The Voter
lwvsanibel.org

Volume 9 Issue 4
February 2018

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 a photo below, click on "display images" in your email program.

Message from Robyn Cook, LWV Sanibel President

We've only just begun........

As I write this near the end of January, the government was shut down, then reopened; thousands of women and men have marched to mark the one-year anniversary of the new administration and for so many other important and highly motivating issues; the Florida legislature is in session; and we look forward to an incredibly important year that will take us into the Fall 2018 mid-term elections. As LWVS members and friends, we appreciate your joining the League and loyally attending our luncheons devoted to the issues that affect your lives. We can't say this enough: The League of Women Voters is a place for attaining knowledge and empowering advocacy; your membership and contributions really do matter in doing the hard work of democracy.

In addition to the monthly luncheons coming up, the LWVS will be mounting a variety of 2018 voter registration activities starting in the spring. We hope to not only be present in Sanibel for registration, but we also plan to partner with other Leagues and institutions to extend our local and "off island" reach. You will learn more about our voter services efforts in the
coming weeks and months. Thank you to those of you who have signed up to help! We will contact you very soon.

Because we are a "seasonal" League, many of you are here for a limited number of months. This should not stop you from expressing your interest in volunteering, becoming a member or serving on our Board of Directors. Some of us are full time and some are not. We accommodate our scheduled activities around the "season," basically between November and May. However, we are often amazed at what we can achieve; thus "so much to do, so little time!"

Below you will find reporting from the recent January luncheon covering the ups, and many downs, of Gun Safety legislation and laws. Patti Brigham was a dynamic speaker and we learned so much from her. Then, read on for information regarding our February 15 luncheon, RSVP by Monday, Feb. 12. The topic will be Education and School Options, a topic discussed not nearly enough by our Congress or state politicians. And it's not too early to plan on attending the March 15 Luncheon featuring Dr. Rick Bartleson from SCCF and his discussion of our beaches, sea level resilience and climate changes. A very hot topic for Sanibelians, indeed!

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

Coming Up!
RSVP by Noon,
Monday, February 12

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
Join us for a fascinating and informative presentation from two well-respected and experienced education professionals. Jane Kuckel, Ph.D. 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 on doing 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 and offer 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](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1129872260961&format=html&print=true) to reserve your place by email, or call Robin Krivanek at 239-395-0927. The deadline to RSVP (or to cancel a reservation) is NOON on 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.
There is much to be learned about gun safety law-making and the passing of laws. Patti Brigham, First Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Florida and Co-Chair of the Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, spoke to a large luncheon audience on January 18 at the Sundial Beach Resort.

In her remarks, Ms. Brigham emphasized that the LWV is a nonpartisan political nonprofit organization whose purpose is to serve voters and to promise good governance. The League supports gun laws that balance individual constitutional rights with the welfare of the community.

The Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence has several goals designed to reduce deaths by gun violence. They include no campus carry; no open carry; no expansion of stand your ground; expansion of background checks to close loopholes; and banning large capacity semiautomatic weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices.

Brigham shared a great deal of her knowledge of the issue. Some examples of what the audience learned:

- There were 38,000 gun deaths in 2016. Of these, 60% were suicides and 38% homicides.
- Abused women are five times more likely to be killed if the abuser owns a gun. Yet Florida law does not require convicted domestic abusers to surrender firearms.
- Guns are the second leading cause of death among 18-24-year-olds.

Despite the above statistics, Florida law strictly limits maintaining records of gun sales; background checks are not required by unlicensed, private sellers; there are few restrictions on who can buy a gun; and there is little or no waiting period.

To provide context for the presentation, LWV of Sanibel Board member Robert Terry, a retired Massachusetts judge, provided the group with an overview and analysis of the 2008 Supreme Court case, District of Columbia v. Heller. In this case, the Court considered the meaning and scope of the Second Amendment for the first time since 1939. In a 5-4 decision, the majority opinion, written by Justice Antonin Scalia, finds that while the Second Amendment protects the right of individuals to keep and bear arms, this right "was not unlimited"; it does not protect "the right of citizens to carry arms for any sort of confrontation (emphasis in original). It also states that the Amendment "does not protect those weapons not typically possessed by law-abiding citizens for lawful purposes, such as short-barreled shotguns." Justice Scalia wrote that the opinion should not be read to cast doubt on "longstanding prohibition on the possession of firearms by felons or the mentally ill, or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms."

Brigham has been closely monitoring several crucial bills which are opposed by the Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence. Two bills before the Florida legislature in 2018 are of concern. SB 1242 would allow individuals to carry guns,
including assault weapons, without undergoing a training class or a federal background check if they are "engaged in or traveling to, or returning, but not limited to" a wide range of activities listed in the bill, including cast netting, falconry, bird watching, picnicking, dog walking, etc. This bill essentially would allow anyone to carry a gun without a permit. SB 1048 would allow guns to be carried onto campuses of religiously affiliated schools and colleges, thus circumventing the current ban on carrying guns on campuses. In committee hearings, the hearing room was filled with concerned citizens from across the state who opposed these measures; however, they were not given an opportunity to express their concerns.

The Coalition supports legislation providing Expanded Background Checks as well as Risk Protection Orders, but bills providing these protections were never placed on the legislative agenda to be heard in committee during 2017; nor have they been placed on the agenda thus far in the 2018 session.

Florida statutes governing firearm sales and ownership include:

F.S. 790.335, Registration Records, which makes it a felony to create or maintain a firearm registry. This is a key platform of the National Rifle Association (NRA), which puts forth the myth that registration of firearms will lead inevitably to confiscation and loss of the right to bear firearms. This law requires second-hand dealers and pawn shops to expunge their records after 30 days. Even law enforcement agencies must expunge their records after 60 days.

F.S. 790.065, Buyers of Long Guns and Handguns, which allows anyone who is 18 years old and a U.S. resident to buy a long gun. Handgun buyers must be 21 years old and either a U.S. citizen or a property owner for 90 days or more. There is no waiting period to purchase a long gun and a three-day waiting period to purchase a handgun without a Concealed Weapon Permit. Florida law does not limit ownership of semi-automatic weapons or specify magazine capacity. Neither fingerprints nor any specialized permit is required. (Background checks must be passed whether it be a long gun or handgun. No waiting period with a long gun, but there is a three-day waiting period to purchase a handgun.)

F.S. 790.06, Concealed Weapons Permits, which allows anyone who is 21 years old and can demonstrate competency in firing a weapon to carry a concealed weapon after a three-day waiting period and a background check. It also accepts permits granted by other states. As of December 31, 2016, 1.78 million Floridians held a valid concealed weapons permit.

F.S. 790.065 provides a loophole for Private Sellers. While federally licensed firearm dealers are required to run background checks before selling a firearm, unlicensed, private sellers at gun shows and online unlicensed sellers are exempt. About 22% of gun sales are not subject to background checks.

F.S. 790.174 requires firearms to be secured in a locked box or with a trigger lock when an unsupervised minor is at home unless those in charge of the minor carry the gun on their person. However, a violation of this statute is only a second degree misdemeanor, while maintaining a registry of firearm purchases is a felony.

F.S. 776.012 expands the right of self defense in public, eliminates the "duty to retreat if safe to do so," and provides immunity from criminal prosecution or civil action [Stand your ground law].

Report submitted by Christine Schluter
Save the Date!
Our Beaches: Sea Level Resilience and Climate Change

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

Speaker: Richard Bartleson, PH.D.,
Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, Marine Lab

Sanibel is a dynamic, barrier island community with the distinct privilege of having the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation on-island, fully staffed with highly educated and experienced researchers. We are honored to feature a respected member of the SCCF staff at the March 15, 2018 LWV of Sanibel luncheon.

Dr. Richard Bartleson is a nationally renowned research scientist with wide-ranging studies in the areas of Biology and Environmental Engineering Sciences, and with a Ph.D. in Environmental Science, Marine, Estuarine and Environmental Studies. Rick is currently at work on SCCF research and monitoring projects having to do with seagrass, hypoxia, and brevetoxin monitoring, and biological nutrient removal. His specific area of expertise has to do with seagrass and water column interactions.

Dr. Bartleson will share with luncheon attendees an overview of his research findings as related to our local and regional beaches; sea level resilience; and the impact of climate change on water quality. Most Sanibel and Captiva island visitors and residents are highly aware of the state of our surrounding and inland waters and how they can impact not only our own homes, but also the entire regional economy. One can only imagine, had Hurricane Irma surged the 10-15 expected feet onto our beaches, just how destructive this would have been to coastline, environment, habitats, and properties. Dr. Bartleson will help us understand his Marine Lab work and how it will affect the future of the barrier islands we love.

When: Thursday, March 15. 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 to reserve by email, or call Robin Krivanek at 239-395-0927. Deadline to RSVP is by moon, Monday, March 12.
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.
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 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, 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.

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**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!

**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: email 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
- Local Government
- Fundraising
- Health Care
- Sustainability/Natural Resources
- Publicity
- Membership
- Hot Topics
- Education
- Hospitality/Events

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**2017-2018 LWV Sanibel Officers and Directors**

Robyn Cook, President
Barbara Joy Cooley, Vice President, Natural Resources
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<th>Robin Krivanek, Treasurer and Membership</th>
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<td>Maria O'Brien, Secretary</td>
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<td>Nancy Elting, Director</td>
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<td>Carla Benninga, Director Emerita</td>
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**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 February 8, March 8, and April 12.