



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

The Voter

League of Women Voters of Sanibel

Volume 5 Issue 1 October/November
2013

Editor's Note: If you do not see a photo of Linda Kramer in her Greetings Message below, click on "display images" in your email program.



Greetings from President Linda Kramer

Activity for the League of Women Voters of Sanibel has begun!

Our first program meeting, on November 20, addresses the impact of the Affordable Care Act on communities and hospitals. This program, moderated by Sanibel resident Dr. Rick Siders, with panelists from private medical practice and hospital administration, promises to be interesting and timely. It will provide you with an overview of what to expect in the coming months. We will also summarize the League of Women Voters' position on the Affordable Care Act. This meeting will be an introduction to what our newest Board member and Program Chair, Ellen O'Neill, has in store for us this year. (Please see the article below for more information). The new luncheon venue is the renovated Sundial Beach Resort.

Maree Elowson, our communications and website chair, has updated our website which will be on-line within the next week or two. We look forward to your comments, but expect this to be a great improvement.

We are introducing a book review column in the Voter. As your president, I have taken the liberty to submit the first such for this issue. Please consider submitting a book review on a relevant topic for publication in subsequent newsletters. We hope to make this a continuing part of The Voter.

The LWV of Florida is working with Florida's Water and Land Legacy Campaign to obtain sufficient signatures to put the Florida Water and Land Conservation

Amendment on the November 2014 ballot. If passed this new law would restore funds urgently needed to acquire and preserve Florida conservation and recreation lands. For more than twenty years this program worked very effectively to conserve Florida's precious habitats, but deep funding cuts have put it in jeopardy. If you have not already submitted a petition or would like to obtain additional signatures from others, please see the full Florida Water and Land Legacy article below with a link to the Legacy website and petition.

I am looking forward to seeing every Sanibel League member at the November 20 meeting and again for holiday cheer at our Christmas Party on December 11.

Watch for an upcoming announcement about this party and other LWV Sanibel events.

LWV Sanibel 2013-2014 Program

Ellen O'Neill, Program Chair

The League will host four luncheon programs this season featuring timely topics. All of the programs will take place at The Sundial Beach Resort, 1451 Middle Gulf Drive, Sanibel. Registration will open at 11:30 a.m. and the luncheon with speaker will be from 12:00 to 2:00 pm.

November 20, 2013



The Effect of the Affordable Health Care Act: Delivery and lack of Medicaid Expansion on Florida residents, doctors and hospitals.

Confirmed Speaker Panel:

Dr. Rick Siders, M.D., moderator

Dr. Larry Antonucci, M.D., Chief Operating Officer, Lee Memorial Hospital

Dr. Andrew Oakes-Lottridge, M.D., FAAFP, Private Medical Practice

January 14, 2014

January 14, 2014



History of Voting Experiences Nationally and Proposed Election Reforms for Florida Residents

Confirmed Speaker:
Charles Stewart III, Kenan Sahin Distinguished Professor of Political Science at MIT. Prof. Stewart has done extensive

research on elections and is Housmaster at MIT's McCormick Hall, which is named for Katie McCormick, a founder of the LWV.

February 18, 2014

Stand Your Ground: Legislation and Consequences

Confirmed speaker:
Mike Scott, Sheriff of Lee County



March 25, 2014



Immigration Reform

Speaker TBA

Cost of the four luncheon series is \$80.00, payable to LWV Sanibel; please write "luncheon series" on the memo line. Mail your check by November 15th to PO Box 1194, Sanibel, FL 33957.

Tickets for a single luncheon program can be purchased for \$25.00. Please make your reservation by Friday of the preceding week by calling Ellen O'Neill, Program Chair, at (239) 395-1019 or email at [eoneill1607@yahoo.com](mailto:elloneill1607@yahoo.com).

LWV Florida Supports Florida's Water and Land Legacy Constitutional Amendment Petition

The League of Women Voters of Florida has endorsed a proposed amendment to Florida's constitution that would protect hundreds of thousands of acres of habitat land and ensure the state's clean water supply for generations to come.

The Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment dedicates funding for water and land conservation, management and restoration by amending the state constitution. The amendment sets aside one-third (33 percent) of Florida's existing documentary stamp tax revenues (paid when real estate is sold) and guarantees that these funds can be used only for conservation purposes, such as acquiring conservation and recreation lands, managing existing lands, protecting lands that are critical for water supply and restoring degraded natural systems.

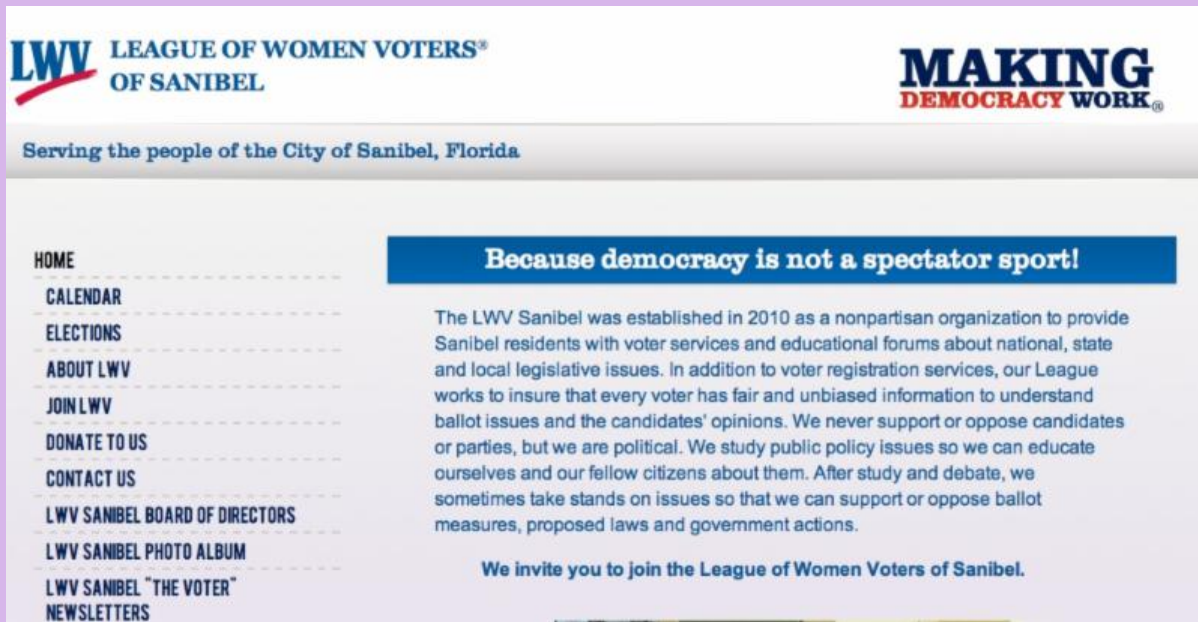
After almost two decades of successfully adding to Florida's conservation lands and waters, the program is now in jeopardy. Since 2009, the State Legislature has reduced funding for these programs by almost 100 percent. The state currently spends less than one dollar per Floridian for water and land conservation. The amendment would ensure that water and land conservation projects are adequately funded. The only way to secure significant, sustainable resources for water and land conservation, management and restoration for the long-term is to take this issue directly to Florida voters through a constitutional amendment.

For more information about the Florida Water and Land Legacy and to download the petition, [click here](#).



LWV Sanibel Announces New Website

In the coming weeks, LWV Sanibel will be rolling out its new website. The site offers information on voter registration, absentee ballots, LWV history, a calendar of our 2013-14 events and much more. Be sure to look for the drum-roll announcement coming to your computers soon!



The screenshot shows the top portion of the LWV Sanibel website. On the left is the logo for the League of Women Voters of Sanibel, featuring the letters 'LWV' in a stylized font with a red underline, followed by the text 'LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF SANIBEL'. On the right is the slogan 'MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK®' in bold, blue and red capital letters. Below the logos is a grey banner with the text 'Serving the people of the City of Sanibel, Florida'. A navigation menu on the left lists: HOME, CALENDAR, ELECTIONS, ABOUT LWV, JOIN LWV, DONATE TO US, CONTACT US, LWV SANIBEL BOARD OF DIRECTORS, LWV SANIBEL PHOTO ALBUM, and LWV SANIBEL "THE VOTER" NEWSLETTERS. A blue banner on the right contains the headline 'Because democracy is not a spectator sport!' followed by a paragraph of text and a call to action: 'We invite you to join the League of Women Voters of Sanibel.'



Suggested Reading

LWVS President Linda Kramer and League Member Amanda Cross recommend "The Voting Wars: From Florida 2000 to the Next Election" by Richard L. Hasen, Yale University Press, 2012.

This book is available at the Sanibel Public Library. The dust jacket says it all...

"Richard L. Hasen, a respected authority on election law, chronicles and analyzes the battles over election rules from 2000 to the present. From a nonpartisan standpoint he explores the rising number of election-related lawsuits and charges of voter fraud as well as the decline of public confidence in fair results. He explains why future election results will be worse than previous ones--more acrimonious, more distorted by unsubstantiated allegations, and amplified by social media. No reader will fail to conclude with Hasen that election reform is an urgent priority, one that demands the attention of conscientious citizens and their elected representatives."

Would you like to recommend a book?

Email Linda Kramer at SanibelLWV@gmail.com.

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

\$125 Susan B. Anthony membership _____

\$95 Household membership _____

\$65 Individual membership _____

\$30 Student membership _____

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 2013-14 Board

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LWV Sanibel Board Meetings 2013-2014

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 May. With some exceptions, meetings are on the second Wednesdays of the month. The 2013-2014 schedule for Board meetings is: October 23, November 13, December 11 (meeting at 2010 Wild Lime Dr.), January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9, and May 14.

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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