

The Voter

Issue: 2014-07

December 2014

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DECEMBER AT A GLANCE

Government Committee

Monday, December 1

9:30-11:00 a.m.

Clive/Daniel
Home Community Room

2777 Tamiami Trail N.

Holiday Party

Tuesday, December 9

General Meeting - LWVCC Holiday Party 2014!



You Are Cordially Invited to Celebrate the Holidays with Your Friends From the League of Women Voters of Collier County

Tuesday, December 9
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Windstar on Naples Bay
1700 Windstar Blvd.

\$30.00 per person
Includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and 1 ticket for beer, wine or a soft drink

Cash Bar Available

[To register now, click here!](#)

Registration deadline: December 4, 4:00 p.m.

To register by phone, call the League number: 239-263-4656.

If you have questions about the event, contact Tina Palmese (tpalmese@aol.com).

Looking forward to seeing you there!

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Windstar Club

Social Policy Committee

Wednesday, December 10

12:00 p.m.

Wilderness Country Club

Goodlette Frank Road

Justice Committee

Monday, December 15

9:30-11:30 a.m.

Clive Daniel Home

Community Room

2777 Tamiami Trail N

Education Committee

Tuesday, December 16

10:30a.m.-12:00p.m.

North Collier Government
Center

2335 Orange Blossom

**Environmental Affairs
Committee**

Thursday, December 18

10:00-11:30 a.m.

The Seasons at Naples
CayConference Room



General Meetings at Hilton Naples

Tuesday, **Holiday Party at Windstar**, December 9, 2014, 5-7:00 p.m.

Monday, January 12, 2015, 11:45 a.m.

Monday, February 9, 2015, 11:45 a.m.

Monday, March 9, 2015, 11:45 a.m.

Monday, April 13, 2015, 11:45 a.m.

President's Message

Becky Newell, President



I hope you're all ready to spend the December holidays with family and friends. And I hope you'll spend one evening of this season with your friends from the League of Women Voters of Collier County! Our Holiday Party is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at Windstar Country Club. This is always a wonderful event, and it's a great opportunity to socialize with fellow League members and guests.

Please also take a moment to renew your League membership during December, if you haven't already done so. The basic Suffragist membership is \$65 for the year, but if you can renew at the Susan B Anthony level (\$100 for an individual) or the Carrie Chapman Catt level (\$200 for an individual), you are providing critical extra support to help your local League better serve our community. If you would prefer to donate to LWVCC's General Fund or Education Fund separately, we also greatly appreciate those contributions.

Your support helps us fulfill our mission of both providing educational opportunities for the public and advocating for League issues.

Happy Holidays to you all!

Feel free to contact me at becky_newell@comcast.net.

Education Committee

If you are considering expanding the scope of your League involvement, do consider joining the education committee. The first meeting of the season was held on Nov 18. The next meeting will be Tuesday, Dec 16.

The committee will focus on the status of very early childhood education (VPK in Collier County) and what is needed to expand the numbers of children who start kindergarten with the skills necessary to succeed in school.

Members will also follow the lawsuit in which the LWVF is a participant, challenging the constitutionality of Florida's school voucher program, as well as current and future legislative efforts to expand the reach of this program and charter schools.

When: Tuesday December 16, 10:30 -12:00 pm

Where: North Collier Government Center NCGC. 2335 Orange Blossom

For more information contact Robin Birnhak at 239-262-1221

Environmental Affairs Committee

Susan Calkins, chair



Seventy-five percent of Florida voters -- and an even higher percentage of voters in Collier County -- said YES to the [Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment](#) on November 4. This is the most support a conservation-related amendment has gotten in Florida's history. Now on to the very important implementation phase! Stay tuned, as the LWVF continues to be engaged this issue.

Meanwhile, all LWVCC members are welcome to join forces with the Environmental Affairs Committee as we explore environmental issues of particular relevance to Collier County. Oil exploration and drilling in Collier County is certainly one of those issues. It will be the focus of our LWVCC general meeting on February 9. Mark your calendar!

Consider attending these meetings as well:

December 18: Discussion and planning updates

January 15: Managing Our Water: Permits - promises and pitfalls

February 19: Going Solar (field trip)

March 19: Surging Seas: So What? (panel presentation)

WHEN: Thursday, December 18, 10-11:30 a.m.

WHERE: The Seasons in Naples Cay Conference Room

RSVP: Susan Calkins calkritas@aol.com for agenda and directions

Government Committee

Sandy Parker, chair



At our first meeting of the season on November 3, Government Committee members began learning about current issues being addressed at the county level. We learned about the recent activities of the Community and Human Services Department (formerly the Housing, Human and Veteran Services Department) and its key partnership groups. We also learned about the County's Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs), fortuitously providing us with background to Commissioner Fiala's remarks at the following week's LWVCC General Meeting about the project at U.S. 41 and Davis Blvd.

Between now and January, we will focus on Collier County government. Committee members have already identified county government efforts in the areas of human trafficking, business incubators/accelerators, the Clerk/BCC relationship, and the environment as topics for discussion, with more to come.

In February, we'll turn to the state Legislature, meeting every other week during the 60-day legislative session that begins in March.

The goals of the Government Committee include:

- Educating our members and the community about state and county government and important government issues.
- Researching and discussing pressing local, regional and state government issues to identify those that deserve further study, and then reporting these findings to the League Board and membership so that these issues may be considered for advocacy.

Our next three meetings will be on Mondays 12/1, 1/5, and 2/2, from 9:30 - 11:00 am.

When: Monday, December 1, 9:30 - 11:00 am.

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

All League members and guests are welcome to attend. No prior knowledge of Florida or Collier County government is required. If you are not already on our no-obligation email list to receive Committee updates, and would like to be, please email sparker101@gmail.com.

Justice Committee

Charlotte Nycklemoe, chair

The Justice Committee will work on the following two goals for the 2014-15 season.

1. Continue to observe Juvenile Court.
2. Identify and research safe harbors/facilities/programs for juveniles of Collier County.

At our last meeting Judge Christine Grieder informed us of her appointment by the Florida Supreme Court to a steering committee charged with four (4) objectives:

1. Implementation of a School Justice Partnership.
2. Examination of the statutes that impact the family court concept.
3. Monitoring progress of the "one judge/one family" model.
4. Assisting in developing a family court tool kit that addresses the developmental needs of youth, including children who experienced trauma.

We will monitor of the progress of this steering committee because its findings will ultimately be incorporated into our own committee's recommendations.

At our next meeting we will review the various programs and safe harbors for our at-risk juveniles.

WHEN: Monday, December 15, 9:30-11:30 am

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

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

Membership Committee

Lydia Galton, chair



If you have already renewed your membership for 2015, thank you!

If you have not yet renewed, and if you originally joined the League before April 1, 2014, please [click here](#) to log in to the LWVCC website with your email address and zip code to renew now. If you have trouble logging in, please email support@boldsolutionsonline.com to request assistance.

After you log in, go to "Members" at the top of the screen, and select "Renew Membership." Please check your contact information and make any necessary changes; you can also change your password and upload a photo for the online membership directory on this screen. Once the information is correct, select "Update" at the bottom of the screen to go to the payment screen. You can choose to pay your membership dues online using a credit card or a PayPal account, or you can indicate that you will mail a check.

Three membership levels give you the opportunity to support LWVCC at the Suffragist level, our basic membership, or at the Carrie Chapman Catt or Susan B. Anthony levels to provide that little extra support so necessary and so appreciated. If you are able, please consider an additional contribution to the General Fund or the tax-deductible Education Fund.

We appreciate your prompt renewal. Your support is so essential to our success!

Please feel free to contact me at lgalton@comcast.net.

Social Policy Committee

Ann Campbell, Chair



Access to Mental Health Services: What is available and where to begin.

At our December 10 meeting we will talk about mental health services in the community with Margot Escott, LCSW, representing the Mental Health Association of Southwest Florida. We will gather at the Wilderness Country Club for a light lunch.

Margot is a clinical social worker and psychotherapist who has had extensive training in addiction studies and therapeutic humor. She works with PTSD, anxiety disorders and depression using techniques such as Mindfulness, Meditation and Visualization. She also works with caregivers for the chronically ill and elderly. So, while many of us think of mental health care in terms of a psychiatrist who will prescribe medications, I think that Margot will help us to look at the range of resources we can access to deal with the challenges we face in our lives.

All LWVCC members are welcome, and guests are invited!

When: Wednesday, December 10, 2014, 12:00P.M.

Where: Wilderness Country Club, Goodlette Frank Road
(the cost of lunch is \$11.00)

Feel free to contact me at acamp1082@aol.com.

Book Club

Charlotte Nycklemoe, chair



Our book selection for our March meeting is *Abundance, (The Future is Better Than You Think)* by Peter Diamandis and Steven Kotler. In light of all the discouraging news we hear, the book club members decided it's time to read something positive!

The New York Times says: "Especially encouraging here is how the authors' vision for the world's poor - better medical care, clean water, more food, more education, all possible with the various technological tools we now have or soon will have - adds up to a deeply humanistic case. By a future of abundance, they do not mean luxury. They mean a future that will be 'providing all with a life of possibility.'" Order the book NOW and HAPPY READING!

WHEN: Thursday March 19, 2:30 -4:00 pm.

WHERE: The home of Charlotte Nycklemoe (RSVP for the address)

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

Join the "Voter" team!

Karen Sendik and Jan Eustis have teamed up to bring you the Voter each month during "season". We find that working together makes this a much easier task, and a lot more fun! We are looking for one more person who would like to join us. You can contribute to LWVCC, do it from home, and be the first to see what is happening next month!

If you are interested, please contact [Jan](#) or [Karen](#).

News from the State

Becky Newell

The League of Women Voters of Florida has announced dates for its 2015 Legislative Summit and Legislative Convention.

The 2015 Legislative Summit will be held in Tallahassee, March 10-12, 2015. Support Kathe Thompson, our intrepid climate warrior, who spent seven months walking across America for action on Climate Change, and learn how we can move forward on this issue, fight for better public schools, protection of our waterways, and much more. LWVF will send out additional information soon.

The 2015 LWVF Convention will be held in Delray Beach from May 15-17. Click [here](#) to register now for the 2015 LWVF Convention....our best ever! Convention will take place May 15 - 17 in beautiful Delray Beach. There will be national speakers and workshops to help you improve your public speaking skills, and you will be part of the team that helps direct the League's future by deciding on priorities and issues.

For more information about the League's statewide activities, refer to the [LWVF website](#).

News from the National League

Ann Campbell

In recent weeks the National League:

- Joined 1,200 leading national, state, tribal, and local organizations on a letter to Congressional leaders urging them to provide continued funding for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Congressional action is needed in the lame duck session to ensure that states can continue to operate programs and provide health coverage for millions of children.
- Announced the formation of the **LWV Money in Politics Committee** as part of the 2014-16 League Program on Key Structures of Democracy. The Committee will conduct an update of the League's position on campaign finance for the purpose of addressing the lack of member understanding and agreement as to whether financing a political campaign is protected speech under the First Amendment. The campaign finance position will be updated through a study and consensus process.
- Formed a **LWV Constitutional Amendment Committee** as another focus on the Key Structures of Democracy. The committee will study the process by which the U.S. Constitution can be amended, including the constitutional convention method, and identifying the gaps and challenges in those methods.
- Noted, in LWVUS President Elisabeth Mcnamara's letter to members, that in the area of Immigration, the League believes that law enforcement resources should not be wasted on deporting law-abiding immigrants regardless of their legal status. She adds that we can make that position known in Washington and in our state and local communities as well. Prosecutorial discretion, as demonstrated in President Obama's executive order, offers the community an opportunity to shape sensible policies that reflect our values and promote the interests of justice.

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.