Our Mission:
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.

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

Message from Robyn Cook, LWV Sanibel President

Coming Soon!
League of Women Voters
Annual Meeting and Final Luncheon of the Season
April 19, 2018

This may be the dry season weather-wise, but island activities have surely been "raining" down on all of you during the month of March! With guests and family coming and going, there lies ahead one more calendar-worthy event. Please take note!

LWV of Sanibel will hold it's Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 19, at the Sundial Beach Resort. This will be the last monthly luncheon and program until fall of 2018. It will feature Madelon Stewart, who will discuss a topic that is dear to our heads and hearts, VOTING!! Read below for more about what should be a fascinating presentation.

The month of March kept all of us busy, beginning with an outstanding presentation relating to water and the environment by SCCF's climate scientist, Dr. Rick Bartleson. He offered up eye-opening statistics and history that triggered lots of questions. Scroll down for an excellent report written by our own Christine Schluter.
We have a dynamite Voter Services team led by Chair Nancy Elting, Chris Schluter, Maria O'Brien, Bobbie Moore and Robin Krivanek, woman of many hats. They have been busy at work dispensing wisdom and services to those who would like information or require help with voter registration. You may have run into them on March 13 at Jerry’s or on March 22 at Bailey’s. They and a small band of volunteers will once again be ready to serve on Sunday, April 8, at the Farmer’s Market from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm; buy your tomatoes and register to vote all in one place. Look for more information about upcoming registration drives on and off island in future issues of The Voter.

Saturday, March 24, was the date of Fort Myers’ "March for Our Lives" with more than 1,000 attendees. The downtown event began in Centennial Park and moved to the Courthouse steps for speeches and attention-grabbing signs. The League of Women Voters of Sanibel participated in large numbers, along with other local island organizations, in support of reducing gun violence in schools and in support of passing rational gun legislation in our state and country. It was a beautiful day for some very serious sharing of thoughts, ideas and emotions. We hope that this youth-driven movement will reverberate throughout the year until the important fall mid-term elections finally arrive.

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!

Yours "in League",
Robyn Cook

Mark Your Calendars!
League of Women Voters of Sanibel
Annual Meeting & Program
Thursday, April 19, 2018

Featured Speaker:
Madelon V. Stewart, Ed.D.,
Vision 2020 Delegate
"Suffrage, Voting Rights, and Voter Suppression"

The 2018 mid-term elections are coming in November and women are engaged in ever more increasing numbers. The election of the new president in 2016 triggered an incredibly strong reaction from women of all stripes all around the country and the world. It emboldened women, and men as well, to speak out and step up.

Dr. Madelon Stewart will be our distinguished speaker at the League of Women Voters of Sanibel Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 19, at the Sundial Beach Resort. Dr. Stewart will first provide us with a brief history of suffrage for both men and women. She will discuss the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and provide us with an historical and current review of voter suppression tactics.

She will provide us with an in-depth introduction to Vision 2020, a coalition of national and local organizations working for equal rights and opportunities for women. One of the priority goals of this project is to make sure that all women eligible to vote are registered to do so by 2020. Ambitious? Yes! Dr. Stewart is a SW Florida delegate to Vision 2020, founded by Lynn Yeakel, part-time Sanibel resident and founder of Vision 2020 through Drexel University in Philadelphia. The "vision" is based on the idea that taking action can complete the unfinished business of economic, political and social equality for women. It is a four-pronged approach:

1. 50-50 Shared Leadership among women and men in business and government
2. Civic Engagement leading to 100 percent of eligible women voting in 2020
3. Economic Parity in pay and benefits for women
4. Youth Education that supports gender equality

Dr. Stewart earned both her doctorate and M.Ed. from Teachers College, Columbia University, and an M.S. from The Bank Street College of Education in NYC. She has enjoyed a rewarding career as a consultant and educator, with an emphasis on translating educational
theory into useful, results-oriented programs and projects. She has worked as a professor in the College of Education at Rider University. Her prior positions included long-range planning at Temple University, WNET/Thirteen in NYC, and the City College of NY. In addition to her work with Vision 2020, she works with the Randell Research Center on Pine Island coordinating with staff and volunteers to develop a curriculum introducing 4th graders to the Calusa culture.

Her goal in all her activities is to develop collaborative relationships with individuals and organizations to increase the level of awareness of ideas and issues, and civic engagement across the community.

Following our speaker's presentation, we will ask LWVS members to stay for the 2018-2019 business meeting, which will include the slate of directors and officers for 2018-2019; future luncheon topics and schedule; and approval of the 2018-2019 Budget.

**When:** Thursday, April 19. Registration 11:30 a.m. for the noon to 2 p.m. luncheon program. Q&A will follow the presentation.

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

**RSVP:** [Click here](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1130288845685&format=html&print=true) to reserve by email, or call Robin Krivanek at 239-395-0927. Deadline to RSVP is noon, Monday, April 16.

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

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**LWV Sanibel Annual Meeting**

**Thursday, April 19, 2018**

Immediately following the Luncheon Program

**Meeting Agenda**

Welcome  
Adoption of Rules  
President's Report  
Adoption of 2017 Minutes  
Treasurer's Report  
Adoption of 2018-2019 Budget  
Election of New Officers, Directors and Nominating Committee  
Adoption of 2018-2019 Program  
Old Business  
New Business  
Adjournment

Slate of Officers and Directors* to be considered:
President - Robyn Cook  
Vice President - Maria O'Brien  
Treasurer - Robert Terry  
Secretary - Chris Schluter  
Director - Nancy Elting (second year of 2-year term)  
Director - John Kramer (first year of 2-year term)  
Director - Barbara Moore (first year of 2-year term)  
Director - Rick Siders (first year of 2-year term) 

Board Appointed Directors:  
Jean Ely  
Susan Heisler  

2019-2020 Nominating Committee: Robin Krivanek (Chair), Linda Kramer, Bob Terry 

Proposed Programs for 2018-2019:  
October - Pre-Election Event, location TBD  
November - Post-Election Wrap Up  
January - Is Democracy Still Working?  
February - Immigration  
March - Reproductive Health  
April - Drinking Water & Social Justice 

*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. 

****SPECIAL REPORT**** 
League of Women Voters of Sanibel  
March 15, 2018, Luncheon Speaker, Dr. Rick Bartleson, Tells It Like It Is 

The well-attended luncheon featured Dr. Rick Bartleson, SCCF research scientist, who spoke about greenhouse gases, rising sea levels, and the South Florida ecosystem. 

Scientists predict that at the current rate of global warming, even assuming some mitigation efforts, much of Florida-including Sanibel and much of Fort Myers-is expected to be under water by the year 2100. Sea level rise in Fort Myers and Miami is expected to be even more severe than in other parts of Florida because of wind, sea currents, and other factors.
By 2100, about $1 trillion in US GDP will be lost per increased degree Fahrenheit. Florida will experience one of the highest levels of this economic damage in the country, so our state should be among the most active in combating climate change. Unfortunately, Florida's state government, compared with the other 49 states, receives a below-average grade in steps taken to mitigate the expected damage. (The National Resource Defense Council awarded Florida a grade of C minus in climate preparedness compared with other states.)

We learned that our political leaders have not done enough to protect citizens: President Trump calls climate change a "hoax" and has rolled back a number of steps to limit climate change; Governor Scott has been quoted as saying he is "not a scientist"; Senator Rubio has claimed that a cost/benefit analysis argues against important steps to mitigate the worst effects of climate change. In 2017, the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) gave Florida's most influential politicians scores of 0% in protecting our environment, with a large number of elected officials in the state receiving scores of 8% or less.

Dr. Bartleson reported that a perfect storm of conditions is leading to increased atmospheric carbon dioxide and methane, which cause global warming, rising sea levels, and other serious impacts:

- Warming ocean temperatures are killing many coral reefs.
- Stronger and more frequent storms.
- More red tides.
- More flooding.
- More extended and serious droughts.
- More wildfires.
- Oceanic acidity is expected to continue to increase rapidly as atmospheric carbon dioxide increases. Many shellfish will be unable to produce shells and will become extinct. Many other sea animals ranging from Atlantic flounder to blue crab to striped bass are also at extreme risk. In 2014, acidic waters killed 10 million scallops off Vancouver, Washington.

Population growth is a key contributor, as carbon dioxide production correlates closely to population growth. By 2025, the world's population will rise to more than 8 billion - a dramatic increase from 3 billion in 1960. The encouraging news is that the growth rate has slowed from 2.1% in 1960 to 1.2% in 2015. Individuals can take steps to slow climate change and help mitigate the worst effects by:

- Voting for political leaders who listen to scientific consensus and take steps to mitigate climate change.
- Reducing our individual carbon footprints.
• Eating less meat.
• Attending Future Sea Level Rise-related meetings.
• Minimizing fertilizer use.

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 to print, sign, and deliver to your Supervisor of Elections.

LWV Sanibel 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, April 19, 2018
LWV Sanibel Annual Meeting
Program: Vision 2020, Suffrage, Voting Rights, and Voter Suppression
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.

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.

Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership for 2017-2018 by April 30, 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!

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.
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

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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, Voter Services
Chris Schluter, Director
Ellen Strobel, Director
Bob Terry, Director

Questions: email lwvsanibel@gmail.com
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 during the second week of the month at the Sanibel-Captiva Community Bank. Next board meeting is Thursday, April 12, 2018.