



The Voter

lwvsanibel.org

Volume 9 Issue 3

January 2018

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

Message from Robyn Cook, LWV Sanibel President

Happy New Year, LWVS members and friends!

All of us on the Board of the Sanibel League are wishing you good health and much happiness in 2018! For those of you who are members and spirited supporters, remember you are part of what makes the League of Women Voters tick. At our December Board meeting, I was encouraged (no, it was insisted!) to remind you all of the important League mission, usually found at the very bottom of these Voter newsletters:



The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan 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.

All around the state of Florida are over 30 localized Leagues just like this one, some bigger, some smaller and all working to the same ends described in the mission statement above. Much of the work of the State League is done on our behalf, from advocating at the state legislative sessions on issues which impact all our lives, to supporting various legal actions of the National League of Women Voters such as redistricting and gun safety.

And I find it vital to remind those who ask that the League is nonpartisan; we embrace political party members of all stripes. Especially on Sanibel, our

supporters reflect the many faces of the island, from full-time residents to seasonal folks, and all are welcome. Especially during times like these, of extreme polarization, the League can become an "island" of thoughtful discourse and discussion.

As you scroll down, please note our upcoming luncheon programs. In January the focus is Gun Safety, and in February the focus is Education. You will not want to miss these dynamic speakers!

Volunteer Opportunity: We are looking for volunteers to serve on the Voter Services Committee. The upcoming year will be an important one as there are state legislative elections in the fall of 2018. In addition, if there is more than one candidate to fill the vacant City Council seat previously held by Jim Jennings, the LWVS will host a candidate forum at a date to be announced. We need volunteers to help at that event and to register eligible voters on Sanibel. Also to encourage people to learn about the elections that will impact them. If you are interested, [please email me](#). And thank you to those of you who have already stepped forward!

Your voices and ideas are important to us! Don't hesitate to pass along your thoughts for programs, forums, or policies that are of interest to you. Drop us a note at P.O. Box 1194, Sanibel FL 33957, or [email us](#). We would love to hear from you!

LWVSanibel is now on Facebook!

Robyn Cook, President

Coming Up!
"Ballots Not Bullets"

LWV of Sanibel
Program and Luncheon
Thursday, January 18, 2018

RSVP by Noon, January 15

Speaker: Patti Brigham, First VP,
League of Women Voters Florida,
Founder & Co-Chair:
Florida Coalition to Prevent
Gun Violence



How much do you know about gun laws in the State of Florida? Is Florida an open-carry, concealed-carry, or no-carry state? Did you know that deaths in U.S. firearm-related incidents compared with total U.S. war deaths are 1.53 million firearm-related from 1968-2015, to 1.2 million U.S. war deaths, 1775-2017 (USA Today).

Patti Brigham, First VP of the League of Women Voters of Florida and Founder and Co-Chair of the Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, will speak at the January 18 luncheon program at the Sundial Beach Resort. She will provide us with a comprehensive update on the diverse issues surrounding gun policy. Brigham has become a respected leader in the gun policy areas.

Brigham formed the League's Gun Safety Committee, which she chairs. Gun Safety is one of the Florida League of Women Voters' top policy issues. It calls for:

1. A state ban on all semiautomatic assault weapons and large-capacity feeding devices;
2. Comprehensive universal background checks and ensuring that the State provides all relevant records to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS);
3. Continuing efforts to defeat unsafe gun legislation, such as Open Carry, Campus Carry, and Stand Your Ground expansion.

The Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence was created by the Florida League of Women Voters after the Orlando Pulse massacre that killed 49 people and left more than 50 injured. The LWVF then knew it was time for an aggressive push for smart gun laws. The Coalition is a broad-based alliance made up of more than 125 state and national partners representing education, minority communities, faith-based organizations, health care and other gun safety groups. It includes such diverse groups as the Florida PTA, Hispanic Federation, National Council of Jewish Women, and Interfaith Council of Central Florida.

The Coalition is committed to fighting the plethora of dangerous gun bills that have been filed that put our residents in certain danger. Part of the battle is exposing the NRA's lobbying efforts to influence legislation. Brigham states, "The time has passed when the NRA in Florida goes without significant challenge. Recent polls have shown that a majority of Floridians favor responsible gun legislation. We will continue to remind our lawmakers that they were elected to represent the voters, not special interest groups."

Brigham grew up in Orlando where she attended the University of Central Florida, earning a BA in philosophy and an MA in liberal studies. She has worked in radio as a reporter, writer, and producer. In her "spare" time, she volunteers for a marathon training program and cares for Callie, her retired racing greyhound.

Special Background Report:

District of Columbia v. Heller (2008)

LWV of Sanibel Board Member and retired Judge, Robert Terry, has offered to provide luncheon attendees with a primer on the landmark "Heller" case in which the Supreme Court of the U.S. held, in a 5-4 decision, that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense in the home. This decision thereafter greatly impacted gun rights legislation that has followed to this day.

When: Thursday, January 18. Registration at 11:30 a.m. for the noon to 2 p.m. luncheon and program, with time for Q&A.

Where: The Sundial Beach Resort, 1451 Middle Gulf Drive, Sanibel

RSVP: [Click here](#) to reserve your place by email, or call Robin Krivanek at 239-395-0927. The deadline to RSVP (or to cancel a reservation) is by NOON, Monday, January 15.

Cost: \$25 per person. Mail your check with names of all attendees to: LWV Sanibel, P.O. Box 1194, Sanibel, FL 33957. Or you can pay at the door. Please Note: Because the LWV Sanibel is required to pay for each reserved meal, persons with unpaid or absent reservations will be billed.

Save the Date!

Education & School Options:
Public, Charter, Independent or
"Something Else"

LWV of Sanibel
Program and Luncheon
Thursday, February 15, 2018

Speakers: Dr. Jane E. Kuckel, Vice-
Chair, Lee County School Board and
Nancy Elting, LWVS Board member
and life-long educator



Nancy Elting



Dr. Jane Kuckel

Join us for a fascinating and informative presentation from two well-respected and experienced education professionals. Jane Kuckel, PhD. and Nancy Elting have been steeped in the education arena most of their professional lives. Dr. Kuckel currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Lee County School Board and is striving, as always, to make the Lee County school district one of the highest performing in the State. Dr. Kuckel has a wealth of experience in the field, with more than 30 years as a teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, national consultant, and college instructor. Her focus has always been to do whatever it takes to prepare today's student for the challenges of tomorrow. She has often been referred to as a "voice of reason" for students.

Nancy Elting spent many years in the dynamic trenches of education, teaching in private, charter, and public schools. Her resume is stellar: The Spence School in New York City; Bronx Charter School, a 500-student elementary school located in what was then the poorest congressional district in the U.S.; Acting Head of The School at Columbia University,

where she founded the school model upon which all schools in this country should be based.....the "Something Else."

Both of these women will provide a comprehensive overview of their professional experience, plus provide valuable insights into what is currently the state of schools and trends for the future. As Nancy Elting discovered at The School at Columbia University, there is a "Something Else that offers both the country and its children the best opportunity for success." She will be happy to share more about this on February 15!

When: Thursday, February 15. Registration at 11:30 a.m. for the noon to 2 p.m. luncheon program, with time for Q & A.

Where: Sundial Beach Resort, 1451 Middle Gulf Drive, Sanibel

RSVP: [Click here](#) to reserve your place by email, or call Robin Krivanek at 239-395-0927. The deadline to RSVP (or to cancel a reservation) is by NOON, Monday, February, 12.

Cost: \$25 per person. Mail your check with the names of all attendees to: LWV Sanibel, P.O. Box 1194, Sanibel, FL 33957. Or you may pay at the door. Please note: Because the LWV Sanibel is required to pay for each reserved meal, persons with unpaid or absent reservations will be billed.



Online Registration Now Available for Florida Residents

You may have heard that Florida residents may now register to vote online. As of Oct. 1, 2017, Florida joins approximately 35 other states plus the District of Columbia in offering online voter registration as an option for their residents. Visit RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov which is the secure, convenient and easy-to-use voter registration website. Any Florida resident who is eligible to vote or is already registered to vote in Florida can use it. You may register to vote, update a registration record, or fill out a voter registration application that you may print, sign, and deliver to your Supervisor of Elections.

LWV Sanibel 2017-2018 Programs

All luncheons and programs take place at the Sundial Beach Resort, 1451 Middle Gulf Drive. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., with the lunch and program following from noon to 2 p.m.



Thursday, January 18, 2018

Ballots Not Bullets

Speaker: Patti Brigham

1st Vice President, LWV of Florida;

Co-Chair, Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence

Thursday, February 15, 2018

Education-School Options: Public, Charter or Independent, or "Something Else"

Speakers: Dr. Jane Kuckel and Nancy Elting

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Our Beaches: Sea Level Resilience and Climate Change

Speaker: Rick Bartleson, PH.D.

Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation Marine Lab

Thursday, April 19, 2018

LWV Sanibel Annual Meeting

Program: Vision 2020, Women's Suffrage to Voters' Rights and Beyond

Speaker: Madelon Stewart, Ed.D., Florida State Delegate, Vision 2020

Luncheon meals are \$25 per person.* To reserve your place, [email the LWV](#) with the names of those attending. You can pay at the door or mail your check to LWV Sanibel, P.O. Box 1194, Sanibel FL 33957.

*You may also pay in advance and save! Your check for \$100 covers all 5 luncheons. Pay at the door prior to the first luncheon, or mail your check to the address above.

The deadline to make reservations is by NOON on Monday of the week of the Thursday luncheon/program. Please note: Because LWV Sanibel is required to pay for each meal, unpaid and absent reservations will be billed.



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANIBEL

**Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership
for 2017-2018
Not a Member Yet? This is the Year to Join!**

Stay informed, stay involved. With your dues, you support and are a member of the League of Women Voters of the United States, the League of Women Voters of Florida, and our local League - all for only \$65 per person or \$95 per family. If you would like to be extra supportive, we suggest the Susan B. Anthony membership category for \$125.

Print the membership form below and mail it in with your check. Questions? Email us at lwvsanibel@gmail.com.

Please make your check to League of Women Voters of Sanibel (or LWV-Sanibel) and mail it to P. O. Box 1194, Sanibel, FL 33957. If you've already renewed, many thanks!



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANIBEL

**Membership Renewal & Records
Update**

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: lwvsanibel@gmail.com

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (mobile): _____

Phone (home): _____

E-mail: _____

Please select your annual membership level:

\$125 Susan B. Anthony membership _____

\$95 Household membership _____

\$65 Individual membership _____

\$30 Student membership _____

TOTAL _____

Please circle your areas of interest:

Voter Services

Publicity

Local Government

Membership

Fundraising

Hot Topics

Health Care

Education

Sustainability/Natural Resources

Hospitality/Events

2017-2018 LWV Sanibel Officers and Directors

Robyn Cook, President

Barbara Joy Cooley, Vice President, Natural Resources

Robin Krivanek, Treasurer and Membership

Maria O'Brien, Secretary

Nancy Elting, Director

Chris Schluter, Director

Ellen Strobel, Director

Bob Terry, Director

Carla Benninga, Director Emerita

2017-2018 Nominating Committee

Robin Krivanek (Chair), Erhard Joeres, Ellen O'Neill

LWV Sanibel Board Meetings

Members are invited to attend all board meetings, which are held at noon on the second Thursday of the month at the Sanibel-Captiva Community Bank. Board meeting dates for 2018 are January 11, February 8, March 8, and April 12.

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.

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

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