



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

The Voter

lwvsanibel.org

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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.

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

Greetings members and friends of LWVS.

You still have time to RSVP for the February 20 Luncheon and Program:

Voting Rights are Your Rights. Our speakers will discuss a wide array of topics pertinent to voting rights such as the modern history of the movement to protect the right to vote; the Voting Rights Act, revisions and trends; redistricting/gerrymandering; Amendment 4, restoration of voting rights; what to watch out for during this election cycle; and what League members can do during the 2020 election cycle. This will be perfect timing given the next busy months of primaries and decision making before the November 3 General Election. RSVP to lwvsanibel@gmail.com by Noon, February 17.



For information on **registering to vote in Florida**, please visit the LWVS website at lwvsanibel.org for important dates, links and contacts.

If you would like to help with an upcoming voter registration event, you may contact Linda Kramer, LWVS Voter Services Chair at kramer@zebis.com. Linda can help you with becoming League certified as a registrar if you would like to volunteer at League of Women Voter registrations.

SAVE THE DATE of Tuesday, March 31,

for a very important Book Author event taking place to commemorate the passage of the 19th Amendment and the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters. A must read for anyone interested in the passage of the 19th Amendment is *The Woman's Hour, The Great Fight for the Vote* by Elaine Weiss. She is a busy speaker this year, yet she has agreed to come to Sanibel for this very special occasion. Check out the details below, including the event location in the brand new BIG ARTS performance hall. Tickets are available through BIG ARTS at \$20 per person. Copies of the book will be available at MacIntosh Books.



Elaine Weiss photo: Courtesy of Nina Subin

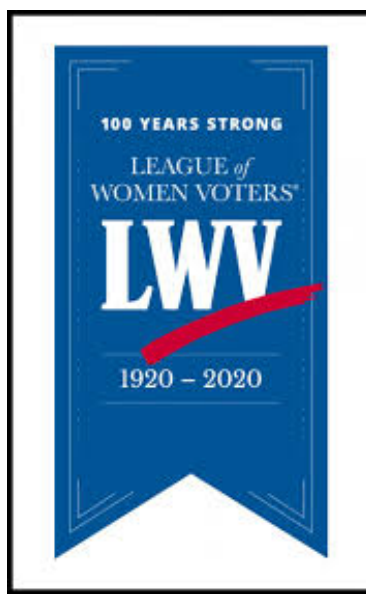
We will offer voter registration events around Sanibel throughout 2020, in addition to helping support the registration efforts of the League of Women Voters of Lee County. If you are a Florida resident and have not yet registered, you may do so online at registertovoteflorida.gov. If you want to request ballots for federal, state and local elections for 2020 or primary or general election ballots by mail, you may go to www.lee.vote or call 239-533-8683. You must renew your request every two general elections. If you have questions, simply call the number listed above.

Important note for Florida voters: The deadline for registering to vote prior to the March 17 Presidential Primary Election is Tuesday, February 18. Florida is a "closed primary" state. This means that if you are a NP voter (no party preference) you cannot vote in the Florida primaries. However, you may change your party affiliation ahead of the primaries by the above date. Then, if you prefer, change back to NP following the primaries.

Call for Poll Watchers: If you would like to become a certified poll watcher during the elections (beginning with the March 17 Presidential Primary), please contact Jennifer Scuteri at jenscuteri@gsd-law.com. Jennifer will answer all your questions about this important election-day position and help you with training and certification with the Lee County Supervisor of Elections. Please contact her by Wednesday, February 12.

Yours in League.....

Robyn Cook



RSVP Today!

"Voting Rights Are Your Rights"

LWV of Sanibel
Program and Luncheon
Thursday, February 20, 2020

Featured Panel:

Howard L. Simon, former Executive Director,
ACLU of Florida;

Ron Ellington, former Professor at University of Georgia
Law School; and

Jennifer Scuteri, Esq.,
Scuteri Law Group

Voting your political preference is the pinnacle of American democratic life. But our system, while still strong, has been under stress from both foreign adversaries and state laws that try to limit or suppress the right to cast a vote. Our featured speakers have a strong collective background in voters rights. This is your chance to hear their experiences and knowledge in a setting that allows you to interact and have questions asked and answered.



Howard Simon retired last year as the longest-serving state director

of the American Civil Liberties Union- serving 23 years in Michigan and 21 years as Florida director. Howard earned a Ph.D. in legal and political philosophy from the University of Minnesota and taught there and at DePauw University before becoming an ACLU executive director. He retired after the 2018 election and the passage of Amendment 4, the restoration of voting rights for former felons, which he helped write and for which he helped secure passage. He is now President of Clean Okeechobee Water Foundation and advocates for water quality reforms to protect public health and works for policies to address the health threat from harmful algal blooms.

Ron Ellington was a law professor at the University of Georgia for more than 40 years. He also served as dean of the law school for part of that time. For the decade before Ron retired, he held the Cleveland Chair of Legal Ethics and Professionalism. Ron earned his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law and later a graduate degree in law, the Master of Laws, from Harvard University.

Jennifer Scuteri is an attorney admitted in both Massachusetts and Florida and works for the Scuteri Law Group. Jennifer is a long-time environmental activist and is a graduate of the Department of Environmental Conservation at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Jennifer has extensive experience with government, veterans issues, and environmental projects, currently concentrating on water issues. She is an advocate for voter protections and was active in the Florida vote recount in 2018.

When: Thursday, February 20. Registration at 11:30 a.m. for the noon to 2:00 p.m. luncheon and program, with time for Q&A.

Where: The Sundial Beach Resort, 1451 Middle Gulf Drive, Sanibel
RSVP: [Click here](#) to reserve your place or call Robyn Cook at 239-312-4996. **Deadline to RSVP (or to cancel a reservation) is NOON on Monday, February 17.**

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

We are now able to offer a vegetarian meal for anyone who would like the option. These are not vegan. Please let us know when you RSVP.

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

**Save
the date!
Tickets Now Available**

**Tuesday, March 31, 2020
10:00 a.m. to Noon**

A special, one-time-only event to honor the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage & 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters!

Brought to you by
The League of Women Voters
of Sanibel
Celebrating our 10th Anniversary
2010 - 2020



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***The Woman's Hour:
The Great Fight for the Vote***
by Elaine Weiss

The year 2020 is the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment granting American women the right to vote. In her highly acclaimed narrative non-fiction book, *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight for the Vote* (Viking/Penguin), author Elaine Weiss tells the dramatic story of American women's seven-decade struggle to win the ballot, as it all came down to a pitched battle in Nashville, Tennessee in the summer of 1920, to secure the final state needed to ratify the Amendment. Following a handful of remarkable women who led their respective forces into battle, *The Woman's Hour* is the inspiring story of women fighting for their political freedom; and the book's themes - voting rights, women's rights, and democracy - are especially relevant today.

Ms. Weiss' research brings the story alive with fascinating stories and insights of this important time and place in history. 2020 is also the 100th anniversary of the League of Women Voters, another milestone discussed in the book.

Elaine Weiss is a journalist and author whose work has appeared

in The Atlantic, Harper's, The New York Times, and The Christian Science Monitor, as well as in reports and documentaries for National Public Radio and Voice of America. She is a MacDowell Colony Fellow and Pushcart Prize Editor's Choice honoree. *The Woman's Hour* has been hailed as a "riveting, nail-biting political thriller" with powerful parallels for today's political environment.

The Woman's Hour was a GoodReads Readers' Choice Award winner; was short-listed for the 2019 Chautauqua Prize; and received the American Bar Association's highest honor, the 2019 Silver Gavel Award.

Steven Spielberg's Amblin production company is adapting the book for TV, with Hillary Rodham Clinton serving as Executive Producer.

MacIntosh Book Store on Sanibel will have books on sale in the store and at the event. There may be time following the program for Ms. Weiss to sign a few books.

This incredible event will be on Tuesday, March 31, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The venue will be the new BIG ARTS Performance Hall in the new building at 900 Dunlop Road, Sanibel. Ticket price is \$20 per person, general admission. To reserve your tickets, call the BIG ARTS box office, 239-395-0900 or click this link: <https://my.bigarts.org/single/EventDetail.aspx?p=2748>.

Thanks to our supporters:
League of Women Voters Education Fund of Sanibel;
Orlene Shimberg Memorial Fund of the
Zonta Foundation of SW Florida;
BIG ARTS;
and MacIntosh Books.

League of Women Voters Sanibel 2020 Luncheon 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 2:00 p.m.



Thursday, February 20, 2020

Voting Rights are Your Rights

Speakers: Howard Simon, former Executive Director of ACLU Florida;
Ron Ellington, former Professor, University of Georgia Law School;
and Jennifer Scuteri, Esq., Lawyer & Voting Rights activist

**Special Event: 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment,
100th Anniversary of League of Women Voters**

Thursday, March 31, 2020 at BIG ARTS, Sanibel
10:00 am to NOON

The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight for the Vote

Featuring: Author Elaine Weiss
Tickets \$20 through BIG ARTS

Thursday, April 16, 2020

**LWVS Annual Meeting & Celebration of LWVS
10th Anniversary**

Featuring special tribute: "Voices of the Suffragettes" and
honoring the Founders of the Sanibel League of Women Voters

Lunch meals are \$25 per person. Deadline to reserve is by noon on
the Monday of the week of the Thursday luncheon/program.

2019-2020 LWV Sanibel Officers and Directors

Robyn Cook, President
Ellen O'Neill, Vice President, Programs
Chris Schluter, Secretary
Bob Terry, Treasurer
Dorit Fisher, Membership
Linda Kramer, Voter Services
Bobbie Moore, Director
Maddie Stewart, Director

Director Emerita: Carla Benninga

Appointed Directors:

Janice Block Chaddock

Jeannie & Ron Ellington

2020-2021 Nominating Committee

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

LWVS Founding Mothers



Carla Benninga, Linda Kramer,
Linda Robison

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 2020 are February 13, March 12, and April 9.