



**Collier County**

# VOTER

Vol. 25, No. 2

League of Women Voters of Collier County

Oct. 1999

**GENERAL MEETING, MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1999**

NORRIS ROOM, THE DEPOT

*10:45 a.m. Lively League Issue:*

**COLLIER COUNTY TELEPHONE SURVEY**

SUMMARY REPORT: CHUCK MOHLKE

*12:00 noon Buffet Lunch*

*12:30 p.m. Program*



## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REAL PROBLEMS, REAL PEOPLE**

*Speaker:*

**Christine Greider**, Office of the State Attorney, Prosecutor for Domestic Violence Cases

*For noon lunch reservations (\$10 for lunch and program) call Jane Lahy, 261-8654 or the League office, 263-4656, by Friday, October 15th. The public is welcome. The price for attending the program only is \$3.00 for non members, reservations are **not** necessary to attend only the program. Any member who makes a lunch reservation must pay the \$10 unless the reservation is cancelled by October 15.*

The League of Women Voters of Collier County, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

*The Collier County VOTER is published monthly, October through May*

## President's Message

As the Summer Season draws to a close, a suitable headline might read, "Missed by Floyd but Swamp-kissed by Harvey" - quite a soggy surprise. I hope that all of you and your families enjoyed a great Summer and I truly look forward to seeing everyone as we begin activities for our League's 25th year.

The LWVF Convention in May was well covered in the Summer VOTER. Did you notice that our League received two awards -- the Communications award and the Student Outreach award for the 'Know Your County Teen' program. Well done, ladies. Congratulations are in order for **Ann Campbell** on her re-election as Secretary to the State Board and to **Kathleen Slebodnik** on her appointment as off-board Natural Resources Director.

Government committee members, **Kathleen Slebodnik, Mary Ann Fick, Pat Lawrence, Dorothy Fitch and Pat Clark** met in June to compile the results of the final phase of the local study and consensus on Ethics. The position was approved at the Executive Committee meeting in September and the text is included in this VOTER.

Chuck Molke and Alice Frasier have been invited to present a summary report of this years annual telephone survey at the October Lively League meeting. Many thanks to all members who so generously contributed their time and skill to complete this project.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. Christine Greider, prosecutor in the State Attorney's office for felony domestic violence cases will be the featured speaker at the General Meeting.

I hope you plan to join us for all of the meetings planned for the coming year and I encourage you to invite a friend or two.

Pat

# LWV

## Legislative Priorities

As our Program Committees gear up for the year ahead, one of the first tasks they will undertake will be to identify what they consider to be the most important priority in their area of interest on which they would like to emphasize League action during the next Legislative Session. I would encourage all members, who have not already done so, to join a program committee that interest you and help provide direction for the League's lobbying efforts this year. The date, time and place of each committee's meeting is listed in this VOTER - I can guarantee that the program directors will welcome your call!

## Leadership Conference

League of Women Voter of Florida

*"Taking Charge"*

*Tools for 2000 and Beyond*

October 22-24, 1999

Canterbury Retreat and Conference Center,  
Ovieda, Florida

### Planned Workshops:

- Filling ranks with new members
- Getting ready for election 2000
- Creating rapport with the media
- Management and communications skills
- Facilitating a civic education program
- Diversity issues
- Merit retention and the ballot

If interested in attending call Pat Clark, 263-2216

## Welcome New Members

**Beatrice Camier** 514-1150  
7022 Greentree Dr., 34108

**Mary Lee Harris** 793-3107  
2143 Tama Circle, 34112

**Olga Hirshorn** 262-2407  
600 Admiralty Parade, 34102

**Lacey King** 591-8470  
11831 Quail Village Way, 34119

**Jacquelyn Gillespie** 434-9106  
421-A Meadowlark Lane, 34105

**Mary Martin** 434-54703  
640 Fairway Terrace, 34103

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

# LOCAL ETHICS ORDINANCE STUDY AND CONSENSUS - PHASE II

**COVERAGE:** A local code of ethics should be adopted by the Board of County Commissioners, all elected city officials in incorporated areas, and the Collier County School Board. Government employees are covered by other ordinances passed by the county or individual cities. No consensus was reached on the question of community volunteers who serve on commissions and advisory boards and become, in effect, appointed officials. One comment was that we need to study this area further and that the study should include the composition and role of advisory boards and appointed committees. Currently, they are subject to state statutes only.

**GIFTS AND EXCEPTIONS:** While many felt that zero gifts was the appropriate tolerance, the consensus that the \$50 limit as presently in the county ordinances was acceptable. Apparently, a zero gift policy was necessitated so many exceptions that the prohibition was not realistic and workable.

When a government official is a featured speaker at a luncheon or dinner or the official is present to receive an award or represents his/her office, the official is entitled to receive that meal as the sponsoring organizations guest. This exception applies to food and beverages only; anything else would be considered a gift and subject to the \$50 limitation.

There was strong consensus support for the establishment of a funding source which government officials could draw on to pay for attending charitable/community events when they were not featured guests. The newly established lobbying registration fee was considered as a possible source for funds. (As a point of information, the BCC can draw from their current yearly travel allowance of \$2500 to attend such events. This allowance comes from general funds.)

**POST EMPLOYMENT LOBBYING ACTIVITIES:** A two year constraint on appearances before governing boards by former elected officials or policy-making level employees after leaving office or employment was deemed appropriate.

**LOBBYING REGISTRATION AND FEES:** Any person who receives compensation to influence an elected official or county employee should be required to register annually as a lobbyist. The registration should also include the name(s) of persons who are paying the lobbyist and the essential details of their agreement.

We did not reach consensus on whether the lobbyist should be required to disclose the amount of compensation he/she is receiving or on how much the registration fee should be. We did agree, however, that any group, such as a civic or neighborhood organization, which does not compensate a lobbyist but does in effect engage in lobbying activities should be required to register but should not have to pay a registration fee.

**INITIAL COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS:** It was narrowly agreed upon that a local ethics complaint should be filed initially with the local State Attorney's Office. Since comments were not requested, it is only conjecture as to why this was preferred over an appointed citizens panel or a local commission of retired or practicing attorneys. Perhaps, since the State Attorney is an elected office, we felt voters would have more control over the process. Discussion participants voiced reservations about a non-elected panel having jurisdiction over elected officials at the local level.

Since lack of prompt action on the part of the State Ethics Commission was what initiated the whole issue which led to the passage of local ethics ordinances in Collier County and the City of Naples, it was not surprising that the consensus was that a reasonable time limit be established for the conclusion of an investigation. However, it was felt that allowance should be made for an extension, if necessary. No consensus was reached on what the time limit should be.

**PENALTIES:** It was agreed that a violation of the local ethics ordinances should be considered a misdemeanor to include jail time and a fine not to exceed \$500 as presently stated in the Collier County and Naples codes. Making a violation a misdemeanor would itself insure a speedy trial, and that may be the reason no certain time-frame was agreed upon.

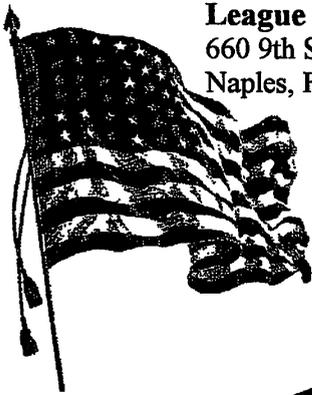
# "Not For Ourselves Alone"

## The Story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony

PBS will air this Ken Burns film on November 7 & 8, at 8 pm. The film illustrates how the women's suffrage amendment has served to shape contemporary social and economic trends and why it was such an important landmark in US history. This significant film highlights the events leading up to and the creation of the League of Women Voters. Mark your calendars now -- you won't want to miss this important event.

## Calendar

Date	Time	Event	Location
Oct. 4	Mon. Noon	Board Meeting	1st. National Bank
Oct. 8	Fri. 9:30 am	Government Committee Kathleen Slebodnik 775-3490	League Office
Oct. 15	Fri. 10:00 am	Natural Resources Committee	League Office
Oct. 18	Mon. 10:45 am 1:30 pm	Lively League General Meeting	Naples Depot
Oct. 27	Wed. 1:00 pm	Justice Committee Dorothy Ferguson 353-7414 Speaker -- Lori Wallace	Dept. Children & Families Call for directions
Nov. 1	Mon. Noon	Board Meeting	1st National Bank
Nov. 5	Fri. 9:30 am	International Relations Nancy Wolfe 566-7469	Nancy Wolfe's home 12902 Bald Cypress



**League of Women Voters of Collier County**  
660 9th Street North, Suite 35B  
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**DUES ARE DUE**  
Please mail your dues (\$48 per person  
and \$24 for each additional household  
member) to the League Office now!