



The Voter

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



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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.

Two Outstanding Upcoming Events to start 2017



Timely Topics Luncheon

with guest speakers Senator Bob Graham & Chris Hand who will discuss their new book, "America, the Owner's Manual: You Can Fight City Hall – and Win"

Both authors have outstanding backgrounds. Bob Graham was a Florida Senator serving from 1987 to 2005 and previously served two terms as Governor of Florida. "Since leaving the Senate in early 2005 he has led national commissions on weapons of mass destruction, the BP oil spill and financing public higher education. He is Chair of the "Florida Conservation Coalition."

Chris Hand is an attorney/long time public servant who was a press secretary and campaign press secretary for Senator Graham. More recently he was Chief of Staff for the City of Jacksonville.

Their book outlines how to empower Americans to become agents for the betterment of their communities.

Date: Saturday, January 14th at 11:30 a.m.

**Place: Pavilion Ballroom Radisson Resort at the Port
8701 Astronaut Boulevard, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920**

Details on menu and purchasing tickets are found on Page 3.



2017 Politicos on Parade Luncheon & Fashion Show



This fundraiser has been presented by League of Women Voters of the Space Coast every two years since 2005. Our models are newly elected officials from Brevard County. Fashions will be provided by **La Moda** in Suntree and **Mens Wearhouse** in Melbourne. This is an opportunity to invite friends to an enjoyable afternoon and also to meet up with new and long time League friends.

This is the major fundraiser for the League. Profits from this event are earmarked for expanded citizen education on voting rights and other important local, state and national issues.

Date: Friday, February 3rd at 11:30 a.m.

**Place: Suntree County Club
One Country Club Drive, Melbourne, FL 32940**

Details on menu and purchasing tickets are found on Page 3.

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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

Into the New Year Already and All Ready for 2017

Wow, that was fast! Looking back, Leaguewise, we have a great deal upon which to reflect. Not the least of which is our membership growth, up 35% in 2016, and 54% since 2015.

We all know numbers matter. I am reminded of the conversation we had with a legislator early in 2016. Commenting on our then membership numbers, he said, "When you get to the National Rifle Association count, come talk to me."

Well, we aren't there yet, and may never be, but the trend is headed in the right direction. People are making the choice to join in the League's mission of nonpartisan, informed, and active participation in the pursuit of good government and making democracy work.

We know there are many worthwhile organizations competing for our time, energy and resources. As a matter of fact, many Leaguers belong to several other groups and we benefit from sharing ideas and partnering when our missions align, which happens often.

The League's upcoming Timely Topics on Saturday, January 14th is one such event. While the LWVSC is the sponsor, we invite all organizations, individuals, and the public to come hear former Governor and Senator Bob Graham and his co-author, Chris Hand, discuss their newly released book, "America, the Owner's Manual: You Can Fight City Hall- and Win". The luncheon will be held at the Radisson Resort at the Port and tickets may be purchased through eventbrite accessed via our website. We hope all League members will be there. Invite a friend who may choose to become a member as so many have after attending one of our events.

Since legislators respect numbers, our growth will tell a story of determination as we meet in teams with Brevard's legislative delegation this first month of a new year to explain our priorities set by our members. If you would like to be a part of a two to three member team, please contact Fran at fbair@cfl.rr.com We will be assigning League members residing in each legislator's district. Training will be offered prior to the meetings in their local offices.

As always we look forward to hearing from you. Your membership in the League of Women Voters of the Space Coast is a choice that speaks volumes about your caring and commitment to the community.

We wish you and yours a very happy, healthful 2017.

Fran Baer



Local Government

Ron Bobay - Chair

The Timely Topic for January 14, 2017 is the responsibility of the Local Government Committee. We have secured former Governor and US Senator Bob Graham and his co-author Chris Hand to discuss their new book "America the Owners Manuel You Can Fight City Hall and Win". Much of our effort this last month has been on securing the location and details related to this event. You will see information in this month's Voter concerning this upcoming event.

Some of our members attended the Canaveral Port Authority meetings related to their strategic long range planning. There were a series of community meetings. We are working to be well informed and coordinating with the Natural Resources Committee of the League. There have been concerns related to rail connectivity to the Port and development of cargo capacity.

Efforts to organize the Observer Corp for the League, which is one of our Work Priorities for the current year are taking shape. You will find information on this effort in this month's issue of the Voter, as well. If you have an interest in being an Observer in one of the key agencies identified or your local municipality (there are 16), please consider joining this effort. A brief informational and training will occur in the new year for those considering being part of this effort. It does not need to be an all time consuming effort, as we are working to develop primary observers and alternates. This is an opportunity for you to be better informed of what is occurring in your community and assisting the League in building capacity to be more comprehensively aware of what is happening in our community. Please consider joining this effort so we can be more effective in accomplishing our mission of advocating for good government in a nonpartisan manner.

Sustainability continues to be an area of study to enable us, as a League, to understand the concept and it's implications for our work.

Our first meeting of 2017 will be on February 2, 2017 at the Suntime Library. Meetings are always from 10:15 to noon at the Suntime Library. Please consider joining our Committee if you have not already done so.



Timely Topics with Bob Graham and Chris Hand discussing their latest new book.

Date: Saturday, January 14th at 11:30 a.m.

Place: Pavilion Ballroom at Radisson Resort at the Port
8701 Astronaut Boulevard, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920

Menu: Parmesan Crusted Breast of Chicken
Grilled Mahi Mahi with Mango Relish
Vegetarian on Request
Meal includes salad and Chef's choice of sides.

Cost: \$28

A book signing session will be held following the presentation and books may be purchased at the event.

Public is invited.

RSVP deadline: January 8, 2017

Reservations are made on Eventbrite.

Visit <http://lwvsc-timelytopics.eventbrite.com>

Please bring your electronic or printed copy of the ticket to the event for check-in purposes.

If you have additional questions, please contact Doreen Archer at doreenarcher1@gmail.com or 321-622-4071



2017 Politics on Parade

Join us for this fundraiser and bring your friends. Our models are newly elected Brevard County officials.

Date: Friday, February 3rd at 11:30 a.m.

Place: Suntree Country Club
One Country Club Drive, Melbourne, FL 32940

Menu: Chicken Piccata
Strawberry Salmon
Vegetarian Lasagna
Meal includes garden salad, rolls, & beverages.

Cost: \$45

Public is invited.

RSVP: Deadline for Reservations is Thursday, January 26, 2017.

You can make your reservation by going to our website www.lwv-spacecoast.org and clicking the Eventbrite option of making a reservation or you can **RSVP to Doreen Archer at doreenarcher1@gmail.com or 321-622-4071.** However, if you make your reservation by contacting Doreen Archer with your meal choice, your check should be sent at that time to

Treasurer, Brigitte Sinton
6629 Canal Road, Melbourne Village, FL 32904

If you are unable to attend but would like to send a donation for expanded citizen education and advocacy for voting rights, health care, education, environmental, and other issues, please send check to above address.



LWVF Kickoff 2017: Powerful Leaders Demanding Action!

The League of Women Voters of Florida is having a 2 days conference in Orlando for all interested League members.

When: Friday January 27, 2017 at 3:00 PM EST
to-Saturday January 28, 2017 at 5:00 PM EST

Where: Rosen Plaza Hotel at 9700 International Drive,
Orlando, FL 32819

Cost: Registration cost for the conference is \$99

Overview

Workshops being developed

- Elections Debriefing: Suggestions for other Leagues to use and ways LWVF can improve in Voter Service implementation
- Media Training: What they want, What to do: Mock Press Interviews;
- Public Speaking: PowerPoints from every League;
- League Leadership: Enthusiasm, Ingenuity, Inspiration;
- What's a Hot Topic: Timely subjects, Engaging members and guests
- Today's Technology to increase efficiency: Webinars, free Conference Call service, GoogleGroups and GoogleDrive, etc.
- Mobile League: What can you do with your smart phone?
- New membership orientation: Local Leagues share their process
- Fundraising successes and strategies
- Social Media: How to make your website WOW!
- Network with our State Action Groups on our key Issues and perfect your presentation of these issues

You can register on line at

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventR?oeidk=a07edh2lgst2da27869&oseq=&c=&ch=>

or contact a League board member for more information.

Lodging Information

The League has arranged a block of rooms for attendees at the Rosen Plaza Hotel at a group rate.

Call **1-800-627-8258** to reserve your room in the LWVF block at the group **rate of \$149 per night**, plus taxes and fees, for single rooms. Simply request the group rate for the League of Women Voters.



Observer Corps

Are you an astute observer?

Do you want to be more knowledgeable about your local government?

If you answered yes to either of these questions, your League has a great opportunity for you to use your skills and grow your knowledge base. We are launching an Observer Corp Program to connect you with your local government in a meaningful way. As a member of the Observer Corp, you would attend and fill out a simple form recording important decisions made at local governmental meetings. You and a cohort would select one particular agency (such as the County Commission, the Port Authority, the School Board, etc.) and one of you would observe and record the activities of that meeting. Then, submit the form to another designated League member and you're done until your next scheduled meeting of that group.

Observer programs benefit you, the observer, as well as the organization you are observing and our community by:

- Connecting you with your local government or agency
- Promoting open, transparent and accountable government
- Connecting local officials with their constituents and with the League
- Educating the public about issues impacting our community
- Identifying areas where action or improvement is needed

The initial agencies the League seeks to observe as we initiate this program are as follows:

- Brevard County Commission
- Canaveral Port Authority
- Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization
- Brevard Public School Board
- Brevard Economic Development Commission
- Brevard Tourist Development Council

If you are actively engaged in consistently attending other organizations or agencies, (e.g.: municipalities such as City of Cocoa, Melbourne Beach, North Brevard Economic Zone, etc.) we would like you to be reporting through the Observer Corp.

Please consider joining this new *Observer Corp Program*. Your League needs you to be informed on behalf of your friends and neighbors. In addition, you learn about issues and processes that make our local government work. It's a great way to really begin or strengthen your political involvement in a positive way. If you would like to volunteer, please send a brief email

indicating your interest to sarmixon2407@yahoo.com. State your name and, if you have a preference for monitoring a particular agency, please note which one you prefer. Please respond no later than January 9, 2017.



International Relations

Joyce Calese - Chair

We are inviting all to attend the first meeting of 2017 for the International Relations Group on Tuesday, January 10th at the Satellite Beach Library from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The topic is "The European Union - How It Works". League member, Jane Wilson will be our speaker.

Jane Wilson is an international attorney and consultant, specializing in energy. She has worked overseas for much of her career, most recently in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) for 11 years, managing energy reform and energy efficiency technical assistance projects pursuant to subcontracts in support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

Prior to working in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ms. Wilson had the position of Vice President of Regulatory and Government Affairs for two international energy corporations (Entergy and Enron). Her professional career included working in approximately 35 countries, including South America, Asia and Europe, establishing policies and regulations related to energy sector restructuring and developing competitive protocols in all facets of the electricity and gas industries. Earlier in her career, Ms. Wilson worked as a litigation attorney in private practice.

Currently, she consults remotely for a five-year USAID energy project in Bosnia, traveling to the country from time to time.

Ms. Wilson has a Juris Doctor and a Master's degree in International Studies.

The Great Decision's Books that were purchased in the fall will be distributed at the January meeting to those who ordered them early.

We will be meeting twice a month from February to May to study the 8 topics in the 2017 Great Decision Book. We will also be seeing the short videos on each of these topics. The topics for 2017 are:

The Future of Europe, Trade and Politics, Conflict in the South China Sea, Saudi Arabia in Transition, U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum, Latin America's Political Pendulum, Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan and Nuclear Security.

Our February to May meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at the Satellite Beach Library from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.



Natural Resources

Susan Little – Chair

The January meeting for the Natural Resources Committee is a field trip to the land fill. This tour will be on **Wednesday, January 11th at 9 a.m.** The Central Disposal Facility (CDF) is located at **2250 Adamson Road- Cocoa, FL.**

You will be taken by a small bus to the landfill so it is necessary to make a reservation. The tour lasts 45 minutes to an hour. There is no cost. Reservation deadline is **Wednesday, January 4th.** Make a reservation by calling or e-mailing Susan Little. Her phone number is 321-432-3843 and e-mail is littaylor@excite.com

Panthers, More Endangered than ever. by Maureen Rupe

A December 7th, Tampa Bay Times story by Craig Pittman, titled "Florida panther killed on highway sets grisly new record," told that on Tuesday December 6, the 31st panther was killed on Florida highways. Unfortunately for the Florida Panther, we have been breaking records repeatedly. 2012 gave us a record of 19 panthers killed by cars, then again broken in 2014, where the new record was 25. Again, a new record in 2015 of 30 Panthers killed by cars. In 2015, we also had a record of 42 panthers lost. The others died through other causes such as orphaned before being old enough to survive, or being killed by other Panthers.

It's terrible to lose so many Panthers when the estimated population is only somewhere between 100 and 180 total. But it was a lot worse in the mid-1990's when there were only about 30 total in the state. Yes, it's fortunate that the Panther's total has increased; but unfortunately, there are a lot more of us humans that leave a lot less habitat for these endangered creatures.

There were so few Panthers left in the 1990's that the few that were left suffered defects due to in-breeding. At that time, the state imported eight female Texas cougars. These cougars were said to be a close cousin. Five cougars mated, and produced generic free off-spring. Back then there were cranial problems with some off-spring, but Florida does have a Panther population over 100, but it isn't the Florida Panther, but a mixed breed at this point. I remember a discussion at the Brevard County Commission Meeting, where the speaker before me stated there was only a few chromosomes difference between the Florida Panther and the Texas Cougar. When I spoke, I reminded everyone the fact that there is only a few chromosomes difference between humans and a Chimpanzee.

Since our Florida urban sprawl also rid the panthers of their normal prey of deer and hogs, the cats have attacked dogs, cats, goats, and cattle near what the article listed as their southwest Florida habitat. And the

story mentioned that this year one female had crossed over the Caloosahatchee River, which is a river in southwest Florida. Surprisingly, people had seen Panthers in Port St John back in the mid to late eighty's, before Grissom Blvd. was built.

On December 8th, Jim Waymer had an article titled "Boat Strikes kill a record 98 Manatees. One definite downside of a record count of 6,250 Florida Manatees. Besides these 98, the article listed various other causes of death, totaling 374. Florida unfortunately had 472 Manatee's deaths so far this year.

Reference:

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/wildlife/panther-killed-on-highway-sets-grisly-new-record/2305418>

<http://www.floridatoday.com/story/news/2016/12/07/florida-manatee-deaths-boat-brink-record-year/95086938/>

The Ballot this year asked us to tax ourselves. I was joyful at the outcome, but later astounded and so grateful to hear the fact the Lagoon Tax won in every precinct in Brevard County.



Styrofoam Task Force Team

The League is putting together a task force team to research and look to create proposals to both BPS and the county government on how to eliminate *styrofoam* (polystyrene) food container usage from schools and government/public environments, and reduce the use of other *styrofoam* products all together. For more information and to join this task force team, please contact Marcia Booth at Marcia@RecycleBrevard.org

Welcome To Our New Members

Wendy Terry
Marjean Hull
Nancy Shacklette
Joan Paquin
Dina & Steve Dearmin
Sara Howze
Patricia Marzzacco
Marin Lawrence
Betty Young
Carol Hamilton
Molly Domin

This month we have twelve 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.



Education

Linda Scales – Chair

The New Parent Ambassador Team by Linda Scales

Once a month representatives from each of the Brevard Public Schools (BPS) meet at the school board in Viera. They are known as the Parent Ambassador Team (PAT). In the past we sat and listened to presentations covering a wide range of topics and issues affecting our schools, followed by a question/answer session.

This year the PAT has a new leader, Ginger Blair, who has taken the Team in a whole new direction. The ambassadors are now a working breathing part of BPS, discussing and brainstorming the most important issues to the team. A survey determined these issues to be Student Support, Safety & Security, Preparing Students for Success, Community Engagement, Communication Triangle, and Legislative Issues Facing Public Education. These are the work groups, each with a leader and specific goals to facilitate positive action within their respective groups. The Student Support group plans to create a “Family Center” in every school with a computer, phone, a resource binder with community resource information, and other useful tools for families of the school. Safety & Security would like to create the opportunity for students and teachers to receive crisis and self defense training as well as promote a positive law enforcement presence in schools. Preparing Students for Success seeks to develop an improved in-school reading program for struggling readers that not only seeks to engage volunteer readers and tutors, but taps into the school business partner to create a rewards program. Communication Triangle will work to improve the accuracy of individual school websites, making it convenient for parents to easily access information. Community Engagement has a goal to develop “Care Groups” for students with discipline and/or financial challenges and to enlist high school students to tutor younger students.

Lastly, the Legislative Issues Facing Education group, of which I am the leader, will create a poster with the contact information of local and state legislators to post in all our schools. This group will also research how curriculum matches the new FSA test, learn more about the BPS legislative platform, and investigate BPS budgeting plans for charter schools and bussing to schools of choice. These are lofty goals considering that the PAT only meets about six or seven times throughout the school year. However, even if the groups only accomplish a portion of their goals, they will at least have a detailed plan to finish their work early in the next school year.

The best part is that the PAT will have learned so much about the issues that concern all parents and guardians of BPS students and through the sharing of this information they will hopefully influence others to become a positive contributing factor to leaders of the future.



Health Committee

Jo Shim & Connie Dobrin Co-Chairs

“Non-Profit Marketing: Getting Your Story

Told!” (Sponsored by AT&T–Nov. 11, 2016)

Diane Conaway, Member of the Healthcare Committee, attended AT&T event and shares the information presented so that as League members we can better market our organization:

Panel members were: Bob Gabordi, Florida Today, Jackie Barker, SKY Advertising, Andrea Hill, Brevard Zoo, and Caron Partridge, United Way.

AT&T’s Troy McNichols presented the AT&T Access Low Cost Broadband-home internet service for residents participating in the U.S Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). AT&T’s new program will help bring low-cost internet access to qualifying households. (Qualifying households - where at least 1 individual participates in the U.S. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.)

The rest of the program was devoted to “Marketing to Non-Profits.”

Marketing is all about story telling. There must be a Beginning, a Middle, and an Ending.

For the “Beginning” you must have a strategic plan: Who do you want to market to? Who is your target audience? What are you trying to do? What do you want them to know?

The “Middle”: What are your activities? What are your results? What are your accomplishments? Who will benefit?

Real voices telling their own stories are very effective. Pictures with captions are powerful. Remember the average attention span is only 8.25 seconds.

Getting your story told by 3 types of media:

Owned Media: Website, Facebook, members as marketers

Paid Media: Radio, newspaper, radio

Earned Media: No money!! Free publicity: focus on who you are trying to reach – age group, life style, geography, income, education, etc. Submit information on fund raisers, new board members, new committees, special events. Get to know reporters from newspapers and other local publications; invite them to teach members or hold seminars and short informative sessions for the organization. Make a friend so there is a contact at the newspaper who knows your organization and you will be more likely to get good coverage of your group or activity.

Finally, the “Ending” is the result of your activities. You must examine what results were obtained by your efforts. What goals have you achieved? Is your organization pleased with the results achieved? What do you need to change or continue in your marketing plan to achieve meaningful results? Have you satisfactorily identified your audience and communicated with them.



Board Bytes

- We extend many thanks to Martha Bradshaw for making it possible for us to have our “Celebrate the League” at her condominium complex and all of her work in preparation and clean up.
- John Saathoff gave a short presentation about the Citizens Climate Lobby. A bi-partisan group in Congress hopes to present legislation. League will be asked to help with education on this topic.
- After the first of the year, a social event will be planned so new and old members can become qualified to register voters for League of Women Voters of the Space Coast.
- Marcia Booth reported that 3 new elementary Brevard schools have applied for the Recycling Rewards program. They are Surfside -Satellite Beach, Riviera- Palm Bay, and Lewis Carroll – Merritt Island.
- Marcia Booth reported that we need to research ways to improve the rate of recycling in Brevard County. A good starting point would be following up on the “Speak Up Brevard” recommendations that were approved and the bounty has been slow in implementing. Volunteers are needed.
- Susan Little, Natural Resources Chair is discussing an activity either with the Brevard Zoo or the Marine Resource Council where League member would bring their own lunch and spend time making oyster mats to use in oyster reef restoration projects. This might be planned for February. Contact Susan Little if you are interested in participating.
- Terry LaPlante reported that new and seasoned members helped at the Ocean Reef Beach Festival in early December.
- Lorraine Koss reported that Florida Sun-Space Coast coop has chosen a contractor for the solar installation. Applications for joining the coop are still on going. The deadline to join and take advantage of the lower pricing is February 28, 2017. There will be two more information meetings in the county in January and February. Time and place to be announced.



New members Dina Dearmin & Marin Lawrence with Board Member Terry LaPlante



Ron Bobay, Tony Dutton and Terry Mott planning Timely Topics Event with Bob Graham and Chris Hand

January Calendar - ~Members are welcome at all meetings~

- Wednesday, January 4th Board Meeting - Large Room at Suntree Library at 10:00 a.m.
 Tuesday January 10th International Relations Meeting at Satellite Beach Library 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
 Wednesday, January 11th Natural Resources Committee Tour of Landfill at 9 a.m. Central Disposal Facility is located at 2250 Adamson Road Cocoa, FL
 Saturday, January 14th Timely Topics with Bob Graham and Chris Hand at Radisson Resort at the Port at 11:30 a.m.
 Monday, January 16th Health Committee Meeting at Red Ginger Restaurant in Suntree at 6 p.m.
 Thursday, January 19th Education Committee Meeting at home of Doreen Archer at 12:30 p.m.
 (As additional dates of Committee Meetings are known they will be posted on the member’s calendar on the website.)

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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