



# The Voter



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

Volume 34: No. 5

January, 2015

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.



~Politicos on Parade 2015~  
Luncheon & Fashion Show  
Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>



The bi-annual Luncheon and Fashion Show sponsored by Space Coast League of Women Voters is the main fundraiser of the year. Our models are newly elected officials from Brevard County. Fashions will be presented by **Frankly My Dear** in Cocoa Village and **Men's Wearhouse** at 1745 West New Haven in Melbourne.

**Where:** Indian River Colony Club (Event will be held in Colony Hall.) This is a separate building that is located north and a little behind the main clubhouse. Parking is in the same area in front of the main club house and there is a walk to the hall.

**Address:** 1936 Freedom Drive, Melbourne, FL 32940  
(Entry to Indian River Colony Club is at intersection of Murrell Road and Old Glory Blvd.)

**Time:** 11:30 a.m.

**Menu:** London Broil with Roasted Potatoes  
Baked Salmon with Dill Sauce and Rice  
(both served with appropriate vegetables)  
Vegetarian Plate - Chef's Choice  
Apple Cobbler for dessert

**Cost:** \$40.00

Reservations to Doreen Archer at 321- 622-4071 no later than Saturday, January 24, 2015

Checks should be made out to LWVSC and mailed before the event to  
Brigitte Sinton  
6629 Canal Road  
Melbourne Village, FL 32904

Please indicate your entrée choice. Your check is your receipt.

**This is our Major Fundraiser!!!  
Come and bring a friend - or two - or three!!!**

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**Underwriters are needed for  
The Voter. Please call  
Doreen Archer at 321-622-  
4071 for more information.**



## President's Corner

Marilynn Collins & Priscilla Griffith

Dear Leaguers,

Our **Holiday Luncheon at The Tides** was a lot of fun with over 40 attendees enjoying good food, camaraderie and entertainment by a local barbershop quartet. We even got to participate in a sing-a-long. Raffle ticket prizes including free admissions to the Brevard Zoo, patriotic scarves and a couple of Uncle Sam top hats drew a lot of smiles. A big thank you to Brevard Zoo for the passes and to all members who brought much needed personal supplies for victims of human trafficking. Children's Committee Chair Maria Mogollon-Seemer is delivering the donations to the Brevard County Sheriff's Department for distribution to those in need.

I am pleased to announce that effective December 2, 2014, we have a new board member. Marcia Booth was appointed to our Board of Directors at our December meeting. Marcia is the President and CEO of Recyclebrevard.org and is our Project Coordinator for the League of Women Voters of the Space Coast/Brevard County School Recycling Awards Program. She also has a full time job. Marcia lives in Suntree with her husband and daughter.

Our **Human Trafficking Timely Topics on November 20th**, co-sponsored with Brevard Federation of Retired Teachers, was well attended with over 60 attendees. Guest Speakers Dr. Anthony Davis and Karla Hernandez-Mats educated us on how wide-spread this problem is and of the warning signs of which to be aware. Florida has one of the highest instances of human trafficking in the United States. Much needs to be done to help the victims once they are removed from this dangerous situation.

Looking forward to 2015, which is the **95th Birthday of the League**, the **top priorities** for the League of Women Voters of Florida (LWVF) will be the **restoration of felon's voting rights** and pressing our Legislature to **expand Medicaid and accept the \$51 billion in federal health care funds**. Justice Chair Alberta Wilson is seeking members for her committee which will be spearheading our League's participation in the process of placing a constitutional amendment on the 2016 ballot for Restoration of Voting Rights. LWVF will be part of a coalition and more details from the State League office will be forthcoming. Our Health Care Committee is working on an event to increase awareness of the availability of health insurance through the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. LWVF has received a grant to participate in local outreach to local

businesses and groups regarding Medicaid expansion. We are hoping to join this effort.

Many of the key organizations, of which the League of Women Voters of Florida is one, that were part of the **Amendment 1 - Water and Land Conservation Amendment** coalition held a meeting in Miami early in December to discuss implementation of Amendment 1. All agreed that maintaining the coalition is essential to ensuring that the Florida Legislature and Governor Scott adhere to the intent of Florida Voters to fund water and land conservation, management and restoration. The coalition will keep us updated while the Florida Legislature is in session to ensure that Amendment 1 goes to funding the programs that are critical to protecting and restoring Florida's waterways and natural lands.

The League of Women Voters of Florida **Legislative Summit** is scheduled for **March 10-12, 2015**. This event brings League members from throughout the state to Tallahassee to advocate on issues before our state leaders. The three-day seminar includes seminars, briefings with legislative leaders, lobbying legislators in person, formal luncheons and dinners and a fundraising gala with Florida leaders. It is a great way to network with other League members and Tallahassee in the spring can be delightful. Our League has funds to help with registration fees, so if you are interested, give me a call.

Voter Service Chair Tony Dutton is looking for a few volunteers to help with the 2015-2016 CONTACT - Directory of Elected Officials, so give him a call if you can help out. Doreen Archer is seeking assistance with Hospitality. Please contact Doreen if you have some time to volunteer.

Don't miss out on our **POLITICOS ON PARADE FUNDRAISER**. This is the one and only major fundraiser for the year and a wonderful way to support your League. Bring a friend or two or book a table. All the details are on the front page and profits are earmarked for expanding citizen education on voting rights and other important local, state and national issues

The **Nominating Committee** is looking for members who are dedicated to League and are willing to give of their time and talent on our Board. If you would like to nominate someone, please contact our Nominating Committee Chair, Fran Baer. Elections will be held at our Annual Meeting in April.

Wishing you all a Happy, Safe and Prosperous 2015!

In League,  
Marilynn



**Children's Committee**  
**Maria Mogollon-Seemer – Chair**

**Brevard Public Schools Legislative Priorities –  
 “Bridge to Tallahassee” by Maria Mogollon-Seemer,  
 Children Committee Chair**

Brevard County’s School Board has created a legislative platform labeled “Bridge to Tallahassee” calling for revisions to the K-12 legislation in the upcoming session of the Florida Legislature. With full support from the School Board and Brevard County Public Schools (PBS) Superintendent, and championed by the Board Chair, Ms. Karen Henderson, the platform details changes needed in procedures and funding to make a more equitable statewide educational system.

Proposed changes to the current law include eliminating the 30% requirement for all state required end of year course grades, removing the requirement of student performance in personnel evaluation at least in the first year of new assessments and fully funding legislative mandated educational technology to name a few. The full version of the legislative platform can be found at

[http://www.edline.net/pages/Brevard County Schools/School Board/Legislation](http://www.edline.net/pages/Brevard_County_Schools/School_Board/Legislation)

The School Board will also host a series of meetings and public events, to provide legislative priorities, inform the public and mobilize stakeholders. These include meetings with:

- Parents and community
- State organizations (FSBA, FADDS, PTO, FEA, BFT)
- Legislators

Video segments will be created to share vital information. As of this writing seven episodes are planned. Each of these episodes will also have a companion article in *edConnect*, which is a district-wide publication distributed to more than 70,000 people. It is published seven times a school year. The newspaper is distributed to all BPS employees, goes home to parents of elementary and middle school students, and is available in public areas at the high schools as well as in public waiting areas in doctor’s and dentist’s offices, libraries, senior centers and other places.

The School Board is asking for everyone’s involvement in creating change. As you know from the Lee County backlash after they decided to opt out of standardized testing, the process needs to be centered around what is in the best interest of our students. To that effect there is a petition called “Be a Change Agent to the Florida Assessment & Accountability System”. You can sign the petition online or print out and mail it

in. The target by January is 10,000 signatures. The petition can be found on same site as the platform or directly under this link.

<http://www.thepetitionsite.com/365/620/629/be-a-change-agent-to-the-florida-assessment-accountability-system/>

We also have a new **Education Blog** created by Sue Legg, recipient of the 2014 “Leaguer of the Year” award. The Blog follows very interesting happenings all across the state and the nation in the area of education and particularly charter schools. It is free. To subscribe visit <http://lwveducation.com>.



**Board Bytes**

- 132 Members
- We welcome Marcia Booth as a new appointed Director to the Board.
- Annual Meeting for 2015 will be on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Location will be announced later.
- A Timely Topic will be planned for early 2015 that is not a luncheon. Consequently there is not a cost involved.
- Work will begin in January for preparing the 2015-2016 CONTACT.
- Reminder that if a reservation is made for a luncheon, it is necessary to pay even if you are unable to attend.
- Nominating Committee will be meeting in January. Please see article on Page 4.
- Members are studying the Port Canaveral Rail Extension Proposal.
- LWV is a lead group in an alliance on the Restoration of Rights issue. Formal announcement is coming soon.

**In Memoriam**  
*Condolences to family of*  
**Richard Tweed**  
*Richard was a long time member of League of Women Voters of the Space Coast.*

**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.



## Natural Resources Susan Little – Chair

### Florida Legislature and the Water and Land Conservation Initiative

by Maureen Rupe

The League of Women Voters, including the Space Coast Chapter supported Amendment 1 – Water and Land Conservation, through dedication, a lot of hard work, and concern for the environment. The initiative was brought about due to the Florida Legislature shifting money away from Florida Forever and other conservation efforts for a number of years. Amendment 1 passed with 74.96%. There were 4,238,739 for the amendment, and 1,415,924 against. As far as I am concerned, and I assume every other voter who supported the issue, this was a clear mandate to our Florida Legislature.

That was the good news, but unfortunately there is bad news. According to a November 23, 2014 story by Mary Ellen Klas of the Miami Herald Tallahassee Bureau, titled “Legislators will decide whether to limit impact of environmental initiative,” there are legislators that are making plans to go around the will of the people. “...Sen. David Simmons, R-Maitland, Gardiner’s point man on the issue, said he believes the amendment is so broadly written it gives lawmakers the ability to replace money now spent on existing environmental programs with the doc stamp money. “I believe that the wording of the constitutional amendment gives the Legislature broad authority to deal with it – and that includes transferring those programs that are general revenue over to the doc stamps,” he said. “We are not going to play shell games.” The article indicated House Speaker Steve Crisafulli, a Merritt Island Republican, wants to increase funding for water and land protection, but the article indicated he also wants to do it slowly so it prevents increasing doc stamp revenues. It stated his staff was reorganizing environmental program funding, but it seemed awfully close to what Senator Simmons was indicating of forcing the Water and Conservation Initiative to pick up the tabs of any other state environmental programs.

Clay Henderson, an Orlando lawyer and one of the amendment’s authors, in the story couldn’t understand how the legislature can ignore the will of the people, and while referring to the vote results “What part of 75 percent do they not understand?” It almost sounds like the Florida and House plans to put all the environmental projects into one a pile and have them all be funded by the Water and Land Conservation Initiative. Eric Draper of Florida Audubon stated in the story “If there’s just one pot of money and the Legislature starts handing the

money out in the Appropriations Act, it becomes a lobbyist-driven process.”

If this is true, how could our Florida Legislature stoop to such lows, and how could our local Representative Steve Crisafulli possibly be a part of trampling the will of the people. I hope not; Florida deserves better.

Reference:

<http://election.dos.state.fl.us/initiatives/initdetail.asp?account=59894&seqnum=1>

[http://ballotpedia.org/Florida\\_Water\\_and\\_Land\\_Conservation\\_Initiative,\\_Amendment\\_1\\_\(2014\)](http://ballotpedia.org/Florida_Water_and_Land_Conservation_Initiative,_Amendment_1_(2014))

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics-government/article4080090.html>



## Nominating Committee

### Suggestions Are In Order

Article VIII, Section 1 (e) of the LWVSC Bylaws says “Any voting member may submit suggestions for nominations for officers and directors to this committee.” Thus, the Nominating Committee is requesting your suggestions for the following positions which will be open in 2015: president, 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president, children’s committee director, finance director, voter editor, and nominating committee chair and two members.

As a member in good standing, if you are interested or wish to suggest a member to serve in any of these positions, please contact current Nominating Committee Chair, Fran Baer at 321 264-1465 or [fbair@cfl.rr.com](mailto:fbair@cfl.rr.com) by **January 7, 2015**. A slate will be presented to the Board of Directors at its February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, followed by the committee’s report to the membership one month prior to the annual meeting and the vote on April 11, 2015.

While the only qualification stated in the bylaws is that the officers and directors be voting members of the LWVSC, it has been a practice to designate a program of responsibility aligned with their interest and experience. Current officers and directors with their areas of responsibility are listed on page 1 of the Membership Book.

We have been so fortunate to have officers and directors whose dedication to the mission has been admirable and appreciated. It is the nominating committee’s responsibility to continue this tradition of quality service. With your help, we believe we can.

If you have any questions, please contact Fran or a member of the committee: Joyce Calese, Annie Frame, Priscilla Griffith, and Fern Patton.



**Health Committee**  
**Jo Shim & Connie Dobrin Co-Chairs**

**Brevard Health Alliance: Providing Primary  
 Care for All Residents of Brevard County**

Brevard Health Alliance is the only FQHC (Federally Qualified Health Center) in Brevard County. FQHCs are designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as quality providers of comprehensive primary health care to medically underserved communities and vulnerable populations. Medical services provided by FQHCs are available to all residents with sliding scale fees based on financial need. They are also required to meet multiple accountability and quality measures in clinical practice as well as administrative operations.

Brevard Health Alliance (BHA) is a private, not for profit organization with a community Board of Directors that includes clinic patients as board members. Services provided by BHA are available for patients of all ages and include Family Practice, Pediatrics, Behavioral Health, Dental, Case Management, Medication Assistance and specialty referral services. Clinics are located throughout Brevard and services provided strive to follow a treatment model that emphasizes preventative health and management of chronic disease.

Pediatric clinics are available on Sarno Road in Melbourne, Rockledge, Palm Bay and Malabar. Adult clinics are also located in these clinics with additional adult clinics at Silver Palm in Melbourne and Titusville. A mobile unit provides services at soup kitchens, churches and transitional housing locations. Dental services are available to children and adults at two locations. Behavioral Health practitioners provide evaluation and counseling services to adults and children at most BHA locations.

Trained Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace Certified Application Counselors are available at each BHA clinic site. These counselors guide qualifying residents through the ACA insurance application process and will continue providing assistance until the end of open enrollment on February 15, 2015. Any uninsured person can make an appointment with an ACA specialist at BHA or the United Way (321-557-5430). There are significant discounts (called tax credits) for low income individuals. Questions can be directed to the Sarno Marketplace specialist at 321-241-6800.

Jennifer Gee, ARNP



**International Relations**  
**Joyce Calese**

The International Relations Group will view the PBS, FRONTLINE video, THE RISE OF ISIS at the Satellite Beach Library from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, January 13.

The discussion will center on the extremist groups: Al-Qaeda, ISIS and Khorasan. We will attempt to understand the development of these groups.

February through May we will be meeting twice a month to study the topics in the 2015 *Great Decisions* published by the Foreign Policy Association.

Topics for 2015 are::

- **Russia and the Near Abroad**
- **Privacy in the Digital Age**
- **Sectarianism in the Middle East**
- **India Changes Course**
- **U.S. Policy Toward Africa**
- **Syria's Refugee Crisis**
- **Human Trafficking in the 21st Century**
- **Brazil's Metamorphosis**

Our February to May meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday's of the month.

The pre-ordered 2015 Great Decisions books should arrive by the time of our January meeting and will be distributed to those who ordered books.

~Welcome to our New Members~

**Angie Howell**  
**Patricia C. Manning**

Patricia was a member of our League from 2007-2009. Welcome Back!

Please add new members to your membership book. Addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of new members will be sent to you by e-mail. If you have friends who belong to League of Women Voters of the Space Coast who do not receive e-mail, it would be helpful if you could contact them and give them addresses and phone numbers of new members to add to their membership books. We discontinued printing this information in our *Voters* because of privacy concerns since our *Voters* are distributed to libraries and other community locations. They are found on line at our web site, [www.lwv-spacecoast.org](http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org)



## Voter Protection: Three Takeaways from Election Protection's Post Election Convening

Election 2014 has passed but it is important to continue to be concerned about Voter Rights throughout the United States. The following article from a LWV member from Ohio was written on a blog by Mandy Wrinkle. It is found at <http://lwv.org/blog/voter-protection-three-takeaways-election-protection%E2%80%99s-post-election-convening>.

"In Ohio we say elections are like the weather. If you don't like how things look right now, just wait five minutes and it will all change." Carrie Davis, executive director of the [League of Women Voters of Ohio](#), shared those words as a guest panelist during the nonpartisan Election Protection coalition's convening entitled *The Road Ahead for Voting Rights: Lessons Learned and Building Winning Strategies for 2015 and Beyond*.

The event brought together national organizations like the ACLU, the Brennan Center for Justice and the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights with state and community-based groups like the affiliates of the League of Women Voters, Democracy North Carolina, Colorado Common Cause and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth to share their successes, challenges and lessons learned from the 2014 election cycle.

At the top of many attendees' minds was the dire need to protect voters on day one of the 2015 state legislative season, which promises to bring with it many renewed attempts to restrict voters' rights at the state level.

As a first time attendee of this event, and being relatively new to voter protection work, here are three practical takeaways that stuck with me:

1. **Voting rights advocacy is a year-round activity.** Even as they debrief from Election Day 2014, voting rights advocates are beginning to pivot to working with legislators and officials in states where voting rights may be challenged during the 2015 legislative season or where there are opportunities for reforms to [make our elections fair, free and accessible](#). Others are working to identify ways to expand their voting rights advocacy work, including in places where ongoing legal challenges by the League of Women Voters and other groups remain. While the mainstream media may consider 2015 an off-year for elections, advocates know they must start preparing now for 2016.
2. **Election rules can change rapidly.** In the lead up to Election Day, we all have a role to play in making sure voters have the information they need. Promoting and sharing education

materials online – such as through the League's award-winning [VOTE411.org](#) election resources – gives advocates the ability to constantly make changes and update information as needed. [The League of Women Voters of Ohio used online tools](#), which proved to be immensely important when [election information was changing rapidly before Election Day](#), sometimes week-to-week.

3. **Relationships are key.** Effective voting rights advocacy requires national, state and local organizations from a variety of backgrounds to work together. To be successful, groups need to both honor their own strengths and support each other's work. For local activists, this might be sharing powerful stories that they learn in the communities with the media, their national or state offices, or other partners who can help shine a light on these injustices. For state groups, this could mean supporting elections officials as they push for additional funding in their budgets to hire additional staff or modernize their work. When we build an overarching culture of support and cooperation amongst partners, voters win.

Attending the Election Protection convening made me excited for what's ahead in 2015, and helped me to see how the League plays a unique and important role in the nationwide voting rights advocacy community. Voting rights advocacy isn't for the faint of heart, and I'm looking forward to hearing about the successes that will emerge next year."

### The League of Women Voters

"The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, has fought since 1920 to improve U.S. systems of government and impact public policies through education and advocacy. The League's enduring vitality and resonance comes from its grassroots nature, with members operating at the national, state, and local levels working towards the goal of "making democracy work."

There are Leagues in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong, in addition to the hundreds of local Leagues nationwide.

The League of Women Voters is strictly nonpartisan; it neither supports nor opposes candidates for office at any level of government. The League makes a difference at every level of government because of the energy and passion of thousands of members around the country who work together to safeguard our democracy."

[http://www.vote411.org/about#.VlCLwzHF\\_yA](http://www.vote411.org/about#.VlCLwzHF_yA)

Timely Topics on Human Trafficking co-sponsored with Brevard Federation of Teachers - Retirees Chapter



David & Ruth Schechter



Cynthia Babich & Annie Frame



Kathy Whitehead & Shirley Lynn



Karla Hernandez-Mats



Cecelia Knight & Lillie Newsome

Holiday Luncheon



Diane Conaway & Jack Kainsinger



Maria Mogollon-Seemer & Marilynn Collins



Frank Clifford & JoDee Wilfong

~January Calendar - Members welcome at all meetings~

Wednesday, January 7- Board Meeting at Suntree Library at 10:15 a.m. (large meeting room)

Tuesday, January 13 - International Relations Meeting at Satellite Beach Library 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Viewing and discussion of FRONTLINE'S VIDEO "The Rise of ISIS"

Children's Committee - Date not known when Voter was published

Health Committee - 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 6 p.m. at Suntree Tree Library but verify date with Jo Shim or Connie Dobrin - Health Committee Chairs

Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>

POLITICOS ON PARADE FUNDRAISER- Luncheon and Fashion Show at Indian River Colony Club in Colony Hall (separate building) at 11:30 a.m.

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