

President's Report on the League  
2011-12  
delivered to the annual meeting  
by Lydia Galton

It is hard to measure the success or influence of an organization, but here are some impressive League statistics:

- 30 new members joined the League this season
- the number of Carrie Chapman Catt memberships at \$200.00 increased from 4 to 14 this year
- overall contributions since 2010 have increase 50%
- attendance at our lunches has increased steadily reaching an all time high of 104 at our April meeting
- Our nominee for Health Care Hero, the Director of the Senior Friendship Health Clinic, was selected by the NDN in the Nurse Excellence category
- attendance at board meetings has been almost 100%, and participation more than 100%. Would Joyce Fletcher, Vi Steffan, Donna Suddeth, Tom McCann, Bernice Schmelz, Paul Kardon, Linda Penniman, Mollie Ottina, John Levy and Becky Newell please stand for recognition of your dedication, wisdom, and collegiality. Please give them a well deserved round of applause.

But numbers never tell the whole story:

- Consultants for the Collier County School Board solicited our views on the essential attributes a candidate for Superintendent should possess and we were delighted that the School Board's final choice, Kamela Patton, fulfilled all our expectations and more.
- We partnered with the Chamber, the NDN, the President's Council and Greater Naples Better Government Committee to present a Forum on increasing the number on the Collier County Board of Commissioners.
- We participated with the Chamber as a sponsor of the two-day Campaign for Leadership at which Senator Bill Nelson was the keynote speaker.
- Kathleen Slebodnick hosted a trip through the Everglades for the LWVFL that was so successful that state would like her to do it monthly. She made us look great. Thank you Kathleen.
- We participated on the Comparative County Study Committee of the Chamber.
- Naples Daily News awarded Know Your County Government a starfish for its positive impact on Collier's youth. Kudos to Kathy Ryan and Joyce Fletcher.
- Chris Straton conducted a forum for city council candidates.
- Mollie Ottina coordinated the general meetings and graciously hosted the holiday party in her lovely home.
- Bernice Schmelz organized an Adopt a Precinct posse of intrepid League members who raised \$1750 by woking from dawn to dusk. Would Ann Bleakley

Joan Byerhof, Paul Kardon, Joyce Laeser, Pat Lawrence, Nina Ribinski, Sandy Parker, Bernice Schmelz, Kathleen Slebodnik, Vi Steffan and standbys Ann Allen and Anne Lewallen please stand to be recognized.

- General Meeting speakers included Superintendent of Schools Kamela Patton, Phil Lewis of NDN, attorneys Jeff Fridkin and Jeff Klatzkow, Dr. Paul Mitchell of Avow Hospice, attorney Sharon Hanlon and Judge Hugh Hayes, Nick Penniman, of United Republic and our very own globe trotter, Donna Suddeth.
- We launched a book club under the able tutelage of Charlotte Nykelmoe. It met five times during the 2011-12 season and attracted 16 members who discussed:
  1. The Great Unraveling - Paul Krugman
  2. Hot, Flat and Crowded - Tom Friedman
  3. That Used to Be Us - Tom Friedman/Michael Mandelbaum
  4. Winner-Take-All Politics - Jacob Hacker/Paul Pierson
  5. Founding Sisters and the 19th Amendment - Eleanor Clift
- The two-year old Climate Change Committee, founded by Linda Denning, had field trips to the FGCU solar field, the Chevy dealership to learn about electrical cars and the new Conservancy grounds and buildings. Meetings topics included resource sharing, an update on the Keystone Pipeline, the NPower Campaign sponsored by the City of Naples, discussion of the legislative session and how to track bills, and a tutorial on solar energy. Susan Calkins and Eileen Mann will be replacing Linda as chairs. Let's give Linda a solid round of applause.
- The Education Committee, chaired by Linda Penniman, communicated regularly with the School Board and the superintendent, attended meetings arranged by the Education Foundation, and is in the process of exploring the proposed School Referendum for a presentation to the membership for its opinion next month.
- The Government Committee, ably lead by Joyce Fletcher, hosted Lunch with Leaders which Tom McCann facilitated. We filled the conference rooms of Clerk of Courts Dwight Brock, Phil Lewis and Jeff Lyttle at the Naples Daily News, and Julie Sprague from the Collier County School Board with an average of 15 members. The Capitol Reports meetings were engrossing as Joyce and her members monitored the legislature as it tacked through its early session, dominated by redistricting and the budget. Some 34 public, private and home schooled students took part in Know Your County Government on seven different days visiting the County Museum, the five constitutional officers, landfill, water treatment plant, and traffic control center. On the final day they had lunch with the Commissioners, county manager, county attorney and Constitutional Officers.

- The Justice Committee, chaired by Bernice Schmelz, met five times, including one field trip to New Beginnings, Naples, a Collier County Public Schools Alternative School. In addition to topics on juvenile justice, the committee learned about issues surrounding potential privatization of South Florida prisons from our own Gina Downs. An average of 12 members regularly attended the meetings. After 8 years as chair, Bernice is retiring; Charlotte Nycklemoe is the new chair. I think Bernice deserves special recognition. Please stand Bernice.
- Collier County Girls in Conflict with the Law, a subcommittee of Justice, has been working for two years under the leadership of Linda Hyde to determine if concerns raised in the state report, Justice for Girls-- Blueprint for Action, were concerns in Collier County. Their research included many interviews and visits to juvenile court, Teen Court, Truancy Court and the Juvenile Detention Center. The committee's report provides a comprehensive overview of the juvenile justice system and has identified some additional recommendations not originally addressed in the Blueprint. The committee is currently finalizing the written report. Committee members are Linda Hyde, Chair; Kris Bruer, editor; Florence Chandler; Bernice Schmelz; Chris Straton and Nancy Wolfe.
- The Social Policy Committee, lead by chair Ann Campbell, met on the second Wednesday of each month from November through April and an additional meeting is scheduled for May. Subject areas were health care (4) and social services issues (2). Numbers attending ranged from 7 to 13. It had an unusual situation this year in that it moved to 4 different venues and from breakfast to lunch meetings and back.
- Voter Services, under Chris Straton's leadership, conducted a forum for city council candidates in January at which Anne Lewallen and Joyce Fletcher assisted. Joyce Fletcher is the new Voter Service Chair preparing for forums and voter information drives this summer before the August primary and November presidential elections.

I am sure you are sick of my name dropping but there is more because it takes so very many people to make this League work.

One name I mention in great sadness: Judith Gartner, who waged such a courageous fight against cancer, finally succumbed this year. Kris Bruer and Jan Eustis graciously took on the responsibilities for the Voter.

Shelley Perry accepted the Webmaster role that Sandy Parker has fulfilled so long and so well. How can we ever thank Sandy enough for all she has done for the League? Please stand and be recognized.

Wendy Riedel, our Communications Manager, made sure that the Voter, email alerts and reminders got out to you and that Ira Sharps' brilliant press releases were sent to the media. Pat Lawrence mailed the printed Voters she picked up from Staples every month, and Nina Ribinski kept our roster up to date;

John Levy and Laurie Phillips audited our books which Treasurer Vi Steffan kept meticulously. John Levy also served on the Budget Committee with Vi and Jen Walker.

Anne Lewallen greeted you at meetings with help from Rose DiBiasi and Joyce Fletcher and Ann Allen was at every meeting to take your order for a name badge or to deliver one.

Paul Kardon chaired the Bylaws Committee and worked with Chris Straton, Wendy Riedel, Tom McCann and Beth Pavlow.

Sandy Parker managed membership renewals while Beth Pavlow carefully watched over new members at the New Member Table at each meeting.

Finally the Nominating Committee was chaired by Rose DiBiasi who was aided by Kathy Ryan, Joyce Fletcher, Beth Pavlow and Paul Kardon.

It is inevitable that I missed mentioning someone who has worked tirelessly for which I apologize- Know that all of you matter, all of you, every single member, whether active or not, create an important organization that educates, advocates and motivates civic action. You should be proud of your decision to embrace the League.