

The Voter

Issue: 2015-06

November 2015

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NOVEMBER 2015 LWVCC LUNCHEON & GENERAL MEETING Will Florida Go Solar?



We might be the *Sunshine State*, but solar rooftops are an uncommon sight in Florida. Why? What's behind the fact that Florida, which ranks 3rd in the nation for solar potential, has one of the nation's lowest investments in solar? Do we need a constitutional amendment to change that? What's the likelihood there will be two solar amendments on the 2016 ballot?

Susan Glickman, a dynamic speaker and Florida's Director of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy - *SACE*, will address these and other questions.

SACE is a not-for-profit, non-partisan organization working to promote responsible energy choices that address climate change and ensure clean, safe and healthy communities throughout the Southeast.

Glickman developed and directed The Florida Business Network for a Clean Energy Economy, a coalition of business leaders working together to advance the clean energy economy. She was also the US Southern Region Director for The Climate Group, a London based NGO working with Fortune 500 Companies. Glickman has worked on a variety of issue areas and on numerous political campaigns including three statewide ballot initiatives, trained candidates and grassroots political organizations in 45 US states and in the former Soviet Union. Susan was also Founding Chair of The Florida Commission on the Status of Women.

A Florida native, Susan grew up in Tampa and lives in Belleair Beach south of Clearwater. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Speech from the University of Texas at Austin and an A.A. from Florida State University.

Where: Hilton Naples Hotel, 5111 Tamiami Trail North

When: Monday, November 9, 2015

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

Program: 12:30 pm

General Meeting: 1:30 to 2:15 pm

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

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

To make lunch reservations, please [click here](#) or call 239-263-4656 and leave a message by Thursday, October 8 before noon.

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

Audiovisual and other expenses associated with our 2015-16 General Meetings are underwritten by a generous donation from

The Walker Group

at Morgan Stanley Wealth Management

NOVEMBER AT A GLANCE

Government Committee

Monday,
November 2

10:30 to noon

Clive Daniel
Home

Community
Room

2777 Tamiami
Trail N.

League Policy Study

Monday,
November 9

9 am to 11 am

Hilton Naples

5111 Tamiami
Trail N

Luncheon and General

Meeting

Monday,
November 9

11:45 am

Hilton Naples

5111 Tamiami
Trail N.

Social Policy Committee

Wednesday
Wednesday,
November 11

Wilderness
Country Club

101 Clubhouse
Drive

It's Time To Renew Your LWVCC Membership!

You can avoid those pesky emails by renewing your membership at the General Meeting on November 9. Jan Eustis will be at the luncheon sign-in table to collect your renewal check. Details are below in the "membership" article.

President's Message

Charlotte Nycklemoe, President



I've been thinking a lot about the \$1,137 that was collected at our last luncheon meeting from members and guests who donated this generous sum to the League's advocacy fund. WOW! Wouldn't the LWV sisters who came before us be proud of us if they could see us now?

Our predecessors would observe how we are carrying on the work of securing a representative government: we work hard to protect the right of all citizens to vote; we work hard to protect the citizen's right to understand issues; we work hard to facilitate their participation in government decision-making and finally we work hard to oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

I encourage you to review the [Impact on Issues 2014-2016](#) booklet. This booklet is designed to help League leaders use LWVUS public policy positions effectively at the state and local levels. As Pam Goodman, our State President, said, "*We are a force to be reckoned with!*"

It may be difficult to top our October Luncheon Program but check out our November luncheon! On the docket is Susan Glickman's presentation on the solar initiatives that are likely to be on the 2016 ballot. I understand she is an amazing speaker and I can't wait to hear her. I am also looking forward to the consensus meeting on the Constitutional Amendment Study at 9 am prior to our luncheon.

See you on November 9th!

Feel free to contact me with any questions at drchargar@gmail.com. Check out our website at: www.lwvcolliercounty.org and don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

League Policy Study

Robin Larkin and Sandy Parker

November Consensus Meeting

Attend the November Consensus Meeting and Help Make LWV Policy: The Process of Amending the U.S. Constitution

We'll meet on November 9th from 9:00 - 11:00 am at the Hilton Naples Hotel to discuss and better understand the process of amending the U.S. Constitution as well as seeing if we can reach consensus on this very important topic. The consensus meeting will take place just prior to our monthly General Meeting also at Hilton Naples. **Please note: this will be our only consensus meeting for the Constitutional Amendment study.** While we have had a strong positive response for participation on November 9, we did not have sufficient support to conduct the consensus process on November 12.

If you plan to attend the November 9 meeting, please email [Robin](#).

**Environmental
Affairs
Committee**

Thursday,
November 12
9:30 am to 11
am
[J.Hushon's
Meeting Room](#)

**Justice
Committee**

Monday,
November 16

10:30 am
[Clive Daniel
Home
Room](#)
2777 Tamiami
Tr N

**Education
Committee**

Tuesday,
November 17

10:30 am to
noon
[North Collier
Government
Center](#)

2335 Orange
Blossom Drive

Book Club

Thursday,
November 19

Contact
Committee
Chair for Details

The LWVUS Constitutional Amendment Study Guide was created to provide background and assist League members to prepare and participate in discussing the Consensus Questions that could lead to a new League public policy position. Please prepare and learn more by reading the [Study Guide](#) and some of the related articles prior to the meeting.

We'll have a lively and fascinating discussion in November! Be a part of it!!

Contact either Sandy (sparker101@gmail.com) or Robin (RobinWLarkin@gmail.com) with any questions.

Education Committee

Mary Lou Boll, Chair



The Naples Alliance for Children sponsored an informational presentation and bus tour of area early childhood education providers on 10/2/15. Those in attendance were community leaders. Susan Block of the Early Learning Coalition did the opening presentation and also provided more information as the bus tour progressed. Also speaking on the bus were Dr. Larry Miller of FSW

College, Niccole Howard of Collier Childcare Resources, Claudia Kendall of the Guadalupe Center and Marie Libensohn of CCPS. The main points were that quality in early education matters, both in a social and economic realm, that better funding is needed, and we all need to identify a way to make a difference.

As a follow up for our committee, Niccole Howard has agreed to speak at the committee's November meeting. All are invited!

The committee is also urging everyone to keep a watch on the upcoming school board election for the Collier County Public Schools. We are gravely concerned that special interest groups have been and are active in employing tactics to undermine the integrity of the board and the school administration. Strong public schools produce a diverse and functional society, where citizens are able to communicate well and work together for the common good. As a nonpartisan entity, the school board should be a model for the community in working together for the good of students.

Once the field of candidates has been finalized, we will host candidate forums : provide online candidate profiles as we have in past years.

Please be sure to obtain an absentee ballot for the August 30, 2016 primary election if you are away at that time. The August primary can decide the school board winner(s). If any candidate receives 51% of the vote that candidate will be the winner. We need to be sure we are informed and that we cast our votes.

When: Tuesday November 17, 10:30 am to noon

Where: North Collier Government Center

2335 Orange Blossom Drive

RSVP: Mary Lou Boll, dboll7263@comcast.net

Environmental Affairs Committee

Susan Calkins, Chair



As well as providing us with an opportunity to discuss and follow-up on Susan Glickman's presentation at our LWVCC November luncheon, our November 12th Environmental Affairs Committee meeting will update members on the work of our committee over the off-season: specifically our continuing efforts to address climate change/sea level rise in Southwest Florida and to advocate for strong regulatory legislation to protect citizens from the potential dangers of hydraulic fracturing and similar fracking-like activities. How we continue our advocacy efforts in these arenas is high on our agenda.

The growth of our rural lands will also be a topic of discussion. The development of our eastern county lands continues as the Town of Big Cypress, originally planned for 4000 residences, becomes Rural Land West with an additional 6,000 proposed residences. The number of towns and the location of these towns, not to mention the transportation infrastructure required, has major environmental impacts which will affect coastal Collier. As the county takes on the major task of reviewing its growth management plans for rural Collier, what role can/should our LWVCC play?

Please join us November 12th! Mark your calendars for our December 10th solar field trip. Remember to sign up for the daily electronic environmental newsletter Eco-Voice at eco-voice.org It's a great way to stay informed!

When: Thursday , November 12, 9:30 am to 11 am

Where: Judy Hushon's Meeting room

RSVP: For more information contact Susan Calkins, calkritas@aol.com

Government Committee

Sandy Parker, Chair



Do you want to learn from fellow League members about your state and local government? Then the Government Committee is for you!

On November 2, we'll learn what happened over the summer from Committee members with their fingers on the pulse of local issues. Susan Calkins and Judy Hushon will update us on water and land management issues, including the latest on the proposed Florida fracking regulation. Crystal Kinzel, Finance Director for the Clerk of Courts, will report on the County's litigation with the Clerk over vendor payments, the County's Legislative priorities, and how potential changes to Florida's County Administrator statute could affect Collier County. And John Levy will share his thoughts on what's at stake in the 2016 District 2 and District 4 School Board elections.

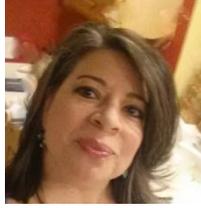
Save the dates! Our Committee will meet on Mondays from 10:30 am to noon:

- At *Clive Daniel Home*, 2777 Tamiami Trail N on 11/2, 12/7, 1/4, 2/1, 3/7, 4/4 and 5/9.
- At *The Seasons in Naples Cay* on 1/18 and 2/15

All League members and guests are welcome to attend. No prior knowledge is required. To receive no-obligation Committee updates and meeting reminders, email Sandy Parker at sparker101@gmail.com.

Justice Committee

Linda Flores, Chair



Which Emergency Shelter partners with Collier County to aid children suffering from abuse, neglect and abandonment in our area?

Angela Navarro, is the Community Outreach Coordinator at Youth Haven. Since 1972, Youth Haven is Collier County's only residential emergency shelter for boys and girls ages 6-17 that have been removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect or abandonment. Youth Haven focuses on building community relationships because they know that we can't do it alone.

Come join us! This will prove to be an informative session and great forum for discussion.

*"If you can't fly, then run,
If you can't run, then walk,
If can't walk, then crawl,
But whatever you do,
You have to keep moving forward."*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

When: Monday, November 16, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Where: Clive Daniel Home
2777 Tamiami Trail North

RSVP: Linda Flores, lindaoflores@gmail.com Mobile:239-239-5160

Membership Committee

Jan Eustis, Chair



A warm welcome to new members: Sally Woliver, Susan B. Anthony and Beverly Miller, Associate Member.

It is that time of year again! No, I don't mean Thanksgiving, or holidays, or the return of the snow birds. It is time to renew your membership!* With the pending elections, 2016 will be an important and exciting year. Be sure that you are taking an active role and playing your part.

You can avoid those pesky emails by renewing your membership at the General Meeting on November 9. Jan Eustis will be at the luncheon sign-in table to collect your renewal check.

You will soon be receiving an email with specific instructions on how to renew your membership. You can keep that pesky bill out of your inbox by renewing NOW!

Renew online at the [LWVCC website](#), or mail your check to LWVCC, P.O. Box 9883, Naples, FL 34101.

The levels of membership are:

	INDIVIDUAL	FAMILY
Suffragist	\$65.00	97.50
Susan B. Anthony	\$100	132.50
Carrie Chapman Catt	\$200	232.50
Associate*	32.50	

When you join at the Suffragist level, you are a member of the national, state, and Collier County League. The Susan B. Anthony and Carrie Chapman Catt memberships support activities here in Collier County. We always welcome your tax deductible donation to the Education Fund.

We're looking forward to an exciting year!

*Members who joined after April 1, 2015, do not have to renew. These memberships are effective until December 31, 2016.

Feel free to contact me at janeustis@me.com or 239-872-5709.

Social Policy Committee

Ann Campbell, Chair



On Wednesday, November 11, we will meet at noon for a light lunch at the Wilderness Country Club to review our program for 2015-16: access to health care, mental health services, issues affecting seniors and the School Health Program. Our speaker is TBA as this issue of the Voter goes to press.

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

When: Wednesday, November 11 at noon

Where: Wilderness Country Club
101 Clubhouse Dr, Naples, FL

RSVP: Ann Campbell, acamp1082@aol.com

Book Club

Marcia Maloni, Chair

Books for this season are:

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Waiting for Snow in Havana by Carlos Eire

Thursday, January 21, 2016

Euphoria by Lily King

Thursday, March 3, 2016

Soldier Girls by Helen Thorpe

RSVP for time and place to Marcia Maloni at marciamaloni@yahoo.com.

News from the State League

Charlotte Nycklemoe

**October 14 Op Ed from Pamela S. Goodman, President
League of Women Voters of Florida
PamelaSGoodman@gmail.com
561/843-1233**

OPINION: TIME TO FOCUS ON TEACHING, NOT TESTING

By Pamela S. Goodman, President, League of Women Voters of Florida

Florida's accountability system is broken. Due to its hasty construction, a third of the questions for 3rd grade reading are not directly aligned to the standards they are supposed to measure. A lapse in the test construction process, moreover, failed to tie the complexity of the test questions to the proficiency levels

being assessed. This FSA is not criterion referenced, according to the Alpine validity study. It does not tell students what they know and can do. The new Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) yields test scores that have no meaning.

Test scores have consequences. Students are placed in remediation. Teachers' salaries are impacted. Schools are labeled. Florida continuously patches its broken system. The Department of Education has had to recalculate many times over the years. The list is long:

2012: The DOE set unrealistic passing standards in the FCAT writing test. Passing rates for tenth graders plunged from 75% to 38%. The State Board of Education held an emergency meeting to change the passing standard.

2013: School grade calculation was changed. A letter grade drop protection was enacted due to implementation of Common Core. The percentage of students required to test was reduced from 90% to 80%.

2013: A lawsuit was filed over teacher evaluations using scores of students they did not teach.

2014: School grade calculations were deemed too complicated. Schools could have different grades despite having the same number of points. The formula was changed again.

2014: SB 736 revamps teacher pay based on performance of students using bonus incentives. The Gates Foundation repudiates bonus pay system it funded in Hillsborough County stating bonus pay was ineffective in improving achievement.

2015: The Value added Model achievement measure was declared invalid by American Statistical Association. Teachers' could be rated very high one year and low the next. The Florida legislature lowered VAM scores from 50% to a third of a teacher's evaluation.

2015. The legislature limited testing time, but it retained the requirements that teachers be evaluated on test scores. Thus, very little testing time can be reduced.

2015: Teachers who had high ACT/SAT scores were given bonuses but were not required to help struggling schools. The plan simply increases inequity among schools.

Florida has high standards, but achievement is stagnant according to 2014 NAEP results. The reasons are obvious. Florida's accountability system assumes more can be derived from less. It divides resources among separate public, charter, and private schools thus ensuring that no sector is adequately funded. It attempts to make educators 'try harder' by punitive measures that reward schools with students from higher income families at the expense of schools in lower income areas.

Florida's accountability system is creating more problems than it solves. Funding should be redirected to factors that impact achievement like: improving attendance, discipline policies, and teacher training in struggling schools. The road we are currently on leads nowhere. It is time to stop and reconsider. League of Women Voters of Florida | 540 Beverly Court | Tallahassee | FL | 32301-7530

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

News from the National League

Ann Campbell

Last month the National League:

- Reported that Voters in Pennsylvania and Nebraska can now register to vote online, while Iowa and Kentucky will have online voter registration systems by early 2016. All four states join the fast growing list of over 28 states plus the District of Columbia that offer online voter registration. While the League praises these states for taking a big step forward, they unnecessarily require individuals registering online to have a specific form of state ID with a signature on file with the state.
- Announced that the LWVUS recently submitted an amicus curiae brief with other groups to the Supreme Court in *Evenwel v. Abbott*. The case will determine whether states are required to use a metric other than total population, such as registered voters or citizen voting age population (CVAP), in redistricting..
- Urged members to support the EPA's Methane Pollution Regulation. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed the first-ever pollution standard for new and modified oil and gas facilities. These regulations are an important step forward to protect public health and our planet.
- Announced the First Call to LWVUS 52nd National Convention - June 16-19, 2016 in our nation's Capital. Plan to join hundreds of passionate and engaged leaders at the Convention, Save the dates and keep up-to-date with the latest Convention news and innovations on the LWVUS website. Look for more information there starting next month on the schedule, registration, hotel and special events such as Lobby Day and a fun evening with the political comedy group "Capitol Steps."

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.