



The Voter



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

Volume 37: No. 4

December 2017

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.



Join us.
League of Women Voters
of the Space Coast
Holiday Luncheon on Saturday,
December 2nd

Time: 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Where: The Tides at Patrick AFB
831-861 S Highway A1A
Patrick AFB, FL 32925
Cost: \$30.00 for members and non members
Menu: Entrées are : Roasted Pork Loin, Baked Cod or
Eggplant Parmesan
House Salad, Ciabatta and Butter
Green Beans Almondine and Roasted Fingerling
Potatoes
Coffee / Ice Tea
Creme Brulee with Toffee Crunch

Reservations: Deadline for reservations is Monday, November 27th.
Reservations can be made on line at www.lwv-spacecoast.org
or members can call Doreen Archer at 321-622-4071 or e-mail her at
doreenarcher1@gmail.com and give her your menu choice.

Darrell Moody's smooth jazz band "Ocean Breeze" will entertain us with jazz and holiday favorites!

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

Barbara Williams

VOLUNTEERING CAN BE REWARDING

I hope by now most of you have checked out our Volunteering page on our new website. It can be found by selecting **Members & Events** from the menu bar. Many of our volunteer requests are to support our tables at fun and informative community events throughout our county and are terrific social experiences. Do not worry if you have never represented the League at what we call "tabling events", there will always be another member around to get you started.

For 2018, we plan to make volunteering even more rewarding by implementing a **POINTS** program. POINTS earned through volunteer hours, to include Observer Corps, will be able to be redeemed for event tickets or other League purchases. The board hopes to complete details and implement this program by early 2018, but since our Club Express System can capture volunteer hours now, we will honor 2017 hours once the program starts. Only members can earn points and most volunteer opportunities do require League membership so you will **need to login to the website to sign-up for volunteer opportunities**. We also want to be able to register voters at our tables and so we encourage all members to take the quiz required by the state, see our Voter Services page for the link to the quiz.

If we are collecting petitions, we will have volunteer signup separated because we cannot mix petition collection and voter registration. Remember we must all stay engaged to define the world we want to live in. Hope to see you volunteering!

Barbara Williams



Local Government

Chair – Ron Bobay

The Local Government Committee sponsored the November Timely Topic. Troy Post, executive director of the North Brevard Economic Development Zone (NBEDZ), spoke about how they operate to bring businesses to Brevard and their focus on turning abandoned malls and businesses into new businesses which in turn will increase tax revenue and make the communities more attractive. He also spoke about efforts to form European-like apprenticeship programs.

NBEDZ serves Brevard County from SR528 north. For more information you can go to www.NBEDZ.com and you can subscribe to their quarterly newsletter.



CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION
2017 - 2018

UPDATE ON THE FLORIDA CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION (CRC), AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2017

The 37-member CRC, which meets every 20 years, has the power to place amendments to the Florida Constitution on the 2108 ballot with the vote of just 22 of its members. The other usual ways to amend Florida's Constitution are by ballot proposals approved by 60% of both Houses of the Legislature or by valid citizen petitions signed by voters comprising 8% of the Florida vote in the last U.S. Presidential election (over 766,000 this year). Both are difficult to attain.

The current CRC has been in existence since the beginning of 2017 and, through October 31st, when the submission periods ended, had taken thousands of proposed amendments from its members and from citizens – at least 1,400 citizen proposals from across Florida. Its Committees have reviewed all those proposals and, so far, have reduced their number to just over 60. Those are posted on the CRC's website. <http://www.lwvfl.org/your-florida-government/florida-constitution-revision-commission/>

A wide range of issues are included in the remaining proposals, including raising from 70 to 75 the retirement age of judges, changing the make-up of Florida's Cabinet, restricting lobbying, banning the death penalty, limiting the right of privacy in order to make it easier to limit abortions, lifting a Constitutional ban on public funding of religious groups and permitting unaffiliated voters to vote in primary elections. Of importance to the LWV, a proposal still exists to restore voting rights to many non-violent felons.

The CRC and its Committees will hold discussions and public hearings between now and mid-May, when it will finally decide what proposed amendments will appear on the November 2018 ballot.

The LWV should pay close attention and make its voices heard as many of the remaining proposals will, if they make it to the 2018 ballot and are approved by 60% of the voters, will have great effect on the lives of Floridians.

Tony Dutton



Message from the Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is hard at work developing a slate of Board Officers and Directors to be presented and voted on at the next annual meeting scheduled for April 2018.

The committee has set the challenging goal of continuing to diversify board membership while maintaining continuity and utilizing collective experience. The nominating process is very open and committee members want to make sure that leadership opportunities are available to all.

Please let Nominating Committee Members (listed below) know if you or someone you know is interested in serving on the board or taking another leadership role within the League.

2018 Nominating Committee: Jo Shim (Chair), Martha Bradshaw, Tony Dutton, Diane Conaway and Ron Bobay.



Natural Resources Chair – Susan Little

Bio Solids by Maureen Rupe

I've written many articles over the past year on bio-solids; how septic tanks may be blamed for our algae blooms, where cities and counties are spreading bio solids as fertilizer. We may be in luck. I'm hearing St Lucie Representative Larry Lee Jr is introducing a bill this coming session to put restrictions on the application of bio-solids in the Indian River Lagoon. This would be a significant help to the Indian River Lagoon, as an April 2017 article by Lucas Daprile in TCPalm.com, titled "Human waste dumped near Florida Springs", explained how Class AA isn't even tracked by Florida Department of Environmental Protection, so bio-solids can be spread all around Brevard County without tracking, even though it contains the same amount of algae producing nitrogen and phosphorus.

According to the same article, in 2007 Florida Lawmakers banded Class B waste being spread near the Okeechobee, St. Lucie River and Caloosahatchee River Watersheds. They did this citing phosphorus pollution. The law didn't mention Class AA bio-solids, so many plants begin treating to the higher standards. The trouble is according to the article, Class AA has fecal and heavy metals removed, but has the same amount of nitrogen and phosphorus as Class B bio-solids.

The same article stated there are 83 sites the Department of Environmental Protection allows landowners to dump "Class B" waste. Class B is more

regulated due to fecal and heavy metal content it contains after treatment. The article shows a map of the active sites allowing Class B effluent, two are in Brevard county, both within the miles of the Indian River Lagoon. Site FLA395731 (Jakubcin) is 200 acres (4890 Lloyd St, Mims), less than 4 miles from the Indian River Lagoon, and has 176.7 dry tons applied (353,400 pounds). Site FLA844462 (Port St John Site) is 85.5 acres (Ranch Road, Port St. John), less than 2 miles from the Indian River Lagoon, and has 16.335 dry tons applied (232,670 pounds).

"Biosolids in Florida: 2013 Summary" was published in Dec 2014. It shows there are a number of Brevard facilities applying bio-solids: Cocoa Water Reclamation Facility, applying 232.24 dry tons of bio-solids, Melbourne/DB Lee Waste Water Treatment Plant applying 554.2 dry tons of bio-solids, Melbourne /Grant Street applying 534.9 dry tons of bio-solids, Palm Bay #1 WRF, applying 937.93 dry tons of bio-solids, Palm Bay #2, 937.9 dry tons of bio-solids, Titusville North - Osprey, 213.3 dry tons of bio-solids, West Melbourne/Ray Bullard, 256.1 dry tons of bio-solids. To be fair, Titusville seems to be using wetlands and Palm Bay injects some into a deep well, although their Plan shows both Palm Bay sites as producing bio-solids for off-site application, but doesn't say where they apply their bio-solids. Indian River County seems to have a much higher impact to the Indian River Lagoon as it has four ranches taking in a lot of liquid or solid bio-solids. Corrigan Ranch (FLA587214) 2336 acres, having 4072 dry tons of bio-solids applied. Flying L Ranch (FLA626040) 651 acres, having 1365 dry tons of bio-solids applied. Ox Creek Ranch (FLA790940) 432 acres, having 1291 dry tons of bio-solids applied. Pressley Ranch (FLA801097) 3059 acres, having 5744 dry tons of bio-solids applied.

I wonder what the cities and counties are doing with their bio-solids during Brevard County's summer fertilizer ban? Are they holding it until fall? What about reuse water, do the cities shut down their systems during the summer fertilizer ban?

Please call your representatives and tell them we need to put restrictions on the application of bio-solids in the Indian River Lagoon. We can't have tons of fertilizer containing nitrogen and phosphorus applied to farm land and also ignore what it is doing to our Lagoon.

Reference:

<http://www.tcpalm.com/story/news/investigations/2017/04/26/human-waste-dumped-near-florida-springs-video/99166202/>

<https://www.noexperiencenecessarybook.com/z3wLo/biosolids-in-florida-2013-summary.html>



International Relations

Joyce Calese – Chair

You are all invited to the December International Relations presentation **Brief Overview of National Security Law – Ethics, Leaks, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) and Cyber Operations and the Law of Armed Conflict**.

Molly Tasker with her expertise will present to us the latest available information on this important topic.
Date and Time: Tuesday, December 12th 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Where: Satellite Beach Library at 751 Jamaica Blvd. Satellite Beach, FL 32937

January we will be starting discussion of the **Great Decisions 2018 topics:**

The Waning of Pax Americana? By Carla Norrlof

During the first months of Donald Trump's presidency, the U.S. began a historic shift away from Pax Americana, the liberal international order that was established in the wake of World War II. Since 1945, Pax Americana has promised peaceful international relations and an open economy, buttressed by U.S. military power. In championing "America First" isolationism and protectionism, President Trump has shifted the political mood toward selective U.S. engagement, where foreign commitments are limited to areas of vital U.S. interest and economic nationalism is the order of the day. Geopolitical allies and challengers alike are paying close attention.

Russia's foreign policy By Allen C. Lynch

Under President Vladimir Putin, Russia is projecting an autocratic model of governance abroad and working to undermine the influence of liberal democracies, namely along Russia's historical borderlands. Russia caused an international uproar in 2016, when it interfered in the U.S. presidential contest. But Putin's foreign policy toolkit includes other instruments, from alliances with autocrats to proxy wars with the U.S. in Georgia, Ukraine and Syria. How does Putin conceive of national interests, and why do Russian citizens support him? How should the United States respond to Putin's foreign policy ambitions?

China and America: the new geopolitical equation

By David M. Lampton

In the last 15 years, China has implemented a wide-ranging strategy of economic outreach and expansion of all its national capacities, including military and diplomatic capacities. Where the United States has taken a step back from multilateral trade agreements and discarded the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), China has made inroads through efforts like the Belt and Road Initiative and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). What are Beijing's geopolitical objectives? What

leadership and political conditions in each society underlie growing Sino-American tensions? What policies might Washington adopt to address this circumstance?

Media and foreign policy By Susan Moeller

State and non-state actors today must maneuver a complex and rapidly evolving media landscape. Conventional journalism now competes with user-generated content. Official channels of communication can be circumvented through social media. Foreign policy is tweeted from the White House and "fake news" has entered the zeitgeist. Cyberwarfare, hacking and misinformation pose complex security threats. How are actors using media to pursue and defend their interests in the international arena? What are the implications for U.S. policy?

Turkey: a partner in crisis By Ömer Taşpinar

Of all NATO allies, Turkey represents the most daunting challenge for the Trump administration. In the wake of a failed military coup in July 2016, the autocratic trend in Ankara took a turn for the worse. One year on, an overwhelming majority of the population considers the United States to be their country's greatest security threat. In this age of a worsening "clash of civilizations" between Islam and the West, even more important than its place on the map is what Turkey symbolically represents as the most institutionally Westernized Muslim country in the world.

U.S. global engagement and the military

By Gordon Adams

The global power balance is rapidly evolving, leaving the United States at a turning point with respect to its level of engagement and the role of its military. Some argue for an "America First" paradigm, with a large military to ensure security, while others call for a more assertive posture overseas. Some advocate for a restoration of American multilateral leadership and a strengthened role for diplomacy. Still others envision a restrained U.S. role, involving a more limited military. How does the military function in today's international order, and how might it be balanced with diplomatic and foreign assistance capabilities?

South Africa's fragile democracy By Sean Jacobs

The African National Congress (ANC) party has governed South Africa since the end of apartheid in 1994. But the party today suffers from popular frustration over official corruption and economic stagnation. It faces growing threats from both left and right opposition parties, even as intraparty divisions surface. Given America's history of opportunistic engagement with Africa, there are few prospects for a closer relationship between the two countries. Meanwhile, a weaker ANC could lead to political fragmentation in this relatively new democracy.

(continued on Page 6)



Chair – Recycling
Marcia Booth
Recycling Awards Program

Recycling Awards Program

Application to our 2017-18 Recycling Awards Program is open and can be submitted using our online Recycling Awards Program - School Application Form (<http://bit.ly/2zEplpc>).

All Brevard County elementary, middle and high schools are invited to participate.

Important Dates

Application forms are due by January 08, 2018
 Entry submissions are due by April 27, 2018

For more information, visit the *Recycling* page on the League's website (http://lwv-spacecoast.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=992157&module_id=259415).

Members who would like to volunteer to judge submissions, please contact Marcia Booth, Recycling Awards Program Coordinator at Marcia@RecycleBrevard.org. Judging will take place in April 2018 at Brevard Public Schools.



Justice Committee
Chair Alberta Wilson

Currently, approximately 1.3 million Floridians have lost their right to vote even though they have completed their sentences and paid all debt to society; these individuals deserve a second chance. The Florida Rights Restoration Coalition's Voting Restoration Amendment to the Florida constitution would restore voting rights of these individuals, excepting those convicted of murder or sex offenses.

Getting the petition for the automatic restoration of voting rights before the Florida Supreme Court for approval was no easy feat, but we did it. And I believe we can do it again.

It is up to the League to do its part in assisting organizations across the state in collecting enough signed Constitutional Amendment Petition Forms to place the Voting Restoration Amendment on the 2018 ballot. This is where we all can take part. Each league is asked to engage in petition gathering and education. If each of our members endeavored to get 10 forms signed, we could far exceed our local goal!

Thus far, 750,000 petitions have been collected, but only about 325,000 have been verified. To offset duplications and the ones that will be rejected for whatever reasons, the Coalition is asking that we collect one million. A huge push is needed to get to one million, but I am convinced we can do it.

The campaign leaders, Desmond Meade and Cecile Scoon, have said the districts we need to focus on collecting are central Florida and south Florida, but this does not exempt the rest of the state. For this amendment to get on the next ballot we all need to step it up a bit and work hard to collect signatures.

For questions regarding this campaign you may contact Tony Dutton at 321-254-1161 or me (Alberta Wilson) at 321-632-9852. To have signed petitions picked up, you may call Kathy Freeman at 321-759-0235.

Alberta K. Wilson, Chair
 Justice Committee



HOLD THE DATE!

**"Celebrate the League" – January 18th,
 2018 (Thursday)**

The Board of The League of Women Voters of the Space Coast is hosting the 6th annual "Celebrate the League" event and inviting all members, friends and those that might be interested in joining to a **Wine and Hors d'oeuvres Party.**

When: Thursday, January 18th
Time: 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Where: Melbourne Village Hall
 535 Hammock Road
 Melbourne Village, FL 32904

Reservations: RSVP Deadline: by Monday, January 15th

Reservations can be made on line at www.lwv-spacecoast.org or to Doreen Archer at 321-622-4071 so we know how many will be attending.

There is no cost.

Welcome to our New Members

Vincent Taranto
Kevin Panik
Sarah A. Donnelly



Education

Linda Scales and Fran Baer Co-Chairs

Still Too Many Homeless Brevard K-12

Students_by Linda Scales

The experience of losing a permanent place to live can be very traumatic to school aged children. As of November 7th, 2017, Brevard Public Schools reports there are 1649 declared homeless students attending school. There are 109 living in a shelter, 1210 are living with another family (doubled up), 45 are living in campgrounds, and 227 are living in a hotel/motel.

Dr. Sally Shinn shinn.sally@brevardschools.org is the Homeless Liaison at the district level and works closely with all the homeless liaisons in each school. She also hosts monthly meetings with service organizations from throughout the county to provide assistance to these students and work on solutions to prevent homelessness.

According to the BPS website, the goal of Brevard Public Schools is "Full access and participation in school for our students-in -transition". "The mission of the Students in Transition (SIT) program is to identify students who are homeless, remove barriers to their education, and provide information to appropriate community resources, while keeping the students fully participating in school."

According to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, homeless children and youth must have access to a free and appropriate public education, including preschool, and be given a full opportunity to meet state and local academic achievement standards. They must be included in state and district wide assessments and accountability systems. Homeless students will not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless, and can be enrolled immediately without documents usually required.



International Relations Article

Continued from Page 4

Global health: progress and challenges

By Joshua Michaud

The collective action of countries, communities and organizations over the last 30 years has literally saved millions of lives around the world. Yet terrible inequalities in health and well-being persist. The world now faces a mix of old and new health challenges, including the preventable deaths of mothers and children, continuing epidemics of infectious diseases, and rising rates of chronic disease. We also remain vulnerable to the emergence of new and deadly pandemics. For these reasons, the next several decades will be just as important – if not more so – than the last in determining well-being across nations.



Board Bytes

- Susan Webb volunteered and was approved by the Board to fill the position of 1st Vice President until the April 2018 Annual meeting.
- There have been meetings with most of Brevard Representatives and Senators to the Florida Legislature.
- A survey of League members is planned soon to gather opinions from members on how we could be improving and things that you like.
- Barbara Williams, Audrey Greyson, Linda Scales and Terry Mott attended the LWVF Leaders Conference in October in Maitland, FL.
- This is thinking ahead but plans are being formulated for the 2018 Annual Meeting. It was decided that the meeting would be followed by a Tea rather than a Luncheon. Details will be announced later.
- Website and Social Media Quarterly Working Group is planned for 2018. This group will meet four times in 2018 with the first meeting to be held at the Cocoa Library on January 6th from 2 to 4. All members are invited to attend.
- Sharon Reynolds Mixon has agreed to be NPVIC point person for our League. NPVIC is National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.
- We are looking for a volunteer to be Point of contact for Voter Advocacy
- Chair is needed for Hospitality.
- Susan Little, Lorraine and Larry Koss attended the First Solar Congress on Saturday November 4th. This was presented by Solar United Neighborhoods (formerly FL Sun).
 - a. In the past year, solar powered electrical generation in Florida increased by 110% bringing Florida to 10th in the nation from 13th.
 - b. The car industry has indicated that by 2025 all their models will have an EV variation available.
 - c. China has pledged to forbid the manufacture of internal combustion engines within 5 years.
 - Susan Little and Terry Mott attended the Sierra Club meeting when Phil Stoddard discussed the Ready for 100 campaign. Florida is leading the nation in number of cities that have pledged to be 100% powered by renewable energy. Brevard County does not have a city that has signed the pledge.
 - LWVF Legislative Summit (Lobby Days) will be held in Tallahassee on February 6 and 7, 2018

i Gun Safety

Gun Safety was one of the topics featured at the October Florida League conference in Maitland. Information can be found at <http://www.lwvfl.org/issue/gun-safety> . Gun Safety is a Legislative Priority:

- Support a ban of all semi-automatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines.
- Support comprehensive universal background checks.
- Oppose any legislation that would expand the right to carry a concealed weapon, to carry a weapon on a school or a school or college campus and to have open carry in the state of Florida.
- Support retrieval of firearms from anyone with restraining or protective orders and/or convictions regarding stalking of domestic violence against them.

November Timely Topic Photos



Fran Baer, Rita Hewett & Sheila Bollinger



President Barbara Williams



Margee Smith & Sami Bolger



Terry LaPlante & Bill Young



Speaker Troy Post



Debra Mischley, Betty Lou Steen-Clarke & Marilynn Collins

December Calendar - ~Members are welcome at all meetings~

Saturday, December 2 nd	Holiday Luncheon at The Tides at 11:30 a.m. (Details on Page 1)
Saturday, December 2 nd	Ocean Reef Beach Festival from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Pelican Beach Park in Satellite Beach
Tuesday, December 5 th	Board Meeting at Suntree Library at 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, December 12 th	International Relations Meeting at Satellite Beach Library from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Speaker will be Molly Tasker. Topic is "Brief Overview of National Security Law - Ethics, Leaks, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA), and Cyber Operations and the Law of Armed Conflict."
Thursday, December 21 st	Education Committee Meeting at Suntree Library at 10 a.m.
Monday, December 18 th	Health Committee Meeting at Suntree Library at 6 p.m.

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

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

Issue Date: December 2017

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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
- Recycling
- Social Media/Facebook
- 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