



THE VOTER

League of Women Voters of Sanibel

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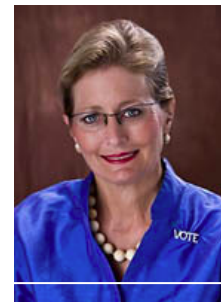
March 2010

Former MAL (Member-at-Large) Unit is the League of Women Voters of Sanibel

Deirdre Macnab, President of the League of Women Voters of Florida, has announced that the Sanibel MAL unit of the Florida LWV has met all requirements to be recognized as a local League.

The LWV state board, at their meeting on March 21, approved this action unanimously.

President Macnab said: "We are thrilled to welcome our new League of Women Voters on Sanibel Island. They have hit the ground running, helping inform the public on key issues such as coastal drilling and the important and often complex amendments that will be on the ballot in November 2010. The League of Women Voters works to encourage active and informed participation in government, and Sanibel Island will now have a dedicated force of volunteer League members working to bring an objective and broad perspective on important issues to Sanibel residents."



Deirdre Macnab

Letter from the President

We have had a busy winter since our first meeting on November 11, 2009. In January, February, and March we presented programs on Coastal Drilling, and three amendments which will be on the Florida state ballot in November. They are: Issue 4 - Hometown Democracy, and Issues 5 and 6 dealing with Fair Districting.

Our annual meeting has been scheduled for April 13, 7PM, at the Sanibel Library. This will be your first chance to vote on several issues such as approval of bylaws, budget, and voting for our first elected board. We will talk about issues you would like to discuss on programs next year.

John and Linda Kramer, Benno and I will travel to Orlando in May to attend state council meetings which are held in even numbered years. We will be attending a number of workshops. The state convention is held in odd numbered years. This year, the national convention is held in June in Atlanta. If any of you are interested in attending, please let me know since we have nobody attending as yet.

Thanks to Chris Andrews, we now have a great website www.sanibellwv.org, which you should check regularly. There is a wealth of information including links to your state, county, and local representatives and the national and state Leagues' websites.

We have come a long way in a very short time. We could not have achieved league status without your support and enthusiasm. Congratulations to all of us.

Carla Benninga

President

Introducing your board

Carla Benninga, President

Carla was born in The Hague, the Netherlands. After her marriage to Benno in 1950, they moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, where she was actively involved in civic affairs. Among others, she was a longtime member of the Greater Cincinnati League of Women Voters where she served in different capacities including Vice President of the board and organizer of a televised statewide gubernatorial debate. She formed her own company which offered a wide array of services including public relations/public affairs/legislative affairs and opinion research. The Benningas moved to Sanibel in 1993 where Carla served for six years on the board of the former Pirate Playhouse/J. Howard Wood Theatre and on the Board of BIG ARTS from 2003 till 2009.

Linda Kramer, First Vice President

A former New Yorker, Linda Kramer and her husband John have been Sanibel residents since 2001. She is a commissioner on the Sanibel Public Library Board, Chair of the OnStage theater program at BIG ARTS, a curatorial assistant at the Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum and member of Zonta. Linda spent much of her earlier life in London, Abu Dhabi, and Hong Kong where she was an art researcher, editor, and writer and she owned an Asian bookstore in New York City. She is an avid reader, a casual golfer, and still a wannabe beach bum.

Mary McLaughlin, Second Vice President

Mary was a LWV member for about 20 years in Illinois and served as local league President and on state and county boards. She first vacationed on Sanibel in 1979, and visited every March until she bought a house twelve years ago. She is on the Sanibel Historical Museum and Village board, a member of the Osprey Foundation, and volunteers at SCCF.

Linda R. Robison, Treasurer

Linda is an attorney practicing primarily in the areas of business law and estate planning. She holds a J.D. and an LLM in taxation. She has been a resident of Sanibel since 1993 and has served Sanibel and community organizations in the following capacities: Planning Commission, Chair; Zonta, President, President-Elect, and Secretary; Library Foundation Board, President; The Wood Theater, Board Member; and the FGCU Committee for the Arts. Linda and her husband, Robert Robison, have two sons and three grandchildren.

Darlene Boda, Chair, Membership

Darlene Boda is originally a northeastern Ohio girl from Youngstown who spent 30 years as a Georgian before she fell in love with Sanibel in 2003 and made her dream of living here a reality in 2007. Darlene is a former learning designer and instructor with Delta Air Lines and her community involvements in Georgia included being part of the formation of the League of Women Voters Marietta / Cobb County Chapter, and a co-director of HERA (Homemakers Equal Rights Association). Here on Sanibel, Darlene is a realtor who holds the SCIS (Sanibel Captiva Island Specialist) and is very active in the Sanibel-Captiva Islands Association of Realtors.

She is currently serving on the Zonta board as treasurer and also makes time for SCCF and CROW. She has three children and really is into being a grandma.

Mardi Ponader, Voter Services

Although this is her first time as a League of Women Voters member, Mardi has been involved in politics in Indiana for many years where she was a precinct committeewoman responsible for a precinct of over 50 square miles. She and her husband Wayne first purchased a home on Sanibel in 1976 while living in Indiana and have lived full-time here since retirement in 1996.

Since 1998, she has served as part of the clergy staff of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church. She is also on the board of the Sanibel Historic Preservation Committee and was a docent at the Historic Village and Museum for many years. She is a member of the Sanibel chapter of Zonta and has been a beach walker for the SCCF Turtle Program. Martha has four sons and nine grandchildren. Her favorite fun time activity is playing tennis with friends.

Carolyn Gray

Carolyn Gray is a Professor Emeritus at Florida Gulf Coast University, a member of the League of Women Voters, and President of the Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva. She and her husband, Stuart Langton, moved to Florida from Ipswich, Massachusetts, in 1994. She came to Florida to help with the establishment of FGCU and moved to Sanibel in 1995. She has been a teacher, a librarian, and Dean of both the College of Arts and Sciences and Library Services at FGCU. She earned a Ph.D. in Social Policy from Brandeis University. She is a strong environmentalist, avid gardener and adventurous cook.

Robert Winters

After a long career at the Prudential Insurance Company, Robert retired as Chairman and CEO in 1995 and has been a Sanibel resident since 1996. He has a long history of involvement in government affairs, representing the insurance industry at local, state, and national levels. He is currently trustee and chair of the audit committee of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Let us know what you want to know about!

It's time to select our LWV programs for the coming year. At our April annual meeting, we will present the following options for your consideration:

- Natural resources of Florida:** interrelationship of air quality, energy, land use, waste management and water resources.
- Social Policy in Florida:** relating to healthcare reform
- Justice in Florida:** criminal justice system that emphasizes rehabilitation and alternatives to incarceration.
- Energy:** conservation and greater use of renewable resources such as solar energy.
- Tax Issues:** concerning Lee County and Sanibel.

From the national LWV

Campaign Finance Reform

League President Mary G. Wilson sent a letter to the Senate urging them to update campaign finance laws in the wake of Citizens United. Congressional testimony on a recent ABC News-*Washington Post* poll showed that the League is not alone in this fight: 80 percent of Americans of both parties oppose the Court's decision.

EPA and Climate Change

The League sent a letter to the House of Representatives urging members to oppose legislation from Representatives Moran and Pomeroy that would overturn the EPA's scientific finding that global warming pollutants endanger public health.

From the state LWV

The LWV of Florida has set three priority issues for 2010:

Government: Promote an open government that is responsive to the people of the state.

Equitable Taxation: The League supports tax legislation which does not jeopardize local service, addresses infrastructure deficits, and removes unfair tax exemptions that affect governments' ability to serve citizens.

Redistricting Reform: The League supports single-member election districts that are equal in population, that provide access for minorities, are compact and, when possible, take local characteristics such as political and geographical boundaries into consideration.

First Call to Convention 2010

from LWV US President Mary G. Wilson

WHAT: The LWV US 49th National Convention
WHEN: June 11-15, 2010
Friday, June 11 Pre-Convention Training 2-5 pm
Saturday, June 12 Briefings 10 am-Noon
Call to order Convention starts 1 p. m.
Sunday, June 13 All Day
Monday, June 14 All Day
Tuesday, June 15 Adjourn Noon
WHERE: Atlanta Marriott Marquis
265 Peachtree Center Ave, Atlanta Georgia

Happy 90th anniversary to the LWV!

Ninety years worth of women (and men) making a difference.

It is humbling and inspirational, all at once. We must continue the fight for fair elections, to protect our environment, to work with all parties for election campaign finance reform, put a stop to gerrymandering, to protect and enhance our unique form of democracy.

The LWV of Sanibel

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Slate for annual meeting election

President - Carla Benninga

First Vice President - Linda Kramer

Second Vice President - Mary McLaughlin

Treasurer - Linda R. Robison

Secretary -

Darlene Boda – Membership Chair

Martha Ponader – Voter Services

Carolyn Gray

Robert Winters

MISSION STATEMENT

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.