

The Voter

Issue: 2017-07

APRIL 2017

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April Luncheon and General Meeting



Linda
Oberhaus



Marisol
Schloendorn



Charlotte
Newell

Raising Awareness of Human Trafficking in Southwest Florida

The Justice committee will present a panel of three outstanding women, who are making a difference in providing support, rescue, and rehabilitation for victims of human trafficking in Southwest Florida.

Linda Oberhaus has more than 25 years of professional experience in the human service field. She joined The Shelter for Abused Women & Children in 2007 as the Executive Director and previously served as the Executive Director for the certified domestic violence center in Tampa, Florida.

Marisol Schloendorn began her career with the Collier County Sheriff's Office in 2001 as an Investigator. In 2006, she was assigned to the human trafficking investigations unit. She coordinates basic human, psychological, and legal needs for victims of human trafficking.

Charlotte Newell is a graduate of the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs at Yale University with a concentration in International Security. Her interest in illicit markets was a clear segue into the human trafficking program at the Women's Foundation of Southwest Florida. Charlotte will serve as our moderator.

When: Monday, April 3, 2017.

Where: Hilton Naples Hotel, 5111 Tamiami Trail North.

Registration: 11:45 am, with lunch promptly at noon.

Committee Reports: 12 to 12:30 pm.

Program: 12:30 pm.

Cost for lunch: \$25.00 per person, reservation required.

Program only: No charge or reservation.

To make lunch reservations please [click here](#) or call 239-263-4656 and leave a message by Thursday, March 30, before noon.

If you have any questions about the event, contact [Tina Palmese](#).

**Audiovisual and other expenses associated with our 2016-17
General Meetings are underwritten by a generous donation
from
The Walker Group at
Morgan Stanley Wealth Management.**

APRIL AT A GLANCE

Annual Meeting

Monday, April 3,
10:30 am.
Hilton Naples
5111 Tamiami Tr. N

LUNCHEON AND GENERAL MEETING

Monday, April 3,
11:45 am.
Hilton Naples
5111 Tamiami Tr. N

Government Committee

Monday, April 10,
Monday, April 17, **Donna Fiala**
Monday May 1,
Monday May 22,
10:30 am.
North Collier Government
Center
2335 Orange Blossom Dr.

Social Policy Committee

Wednesday,
April 12,
noon to 1:30 pm.
Wilderness Country Club
101 Clubhouse Drive

End-of Season Dinner

Wednesday, April 12,
6 - 8 pm.
The Club at Olde Cypress
7135 Treeline Drive

Environmental Affairs Committee

Thursday, April 13,
9:30 - 11:30 am.
Community Foundation of
Collier County
1110 Pine Ridge Rd.
Suite 200

League 101

Monday, April 24,
4:30 - 6:00 pm.
Community Foundation of
Collier County
1110 Pine Ridge Rd.
Ste 200

Annual Meeting to be Held April 3

The League of Women Voters of Collier County will hold its Annual Meeting on Monday, April 3, 2017, at the Hilton Hotel in the Sabel Palm Room. The business portion, for members only, will begin at 10:30 am. Be sure to mark your calendars.

Nominating Committee Report

Becky Newell, Governance/Nominating Committee Chair

LWVCC elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on April 3. This year's governance/nominating committee members are Jan Eustis, Paul Kardon, Susan Calkins, and Vi Steffan. Thank you all for your excellent work!

The following officers and directors will continue for the next year, serving the second year of the terms for which they were elected in April 2016. Their terms expire in April 2018:

Treasurer: Ray Kalich
Directors: Patti Forkan
Paul Kardon

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the following officers and board members, who are completing their terms and are not returning to the board:

Ann Campbell
Robin Birnhak
Joyce Fletcher
John Levy

Slate of Officers for 2017-19

The following officers and directors are presented, to serve two-year terms beginning in April 2017 and ending in April 2019:

Co-Presidents: Charlotte Nycklemoe
Diana Walsh
1st Vice President: Vi Steffan
Secretary: Robin Larkin
Directors: Heather Baker
Pam Brown
Pat Howard
Past President: Becky Newell

The following officers and directors are presented, to serve for one year to complete terms that will be up for election in 2018:

2nd Vice President: Gayle Stroup
Director: Ron Ferguson

Governance/Nominating Committee

NOTE: The Past President also serves as Governance/Nominating Committee Chair. The LWVCC bylaws state:

Section 1. Governance Committee: The governance committee shall consist of five (5) members, two (2) of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors. The chair shall be the immediate past president; one additional member of the Board of Directors shall be selected by the board to serve on the committee. If the immediate past president is not available to chair the committee, the new chair shall be selected by the sitting governance committee. Three members, at least one of whom shall not be members of the Board, shall be elected at the annual meeting.

Nominations for these offices shall be made by the current governance committee. Any vacancy on the governance committee shall be filled by the Board of Directors. Suggestions for nominations for Officers and Directors may be sent to this committee by any voting member.

The current governance/nominating committee is placing the following members on the ballot for the 2018 Committee:

Robin Larkin

Ann Campbell

John Levy

In addition, we recommend that the board appoint the following member to serve as its appointee to the committee:

Pat Howard

President's Message

Charlotte Nycklemoe



I know the cliché, *how time flies*, is quite worn out but can this really be the last newsletter of the season? Wasn't it just last week I was writing the first President's Message of the season? Oh well! It is what it is! So onward we march - choosing issues to advocate and striving for victories while acknowledging that our 2016-17 season officially ends with our Annual Meeting.

We are now aware that the LWVCC is no longer a seasonal organization only but active 12 months of the year. As we waded through politically uncharted waters this summer, we must be constantly vigilant and ready to defend our principles/positions when they are threatened.

Our organization has grown to over 200 members during this past year. What a forceful, unified voice we have if we simply take the time to contact our elected officials to request support for our issues. Let's be aware that often a simple thank you may be beneficial.

I wish you all a wonderful summer! Be well, be safe! I'll be in touch!

Feel free to email me with any questions, [Charlotte Nycklemoe](#). Check out [our website](#), and don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Join fellow League Members for a fun End-of-Season Dinner!

Reservations required by noon, April 7; space is limited.

When: Wednesday, April 12, 6 - 8 pm.

Where: The Club at Olde Cypress
7135 Treeline Drive, Naples FL 34119

Cost: \$28.00 per person

Reservations: Please [click here](#) or call 239-263-4656 and leave a message by Friday, April 7, before noon.

If you have any questions about the event, please contact [Tina Palmese](#).

League 101

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn all about the League of Women Voters - a must for any person involved with or wanting to be involved with the League. Plus ... what's not to like about sitting with League folks, sipping a nice beverage and learning? Please make your reservation and join us for League 101, beverages and light snacks.

When Monday, April 24, 4:30 - 6:30 pm.

Where Community Foundation of Collier County
1110 Pine Ridge Road

RSVP [Jan Eustis](#) or [Robin Larkin](#)

Environmental Affairs Committee

Susan Calkins, Co-Chair Patti Forkan Co-Chair



Last month Burnett Oil Company, headquartered in Ft. Worth TX, received permission to begin their exploration for oil in Big Cypress National Preserve at the end of March. It began with an on-foot and small vehicle survey to identify routes for the next phase of the survey which involves data acquisition equipment; *Vibroseis Buggies*, each of which weighs 60,000 pounds.

Interested in knowing more about this? Wondering if our state legislators will pass a ban on fracking-like, acidizing techniques for gas and oil drilling this session? Fracking is one of the key issues we will be addressing at the next meeting of the Environmental Affairs Committee.

Other key legislative issues related to water quality are also on the agenda. In addition, there will be an update on the proposed Harvard University planning study of sea level rise in Collier County; it is now likely to come before the county commissioners this month. How should we adapt to the inevitable SLR? How can we mitigate the effects of climate change, such as SLR?

Expanding the use of solar energy is one way. Leagues throughout the state are making great strides in doing just this through the creation of solar co-ops. We will be joining this effort and plan to work in concert with the LWVF and [FLSUN](#) to launch a Collier County Solar Co-op. A steering committee is being formed to establish a launch date, market the effort and sign up

members. If you would like to be part of this effort, please contact [Pam Brown](#).

Remember you can keep updated on environmental happenings in our region by signing up for the electronic [Eco-Voice](#) - it's free!

When: Thursday, April 13 , 9:30 - 11 am.

Where: Community Foundation Room
1110 Pine Ridge Rd. Suite 200

RSVP: [Patti Forkan](#)

Government Committee

Sandy Parker, Chair Pat Howard, Vice Chair



This month, we continue our twice-monthly meetings focused on the Florida Legislative Session that officially runs from March 7 - May 5. Committee members are monitoring, reporting on and discussing bills and issues of interest, including preK-12 education, access to healthcare, efforts to buy land for water storage near Lake Okeechobee and many more.

In addition, Collier County Commissioner Donna Fiala will address us during part of our April 17 meeting, concluding our small-group meetings with each of the five County commissioners.

Future Committee meetings will be on May 1 and May 22 (legislative wrap-up).

All members and guests are welcome. No experience necessary.

When: Monday, April 10, 10:30 am - noon.

Monday, April 17, 10:30 am - noon, Donna Fiala.

Monday, May 1, and Monday, May 22, Legislative wrap-up.

Where: North Collier Government Center
2335 Orange Blossom Dr.

RSVP: [Pat Howard](#)

Membership Committee

Jan Eustis, Co-Chair Robin Larkin, Co-Chair



Welcome to new members Sandie Bufka, LaVon Coate, Mary Himes, and Deborah Innes.

It has come to our attention that some of you may not be receiving the Capitol Report, or other documents, from the State League. If that is the case, *please first check your Spam folder* or Junk Mail, to be sure it isn't going there. Please email [Jan Eustis](#) if you are *not* receiving these correspondences. I will follow up with the League in Tallahassee.

Social Policy Committee

Ann Campbell, Chair



Have you heard about "*million-dollar babies*"? They are born with a painful condition called neonatal abstinence syndrome, the youngest victims of the current opioid/heroin epidemic.

Collier County has a Heroin Task Force that is working hard on prevention and intervention. It is important to raise awareness of the issues involved - and they are complex! We will discuss some of the problems and focus on efforts to work with pregnant women.

Cathy Timuta, from the Healthy Start Coalition of Southwest Florida will join us for lunch.

All LWVCC members are invited and guests are welcome at our committee meetings.

We will have a light lunch, salad and beverage, at a cost of \$11.00.

When: Wednesday, April 12, noon to 1:30 pm.

Where: Wilderness Country Club
101 Clubhouse Drive

RSVP: [Ann Campbell](#)

News from the State League

Charlotte Nycklemoe

Tell them to VOTE NO on HJR321 and SJR866.

HJR321 and SJR866 are a blatant attempt to put lipstick on a pig in the name of protecting our sacred constitution.

These resolutions clearly squelch the voice of the people and make the one process citizens have as a last resort, after legislators refuse to listen to their constituents, to put issues before the public for a vote and to pass into law. To listen to yesterday's debate one would think that citizens are running amok with all sorts of crazy ideas for our constitution.

Fact: The legislature has put over 300 ballot measures before voters ranging from tax exemptions to obvious lobbyist interests. Some good, some bad.

Fact: Citizens have put thirty-six (36) ballot measures before voters; most recently:

- Fair Districts,
- Funding for Florida Land and Water and
- Class Size Restrictions.

The notion that it is too easy to change the constitution? Yes! It sure is if you are a legislator.

If you are a citizen? These are the hurdles:

- Within a two year time frame, citizens must work with legal counsel to write a single subject amendment.
- Citizens must get 65,000 signatures on a petition.
- Citizens must get the petition validated by the Supreme Court.
- Next the real work begins - collecting over 766,000 signatures.
- Then citizens must *pay* local Supervisor of Elections to verify that all signatures are legitimate voters.
- Finally, citizens must run a statewide campaign to educate voters on what the amendment will really do.

Pocket change? Easy? How about millions of dollars and almost impossible.

The numbers speak for themselves; citizens do this as a LAST RESORT, when legislators fail to listen to us.

If these resolutions move, rest assured that people will be informed. When Rep. Ingoglia states that "*The people's will is electing representatives to come up here to represent them...*", he got it a bit wrong. The *people elect representatives as public servants to express THEIR will.* Listening is a big part of the job. Remind your representatives that it is our will to have a voice.

Tell them to VOTE NO on HJR321 and SJR866.

News from the National League

Ann Campbell

Last month the National League:

Urged Opposition of Election Assistance Commission Termination Act in a memo to members of the Committee on House Administration. At this time the League does not believe terminating the EAC is warranted and urges the Committee on House Administration not to report this legislation. LWVUS also joined a [coalition letter](#) sent to the committee opposing the termination of the EAC and the Presidential Election Campaign Fund.

Joined LWVMD and 40 other national and local organizations supporting rescission of a resolution that calls for an Article V Constitutional Convention. Under Article V of the U.S. Constitution, a convention can be called when two-thirds of the states (34) petition for a convention to enact amendments to the constitution. There are no safeguards or guidelines in the U.S. Constitution that limit a convention to one issue or govern the rules of a convention, which makes the threat of a runaway convention very real.

Joined women's groups on a letter opposing the repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and defunding Planned Parenthood. The letter went to the majority and minority leaders in the U.S House and Senate.

Sent an action alert to members calling the House plan to replace the ACA "un-American", stating that "The American Health Care Act will increase costs for seniors and those with pre-existing conditions while slashing assistance for lower- income households in obtaining coverage. It will also threaten the essential care that women need."

Called on the U.S. Senate to oppose the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act of 2017 and the Midnight Rules Relief Act. Under the REINS Act, no major regulation could take effect unless it is

approved by both houses of Congress in a small window of time, making it impossible to protect the public by shutting down the entire regulatory system including attacks on many consumer protection measures. The Midnight Rules Relief Act would enable Congress to repeal many regulations at once by packaging them in a single resolution that would get expedited consideration and require only a majority of votes for passage in the Senate.

Joined an amicus in *Maslenjak v. United States* to be argued at the U.S. Supreme Court on April 26, 2017. The brief argues that the Sixth Circuit Court's holding --- that any knowing false statement or omission can be grounds for denaturalization and criminal prosecution--- would have dire consequences for naturalized citizens, significantly discourage lawful immigrants from seeking citizenship, and undermine a cornerstone of American society and values.

Announced that National Convention 2018 will be held June 28 - July 1 in Chicago. State and local Leagues are encouraged to save the date and add a National Convention line item to their budgets for FY2017-18. Registration fee will be \$450/person; double rooms at the Hilton Chicago are \$209 plus tax per night.

For more information visit our website at [The National League](#).

About Us

The [League of Women Voters of Collier County](#), a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Our goal is to empower citizens to shape better communities worldwide.

Please visit our [website](#) for the current list of officers, directors and off-board members, our Program, Diversity Policy, Nonpartisan Policy, By-laws, Minutes, and more.