



# The Voter



The League of Women Voters of the Space Coast  
[www.lwv-spacecoast.org](http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org)

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May 2018

**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.

## May Timely Topics



**“Let’s Get Better Together”**  
with Guest Speaker Brevard Zoo Executive  
Director Keith Winston

**When:** Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.  
**Where:** Brevard Zoo at 8225 N. Wickham Road,  
Melbourne FL 32940

The event will be held in the Nyami Nyami River Lodge.

**Boxed Lunches from Green Turtle Market and beverages are provided. Menu choices are:** Rosemary Chicken Panini, Roast Beef Pub Special or Fresh Veggie Panini. Also included are: potato salad, chips and cookie.

**Cost:** \$20 for Members and \$25 for non members

**Reservations: RSVP by April 26, 2018.**

Reservations can be made online at [www.lwv-spacecoast.org](http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org) (Events, Timely Topics) to register or members can call Doreen Archer with menu choice at 321-622-4071 or e-mail her at [doreenarcher1@gmail.com](mailto:doreenarcher1@gmail.com).



Keith Winsten notes that in 2016, the citizens of Brevard County made a bold statement by overwhelmingly voting to tax themselves to cover the costs of restoring the Indian River Lagoon and since that critical moment,

there has been a growing awareness that we control our own destiny when it comes to quality of life on the Space Coast and that we can make this a better community for ourselves, our kids and our grandkids by getting involved in sustainability and conservation issues. This event will have a broad-ranging conversation about how we, as a community, can get better together at fostering our special way of life on the Space Coast.

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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**

**A Bit about the Annual Meeting and the**

**Survey Says:**

Our annual meeting was held on April 7<sup>th</sup> and by-laws, programs of work, 2 officers, 3 board directors, and 3 nominating committee members were voted on by members in attendance. We have 5 directors and 1 officer stepping down which will leave vacant positions to be filled by those elected and 3 director appointments. The appointment of directors and assignments to positions will be completed at our May board meeting, which has been moved to Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup> to accommodate the scheduling of our May 2<sup>nd</sup> Timely Topic. We also plan to review our Policies and Procedure during the May board meeting. During the week following the board meeting, notification will be sent to all members of our new board and links to the updated documents for 2018. Thank you to all who participated in this very important annual business.

I briefly summarized the recent survey results at the annual meeting and want to follow up with more thoughts towards responding to this valuable input. The board was disappointed with the small number of responses but we can only hope they represent a good sample of our membership. So the survey says .....

**Reason for Joining:** Most said to stay informed in government and be more politically involved. Some indicated they were inspired after a committee meeting. *Response: Please contact us if we are not meeting your expectations or if you want to be more involved but we schedule events that are not suitable to your schedule. We hope we are meeting your expectations for joining.*

**Cancelled Event:** By far most said the event was too close to a previous event. The cost was the second reason but by a far fewer number of responders. *Response: We had 3 different committees schedule events separately, we try to coordinate at the board meeting but 2 of the 3 event dates were scheduled on short notice to fulfill plans to host an event. This year we will plan to work on a templated event plan in August for our primary event season of September thru May.*

**Time Preference for Timely Topics:** Equal split between Sat Lunch/ Weekday Lunch / Weekday Brown Bag Lunch, preferences for evening no fee events came close to the tied lunch numbers. *Response: When we build that template, we should primarily stick to lunches but mix in a Saturday, maybe one evening, and have a good mix of no fee events.*

**Location:** 2/3rds did not consider this a factor but a third did. *Response: This is a long county and even the center of the county is far for many. The template plan should also try to mix-up location of events.*

**Wine/Beer Events:** Exact equal split between No/No Opinion/Yes *Response: These are more informal and less expensive and venues smaller so we should make sure our template plans for a couple. If League Members are presenting information we could possibly host the same event in 2 different areas of the county, especially if we have different presenters for each location.*

**Active Participation Level:** 40% do not want to commit, followed by 20% willing to commit to 3 to 6 hours per month. *Response: When I worked I only came out for candidate forums and would read the Voter which mentioned events I wished I could attend. So the answers are understandable but I do want to give a nudge. If you can join in more, it is rewarding and with democracy at risk it means so much more to get involved. Sometimes I feel a bit overwhelmed, but there is joy in organizing and I have the fortune of being able to learn so much more first hand.*

**Meet and Greet:** Overwhelmingly popular. *Response: Continue at least 2/ year.*

**Programs of Work:** Split between No Opinion and Yes *Response: Get involved with committees and join in on State events. I hope to have us schedule a League 101 course late summer/fall so members can have the opportunity to learn how our programs of work and positions are developed.*

**Social Media:** 50/50 split. *Response: We are trying to leave all avenues open for our members to engage. Provide feedback if we are not.*

**Too Many Events:** Wow – exact split between No/No Opinion/Yes

**Most Common Suggestions:** Focus on core voter services to avoid spreading too thin, Try to get more younger folks, Reduce monthly lunches and do more informal less costly events *Response: Board has discussed these and we are trying to actively work toward these goals.*

**Suggestions Worth Noting:** Mentors, Remind folks not to bring partisan slant to meetings, More general meetings *Response: I hope that we can fix these areas with a League 101 which should serve as reminders for operating to all, especially our committee chairs.*

Barbara Williams

**Winners of the Learning, Lagoon, and League Science Fair Awards**

League members were the judges and awards to the students were presented at the annual meeting.



Taylor Proctor – Golfview, Sarah Cameruci – Meadowlane, Even Doer – Sculptor, Morgan Alderman – West Melbourne School of Science, Kael Thomas – Roosevelt



## CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION 2017 - 2018

### FLORIDA CRC ABOUT TO FINISH ITS WORK

Florida adopted a new Constitution in 1968 and provided in it that a 37-member Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) should convene every 20 years, commencing in 1977-78, to review that Constitution and recommend to Florida's voters any necessary or appropriate changes thereto. Early in 2017 the third CRC was appointed by the state's mostly Republican political leaders and sworn into office.

Throughout 2017 the CRC held public hearings and gathered, from its members and the public, more than 1,400 proposals to amend the state's Constitution. Those proposals were reviewed by committees of the CRC and reduced to a more manageable 103, then to 37 and finally to 25.

During March and early April of this year the CRC's "Style and Drafting Committee" worked on those final proposals and recommended to the full CRC that it consider combining some of the final 25 proposals so they all can appear on the November 6 ballot in the form of 12 Amendments to be voted on by the electorate. It is also recommending the order in which the final proposed Amendments should appear on the ballot.

The CRC does not have any requirement, like that of citizen initiative proposals, that each proposed Amendment cover only a single subject. Nor are its proposed Amendments subject to review by the Florida Supreme Court. Hence, its members may combine, by the vote of at least 22 thereof, any or all of the remaining proposals. That action probably will occur on or about the time this article is published.

Interestingly, five other proposed Constitution Amendments, three proposed by the Legislature ((i) increasing homestead exemptions, (ii) capping same and (iii) increasing the vote needed to raise taxes) and two by citizen initiatives ((i) requiring voter approval of casino gambling and (ii) restoring the voting rights of most former felons), will appear on the November 6 ballot ahead of the 12 or so CRC ones. The Florida and Space Coast LWV's are supporting the restoration of voting rights (Amendment 4).

The CRC is charged to complete its work in the next several weeks, by May 10<sup>th</sup>, so its final discussions and decisions will be occurring as we read this. Some of the final proposed Amendments are expected to include:

- Six proposed Amendments that bundle two or more proposals and six additional Amendments that each contain a single proposal;

- A combined ban on (i) oil and gas drilling in state waters and (ii) on "vaping" in the workplace;
- A combination of four "government structure" measures, including (i) a requirement that sheriffs in charter counties be elected, (ii) that the annual Legislative sessions begin in January in even-numbered years, and (iii) that an Office of Domestic Security and (iv) a Department of Veterans' Affairs be created;
- Three combined public school issues may include (i) a two four-year term limit for county school board members, (ii) an authorization for the state, along with school boards, to establish charter schools and (iii) a requirement that the Legislature provide for students to be educated in "civic literacy";
- Three judicial proposals that would (i) increase the mandatory retirement age of judges from 70 to 75, (ii) expand rights of crime victims and (iii) provide for independent interpretation of state statutes;
- Single proposal Amendments that may include (i) a ban on greyhound or other dog races (ii) a requirement that employers use a federal ID system to determine the immigration eligibility of workers, (iii) a six-year lobbying ban for former public officials, (iv) the transfer of high-performing public school districts to "innovation" (charter) school districts, (v) remove the loophole that permits write-in candidates to close primary elections and (vi) more.

The CRC is conflicted between wanting to propose its long list of Amendments and having too many for the voters to accept. As noted above, the five Amendments proposed by the Legislature and citizen initiatives are already on the ballot. A dozen or so more would increase the number to at least 17 – too many? The CRC must decide that question by the vote of 22 of its 37 Commissioners. They are expected to have that vote before the end of April.

Finally, forty years ago, in 1978, the first CRC presented eight proposals, all of which were rejected by the voters. The next CRC proposed nine Amendments in 1998, and eight of them were adopted by the then simple majority vote. How will the electorate respond to almost 20 items this year, when a 60% vote is needed for adoption. Only time will tell!

Tony Dutton



## International Relations Joyce Calese – Chair

May International Relations meeting will be on Tuesday, May 8th at Satellite Beach Library from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Diane Conaway will lead our discussion on U.S. Global Engagement and the Military.

**We will take a break for the summer months and discuss the remaining topics from Great Decisions 2018 in the fall.**



## Education Fran Baer – Chair

### What are Parents' Real Choices with Schools?

by Sue Legg

Do Floridians want one school system that is equitable or several, each with its own rules? In today's Gainesville Sun, the League asks three critical questions to help parents decide which choice to make for their schools: **Who pays?, Who is in control?, and What does it matter?** In an expanded system of choice, local voters are asked to pay more than the State to compensate for less funding and cost inefficiency due to expanded choices. Go to a charter and pay more in hidden fees and transportation. Go private and select a cheap school or pay the difference in tuition. Go public and worry the funding may not fix the air conditioning.

The State and private education management companies take control away from locally elected school boards. Parents lose their voices in how choice schools are owned and managed. "Don't like it, then leave" is the response to complaints.

All of this matters. Schools are becoming more segregated by income and student ability while our nation is becoming more diverse. Student achievement stays flat in our choice system. The reason is clear; students learn better when they learn together. Isolate poor children, and they feel they have no stake in the system. Isolate high income children, they don't learn the real world skills needed to be successful. The kids in the middle disappear; no one is thinking about them.

Students who learn only in like minded groups will be ill prepared for the diverse world in which they will work. Learning to live together starts in schools. The real choice is whether we value the diverse world in which we live or try to escape it by creating mini school clusters of like minded people. You can read the article

<http://www.gainesville.com/opinion/20180406/carole-fernandez-what-are-parents-real-choices-with-schools>

Thank you to League President, Carole M. Fernandez of Alachua County and author Sue Legg for permission to re-print this article.

# Thank you

Many thanks to the telephone committee who made calls to our members to remind them of upcoming events. Martha Bradshaw has led this committee for years and we certainly appreciate all of her work. Martha is stepping down so we welcome a volunteer to head this committee. Please contact President, Barbara Williams or Lucia Watson if you would like more information about this volunteer opportunity.

The following members were callers during the past year: **Doreen Archer, Jan Bancroft, Teresa Barrett, Martha Bradshaw, Clarice Costello, Connie Hogerty, Linda Hogg, Joann Jacobs, Anita Kountourakis and Fern Patton**



**LWVSC member Jo Shim has been appointed as an off board chair to League of Women Voters of Florida for LWVF Reproductive Health and Justice Committee.**

**Floridians for Reproductive Freedom** is made up of more than 50 groups interested in women's health and social justice. The mission of Floridians for Reproductive Freedom is to affirm and advocate for equal and safe access to the full range of reproductive health care – from abortion to birth control to evidence-based sex education. Eliminating reproductive oppression and promoting policies that advance the social, economic and political power of Floridians are major goals. The coalition's vision is "an inclusive future where all of us will be treated with dignity, respect and compassion."

The LWVF Reproductive Health & Justice Committee welcomes LWVF members interested in actively eliminating barriers to abortion and other reproductive health care. The Committee is chaired by **Jo Shim of LWVSC** who represents LWVF on the state-wide coalition, Floridians for Reproductive Freedom. The RHJ Committee coordinates LWVF actions pertaining to reproductive health care and access. We work to leverage LWVF's numbers in defending reproductive health and access.



## Natural Resources Chair – Susan Little

### Indian River Lagoon Timeline: It is going to take a long time to fix it. by Maureen Rupe

I found a 2013 Treasure Coast Article by Staff Report, Titled “A timeline of the Indian River Lagoon crisis.” Made me realize how long the problem has been with us, and it’s not going to be fixed in a year or two. I’m not copying all of it.

#### “1980s

April 17, 1985: About 100 gallons of processed sludge leaked into the Indian River Lagoon when a pump failed at the Fort Pierce Utilities Authority Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Dec. 3, 1986: Indian River Lagoon cleanup under study by various environmental agencies and municipalities.

July 22, 1989: One of Florida’s leading environmentalists wrote to the state Department of Natural Resources to oppose a plan that would allow the construction of marinas over sea grass in part of the Indian River Lagoon.

Sept. 6, 1989: South Florida Water Management District officials said at a public hearing they will develop long-range programs to monitor water quality and come up with proposals to save the lagoon.

#### 1990s

April 21, 1990: President George H.W. Bush announces the Indian River Lagoon has been added to the National Estuary Program, marking a major victory for local environmentalists trying to preserve the estuary.

Aug 17, 1990: A new state law promises to stop the discharge of treated sewage into the Indian River Lagoon Basin by July 1, 1995. (This was legal for a number of cities in the lagoon).

Jan. 9, 1993: A malfunction at a Fort Pierce Utilities pump station causes 40,000 gallons of untreated sewage to pour into the Indian River Lagoon, but utilities officials say the spill created no health risks.

Jan 6, 1994: Designating the Indian River Lagoon off-limits for sewage discharge by boaters will help in cleanup and improvements of the waterway, said the management committee of the Indian River Lagoon of the National Estuary Program.

March 25, 1994: Florida House of Representatives OKs waterway cleanup proposal because of sewage in Florida waters.

April 9, 1994: State officials approve a license plate that will show a snook and cost an extra \$15, which will pay for cleanup of the lagoon.

Aug 8, 1994: The Fort Pierce municipal sewage treatment plant is scheduled to stop pumping effluent

into the river and instead begin pumping it into the city’s deep well injection system.

July 16, 1995: River water quality is poor in Indian River County, possibly due to runoff from the land and creeks, use of septic tanks in some areas, and stormwater runoff carrying grease, oil, heavy metals, pesticides, herbicides straight into the lagoon.

Aug 29, 1996: Too much nitrogen is entering the Indian River Lagoon water because of fertilizers, dying vegetation and sewer discharge promoting algae growth.

Sept. 2, 1996: An algae bloom is suspected in fish kills in the Indian River Lagoon near Sebastian because residents reported dead fish in reddish-colored water.

Oct. 19, 1996: A kidney virus causes a species-specific fish kill; samples reveal hemorrhaged fins, inflamed kidneys, spleens, livers and lesions, but researchers do not know what caused the virus.

Dec. 12, 1996: The Corps advances a St. Lucie ooze study because muck depletes oxygen in water and may help restore the Indian River Lagoon.

April 6, 1998: River cleanup proves complex because responsibility flows through many agencies.

April 20, 1998: The Department of Environmental Protection investigates the fish kill in St. Lucie County; it isn’t known whether it is related to the recent epidemic of sick fish in the St. Lucie River and the Indian River Lagoon.

Oct. 2, 1998: Lesion-covered fish continue to show up in area waters because of a combination of excess freshwater and low levels of light can severely damage marine life in the St. Lucie River and Indian River Lagoon.

#### 2000s

Aug 21, 2005: Fear grows that a sick river may drain the local economy because the waterways guide the formation, growth and survival of the region.

Mar 9, 2006: During the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Florida Academy of Sciences symposium of the Indian River Lagoon at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, scientists discuss research that suggests the fight to protect and restore North America’s most diverse waterway. While sewer plants have stopped discharging directly into the lagoon and public awareness of the issues are greater than ever, rapid development and population growth in the past 25 years have affected dolphins, turtles, fish, and their salty habitat to such an extent that the damage may be irreversible, they said.

Jul. 28, 2007: Fish populations in the Indian River Lagoon are dwindling and hardly anyone is paying attention, says biologist Grant Gilmore Jr. in a presentation during a meeting of the Rivers Coalition.”

*(continued on Page 6)*



( Natural Resources article continued from Page 5)

We have only started our program to fix the Indian River Lagoon within the past year. The state is still handing our septic tank permits like candy. We are still using reclaimed water during the no fertilizer summer season, and still spreading treated sewer within the Indian River Lagoon basin. Why would we think it will take any less time to fix than it did to create the problem?

Reference:  
Staff Report, A timeline of the Indian River Lagoon crisis, Treasure Coast Press, 2013.

**The LWVSC Observer Corps**  
**“ALL POLITICS IS LOCAL”**  
**Tip O’Neill, former US Speaker of the House**

The actions of local government bodies directly impact our daily lives and future. Whether the members are elected or appointed, their decisions and processes are of vital importance to every citizen of a community.

Would you like to learn more about our local government, and at the same time make a genuine contribution to the League of Women Voters, Space Coast? The Observer Corps is seeking volunteers to attend and report to LWVSC on local government meetings.



Observers attend meetings of local agencies and organizations that affect the future growth, economics, education,

and ongoing government of our county. Our purpose as Observers is to inform the LWVSC of current local government activities and issues, and to build congenial relationships between these groups and the LWVSC. Some groups currently being observed include the Brevard County Commission, Canaveral Port Authority, Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization, Brevard County School Board, the Tourism Development Council, and City Council meetings of several municipalities.

Observers attend meetings as neutral non-participants, simply listening to the proceedings and preparing a short report after the meetings. While it is most effective to observe meetings in person, many local government meetings are televised or may be viewed online. Observer reports are summarized monthly by the coordinator and sent to the LWVSC Board. Issues or concerns related to LWVSC priorities are discussed and may lead to additional attention or action.

If you want to make a meaningful contribution to the LWVSC and to the quality of local government in

your community, please join us. Contact Gloria Parra, OC Coordinator, at hanu4800@gmail.com for further details. A brief orientation and a LWVSC name badge are required before participating as an Observer.



Health Committee

Linda Kyvik wrote an article on Page 2 of the April Voter entitled The Gender Spectrum. She asked for a correction to the article. The correction in the second paragraph should be: Chromosomes, such as the familiar X and Y, contain DNA. The DNA molecule is made up of inherited genes from mother and father. These 46 chromosomes are the blueprint for one's biological body- only X & Y are paired. There are many places for mutation to occur: biology is capricious. The X chromosome is larger than the Y. X contains more DNA, genes. The Y chromosome is smaller. It requires the SRY gene to begin masculinization of the fetus.

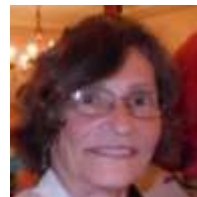
In third paragraph -correct spelling is “karotyping” it is able to find many previously unknown variations upon XX, XY, XXY, XYY, and more chromosome mutation activity. (6)

**Welcome to New Members**

- Janet Metz
  - Patricia Haley
  - Leigh Lindsay
  - Lance Shim
  - Ricky Rayfield
  - Jacqueline Mette ( student)
  - Anna Saelinger (student)
- We welcome our new students.

**New Bios**

Last month we featured bios of some of our members filling positions for LWVSC. This month we feature bios for Treasurer, Brigitte Sinton and Chair of Nominating Committee, Yvonne Minus.



Brigitte has a BA from Georgetown University and a MA from Vanderbilt University in Linguistics and Germanic Languages.

She has worked as a lecturer and technical translator both in Germany and the US and retired as a technical sales and system consultant from a computer graphics company in Huntsville, Alabama.

(continued on Page 7)

**Member Bios (continued from Page 6)**

In Brevard County Brigitte has done some part-time work for the United States Census Bureau and the Brevard County Supervisor of Elections. Currently she is 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President of the Board of Trustees for the Melbourne Village Parks and Recreation Association.

Brigitte joined the LWV Space Coast in 2008 and is honored to have served as Treasurer since that time. Her husband, a Commissioner for the Town of Melbourne Village, is also a member of the League.



**Yvonne Minus** is Chair of the Space Coast League Nominating Committee for 2019. She is the Honorable Vice Mayor for the City of Melbourne. She was selected as Vice Mayor in November 2017 and her current term ends in 2020. She is very active in the community serving in the following capacities:

Serves on the Brevard Homeless Coalition Board of Directors, Treasurer of the Space Coast League of Cities, President of the Melbourne Police Community Relations Council, served as President of the South Brevard County Task Force. This council mentors and assists at-risk youth in the community and provides free annual workshops that address bullying, crime, and youth development issues. She has been honored with awards such as prestigious President Award on two occasions for outstanding service to South Brevard Branch- NAACP-Melbourne and Space Coast Public Service Leadership Award in 2017 hosted by Brevard County Sheriff Department.

**League Photos from April 2018 Annual Meeting**



Brigitte Sinton, Molly Tasker & Barbara Williams



Jay Ann Preston & Fern Patton



Leigh Lindsay & Clarice Costello



Debra Mischley, Jeff Easter & Susan Little



Terry Mott & Kathy Freeman



Barbara Williams, Diane Conaway, Marilynn Collins and Audrey Grayson



Rob Grisar

**Calendar for May 2018**

~Members are welcome at all meetings~

Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Timely Topics Luncheon at Brevard Zoo at 11:30 a.m. Topic is Let's Get Better Together. Speaker is Brevard Zoo Executive Director Keith Winston.

Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

Board Meeting at Merritt Towers Club House at 250 Sykes Creek Pkwy, Merritt Island FL 32922 - 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

International Relations Meeting at Satellite Beach Library from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Diane Conaway will lead discussion on U.S. Global Engagement and the Military.

Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

Education Committee Meeting at Suntree Library (small room) at 10:00 a.m.

Monday, May 14<sup>th</sup>

Local Government Committee Meeting at Suntree Library 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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

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