

# The Voter

Issue: 2015-05

October 2015

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## OCTOBER 2015 LWVCC LUNCHEON & GENERAL MEETING

**League of Women Voters of Collier County Hosts  
LWV Florida President Pamela Goodman  
and Legislative Advocate Debbie Harrison-Rumberger**

League of Women Voters of Florida President Pamela Goodman and Legislative Advocate Debbie Harrison-Rumberger will be our speakers at our first General Meeting of the season on Monday, October 12.



Ms. Goodman will speak on "Redistricting in Florida." Prior to her election as LWVF President, Goodman chaired the League's statewide Fair Districts campaign, coordinating all League work to secure passage of the Fair Districts constitutional amendments. She continues to work with all litigation regarding this issue. Goodman served as president of the Palm Beach County League from 2005 to 2009 and has been serving on the Florida League Board since 2007.



Ms. Harrison-Rumberger will speak on "How Things Really Get Done in Tallahassee." She led the Florida League's advocacy efforts in the 2014 and 2015 Legislative Sessions, and is currently meeting with legislators and staff during these pre-2016 Session months.

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

**When:** Monday, October 12, 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](#).

## OCTOBER AT A GLANCE

Luncheon and General Meeting  
Monday, October 12  
12:00 pm  
Hilton Naples  
5111 Tamiami Trail N.

Government Committee  
Monday November 2  
10:30 to noon  
Clive Daniel Home  
Community Room  
2777 Tamiami Trail N.  
Justice Committee  
Monday, October 19  
10:30 am  
Clive Daniel Home  
Community Room  
2777 Tamiami Tr N

Education Committee  
Tuesday October 20  
10:30 am  
North Collier Government Center  
2335 Orange Blossom Drive

Environmental Affairs Committee  
Thursday, November 12  
for details contact S Calkins  
calkritas@aol.com

Voter Services Committee  
Tuesday, October 27  
9:30 am  
North Collier Government Center  
2335 Orange Blossom Drive

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**

## President's Message

**Charlotte Nycklemoe, President**



I'd like to extend a warm welcome to both long standing and new members of our LWVCC. Thank you for being part of our organization. I am thrilled to begin the 2015-16 season as your new, incoming president. As I begin my journey learning the intricacies of our organization, I feel confident I will rise rapidly to the task with the aid of a very capable and knowledgeable board, committee chairs, past presidents and all of you.

To begin with, I would like to remind you of our mission statement: *"The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We influence public policy through education and advocacy. Our goal is to empower citizens to take an active role in shaping better communities worldwide."*

With those words in mind, I will attempt to be an advocate for our organization and influence our Legislative delegation on October 15th.

Our priorities are: full funding of the Water and Land Legacy Amendment, including fracking and oil regulation; Medicaid expansion with federal dollars; voter rights, including redistricting; education; and gun safety.

To quote the words of our past president, Becky Newell, *"Simply by being a member of the League, you make it possible for us to fulfill our mission of helping to promote an informed, and active electorate."*

You will have the opportunity to become even more informed by participating in our two upcoming studies: Constitutional Amendment Study and Money in Politics Study.

I will look forward to seeing all of you at our October luncheon when we hear from our State President, Pam Goodman and our legislative advocate, Debbie Harrison-Rumberger.

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

## League Policy Study

Robin Larkin and Sandy Parker

### Help Make LWV Policy: Participate in the Study of The Process of Amending the U.S. Constitution

Responses to our Survey indicated that YES, members want to participate with Leagues around the country in the National League of Women Voters' Constitutional Amendment Study! This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the development of a League position on a current national issue, as well as to learn first-hand how League positions are developed. We hope you will join us.

Why this Study? Why now?

As many as 27 states - [including Florida](#) - have passed resolutions calling for an "Article V Convention" to produce a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution. And more states are targeted, [with the support of the American Legislative Exchange Council \(ALEC\)](#).

There is also [talk](#) of the need for a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United.

Yet the League of Women Voters does not have a public policy position from which to advocate for or against either an Article V Convention (for whatever reason called) or a constitutional amendment proposal.

Perhaps it goes without saying that the LWV believes it is right and permissible to amend the Constitution when circumstances demand. After all, the League was born from the successful, decades-long effort to pass the 19th Amendment.

The first and most important question is whether the League supports or opposes the subject of the amendment based on League public policy positions. But is that enough? What makes a sound and well-crafted amendment proposal?

Are there shared values and beliefs within the League - is there consensus - regarding the circumstances that might allow or compel the League to endorse a constitutional amendment or an Article V Convention?

Those are the issues Leagues across the country will discuss in the coming months. The [LWVUS Study Guide](#) was designed to provide background and assist Leagues in considering how to answer the [Consensus Questions](#) that could lead to a new League public policy position.

**Please email Robin, [RobinWLarkin@gmail.com](mailto:RobinWLarkin@gmail.com) ASAP but no later than November 1st and let her know which of two Consensus meetings you will attend:**

- November 9th from 9:00 - 11:00 am, at the Naples Hilton, before our General Meeting; OR
- November 12th from 9:00 - 11:00, at North Collier Government Center

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

## Education Committee

**Mary Lou Boll, Chair**



At our next meeting we will look back at the eventful year 2015 has been thus far. The committee goal of educating our members and the community about the Collier County public and private schools has led to action. Several committee members have attended and made comment at school board meetings. We will review the first draft of a proposed letter to the editor explaining the stance the League takes in support of public education.

A second initiative is lending support to early childhood education. At past meetings, we have heard from Kathleen Reynolds of the Literacy Buddies Project, and Susan Block, the CEO of the Early Learning Coalition. Next we will explore an opportunity to partner with the Naples Alliance for Children to make a positive impact on public policy to support every family's access to quality preschool programs. Please join us!

**When:** Tuesday October 20, 10:30 am to noon

**Where:** North Collier Government Center

2335 Orange Blossom Drive

RSVP: Mary Lou Boll [dboll7263@comcast.net](mailto:dboll7263@comcast.net)

## Environmental Affairs Committee

**Susan Calkins, Chair**



The goal of the Environmental Affairs Committee is to create an educated core of LWVCC members who are respected advocates for natural resource protection and sustainability.

Many committee members already have significant experience in the field of environmental protection. We work together to enhance our understanding of critical environmental issues and we defend our environment through advocacy at the local and regional level. Central to the work of this committee are issues of land conservation and growth management, threats to water quality, climate change, and sea level rise.

Speaking of climate change, we are pleased to announce that Susan Glickman, Florida Director of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, will be our featured speaker at the November 9th LWVCC General Meeting. She is an extremely dynamic and informative speaker and will address the LWVF's recent endorsement of the Solar Choice Amendment.

Our committee has continued its focus on climate change and sea level rise, by meeting with county staff this summer to learn how we are addressing sea level rise and advocating for regional collaboration to address the consequences of rising levels. This work will continue - stay tuned!

On another environmental front, committee members were on hand at September Board of Collier County Commission meetings, along with President Nycklemoe, for a discussion of our county's state legislative priorities re: currently unregulated techniques of oil drilling/fracking. We will

work in concert with the LWVF this season as the Florida legislature crafts new oil and gas regulations. It will be a struggle to secure highly protective legislation which also protects a local community's right to *"home rule."* With over 200 square miles of our region recently permitted (June and July) by FDEP for "geophysical exploration", Collier citizens have reason to be engaged in this issue. Please join us for our November meeting!

Interested in keeping up with environmental news in our area? Sign up to receive the Eco-Voice Digest at [www.eco-voice.org](http://www.eco-voice.org).

**When:** Thursday , November 12.

**RSVP:** For more information contact Susan Calkins, [calkritas@aol.com](mailto: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!

At monthly meetings in November, December and April, we will focus on Collier County government and regional issues. What are the hot topics? Is LWVCC advocacy needed?

At bi-weekly meetings in January through March when the State Legislature is in session, we'll focus on what's happening in Tallahassee. Who are the key players and what are their priorities? What are the Florida League's legislative goals? Each Committee member will chose a bill to follow, and together, we'll observe our state government in action.

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](mailto:sparker101@gmail.com)

**When:** 11/2, 12/7, 1/4, 2/1, 3/7, 4/4 and 5/9 at Clive/Daniel  
In addition, we will meet on 1/18 and 2/15 at The Seasons in Naples Cay.

**Where:** The Community Room of Clive|Daniel Home  
2777 Tamiami Trail N.

## Membership Committee

Jan Eustis, Chair



As the new Membership Chair, I am just learning the ropes. A few members have offered to assist in recruitment and welcoming new members. It feels as if we are developing a "Membership Committee". If any of you are interested in being a part of this process, or would like to discuss it, just let me know!

A warm welcome to new members who joined over the summer! Please look for new members at the General Meeting and include them.

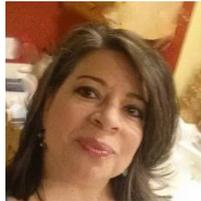
**Suffragist:** Annissa Karim, Kristin Carolan, Gary Lundborg (family), Heather Wysocki, Cathy Mayer, Martha Ryan, Susan Warren, Randon Randolph, Janet Scher

**Susan B. Anthony:** Ron Ferguson, Star and Tim Barto (family).

Feel free to contact me at [janeustis@me.com](mailto:janeustis@me.com) or 239-872-5709.

## Justice Committee

Linda Flores, Chair



The Justice Committee will hold its first meeting of the 2015-2016 season in October. We are eager to maintain our momentum in educating ourselves with knowledge of the Juvenile Justice System in Collier County.

With this education, our main focus will be to further strengthen and develop meaningful community partnerships and coalitions with a strong emphasis on the continued efforts to establish a mentoring program for girls.

Our efforts will be fostered by inviting expert speakers involved in the court system, observing court hearings, participating in councils for at-risk juveniles and partnering, as needed, with facilities/schools that deal directly with at-risk juveniles.

I look forward to our group making a difference in the lives of our disadvantaged youth. Come join us in our efforts!

*"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."* (Franklin D. Roosevelt).

**When:** Monday, October 19, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Where:** Clive Daniels Home

2777 Tamiami Trail North

**RSVP:** Linda Flores, [lindaoflores@gmail.com](mailto:lindaoflores@gmail.com) Mobile:239-239-5160

## Voter Service Committee

Joyce Fletcher, Chair



Voter Service in Collier County has time to get really organized for a very busy election year, 2016. It is our chance to get more of our members involved in this important work. If you are interested in learning more, please come to our meeting.

There are many ways you can help. There are opportunities to work at the polls to help earn cash for LWVCC, website work on candidate profiles, updating our website information on our elected officials, helping to create questions for Candidate forums, registering voters, coordinating with the Supervisor of Elections office on voter education to increase voter turn-out, attending Canvassing Board meetings, serving as time keeper for forums, Speakers Bureau presentations especially on the pro-con of ballot amendments, and other support functions such as helping to host events.

The first election of 2016 will be the Presidential Preference Primaries and the races for Naples City Council and Mayor.

Next summer there will be primaries for all five of the County Constitutional Officers who have challengers, two School Board members, three Collier County Commissioners, and more. In Fall 2016, races for US President, Florida Senator, and races for the Florida House and Senate.

Plan to come talk about how you would like to get involved.

**When:** October 27, at 9:30 am

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

**RSVP:** Joyce Fletcher at [jbfletcher@embarqmail.com](mailto:jbfletcher@embarqmail.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 [marciamaloni@yahoo.com](mailto:marciamaloni@yahoo.com).

## News from the State League

### Charlotte Nycklemoe

As we prepare for the upcoming 2016 Regular Legislative Session, the LWVF respectfully requests your careful consideration of, and attention to, the following 2016 LWVF state priorities:

#### Election Law:

- Oppose any efforts that might be made to limit convenient voter registration or to limit access to the polls by limiting early voting locations, days or hours.
- Support prepaid absentee ballot returns to the Supervisors of Election and oppose any infringement or restrictions on the absentee ballot process.
- Monitor, consider and comment on proposals to establish an independent Florida election redistricting commission.

#### Education:

- Oppose efforts to expand corporate tax credit scholarships. We continue to believe they are an inappropriate and unconstitutional program, funding private and religious schools with no proven benefit to students.
- Require greater fiscal management and accountability of charter school contracts, with oversight by local school boards.
- Address proposals to change the statewide assessment program to assure that an assessment instrument is used, with such assessments applicable to every Florida student educated with public funds.

#### Health Care:

- Expand health care access and coverage for low-income, uninsured and under-insured Floridians.
- Accept federal funding to expand health care access and coverage and offset the costs of uncompensated care to hospitals and providers.
- Restore full funding for critical health care programs and services that were negatively impacted by the 2015 state budget, i.e. KidCare, free clinics, emergency transport, substance abuse treatment, etc.

#### Gun Safety:

- Oppose Bills (HB4001/SB 68) that would make it legal for those with concealed weapons permits to carry firearms on all Florida public college and university campuses.
- Oppose Bills (HB 19/SB) that would allow Florida School Boards and Superintendents to designate employees to carry concealed firearms, for security purposes, on school grounds at K-12 schools.
- Oppose Bills (HB 41/SB 130) that would purport to regulate the recreational discharge of firearms in residential areas. It is already illegal to discharge recklessly a firearm on any residential lot, and such Bills would create exceptions to that.

## Land and Water:

- Properly implement Amendment 1 - Restore funding to Florida Forever and exclude existing agency operating expenses.
- Pass comprehensive water quality and quantity Bills that concentrate on cleaning up pollution at the sources and conserving our aquifer with no net additional withdrawals.
- Pass Bills that ban fracking in the state of Florida

The LWVF and our 31 local Leagues throughout the state have carefully studied and taken positions on these issues. We look forward to sharing our research and working with you in the coming session to support legislation that will result in a happier, healthier and safer Florida for all of us.

For more information about the League of Women Voters of Florida, visit [\\_www.thefloridavoter.org](http://www.thefloridavoter.org).

## News from the National League

### Ann Campbell

During the Summer Months the National League:

- Joined with other concerned organizations to urge the Internal Revenue Service to adopt new regulations that properly interpret the statutory eligibility requirements to qualify for tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(4) "social welfare" organization. In a letter to IRS Commissioner John Koskinen the concerned groups pointed out that existing IRS regulations contradict the nation's tax laws and court decisions interpreting these laws, further stating that the IRS has for years misinterpreted and failed to properly enforce the eligibility standards for obtaining section 501(c)(4) tax-exempt status under the Internal Revenue Code. In addition to LWVUS, the letter was signed by: Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause, Demand Progress, Democracy 21, People For the American Way, Public Citizen, and Sunlight Foundation.
- Reported that the League of Women Voters of Ohio compared 2011 gerrymandering to the 2012 and 2014 election results concluding that Ohio's legislative districts are rigged to yield completely predictable results. Voters can predict with 97 percent to 100 percent accuracy which party will win every single legislative race in the state, because the districts are that rigged. Ohio is working to pass a ballot initiative to amend their state constitution to change how legislative districts are drawn.
- Announced that Pennsylvania, Nebraska, and Iowa all join the growing list of states that allow citizens to register to vote online. LWV of Pennsylvania worked with coalition partners and the Secretary of State's office to push for the online system, which went into effect in late August. Nebraska will have online voter registration on September 22nd, also National Voter Registration Day, and Iowa's systems will be in place later early 2016. For more information on how our state can push for pro-voter reforms such as online voter registration, contact Cynthia Sebian-Lander at [CSebianLander@lww.org](mailto:CSebianLander@lww.org).
- Announced that a LWV Constitutional Amendment Discussion Group is now on Yahoo. League members may subscribe to the newly-formed Yahoo group to discuss the League Constitutional Amendment Study and share information with other League members. To subscribe, send an email message to this address: [lwwconamend-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:lwwconamend-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). You will

receive an email back inviting you to join the discussion group. Follow the instructions in this email and you will be signed up for the CA discussion group. Be sure to check out the [Constitutional Amendment page on the LWV](#) web site, which includes the Study Guide, Consensus Questions and background materials. Questions can be sent to Pat Donath, [CACommitteeChair@lww.org](mailto:CACommitteeChair@lww.org).

- Made available a short background paper (2 pages) on the current [LWVUS Money in Politics Review and Update](#). This paper provides key points of the MIP Review including scope of work, timeline, current position, background and history. Feel free to use this paper as a handout for your MIP events, as notes for an introduction to an event, as talking points, or as a newsletter article. For additional information, please contact Barbara Zia, MIP Committee Chair at [MIPCommitteeChair@lww.org](mailto:MIPCommitteeChair@lww.org).

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](http://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.