

# The Voter

Issue: 2017-06

MARCH 2017

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## March Luncheon and General Meeting Jennifer Kincaid, Executive Director of Elementary Programs CCPS

Congratulations to the Collier County School System and its recent stellar report card issued by the prestigious national and international rating agency, AdvancED! One member of the evaluation team called CCPS *a model school district* and stated *our local school system achieved the highest overall scores she has ever seen*. That is all the more reason you will want to attend the General Meeting at which Jennifer Kincaid, Executive Director of Elementary Programs, CCPS will be our guest speaker. She is one of the educators/administrators whose diligent efforts on behalf of students have made the great gains in in our school system's evaluation scores possible.

Mindful of the value the LWV places on quality and adequately funded public education supportive of all students, Ms. Kincaid will discuss *Literacy as an Equalizer* and will disclose the impact of individual and family literacy on the lives of people in Collier County, the U.S. and the world. She will also make the case for the importance of community involvement.

You will not want to miss this dynamic and knowledgeable speaker.

**When:** Monday, March 13, 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 9, 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.**

## MARCH AT A GLANCE

**Open Primary  
Consensus Meeting**  
Thursday  
March 2, 9 am.  
[Country Club of Naples](#)  
185 Burning Tree Dr.

**Government  
Committee**  
Monday,  
March 6, 10:30 am.  
March 20, 10:30 am.  
[North Collier](#)  
[Government Center](#)  
2335 Orange Blossom  
Dr.

**Justice Committee**  
Tuesday,  
March 7, 9:30 am.  
[Community Foundation  
of Collier County](#)  
1110 Pine Ridge Rd.  
Suite 200

**Social Policy  
Committee**  
Wednesday,  
March 8, 1:30 pm.  
[CC Health Department](#)  
3339 Tamiami Trail E  
Building H  
#145 Room 202  
PDF Map of  
[The Government Center](#)

**Environmental  
Affairs Committee**  
Thursday,  
March 9, 9:30 am.  
[Community Foundation  
of Collier County](#)  
1110 Pine Ridge Rd.  
Suite 200

**LUNCHEON AND  
GENERAL  
MEETING**  
Monday,  
March 13, 11:45 am.  
[Hilton Naples](#)  
5111 Tamiami Tr. N.

**Book Club**  
Monday  
March 13, 9:45 am.  
[Hilton Naples](#)  
5111 Tamiami Tr. N.

## President's Message

Charlotte Nycklemoe



After attending the *Powerful Leadership Demanding Action* conference in Orlando a couple of weeks ago, I was once again inspired by the strength and solidarity of the collective voice of all the LWV's in the state of Florida.

When the conference was in its planning stages the planners estimated that there would be 50 attendees. Final attendance numbers - nearly 200! With the amazing growth in League memberships - think LWVCC with approximately 200 members - it's clear that citizens are wanting a voice at the forefront; the LWV is the vehicle through which a united, structured voice can make a difference. It is to that end, that I am urging you to join me at the Legislative Summit in Tallahassee, March 28-29. Your board of Directors has approved financial assistance for five attendees. Will you be one of the five?

Your voice is needed to help continue working on these and other vital issues:

- \* Open Carry Gun Regulation
- \* Same-Day Voter Registration
- \* Open Primaries
- \* Free and Open Access to the Polls
- \* Natural Resources Protection
- \* Support for Public Education
- \* Immigration Reform
- \* Solar for the Sunshine State
- \* Campaign Finance and Ethics Reform
- \* Affordable Health Care

I'm scheduling appointments with our Collier County Legislative Representatives. Please join me in Tallahassee - *we must be there!* Please let me know if you are planning to attend

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](#) .

## Open Primary Consensus Meeting

Cynthia Cromwell, Gayle Stroup and Diana Walsh

We'll be conducting a Consensus Meeting for the State League study of Open Primaries. Does the current system in Florida hinder voter turnout? Do we agree or disagree that No Party Affiliation voters and minor party voters should have an opportunity to vote in all primary elections? Should we implement Exclusive Vote by Mail? These are some of the questions to be considered. It's a rich topic for discussion! Bring your experience from other states to share as we consider systems and approaches to increase voter participation.

Please review the [study kit](#) and come to the meeting prepared to discuss the issue.

**When:** Thursday, March 2, 9 am

**Where:** Country Club of Naples  
185 Burning Tree Drive

**RSVP:** [Diana Walsh](#)

## New Member Get-Together

Thursday, March 23,  
4:30-6:30 pm.  
Community Foundation  
of Collier County  
1110 Pine Ridge Rd.

## Environmental Affairs Committee

Susan Calkins, Co-Chair Patti Forkan Co-Chair



About 100 people attended our solar program on February 13 and a large number of people indicated an interest in forming a residential solar co-op.

Consequently, one of the topics for our March meeting will be the next steps in facilitating the formation of such a co-op in Collier. In addition to the discussion on co-op facilitation, we will review the sea level rise study proposal which is scheduled to go before the Board of Collier County Commissioners March 14 and Gaylene Vasaturo will update us on the status of the Habitat Conservation Plan for Collier's eastern lands. Last, but not least, we will identify key environmental legislation making its way through the Florida legislature. An excellent way to keep track of legislation is through the Florida Conservation Coalition's legislative updates.

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

When: Thursday, March 9, 9:30 - 11am

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 begin our *twice-monthly meeting schedule* as we deepen our focus on the Florida Legislative Session that officially runs from March 7 - May 5. We will monitor efforts to restructure funding for higher education, reduce mandated K-12 student testing, limit the rising cost of Medicaid, buy land for water storage near Lake Okeechobee and more. House and Senate Committees have begun to meet, and more than [800 bills](#) have been filed with more to come.

Join fellow Leaguers as we explore some of the bills being considered and monitor their progress during Session. No experience necessary. All members and guests are welcome.

Future meeting dates are, April 10, April 17, with guest Collier County Commissioner Donna Fiala; May 1, and May 22, legislative wrap-up.

When: Monday, March 6, 10:30 am - noon  
Monday, March 20, 10:30 am - noon

Where: North Collier Government Center  
2335 Orange Blossom Dr.

RSVP: [Pat Howard](#)

## Justice Committee

Linda Hyde, Claire Lang and Bernice Schmelz , Co-Chairs



Linda Oberhaus, Director of the Shelter for Abused Women and Children, was the speaker for the February meeting. Her focus was human trafficking, including how the Shelter has served victims, the new Shelter to be built in Immokalee, and work with the Collier County Sheriff's Office unit dedicated to human trafficking. She noted that trafficking is a \$9 billion industry, second only to drug trafficking, and that a majority of confirmed victims are now found to have been born in the U.S.

The speaker for the March meeting will be Cynthia J. Prime, a Caribbean born social activist who has traveled throughout the United State, Canada and the Caribbean for over a decade, inspiring and motivating battered women and teen girls to get beyond suffering and survival to a fully empowered life. Ms. Prime is the CEO of Saving Orphans Through Healthcare and Outreach (SOHO) and is the author of *The Hope Seekers, Survival of Southern African Child Led Households in the Shadows of HIV/AIDS*.

We are looking forward to the unique opportunity to learn about international issues related to trafficking of women and children and welcome your attendance and that of your friends.

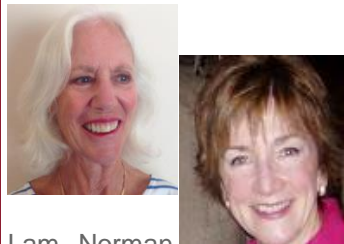
**When:** Tuesday, March 7, 9:30 -11:30 am

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

**RSVP:** [Bernice Schmelz](#)

## Membership Committee

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



Please welcome our new members: Nancy and Robert Anderson, Carolyn Eliason, Kelly Farrell, Nancy Fogelson, Linda and Max Freedman, Cynthia Gallo, Anne Hartley, Sally Macdonald, Elisabeth Orsay, Helen Tintes, Lesina Visgaitis, Kelly Werder and Mary Wilson. We're so glad to have you join us!

### New Member Get-Together

Calling all new members in 2016, 2017 and any folks looking forward to meeting new members! Please join us for some refreshments and interesting updates from our Board. It's an opportunity for our newer members to meet the Board and learn more about activities our League is undertaking. Our Board members want very much to meet all of our new members!

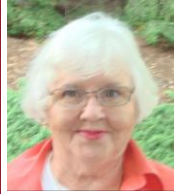
**When:** Thursday, March 23, 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

**Where:** Community Foundation of Collier County  
1110 Pine Ridge Road

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

## Social Policy Committee

**Ann Campbell, Chair**



Stephanie Vick, Director of the Collier County Health Department, has agreed to meet with us to discuss their operation in serving the public health needs in our community. We are often surprised at the scope of their involvement. We would like to know about plans to address the recurring Zika virus problem, medical marijuana dispensaries, women's health care and more.

We will meet at the Health Department in the Collier County Government Center, Room 202. Note change in time to 1:30 pm. Please RSVP to reserve a place and if you need directions. [Click here to download a PDF map of the Government Center indicating location of Building H.](#)

**When:** Wednesday, March 8, 1:30 pm

**Where:** CC Health Department,  
3339 Tamiami Trail East #145,  
Room 202, Building H,  
The Government Center

**RSVP:** [Ann Campbell](#)

## 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, 9:45 am

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

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

## Powerful Leadership Demanding Action Conference Update

**Pam Brown**

I was honored to be given the opportunity to attend the Powerful Leadership Demanding Action Conference in Orlando. I became a member of the League in Collier County last year because I care deeply about our community, our country and earth. I was appointed to the Immokalee Water Sewer District Board in 1986 by Governor Bob Graham and since then I have been socially and politically active in Collier County. My desire has always been to make a difference in the world.

I enjoyed the first evening's speakers, Mark Pafford and Paula Dockery, who shared the experiences and insight they gained while serving in the Florida Legislature. I left the room with hope and determination to educate and inform voters in order to help them understand the issues our country faces. It was very energizing to be part of a group who shared my passion. I spoke with several league members, who came from Pensacola on down to Miami, who shared some of their experiences with me. The energy in the room was amazing.

I wish I could have attended all of the workshops but time would not allow it. I chose the *Internet Age Media* workshop which provided valuable material to use while sharing the League's platform. I also attended *What's A Hot Topic and Public Speaking* workshops. The conference ended with Keynote Speaker Wylecia Wiggs Harris, PhD, CAE, who is the CEO of LWV of the United States.

I came away from the conference knowing I was better prepared for the next two years of a very different political climate in America. We must do our best as a group to work together to educate our citizens.

## News from the State League

**Charlotte Nycklemoe**

The Open Primaries Study is completed and has been sent out to League Presidents and members of the ad hoc Open Primary Study Team across the state.

Primaries first began in the early twentieth century as a response to increasingly strong party control over elections. At the time, voters wanted a larger say in who would be chosen as their candidate, instead of the long-standing tradition of party heads choosing who would run for office. Progressive reformers viewed direct primaries as a way for constituencies to increase transparency and allow for citizens to participate in the electoral process. As primaries became a feature of local, state, and eventually national elections, each municipality had the ability to shape their own process.

Today, most systems fall under two broad categories, Partisan and Nonpartisan primaries, with variations falling under each.

Open primaries allow voters to vote in the partisan ballot of their choice. This means that political parties cannot prevent non-members from voting in their party elections. Voters may select from the Republican or Democratic ballot.

After 22 months, the LWVFL Open Primary Study is completed and consensus meetings will be held across the state soon. If you are interested in knowing what's in the study, [please view and download it here.](#)



## News from the National League

Ann Campbell

Last month the National League:

Announced that the LWVUS Board has set legislative priorities for 2017: 1. Campaign for Making Democracy Work (MDW) with special emphasis on protecting voting rights. 2. Watchdog: Respond strategically on issues with LWV positions when needed, but focus on the campaign for making Democracy Work. Recognizing that the next year will be full of the unexpected, the board can re-examine or re-align legislative priorities as the situation may dictate. Advocacy staff, working with the president and advocacy chair, will respond to watchdog issues like the Affordable Care Act (ACA), immigration, and climate change as time allows.

Reported that League leaders are speaking out on redistricting challenges in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. With an eye on 2018, voter suppression and voter ID laws are hot topics for which League experts continue to provide analysis. A proposed new voter ID law in Iowa would be costly to taxpayers and the League is out front in pointing out the many problems with this legislation.

Joined a letter to members of Congress opposing efforts to overturn the Bureau of Land Management's Methane and Natural Gas Waste Rule under the Congressional Review Act (CRA). The BLM rule is a common sense policy that requires the oil and gas industry to reduce venting, flaring and leaks on public and tribal lands by deploying methane mitigating technology.

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.