



# *The Voter*

[lwvsanibel.org](http://lwvsanibel.org)

Volume 8 Issue 6

April 2017

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

## Message from Robyn Cook, LWV Sanibel President

Greetings members and friends!

Hard to believe that the Sanibel "season" is coming to a close and many of our "snow bird" friends will be off to other parts of the country and even the world! But before they depart, the LWV of Sanibel will have one more luncheon program in April, which we hope you all can attend.

On Thursday, April 20, our Annual Meeting and luncheon program will feature James Murley, Chief Resilience Office of Miami-Dade County. His presentation is entitled "Climate Change Challenges and Florida's Future." Murley will share his knowledge regarding climate change, along with his experiences and challenges for one of the largest and most influential counties in the U.S. Following Murley's presentation, we will have a short business meeting in preparation for the upcoming year. See the information below for details.



The month of March kept us busy, beginning with the outstanding presentation by Dr. Stuart Langton at our March 16 luncheon and program. Many of you have asked for copies of his fascinating remarks discussing the state of Civic

Participation in Florida. You will find his full remarks [on the League website](#). We have also included a brief summary below.

On Monday, March 27, for "Go Solar, Sanibel," Barbara Joy Cooley and her Natural Resources Committee team, along with the Green Team at Sanibel Congregational Church, created an interesting and informative event for all of the 75 attendees. There is so much to learn about solar and it's evolution; Sanibel is one of the early adopters in the areas of residential and commercial solar. See highlights of the event on our website, [lwvsanibel.org](http://lwvsanibel.org).

Your League held it's first-ever Consensus Meeting on Tuesday, March 28, to assess the attending members' thoughts and leanings on a number of consensus statements regarding what type of primary system or systems are appropriate for Florida in the future beyond closed primaries. It was an interesting and lively discussion. You can find highlights from the event [on our website](#).

Don't forget that the 2017 Florida Legislative Session is in full swing and, if you are a member, you are receiving up-to-date information from the League of Women Voters of Florida. We will provide an overview of the session in our May "Voter" newsletter.

Your voice and ideas are important to us! Don't hesitate to pass along your ideas for programs, forums, policies to study, that are of interest to you. Drop us a note to P.O. Box 1194 or email [lwvsanibel@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsanibel@gmail.com). We would love to hear from you!

*Robyn Cook*, President

**Coming Up!  
Climate Change Challenges  
and Florida's Future**

**LWV of Sanibel Annual Meeting  
Luncheon and Program**

**Featuring James Murley,  
Chief Resilience Officer,  
Miami-Dade County**



Miami-Dade County has recently found itself on the cutting edge of a more comprehensive approach to climate change. In 2016, Miami-Dade was chosen by 100 Resilient Cities (100RC) and the Rockefeller Foundation to become better equipped to solve local challenges around transportation, economic equality, sea level rise, aging infrastructure and more. This as part of an effort focused on helping cities around the world face the challenges of the 21st century. As members of the 100RC Network, Miami-Dade County, along with the City of Miami and the City of Miami Beach, received funding and support for Chief Resilience Officers (CRO's).

Enter James Murley, the new Chief Resilience Officer of Miami-Dade County. Marley was chosen by Miami-Dade in 2015 to lead their efforts to make Miami-Dade a more resilient community, as it grapples with the impacts of sea-level rise and other issues.

Murley is uniquely positioned with the experience and background to tackle these issues head on. He has a decorated career as a veteran of the planning side of government. He served as head of the Florida Department of Community Affairs in the 1990s. He ran 1000 Friends of Florida, a nonprofit that aims to better communities by stopping urban sprawl. Before his appointment as CRO of Miami-Dade, Murley was director of the South Florida Regional Planning Council, a joint effort among seven South Florida counties to prepare for climate change.

The League of Women Voters of Sanibel is privileged to feature James Murley at their 2017 Annual Meeting and Luncheon on Thursday, April 20. Murley will share his knowledge regarding climate change and his experiences and challenges as a Chief Resilience Officer of one of the largest counties in the United States with a population of 2.3 million residents. Miami-Dade is made up of 35 municipalities, making it one of the most important and influential counties in the US.

"Being designated one of the 100 resilient cities around the world is a testament to decades of strong leadership by public and private individuals and organizations in Miami-Dade County," said Murley. "The communities in greater Miami and throughout Southeast Florida are committed to becoming resilient to shocks and stresses that can disrupt the lives of our citizens. We are also mindful of future generations and the need to commit to long-term solutions that ensure their ability to enjoy our extraordinary place."

Following the presentation, the LWV Sanibel will hold a short business meeting to review programming and finances for the 2017-2018. The League will also elect the officers and directors for the upcoming year.

When: Thursday, April 20, 11:30 a.m. registration; noon - 2 p.m. luncheon and program.

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

RSVP: [Click here](#) to reserve your place by email or call Ellen Strobel at 239-395-2969. The deadline to RSVP is Monday, April 17.

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. Because the LWV Sanibel is required to pay for each reserved meal, persons with unpaid or absent reservations will be billed. If you would like to hear the speaker but do not want lunch, feel free to come at 12:30 for the presentation only.



**LWV Sanibel Annual Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 20, 2017**  
**Immediately following the Luncheon Program**

**Meeting Agenda**

Welcome  
 Adoption of Rules  
 President's Report  
 Adoption of 2016 Annual Minutes  
 Treasurer's Report  
 Adoption of 2017-2018 Budget  
 Election of New Officers, Directors and Nominating Committee  
 Adoption of 2017-2018 Program  
 Old Business  
 New Business  
 Adjournment

Slate of Officers and Directors\* to be considered:

Robyn Cook - President  
 Barbara Joy Cooley - Vice President & Natural Resources Cmte. Chair  
 Robin Krivanek - Treasurer & Membership  
 Maria O'Brien - Secretary  
 Nancy Elting - Director (two-year term)  
 Christine Schluter - Director (two-year term)  
 Ellen Strobel - Director (two-year term)  
 Robert Terry - Director (two-year term)

Voter Services - TBD  
 2017-2018 Nominating Committee - TBD

Proposed Programs for 2017-2018 and event organizer:  
 November - Health Care - Chris Schluter  
 January - Gun Control - Bob Terry  
 February - Education/Literacy - Ellen Strobel  
 March - Women & The Vote - Robyn Cook  
 April - Environment & Global Warming/Annual Meeting -  
 Barbara Joy Cooley

\*We welcome interest from anyone who might want to join the Board, either in an official capacity, as an additional director, or in an unofficial capacity attending Board Meetings.

## LOCAL CIVIC PIONEER REVEALS THE CRUEL FACTS

By Janis Cain

Given the enviable quality of life and high level of civic engagement on Sanibel and Captiva, it's difficult to fathom the conversely negative statistics on the State of Florida as a whole. Research shows that Florida ranks among the lowest in the nation when it comes to issues important to families and communities.

"Citizen participation and civic life are hardly the first things that come to mind when most people think about Florida," notes Sanibel resident Stuart Langton, PhD. "If one mentioned political dysfunction, crazy elections, greed, corruption and sheer weirdness, however, it is a pretty good bet that people have heard about that."



Stuart Langton, PhD, with League of Women Voters member Darla Letourneau, left, and League President Robyn Cook.

Photo by Janis Cain

Dr. Langton's comments were part of his recent eye-opening speech before the League of Women Voters of Sanibel. He is the Chairman of the Coordinating Council of The Florida Civic Advance, a network of more than forty Florida organizations committed to addressing Florida's comparatively low level of civic engagement among its citizens.

Quoting research statistics, Dr. Langton reminded his listeners that Florida has been dubbed the "corruption capitol of America" because 1,762 public officials have been convicted of corruption in the past 40 years. In addition to Florida having among the highest numbers of prisoners, high school dropouts, and violent crime statistics, Florida has the worst statistics among all fifty states when it comes to affordable housing and unemployment insurance.

This weak civic life, he says, is a barrier to achieving community stability, citizen engagement, economic prosperity, and a desirable quality of life.

Will so many negatives inspire positive action among Florida's citizens? While civic engagement flourishes among local residents, Dr. Langton notes that many Floridians are part-time residents and, therefore, not likely to become proactive participants in local government and social issues. His hope is that family elders can teach traditional values and convince their children and grandchildren to increase their interest and engagement in these issues.

For the larger picture, Dr. Langton says citizen participation is more important than ever in light of divisive politics and the growing distrust of our leaders. Rather than turn our heads in disgust, Dr. Langton suggests that we each volunteer more time and/or treasure into organizations that work to improve our politics and quality of life.

Dr. Langton has served on the board of Audubon Florida and continues to serve on the Policy Committee. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Committee of the Islands (COTI) on Sanibel. As a pioneer of civic issues and action, he has applied his experience and expertise to advance the civic health of Florida and its communities.

The complete transcript of Dr. Langton's presentation to the League of Women Voters of Sanibel is available [on our website](#).





LEAGUE OF  
WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF SANIBEL

**Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership  
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](mailto:lwvsanibel@gmail.com).

Please make out your check to the 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](mailto:lwvsanibel@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

Publicity

Local Government

Membership

Fundraising

Hot Topics

Health Care

Education

Sustainability/Natural Resources

Hospitality/Events

**2016-2017 LWV Sanibel Officers and Directors**

Robyn Cook, President

Barbara Joy Cooley, Vice President, Natural Resources

Ellen O'Neill, Secretary

Ellen Strobel, Treasurer

Robin Krivanek, Director, Membership

Maria O'Brien, Director

Martha Siders, Director

Media Relations: Janis Cain

Webmaster: Barbara Freeman

Voter Services: Maree Elowson &amp; Carolyn Gray

2016-17 Nominating Committee

Robin Krivanek (Chair), Dick Calkins, Maree Elowson

**LWV Sanibel Board Meeting**

Members are invited to attend the final Board meeting of the 2016-2017 year on Thursday, April 13 at Noon at the the Sanibel-Captiva Community Bank on Library Way. No need to RSVP, just drop by!

*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

[SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient's email}](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by [lwvsanibel@gmail.com](mailto:lwvsanibel@gmail.com) in collaboration with



Try it free today