



The Voter



The League of Women Voters of the Space Coast

www.lwv-spacecoast.org

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March 2019

Mission: The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

March Timely Topics

A Virtual Tour of the St. Johns River with Riverkeeper Lisa Rinament

Lisa Rinament



"The St. Johns Riverkeeper is the chief advocate and public's voice for the St. Johns River. Responsibilities include: holding regulatory agencies and those polluting the river accountable; identifying and advocating for solutions that will protect and restore the river; working with government entities, businesses, community leaders and citizens to resolve problems that impact the river's health; and

communicating with the media and the public to educate and raise awareness about important river-related issues.

As a former senior staff member for Jacksonville Mayor John Peyton, Lisa Rinaman has extensive experience building consensus around issues and has helped implement numerous environmental initiatives and policies. Lisa was instrumental in leading the effort to develop and implement irrigation, fertilizer and Florida Friendly landscaping ordinances to better protect the St. Johns and local waterways. She also played a key role in securing state funding for water quality improvements, organizing the city's successful Manatee Protection Plan, and pushing for programs necessary to fulfill the River Accord restoration plan for the Lower St. Johns River."

- Where:** The Tides at Patrick Air Force Base -1001 North Highway A1A South Atlantic Avenue, FL 32925
- When:** Saturday, March 9, 2019
- Time:** 11:30 a.m. registration
- Cost:** \$30 for members
\$35 for non League members
- Menu:** Mixed greens salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette
Stuffed Flounder with Champagne Cream Sauce, Rice, Green Beans,
Pan Seared Airline Chicken with Roasted Tomatoes and Capers, Whipped Potatoes and Green Beans
Or Chef's Choice Vegetarian
Dessert: New York Cheesecake with Strawberry Sauce

Reservations: Registration is required by Tuesday, March 5th. Payment in advance on website at www.lwv-spacecoast.org or contact Doreen Archer and give her your menu choice at 321-622-4071 or doreenarcher1@gmail.com. Remember that all meals need to be paid for if a reservation is made.

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Diversity Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters of the Space Coast will promote in all aspects of the League's activities, a philosophy of inclusion that reflects the diverse composition and issues of the community.



**President's Corner
Barbara Williams**

Your Voice is Important to Us!

Our local League needs input from our members to better serve our local community needs. We hope that you will take the opportunity to review the proposed committee programs for our fiscal year starting in April and consider our LWVFL legislative priorities (<https://www.lwvfl.org/2019-legislative-priorities/>). If you have ideas or issues to share, please share them with us. Even better, join a committee. You can do this by contacting us or by logging into our website at lwv-spacecoast.org (Press the Member Login button in top right-hand corner – you can request new login information if needed). Once you are logged in, on the far-right side of the red menu bar across the top will now be a “Member” menu, from this menu you can go to our Committees page and select a committee to join. Joining a committee will not require you to attend meetings, although we would love to see you there!

Barbara



**Name Tag
Order Information**

We will offer the opportunity to order nametags on the first of the month several times a year.

Check the first day of the months on our event calendar to place your order. Orders will need to be complete by the 1st to receive the nametag that month.

The cost of the nametag is \$9 plus tax. Shipping is \$3.50. The first order opportunity will be open until March 1st. Select the March 1st event to place your order now. We will offer another opportunity for April 1st and you will have an option to order with registration for the annual meeting.

For the March 1st and April 1st orders, we will allow you the option to save shipping costs by indicating you will pick the badge up at the annual meeting. We have rounded the total cost to \$13 for shipped nametags and \$10 for pick-up at the annual meeting.



**2nd Vice President and Voter
Services Sherry Jensen**

In the lead up to the midterm elections, Voter Services worked hard to register voters and educate citizens through our series of candidate forums. We even celebrated with a Party at the Polls. Now that our newly elected officials have entered office, Voter Services continues to serve our community by preparing and distributing our CONTACT brochure, which lists the names and contact information for all elected

officials representing citizens of Brevard County at all levels of government.

It is with gratitude that we thank both Florida Power & Light and the Space Coast League of Cities for supporting the production of the CONTACT brochure through monetary donations to fund its printing. A special thank you is also due to our members who have collected the updated information. By listing all of the contact information in a comprehensive document, we hope that the thousands of brochures distributed throughout the county will make it easy for citizens to reach out to their representatives.

An electronic copy of the 2019-2020 CONTACT will soon be available at our website: www.lwv-spacecoast.org at the bottom of the page in the “Voter Tool Kit” under “Elected Officials.” If you would like to request physical copies of the brochure to be made available at a public location, please contact Sherry Jensen, Voter Services Chair, at voter.services.chair@lwv-spacecoast.org.



Save the Date

**2019 League of Women Voters of
the Space Coast Annual Meeting**

The 2019 Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, April 6th at POW/MIA Park at Pineda Causeway. Details will be in the April Voter.

The following topics will be addressed at the annual meeting.

- Proposed change to Bylaws
- Report of Nominating Committee
- Proposal to combine programs of Women’s Issues Committee and the Health Care Committee
- Proposed Programs of Work for Education, Justice, Local Government and Natural Resources Committees.

Proposed Change to Bylaws

LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

The wording for change to our bylaws is:
(continued on Page 3)

(Proposed Addition to 2019 Bylaws
Continued from Page 2)

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

Nominating Committee Report

The 2019 Nominating Committee of League of Women Voters of the Space Coast presents the following slate:

President - Jacqueline Chandler
1st Vice President - Jo Shim
Secretary - Mary Murray

Elected Directors:

Brooke Goldfarb
Krista Soboh
Lucia Watson

Nominating Committee for 2020

Diane Conaway - Chair
Elaine Harris
Alberta Wilson

(Two additional members will be chosen by the Board)
Thank you to the 2019 Nominating Committee.
Yvonne Minus - Chair, Diane Conaway, Susan Little, And Krista Soboh.

Combining Women's Issues Committee & Health Care Committee

Issue:

The LWVSC Women's Issues Committee was formed several years ago but lacked sufficient participation to be fully functioning. Currently, many of the issues that would be covered by the Women's Issues committee such as access to health insurance for women and children and reproductive health are also part of the Health Care Committee's Program of work.

Suggested Action:

Modify and combine the programs of the two committees to form one larger committee that can study and address both the multitude of health care challenges experienced by Brevard residents as well as the variety of issues facing women including empowerment and workplace issues.

Suggested New Committee Title:

Health and Women's Issues Committee

Proposed New program:

Women's Issues and Health care cover many areas of common concern including, access to care, health insurance, oral care, mental health services, reproductive health and the availability of health care services for children. The proposed Health and Women's Issues Committee would continue working on all these areas of concern with the addition of workplace and empowerment issues impacting women. This will be challenging, but it is anticipated that this new scope of work will generate interest and hopefully increase committee membership and participation.

Proposed Program of Work:

1. Monitor and report on any changes to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and advocate for adequate health insurance coverage for all Floridians.
2. Monitor changes to Medicare and the Florida Medicaid Program.
3. Monitor funding and implementation of children's health insurance programs including efforts to provide basic health care for all children in Brevard County.
4. Monitor and advocate for reproductive rights issues at the state and federal level.
5. Develop programs and/or provide access to programs that encourage and support women running for office.
6. Educate women through workshops, utilization of social media, participation in community health fairs on the following issues:
 - a. Community resources available in Brevard
 - b. Workplace issues including equal employment, workplace conditions for pregnant and lactating women, maternity, family and medical leave.
 - c. Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault
7. Monitor educate and advocate for policies, ordinances and legislation that reduce violence and discrimination against members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) members of the community.
8. Monitor and advocate for major health, prevention and wellness issues as related to:
 - a. Mental Health
 - b. HIV/AIDS
 - c. Women's Health
 - d. Oral Health
 - e. Access to care for people with disabilities
 - f. Gun Safety
 - g. Opioid Epidemic

Proposed Programs for 2019

Education Proposed Program of Work for 2019-2020

1. Monitor and support equitable access to and achievement in all educational programs in Brevard Public Schools.
2. Monitor and support the homeless children and children of low socio-economic status attending Brevard Public Schools.
3. Monitor and promote developmentally appropriate early childhood education for all in Brevard County concentrating on greater accountability and transparency in financial management and reporting.
4. Research, monitor and report on the adequacy of and advances in technology in Brevard Public Schools and promote adequate funding.
5. Continue to monitor charter schools' capital funding allocation to Brevard County and monitor state legislative actions, concentrating on greater accountability and transparency in financial management and recording.
6. Promote civics and citizen education for all K-12 students in Brevard Public Schools.
7. Monitor and report on the implementation of the half cent sur-tax on sales funding for Brevard Public Schools.
8. Explore the extent and oversight of school vouchers given to Brevard County private schools from public and/or private funding.
9. Research and monitor the career and technical pathways available to students attending Brevard Public Schools.
10. Monitor and report youth suicide and support youth suicide prevention in Brevard County.
11. Explore the available support to Brevard Public Schools teachers to enable the delivery of high quality education for all students.
12. Promote and support student interventions and avenues for modifying and reporting threatening/suspicious behavior to prevent violent actions against BPS (Brevard Public Schools) students and staff.

Justice Proposed Program of Work for 2019-2020

1. Educate the Public on Amendment 4, the Felon Restoration Initiative.
2. Continue to be engaged with Brevard County Felon Re-entry Coalition.
3. Monitor Juvenile Injustice and Racial Profiling in Brevard County.
4. Increase awareness of Human Trafficking.
5. Request periodic updated statistics on discipline from Brevard County Schools Administration.
6. Investigate alternative to juvenile incarceration; look at increasing Diversion Programs for Juveniles.

7. Monitor and advocate, as appropriate gun legislation, in conjunction with the LWVFL gun safety action team.

Local Government Proposed Program of Work for 2019-2020

1. The Observer Corps is a critical function of the Local Government Committee, with the goal of having League observers attending local government agency meetings and reporting on issues of League interest.
2. Provide assistance, as needed, to the LWVSC Committees regarding local government issues that impact the committees' respective programs of work.
3. Monitor and study Brevard County's economic incentives and how they are administered by the Economic Development Council (EDC) and make recommendations as appropriate.
4. Monitor the creation of the office of a non-partisan Inspector General in local government (county and municipal) and make recommendations as appropriate.
5. Study and monitor developments concerning Brevard County Tourism Development Council and make recommendations as appropriate.
6. Support Voter's Services by providing volunteers to help with candidate forums and to prepare questions for candidates.
7. Monitor and advocate, as appropriate, gun legislation, in conjunction with the LWVFL Gun Safety Action Team.

Natural Resources Proposed Program of Work for 2019-2020

1. Monitor, act and provide timely information to the public on the protection of the Indian River Lagoon System, all surface waters and the St. Johns River to include:
 - a. Monitor the Wetlands Guidelines implementations by the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard and the municipalities of Brevard County.
 - b. Monitor the Fertilizer Ordinance adoption and implementation of the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard and the municipalities of Brevard County.
 - c. Monitor the BMAP (Basin Management Action Plan) program as set forth by the FDEP (Florida Department of Environmental Protection).
 - d. Monitor, support and provide timely information on the activities of our partner, the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition.
 - e. Monitor, and provide timely information regarding the dispensation of state and federal funds by the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program.
 - f. Monitor, act and provide timely information on the dispensation of funds from the Brevard Indian River Lagoon sales tax referendum.

(continued on Page 5)

Proposed Programs of Work continued from Page 4)

2. Educate and encourage recycling by all Brevard County residents and businesses.

a. Review Brevard’s municipalities’ progress toward the recycling targets as defined in their collection contracts.

b. Study the return policies of local stores and laws pertaining to donation of returned items including examination of the costs incurred by business to handle items no longer allowed to be sold and formulation of best practices guidelines to facilitate more donations and less waste.

c. Advocate for more ample, affordable and easy to understand and follow recycling programs for residents, businesses and public places.

3. Monitor, act, and provide timely information to the public regarding alternative energies, including solar, and the public policies that guide the implementation of alternative energy, both for the electrical grid and for personal conveyance.

4. Monitor, act, and provide timely information to the public regarding offshore and onshore and exploration issues in Florida, including but not limited to hydraulic fracking and acid fracking and seismic testing off-shore of Florida.

5. Monitor, act, and provide timely information to the public regarding growth actions and policies of Brevard County, the municipalities and surrounding regions as they affect Brevard County.

6. Monitor, act, and provide timely information to the public to ensure the full and fair implementation of the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment.

7. Working in conjunction with the Local Government Committee, monitor, act, and provide timely information to the public upon any proposals of the Canaveral Port Authority to construct a freight rail extension to the Port or to develop the Port into a major commercial freight site.

8. Review and revise, as appropriate, the “Natural Resources Position Statement” that appears in the 2017-2018 LWVSC Membership Book.

9. Monitor and advocate, as appropriate, gun legislation, in conjunction with the LWVFL Gun Safety Action Team.



Justice Committee

Molly Domin – Chair

Implementation of Amendment 4, the Voting Rights Restoration for Felons Initiative, is still being navigated. Former League of Women Voters of the Space Coast 1st Vice President Tony Dutton will represent the League speaking to the issue to the Space Coast Progressive Association on March 7 for their

program, “Implementing Amendment 4 - The Restoration of Florida’s Felon Voting Rights.” The LWVSC will be registering voters at the event as well.

Unfortunately, the arming of teachers idea is back in Tallahassee. SB 7030 seeks further implementation of the “guardian program” included in SB 7026, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act. The League of Women Voters of Florida opposed this Act stating, “We cannot support dangerous measures that put more guns in schools, and we join the vast majority of Floridians who refuse to ask teachers and administrators to serve as armed security guards.” It will be important to vigilantly follow the trajectory of this bill for the safety of all citizens.

<https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2019/02/07/florida-senate-consider-teachers-armed-guardians/2773969002/>

The petition for the ban of assault weapons is online! Nearly 800,000 signatures are needed to get the amendment on the ballot. PLEASE use this link so weapons of war are not readily available for those who wish to create the most harm.

<https://bawnfl.org/amendment.html>



Education Committee

Fran Baer – Chair

Cautious Optimism

By now the Florida Legislative Season is in full swing for 2019-2020. There are signs that deserve our support and our attention. We all know “the devil is in the details”, and as we do our job of monitoring and reporting, we can at the same time feel a needed sense of optimism for Florida’s Public Schools.

This year’s State League’s pre legislative session survey resulted in Education as the number one issue on the minds of our members. Good news here. It also appears to be a top priority to our newly elected Governor Ron DeSantis. Recent headlines quote the Governor as saying, “You have spoken and we will listen”.

While his appointment of Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran, former House Speaker and leader in the privatization of our public schools movement, did not bode well for the Governor’s listening skills, he has still surprised educators with policies that favor teachers and students. The elimination of the score based teacher bonus program while doubling the amount of dollars to retain and reward teachers and administrators, and less emphasis on stressful student exams and more on teaching and innovation are changes in direction that parents, educators and the public have long advocated.

(continued on Page 6)

(Education Report continued from Page 5)

Then there is the area of curriculum. The mention of Common Core has raised the spectrum of big government forcing its will on our children. In response Florida adopted its own Florida Standards which former Education Commissioner, Pam Stewart, credited for moving Florida up to a C rating in the annual "Quality Counts" report published in September, 2018. Governor DeSantis is reported to favor disbanding Florida Standards in order to better prepare students "for the real world" through increased civic education.

The League of Women Voters has a long and credible history of promoting civic education in our public schools and welcomes this emphasis as part of the education committee's Program of Work".

Again the details will have to be examined as the League proceeds to advocate for quality programs and services to Brevard's children.

League members will need to be prepared to respond to Governor DeSantis' invitation to "listen" as we "speak" and urge him to follow through with action best designed to take care of our children and their teachers in our public schools.

Come join our Education Committee, the third Wednesday of the month beginning at 10 a.m. at Suntree Library. Your voice is needed.

Natural Resources

Susan Little - Chair



Another Source of Pollution for Our Waterways by Maureen Rupe

A 02/07/19 article in the Daytona Beach News Journal was titled "State pauses spraying of exotic plants along St. Johns, other waterways". Florida state agencies have stopped spraying exotics in Florida water bodies. This includes the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the water management districts. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers still sprays, but environmentalists are hopeful it will eventually also pause spraying. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for most of the spraying in the St. Johns river as it is responsible for maintaining a navigable water channel. This pause is for the Florida Wildlife Commission to ask for public comment on the practice. The bad thing is all the public comment meetings are during the month of February.

There has been a lot of heated arguments concerning spraying our waterways. The bad thing for the rivers, is that spraying may kill the vegetation, but just one acre of hyacinths puts 500 tons of material in the waterway. All this extra dead material is increasing the level of nitrogen and phosphorus in the waterway, not

only fertilizing the hyacinths, but increasing the algae growth.

The article quoted the following, "Katie Tripp, director of science and conservation for Save the Manatee Club, welcomed the review." "I have always been concerned about the chemicals and the fact that the dead vegetation sinks to the bottom of the water body, contributing nutrients to systems that are often already overburdened with nutrients," said Tripp. St. Johns Riverkeeper Lisa Rinaman also is pleased to see the moratorium. "There needs to be a pause and a discussion," said Rinaman. She and others would like to see the pause extend to the Corps. "They need to have a conversation about the pros and cons of the current practices," she said."

Hyacinths were brought to the United States in 1884 for water gardens, but by 1899, records show it was already clogging waterways in Florida and Louisiana. Various Florida agencies have tried other ways of getting rid of hyacinths. They have tried releasing plant eating insects and mechanical removal, but so far officials are finding mechanical and biological methods cannot control the fast-growing water plants alone.

The strange thing is on WFTV Saturday morning news, there was a short story on all the weeds in our waterways and that the state had paused eradication efforts due to budget issues. I found a video on the WFTV news app, and the video only mentioned the pause was due to wanting public comment.

On a local note, Brevard County recently purchased a mechanical harvester in early February. I assume the mechanical harvester will be used on Brevard lakes along the St. Johns River.

Reference:

<https://www.news-journalonline.com/news/20190203/state-pauses-spraying-of-exotic-plants-along-st-johns-other-waterways>

International Relations

Joyce Calese - Chair



The March meeting of International Relations will be on Tuesday, March 12th at Satellite Beach Library from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The topic is **State of the State Department and Diplomacy led by Diane Conaway.**

Our April meeting topic is The Rise of Populism in Europe on Tuesday, April 9th. Molly Tasker will lead our discussion.

Join us for an educational afternoon. We study topics from the Great Decisions publication on worldly topics. The public is invited.

Photos from 2019 Politicos on Parade.



Fashions from Bobbi's at Parkside & Men's Wearhouse



Rhonda Waterstradt, Jo Shim & Marilza Novaes Card



Robyn Hattaway



Alex Goins



Lorraine Koss



Misty Belford



Samone Archer, Kenny Johnson & Jake Williams



Heidi Salmon



Mary Margaret Page, Barbara Dutton & Kenny Johnson



Lorraine Koss



Jay Ann Preston

Events Calendar is found on our website:

https://lwvsc.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=4001&club_id=992157

We have many Photo Albums for you to enjoy at

https://lwvsc.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=187&club_id=992157

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