



# The Voter



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

Volume 37: No. 1

September 2017

**Mission:** The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

### September Timely Topics



This will be a panel discussion. Panelists will give a short presentation and audience will be invited to submit written questions.

- Moderator**    **Britt Kennerly** – Florida Today Journalist
- Panelists:**    **Scott Darius** – Executive Director, Florida Voices for Health, Inc.
- Chris McAlpine** – Sr. Vice President Parrish Medical Center, Titusville
- Audrey C. Joiner ARNP** – Executive Director, Space Coast Volunteers in Medicine
- Chris Heissenbuttel** – Walgreens Pharmacist
- Dr. Mukesh Aggarwal** – Ophthalmologist and Founder of the Eye Clinic and Laser Institute

- When:**            **Wednesday, September 27, 2017**
- Time:**           **11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**
- Where:**         **Suntree Country Club,**  
**1 Country Club Dr., Melbourne, FL 32940**
- Cost:**            **\$22.00 for members**  
**\$25.00 for non members**
- Menu:**           **Salad**  
**Entrées are : Chicken Piccata, Strawberry Salmon or Vegetable Lasagna**  
**Chef’s choice of potato or rice and seasonal vegetables**  
**Rolls and butter, Coffee, tea and soft drink**

**Reservations: Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, September 20.**  
Reservations can be made on line at [www.lwv-spacecoast.org](http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org) or calling Doreen Archer at 321-622-4071 or e-mailing her at [doreenarcher1@gmail.com](mailto:doreenarcher1@gmail.com) and giving her your menu choice. You can pay by check or cash at the door.  
**Public is invited.**

Health Care Article is found on Page 5.

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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

Kathy Wall and Barbara Williams

### OUR SUMMER PROJECT

Welcome back and we hope everyone was able to enjoy the summer and find ways to beat the heat. The board officers, our membership chair, and our editor/web manager used the summer down time to vacation but also to update our technology. We moved our data to a member management system called **ClubExpress**. The system supports the League with an interactive website allowing online member signups and renewals, event registration, volunteering, committee sign-up and document sharing, and more. By now members should have received log-in information and hopefully you have had a chance to sign-on. If you have not checked out our new website, do it now and let us know what you think. Our web address ([lwv-spacecoast.org](http://lwv-spacecoast.org)) has not changed and most likely you are reading this issue of The Voter from our new interface. So let's review a few new features.

Many of us find our email inbox overwhelming at times and if a committee or working group you support uses email to share documents, it can be frustrating if you miss a chance to file something before getting inundated with more documents. We have set our new website up with pages for all our committees and document folders can be accessed from these pages. Committees are encouraged to have members share documents by uploading the documents to the folder. The event calendar can be set up by a committee chair to automatically remind committee members of an upcoming meeting and to check the document folder for supporting materials.

Another feature to take advantage of is the ability to set up Volunteer needs and discover Volunteer opportunities. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this feature and we hope to eventually award points for volunteer hours that will be redeemable towards events. With regard to events, members need to remember to login when signing up for events in order to receive member rates and to redeem awards when available. Charge card charges will show the vendor as ClubExpress.

We have two informal training sessions planned in September:

- **Sept 12 from 1:30pm to 3:00pm Satellite Beach Public Library**
- **Sept 13 from 6:00pm to 7:30pm Cocoa (Central Brevard) Public Library**

Bring your laptop and come learn how to navigate and use the League's new website. We also plan to start a quarterly user's group to help us keep the site fresh

and to share new ideas for using the system. Our goal is to improve communication and reduce effort on managing data, allowing us to more effectively focus on education and advocacy!

Co-President Barbara Williams



## Voter Service

Sharon Reynolds-Mixon- Chair

### HELP OUR LEAGUE FULFILL OUR

#### MISSION

The **League of Women Voters**, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government...

The above is taken from our league statement of mission and core values. In support of this statement, we seek to offer citizens opportunities to become registered voters. Once again this year we have signed on to participate in **National Voter Registration Day**, which will be held on **September 26**. In order for this effort to be effective, we will need many certified members to volunteer for two-hour shifts in registering voters throughout our county.

#### How to get certified to register voters:

- Go online to <https://www.proprofs.com/quiz-school/story.php?title=2017-lwvf-voter-registration-volunteer-quiz>
- It takes about 30 minutes. (It means reading for a few minutes and taking an online quiz based on your reading.)
- Once you have passed the quiz, which you may take as many times as needed to get the required score, email Sharon Reynolds-Mixon at [sarmixon2407@yahoo.com](mailto:sarmixon2407@yahoo.com) with your score report.
- Let Sharon know in your email in what area of the county you would like to volunteer and what hours you are available on 9/26 to work with a league partner to register voters.
- Sharon will get back to you with specifics regarding the specific location, schedule, and league partner who will be volunteering with you.

This effort will be effective **ONLY** if members such as you find the time and make the effort to reach out to our community. **Please assist if you are able.**



## Education

Linda Scales and Fran Baer Co-chairs

### Education Committee Report

The beginning of a new school year is an exciting time for parents, teachers, students, communities, and School Boards. Our newspaper is filled with items related to changes proposed by legislative and administrative action. More recess time, less testing time, added security, opening of schools closed by previous Boards, closing of public charter schools that have not met the necessary conditions, allowance for all citizens to challenge adopted text books before an unbiased and qualified hearing officer, improved financial accountability practices are but a few of the new provisions intended for implementation in the 2017-18 School Year.

The Education Committee of the League of Women Voters of the Space Coast will continue to study and report on the changes and status of our Brevard Schools. Our Program of Work adopted at the League's Annual Meeting in April will direct our agenda, and we encourage League members, and interested potential members, to join us at our monthly meetings, third Thursdays, at the Suntree Library.

Using the words of Mark Twain, "Out of the public schools grows the greatness of a nation", let's begin this new year with how our schools are growing. Research on student membership obtained from the School Board's website shows us that in 2005 there were 76,063 students; anticipated for 2017 are 75,630; and projected for 2021, 82,664 girls and boys.

Membership in Public Charter Schools indicates 2,832 in 2005; 5,961 in 2017, and 7,561 projected in 2021.

We all know that everything that grows needs tending and nurturing, the food we eat and our public schools. While we are witnessing growth and progress, there is still much attention and work needed from each of us.

Through the League we have an opportunity to continue to grow our "nation's greatness" in the League's non partisan tradition. Future articles will feature data on Florida Standards, student achievement, students in transition, early childhood efforts, adequacy of technology, civics and citizen education, and the half-cent sur-tax.

Together we can and must make our public schools the priority for our children, county, and country's sake.

**Fran Baer**



## Local Government

Ron Bobay - Chair

The Local Government Committee of the League of Women Voters Space Coast met on July 25, 2017. Volunteers are needed in the work of our active work groups of Observer Corp, Inspector General, and Comprehensive Planning.

The Observer Corp involves volunteers attending selected governmental meetings of their choice and submitting a brief report.

The work group focused on an Inspector General in county and local government is looking at other Florida Counties who have implemented this model. They are looking at successes, job descriptions, method of appointment, costs, etc.

The Comprehensive Planning Work Group is investigating the Florida Statutory requirements for county and local municipal planning, how it is coordinated within the county, and how it relates to State requirements. This study is addressing conservation, farming, urban sprawl, etc.. We are currently looking at the existing Comprehensive Plan for Brevard County to see what currently exists and meeting with selected county officials and administrators.

The Committee is also planning a Timely Topic scheduled for November 9, 2017 with a location To Be Announced (TBA) titled Tax Reform. The intent is to look at the federal tax code and better understand some of the choices involved in this topic and their impact on revenues. If you have an interest in working on the planning of this event, please let the Local Government Committee know of your interest.

We have had continuing discussions concerning the activities of the Florida Constitutional Revision Commission. We need volunteers to monitor this activity and contribute to our continuing conversations.

Please contact Ron Bobay [Ronbbobr@cfl.rr.com](mailto:Ronbbobr@cfl.rr.com) if you would like to volunteer or have questions about the Local Government Committee.



### Board Bytes

- **CONTACT** can be downloaded from League website [www.lwv-spacecoast.org](http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org)
- October Timely Topic is "Felon Voting Restoration." This is for non-violent crimes. Details in October Voter.
- 2017-2018 Membership Books will be hand delivered or mailed in late August.



## Natural Resources

Chair – Susan Little

### Negation of Indian River Lagoon Protections

–by Maureen Rupe

Duane E DeFreese, Director of the Indian River Lagoon Council and Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Florida Ocean Alliance, stated the following in the April 2017 Edition of Space Coast Business “A quarter century ago, Indian River Lagoon (IRL) scientists warned this day would come. Rapid coastal development changed the natural shoreline functions of the IRL. Nutrient over-enrichment from aging and inadequate wastewater and storm water infrastructure, coupled with decades of accumulated high-nutrient muck in the system are driving chronic water quality declines. Harmful algal blooms, loss of seagrasses, declining populations of natural filter feeders (i.e., oysters and clams) and wildlife mortality events are all evidence of a system under stress....”

As the residents of our county have recently passed an ordinance to tax ourselves to clean up the IRL, we should be particularly concerned on whether Brevard County Commission in allowing increases in property densities, will come close to a negation threshold on the total nitrogen or total phosphorus intake to the IRL.

We already know what we had been doing over the years was not sufficient to prevent the IRL from a slow demise, which is why the County is spending over \$300 million on many projects to correct the situation described by Duane DeFreese. The Brevard County Commission this August 3rd approved increasing the density of a property on Merritt Island. Shouldn't we be looking at the Brevard County Comprehensive Plan to ensure while we are still increasing densities, we are not negating the restoration of the lagoon? I'm sure our county staff can determine the projected increase in runoff based on whether we double or triple the density of any property. Likewise, we should be able to determine the projected total nitrogen and projected total phosphorus due to the amount of growth we have in Brevard County overall, or even part of the county. We must determine at what point we could be impacting all the positive things we are doing to save the lagoon.



## International Relations

Joyce Calese – Chair

International Relations Study Group will resume meeting on October 10th at Satellite Beach Library 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Details of our October and November meetings will be in the October *Voter*. We have

completed studying the 8 topics in the Great Decisions publication for 2017. Margee Smith led our discussion on “The South China Sea”.

The South China Sea is one of the most contested and economically important areas of the world.

One third of the world's commerce passes through this sea and the United States alone ships \$100 billion worth of goods through the South China Sea monthly. The Strait of Malacca between Singapore and Indonesia is considered the most important Maritime choke point in the world. The area's economic importance also includes 12% of the world's fish catch and significant estimated oil and gas reserves.

The countries surrounding the South China Sea are China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, and Taiwan. Each of these countries claims part of the sea as their national territory, and many of these claims overlap. The United Nations hoped to resolve these territorial disputes by convening The Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). After ten years of negotiations and 10 more years to convince countries to ratify the Agreement, 167 states and the European Union signed the agreement in 1994. The Agreement declares each country has a 12-nautical mile territorial sea and a 200-nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone. They can also claim up to a 350-nm continental shelf if it has been surveyed and submitted to the proper UN department. This Convention also defined what could be considered an “island” and whether they could claim territorial waters around an island. Even abiding by this Agreement, many territorial claims overlap.

Although China signed this Agreement, it continues to claim that almost all of the South China Sea historically belongs to them and that the claims date back before Christ. They point to Chinese maps that include this territory as part of China as early as 1922. There are many instances of China intimidating their smaller and weaker neighbors: fishing or bringing oil drilling equipment into areas that are within the maritime territory belonging to other nations, using water cannons or ramming small boats to keep them away, and dredging sand to build up reefs to make them islands large enough to build military bases and airstrips on them.

The United States has had a presence in the South China Sea in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The US Navy guards our merchant ships and maintains freedom of navigation for all nations. The US is also involved in this area because we have defense contracts with the Philippines, Malaysia, and Vietnam as well as South Korea and Japan. The official US policy is to stay out of territorial disputes in the region, but the resent aggression by China and the island “reclamations” have significantly increased tensions in the area.

**IN MEMORY**

We do not publish a Voter during the summer months and it is with sadness that we report the deaths of the following members since our last publication.



Priscilla served several terms as President, Co-President, Chair of the Natural Resources Committee and Local Government Committee throughout her years in League. Two of her proudest moments with League were the establishment of the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Acquisition (EEL) Program in 1990, while she served as the Chair of the Natural Resources Committee and the adoption by voters of the Brevard County Home Rule Charter in 1994. Our League took a leading role in both issues.

Two other League members recently died. They were **Barbara Mulligan** and **Bob Mart**.

Condolences to League members Kay Burk and Barbara Jagrowski whose husbands have died. Both husbands had earlier been League members.

**Judge Warren Burk**  
**Gerald (Jerry) Jagrowski**.

Condolences to League Board member, Diane Conaway whose husband died in July.

**Jack Kainsinger**



**Recycling Awards Program**  
**Marcia Booth – Chair**

**Recycling Awards 2017–2018**

This past summer our Recycling Awards lost two very special people: its creator and dear League volunteer, **Jerry Jagrowski**, and our sweet and most helpful BPS partner, **Laura Kandiko**. They were instrumental in starting the awards and keeping it going for the past 20 years. We will continue to work with Brevard Public Schools (BPS) to deliver the awards and will be setting the 2017-18 schedule soon.



**Health Care Committee**  
**Diane Conaway and Susan Webb**  
**Co-Chairs**

**What the Health Is Going On??!**

By Susan Webb, Secretary, LWVSC Health Care Committee

**LWVUS official position on health:** *The League is dedicated to ensuring access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans. We believe that all Americans should have access to a basic level of care, including disease prevention, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute long-term care, mental health care and health promotion and education.*

As I write this on August 4, the Senate repeal and replace “Obamacare” effort has failed and the Senate is heading into recess. However, the Affordable Care Act is still very much in danger from potential administration actions that could lead to its “implosion” and there are some in Congress who would like to bring a repeal effort back to the floor later in the year. If the Senate and House DO agree on a health care bill, it is likely to have major consequences for those who depend on federal coverage for access to health care. If the Congress votes for full repeal without replacement, the Congressional Budget Office estimates 15 million would lose coverage immediately and as many as 30 million Americans would be without health care coverage within 10 years. The bills the Senate has been considering do not score much better with estimates of between 22-26 million Americans losing access to benefits by 2026. Disabled children and the elderly will suffer disproportionately as Medicaid coverage is severely curtailed. Medicaid covers over 60% of nursing home costs so even though most of us over 65 have access to Medicare, many elderly depend upon Medicaid for nursing home stays. Health care security is truly a life-long concern.

**To bring this home: Of the approximately 564,000 people who make up Brevard County’s population, over 60,000 (10.7%) have no insurance coverage at all.**

But let’s back up a little to review some of the concepts, policies, and acronyms that lace all the myriad, confusing, and contradictory discussions we have been hearing. Below is a brief glossary that I hope will prove a useful cheat-sheet as you consider the rhetoric of the health care debate.

**ACA: The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act**, nicknamed Obamacare. A federal statute signed into law on March 23, 2010. Primary objectives are to expand health insurance coverage and to reduce the cost of healthcare through the provision of mandates, subsidies, and insurance exchanges. Insurers are required to accept and charge the same rates for all applicants without regard to sex or pre-existing conditions. Aims of the Act are to lower costs, improve access, and produce better health outcomes. A Supreme Court ruling in 2012 affirmed the constitutionality of the individual mandate requiring most people to maintain a minimum level of health insurance coverage. In the same decision, the Court found Medicaid expansion was

*(continued on Page 6)*

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coercive to states, allowing states to opt not to implement expansion of their Medicaid programs. Florida is one of the 19 states that have not expanded their Medicaid programs.

**MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY in Florida:**

Florida’s Medicaid eligibility standards as of July 1, 2016 are:

- Children up to 1 year old: 206 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL)
- Children ages 1-5: 140 percent of FPL
- Children ages 6-18: 133 percent of FPL
- Pregnant women: 191 percent of FPL
- Young adults, ages 19 and 20: 29 percent of FPL
- Adults with dependents: 29 percent of FPL

Source: <https://www.healthinsurance.org/florida-medicaid/>

To put those eligibility standards into stark perspective, see the 2017 Federal Poverty Guidelines Table below. Keep in mind that the dollar figures represent annual income. Thus the 133% FPG income level for a family of 4 is **\$32,718**.

**POVERTY GUIDELINES:**

2017 POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Persons in family/household	Poverty guideline
1	\$12,060
2	\$16,240
3	\$20,420
4	\$24,600
5	\$28,780
6	\$32,960
7	\$37,140
8	\$41,320

For families/households with more than 8 persons, add \$4,180 for each additional person.

<https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines>

**COVERAGE GAP:**

Adults who have incomes **above** the Medicaid Eligibility limits but **below** the lower limit eligible for ACA Marketplace premium tax credits are in a “coverage gap.” In Florida almost 800,000 adults fall into that gap.

Florida has **NOT** accepted federal Medicaid expansion. \$66.1 billion is left on the table from 2013 to 2022 by not expanding Medicaid.

<https://www.healthinsurance.org/florida-medicaid/>

**Three Versions of Health Care Reform that were recently under consideration:**

**1. AHCA:** American Health Care Act of 2017 passed by the House in May 2017.

**2. BCRA:** Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017 is the “repeal and replace Obamacare” health care bill under consideration by the Senate

**3. Patient Freedom Act of 2017:** An Obamacare replacement bill put forward by Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana. Would allow states to keep ACA as is or move to state sponsored plans with health care savings accounts and less federal participation.

**Single-Payer Health Care:**

Single-payer national health insurance, *also known as “Medicare for all,”* is a system in which a single public or quasi-public agency organizes health care financing, but the delivery of care remains largely in private hands. Under a single-payer system, all residents of the U.S. would be covered for all medically necessary services, including doctor, hospital, preventive, long-term care, mental health, reproductive health care, dental, vision, prescription drug and medical supply costs. <http://www.pnhp.org/facts/what-is-single-payer>.

The above is the definition put forth by Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP).

In the US Congress, Rep. John Conyers is chief sponsor of a single-payer bill to which he has been attracting increasing numbers of colleagues. Florida Voices for Health reported recently that 6 Florida Congressional representatives have signed on to the Conyers bill. You heard about single-payer from Sen. Bernie Sanders during the 2016 presidential campaign. As Congress struggles to come up with an alternative to “Obamacare,” political commentators and recent news reports are increasingly mentioning single-payer, universal coverage –sometimes referred to as “Medicare for all.”

Hopefully the above terms and charts have provided some useful background for our upcoming event focusing on health care. The speakers at our Timely Topics luncheon on September 27th will provide various perspectives on the state of health care access, delivery, and insurance coverage in Brevard County as well as the rest of the State. We’ll hear from a local hospital system executive, the executive director of an association of medical volunteers, an ophthalmologist, and the executive director of a health advocacy organization. The important, current information they will be sharing with us will give us perspective for following and participating in the health care debate at the state and national levels.

League Photos



Kathy Wall, Barbara Williams, Susan Little and Lorraine Koss



Audrey Grayson and Doreen Archer



Rachad Wilson, Brigitte Sinton and Fran Baer



Terry Mott



Fran Baer and other educators being honored at National Congress of Black Women Inc. event.

**September Calendar - ~Members are welcome at all meetings~**

These are the meeting dates that were available when the September Voter was written. However, you may find additional dates of meetings and events at our new website.

The domain name is the same. [www.lwv-spacecoast.org](http://www.lwv-spacecoast.org)

- Tuesday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting at Suntree Library at 5:30 p.m to 7:45 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept.12<sup>th</sup> Felon Voter Restoration Petition Kickoff at Satellite Beach Library 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Sept.12<sup>th</sup> New Website Training at Satellite Beach Library 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> Felon Voter Restoration Petition Kickoff at Cocoa Central Library at 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> New Website Training at Cocoa Central Library at 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> Health Committee and Womens Issues Committee Meeting at Suntree Library at 6 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> Education Committee Meeting at Suntree Library (small meeting room) at 10 a.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> Wine and Wisdom. (First in 5 o'clock Here Series). Discussion on National Popular Vote. Join us at The Wine Lady located at 234 Brevard Ave Cocoa, FL 32922. Cost is \$10 and reservations can be made on the website.
- Tuesday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> National Voter Registration Day - Locations will be announced later.
- Tuesday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> Local Government Committee. This will be an evening meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Location announced later.
- Wednesday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> Timely Topics at Suntree County Club 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Voter: Monthly publication (except June, July, August)  
Issue Date: September 2017**

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P.O. Box 360823  
Melbourne, FL 32936-0823

**Men Are Welcome to Join LWV!**

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR INTERESTS**

- Education
- Fund Raising/Finance
- Health Issues
- Hospitality/Events
- International Relations Study Group
- Justice
- Legislative Action
- Local Government/Observer Corps
- Membership
- Natural Resources
- Publicity & Public Relations
- Recycling
- Social Media/Facebook
- Speaker's Bureau
- Telephone Committee
- Voter Service
- The Voter (monthly newsletter)
- Website
- Women's Issues

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Please complete the information below and return with your check made payable to League of Women Voters of the Space Coast

Mail to: LWV Space Coast  
6629 Canal Road  
Melbourne Village, FL 32904

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Returning Member \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL DUES**

- \$60.00 for Individual Membership
- \$85.00 for Household Membership
- \$25.00 for Student Membership