



The Voter

lwvsanibel.org

Volume 9 Issue 2

December 2017

Editor's Note: If you do not see a photo below, click on "display images" in your email program.

Message from Robyn Cook, LWV Sanibel President

Happy Holidays,
LWVS members and
friends!

Here we are on the
cusp of Hannukah
and Christmas with
the Thanksgiving
turkey dinner
leftovers happily
consumed days ago.
And in a political
sense, our country

is awaiting crucial votes on the Budget, the Dreamers Act, and the controversial Tax Bill. As is standard fare for Congress, it feels like so many important items are negotiated at the last minute and with little public input in the form of public hearings. In addition, the Florida State Legislature will begin their 2018 session on January 9, as they chose to start early with so much work to be done. Indeed, the long-awaited revisions to the Florida Constitution are under scrutiny as they head towards a vote in the fall of 2018 election. How do we keep up!

As I have become more involved with our Sanibel League and observed the State League, I, along with our members, have "kept up" by receiving the State League of Women Voters newsletters and other emails of importance on public policy issues. Friends and neighbors often ask me: Why should I join the LWV? It's simple: Count on LWV to keep us informed and to have our back on the issues and policies that you care about. Some say it's more expensive to join the LWV of Sanibel.....just a bit as a portion goes towards all the work that is done over the year to advocate and coordinate



LWV Sanibel Board of Directors for 2017-18: (left to right) Ellen Strobel, Robyn Cook, Robin Krivanek, Chris Schluter, Nancy Elting, Barbara Joy Cooley, Maria O'Brien, Bob Terry

education and information on the issues. Did you know that the Florida League hires a lobbyist to advocate with legislatures during the session? Your ideas and voices are heard by state senators and representative through our on-site lobbyist. At the January 18 luncheon, LWVS will focus on the policy issue of Gun Safety by inviting the co-founder and chair of the Florida Gun Safety Coalition, Patti Brigham, first VP of the LWV of Florida board. See more below about this important luncheon.

Volunteer Opportunity: We are looking for volunteers to serve on the Voter Services Committee. The upcoming year will be an important one as there are state legislative elections in the fall of 2018. In addition, Sanibel will be holding a Special Election on March 20, 2018, to fill the vacant City Council seat previously held by Jim Jennings. The LWVS will host a candidate forum at a to-be-announced date in early March, if there is more than one candidate running to fill the seat. We need volunteers to help at that event and to register eligible voters on Sanibel. Also to encourage people to learn about the elections that will impact them. If you are interested, [please email me.](#)

Your voice and ideas are important to us! Don't hesitate to pass along your thoughts for programs, forums, or policies that are of interest to you. Drop us a note at P.O. Box 1194, Sanibel FL 33957, or [email us.](#) We would love to hear from you!

LWVSanibel is now on Facebook!

Robyn Cook, President

First Luncheon of the LWV of Sanibel season a great success!

Who knew creating health care policy would be so complicated? Well, if you want to know how it all happens, get an expert to unravel the mysteries and myths.

The League of Women Voters of Sanibel began the first of a series of five luncheons on November 16 with a focus on one of the most important issues of our time: health care. The program was a great success as a record number of attendees turned out to hear the history, the current state of health care, and what the future holds for health care in America. Our featured speaker, Dr. W. David Helms, has been deeply involved and influential in the fields of health services research and health policy analysis. He also worked on the implementation of federal and state health exchanges established under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

In an informative and fact-filled presentation, Dr. Helms discussed the current stalemate in US health policy; lessons from major eras in American health policy; basic health reform options; and what needs to happen to move past the current impasse. He outlined the many structural issues in the health markets that policymakers struggled with in the past and when creating the template for the ACA. He discussed issues dealing with Federal versus State authority; how the uninsured have severely impacted US health expenditures; and more. Given that



Dr. W. David Helms, Ph.D.,
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg
School of Public Health

the political left and right are basically unwilling to risk much compromise, Dr. Helms recommends consideration of possible changes to the current market-based approach: Enact a public option for the individual marketplaces, being careful to build in transition steps and time; restructure Medicaid; continue to promote health system integration following the ACA; accountable care organization demonstrations; shift from fee for service to capitated payments for health plans; and adopt global budgets for health systems such as those now being tested in Maryland.

Dr. Helms left time for the many questions asked by the audience. To a query about why US health care costs run so high, Dr. Helms said it boils down to higher marketing and administrative costs; the US leads the world in administration costs. Even though countries like the Netherlands limit profit taking by medical institutions, they have found that hospitals are able to achieve higher revenues. As to pharmaceutical costs, Dr. Helms highly recommends limiting marketing overall in addition to managing drug costs. Since the Bush era passage of the Part D bill, government has been prohibited to negotiate drug prices for Medicare.

Coming Up!
"Ballots Not Bullets"

**LWV of Sanibel
 Program and Luncheon**

Thursday, January 18, 2018

**Speaker: Patti Brigham, First VP,
 League of Women Voters Florida,
 Founder & Co-Chair:
 Florida Coalition to Prevent
 Gun Violence**



Patti Brigham grew up in Orlando and attended the University of Central Florida, where she earned a B.A. in philosophy and an M.A. in liberal studies. After several years at We Care, Inc., a suicide-prevention center, Patti forged a career in radio with responsibilities as a reporter, writer, and producer. During this time, she was recognized with several awards from media organizations, including American Women in Radio and Television and the Associated Press. She also worked as a freelance reporter for the Orlando Weekly, writing about the arts.

Ms. Brigham formed the League's Gun Safety Committee, which she chairs. Gun Safety is one of the Florida League of Women Voters' top policy issues. It calls for:

1. A state ban on all semiautomatic assault weapons and large-capacity feeding devices;
2. Comprehensive universal background checks and ensuring that the State provides all relevant records to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS);

3. Continuing efforts to defeat unsafe gun legislation, such as Open Carry, Campus Carry, and Stand Your Ground expansion.

The Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence was created by the Florida League of Women Voters after the Orlando Pulse massacre that killed 49 people and left more than 50 injured. The LWVF then knew it was time for an aggressive push for smart gun laws. The Coalition is a broad-based alliance made up of over 125 state and national partners representing education, minority communities, faith-based organizations, health care and other gun safety groups. It includes such diverse groups as the Florida PTA, Hispanic Federation, National Council of Jewish Women, and the Interfaith Council of Central Florida.

The Coalition is committed to fighting the plethora of dangerous gun bills that have been filed that put our residents in certain danger. Part of the battle is exposing the NRS's lobbying efforts to influence legislation. Brigham states, "The time has passed when the NRA in Florida goes without significant challenge. Recent polls have shown that a majority of Floridians favor responsible gun legislation. We will continue to remind our lawmakers that they were elected to represent the voters, not special interest groups."

When: Thursday, January 18. Registration at 11:30 a.m. for the noon to 2 p.m. luncheon and program, with time for Q&A.

Where: The Sundial Beach Resort, 1451 Middle Gulf Drive, Sanibel

RSVP: [Click here](#) to reserve your place by email, or call Robin Krivanek at 239-395-0927. The deadline to RSVP (or to cancel a reservation) is by NOON, Monday, January 15.

Cost: \$25 per person. Mail your check with names of all attendees to: LWV Sanibel, P.O. Box 1194, Sanibel, FL 33957. Or you can pay at the door. Please Note: Because the LWV Sanibel is required to pay for each reserved meal, persons with unpaid or absent reservations will be billed.



On-Line Registration Now Available for Florida Residents

You may have heard that Florida residents may now register to vote online. As of Oct. 1, 2017, Florida joins approximately 35 other states plus the District of Columbia in offering online voter registration as an option to their residents. Visit RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov which is the secure, convenient and easy-to-use voter registration website. Any Florida resident who is

eligible to vote or is already registered to vote in Florida can use it. You may register to vote, update a registration record, or fill out a voter registration application that you may print, sign, and deliver to your Supervisor of Elections.

LWV Sanibel 2017-2018 Programs

All luncheons and programs take place at the Sundial Beach Resort, 1451 Middle Gulf Drive. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., with the lunch and program following from noon to 2 p.m.



Thursday, January 18, 2018

Ballots Not Bullets

Speaker: Patti Brigham

1st Vice President, LWV of Florida;

Co-Chair, Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence

Thursday, February 15, 2018

Education-School Options: Public, Charter or Independent

Speakers: Dr. Jane Kuckel and Nancy Elting

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Our Beaches: Sea Level Resilience and Climate Change

Speaker: Rick Bartleson, PH.D.

Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation Marine Lab

Thursday, April 19, 2018

LWV Sanibel Annual Meeting

Program: Vision 2020, Women's Suffrage to Voters' Rights and Beyond

Speaker: Madelon Stewart, Ed.D., Florida State Delegate, Vision 2020

Luncheon meals are \$25 per person.* To reserve your place, [email the LWV](#) with the names of those attending. You can pay at the door or mail your check to LWV Sanibel, P.O. Box 1194, Sanibel FL 33957.

*You may also pay in advance and save! Your check for \$100 covers all 5 luncheons. Pay at the door prior to the first luncheon, or mail your check to the address above.

The deadline to make reservations is by NOON on Monday of the week of the Thursday luncheon/program. Please note: Because LWV Sanibel is required to pay for each meal, unpaid and absent reservations will be billed.



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANIBEL

**Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership
for 2017-2018
Not a Member Yet? This is the Year to Join!**

Stay informed, stay involved. With your dues, you support and are a member of the League of Women Voters of the United States, the League of Women Voters of Florida, and our local League - all for only \$65 per person or \$95 per family. If you would like to be extra supportive, we suggest the Susan B. Anthony membership category for \$125.

Print the membership form below and mail it in with your check. Questions? Email us at lwvsanibel@gmail.com.

Please make your check to League of Women Voters of Sanibel (or LWV-Sanibel) and mail it to P. O. Box 1194, Sanibel, FL 33957. If you've already renewed, many thanks!



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANIBEL

**Membership Renewal & Records
Update**

Please copy this form and mail it along with your check (made out to LWV Sanibel) to LWV Sanibel, P.O. Box 1194, Sanibel, FL 33957.

Questions: lwvsanibel@gmail.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (mobile): _____

Phone (home): _____

E-mail: _____

Please select your annual membership level:

\$125 Susan B. Anthony membership _____

\$95 Household membership _____

\$65 Individual membership _____

\$30 Student membership _____

TOTAL _____**Please circle your areas of interest:**

Voter Services

Local Government

Fundraising

Health Care

Sustainability/Natural Resources

Publicity

Membership

Hot Topics

Education

Hospitality/Events

2017-2018 LWV Sanibel Officers and Directors

Robyn Cook, President

Barbara Joy Cooley, Vice President, Natural Resources

Robin Krivanek, Treasurer and Membership

Maria O'Brien, Secretary

Nancy Elting, Director

Chris Schluter, Director

Ellen Strobel, Director

Bob Terry, Director

Carla Benninga, Director Emerita

2017-2018 Nominating Committee

Robin Krivanek (Chair), Erhard Joeres, Ellen O'Neill

LWV Sanibel Board Meetings

Members are invited to attend all board meetings, which are held at noon on the second Thursday of the month at the Sanibel-Captiva Community Bank. Board meeting date for 2017 is December 14. Dates for 2018 are January 11, February 8, March 8, and April 12.

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.

League of Women Voters of Sanibel, P.O. Box 1194, Sanibel, FL 33957

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by lwvsanibel@gmail.com in collaboration with

Constant Contact 

Try it free today