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## *The Voter*

League of Women Voters of Sanibel

Volume 1 Issue 4 November/December 2010

### *PRESIDENT'S CORNER*

Welcome back. I hope all of you had a good summer.

When the dust settled after the general election, about 70% of all registered voters on Sanibel cast their ballots, many by absentee or early voting.

Because of all for the work you did for the Fair Districts, the Amendments passed by 71% on Sanibel. This may be the highest percentage obtained in the State. Your hard work means Florida now has standards in place for the upcoming redistricting process. With politics removed from the equation, it is expected to see a more equitable result, especially since Florida may pick up more seats in Florida.

The special election edition of the State Voter was widely distributed throughout Sanibel and was inserted in the Reporter.

We look forward to seeing all of you at our forthcoming programs.

I hope you have a happy, healthy and safe holiday!

*Carla*

### Programs

January -- TBA

February, 2011 at 7 p.m.  
Council Candidates Forum

March 14, 2011 Health Care - Where are we now?  
Jim Nathan, President and CEO Lee County Memorial Health System

April 12, 2011 at 7 p.m.  
Annual Meeting at the Sanibel Library

**HOLIDAY PARTY**

**OUR FIRST ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY WILL BE HELD AT 5 P.M. ON DECEMBER 14 AT THE HOME OF CAROLYN GRAY, 2010 Wild Lime Drive, Sanibel**

Your spouse or friend is welcome to join you for this festive event which includes sparkling wine with something savory and sweet.

Please RSVP by December 2 either by email: [sanibellwv@gmail.com](mailto:sanibellwv@gmail.com) or call: 395-9694 (There will be no charge for the party but a voluntary contribution to our Education Fund will be deeply appreciated.)

### **LWV of Sanibel Education Fund**

We have just opened a LWV Education Fund Accrual Account with the State Office. Any money deposited in this account is fully tax deductible. Checks should be made out to: LWV of Sanibel Education Fund  
John Kramer will handle this new account.

Note: DUES CANNOT BE PAID INTO THIS ACCOUNT AND SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO THE LWV OF SANIBEL.

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER.

There have been a number of members who have paid their dues to the State or National LWV. This has caused problems so please when you send in your checks, make sure you make these payable to the LWV of Sanibel and mail to P.O. Box 1194, Sanibel, FL 33957.

### **US LEAGUE UPDATE**

**ELECTION 2010: SECRET MONEY, INCIVILITY LEAVE LASTING IMPACT**  
League Calls on Congress to Fix Secret Cash in American Elections

Washington, DC - The League of Women Voters of the U.S. reflected on the midterm elections today, expressing grave concern about the conduct of the 2010 elections.

"The impact of election 2010 goes far deeper than which party controls the House or the Senate," said Elisabeth MacNamara, national League President. "The tens of millions of dollars in secret money spent in this election are a recipe for scandal. Voters were overwhelmed by millions of dollars in negative ads but didn't know who paid for many of them. Pay-to-play politics won't change until we know who the special interests are who are pouring money into our elections," she said.

"This election demonstrated the critical need to improve our governmental structures," said MacNamara. "Because of the failure of Congress to act, there are no disclosure requirements governing the huge amounts of money that the Supreme Court recently turned loose in American politics. Voters will be hard pressed to know if their elected officials are in Washington to serve the public interest or the special interests."

"The incivility and tone of the 2010 campaign reached a disturbingly new low in American politics," added MacNamara. "Not only was this evident in the advertising, but we also saw it in candidate debates and forums and in the public discourse."

"The League calls on Congress to pass campaign finance reform the DISCLOSE Act, which would restore transparency to U.S. elections by requiring disclosure of corporate and union spending in candidate elections. We also call on Congress to preserve and extend ethics enforcement. With the election awash in special interest money, it is no time to cut back on the enforcement of ethics standards in Washington."

"The money poured into recent elections has been unprecedented. The League believes that voters, not money, should be at the center of our democracy," concluded MacNamara. "We will continue our decades of work in helping citizens debate the issues in a civil and effective way and fighting for transparency, accountability and disclosure in America's elections."

## STATE LEAGUE UPDATE

League members across the state chose these priorities for the 2011 legislative session:

1. Government in Florida
2. Education in Florida
3. Natural Resources

The State League Board has renamed the Lobby Fund; it will be called the Advocacy Fund. Visit [www.lwvfla.org](http://www.lwvfla.org) for more information.

### 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](mailto: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.

Welcome to new member

Nancy Clark

Sanibel LWV Board

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

[www.sanibellwv.org](http://www.sanibellwv.org)

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