 403-8474
57 High Point Circle W. #303	
Naples 34105	
Pat Dorf	h 593-6622
7032 Pelican Bay Blvd. #2304	
Naples 34108	

CORRECTION

Joan Barrick	h 435-7781
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MARCH PROGRAM

Within the past decade, the American populace has found itself transfixed by several high profile stories of female crime. Vickie Freeman, LMHC and CAP, has worked with dozens of women who have committed crimes and she will speak about common denominators in female criminal thought and behavior.

Juvenile Justice finds itself in the midst of trying times; changing ideologies and shrinking funds. Those allied in the pursuit of seeing that juveniles receive just treatment also often find themselves sorely tried.

Two of the individuals in Collier County who frame and define the cause of juvenile justice are Kathleen Passidomo and Judge Franklin Baker. Hear their thoughts on the critical challenges facing juvenile justice in southwest Florida today.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Leonore Reich, Chair

Recently, I spent a few days visiting family on Long Boat Key in Sarasota. While there, I had the opportunity to visit again, the very distinctive ocean research facility and aquarium, Mote Marine Laboratories.

Mote is doing important research in aquaculture with emphasis on making aquaculture more productive and commercially more profitable. Increased productivity could take a great deal of pressure off wild fish stocks in the Gulf of Mexico and lead eventually to a healthier fish population. They are also heavily involved in local environmental issues.

A field trip to visit the Mote Marine Laboratories would be an excellent day trip. I would be pleased to arrange a "behind the scenes" guided tour of their laboratory. We would also visit their Marine Mammal Center with its current occupants, two charming manatees, and their state-of-the-art aquarium. They also have a beautiful fresh water rain forest exhibit.

I had the great treat of attending a presentation by Mr. David Doubilet, the underwater staff photographer for National Geographic along with visiting my colleague, Dr. Eugenie Clark, Professor Emerita, University of Maryland and the founder of Mote Marine Laboratory.

If you would be interested in visiting the Mote Marine Laboratory at some time, contact me at 566-2352 or lreich1222@aol.com, and a convenient date will be set.

Telephone Survey 2002

By Pat Clark

At the request of county government, plans for the annual county-wide survey are underway for an early start this year. The Institute of Government has engaged the firm of Fraser and Mohlke, to again conduct a survey of 250+ registered voter households residing in all five county districts.

Alice Fraser and Chuck Mohlke, LWVCC members, will undertake the design of a sampling plan and the questions for a study of residents' opinions on a variety of conditions and services provided by Collier County. (Cont'd, page 3)

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SOCIAL POLICY

Ann Campbell, Chair

Every Student Needs A Nurse!

Further, we believe that healthy kids make better students and better students make healthy communities. We held those beliefs even before meeting with Elaine Wade, the Collier County School Nursing Program Director, at our February meeting.

Now, armed with information about the activities of the nurses currently assigned to the public schools, we are thoroughly supportive of the Program. It has been shown that school nurses, by their presence, reduce the incidence of absenteeism and reduce the number of emergency room visits by students.

School nurses deal with such an array of complex educational, health and social problems these days, that it is hard to imagine how the schools did without them. Although the nurse to student ratio is far from the ideal of 1:750, we are pleased with the progress that has been made in just a few years.

Collier now has a full time nurse in each high school and part time nurses in the elementary and middle schools. Florida is one of the very few states without school nurse programs, so it is left to counties and municipalities to set their own programs. The state does not provide funding either.

Collier's 2001-2002 program is funded through a partnership: the Collier County Health Department, the School Board the County Commission, and Naples Community Hospital. When the budget planning process begins this spring, we sincerely hope that the funds are available to continue this most excellent service to the children of our community.

At our March 13 meeting, we plan to address the affordable housing crisis in Collier County. We will be joined by two Collier County staff: Michele Arnold, Director of Code Enforcement, and Cormac Giblin, from Housing and Urban Improvement. Everyone is welcome. As usual, our meeting will take place at 8:00 a.m., at the Pacific 41 Restaurant. Breakfast is served at a cost of \$8.00. Call Ann Campbell at 263-1755, or email at acamp1082@aol.com, to make your reservation

EDUCATION

Nancy Wolfe, Chair

Avalon School Hosts League Members

Many of the things we read and hear about the education of today's children tend to be discouraging, but we left Avalon School feeling optimistic about the educational opportunities being offered to the neediest of our young people.

Avalon School serves 680 children, over seventy per cent of them from Hispanic or Haitian families, and 89% eligible for free or reduced lunch. Dr. Terry Mietv, the principal asserts, however, that this is a school with practically no discipline problems because the children come from cultures where teachers are esteemed and treated with great courtesy. Several helpful fifth grade

"ambassadors" in fact, met us as we arrived at the building, giving us a cheerful and polite welcome.

We visited several classrooms, observing Head Start classes, the tutoring of small groups of Kindergartners and first graders learning English, a fourth grade class, and a fifth grade. The fifth graders were at the media center (formerly the library) and so their teacher had an opportunity to show us the presentation that the children had prepared, as they wound up their study of the Civil War.

Both knowledge of the subject matter and the computer skills the students demonstrated as they put together their presentation were impressive, even to Ann Bleakley, whose computer skills are renown among LWVCC members. There are five or six computers in each classroom plus scanners and printers for the middle grades.

We visited one of the much maligned portable classrooms which were actually more than adequate, observed the Global Garden that students are creating with the help of community volunteers, and learned about the Family Literacy Program, which gives whole families the opportunity to improve their English skills and acquire their own computer.

Dr. Mietv told us that some of the intensive tutoring Avalon is able to offer its students is federally funded because of the high number of immigrant children. Avalon School has been able to achieve consistently high "grades" in the face of many challenges.

We wish many more League members had been able to join us at Avalon School. We all left, hopeful about the ability of schools to teach all students in these changing and challenging times.

(Telephone Survey, cont'd, page 2)

Plans call for each interviewer to spend approximately three (3) hours, daytime or evening, during the interview period. Completion time for 250+ surveys is expected to last seven (7) weeks.

Orientation and training session for volunteers is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, 4:00 p.m., at the Supervisor of Elections office, located in the Collier Government Center. Monday, March 18, is the anticipated interview start date.

Our League's 15 years of active participation in this survey has been recognized and praised by county officials. The information gathered by the survey is of very real value to county government, boards and agencies. As a respected civic organization, the League is entrusted with the professional and objective conduct of the survey.

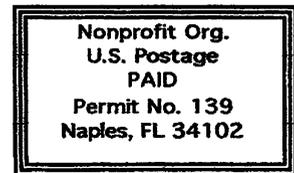
Many thanks to all of our members who have in the past, so generously contributed their time and efforts to this worthwhile community project! And, to those you who have not as yet been involved.....you may be called! For the 15th year, the League has been asked to provide 14 to 16 member volunteers to conduct the telephone interviews. LWVCC will be compensated \$3.00 for each survey completed by our volunteers.

DATE	TIME	EVENT	PLACE
MAR 11 Mon	10:45 a.m.	Lively League-General Meeting	Norris Room - The Depot
13 Wed	8:00 a.m.	Social Policy	Pacific 41 Restaurant
21 Thu	10:00 a.m.	Justice (small meeting room)	Central Ave. Library
18 Mon		VOTER Deadline	
APR 1 Mon	12:00 p.m.	Board Meeting	First National Bank
4 Thu		VOTER Mailing	League Office
5 Fri	9:30 a.m.	International Relations	Alda Pierce's Home
10 Wed	8:00 a.m.	Social Policy	Pacific 41 Restaurant
15 Mon	10:45 a.m.	ANNUAL MEETING	Norris Room - The Depot
18 Thu	10:00 a.m.	Justice (small meeting room)	Central Ave. Library
22 Mon		VOTER Deadline	
MAY 6 Mon	12:00 p.m.	Board Meeting	First National Bank
9 Thu		VOTER Mailing	League Office
18-19		LWVF State Council	Embassy Suites, Altamonte Springs
JUN 14-18		LWVUS National Convention	Fontainbleau - Miami Beach

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nominations - LWVCC Annual Meeting - Elections - LWVF Council - LWVUS National Convention

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JUVENILE JUSTICE TODAY:

Trying Times
with

Atty. Kathleen Passidomo
Judge Franklin Baker

MARCH 11th - General Meeting
NOTE THE CHANGE