



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

The Voter

League of Women Voters of Sanibel

Volume 4 Issue 1 Oct-Nov 2012

Letter from the President

As volunteers, we not only share our ardor for what the League can do, we also share the desire to generate the same enthusiasm among our fellow citizens. Our communities can only get better as the League gets stronger. We care about our local community and the greater community of our nation. This zeal is what has sustained our organization since its birth. It is this fervor that makes people want to be a part of constructing communities where people, no matter their political beliefs, work together with respect and friendship in the formation of a more vibrant society.

Linda Kramer and I attended LWV Florida's Council in May. It was an interesting and rewarding experience. We learned about the Constitutional Amendments being proposed and hope to share that knowledge with the club. If you have questions about the amendments, please join us for our program at the Library on October 30.

Board members have been working on monthly programs, voter guide distribution, and fun and educational activities.

After a legal hiatus, the LWVF lifted its moratorium on voter registration and our League chapter responded to a request from LMHS to assist with a Voter Registration Drive at their facilities. (see report below)

When the election is behind us we look forward to an active year. We are planning a local Candidates' Forum, an excursion to Lake Okeechobee, a Hot Topics luncheon, a holiday party, the reports from some members who are going on a LWVF sponsored trip to Cuba, and finally our Annual Meeting in April.

And the season has begun...

Carolyn Gray

League Board Meetings 2012-2013

Members are invited to attend all board meetings which are held at the Bank of the Islands from October through April. Following is the schedule for this season.

November 13, 3:30 pm
December 12, 3:30 pm
January 9, 3:30 pm
February 13, 3:30 pm
March 13, 3:30 pm
April 10, 3:30 pm

Programs

October 30	Voter Service meeting 4-6pm Sanibel Public Library
November 28	Hot Topics Luncheon - Federal Deficits 11:30 am- 2:00 pm Beachview Bistro
December 12	Holiday Party
January 15	Independent Taxing Districts
February 13	City Council Candidate Forum
March	Day trip to Franklin Locks, Lake Okeechobee
April	Annual meeting

General Election -- November 6, 2012

Vote the Whole Ballot

The presidential election at the top of Florida's lengthy 2012 ballot may seem like the most important race that voters will decide on, but local issues that appear at the very end of this year's ballot hit close to home and deserve voters full attention, too. That is why the League of Women Voters of Sanibel is recommending a whole-ballot approach to this election.

This is the longest ballot in Florida history and we are encouraging voters to study every page thoroughly. Our local decisions appear **after** the 11 constitutional amendments and their lengthy explanations. Local issues are too important for voters to miss.

I hope you have seen The League of Women Voters of Florida's 2012 Election and Voter Guide distributed with the local paper in October. The Guide presents pro/con arguments on each of the proposed state amendments. The Election Guide and extensive information about this year's candidates, voting laws and locations, as well as customized county-by-county ballots, are available online at www.BeReadytoVote.org. You can print out a ballot to take with you to your polling place from the BeReadytoVote website.

Remember, every vote counts!

League of Women Voters - US

From Elisabeth MacNamara, President of the LWVUS
October 10, 2012

It was a quick trip to Florida, but an important one - I was there for the last two days of voter registration in the state. A court decision rejecting efforts by politicians to limit organizations like the League from registering voters unleashed a flurry of activity over the summer. Due to the strict new voter registration rules, the Leagues in Florida did not hold voter registration drives, therefore there was a lot of ground to make up when they began registering again. League members around the state registered thousands of new voters and helped others update their registration.

Volunteers across the state were hard at work up to the very last minute making sure that every eligible citizen has a fair and equal opportunity to register and vote in this important election.

In addition to their rapid cycle of voter registration, the League of Women Voters of Florida is working overtime to educate and advocate keeping eleven ballot issues from becoming part of Florida's constitution. Those measures include proposals to blur the line between church and state, encroach on a woman's right to choose, and a so-called tax payers bill of rights (TABOR).

LMHS Voter Registration Drive, October 5, 2012

Lee Memorial Health System, Sanibel and Lee County Leagues hold LMHS Voter Drive, October 5, 2012

A successful Voter Registration Drive was held at four LMHS hospitals, Lee Memorial, Health Park, Gulf Coast and Cape Coral. Forty-eight volunteers worked two-hour shifts from 7AM to 7PM and collected 78 registrations and 40 Vote by Mail requests.

The drive was coordinated by Amanda Cross, Board member, LMHS Foundation Board, Linda Kramer, LWV Sanibel and Cheryl Byrd, co-chair, Voter Service, LWV Lee.

Volunteers who were not League members were required to take the League's online quiz to qualify to register voters. LWVFL has given a one-year complimentary scholarship to some thirty volunteers who qualified and will be added to the Sanibel membership.

SPECIAL THANKS TO
SANIBEL LEAGUE MEMBERS
WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE LMHS VOTER DRIVE
Carla and Benno Benninga
Catherine Carroll
Jo-Ann Reece

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.

Welcome to New Members

Chris Boesen, Tanya Hochschild, Judith Karasik, Edina Lessack, June Patinkin,
Gayle Pence, Spring Rosen, Judith Yenkolé

Sanibel LWV Board

Carolyn Gray, President
Robert Winters, 1st Vice President, Program
Linda Kramer, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer
Carol Gestwicki, Secretary
Maddy Mayor, Membership
Linda Robison, Legal advisor
Dick Calkins, Voter Service
Carla Benninga
Maree Elowson

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.



Try it FREE today.

This email was sent to cgray@fgcu.edu by sanibellwv@gmail.com |
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

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