

# The Voter

Issue: 2016-03

December 2016

## In This Issue

[General Meeting](#)

[President's Message](#)

[Environmental Affairs  
Committee](#)

[Government Committee](#)

[Justice Committee](#)

[Membership Committee](#)

[Social Policy Committee](#)

[Wine & Wisdom](#)

[Book Club](#)

[News from the State  
League](#)

[News from National League](#)

[About Us](#)

## December 2016 Luncheon



### Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way ... to our holiday party at the Hilton!

Hardly any business will be discussed. There will be music, laughter and joke telling. Our only request is that you bring your holiday spirit. Come one and all!

**Where:** Hilton Naples Hotel, 5111 Tamiami Trail North

**When:** Monday, December 12, 2016, 11:45 am, lunch at noon

**Cost:** \$25.00 per person for lunch. Reservation required.

To make lunch reservations please [click here](#) or call 239-263-4656 and leave a message by Thursday, November 10, 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.**

## DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

### Wine and Wisdom

Thursday  
December 1,  
4:45 to 6:15 pm  
[The Wine Loft Mercato](#)  
9118 Strada Place Suite  
8150

### Justice Committee

Monday,  
December 5,  
9:30 am  
[Community Foundation  
of Collier County](#)  
1110 Pine Ridge Rd  
Suite 200

### Environmental Affairs Committee

Thursday  
December 8,  
9 am  
[Walmart Supercenter](#)  
5420 Juliet Blvd.

### Holiday Luncheon

Monday  
December 12,  
11:45 am  
[Hilton Naples](#)  
5111 Tamiami Trail N.

### Social Policy Committee

Wednesday  
December 14,  
12:30 pm  
[Wilderness Country  
Club](#)  
101 Clubhouse Drive  
December

### Government Committee

Monday,  
December 19,  
10:30 am  
[North Collier  
Government Center](#)  
2335 Orange Blossom  
Drive

## President, Charlotte Nycklemoe



Did you all make it through the election season intact? Whew! This past season was quite a test of the wills - certainly not one for the weak minded! Moving forward will be a time for healing; ridding ourselves of the schism that has divided our families, friendships, relationships and our Nation. Who better to provide that elixir than the League of Women Voters? It's time to put behind us our ideological mindsets and work together on issues that are crucial to our society.

Please review carefully the 2017 Legislative Priorities in this newsletter. We will be facing many challenges and changes in the months ahead. We *must* be prepared to become more civically engaged, all 210 of us! Together with our sisters and brothers from the 32 LWV's in Florida, we can meet these challenges by joining committees and working to see these positions come to fruition.

CNN recently published an article entitled *25 Ways to Become Civically Engaged*. Number 9 on the list was, "Join the League of Women Voters". What a credit to our organization! Let's move this rating up a few notches in the coming months. We can do this!

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

## Environmental Affairs Committee

**Susan Calkins, Co Chair Patti Forkan Co Chair**



Join the Environmental Affairs Committee for a tour of Babcock Ranch - an eco-centric solar powered town, being developed off State Road 31 in Charlotte County. Solar facilities will supply both the town and the broader region with clean, renewable power. Innovative technologies to combat climate change are planned, including green building technologies and a transportation system designed in collaboration with the Earth Institute at Columbia University. [Click here](#) to read more about Babcock Ranch sustainability.

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

**When:** Thursday, December 8,  
Meet at 9:00 am

**Where:** [Walmart Supercenter Parking Lot on Immokalee Road](#)  
5420 Juliet Blvd. Naples, 34209

**RSVP** [Patti Forkan](#) before **December 5.**

## Government Committee

**Sandy Parker, Chair Pat Howard, Vice Chair**



Bill McDaniel, newly-elected County Commissioner for District 5, will be our guest as we continue our focus on County Government. McDaniel owns Big Island Excavating Co. in Naples and Lazy Springs Recreation Park near Felda. His [campaign priorities](#) included tax and spending cuts, a

streamlined permitting process and term limits for commissioners. We have asked him to meet with us informally to share his thoughts and plans for his term in office.

If you are new to the League, to Florida, or just want to continue learning how our government works, join us! All members and guests are welcome

**When:** Monday, December 19, from 10:30 am - noon

**Where:** North Collier Government Center  
2335 Orange Blossom Drive

**RSVP:** [Pat Howard](#)

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## Justice Committee

**Claire Lang, Co Chair Bernice Schmetz , Co Chair**



The focus for the Justice Committee for the 2016-17 season is human trafficking, the third largest industry in the U.S. Suzanne Crough, from NHTRC, National Human Trafficking Resource Center and ACT, Abuse Counseling & Treatment, was our kickoff speaker. She presented the many

facets, conflicts and challenges we face in the 20th Circuit Court at the meeting. In addition to Ms. Crough, there were several special guests who are involved with human trafficking in our area.

Marisol Schloendorn from the Collier County Sheriff's Office, Special Crimes Bureau, Human Trafficking Unit will be the speaker at our next meeting. Special guests will include Charlotte Newell, Women's Foundation of Southwest Florida, and Laura Paddyfote, Golden Gate All Nation SDA Church.

**When:** Monday, December 5, 9:30 - 11:30 am

**Where:** Community Foundation of Collier County  
1110 Pine Ridge Rd. Suite 200

**RSVP:** [Claire Lang](#)

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## Membership Committee

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



Welcome to new members Gary and Judy Bromley, Janelle Gibson, David and Streeter Holden, Stephanie Lucarelli and Jennifer Walker.

We are now over 200 members! Please be sure to make our new members feel welcome; at the same time, it's important to

renew your League membership.

*If you joined after April 1, 2016, your membership does not need to be renewed until December 31, 2017.*

The first three membership levels include a membership in the local, state and national Leagues. When you choose the Susan B. Anthony or Carrie Chapman Catt level of membership, a portion of your dues will stay with our Collier County League to support us in developing and promoting local programs and activities.

Suffragist	Individual \$65 Family \$97.50
Susan B. Anthony	Individual \$100 Family \$132.50
Carrie Chapman Catt	Individual \$200 Family \$232.50
Associate	\$32.50

You may renew by mail or online.

To renew your membership online, you may use PayPal or a credit card.

1. Go to our website [LWVCC](#).
2. Log in using your user name (your email address) and password.
3. Click on the Members tab, then choose Renew Membership.
4. Read and follow the directions.

To renew by mail:

Make your check out to the League of Women Voters of Collier County (LWVCC) and mail it to:

League of Women Voters of Collier County  
P.O. Box 9883  
Naples, Florida 34101

If you renew by mail, please include any information that has changed in the past year such as a new email address, street address, or phone number. Also, please let us know if you'd like to get more involved. We need good people!

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to our League, we would greatly appreciate it. You may do this by mailing a check to the LWVCC at the above mailing address. The check should be made out to the LWVCC Education Fund. Or you may go to the [LWVCC](#) website to donate by credit card or check.

Questions: [Jan Eustis](#) and [Robin Larkin](#)

## Social Policy Committee

**Ann Campbell, Chair**



Please join me for an informative session with Christine Welton, Executive Director of the Hunger & Homeless Coalition of Collier County. We will ask Christine to share data on the current needs in this community and how the coalition members are working to meet them.

We will have a light lunch (salad and beverage) at a cost of \$11.00. Please note the *new time* and contact me for reservations.

**When:** Wednesday, December 14, at 12:30 pm

**Where:** Wilderness Country Club

**RSVP:** [acamp1082@aol.com](mailto:acamp1082@aol.com)

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## Wine and Wisdom

**Jan Eustis and Robin Larkin**

Kick off the December Holiday Season with your League friends. We'll meet at The Wine Loft at Mercato. In addition to great appetizers, \$5 house wine, half-priced beer, and cocktails, our President, Charlotte Nycklemoe will wrap up our 2016 year and 'tease' us a bit with what's coming up for us in 2017. Bring friends for a fun, yummy, and always interesting gathering!! See you December 1st! No need to RSVP.

**When:** Thursday, December 1, 4:45 to 6:15 pm

**Where:** Wine Loft Mercato  
9118 Strada Place Suite 8150

**Contact:** For information contact: [Jan Eustis](#) or [Robin Larkin](#)

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## Book Club

**Marcia Maloni, Chair**



J.D.Vance's publishing debut, *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* will be our March book group choice. We will meet prior to the March League Luncheon.

**When:** Monday, March 13, 2017

**Where:** Hilton Naples  
5111 Tamiami Trail N.

**RSVP:** [Marcia Maloni](#)

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## News from the State League

Charlotte Nycklemoe

### 2017 State League Legislative Positions

#### Education

1. Restore district authorization to levy 2.0 mills for capital outlay funding for school facilities construction and renovation.
2. Increase operational funding to pre-2008 levels so that districts may increase the school day and curriculum choices.
3. Revise the sole focus of the state accountability system from test scores to measures that more accurately reflect districts' progress in raising student achievement, meet the needs of diverse students and improve access to high quality academic and career programs for all students.
4. Improve fiscal and operational oversight of charter schools by increasing transparency in student admission and retention data, ensuring the independence of charter boards from charter management companies and providing guidelines to reduce self-dealing opportunities in real estate transactions and other charter services. Eliminate the growth of corporate-tax credit scholarships to private schools and require private schools currently receiving these scholarships to participate in the state accountability system.

#### Election Law

1. Support the automatic restoration of voting rights for former felony offenders, including support for a constitutional amendment to achieve same.
2. Support legislation to reduce from 29 days to 19 days the time voter registration books must be closed before each election.
3. Support legislation to restrict the ability of an elector to file as a write-in candidate, the goal being to minimize what has become a problem, as *ghost candidates* file in order to close primary elections.
4. Monitor and support the progress of online voter registration implementation to ensure that it meets its 2017 deadline, and adopt legislation for Florida to join the at least 26 other states that are members of the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).
5. Support legislation necessary for Florida to join the at least 10 other states that are members of the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact (NPVIC), so that Florida's Presidential Electors would be required to award all their votes to the candidate who wins the overall popular vote in the 50 states and District of Columbia.
6. Ensure the adoption by Florida of the National Voter Registration Act ("Motor-Voter" law) requirement that every citizen be automatically provided voter registration update services when she/he applies for, renews or changes her/his address on a driver's license or state-issued identification card.

## Gun Safety

1. Support proposals that would expand background checks in Florida, thereby closing the gun show and Internet loopholes.
2. Support proposals that would impose a statewide ban on semi-automatic assault weapons and large capacity magazines.
3. Oppose any proposals that would make it legal for those with concealed weapons permits to carry firearms on Florida's public college and university campuses.
4. Oppose any proposals that would make it legal for those with concealed weapons permits to carry openly firearms in public places.
5. Oppose any proposals that would permit Floridians to carry concealed weapons without a permit.
6. Oppose any proposals that would expand the current *Stand Your Ground* law.
7. Oppose any proposals that would permit Florida School Boards or School Superintendents to designate employees or others to carry concealed firearms, for security purposes, on school grounds at K-12 schools.

## Health Care

1. Correct the Florida Kid Care program's coverage so it will provide insurance to children ages 0 to 1-year old who are not eligible for Medicaid.
2. Develop legislation to accept 2017 Medicaid expansion dollars for Florida, without being bound for future years, or develop a budget for a comprehensive plan to provide health insurance for working Floridians who do not have enough income to qualify for insurance under the Affordable Care Act.
3. Amend Florida's Public Health statute, Chapter 390, to remove the provision providing that a physician must delay at least 24 hours before terminating, with a pregnant woman's voluntary and informed written consent, her pregnancy.

## Natural Resources

1. Support sustainable energy solutions for Florida, including adoption of renewable energy standards and legislation promoting the expansion of solar energy.
2. Support efforts to improve water quality of both surface water and aquifers through legislation to reduce pollution and excessive withdrawals, including prohibiting fracking statewide.
3. Support full funding of the Florida Forever land acquisition program and proper implementation of the Water and Land Legacy Conservation Amendment (Amendment 1) adopted in 2014.

[Click here](#) to view the LWVF Nonpartisan Policy. If you would like to read up on the League's positions, [click here](#) to view the 2015-2017 edition of Study & Action, the League of Women Voters of Florida's guide to public policy positions.

For more information visit our website at [The League of Women Voters of Florida](#).

## News from the National League

Ann Campbell

Last month the National League:

Joined an *amicus* in the case of *McCrory v. Harris*. The case will be argued at the U.S. Supreme Court on December 5, 2016. The brief argues that the North Carolina legislature's redistricting map was intentionally gerrymandered on the basis of race and therefore cannot be legalized by using the explanation that it was a political gerrymander.

Wrote a letter congratulating the American people for turning out in record numbers to participate in our democracy, but expressed regret that in too many cases, voters had to overcome significant barriers that were erected by elected officials and other political operatives. "This is the first presidential election in 50 years without the full protection of the Voting Rights Act. Eligible voters were purged from the rolls, onerous voter ID laws prevented eligible voters from casting their ballots and we saw cases of misinformation and intimidation at the polls. We can and must do better. The League of Women Voters will continue our work to expand participation in the election process and work to give a voice to all Americans."

Reported that on November 8, the citizens of the District of Columbia overwhelmingly passed an advisory referendum supporting statehood for DC. The LWV of the District of Columbia is meeting with selected state and local Leagues over the next few weeks, but all League members can support this effort by signing up for the December 8, 7pm EST webinar by the LWVDC and the LWVEF to learn how to "Fix the Hole in Our Democracy." [Register for the Webinar](#) now and hear how you and your League can educate your communities on the need for full representation and statehood for DC. Additional materials on the project can be found on the League management site. For questions or assistance on signing up for the webinar contact [Betsy Lawson](#).

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

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## 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.