



# The Voter



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

Volume 35: No. 2

October 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.

League of Women Voters of the Space Coast hosts  
Timely Topic Luncheon

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When: Wednesday, October 21, 2015

Where: Crown Plaza Hotel, Melbourne-Oceanfront  
2605 N. Highway A1A, Melbourne, FL 32903

Guest Speakers:  
Lisa Rinaman – St. John’s Riverkeeper  
Manly Fuller – President of the Florida  
Wildlife Federation  
David Guest – Managing attorney of Earth justice’s  
Florida’s regional office

Moderated by Vince Lamb, one of the founders of Preserve Brevard

Menu: Choice of Entrée: Sirloin Medallions of Beef  
Mahi served with Tropical Fruit Salsa  
Vegetarian (chef’s choice) on request  
Entrées served with mixed greens salad, herbed roasted  
potatoes and vegetable medley, rolls & butter, chef’s  
choice of dessert, coffee and tea.

Cost: \$22.00

Reservations to Doreen Archer no later than  
5 p.m. on Thursday, October 15.  
You can call Doreen Archer at 321-622-4071 or e-mail at  
[darcher14@cfl.rr.com](mailto:darcher14@cfl.rr.com) . Provide Doreen with your  
name, phone number and choice of entrée.  
You can also make your reservation by going to our  
League website [www.lwv-spacecoast.org](http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org) and make a  
reservation by clicking on Eventbrite.

Public is Invited.

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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

### National News Worthy:

Dear Leaguers,

Two items of special interest caught our eyes. One is from League of Women Voters of the United States Executive Director, Nancy Tate, who informs us of her decision to leave the post she has held for the past 15 years in the hands of Wylecia Wiggs Harris. Ms. Tate's distinguished legacy in pursuit of minimizing burdensome laws, unfair redistricting and special interest money that hinder our democratic system include: VOTE411.org, the Public Advocacy for Voter Protection Program, passage of federal reform legislation (Help America Vote Act, McCain-Feingold, the Affordable Care Act), and hard fought court victories at both the state and federal levels. "Our work for a fair and independent judiciary, civil liberties, and open government is widely respected, and we can be proud that our international programs have directly benefited the citizens of many emerging countries," writes Ms. Tate. Among the milestones within the League, she cites management of financial resources and explosion of online communications platforms expanding our reach and bringing in supporters while building a stronger League.

Crediting League members throughout the country for the successes, she challenges all of us to continue the work to sustain American democracy through informed, voter participation as the League approaches its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020 and beyond.

The second item involves one of our Timely Topics of 2014, Richard Bartholomew of NoLabels speaking to LWVSC last October. Those of us who attended will remember this national movement dedicated to "fix not fight" through non-partisan solutions to our nation's challenges. Well, NoLabels has now moved into the presidential arena with its requirements for candidates to earn the No Labels Problem Solver Seal of Approval.

1. Embrace a unifying National Strategic Agenda
2. Commit to gathering House and Senate leaders from both parities within the first 30 days of the new administration to begin bipartisan work on advancing the National Strategic Agenda
3. Go on record in public remarks and campaign messaging supporting a problem-solving approach to governing

NoLabels promises to tell us which candidates have met the criteria so we can make a more informed vote. Their mantra: No Seal, No Vote!

Worth thinking about as we move forward into this presidential election season. After all, it can't hurt!

Fran Baer  
Priscilla Griffith

## Welcome To Our New Members

**Bill Davidson**  
**Alexandra Baer**  
**Dorothee Custer**  
**Laverne Bruffey**  
**Returning Members are:**  
**Krista Soboh**  
**Jean Bienemann**  
**Sally Edwards**

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. Newsletters are found on line at our web site, [www.lwv-spacecoast.org](http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org)



## Local Government

Ron Bobay – Chair

"The Local Government Committee met on August 26, 2015 for our first meeting of the year. We established a recording secretary and two(2) work groups for the year based on the Program of Work for 2015-16 described in detail in your Membership Book. They are a one year study of the office of a non-partisan inspector general in local governments and the monitoring and reporting on the formation and activities of the Brevard Charter Commission. The Brevard County Commission establishes this Commission once every six (6) years to review the provisions of Brevard's Home Rule Charter and make suggestions for changes/and/or revisions. Any revisions or additions will be submitted to the electorate in 2016.

There are opportunities for participation on the Local Government Committee if you wish to join us. We would welcome your participation. You can decide on your level of involvement. It can be our Local Government Committee meetings sharing your input, subcommittee participation, assisting in monitoring the Charter Review process, etc. It is not too late to join us. Please contact Ron Bobay at [ronbbobr@cfl.rr.com](mailto:ronbbobr@cfl.rr.com) or 321-383-7955. We would welcome your participation.



## Education Committee

Linda Scales – Chair

Florida was one of the first states in the country to offer free pre-kindergarten for all 4-year-olds regardless of family income. Options are: public school programs, charters schools that are also public, faith-based programs and private schools. Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) is a program that helps a child be ready for kindergarten. In Brevard County the Early Learning Coalition provides leadership and oversight of VPK programs. It is a not-for-profit 501© 3 organization sponsored by the state Office of Early Learning. All provider applications are administered by the ELC. The Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) Education Program prepares early learners for success in kindergarten and beyond. To qualify for pre-k, a child must live in Florida and be 4 years old on or before September 1 of the current school year. Florida has a very high rate (more than 80%) of 4 year olds enrolled in a pre kindergarten program but in comparison to other states the quality and progress of students in some of the programs is mixed.

Class size must be 20 or fewer students. Presently, requirements to be a teacher in the VPK program in Florida are: the instructor must have had 540 instructional hours, instructors must hold a Birth through Five Florida Child Care Professional Credential and complete special training on early literacy and performance standards. These requirements are considered weak. Tests are given to students when entering kindergarten and results from some of the students in VPK programs have been disappointing so stronger regulations are needed for some of these providers. In fall 2015 all VPK programs must use the VPK Assessment and Teaching Strategies @GOLD tm, which is a recently up-dated professional development training program. Perhaps this may make a difference.

Florida League of Women Voters hopes that there will be constructive improvements in the upcoming legislative session for stronger regulations in state funded pre-kindergarten classes.

One of the goals for League of Women Voters of the Space Coast Education Program this year is “Monitor and report on the status of early childhood education efforts in Brevard County.” In the coming months we will be reporting to you on Brevard County prekindergarten programs and alert you to possible improvements for the program in the state Legislature.

We welcome all members to join the Education Committee. We are presently meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the home of Doreen Archer at 11:00 a.m.



## International Relations

Joyce Calese

On October 13, the International Relations Committee discussion will discuss international development aid and our country’s participation in it. Martha Bradshaw will provide an overview of the UN’s expiring Millennium Development Goals and new goals to be adopted in late September that focus on sustainable development. Jane Wilson will talk about the mission and projects of the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

The group’s members were asked to read beforehand at least one from a list of popular development books. They will contribute what they have learned about effective programs, those that are less so, and the reasons why. After the discussion a poll on continuing, increasing or decreasing America’s contributions will be taken.

Below are book suggestions and copies are available in the Brevard County Library System.

- Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity, and Poverty by Daron Acemoglu
- Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty by Abhijit V. Banerjee
- The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries are Failing and What Can Be Done About It by Paul Collier
- The White Man’s Burden: Why the West’s Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good by William Easterly
- The End of Poverty by Jeffrey D. Sachs
- A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier by Ishmael Beah
- Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity by Katherine Boo
- The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

A longer list of additional books including some that are listed above can be found at [http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/76218.International\\_Development\\_Book\\_Club](http://www.goodreads.com/list/show/76218.International_Development_Book_Club)

We hope you will join us. We meet at the Satellite Beach Library on the second Tuesday of the month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The public is invited.



## Health Committee

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

### Moratorium on Access to

### KidCare for Children of Legal Immigrants

One health care issue to watch during the next legislative session involves the waiting period required before legally residing immigrant children can qualify for the Florida children's health insurance program, KidCare.

In general, KidCare is available only to US citizens. However, the federal government classifies some children, as "qualified aliens", which makes them eligible for healthcare benefits under state programs.

The current Florida rules (unlike most other states), impose an additional five year permanent legal residence requirement to non citizen children before being eligible for KidCare, even if willing to pay the full rate of the plan with no subsidies and no cost to the State.

For the last three years attempts have been made to pass a moratorium bill that would remove the five-year waiting period and extend health insurance to immigrant children legally residing in the state. This year, legislation again failed to pass in both the regular and special sessions. Had the legislation passed approximately 25,000 children would have become eligible for coverage as of July 1st, 2015. According to 'Florida Chain', a health care advocacy group, the Federal government would contribute 94% (approximately \$44.5 million) of the cost of covering the additional KidCare beneficiaries. The state of Florida would only have to contribute \$73.00 annually per child (\$1.8 million per year) to make much needed insurance coverage available but leaders in the Florida house were reportedly unable to fund the proposal.

Health advocacy organizations think that there is a chance that legislation on this issue might pass in 2016. It is anticipated that legislative action on health care expansion and Low Income Pool (LIP) funding may not move significantly during the next session, but it may be possible to reach some common ground and make progress on an issue that involves the health and welfare of children.

If you are interested in actively supporting this issue please respond to action alerts, submit letters to the editor and, as always, contact your legislative representatives by phone or email. The following websites may also be helpful:

Florida KidCare Program -  
<http://www.floridakidcare.org/>

Children of legal immigrants left out of Florida's KidCare - <http://www.news->

[press.com/story/news/2015/06/23/children-legal-immigrants-left-floridas-kidcare/29149137/](http://press.com/story/news/2015/06/23/children-legal-immigrants-left-floridas-kidcare/29149137/)  
 Florida Chain <http://floridachain.org/>

Jo Shim and Maria Seemer - LWVSC Health Care Committee



## Voter Service

**Tony Dutton – Chair**

### 2016 Legislative Priorities

Every year our State League office asks the boards of the local leagues to choose and rank their legislative priorities for the upcoming Legislative Session and to send the top three selections to them. The priorities are selected from the League of Women Voters of Florida State Program 2015-2017 that was adopted at the May 2015 Biennial Convention.

The Issues fall into six main categories: Government in Florida, Education in Florida, Justice in Florida, Social Policy in Florida, Sustainability in Florida and Natural Resources in Florida. Most main categories include subcategories and it was the subcategories and main categories without subcategories that the board was asked to rank. The results determine the issues which receive the most attention from the LWVF's Officers, Board and lobbyist.

Nineteen of our LWVSC Board members and Off Board chairs participated in the survey. Our League's top three priorities are: #1 Land Use, a subcategory of Natural Resources; #2 Finance & Delivery of Healthcare, a subcategory of Social Policy; and #3 Election Law, a subcategory of Government. These results were submitted to Tony Dutton who also serves on the LWVF State Board and was in charge of coordinating and consolidating the results from all the local leagues.

Our State Board met on August 28-29, 2015 and Tony presented the results of the statewide survey of the local leagues. Twenty-four of the thirty-one local leagues responded. The results are as follows: #1 Election Law; #2 Education in Florida and #3 Finance and Delivery of Health Care.

The 2016 session of the Florida Legislature will begin on January 12th and is expected to conclude 60 days later on March 11th.

Marilynn Collins



## Natural Resources

Susan Little – Chair

### Fracking and Acidizing

by Maureen Rupe

According to an email my husband received from Representative Crisafulli in April 2015 “There are currently no fracking operations in the state of Florida.” The formal definition of “Hydraulic Fracking,” also known as “Fracking,” according to Conoco Philips is: “The hydraulic fracturing process involves injecting fracking fluid through perforations, under controlled pressure, to create tiny fractures in the targeted hydrocarbon formation. This permits oil or natural gas to flow to the wellbore. Only the section of casing within the hydrocarbon formation is perforated. The fracturing fluid exerts pressure against the rock, creating narrow cracks, or fractures, in the reservoir deep underground.” From many websites including [www.Oilprimer.com](http://www.Oilprimer.com), both acidizing and hydraulic Fracking, which includes Acid Fracking, both are stimulation techniques used by the oil industry to increase permeability of the rock within the oil reservoir. Acidizing or Matrix acidization is pouring acid or low pressure use of hundreds or thousands of gallons of hydrochloric acid or hydrofluoric acid to loosen up or dissolve the rock to open up channels for the oil to flow. Acidizing is even used for some of the preparation of Hydraulic Fracking. Hydraulic Fracking can use acid and other compounds under pressure to fracture the rock to basically do the same thing. Both techniques have been used since the late 1930’s as an oil stimulation technique, and I found one article that indicated matrix acidizing has been used almost since the beginning of oil drilling.

There seems to be a lot of activity to ban “Hydraulic Fracking,” by a lot of local governments supporting Senate Bill 166 submitted by Florida Sen. Soto and Sen. Bullard. As of August 20th, there has been 13 of the 67 counties to support the legislation. As identified at the [Savethewater.org](http://Savethewater.org), these anti-fracking bills are not much more except feel good legislation to make the people think they are doing something positive. We are in Florida with a limestone base, not up north where with hard rock, and our rock is not very thick. Fracking is not needed, and as Representative Crisafulli stated, does not exist in Florida. This high pressure acidizing (acid fracking) isn’t needed here. The rock can be dissolved easily, but a lot of these chemicals are left in the ground, and as it dissolves the rock, can and could eventually contaminate our groundwater, especially our aquifers. According to an April 17th article by Robert Wile on <http://fusion.net> titled “Acid Florida is about to allow an unusual type of fracking to go completely unregulated,” Jennifer Hecker, the director of natural resource policy for the Conservancy of Southwest

Florida states the legislation is basically eye candy. While her group worked initially to help push through the legislation since a statewide ban was not going to work, her group no longer supports the legislation as the state legislature turned down proposals to include language regulating acidizing. This is what I’ve been uncomfortable about since the start of all these fracking resolutions. We do not want loopholes.

It’s not that closing the loopholes will break Florida’s economy. Oil production is not a big money maker for Florida. According to the same [fusion.net](http://fusion.net) article, Florida only produced 2.2 million barrels of oil in 2014, from a peak oil production of 48 million barrels in 1978. Florida’s natural gas production was approximately 21 BCF (BCF) in 2014 from a production high of 52 billion cubic feet in 1978.

Why should Florida allow production without proper safeguard regulations? Why is the Florida legislature pulling the wool over our eyes? Not to say regulating fracking is a bad idea, but why only regulate what we don’t use? Why are we not regulating the techniques we do use? Both can equally damage our aquifers, and letting things that are just as harmful slip by in the name of progress is not something any of us should support.

Note: The different articles on the web, including those by the oil industry state that the acids are pumped out after use, but can all of it be removed? Really? I assume since Florida is mainly composed of limestone, Hydrochloric acid is the primary chemical used. According to a paper on Hydrochloric Acid by Occidental Chemical Company, Hydrochloric acid is listed as a hazardous air pollutant in Section 112(b) of the Clean Air Act. Hydrochloric acid is also designated as a hazardous substance under Section 311(b) (2) of the Clean Water Act; See 40 CFR 116.4. Safety recommendations including chemical resistant clothing, safety glasses, rubber gloves and use in well-ventilated areas. Environmental effects include moderate toxic to aquatic organisms, dissociates in water, and lowers pH of systems not well buffered.

#### References:

[http://www.usoilandgas.net/acid\\_fracturing.htm](http://www.usoilandgas.net/acid_fracturing.htm)  
<https://www.powerincooperation.com/issues.aspx?issue=hydraulicfracturing#sthash.TGFanjf.dpbs>  
<http://www.oilprimer.com/oil-well-stimulation.html>  
<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2015/0166/BillText/Filed/HTML>  
<http://www.pnj.com/story/news/2015/08/20/bocc-sides-anti-fracking-crowd/32095031/>  
<http://savethewater.org/2015/01/16/battleground-florida-anti-fracking-bills-takes-aim-mostly-non-existent-industry/>  
<http://fusion.net/story/122061/florida-is-about-to-allow-an-unusual-type-of-fracking-to-go-completely-unregulated/>  
<http://www.oxy.com/OurBusinesses/Chemicals/ResponsibleCare/Documents/Hydrochloric%20Acid.pdf>



**Facebook**  
**Marcia Booth**

**Join Us on Facebook**

Whether or not you have a Facebook account, we would like to invite you to check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LWVSpaceCoast>.

Facebook became an important online environment for sharing information and reaching millions of people daily. With billions of users around the world, Facebook is the most popular social media tool and a valuable online means for communicating with our members and non-members alike.

On our website - [www.lwv-spacecoast.org](http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org) -- you will find a Like and a Share button on the right-hand corner. If you are on Facebook, i.e. you have a Facebook account, those buttons allow you to follow our page (Like) or share it with others (Share).

To access and read our page you do not need to have a Facebook account, but please consider becoming part of our Facebook family to get updates from the League and participate in our online communications.

Source:

<http://www.digitalinformationworld.com/2015/02/fascinating-social-networking-stats-2015.html>

<http://www.johnhaydon.com/whats-the-difference-between-likes-comments-and-shares/>



**Board Bytes**

- We welcome Cynthia Williams as an appointed director to the Board. Cynthia will be the chair of the new committee, Women’s Issues. She welcomes all to join this new committee. There will be information later on time and location of meetings.
- 134 members on September 2.
- 2015-2016 Membership Books were mailed or hand delivered to members.
- November Timely Topics is planned for Saturday, November 21st. Details later.
- December Holiday Luncheon will be Saturday, December 5th at The Tulip in Cocoa Village.
- We are waiting for a ruling from the Supreme Court to know if the wording on the proposed “Floridians for Solar Choice Amendment” is approved. The Supreme Court heard the case on September 1st. Florida is one of four states

that prohibits anyone but a utility from selling electricity.

- Chair is needed for Hospitality. This can be a shared task.. Please contact a board member if you are interested in knowing more about this responsibility.
- The board approved League’s participation in The Boomer Bash at Port Canaveral on November 6th providing space is available at quoted price.



Co-president Fran Baer told us about outgoing League of Women Voters of the United States Executive Director Nancy Tate and her accomplishments. We now welcome Dr. Wylecia Wiggs Harris who has been named as New Executive Director.

Dr. Harris has a bachelor’s degree from Wittenberg Springfield, Ohio, a management degree from Northwestern Northwestern Evanston, Illinois and a PhD in organizational development from Capella Univeristy in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



bachelor’s degree University in master of from University in

She was previously with the American Nurses Association Enterprise(ANA) with many outstanding achievements. Her strong relationship management skills will be an asset to the League with proven success in building and establishing leadership for staff, members and volunteers.



**Delivery of The Voter**

The majority of our members receive The Voter by e-mail. This saves on printing and mailing costs for Space Coast League. The Voters are e-mailed or mailed through the post office 9 months of the year. If you are not receiving your Voter, please contact Lucia Watson at 321-779-6758 or [lucbil\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:lucbil_99@yahoo.com) If your e-mail program is not programmed to accept mail from [lucbil\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:lucbil_99@yahoo.com) The Voters may be found in your spam folder.

The Voters are mailed or e-mailed the last week of the month. Your November Voter should arrive the last week of October.

League of Women Voters of the Space Coast Board attended a reception for new school Superintendent, Dr. Desmond Blackburn



Cynthia Williams & Annie Frame



Tony Dutton, Barbara Dutton, Doreen Archer & Lucia Watson



Marcia Booth & Audrey Grayson



Brigitte Sinton & Marilynn Collins



Linda Scales & Alberta Wilson



Terry LaPlante & Ron Bobay



Doreen Archer, Marcia Booth & Dr. Desmond Blackburn

~October Calendar - Members welcome at all meetings~

- Tuesday, October 6 -
- Tuesday, October 13 -
- Monday, October 19 -
- Tuesday, October 20 -
- Wednesday, October 21 -

- Board Meeting - Large Room at Suntree Library at 5:30 p.m.
- International Relations Meeting at Satellite Beach Library 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
- Health Committee Meeting at Suntree Library at 6 p.m.
- Education Committee Meeting at home of Doreen Archer at 11:00 a.m.
- Timely Topic- Crown Plaza Hotel Oceanfront at 2605 N. Highway A1A, Melbourne at 11:30 a.m.
- Date, Time and Location of Local Government Committee will be announced.

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

**Issue Date: October 2015**

**League of Women Voters of the Space Coast**

**P.O. Box 360823**

**Melbourne, FL 32936-0823**

**[www.lwv-spacecoast.org](http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org)**



League of Women Voters  
of the Space Coast  
P.O. Box 360823  
Melbourne, FL 32936-0823

**Men Are Welcome to Join LWV!**

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR INTERESTS**

- Education
- Fund Raising/Finance
- Health Care
- Hospitality
- International Relations
- Justice
- Legislative Action
- Local Government
- Membership
- Natural Resources
- Publicity & Public Relations
- Speaker's Bureau
- Telephone Committee
- Voter Service
- The Voter newsletter/mailing
- 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**

- \$50.00 for Individual Membership
- \$75.00 for Household Membership
- \$25.00 for Student Membership