



COLLIER COUNTY VOTER

League of Women Voters of Collier County • 660 9th Street N., Suite 35B • Naples, FL 33940

VOL. 19, NO. 2

OCTOBER 1993

LUNCHEON MEETING: MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1993

NORRIS ROOM, THE DEPOT

10:45 Lively League Issues*

11:30 Social 12:00 Lunch

**12:30 PROGRAM: Strategic Planning:
What's ahead for Collier County?**

SPEAKER: Neil Dorrill, Collier County Manager

For Noon lunch reservations (\$8.50 for lunch and program), please call Pat Scudder, 775-9278, or the League Office, 263-4656, by Friday, October 15. The price for attending the program only is \$2. The public is welcome.

*** Lively League Issues: What do residents like and dislike about Collier County? Come at 10:45 and find out when Leaguer Chuck Mohlke reviews the survey taken last spring with the help of League members.**

President's Message

HELLO AGAIN! Another warm, humid and fairly wet summer--no hurricanes, thank you--but very busy as the summary of our activities will attest. (See page 4.)

The Executive Council met in June, July and September and even though there were no committee meetings, as such, there were events happening that encompassed all of League's activities.

As you know, we have a new VOTER editor, **Mary Ann Fick**, who is a pleasure to work with and who will appreciate any suggestions you may care to make.

We accepted with regret the resignation from the Board of **Maribeth Guididas**. She finds job and home a full schedule but promises to keep in touch. She will be unable to continue as co-chair of the Education Committee so if there's a volunteer out there we would surely like to hear from you.

The League is now the proud owner of a FAX machine. The Board agreed that we should take this step into the current communication stream. If you have something important to send, just dial our office telephone number and follow the instructions.

You will notice that our luncheon cost has gone up fifty cents. This is to reflect the increased charge from our caterer. We trust this will not be a hardship to our members.

I hope you all had a pleasant summer and are prepared for a lively season ahead.

Dorothy

Strategic Planning: What is it? Why is it important?

The answer to these questions and many more will be the topic of an address by County Manager Neil Dorrill at our General Meeting on Oct. 18.

Although strategic planning of sorts was part of the program of past Boards of Commissioners, it was never formalized until 1989. Since that time the County Manager has presented an annual set of goals for all divisions under his jurisdiction, with follow-up sessions on progress of the various goals.

This year a new concept will be instituted, called "Program Priority Budgeting," that will establish the goals for the next fiscal year. The Board of County Commissioners will hear a discussion of this program at its meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 19.

At our meeting, Dorrill will tell us more about the needs and accomplishments of the new budgeting process and how it has assisted the County Manager's office and the Board to focus on the important issues facing the community.

Neil Dorrill last spoke to the League in 1988. He is a continuing source of information for our Local Government and Natural Resources committees.

Bettie Gulacsik, *Local Government Chair*

LWV of Collier County

President: Dorothy Fitch (261-0938)

Voter Editor: Mary Ann Fick (592-1849)

**Staff: Jeannette Boucher
Cathy Motley**

League Office and FAX: 263-4656

**"Lively League Issue" on Oct. 18
The "good" and the "bad"
of Collier County . . .**

League member Chuck Mohlke will review the results of the sixth annual telephone survey on the likes and dislikes of Collier voters prior to our October luncheon program.

Come to The Depot at 10:45 a.m. to hear and participate in this interesting discussion. Once again, the League has received high praise from the County Commissioners for our role in completion of the survey.

At the request of Fraser and Mohlke Associates, League members made more than 250 telephone calls to voters throughout the county, asking a myriad of important questions. The survey results were presented to the BCC and welcomed by them as a helpful tool in their strategic planning as well as guidance for current problems.

We welcome our new members
**Dorothy Ferguson
Henny Porter
Janet Ann Siegner
Chris Straton**

Dues are due!

Just a reminder that dues were payable Oct. 1. Also, a reminder that your extra contributions are what really make a difference in our budget. Contributions may be made to either the Action Fund or the tax-deductible Education Fund.

County Board adopts new administrator ordinance

(Dorothy Fitch summarizes our League's role)

The League of Women Voters of Collier County became a provisional League in 1975 and was fully authorized in 1978. From its inception the LWVCC has supported a strong county manager form of government.

This is important in view of the fact that several attempts to adopt a charter form of government, which we also supported, have failed.

(Charter government automatically creates a strong manager type of government.)

Over the years, the county manager ordinance has been repealed, amended, argued, weakened, strengthened and been the subject of an in-depth review by an outside consultant (in 1983). In between all this, county managers were fired without notice and interfered with, creating general disarray and acrimony.

On July 20, BCC Chairman Burt Saunders made a motion to consider amending the existing ordinance, as amended, and Commissioner Volpe made a motion to consider repealing; both motions passed. On Aug. 17, Commissioner Volpe recommended consideration of a completely new "county administrator" ordinance closely adhering to the Florida Statute. This also passed.

Since July 20 **Bettie Gulacsik** and I have been writing letters, speaking in person with the Commissioners and at the Board meetings in an attempt to prevent an overall weakening of the ordinance.

On September 28 the Board finally repealed the existing ordinance, as amended, and adopted a new "county administrator ordinance." While they did not incorporate all of the proposals made by the League, we feel our input did much to keep a strong county manager (administrator) form of government.

Highlights of LWVCC summer activities

(Not necessarily in order of importance)

❑ **Members of the Local Government/Natural Resources Committees** met new Assistant County Manager Bill Hargett. He is very familiar with League from his past governmental position and very supportive of our activities.

❑ **Bettie Gulacsik** participated in a televised panel discussion regarding the water situation in Collier.

❑ A LWVCC-sponsored televised forum held in Marco Island on "Growth Management and How It Relates to Incorporation " was assisted by eight Leaguers. Cityhood was later defeated by voters of Marco Island.

❑ **Justice Committee** members attended two meetings concerning correctional planning and the Sheriff's proposed juvenile program. They supported Florida's new sentencing guidelines and Safe Street Act.

❑ Attempts to generate interest in a charter form of government flopped!

❑ **Natural Resources Committee** followed meetings of EPTAB and the Environmental Services Division; responded to letters from citizens of Belle Meade regarding the CARL program; spoke at a Board of County Commissioners meeting against issuing land clearing permits prior to the permitting process. The BCC agreed, then at a later meeting changed to allow certain properties to do this.

❑ **Housing Committee:** Continued to monitor the Affordable Housing Commission. Two housing projects were approved by the City of Naples Council; attempts in the county continue to run into roadblocks.

❑ LWVCC continued support of the Public Health Unit, attending Council meetings and speaking on its behalf at BCC meetings. LWVCC supported passing local five-cent gas tax and related bond issue. The gas tax was approved for five years, subject to review; the bond issue was voted down.

❑ LWVCC supported an increase in the ad valorem tax proposed by the Big Cypress Basin Board to pay for the purchase of a segment of land in the CREW project. This proposal passed.

❑ **Kathleen Slebodnik, Pat Scudder and Dorothy Fitch** traveled to Ft. Myers to join with Lee and Charlotte County League members for a meeting with Congressman Porter Goss. He was asked for his legislative priorities for the upcoming session, which were: the economy, focus on jobs, accountability of office holders and health care reform. A very productive discussion centered on a national health care program and campaign finance.

Next on our fall agenda

❑ Discussions by the Board of County Commissioners on landfill, issues related to beach renourishment, and the environment/habitat ordinance.

❑ LWVCC workshop on action, Monday, Nov. 22.

❑ Hearings with Florida Department of Community Affairs about lack of stormwater regulations.

❑ LWVF studies and consensus on: (1) retention of judges; (2) second primary; (3) water supply.

❑ LWVCC Holiday Party at the home of **Mercy Bathey** on Wednesday, Dec. 15.

You will hear further about the above meetings from the committee chairs. **Welcome back!**

Four Leaguers attend State Convention

Ann Campbell, Barbara Elliott, Dorothy Fitch and Kathleen Slebodnik went to the LWVF convention in May in Tampa. As of that time, the state League had a membership of 4,550.

The two and one-half days included such workshops as *To Run or Not--Who? Me?*, *Russia Today*, *How to Run a Referendum*, *Fundraising*, *Program Planning* and *Public Relations*. Each evening was filled with special caucuses.

The main thrust was to adopt the 1993-95 Program and share ideas on the recommended and non-recommended items. Five additions were made to the established Program (see *Study and Action*):

- ☒ **Election Laws:** Re-evaluate position on elimination of second primary.*
- ☒ **Education in Florida:** Monitor education accountability program.
- ☒ **Justice in Florida:** Study methods of evaluation of justice and judges for merit retention.*
- ☒ **Social Policy:** Discontinue study of local health care problems and concentrate our efforts on the Florida Health Care Plan.*
- ☒ **Natural Resources in Florida and the U. S. :** Study fresh water resources in Florida and public policies that relate to their conservation and availability for environmental, mining, public supply, urban, agricultural and industrial needs.*

Two Action motions were approved: (1) to send a letter to Governor Chiles urging him to amend the Property Rights Act, and (2) to notify Florida Senators and Congressmen that LWVF supports the proposed Federal Wetlands Bill.

***Ed. Note:** *LWVCC will study these issues soon. Watch our calendar in the VOTER.*

Coming in November . . .

LWVCC WORKSHOP on Study and Action Committees

**4 p.m., Monday, Nov. 22, 1993
Naples Library**

An important meeting for all members

Social issues meetings

Concerns about health care, children and all our other social issues are continually on the minds of Leaguers. The following October meetings, open to the public, are of particular interest:

Florida Health Care Plan

District 8 public hearing for input on essential medical services required in public and private health plans in Florida:

2-8 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 12, Ft. Myers

To join members of our League's Health Care committee attending this important meeting, call the League Office by Monday, Oct. 11.

Kids in Trouble

A panel of experts and citizens presented by the Naples Alliance for Children, co-sponsored by Naples YMCA:

7-9 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 14, The Depot

In Memoriam

Herbert J. Motley

Calendar

The League Office, where many meetings are held, is located at 660 9th Street, No., Suite 35B, Naples

Oct. 8	Friday	10:00 a.m.	League Office	Local Government Committee <i>Chair: Bettie Gulacsik, 597-7558</i>
Oct. 14	Thursday	7-9 p.m.	The Depot	Kids in Trouble <i>Myra Shapiro, 263-2544</i>
Oct. 15	Friday	10:00 a.m.	League Office	Natural Resources Committee <i>Chair: Ginger Westman, 394-1421</i>
Oct. 18	Monday	10:45 a.m. Noon-1:30	Norris Room The Depot	LIVELY LEAGUE ISSUES & OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING
Oct. 25	Monday	10:00 a.m.	League Office	Justice Committee <i>Chair: Renee Hansen, 598-3293</i>
Oct. 27	Wed'sday	4:00 p.m.	League Office	Social Policy Committee <i>Chair: Ann Campbell, 263-1755</i>
Nov. 1	Monday	Noon	League Office	Board Meeting

League of Women Voters of Collier County
660 9th Street North, Suite 35B
Naples, FL 33940

Non-Profit Org. U S Postage PAID Permit No. 139 Naples, FL 33941
--

**What's "good " and what's "bad"
in Collier County? Learn what
residents think at "Lively Issues"
See page 3**