



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANIBEL

The Voter

lwvsanibel.org

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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

Greetings members and friends!

We are coming to the end of one of the Sanibel League's best series of luncheon programs; attendance was high and the quality of speakers outstanding. In our efforts to offer unique and compelling programs, we strive to invite community leaders who are extremely knowledgeable and held in the highest regard professionally in their areas interest. This season we offered speakers with impeccable backgrounds in water quality; US-Russian relations; immigration; and how our democracy works today. We thank all of our dynamic presenters and everyone who attended and made this such a great season!



Our final luncheon of the season will feature the topic, Drinking Water & Social Justice. We have invited two outstanding Fort Myers News-Press journalists to fill us in on what they have learned over their many months of investigation and research. Following the speakers, we invite members to please stay for the Annual Business meeting. Scroll down for details of the presentation and the meeting agenda.

Great member news: At the March 21 luncheon program, LWVS was excited to reach 100+ members for the first time in our nearly 10 years as a LWV unit. Thank you to Jean Ely for a very fun challenge, and to the lucky 100th member who is the recipient of Jean's famous chocolate chip

cookies!

Once again we are offering our 2019-2020 Directory of Federal, State, and Local Elected Officials. This valuable resource is published as a public service with the Education Funds of the LWV of Sanibel. Currently you can pick up one of these informative brochures at the Sanibel Library. We will also make it available at activities such as luncheons and voter registration drives. Sincere thanks to Bobbie Moore, member of the LWVS Board of Directors, for working so hard to get this done.

The League of Women Voters will be 100 years old in 2020 and the League of Women Voters of Sanibel will 10 years old in 2020. We hope to celebrate both of these milestones in 2020. Look for more information as our plans come to fruition in future Voter newsletters.

If you are leaving soon for the summer, have safe travels and we look forward to seeing you in the fall if not before.

Yours "in League,"
Robyn Cook

COMING Up!
League of Women Voters of Sanibel
2019 Annual Meeting & Program
Thursday, April 18, 2019
"Social Justice & Drinking Water"



Patricia Borns

Featured Speakers:
Patrica Borns and
Janine Zeitlin,
award-winning print
journalists in
Southwest Florida



Janine Zeitlin

RSVP by Monday, April 15!

We hope you will join us at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Sanibel. The event will conclude our successful luncheon programs for the year. We are excited that the award-winning journalists Patricia Borns and Janine Zeitlin will be our distinguished speakers. In the past few years, they have closely reported on two social justice issues involving the devastating results of contaminated ground water in two Lee County

communities: Dunbar and Charleston Park. As you will hear, their stories have truly made a difference in the lives of the affected residents.

In the Dunbar neighborhood, the City of Fort Myers had been disposing of toxic sludge in a residential area for a number of years. Only recently has the city committed to cleaning up the site. Homeowners in Charleston Park, a rural community near Alva, were using drinking water from contaminated wells. Motivated by Janine's and Patricia's coverage of this problem, a handful of Lee County citizens organized to have filtration devices installed in a number of these wells.

Both of these stories highlight the need for consistent, well-documented journalistic coverage of the often under-covered social justice issues of our day.

Patricia Borns is known for her work as a social justice reporter in Southwest Florida. She was a 2018 recipient of the Green Eyeshade and Florida Society of News Editors first place awards for public service and community leadership. She is skilled at change-making investigations and storytelling from deep source building, data, and public records. Before coming to the Fort Myers News-Press, she reported for the Miami Herald and Boston Globe, and did video reporting in Haiti where she has volunteered for a healthcare clinic.

Janine Zeitlin is a freelance writer and storyteller for the News-Press. She is also a contributor to Gulfshore Life and Gulfshore Business, and she has taught feature writing at FGCU. She was also a winner of the 2018 Green Eyeshade Award for public service, as well as the 2018 Florida Society of Newspaper Editors community leadership award for environmental justice reporting in Southwest Florida. Her articles and essays have appeared in a variety of publications including The Washington Post, USA Today, Village Voice Media, the Miami Herald, and New York's Daily News.

The April 18 luncheon & program will take place at the Sundial Beach Resort, 1451 Middle Gulf Drive. Registration begins at 11:30 a.m., with the lunch and program at Noon. The Annual business meeting will follow, and LWVS members are urged to attend, even if you cannot make the luncheon.

Luncheon meals are \$25 per person. To reserve your place, email the LWVS 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. **RSVP no later than Monday, April 15,** to lwvsanibel@gmail.com.

Please feel free to attend only the program which will begin around 12:30; we will have seats available for you.



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

LWV of Sanibel Annual Meeting
Thursday, April 18, 2019
Immediately following the Luncheon Program

Meeting Agenda

Welcome

Adoption of Rules

President's Report

Adoption of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Adoption of 2019-2020 Budget

Election of New Officers, Directors and Nominating Committee

Adoption of 2019-2020 Program

Old Business

New Business

Adjournment

2019-2020 Slate of Officers and Directors* to be considered:

President: Robyn Cook

Vice President: Ellen O'Neill

Treasurer: Bob Terry

Secretary: Chris Schluter

Director: Dorit Fisher (first year of 2-year term)

Director: Linda Kramer: (second year of 2-year term)

Director: Bobbie Moore (second year of 2-year term)

Director: Rick Siders (second year of 2-year term)

Board Appointed Directors:

Janice Block Chaddock

Jeannie and Ron Ellington

Madelon Stewart

2019-2020 Nominating Committee:

Robin Krivanek (Chair), Judy Adler, Dick Calkins, Linda Kramer

Proposed Programs for 2019-2020:

November: Healthcare Issues in Florida

January: Environmental impacts to Florida Coastline

February: Challenges to Constitutional Protections

March: Causes & Effects on SWFL Land Development

April: Annual Meeting; Sanibel League 10th Anniversary;
League of Women Voters 100th Anniversary

*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.

2018-2019 LWV Sanibel Officers and Directors

Robyn Cook, President
Maria O'Brien, Vice President
Bob Terry, Treasurer
Chris Schluter, Secretary
John Kramer, Director
Barbara Moore, Director
Rick Siders, Director
Jean Ely, Appointed Director
Carla Benninga, Director Emerita
Off Board: Dorit Fisher, Membership
Barbara Freeman, Communications

2018-2019 Nominating Committee

Robin Krivanek (Chair), Judy Adler, Linda Kramer, Bob Terry

LWVS Founders, aka "founding mothers"



Carla Benninga
Linda Kramer
Linda Robison