



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® O F S A N I B E L

The Voter

League of Women Voters of Sanibel

Volume 3 Issue 1 January 2012

Letter From the President,

The holidays are over and I wish all of you a happy and healthy new year. It looks like it will be a very busy one for the LWV of Sanibel.

About 25 league members enjoyed the holiday party at the beautiful home of Carolyn Gray and Stuart Langton.

We had two special guests,



Deirdre MacNab, President
LWV, Florida



Santa (George Schumann)

Santa is studying TRU (They Represent Us), a brochure listing our elected officials on a National, State, County and Local level. Copies will be available at the January 16 luncheon.

Deirdre gave us much information in her presentation. Slides of the Cuban LWV trip

...and gave us much information in her presentation. Slides of the Cuban LIT trip were shown and members were urged to participate in one of the six 2012 scheduled trips, to be taken in March, April, May, September, October and November. If you are interested in joining one of these, please send an email to sanibellwv@gmail.com.

Linda Kramer

Upcoming Programs

Monday, January 16, 2012 Luncheon at 12:30 pm; Program at 1:15 pm
Beachview Bistro, 1100 Parview Drive

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"

Please make your reservation by January 13 by emailing sanibellwv@gmail.com or call 472-6689. Cost for lunch is \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members or come at 1:15 to the program at no cost.

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, February 8, March 14, and April 4.

CALOOSAHATCHEE OXBOW & RIVERLORE CRUISE

Please join the LWV of Sanibel on March 16, 2012, in exploring and meandering the historic upriver Caloosahatchee. We follow the river back to a time when a waterfall served as the headwaters of the Caloosahatchee and settlers braved living amongst the wilderness.

The tour is guided by Rae Ann Wessel, a river researcher, long-time river advocate, historian and SCCF (Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation) Natural Resource Policy Director. Our vessel is a stable and spacious 42-passenger Manatee Rover pontoon boat that features daily Manatee tours. All seats have a great view for photographs and bird watching.

Cruises depart 1 at p.m. from the W.P. Franklin Lock & Dam off SR 80. The 2.5 hour adventure begins by locking through the W.P. Franklin Lock in Olga. Heading east toward Alva, we enter the historic bends of the river and revisit the activities of the pioneers who traveled the same river to find paradise. Stories of the early settlers and their adventures are blended with an understanding of the river's oxbows, the wild creatures that call it home and the challenges the river faces.

Our vessel is the stable and spacious 42-passenger Manatee Rover pontoon boat that features daily Manatee tours. All seats have a great view for photographs and bird watching. So that you do not have to drive, we have arranged for a very nice bus to pick us up at 10:45 am on Sanibel (place to be announced) and bring us back here about 5 pm.

Since we leave at 10:45 and return around 5 pm, you will need to bring a lunch. The League will provide water.

The cost will be \$55 per person for both the 2 ½ hour boat ride, our guide and the bus, which is a great saving over the individual price.

We will start taking prepaid reservations soon. More details will be sent at that time.

From The State League of Women Voters

The Florida Legislature convened for the 2012 Regular Legislative Session on Tuesday, January 10, 2012. Watch for updates from the State League.

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.

Be Ready to Vote Action Campaign The new election law makes both voting and voter registration harder in Florida. What can voters do? We urge all voters to check their registration and make sure it is up to date. Voters can update their voter status by contacting the Supervisor of Elections at 239-leevote (533-8683) or visit the county web site www.leeelections.com

Be Ready to Vote action steps:

1. Update your address;
2. Update your name;
3. Plan to vote by mail? Renew your ballot request?
4. Update your signature.

Important dates:

Presidential Preference Primary: January 31, 2012

Florida Primary: August 14, 2012 (Voter registration deadline July 16)

General Election: November 6, 2012 (Voter registration deadline October 9)

From the National League President

I hope you are energized and ready to tackle the work ahead of us in 2012. Of

course, the presidential elections and all our voter service work are uppermost in our minds right now, but let's not neglect our [Clean Air Promise campaign](#). Last year, Congress's principal environmental target was the EPA. Applying the empty term "job-killing" to every effort to protect our air and water, members of the House proposed countless bills and amendments to abolish or eviscerate an agency with a sound track record of improving the quality of our air and water and, thereby, the quality of our public health. We expect similar attacks to continue as an issue in the 2012 campaign.

The League has responded to slogans with facts, solid poll numbers and grassroots advocacy, including the Clean Air Promise campaign. The focus has been on the states of Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, but nationwide, we are still encouraging our members and supporters, and their friends and families, to go to our website and make the promise. While we depend on our elected officials at the federal level to protect the public health by ensuring that we have clean air, the Promise is most effective when used as a means to demonstrate public support for the Clean Air Act. This legislation has been and will continue to be successful in its public health benefits if the EPA is allowed to do its job.

So as we start off the New Year, let's all resolve to take this opportunity to make the Promise and send a message to our representatives in Washington: Don't mess with the Clean Air Act; don't mess with the EPA!

Elizabeth MacNamara

Join Us for the LWVUS 50th National Convention!

Registration is now open for the LWVUS 50th National Convention on June 8-12, 2012, at the Washington Hilton Hotel in downtown Washington, DC. The Convention registration fee is \$320, which includes all materials, plenary sessions, workshops, caucuses and the Convention banquet. Learn more [at the national website](#) . Have questions? Contact Natalie Testa, NTesta@lww.org.

Elections: LWV Fights voter Suppression Laws on Multiple Fronts in Multiple Ways

As voter suppression laws sweep the nation, the League is fighting back in a variety of ways. The LWV of Kansas is working in coalition to help educate and register voters before new, stricter laws go into effect. The LWV of South Carolina steps up to the pressure urging the US Department of Justice to deny pre-clearance if the state's voter ID law. The LWV of Florida has taken its message to national TV! LWV President Deirdre McNabb eloquently rebuffed a state legislator, who supported the state's new restrictions on citizen registration drives.

LWVUS Legislative Priorities

In January, the LWVUS Board of Directors will be setting the League Legislative Priorities for the upcoming year. Once again, the Sanibel League Board is soliciting suggestions for LWVUS advocacy priorities from members. If you are interested in making suggestions to the National Board, please let one of our Board members know or email sanivellwv@gmail.com.

Can you help?

We would appreciate help with voter service, programming, Voter newsletter, and meeting setups. Please contact Linda Kramer, 395-3419 or kramer@zebis.com.

Welcome to New Member

Mary Buck

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

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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