



The Voter

The League of Women Voters
of the Space Coast
www.lwv-spacecoast.org



Volume 36: No. 4

December 2016

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.



"League Holiday Buffet Luncheon" Entertainment from Astronaut High School



When: Saturday, December 10th
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Where: La Cita Country Club
777 Country Club Drive
Titusville, FL 32780
Cost: \$25.00

Reservations: Doreen Archer with menu choice at 321-622-4071 or doreenarcher1@gmail.com by Monday, December 5th

Menu: Entrees are:

- Cracked Pepper Thyme Chicken Breast with Herb Veloute Sauce and Quinoa Brown Rice
- Cider-Brine Pork Loin with Bacon, Smashed Sweet Potatoes, and Caramelized Baby Onions
- Vegetarian Choice on request at time of reservation

Salad will be Petite Hearts of Romaine, Shaved Parmesan, Focaccia Croutons, Sundried Tomatoes, and Classic Caesar Dressing.

Vegetable will be Chef's Choice of Fresh Steamed Seasonal Vegetables.

Dessert will be Assorted Miniature Cakes served family style on table.

Beverage Choices are Coffee, Iced Tea, and Water.

(A server will be available to take drink orders from the bar)

Gift Cards for Homeless Students in Brevard County Schools

In this holiday season we are asking you to consider contributing to the homeless students in Brevard County Schools. Dr. Sally Shinn is the homeless liaison for Brevard County Schools. She coordinates with the staff homeless liaison in each school. Teachers can report the urgent needs of children in their classes to the school liaison. Gift cards from Walmart, Target, Walgreens, or CVS are suggestions. Visa or American Express cards are accepted but usually part of the cost of the card stays with the credit card company rather than total cost of the card going to the students in need. Last year our members were very generous in donating gift cards at the time of our Holiday Luncheon. **Education Chair Linda Scales will be accepting the cards at the luncheon.**

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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

Fran Baer & Priscilla Griffith

VICTORY FOR SUSTAINABILITY

November 9, 2016

It is the day after the Presidential Election and for some there is a sigh of relief, for others a sigh of disbelief. Either way, there are two results in which the League of Women Voters of the Space Coast can rejoice.

Amendment 1 crafted by the utility companies to confuse the issue of solar affordability and accessibility in Florida was defeated. The League of Women Voters of Florida campaigned with the non profit Floridians for Solar Choice to inform voters and ask them to vote no. The amendment fell short of the required 60% needed for a Florida Constitutional Amendment. Thanks go to our members who spent time at local libraries and other venues handing out information as well as our speakers who were invited to explain the reasons for our position. Without this amendment, Floridians have taken a step closer to harnessing the sunshine in our Sunshine State, a boost for sustainable energy.

The referendum in support of the half cent sales tax to restore our Indian River Lagoon passed handily here in Brevard. Placed on the ballot by the majority of the Brevard County Commissioners, it was intended to give the choice to the voters. Some spoke and wrote in opposition even as the plan for allocating the tax was presented in detail and included an Oversight Board to which League member Lorraine Koss was appointed. Thanks to the partnership with the Indian River Lagoon Coalition, LWVSC members spoke in favor and waved signs to vote yes prior to and on election day. Our community benefits from a healthy lagoon, another boost for sustainability.

As we move from election season to the season of thanksgiving and family celebrations we can all be thankful for our community and its support of the environment and accountability of stewardship.

As members of the non-partisan League of Women Voters, we are in a unique position. This election has afforded us a renewed opportunity to stay vigilant and informed as we advocate for good government at all levels. We will be called upon and our participation will be essential and appreciated.

Fran Baer

Event at King Center

“The War is Won; What’s Next”

Last summer our League was approached by Karen Wilson, Director of the Theater for Youth at the King Center for Performing Arts, with an offer to collaborate with them by providing an After Show event for the students attending the main stage production of “The World Turned Upside Down; Music and Stories of the American Revolution” to be held on October 25th. This show was the second of eight productions in the Theater for Youth lineup. Our After Show would be an add-on with no extra cost.

A committee was formed to make a plan. Since the main stage production culminated with America winning the war, we decided our one hour After Show would pick up where the main stage performance left off. Through interactive activities our After Show, titled “The War is Over; What’s Next”, explained how the thirteen original colonies, now freed from the rule of Great Britain, progressed to become the United States of America, the creation of the American Flag and an understanding of the power and responsibility of voting. Over 130 students attended our After Show. A good time was had by all.

Special thanks go out to members of the Cocoa Beach Minutemen Marching band and their director, Yvonne Campbell, who volunteered their time to entertain the students with patriotic music; to our event committee: Barbara Jagrowski, Doreen Archer and Fran Baer; and to our event-day League volunteers: Martha Bradshaw, Sheila Bollinger, Joyce Calese, Rita Hewett, Carol Linton, Fern Patton and Sharon Reynolds-Mixon. A special thank you, too, to the King Center ushers, who assisted during the event.

Marilynn Collins, Event Chair



Education

Linda Scales – Chair

Early Childhood Education Efforts in

Brevard County by Doreen Archer

Children should be a top priority for legislators, educators, health care providers and everyone else. Investment in all aspects of early childhood development reflects in many ways, but particularly in the reduced numbers in the juvenile justice system.

One organization that is devoted to children, especially the very young, is the Children's Movement, started in August, 2010 by David Lawrence. Mr. Lawrence retired in 1999 as publisher of the Miami Herald to focus on early childhood development and school readiness. He is largely responsible for the 2002 constitutional amendment to establish a voluntary prekindergarten program for all 4 year old children in Florida. Members of the Board and steering committee of the Children's Movement are physicians, business men and women, retired legislators and educators. They are watchdogs for all legislation concerning children both in Tallahassee and Washington.

The fourth item in the Program of Work of the Education Committee of the League of Women Voters of the Space Coast reads "Monitor and report on the status of early childhood education efforts in Brevard County."

Head Start and Early Head Start are other educational programs for very young children. Early Head Start, for which the Children's Home Society has the current contract, is for babies to three years and Head Start, administered by Brevard Public Schools, offers program for pre-school. Eligibility for these programs is income-based and there is a waiting list.

Questions were submitted in September of this year to Sky Beard, who is the Executive Director of the Early Learning Coalition of Brevard Inc. This coalition administers School Readiness and Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK).

School Readiness is for low income working parents. Enrollment averages about 3300 children a month in Brevard, with a waiting list of 570 children. Some families who may be eligible do not apply, so the actual need cannot be determined. Some working parents are homeless, and the Coalition served 212 homeless children from January to June, 2016. Homeless children are referred by agencies in the Brevard Homeless Coalition and do not go on the waiting list.

Census data states that there are about 5000 four year old children each year and last school year 4,500 were enrolled in VPK. The number of homeless children or in foster care in VPK is not known, as the State application for VPK does not include this information.

There are currently 231 licensed facilities in Brevard. The Early Learning Coalition currently holds contracts with 167 private child care providers and 35 public school sites.

In response to a question about the greatest need, Sky Beard stated, "Outside of funding, our greatest work is establishing the legislative authority and standards for initiatives to raise the quality of early childhood programs. Currently, there is very little authority we have to ensure that where our most vulnerable children attend for early learning programs are of any degree of quality. It is very concerning when we see children enrolled in centers which are not of high quality and there is little to nothing that the ELC can do. There are model programs from around the country that are proven to increase quality. Florida needs such programs."

Welcome To Our New Members

Yvonne Minus

Patricia & Alan Jotkoff

George Lebovitz

Bo Platt & Catherine Haynes

Jennifer Richey

Tess Louise Fenger Ryan

Kimberly Wilson

Eileen Brzozowski

Diane Callier & Robert Grisar

Lisette & Anthony Pappalardo

This month we have fourteen new members to add to your membership book that you received in late August. Addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of new members will be sent to you by e-mail.

Board Bytes



- Nominating Committee Chair Barbara Dutton announced that the first meeting of the nominating committee for 2017 will be on Monday, November 14. Additional members of this committee are Doreen Archer, Martha Bradshaw, Debra Mischley and Ruth Schechter.
- The Speaker Bureau chaired by Audrey Grayson was very active prior to the November 8th election. There were presentations on Amendments, Judges, Absentee Ballots, and Information about League of Women Voters.

(Board Bytes continued on Page 7)



Recycling Awards Program Marcia Booth – Chair

2016-2017 Recycling Awards

The LWVSC 2016-2017 Recycling Awards information went out to schools in November. It includes a few changes aimed at making the process easier and the award more attractive for schools to participate.

Among the changes is the opportunity to submit applications directly online, which not only makes it easier for participants to submit their form and for our coordinator to record participants, but also has less impact on the environment -- no printing, no paper used, no letters being transported.

We redesigned the layout and adjusted our forms delivered in PDF format. Now, besides being able to submit the application form completely online, participants can type in and email forms without having to print them. That is especially significant because we are introducing a new form this year: the Entry Submission Form.

The Entry Submission Form should accompany projects when they are submitted in order to provide us with more detailed information on the execution of the project and its participants.

We have reviewed our instruction sheet and included a summarized list of steps for schools to take to participate in the awards. We have also added a page containing the rubric used to evaluate projects and included agreement paragraphs as part of the packet. The reason for having agreements spelled out is to ensure that projects are submitted once a school signs up to participate in the awards and to guarantee that the League has unrestricted rights to use the projects in documenting and promoting the awards.

Another important change is on the presentation of the awards. League president, Fran Baer, reached out to BPS Board Chairperson Andy Ziegler and the announcement of this year's winners will be made at a BPS Board meeting in the spring. We hope that this change will attract the attention of more schools to participate in the awards.

Judging of the projects will be done in April and we will be looking for up to three League members who would be willing to donate their time to help us with that process. If you are interested, please contact Marcia Booth at Marcia@RecycleBrevard.org or 305-479-4514.

If you know of a school that you would like to see participate in our Recycling Awards this year, please ask them to submit their application online at

<https://goo.gl/forms/fcpfeH8f1tN20MQN2> (link available on the LWVSC's website -- <http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org/> -- and on the League's Facebook page) or contact Marcia to receive the full packet. You may also send Marcia their contact information so she can get in touch with them.

With all these changes, we are looking forward to a new start and hoping to receive more entries this year.



International Relations

Joyce Calese – Chair

Members of the International Relations Group at the November meeting discussed books that they had recently read. Some of the books or articles were on international topics but others were historical novels or topics that affect all of us in this changing world.

Books or Articles were:

- Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind by Yuval Noah Harari
- Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by J.D. Vance
- "The Thirty-Year Coup: Did an exile cleric try to overthrow the Turkish government?" by Dexter Filkins in the New Yorker, Oct. 17, 2016
- "Not So Divided After All on Foreign Policy" by the Editorial Board of the New York Times on November 7, 2016
- All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
- The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead
- Green Island by Shawna Yang Ryan
- Everglades: River of Grass by Marjory Stoneman Douglas
- Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston
- Finding Nouf by Zoe Ferraris
- Kingdom of Strangers by Zoe Ferraris
- City of Veils Zoe Ferraris
- The River is Home by Patrick D. Smith
- Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community and War by Nathaniel Philbrick
- Black Flags: The Rise of ISIS by Joby Warrick
- Lights Out by Ted Koppel
- The Third Wave by Steve Case
- Gilded Years by Karin Tanabe

Our December meeting will **not** be at the Satellite Beach Library. We will be visiting the Foosner Art Museum on Wednesday, December 14th at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch. The museum address is 1463 Highland Ave, Melbourne, FL 32935. We welcome League members. If you would like to join us or have questions, call Joyce Calese at 321-610-7930



Natural Resources

Susan Little – Chair

Hurricane Related Sewer Spills

by Maureen Rupe

So happy that Brevard County residents voted to Save our Lagoon. Let's hope other counties take note and do the same. We were extremely lucky that neither our cities nor Brevard County had a sewage spill during Hurricane Matthew. However, not everyone in Florida has escaped millions of gallons of sewage being spilled in their local waterways. Jacksonville.com (The Florida Times-Union) in a story by David Bauerlein reported there were seven sewage spills in the city of Jacksonville. The biggest being 5 million gallons in the Ortega River, where the city is arguing that only 2.9 million gallons was sewage, and the rest was rain and storm water. It is still ridiculously high. How many septic tanks would have to fail to dump that much sewage into the Indian River Lagoon?

Tampa Bay Times (TBO.com) reported Hurricane Hermine caused even more problems on the west coast of Florida. According to the story, Tampa Electric Co. spilled 938,000 gallons of sewage into Hillsborough Bay. Tampa's system had two pump stations overflow into the Hillsborough River, in which Eric Weiss, Tampa's wastewater director said they didn't know how much was actually spilled. St. Petersburg's Mayor said their city dumped partially treated sewage into Tampa Bay to prevent it backing up into homes or streets. He didn't say how much, but did say it was millions of gallons. Clearwater, the city is saying the amount of sewage was still being determined. Largo was still determining their estimate. Pinellas Count utilities estimated 60,000 was spilled. Assumed that was raw sewage, as they also stated they dumped 7.3 million gallons of mostly treated sewage into Joe's Creek. Tarpon Springs, Brooksville, Port Richey and Hernando County all reported spills, but amounts are not available. Hillsborough County survived the storm without overflows. There was a total of 28 spills and dumps reported over the region. Sewers can cause a lot more damage in a short amount of time, especially during these storms.

The one really nice thing following our two back to back Florida Hurricanes is learning Floridapolitics.com reported Gov. Rick Scott asked the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to investigate the spills and find out how we can prevent them in the future. Gov. Scott also implemented a requirement to report spills within 24 hours due to the Mosaic Spill.

References:

<http://jacksonville.com/news/2016-10-09/jea-reports-seven-sewage-spills-related-hurricane-matthew>
<http://www.tbo.com/weather/hurricane-hermine-leaves-tampa-bay-area-befouled-with-spilled-sewage-20160902/>
<http://floridapolitics.com/archives/224339-scott-sewage>



Health Committee

Jo Shim & Connie Dobrin Co-Chairs

(Meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 6

PM at Suntree/Viera Library)

Health Care Report at November Board Meeting

Prepared by Jo Shim

Activities for the month of October 2016:

1. Health Care Grant/Close the Gap Activities:

- New "Close the Gap" brochure has been printed and is being distributed at League events including delegates' forums.
- LWV Florida will be hosting two conference calls on the Affordable Care Act in November.
- Federally Employed Women- October Meeting: Jo Shim gave a short presentation on current health care issues including the ACA and Medicaid expansion.

2. Ongoing Projects and New Events:

Children's Health Care:

- "Hanging of the Hands" project – handprints taken from Florida children will be hung in the Capitol Rotunda during Children's Week (2017) to raise awareness of children's health issues including KidCare. We will have this activity available at the Moore Healthy Living Festival originally scheduled for October 8th and rescheduled November 12th.
- KidCare Status – Please see report from Maria Mogollon Seemer on Page 6.
- Maria is actively working on investigating the lack of insurance options for the 0-1 age group not covered by Medicaid. This issue was submitted to the LWV State Board for consideration as one the focus health care issues for 2017.

United Way Health Literacy Project

- The United Way has plans to start a Health Literacy program for residents of Brevard and a planning committee has been formed. Susan Webb, Diane Conaway and Linda Meeuwenberg regularly attend these meetings.

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Health Committee

Jo Shim & Connie Dobrin Co-Chairs

(continued from Page 5)

Health Partnership Meetings

- Health Partnership Meetings at Parrish Medical Center are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. – Jo Shim and Linda Meeuwenberg attend the meetings when possible and report back to the committee.

Oral Health Services:

Linda Meeuwenberg along with Sherryl Worst (Founder of SMILE Angel Foundation) continue to be very active providing education on oral health in schools and community groups.

- Timely Topic on Oral Health and the Smile Angel Foundation is scheduled for February 2017.
- Time and location still need to be finalized

Health Leaders Meeting:

Florida Chain in collaboration with the Health Care Committee will be hosting a meeting for Brevard Health Care leaders to be held on 17th November 2016 from 12:30 to 2:00 pm at the Space Coast Health Care Foundation on Wickham road. Refreshments will be provided by Florida Chain .

The purpose of the event is to encourage faith leaders to take an active role in health care advocacy.

Healthcare Committee – KidCare Status Report

Prepared by Maria Mogollon Seemer

1. Attended an outreach event to the Hispanic population in Palm Bay with Brevard Health Alliance on September 25th at Our Lady of Grace Church. Handed out KidCare material and informed public of the end of five-year moratorium to get legally resident children covered under KidCare.

2. Attended the Florida Kidcare Business Roundtable on September 29th at the Health Department.

- a. There was some discussion amongst the participants regarding access to children's mental healthcare under current program constraints. This is a major issue as we have no KidCare PROVIDERS in Brevard County that can diagnose Autism and other pediatric mental health issues and without the diagnosis cannot receive services. Currently there is about a one year wait list.
- b. This event initially was designed to attract small business employers to provide information for their employees

to have access to KidCare information, but it turned out to be a business partners' recognition instead. Those recognized in Brevard County included:

- i. Brevard Health Alliance
- ii. Parrish Medical Center
- iii. Space Coast Health Foundation
- iv. Ocean Partners (provide hospitality industry employees in Cocoa Beach hotels)

3. Had Conference Call on October 10th with Vance Aloupis, CEO of the Children's Movement of Florida regarding the gap in insurance for children who do not qualify for Medicaid and do not have special needs (with special needs can get CMS insurance). Wanted to know if the Movement would partner with the LWV to try to do some lobbying to close this gap.

The issue is that there are no health insurance options, other than private insurance coverage for ages 0-1 if a child does not qualify for Medicaid or has special needs, in Florida. At the federal level, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) serves uninsured children up to age 19 in families with incomes too high to qualify them for Medicaid. In Florida other than Medicaid or CMS it is age 1 through 19, nothing for birth through age 1. That leaves a gap of a newborn to age 1 (where medical care is so important) with no other option than private insurance.

Translated into dollars that is the equivalent of a single parent with one child that makes \$15.50/hr., who would not even qualify for full pay KidCare at \$299/month but must go through the Exchange and will not be able to afford it.

Vance said he was aware of this issue and would do some investigation into why it has not been corrected, and we would "touch base", he did state that the Movements primary focus for 2016-2017 is going to be tying the application for free and reduced lunch and KidCare, another route to "no wrong door".

4. Reached out to Stephanie M. Demian, USF, Community & Business Outreach Coordinator for Florida Covering Kids & Families who is the grantor for KidCare outreach in FL and also asked about the gap. Her response was only option would be to go into the private market.



Board Bytes *(continued from Page 3)*

- Membership Chair, Debra Mischley has been contacting our new members and encouraging all members to attend the Celebrate the League event on November 15th. Chairs of the Committees will give a short synopsis of (1) What their purpose is, (2) What they are working on, (3) When/Where their next meeting will be, (4) Extend a warm invitation to be involved and join their committees. We should all be active in recruiting new members.
- Local Government Committee is in discussion for establishing an Observer Corps. Sharon Reynolds Mixon has volunteered to provide coordination to this project.

Photos at League Events



Amicitia Maloon-Gibson at Timely Topics



League Members with solar powered boat



Barbara Dutton & Marilyn Collins at forum prior to election



Marilyn Mansberry, Joyce Calese & Fran Baer on National Voter Registration Day



Barbara Jagrowski at King Center



Jo Shim & Student at Health Living Festival



Audrey Grayson - Chair of Speakers Bureau

December Calendar - Members are welcome at all meetings~

Tuesday, December 6th
 Saturday, December 10th
 Thursday, December 15th
 Monday, December 19th

Board Meeting - Large Room at Suntree Library at 5:30 p.m.
 Holiday Luncheon at La Cita Country Club in Titusville at 11:30 a.m.
 Local Government Committee Meeting at Suntree Library at 10:15 to noon.
 Health Committee Meeting at Suntree Library at 6:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m.

(As additional dates of Committee Meetings are known they will be posted on the website.)

Voter: Monthly publication (except June, July, August)

Issue Date: December 2016

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Men Are Welcome to Join LWV!

PLEASE CHECK YOUR INTERESTS

- Education
- Fund Raising/Finance
- Health Issues
- Hospitality/Events
- International Relations Study Group
- Justice
- Legislative Action
- Local Government/Observer Corps
- Membership
- Natural Resources
- Publicity & Public Relations
- Speaker's Bureau
- Telephone Committee
- Voter Service
- The Voter (monthly newsletter)
- Website
- Women's Issues

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete the information below and return
with your check made payable to
League of Women Voters of the Space Coast

Mail to: LWV Space Coast
6629 Canal Road
Melbourne Village, FL 32904

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

Phone _____

New Member _____ Returning Member _____

ANNUAL DUES

- \$60.00 for Individual Membership
- \$85.00 for Household Membership
- \$25.00 for Student Membership