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The Voter

League of Women Voters of Sanibel

Volume 2 Issue 1 January 2011

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

What vision do you have for our local League? Mine is for an activist, grassroots organization whose members passionately believe that citizens should play a critical role in advocacy and work tirelessly to encourage Sanibel residents to think critically about their government, their individual rights, and their collective needs. What vision do you have for our local League? Linda Kramer will lead a discussion to help bring this vision into reality. Please join us on January 17 at 1 pm at the library and bring your ideas and your thinking. This is an open meeting. Bring a Friend!

ANYONE WHO JOINS AND PAYS THEIR DUES BEFORE JANUARY 31, 2011 WILL RECEIVE A MEMBERSHIP UNTIL APRIL 1, 2012.

This year, during the legislative session in March, you will hear a lot about TABOR. It is an issue that will likely be debated and could be put on the ballot in November. Here is a definition of 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. Wikipedia. Colorado is the only State where this issue passed some years ago and has proved to be unsuccessful.

CANDIDATES FORUM

All persons running for City Council must have filed their candidacy with the clerk of the city by January 14, 2011. The LWV of Sanibel is planning a Candidates' Forum on Monday, February 21 at 7 pm at the Sanibel Community Center. Lydia Galton, President of the Collier County LWV will be the moderator. Please put this important date on your calendar. Bob Winters has been appointed as Chairperson for this event and will need lots of volunteers. You can contact him at SanibelBob@msn.com or at 472-1972.

On March 14, at 1 pm, Jim Nathan, President and CEO of Lee County Memorial Health System will speak to us about Health Care - Where Are We Going?

I hope to see you at all our presentations.

Carla



Carolyn Gray and Carla Benninga

2011 Programs

January 17 -- 1 p.m. at the Sanibel Library
LWV Sanibel Strategic Planning (What is your interest? Would you like to form a study group? What types of programs would you like?)

February 21 --7 p.m. at the Sanibel Community House
City Council Candidates Forum moderated by Lydia Galton, President of the Collier County LWV (Chairperson, Bob Winters)

March 14 -- 1 p.m. venue TBA
Jim Nathan, President and CEO of the Lee County Memorial Health System
"Health Care: Where are we going?"

April 12 -- 7 p.m. at the Sanibel Library
Annual Meeting

2011Board Meetings

3:00pm, Bank of the Islands
Feb 9, Mar 9, April 13
Members are invited to attend Board meetings.
Let us know by email if you plan to attend: sanibellwv@gmail.com



Linda Kramer & Linda Robison

LWV of Sanibel Education Fund

The Sanibel League is a 501(c)4 corporation. We use dues and donations for membership activities and for dues to national and state leagues. These dues are about \$50 per member annually. Membership and donations made to the Sanibel League are not tax deductible.

We have just opened an account with the State League (LWVF) to accommodate tax deductible donations to support voter education activities. This tax exempt organization is a 501(c) 3 and provides a tax deduction for the donor and exempts us from paying sales tax. The Sanibel LWV can withdraw from this fund for educational purposes only.

Checks should be made out to: LWVF Education Fund, marked as Sanibel LWV and sent to LWV of Sanibel, P.O. 1194, Sanibel, FL 33957.

We want to express our deep appreciation to the following people for their donations. Congratulations to Dawn Schumann who contributed the first donation to the League's Sanibel Education Fund.

Dawn and George Schumann
Carla and Benno Benninga
Carol and Philip Scheiber
Mary McLaughlin
Joann and Richard Reece
Roni Freer

Joyce and Joseph Sirkin
Margaret Elowson and Erhard Joeres
Enid and Martin Packard
Carolyn Gray
Linda Robison
Linda Kramer
Bob Winters



Mary and Mike McLaughlin

US LEAGUE UPDATE

Dear Supporter,

Thank you for all your dedicated support this past year - our 90th anniversary year. Without your commitment, the League of Women Voters could not continue our mission to make democracy work.

[We came together in 2010](#) to educate thousands of voters nationwide, expand our outreach to young voters, and ramp up voter protection efforts to ensure that all eligible voters could vote. We made a difference for [health care reform](#), [ethics in government](#), [money in elections](#), [climate change](#), [judicial diversity](#) and many other issues.

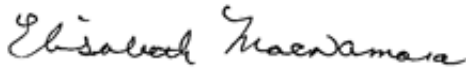
In the coming months, we will be redoubling our efforts as we continue to make government more accountable and transparent to its citizens, and we'll be counting on your support to help achieve these goals.

You are an important part of the citizenry that makes our work possible as we fight to be heard over the rabble of special interests. Because of you, we recommit ourselves every day to make our voice heard and get the work done.

We have a busy year ahead of us but with your help and the strength of our supporters across the country, I know we can achieve anything.

Thank you so much and have a happy new year.

All the best,



Elisabeth MacNamara
LWVUS President



STATE LEAGUE UPDATE

Save The Date!

When: Wednesday, March 23 - 5 p.m. through Saturday March 26 5 p.m.

What: TWO League Events in ONE!!!! Legislative Seminar (March 23, 24) and Convention (March 25, 26)

Where: Tallahassee, Florida

Why: Many members across the State look forward every year to attending our terrific Legislative Seminar and lobbying as a group during Legislative session for our issues.

Many of you, also, look forward to our biannual State Convention where we do the very important League work of electing new officers, passing our budget and setting program items for the coming year. We know your time and resources are valuable! We don't want you to have to choose which event you have the time and resources to attend. We want everyone to have the opportunity to do BOTH in 2011!

Highlights:

Work and Fun!!

Welcome Dinner on the 22nd Floor of The Capitol overlooking Beautiful Tallahassee! (A very important guest speaker to be announced soon!)

Reception in the Historic Old Capitol Senate Chambers with all newly elected officials! Fun and Informative Convention Surprise Dinner Friday night!(another great speaker and League activity!!)

Optional Tours and Activities to make your time as action packed and busy as YOU

want it to be!

We are pleased to announce that we will be returning to The Doubletree Hotel as our central location for these two events at a SPECIAL room rate of \$105/night. FREE Parking, FREE Breakfast and walking distance to all ACTIVITIES!!!!

The Collier County LWV is chartering a small bus if they can have a minimum of 25 people. It will be leaving on March 23 and returning on the 26th at \$100 person for both ways. This number could include Collier, Charlotte, Lee County and Sanibel Leagues.

If you are interested in attending, please email to sanibellwv@gmail.com or call 472-6689 as soon as possible. If you would like to attend, please also note whether you would like to take the Collier LWV bus.

30-SECOND ACTION: STOP THE EFFORT TO REPEAL HEALTH CARE

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE AT: (202) 225-3121.

In the next few days, the House is scheduled to vote on repealing the Affordable Care Act, the comprehensive health care reform law passed by the last Congress and signed into law by President Obama. The Affordable Care Act is a major step forward in health care for all. It has already made a difference by improving health care access and coverage for millions of Americans. Repealing it now would be a tragic step in the wrong direction.

In just the past few months, the Affordable Care Act has brought about positive changes: children are no longer denied coverage for pre-existing conditions; insurers can no longer impose lifetime limits on coverage; adult children can stay on their parents' health plans up until age 26; and, as of this month, Medicare recipients can have a number of preventive and well-care services without being charged a deductible, co-pay, or coinsurance.

As provisions of the Affordable Care Act continue to be implemented, more and more Americans will have health care coverage while health care costs are reduced for individuals, businesses, and communities.

TAKE ACTION

1. Contact your Representative now by calling (202) 225-3121. Ask your Representative not to repeal the Affordable Care Act and to stand firm in support of this law which extends coverage to millions of uninsured Americans.
2. Send this alert to other concerned citizens: your grassroots network, your friends, your and coworkers. Encourage them to contact their elected leaders.

Welcome to new member

Nancy Clark

Sanibel LWV Board

*Carla Benninga, Carolyn Gray, Linda Kramer, Mary McLaughlin,
Linda Robison, Robert Winters*

www.sanibellwv.org



Try it FREE today.

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