



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

## O F S A N I B E L

### *The Voter*

League of Women Voters of Sanibel

Volume 2 Issue 4 December 2011

#### **Letter From the President,**

Wherever you were, I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Our League season started off on November 8th when Ben Wilcox, Governmental Consultant for the State LWV, brought us up to date on happenings in Tallahassee. He did not paint a very pretty picture for league issues. He expects a flood of constitutional amendments to appear on the November 2012 ballot including TABOR, a much dreaded issue. You will hear much more about TABOR during the upcoming legislative session. (See explanation of this issue below.) Ben is a wonderful speaker and is extremely knowledgeable.

By now you should have received your invitation to our second annual Fundraising Holiday Party. With our State President Deirdre McNab as special guest, it is bound to be a lot of fun.

Leslie Adams, premier Sanibel's Catering Company, will prepare our food. I will see you there.

Our Board is very anxious to start our first study group. Let me know if you have any suggestions for subjects we can look into.

I am sorry to report that Peg McGarrity has resigned her job as our mentor. Peg has been a tremendous help right from the start, now almost three years ago. We have not been assigned a new mentor. We will keep you posted.

Our Board members - Carolyn Gray, Carla Benninga, Bob Winters, Linda Robison, Maddy Mayor, Dick Calkins and myself - wish you HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A WONDERFUL 2012!

*Linda Kramer*

**Upcoming Programs** Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 6:30 pm  
2010 Wild Lime Drive, Sanibel (Carolyn Gray's home)  
"Holiday Party with a Cuban Flavor"  
Special Guest: Deirdre Macnab, President of the LWV of Florida

Monday, January 16, 2012 Luncheon at 12:30 pm  
Beachview Restaurant  
Speaker: Robert McKnight, former State Senator, former State Representative and Consultant for ABC News Tallahassee.  
Topic: "Legislative Reapportionment...The Golden Years of the '70s and '80s versus today"

Monday, February 13, 2012 1:30 pm  
Sanibel Library  
"Gerrymandering"  
The League of Women Voters of Florida has secured the screening rights to "Gerrymandering", a fantastic new documentary that we will show as part of our educational efforts surrounding redistricting.  
Moderator: Darden Rice, President of the LWV of the St. Petersburg Area

Friday, March 16, 2012 11 am  
(BUS PICKUP ON SANIBEL TBA)  
"Caloosahatchee Oxbow @ Riverlore Cruise"  
Explore the historic meanders of the upriver on a 2½ hour, professionally guided river tour with **Ray Ann Wessel**, Director for SCCF.

Tuesday, April 10, 2012 7pm  
Sanibel Library  
"Annual Meeting"  
Speaker, TBA

### **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.

### **From The National League of Women Voters**

The LWV of the US is Concerned about the Delay of Pollution Regulation.

The League and coalition groups recently sent a letter to the White House expressing deep concern that the Environmental Protection Agency will not meet its commitment to propose long overdue Clean Air Act standards limiting dangerous carbon pollution from new and existing power plants. They also asked the President to reaffirm the administration's commitment to issue strong standards that significantly reduce carbon emissions from both new and existing power plants as the Clean Air Act

requires.

### **From The State League of Women Voters**

TABOR: The Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) is a concept advocated by conservative and free market libertarian groups, primarily as a way of limiting the growth of government. It is not a charter of rights but a provision requiring that increases in overall tax revenue be tied to inflation and population increases unless larger increases are approved by referendum. Colorado is the only state where this issue passed some years ago and has proved to be disastrous. It since has been revoked by referendum.

### **From Tallahassee**

The occasional chill in the air - what passes for a chill in Tallahassee - sent signals that 2011 was drawing to an end. But with an early session slated for 2012 to deal with redistricting, lawmakers were beginning to lay the groundwork for the major proposals of the coming year.

Except, it seemed, for the redistricting debate that prompted the early starting gun in the Florida Legislature.

While the Senate Reapportionment Committee put the finishing touches on its instructions for drawing up a proposed committee bill, the House panel tasked with the once-a-decade redrawing of Florida's political boundaries hit the pause button. A committee meeting and three sub-committee get-togethers were all canceled, prompting yelps from Democrats that they weren't getting the full story on the delays.

But even without a slate of redistricting meetings, there were plenty of political hot potatoes to deal with, from destination resorts to insurance reform to a pair of contentious claims bills.

The Florida Legislature will convene for the 2012 Regular Legislative Session on Tuesday, January 10, 2012.

### **Legislative Summit**

The State League's Legislative Summit 2012 is scheduled for February 21-23 in Tallahassee.

Participants will have exclusive use of the historic Governors Inn Hotel at a favorable rate. Additionally, there will be a cocktail reception at the Governors Club, as well as a star-studded Old Capitol Gala featuring young elected officials from throughout the state.

More details are forthcoming, but do not hesitate! Make sure to reserve your spot today! Registration is only \$99 for League members and \$159 for non-members.

**IMPORTANT**

## Bring Your Polling Site To You!

And you will be able to vote in the next two election cycles (through 2014). Please note that all former Absentee Ballot requests have expired. New requests must be made. Call the Supervisor of Elections office 239-533-8683 or go online [www.leeelections.com](http://www.leeelections.com)

### Can you help?

We need a webmaster, the site has been "under construction" since June!

We would also appreciate help with voter service, programming, Voter newsletter, and meeting setups.

Please contact Linda Kramer, 395-3419 or [kramer@zebis.com](mailto:kramer@zebis.com).

## Sanibel LWV Board

Linda Kramer, President  
Carolyn Gray, 1st Vice President, Treasurer  
Carla Benninga, 2nd Vice President, Program  
Robert Winters, Secretary  
Maddy Mayor, Membership  
Linda Robison, Legal advisor  
Dick Calkins, Voter Service

[www.sanibellwv.org](http://www.sanibellwv.org)

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



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