



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:

*Thank you to every one
of our new and renewing members!*



I cannot express enough how grateful we are to all of our brand new and renewing members. You have shown your confidence in the League of Women Voters and the civics and educational work that is done here on the island, in the state and around the U.S. The Sanibel League will be 10 years old in 2020, after starting as a fledgling "MAL" (member-at-large) unit in 2009, and going "live" in 2010. The U.S. League originated in 1920, so there will be much to celebrate in the next few years. Thank you again for your support!

The recent loss of our 41st President, George H.W. Bush is still fresh in our minds. After all the anecdotes, accolades and stories relating to his 94 years of public service, what stands out is his love of family, devotion to people of all walks of life, strong support of volunteerism, and his gentlemanly grace. Regardless of your politics, he is a statesman who will be missed.

Next month our luncheon program is slated for Thursday, January 17. It is entitled "Is Democracy Working?". Board Member and former

jurist, Bob Terry has engaged Dr. Peter Bergerson, to help us answer this intriguing question. He is a professor with the Division of Public Affairs at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). Scroll down for more information about Dr. Bergerson, plus program and luncheon details. RSVP deadline is Monday, January 14.

The Everglades Coalition will be holding their 34th Annual Everglades Coalition Conference from January 10-12, 2019, at the Duck Key Resort on Duck Key. This conference "seeks to raise critical, timely issues for in-depth debates in an open, accessible forum." It is the "largest annual forum to advance Everglades conservation and restoration." Among the Coalitions' contributors and sponsors are the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF), J.M. "Ding" Darling Wildlife Preserve, Calusa Waterkeeper, and League of Women Voters of Florida. You can check out the Everglades Coalition website for more information and details: www.evergladescoalition.org.

And finally, if you are interested in making your voices heard on the issues of the day, there will be a Women's March on Sunday, January 20. Sponsored by Women's March Ft Myers, it will take place at Centennial Park in Fort Myers from 10 AM to 2 PM. For more information go to: womensmarchftmyers@gmail.com.

Wishing you a Happy & Healthy New Year!

Yours "in League",
Robyn Cook

Reserve Now!

"Is Democracy Working?"
LWV of Sanibel
Program & Luncheon
Thursday, January 17, 2018

Featured Speaker:
Dr. Peter Bergerson
Professor of Public Affairs
Florida Gulf Coast University



Peter Bergerson, Ph.D.

Are you anxious about our democracy in these turbulent times? Sometimes wonder how our form of government shapes up with other of the world's governments? With questions of such import to

our lives, it's always best to turn to an expert with the breadth and depth of knowledge to enlighten and explain.

Dr. Peter Bergerson, currently a professor of Public Affairs at FGCU, has a rich and varied academic and research background that he applies to the real world we live in today. The author of a long list of papers and publications, he has observed, written and taught the world of politics, government, public administration and related topics for many years. He is very often asked to opine on topics related to presidential and congressional campaigns; electoral college; and judicial selection. He has focused as well on Asian studies and Cuba.

In speaking to whether or not democracy is working, Dr. Bergerson will compare and contrast the U.S. democratic government with that of other countries, with an emphasis on the government and politics of China. We can't imagine a better moment in time to focus on the U.S.-China relationship through the lens of our disparate histories and current trade machinations.

In addition to this unique and interesting presentation, we will also welcome former Judge Bob Terry, member of the LWV Sanibel board of directors. Bob has agreed to provide us with a short tutorial on the controversial question that is proposed to be added to the 2020 Census. Specifically it is a question about immigration status which is now being challenged in at least 22 states and six lawsuits. This is a truly polarizing issue and Bob will help us through the legal arguments and facts, no fake news here!

When: Thursday, January 17. Registration at 11:30 am for the noon to 2 pm luncheon and 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 Robyn Cook at 239-312-4996.

Deadline to RSVP (or to cancel a reservation) is by NOON, Monday, January 14.

Cost: \$25 per person. Mail your check to:

LWV Sanibel. PO Box 1194, Sanibel, 33957 . Or you may pay at the door (only check or cash, please).

Please note: Because LWV Sanibel is required to pay for each reserved meal, persons with unpaid or absent reservations will be billed.

New this year: We can arrange for a vegetarian option for lunch. Let us know with your reservation.

Those who would like to attend just the program are welcome to do so. Please let us know ahead and we will arrange a seat for you. Arrive around 12:30 pm.

Mark your Calendars!**Impacts of Immigration on Southern Florida**

Thursday, February 21, 2019
LWVS Luncheon & Program
Featuring: Indera DeMine, Esq., DeMine
Immigration Law, Fort Myers

Ms. DeMine has devoted her law career to immigration and nationality law. She realized early on following her stint at law school, that there was a very strong need for an attorney specializing in immigration law. Ms. DeMine's family immigrated to the US in 2002 from Guyana. She understands deeply the history and circumstances of immigration in the US. It has provided unique insights into all the aspects immigration, from removal/deportation trials to guidance through US consulates around the world. You won't want to miss this special opportunity!

Mark Your Calendars!
2019 LWVS
Luncheon Programs



All luncheons/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 17
 Is Democracy Working?
 Speaker: Peter Bergerson, Ph.D.
 Political Science Professor, Florida Gulf Coast University

Thursday, February 21
 Impacts of Immigration in Southwest Florida
 Speaker: Indera DeMine, Esq.,
 DeMine Immigration Law Firm, Fort Myers

Thursday, March 21

Reproductive Health: Speaker TBA

Thursday, April 18

Annual Meeting; Social Justice & Drinking Water

Speakers: Janine Zeitlin & Patricia Borns, Fort Myers News-Press award winning journalists

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.

It's Easy to Join LWV of Sanibel!

Stay informed, stay involved. It takes just a few moments to join as a new member or renew your membership. With your dues you support and are a member of the LWV of the US, LWV of Florida, and our local League. All for only \$65 per person or \$95 per family/household. If you would like to be extra supportive, we suggest the Susan B. Anthony membership category for \$125.



Go to our website: lwvsanibel.org and follow the links to the LWVS membership form. And if you have already renewed, many thanks!

Questions? Contact us at lwvsanibel@gmail.com.

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

Susan Heisler, 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 mother's"



Carla Benninga
Linda Kramer
Linda Robison

LWV Sanibel Board Meetings

Members are invited to attend all board meetings, which are held at Noon during the second Thursday of the month at the Sanibel-Captiva Community Bank: January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11.

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

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