



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

O F S A N I B E L

The Voter

League of Women Voters of Sanibel

Volume 4 Issue 4 February 2013

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

We have much to celebrate on February 14 in addition to Valentine's Day, as it was on February 14, 1920, that the League of Women Voters was founded in Chicago, Illinois by Carrie Chapman Catt during the last meeting of the National American Women Suffrage Association. This was approximately six months before the passage of 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution which enfranchised women with the right to vote. The LWV began as a political experiment aimed to help newly enfranchised women exercise their responsibilities as voters.



Following the results of the most recent state and national elections, we can see how this power of women's vote has changed the political landscape. The current U. S. Congressional delegation now has 100 women. And in Florida there are 37 women in the Florida Legislature and Senate. It is not just in numbers that things are changing - we find that women's priorities often differ from their male colleagues. So, we expect to see more focus on education, gun control, and pocketbook issues from these increased numbers of women.

Recently, we had a productive "focus group" session with some of our new members. I'll have more to say about that later in this issue of *The Voter*. The event prompted us to change the venue and focus for our next Board meeting to a Dutch-treat lunch for all League members at George & Wendy's Seafood Grille on Wednesday, February 13 from 12-2 P.M. We will use the time with those of you who join us as an informal Program Planning meeting. We want to know what kinds of programs you would like to see in the coming year.

Following, you will see the announcement and details for the March 22-23 trip to Lake "O", Clewiston, and one of the best birding areas in the state. Please join us for part or all of the weekend in the "other" Florida. (And for those of you who are also Zonta members, this is after the PEEK!)

We are looking for another two Board members. If you have an interest in serving on

we are looking for another two Board members. If you have an interest in serving on our Board or would like to suggest someone to serve, please let Linda Kramer (kramer@zebis.com) know, as she is chairing the nomination committee.

Thank you for your continued support of the Sanibel League.

Respectfully yours,
Carolyn Gray

Successful First LWV-Sanibel Voter Registration Drive

By Dick Calkins

The LWV-Sanibel held its first voter registration drive during the last three Saturdays in January. The event became possible when Richard Johnson, General Manager of Bailey's General Store, welcomed the idea of having a League voter registration table at Bailey's front door.



The voter registration drive was intended to precede the March Sanibel municipal election for three open city council seats. However, by the end of the January 18th filing date, only the three incumbent council members whose terms were expiring had filed papers to run, thus there are no contested races for the Council and no election will be held. Given that voter registration is an on-going League activity, your Board decided to go ahead with the voter registration drive which proved to be a good decision.

Eleven League members became newly certified Voter Registration Volunteers for the LWV-Florida, by completing a required League on-line training session hosted by Maree Elowson and me. In addition, our volunteers were required to successfully complete an on-line quiz about the key points in the training. Our volunteers worked in pairs (a League requirement) in two-hour shifts from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They registered new voters and helped several people submit voter registration forms for changes of address or party affiliation. An added bonus was how many passers-by stopped to visit with our out-going volunteers who provided information about our local League and membership applications. It was great visibility for our new LWV-Sanibel.



All in all, this was a very successful first attempt at voter registration. In addition to developing the necessary procedures and implementing the LWV-Florida training module, we established a routine so we are ready to set up voter registration drives in the future.

The LWV-Sanibel extends its thanks to [Richard Johnson](#) of Bailey's General Store, [Marcy Calkins](#) for the great artwork in crafting our signs, and to the following new Voter Registration Volunteers who took time to complete the training and work at least one two hour shift at our Bailey's VR Table:

[Carol Gestwicki](#)



Erhard Joeres
Edina Lessack
Maddy Mayor
Gail Migliorini
Enid Packard
Martha & Rick Siders
Bob Winters
Martha and John Wolf



Mark Your Calendars!!

February 13, Noon Tell your LWV-Sanibel Board What You Think!
Meet at George and Wendy's Seafood Grille, 2499 Periwinkle Way (in the Bailey Shopping Center) and order your own Dutch-Treat lunch. All members and interested people are invited to participate in a discussion about the programs and direction that your local league should take in the future.

March 22, 10:30 a.m. Water Quality and Policy
See details in article below.

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

Can't Come to Lunch on February 13th? The LWV-Sanibel Still Wants Your Input!

The League gets all of its impetus for public policy studies and government action directly from your member concerns and inspired ideas.

Please send your ideas for the following to sanibellwv@gmail.com by February 12th.

Nominations for:

Elected Board Members (2-year term) or Appointed Board Members (1-year term)
and
Officers (1-year term): Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, President

Budget:

Your recommendations for LWV-Sanibel's financial goals--how should we spend and raise money?

Program:

Program:
What studies or action would you like to see LWV-Sanibel do to educate and engage ourselves and citizens in government or public policy?

LWV-Sanibel Focuses on Programs

We initiated our program planning for 2013-14 with a new member focus group meeting hosted by Linda Kramer on January 21. Mary Buck, Amanda Cross, Tanya Hochschild, and Ellen O'Neil were present as well as LWV Board members Maree Elowson and Carolyn Gray.



There was a great deal of discussion about various program options, including gun control, immigration reform, healthcare, and election reform study group. Ellen O'Neill agreed to work with Linda Kramer on the League's Program Committee for the coming year.

We are considering a study group on election reform. Amanda Cross continues to work on data analysis of the Lee County voting outcome. She is consulting with a member of the Lee County League to insure a coordinated approach should recommendations for improvements come forward from the two Leagues. If anyone has not yet completed the LWV-Sanibel Voter Survey, please see the article below.

We are encouraged by the enthusiasm and interests of new members and hope to have more discussions when members and your board gather on Wednesday, February 13 at George and Wendy's Seafood Grille (2499 Periwinkle Way) for Dutch-treat lunch. All are welcome. It is a great opportunity to meet your LWV Board members and let your voice be heard as to the programs and directions your local league should take. If you cannot attend, please send your suggestions to Linda at sanibellwv@gmail.com.

Lake Okeechobee Trip March 22 - 23, 2013

Jointly sponsored by LWVS and SCCF.

By Bob Winters

Our government affects us in many ways. One set of government actions of particular significance for Sanibel and Captiva is the periodic release of nutrient rich water from Lake Okeechobee into the Caloosahatchee estuary. Those releases have a substantial impact on the quality of the water washing



our beaches. The LWV-Sanibel has teamed up with the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation

Foundation, SCCF, to offer a special excursion to go to the source and learn about the drivers of these decisions. In addition to learning more about the important events upstream from us, we will learn about life in a different part of Florida.



On March 22, the group will first assemble on the South side of Franklin Locks, just off State Road 80. SCCF's Natural Resources Policy Director Rae Ann Wessel will meet the group to share some of her river lore and explain the challenges that face us today, living downstream from such a massive, disrupted watershed.



After a picnic lunch, travelers will move on upstream and meet South Florida Water Management District Board member Dan DiLisi at the Clewiston Field Office. Dan and the staff will explain the role of SFWMD in controlling water flow in their district, which stretches from Orlando to the Florida Keys.

The final stop for our first day is the Clewiston Museum to meet director Butch Wilson, long-time resident of the Lake Okeechobee area, lake fisherman and sugar worker, and storyteller extraordinaire. Museum exhibits tell the history of Clewiston from its days as a tiny settlement created for northerners escaping cold winters to enjoy the healthful benefits of South Florida's climate up to its modern day agricultural activities. Butch will share his own perspective of how water shaped the history of his community. He is willing to stay after the museum's regular closing time to answer questions people may have about life on Lake Okeechobee.

People choosing to spend the night in Clewiston will join other early risers for an 8:30 a.m. trip to Storm Water Treatment Area #5, a now world famous place for bird watching. Local resident Margaret England will serve as our guide. STA 5 is not regularly open for public use. Spotting scopes and binoculars are good tools to have for this part of the journey.

The trip cost is \$40 for LWV-Sanibel and/or SCCF members and \$45 for non-members. The cost is the same whether people chose to not go on the Saturday bird walk or only choose that. Lodging and meals are not included. Pack a lunch for the stopover at Franklin Locks.

For registration information please contact Carolyn Gray at 395-9694 or carolynmgray45@gmail.com. Deadline for receipt of checks and registration is Wednesday, March 20, 2013. Please make your checks out to LWV Sanibel and mail

them to:

Carolyn Gray
2010 Wild Lime Drive
Sanibel, FL 33957.

Schedule Details

March 22

10:30 a.m. Assemble at Franklin Locks by personal car, bring lunch if continuing to later modules. Presentation by Rae Ann Wessel. On Mapquest, it is about 38 miles (or about an hour's drive) from the Sanibel Community House to the Franklin Locks at 1660 S. Franklin Rd, in Alva, FL.

About 11:30 a.m. Lunch at picnic tables by the Lock.

About 12:15 p.m. Depart for SFWMD Clewiston Field Station.

1:00 p.m. Presentation by Dan DiLisi, South Florida Water Management District Commissioner.

About 2:00 p.m. Depart for Clewiston Museum for a movie and guided tour.

5 - 6:00 p.m. On the dike with Butch Wilson.

Dinner and overnight options are the Clewiston Inn (863-983-8151), Holiday Inn (Front Desk 863-983-5100, Reservations 877-410-6667), and Best Western (863-983-3400).

March 23

8:30 a.m. Guided bird walk at Storm Water Treatment Area 5.



LWV-Sanibel Voter Survey: What happened to Sanibel Voters?

In the 2008 general election Sanibel voter turnout was 88.2%. By contrast, voter turnout in November 2012 was 75.3%. What caused this shift?

In the wake of Florida's recent general election disaster, the LWV Sanibel wants your story.

When and where did you vote? If you voted by mail, did you have any problems receiving or returning the ballot? If you voted early off-island, or on Sanibel on Election Day, how long did you wait in line? Did you vote at the Sanibel Community Church (precinct 117) or the Center 4 Life (precinct 16)? Did you have to give up and go home without voting? Please document any other problems with your voting experience.

To participate in the survey please send your name, address and story to sanibellwv@gmail.com or P.O. Box 1194, Sanibel, FL 33957.

In a news conference on November 13, 2012, the LWV Florida called for a Florida state task force on election reform. A tabulation of responses (without your personal information) will help our local League work with the state League to insure that change happens before the next general election.

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
lwfexecutivedirector@gmail.com
850-224-2545

To register, [Click Here](#)

The League Visits Our Nation's Capital



Join fellow LWV-Florida members on an exciting springtime trip to Washington, D.C. from March 20-24, 2013 during the world-famous cherry blossom festival. See the White House, Supreme Court and Capitol buildings through the League's perspective via guided tours of each. The trip is full of Washington, D.C.'s greatest sites - all designed to give you a rich and full experience of our nation's capital. This is a trip you will not want to miss!

[CLICK HERE](#) to get more information or to register today!



LWV-FLORIDA'S DEIRDRE MACNAB HONORED AS CENTRAL FLORIDIAN OF THE YEAR

Orlando, FL--Deirdre Macnab, president of the League of Women Voters of Florida, has been named Central Floridian of the Year 2012 by the Orlando Sentinel.



Citing Macnab's dynamic approach to leadership, the Sentinel said, "Florida's League of Women Voters, founded in 1939, has been on a roll since Macnab took charge in 2009. It spearheaded the coalition that persuaded voters in 2010 to reform the state's hyperpoliticized and often profoundly unfair process for drawing legislative and congressional districts.

"The League and its allies convinced a Federal judge to strike down part of a 2011 state law that severely restricted voter-registration drives.

"And the group fought alongside others for extra early-voting hours last year. Gov. Rick Scott rejected their request but now apparently has seen the light."

A portrait of strength and determination, Macnab is leading the League to the future. The Sentinel quoted several officials who are familiar with Macnab's efforts: "Deirdre's done an incredible amount with the League," says Linda Chapin, who was a county president herself before going into politics and becoming Orange County mayor. "She really has advanced the cause."

"She's done a phenomenal job in making sure the League is always at the table," says Seminole County Elections Supervisor Michael Ertel.

This is far from Macnab's first recognition for excellence. In November, she received an achievement award from the Florida Commission on the Status of Women.

Wrote the commission: "Due to Ms. 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 with the highest regard of credibility."

Detailing Macnab's education and career background, as well as her efforts to improve Central Florida since she moved to the region in 2004--including her service as president of the Orange County League in 2006 before becoming state president in 2009--the Sentinel says, "She has left a lasting impression on her organization - and on Florida."

For her determination on behalf of Florida's voters, Macnab is the Orlando Sentinel's choice for 2012 Central Floridian of the Year.

To read the entire article and view a video of Macnab describing her work with the League and her motivation for leadership, [Click Here](#).

Membership Application

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?

E-mail sanibellwv@gmail.com

Name _____ Phone (Home) _____

Address _____ Phone (mobile) _____

_____ E-mail _____

Please Circle Annual Membership Level

\$100 Susan B. Anthony membership _____

\$90 Household membership _____

\$60 Individual membership _____

\$30 Student membership _____

\$5.00 for LWV-Florida Lobby Fund _____

Gift for LWV-US Education Fund _____

TOTAL _____

Please Circle Your Interest Topics

Voter Services

Local Government

Fundraising

Health Care

Sustainability/Natural Resources

Publicity

Membership

Hot Topics

Education

Hospitality/Events

LWV-Sanibel Board

Carolyn Gray, President

Robert Winters, 1st Vice President, Program

Linda Kramer, 2nd Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer

Maddy Mayor, Membership

Linda Robison, Legal advisor

Dick Calkins, Voter Service

Carla Benninga, Founding President

Maree Elowson, The Voter Newsletter Editor

Off Board

Jana Stone, Publicity

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.

February 13, Noon -- George & Wendy's Seafood Grille

All are welcome to lunch with the Board

March 13 -- regular meeting

April 10 -- regular meeting

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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