

The Voter

Issue: 2015-04

April 2015

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APRIL AT A GLANCE

Social Policy Committee

Wednesday, April 8

12:00 noon

[Wilderness Country Club](#)

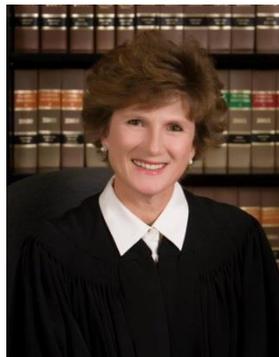
Goodlette Frank Road

Luncheon and General Meeting

Monday, April 13

12:00 p.m.

APRIL 13: GENERAL MEETING Honorable Judge Christine Greider of the 20th Circuit Court



The League of Women Voters is proud to present the Honorable Judge Christine Greider of the 20th Circuit Court as our speaker for the April Luncheon. Judge Greider has been a resident of Collier County since 1973. A graduate of Lely High School, she earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology, magna cum laude, from Stetson University. Judge Greider received her law degree from the University of Florida College of Law with Honors in 1986.

The at-risk Collier County juveniles who find themselves facing Judge Greider will one day realize the decision she handed out to them was made by a person who is passionately concerned about their future and how her decision impacts them for the rest of their lives.

Judge Greider practiced marital and family law in Southwest Florida for the first 11 years of her legal career and was Florida Bar Board Certified in Marital and Family Law. From 1997 to her appointment to the bench in 2006, Judge Greider served as an Assistant State Attorney in the 20th Judicial Circuit, supervising the Domestic Violence, Misdemeanor and Juvenile Delinquency Divisions of State Attorney's Office. She was recognized as Assistant State Attorney of the Year for the 20th Judicial Circuit in 1999.

During her legal career, she served as President of the Collier County Bar Association, President of the Legal Aid Association, President of the Family Law Section of the Collier County Bar and was the recipient of the Florida Bar President's Pro Bono Service award for the 20th Judicial Circuit in 1994.

Where: Naples Hilton Hotel, 5111 Tamiami Trail North

When: Monday April 13, 2015

Registration: 11:45 a.m. with lunch promptly at noon

Program: 12:30 p.m.

General Meeting 1:30 to 2:15 p.m.

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

Naples Hilton Hotel

5111 Tamiami Trail N.

Government Committee

Monday

April 13, 27 and May 11

9:30 to 11:00 a. m.

Clive Daniel HomeCommunity
Room
2777 Tamiami Trail N.

Justice Committee

Monday, April 20

9:30 a.m.

Juvenile Detention Facility
Conference Room
3315 Tamiami Tr E

Education Committee

Tuesday April 21

10:30 a. m.

North Collier Government Center
2335 Orange Blossom Drive

Environmental Affairs Committee

Thursday, April 23

10 - 11:30 a.m.

contact Susan Calkins
calkritis@aol.com



Program only, beginning at 12:30: no charge, no reservation needed

To make lunch reservations, please [click here](#) or call 239-263-4656 and leave a message by Thursday, April 9, before noon.

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

Audiovisual and other expenses associated with our 2014-15 General Meetings are underwritten by a generous donation from

**The Walker Group
at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management**

Annual Meeting to be Held April 13

The League of Women Voters of Collier County will hold its Annual Meeting on Monday, April 13, 2015 at the Hilton Hotel in the Sabal Palm Room. The business portion, for members only, will begin at 10:30 AM. Be sure to mark your calendars. Detailed information regarding the Annual Meeting will be sent to all LWVCC members by Monday, April 6.

General Meeting at Hilton Naples

The Monday, April 13 meeting is the last General Meeting of the season. We'll see you in the fall!

Governance Committee Board Report

Vi Steffan, Governance Chair

The nominating committee is pleased to present the proposed slate for 2015-16 year.

The candidates are:

2015-17

President: Charlotte Nycklemoe

1st Vice President: Ann Campbell

2015-16

2nd Vice President: Susan Calkins

Treasurer: Arlene Shapiro

2015-17

Secretary: Robin Larkin

Director: John Levy

Director: Robin Birnhak

Director: Joyce Fletcher

2015-16

Director: Crystal Kinzel

I thank members of the Nominating Committee for their dedication and sincere effort in serving on this Committee to select the most qualified candidates to represent the League for the next term.

President's Message

Becky Newell, President



As my two year term as President of the League of Women Voters of Collier County winds down, I would like to thank each of you for the opportunity to serve you in this position. I joined this organization because after attending one meeting, I was so impressed with the members I met that day. Our members are intelligent and outspoken, they work hard to improve our community, and they take the time to consider the facts before they form an opinion.

I want to extend special thanks to the board members and committee chairs who have served our local League during these past two years. These individuals care very deeply about our mission, and their support makes everything we do as a local League possible.

Simply by being a member of the League, you make it possible for us to fulfill our mission of helping to promote an informed, active electorate. I'm honored to have served as your president, and I look forward to continuing to be involved as Governance Chair and a board member.

Education Committee

Robin Birnhak, chair



The Education Committee met on March 17, 2015. Kathy Ryan discussed her visit to Tallahassee, as a member of a LWVF delegation, to talk with legislators about bills, including vouchers for private schooling, concealed carry of guns on college campuses, and testing in school systems. The LWVF lists as a 2015 Legislative Priority concern for the systematic diversion of tax dollars for public education to private schools through educational vouchers.

The Education Committee turned its focus to Collier County School Board issues. Barbara Berry, a Collier County School Board member who served on the Board in three distinct periods (1984-1988, 1990-1996, and 2010-2014) was a guest. She participated in a lively conversation in which she drew parallels between the current School Board environment and the period during which Mr. Thompson was the superintendent of the district and the school system was close to losing its accreditation. The notion that there is a concerted effort, led by two board members and community supporters, to create chaos and Board failure was backed by examples. They included lawsuits, protracted Board meetings, extraordinary demands on staff time, incivility at Board meetings, formation of a new political group by one Board member and the formation of a competing consortium of school boards by another.

Committee members felt it was important to form a subcommittee to develop a plan that fits within the mission of the League to promote quality public education in Collier County.

All league members are encouraged to attend the upcoming Collier County School Board meeting in Everglades City on Tuesday, April 14, at 5:30 PM (start of the business meeting) and on April 21 at 5:30 PM when

the Collier County School Board holds a workshop on Recruitment and Retention.

When: Tuesday April 21, 2015 at 10:30 a.m.

Where: North Collier Government Center
2335 Orange Blossom Drive

RSVP: robinbirnhak@yahoo.com or 262-1221

Environmental Affairs Committee

Susan Calkins, chair



Interested members are invited to our next meeting where we will discuss and plan for appropriate follow-up activities to our February solar home visit and our March sea level rise program. We will also discuss additional committee activities related to our 2015-2016 program goals and share general information among committee members.

Our March 19th community program, Our Shrinking Coastline: Sea Level Rise in South Florida, was well attended by a standing room only crowd of over 100. Our thanks to Commissioner Penny Taylor for her introductory remarks. For those who may not have been able to hear Dr. Wanless, the CBC did an excellent radio interview with him in December 2014. Go to www.cbc.ca and click on radio. Type "Wanless interview 12/14" into the search box.

Environmental issues which have been addressed at our general luncheon meetings over the last two seasons are before the Florida legislature and need your attention! First, the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment 1 funding is in jeopardy of being hijacked for purposes other than those intended by Florida voters. The Florida Water and Land Legacy website www.floridawaterandlandlegacy.org has a good action alert on this issue, (<http://yes1fl.org/action0315>.) It is important to contact Speaker of the House Crisafulli, 805-717-5011 and Chairman of Senate Appropriations Alan Hays, 805-487-5011 ASAP and let them know we want our money used for land acquisition, including lands in the Everglades Agricultural Area which are so critical to Everglades restoration.

Next is oil drilling, another hot legislative issue which directly affects us here in Collier. At present, fracking-like techniques are essentially unregulated. Since this legislature is very unlikely to ban these well stimulation techniques, it is critical to get the most comprehensive regulatory bill possible. Although far from ideal, HB 1205 and 1209 are the most comprehensive bills filled to date.

When: Thursday April 23, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Where: Contact Susan for the location of the meeting

RSVP: Susan Calkins, calkritas@aol.com

Government Committee

Sandy Parker, chair



In April, the Government Committee continues its focus on the state Legislature, meeting every other week during the 60-day legislative session that began on March 3 and ends on May 1.

Committee members are following bills related to education, reproductive justice, Medicaid expansion, identity theft, guns, fracking and drilling, water quality, the budget and taxes and more.

No prior knowledge is required. If you want to learn more about your community and your government, join us.

When: 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Monday: April 13, April 27 and May 11.

Where: Clive Daniel Home, Community Room, 2777 Tamiami Trail N.

RSVP: sparker101@gmail.com to insure sufficient copies of handouts.

Justice Committee

Charlotte Nycklemoe



Tracie Foss, Juvenile Probation Officer Supervisor and Caren Langevin, Intake Officer, will present a program on the process a juvenile goes through after sentencing. In addition, we have requested a tour of the detention facility.

After many hours of court observations, a final report of the data collected will be made available to the committee members. We end the season with increased knowledge of the services available to juveniles gleaned from our many wonderful program speakers. As I proudly hand over the gavel to our new, well-qualified Committee chairperson, Linda Flores, I am confident that the goals of the Justice Committee will be attained under her leadership.

When: Monday April 20 at 9:30 a.m.

Where: Juvenile Detention Facility - Conference Room
3315 Tamiami Trail East

RSVP: drchargar@gmail.com, or 239-455-2261.

Social Policy Committee

Ann Campbell, Chair

Getting There From Here: Transportation Options For Seniors in Collier County



Following the theme of services for seniors in Collier County, we will go to the experts for help at our next meeting about public transportation. On Wednesday, April 8, we will meet at noon for a light lunch at the Wilderness Country Club. Our speaker will be Michelle Arnold, Director of Collier County's Public Transit and Neighborhood Enhancement Department. In addition to Michelle, we will have an opportunity to discuss transportation issues with the Department's Transit Manager, Trinity Scott.

The cost of lunch is \$11.00. All LWVCC members are invited and guests are welcome.

When: Wednesday, April 8, 12:00 noon

Where: Wilderness Country Club, Goodlette-Frank Road

RSVP: acamp1082@aol.com.

Book Club

Charlotte Nycklemoe, chair

Reading a challenging, out of the box thinking book such as *Abundance* was kind of like flossing your teeth. You hate to do it but once it's done, you're glad you did it. It's good to really tax the brain every now and then. Words such as *exponentialism and imagination* guided us as we discussed the possibilities of the future. We all agreed that we finished the book with optimism and hope, and with comments such as that we can't go wrong! I know you will be anxiously awaiting the next discussion in the fall under the able direction of Marcia Maloni. She is a voracious reader and I, for one, can hardly wait for the next discussion.

News from the State

Becky Newell

The following is the March 27, 2015 Capitol Report, submitted by Debbie Harrison Rumberger, LWVF Legislative Liaison.

Overview: Week 4 of the Legislative session was filled with bills moving through remaining required Committee stops.

Affordable Health Care for All Floridians: Controversy has shrouded the differing Senate-House positions on budget. The Senate Appropriations Committee continues to insist the House leadership resolve the Health Care budget shortfall created by a \$2 billion loss of Low Income Pool Program funding, which is set to expire in June. The Senate is moving forward with adoption of SB 7044, which would bring \$51 billion in health coverage for 800,000 Floridians who currently do not qualify for federal health coverage. The LWVF continues to work to bring Florida's tax dollars back to Florida to provide health coverage for our working poor. To date, the House has not considered legislation to accept federal funds to extend health care coverage to Florida's poorest citizens.

Online Voter Registration: The Senate Ethics and Elections Committee

accepted an amendment to Senate Bill 7064 to include Senator Jeff Clemens' online voter registration proposal. The language would implement a system of online voter registration by January 1, 2017. This new bill was approved unanimously. There is no current online voter registration bill moving in the House.

Land and Water Policy: The Senate Environmental Preservation and Conservation Committee on Tuesday unanimously approved changes to its version of the water policy bill (SB 918), which is deemed stronger than the House alternative by environmentalists. The Senate proposal, which also seeks to develop a statewide trail system and increase public access to conservation lands for recreation, is more project-focused than the House plan, which was approved in a 106-9 vote on the third day of the legislative session. In other action, several senators want their chamber to float more than a proposed \$2 million for land purchases in the Florida Forever program, after voters last year overwhelmingly backed an increase in money for conservation efforts. Lawmakers will work to increase funding during upcoming budget talks with the House, which will be led by Sen. Alan Hays, a Umatilla Republican who says Florida already has enough in public lands.

League members, please look for Monday's Action Alert for immediate needs of your voice in this legislative session!

Get Involved!

Debbie Harrison Rumberger is the League's professional lobbyist for the 2015 Legislative Session. Updates on League legislative issues will be provided on a regular basis through Capitol Report, which is published every week during the session. Important information may also be accessed at www.leg.state.fl.us Watch for your Capitol Report each Friday of the session for news on priority issues and what you can do to help. For updates on or copies of proposed legislation, call legislative information at 1-800-342-1827 or visit the Florida Online Sunshine homepage at

www.leg.state.fl.us.

For more information about the League of Women Voters of Florida, visit www.thefloridavoter.org.

News from the National League

In recent weeks the National League:

- Reported that the League joined with 1,500 leading national, state, tribal, and local organizations in a letter urging Congress to provide continued funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The League has long supported CHIP and believes that continued funding is necessary for the program to continue to provide health coverage for millions of children.
- Invited league members to join the United Nations e-Discussion on Innovation and Technology for Inclusion. The UNDESA Division for Social Policy and Development (DSPD) launched a yearlong campaign called *For Inclusion. For Equality. For People*. Throughout the campaign, UNDESA DSPD will be holding e-discussions regarding how the international community can facilitate knowledge sharing and access to new technologies and innovation to all social groups. This month's e-discussion focuses on how innovation and technologies can provide an essential enabling environment for empowerment of all, especially people living in vulnerable situations
- Reported that LWVUS sent a letter to the U.S. House of

Representatives Committee on House Administration urging Representatives to vote no on H.R. 412 and H.R. 195. These bills would repeal the presidential public financing system and terminate the Election Assistance Commission (EAC).

- Sent letters to the U.S. House Oversight and Government Affairs Committee and the U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee in support of H.R 1069 and S. 558, the Presidential Library Reform Act. This bipartisan legislation would introduce a measure of transparency to fundraising for presidential libraries.
- Shared the following reflections by LWVUS President Elisabeth Macnamara about the 95th Anniversary, The League is not only a direct outgrowth of the woman suffrage movement it is also the product of early 20th Century progressive thinking. The progressive movement trusted facts and managerial expertise as a means to reform corrupt government institutions. Our founder, Carrie Chapman Catt, was first, last and always a progressive, but her views on the reform of democracy were shaped by her life-long struggle to get the vote for women. According to Robert Fowler in his book *Carrie Catt: Feminist Politician*, Mrs. Catt believed three things were necessary for a genuine democracy, "The first involved legal change: women's enfranchisement. The second involved creation of a good citizen through education. The third involved finding an institutional mechanism through which ideal citizens, women especially, could transform American political life." The League of Women Voters is that institutional mechanism. In the League, Mrs. Catt "was proposing her ideal for America, her deepest dreams, her utopia."

For more information on National League projects [click here](#).

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.

Visit our website at www.lwvcolliercounty.org for our current list of officers, directors and off-board members, our Program, Diversity Policy , Nonpartisan Policy, By-laws, Minutes, and more.