



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF SANIBEL

# *The Voter*

[lwvsanibel.org](http://lwvsanibel.org)

Volume 10 Issue 4

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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:**

### *We Celebrate the Sanibel "Season"*



Let me count the number of activities, forums and parties that take up the seasonal time of our part- and full-time residents, not to mention the multitude of short-term visitors! Our numerous local non-profits and cultural organizations vie for our time and attention, and don't forget gallery visits, eating out, shopping and shelling. For those of you who loyally attend our local League luncheon programs, we say THANK YOU! And for others who hear about our events, try it, you'll like it.

Scroll down to find information about the LWVS luncheon programs coming up in February and March. The incredibly timely and important topics of immigration justice and U.S.-Russia relations will be worth your while. Your League invites experts in their fields who are happy to impart their knowledge and always answer your questions. Soon we will be sending out information on our April Annual Meeting. Once again, we thank all of you for supporting the League of Women Voters of Sanibel!

At this writing, there may or may not be a local City Council election on Tuesday, March 5. The qualifying period for candidates

for the two seats that will open up ends Friday, January 18. If it is a contested race with more than two candidates running for the two seats, the Sanibel League will host a candidate forum in early February. Look for information in the near future.

***Yours "in League,"***  
*Robyn Cook*

Reserve Now!

"Impacts of Immigration on  
Southwest Florida"  
LWV of Sanibel  
Program & Luncheon  
Thursday, February 21, 2019

Featured Speaker:  
Indera DeMine, Esq.  
Immigration Law Specialist,  
DeMine Immigration Law Firm



Indera DeMine, Esq.

The world's immigrants have historically been welcomed to our country since its inception and usually with open arms. What immigrants face when coming into the country has varied widely from generation to generation. Unfortunately, immigrants are often a polarizing lightning rod, particularly in the current administration with its emphasis on restriction and the unravelling of accepted immigration law.

Indera DeMine is on the front line of representing clients throughout Florida. As an immigrant herself, she is passionate about immigration law and has welcomed the opportunity to help her clients navigate the often confusing immigration process.

In 2016, she opened her solo practice with the idea of having an immigration-law-only law firm in Fort Myers. She has represented clients throughout Florida and has successfully defended clients in removal/deportation trials. Ms. DeMine has also represented clients before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and has guided her clients as they pursue petitions through the U.S. consulates around the world.

Ms. DeMine's family immigrated in 2002 and since then has worked

hard to assimilate in the U.S. Her father, once a small rice farmer in Guyana, is now a small business owner in New Jersey. Indera credits every ounce of her success to her parents. In her spare time, she provides free immigration consultation at local churches and community centers. She has been a featured speaker at many local conferences and events, and we at the Sanibel League feel privileged to have her share her expertise.

When: Thursday, February 21. 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 NOON on Monday, February 18.

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.

## Coming Up!

### "A Russian Perspective on Russia-U.S. Relations"

Thursday, March 21, 2019  
LWVS Luncheon & Program

Featuring: Sidney Picker, Jr., President  
Jane M. Picker, Vice President & Secretary  
RUSLEF (Russia-U.S. Legal Education Foundation)

You will want to carve out time for this unique opportunity to learn about the work of Sidney and Jane Picker, Sanibel law professors and experts on the topic of U.S.-Russian relations. In 1972, with the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Pickers realized it was to both the U.S. and Russia's benefit to understand each other's legal system.

They realized the importance, for any administration, to hasten the

need for Russia to adapt its legal system to global realities. So the Pickers began raising money for Russian law graduates to attend American universities to learn about common legal systems in American. Having worked and traveled extensively in Russia, the Pickers understood the need for Russian law students to comprehend areas of law totally absent under communism and the Cold War.

RUSLEF is the only U.S. foundation that offers scholarships to Russian legal students.

[Click here](#) for more information or to RSVP by March 18.

## 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, February 21

Impacts of Immigration in Southwest Florida

Speaker: Indera DeMine, Esq.,

DeMine Immigration Law Firm, Fort Myers

Thursday, March 21

A Russian Perspective on Russia-U.S. Relations

Speakers: Sidney Picker, Jr. and Jane M. Picker, Founders of RUSLEF (Russia-U.S. Legal Education Foundation)

Thursday, April 18

Annual Meeting; Social Justice & Drinking Water

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

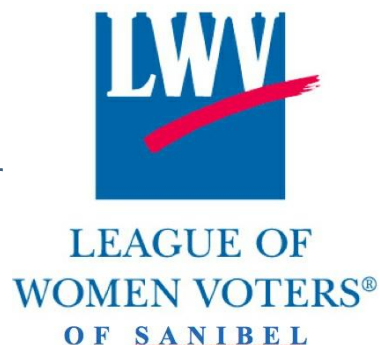
Luncheon meals are \$25 per person. To reserve your place, email

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](http://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](mailto: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 mothers"



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:  
February 14, March 14, April 11.