



The Voter

League of Women Voters of Sanibel

Volume 2 Issue 2 May 2011

Annual Meeting Roundup



Carla Benninga, Linda Kramer, President and Maddy Mayor, new board member

At the April 12th annual meeting the officers and board members elected were Linda Kramer, President; Carolyn Gray, 1st Vice President; Carla Benninga, 2nd Vice President; Robert Winter, Secretary; Maddy Mayor, Membership; Linda Robison, Legal Advisor.

Linda Kramer thanked Carla Benninga for her seminal role in the formation of the Sanibel League. Carla's contribution will be memorialized in a plaque on the commemorative tree at the headquarters of the Florida League in Tallahassee.



Jim Jordan

The speaker for the evening, Jim Jordan, Director of Planning for the City of Sanibel. Jim's description of the city's proposals for resort redevelopment led to a lively discussion.

League Programs 2011-2012

November 8	Ben Wilcox, Lobbyist for LWV Florida THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE 2011, the good, the very bad and the extremely ugly.
December 6	Holiday Party
January	Robert McKnight, Author THE GOLDEN YEARS. THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE, 70S AND 80S
February 13	Paul Flemming, State editor for Florida Gannett Newspapers
March 12	SCCF Calusahatchee Boat Tour
April 10	Annual Meeting

League Board Meetings 2011-2012

Members are invited to attend all board meetings which will be held at the Bank of the Islands, 3:30 on Wednesdays, October 26, November 16, December 14, January 11, February 8, March 14, and April 4.

Health Care Program

March 14, 2011

John Wiest, Chief Operating Officer, Business & Strategic Service
Beachview Country Club

Mr. Wiest spoke to members of the Sanibel LWV about the cost, quality and outcomes of health care in our current economic environment. The United States has the highest per capita health expenditures in the world according to international statistics. He noted that under the current health reform legislation, "32 million people will gain coverage at a cost of \$940B over ten years and the deficit will be reduced by \$130B over the same period." He further noted that "health reform is accomplished through the mechanisms of mandates, fees, regulatory and reimbursement reform, health exchanges, and new incentives all of which will have profound effects on health organizations."

Mr. Wiest updated the audience on some of the innovative approaches being taken through the Lee Memorial Health System. He noted specifically the elements of their "continuum of care programs," which seek to assist patients with the transitions in care during the hospital stay, dismissal from the hospital, medication management and primary care physician follow-up. A pilot program is ongoing in the area of "TeleHealth." One innovation in the pilot is to send monitors home with high risk patients that monitor vital signs, blood pressure, weight, etc. in an effort to

patients that monitor vital signs; pulse; glucose levels, weight, etc. in an effort to help prevent reoccurrence.

There were about thirty people at the meeting.

Carolyn Gray

STATE LEAGUE UPDATE

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ANNOUNCES IT WILL STOP VOTER REGISTRATION DUE TO HB 1355

Tallahassee, FL -- Today, the League of Women Voters of Florida announced that it will cease voter registration in the state of Florida upon implementation of HB 1355. For more information, please see the below statement from League president Deirdre Macnab:

It is with great regret that the League of Women Voters of Florida announces that we must cease our voter registration efforts in this state should HB 1355, the elections bill recently passed by the Florida legislature, become law.

Despite the fact that the League of Women Voters is one of the nation's most respected civic organizations, with a 91-year history of registering and educating voters, we will be unable to comply with the egregious provisions contained in HB 1355.

Not only does the bill make it more difficult for voters to participate in our democracy via a decrease in early voting and new policies regarding address changes at the polls, it also imposes an undue burden on groups such as ours that work to register voters.

Under the false pretext of reducing "fraud," Florida's legislative leaders have instituted a law that will shut down the efforts of groups such as the League, the Boy Scouts, student groups, civic organizations and others who undertake the important task of helping citizens get registered to vote.

While the League remains committed to empowering an active and informed citizenry, we cannot and will not place our thousands of volunteers at risk, subjecting them to a process in which one late form could result in their facing financial and civil penalties.

By passing HB 1355, the legislature has declared war on voters. Effective immediately, the League will begin to explore legal remedies. In the meantime, the League urges Governor Rick Scott to stand up for democracy and veto HB 1355.

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The League of Women Voters of Florida, 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. For more information on the League, visit www.TheFloridaVoter.org.

Welcome to new members

Laurel Myers
Arlyn Stein
Renee Sugar

Sanibel LWV Board

*Linda Kramer, Carla Benninga, Carolyn Gray, Maddy Mayor,
Linda Robison, Robert Winters*

www.sanibellwv.org



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