



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

O F S A N I B E L

The Voter

League of Women Voters of Sanibel

Volume 4 Issue 2 December 2012

Editor's Note: If you don't see a photo of Carolyn Gray in her Greetings Message below, click on "display images" in your email program.

Greetings from President Carolyn Gray

The national elections are behind us, but our work is far from finished. A group of Sanibel LWV members and other concerned voters are working to understand the experiences of voters locally. The Florida LWV has joined with other state organizations to call upon Governor Scott to reinstate the longer early voting period so that everyone has an equal opportunity to vote in a timely fashion. The National LWV is calling on us to let Congress know that we want them to "Fix the Fiscal Cliff." The role of the League of Women Voters, as a non-partisan advocate for local, state, and federal policies that benefit all, is not just a "get out the vote" effort, but is intended to be a year-round effort to ensure our democracy continues to work.



I am eternally thankful for those brave women at the Seneca Falls Woman's Rights Convention in 1848, under the leadership of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, for planting the seeds of universal voting rights. There were 300 people at the convention, including 50 men, Frederick Douglas among them. It was not until 1920, with passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, that women had the right to vote.

As we go through our whirlwind of holiday parties, theater, and musical events, I hope you will keep in mind the work of the League of Women Voters and plan to attend some of our program meetings in the coming months as described following. I enjoy the parties and entertainment too, but I also need something to feed my civic soul.

Happy Holidays to all!

Mark Your Calendars!!

December 12, 6:30 p.m. Holiday Party (see article below)

January 8, 7 p.m. Independent Taxing Districts

Florida law permits the establishment of independent districts with taxing authority for a variety of specific purposes: multi-county, like the South Florida Water Management District; county-wide, like the Lee County Mosquito Control District; and local. Sanibel has two independent taxing districts -- the Fire and Rescue District, with 2012 millage rate of 0.9660 and the Public Library District, with a 2012 millage rate of 0.375. For comparison, the City of Sanibel rate this year is 2.100. The program will feature presentations by representatives from both Sanibel taxing districts on their history, mission, governance and finances. Meeting at the Sanibel Public Library.

February 13, 7 p.m. City Council Candidate Forum

The terms of three City Council members expire in 2013 and their successors will be elected on March 5th. If there are more than three candidates for Council, the Sanibel League of Women Voters will host a candidates' forum at the Community House.

March 22 Water Quality and Policy

All day trip, jointly sponsored with SCCF, to Franklin Locks, Clewiston and Lake Ocheechee to learn more about water discharges down the Caloosahatchee River, who makes the decisions about those discharges, and how our Sanibel community can have input. Optional bird watching trip to Storm Water Treatment Area 5 on the morning of March 23. Speakers include Dan DeLisi, the South Florida Water Management District Commissioner representing Lee, Collier, Hendry and Charlotte Counties and Rae Ann Wessel, Director, Natural Resource Policy, SCCF. Bird tour escorted by representatives of the Hendry-Glades Audubon Society.

April 9, 7 p.m. Annual meeting, Sanibel Public Library

Annual Holiday Party
Italian Wine Tasting
Annual Fundraiser

December 12th at 6:30 pm

at the home of
Carolyn Gray & Stuart Langton
2010 Wild Lime Drive
Sanibel, FL 33957

Bob Winters and Stuart Langton have teamed up to offer a unique quality Italian wine tasting with wines that will be new for many of us. You will experience sparkling wines to begin followed by four white wines and four red wines from different Italian regions. Italian appetizers will be served to accompany the wines.

Please join us!

\$35 per person minimum. Contributions of \$100 or more will go to the tax exempt LWV Educational Fund.

Please RSVP by Monday, December 10th by sending a note to sanibellwv@gmail.com or calling 395-9694

LOOKING FOR THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT?



EVEN SANTA KNOWS WHERE TO TURN!

Are you curious about the marvelous League gift ideas that Carla suggested to Santa? To see for yourself, [Click Here.](#)

**League of Women Voters of Florida
Legislative Summit & Convention Tallahassee,
Florida April 10 - 13, 2013 Call for nominations to the
LWVF State Board**



Contact Jessica Lowe-Minor for information
League of Women Voters of Florida
lwvfexecutivedirector@gmail.com
850-224-2545

To register, [Click Here](#)

Deirdre Macnab Wins Florida Achievement Award

The League is pleased to report that the Florida Commission on the Status of Women has honored our State President Deirdre Macnab with a Florida Achievement Award. She was recognized for her work at a special ceremony November 15.



At the recognition ceremony, League First Vice President Elizabeth Pines, who has recently been appointed to the Commission by Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam, described Deirdre's contributions, noting that she has taken on a full-time voluntary commitment to educating citizens on issues and candidates in a nonpartisan manner.

Pines said, "She advocates for fair elections, transparency in government, and civic engagement in the democratic process. Due to Deirdre Macnab's remarkable ability to attract and grow the League's membership in diversity of age, ethnicity and political parties, the League of Women Voters of Florida is more vital than ever before and has attained the highest level of credibility. She is highly regarded as an expert in the field of voting rights and voter access. Deirdre works tirelessly to ensure good government and strong ethics throughout the state."

Note from the National Office

By Elisabeth MacNamara, President of National LWV
www.lwv.org

So much good work was done during election season that it is truly hard to come off the post-election high and shift toward influencing public policy. But we are doing it.

Across the country, Leagues are planning holiday parties, many of which will include state legislative delegations. Congress is back in session with a fiscal cliff very much on legislative minds. The League is speaking out on this issue from our position on funding the federal government. The League studied this issue in the 1980's, another time when the size and role of the federal government were very much at issue.



So much of what is being debated in Congress right now is less about the specifics of debt and deficits than it is about the proper role of government. The League position on funding the federal government recognizes and supports the positive role that government can play in leveling the playing field and making it possible for every American to realize his or her dream. Deficit reduction is important, but we can't harm the economy as we address that issue. Even as we are focusing on going another round in the state

that issue. Even as we are focusing on going another round in the state legislatures on voting rights, as we prepare to help our communities understand the importance of the Voting Rights Act, we need to stand up for our vision of an America in which every citizen has a chance to make a better life, where every immigrant has a chance to become a citizen and where citizens who have worked hard all their lives can look forward to living out their lives with independence and dignity. That is what is truly at issue as we debate the so-called fiscal cliff.

The League has always stood for fairness and openness and a voice for all in our democracy. Let us use our voice to stand up for the community that our federal government represents.

Sanibel LWV Board

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Off Board
Jana Stone, Publicity

League Board Meetings 2012-2013

Members are invited to attend all board meetings which are held at 3:30 p.m. at the Bank of the Islands from October through April. Following is the schedule for this season.

December 13
January 9
February 13
March 13
April 10

Can you help?

We would appreciate help with the League Website (which is out of date) and with meeting setups. Please contact Carolyn Gray, 395-9694, or carolynmgray45@gmail.com.

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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