Message from Robyn Cook, LWV Sanibel President

Greetings members and friends!

This was quite the busy "season" for your Sanibel League of Women Voters! If you have been following coverage or attending the events and activities, you are well aware of what we mean: Five well-attended luncheon programs; a first-time LWVS Consensus Meeting; a Candidates Forum prior to the local City Council election in March; and participation in the Women’s March in Naples in January. In addition, League members attended (with signs aloft!) the April 22 March for Science and stood up for Planned Parenthood of Fort Myers on April 27.

Following this message, you'll find Mary LaVelle's excellent coverage of the presentation by James Murley and highlights from the April 20 Annual Meeting.

What you may not be aware of is the behind-the-scenes work of our various committees. A new one on the roster this year is the Natural Resources Committee, which co-hosted the well-attended Go Solar! Event with the Green Team at the Sanibel Congregational Church in March. And with the all-important water issues being legislated in Tallahassee, the committee was involved in advocating for Senate Bill 10.
During the fast-moving Florida legislative session, there are weekly conference calls for the Natural Resources Committee chairs from Leagues throughout the state. During these calls, various bills that affect our natural resources are discussed. Participation by representatives of Leagues in these calls helps to shape the Florida League of Women Voters position on these bills.

Barbara Joy Cooley, chair of our Sanibel League's natural resources committee, represented us in nearly all these calls during this session. She and the League representative from Martin County (the St. Lucie area) were strong voices for support of a bill that could significantly help our coastal waters: Senate Bill 10.

This bill was by far the most time- and energy-consuming bill discussed in these League natural resources conference calls during this session. Senate Bill 10 was Senator Joe Negron's proposal for a reservoir south of Lake Okeechobee to help in moving the water south from the Lake through the Everglades, where it is needed.

The bill changed dramatically, back and forth, as it moved through the process - a nail-biting experience. But finally it passed, and is now on its way to the Governor for his signature. The major change from the original bill was that the reservoir will now use lands the state currently owns instead of additional lands purchased in the agricultural area.

This is a great victory. However, we will have to keep the pressure on to be sure the Governor and the South Florida Water Management District follow through with building the reservoir. Stay tuned!

Keep an eye out for upcoming issues of The Voter and details about the coming 2017-2018 year of activities. We look forward to sharing it all with you. Have a great summer!!

Robyn Cook, President

Your voice and ideas are important to us! Don't hesitate to pass along your ideas for programs, forums, and policies to study that are of interest to you. Drop us a note to P.O. Box 1194, or email lwvsanibel@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you!
The League of Women Voters of Sanibel held their Annual Meeting and Luncheon Program on Thursday, April 20, 2017 at the Sundial Beach Resort. This was the last in a successful series of programs held throughout the season covering issues from the state of mental health care, to civic engagement in Florida, to managing fresh water. The business session took place following an inspiring presentation by James Murley, Chief Resilience Officer for Miami-Dade County.

Most of us relate to "resilience" as coping with life's unexpected and potentially devastating setbacks. But in today's world of rising temperatures and sea level change, infrastructure resilience is critical for a sustainable quality of life - and it can be expected and planned for.

That is what James Murley has been doing for the past nine years. Murley traveled to Florida's West Coast to share his insights about the process with the Sanibel League of Women Voters at their annual meeting in April.

"Florida's environment IS its economy - its estuaries, springs, islands, the Everglades," he said. "There are difficult long-term issues in this state that must be recognized and dealt with. There have been cycles in the past, such as times when there were glaciers in Cleveland and Florida's dry land stretched into what is now the Gulf of Mexico - but the great preponderance of scientific evidence now points to an unprecedented human-driven temperature rise, and with it sea level rise as glaciers retreat and the water itself expands. If you are sick, and 90% plus of doctors give you the same diagnosis, you'd better pay attention!"

How did Miami-Dade and the three other regional counties on the East Coast begin to face the issues of land subsidence and sea level rise? Almost ten years ago planning began, funded in part by the Rockefeller Foundation, the Kresge Foundation, and the Institute for Sustainable Communities. Local officials from mayors on down, not waiting for State or Federal governments to act, started with facts. They listened carefully to cutting-edge scientists from the many fine universities on Florida's southeast coast. Murley's Resiliency Office gathered peer-reviewed information to amass an independent report that projected impacts, not only to streets and buildings and sewage systems including treatment plants, but also to water supply. One threat that perhaps not many of us had grasped is that in Florida's porous limestone, such as the Biscayne aquifer, salt water intrusion can cause not only loss of drinking water, but also flooding, because fresh water floats on top of salt water. Basic chemistry!

Miami Beach is raising streets three feet and installing pumps to deal with "king tides" and rainwater, as gravity no longer takes tidewater or stormwater to the bay or ocean. Regional sewer and water plants are on the edge of the ocean, and plans are to raise those facilities more than six feet, planning for hurricanes and huge rains as well as changes to the levels of land and sea. Pumps, not
gravity feed, will be needed everywhere. Those facilities will be paid for by rate
payers and taxpayers - perhaps not happily, but without water and sewer, urban
civilization cannot continue to exist. How does approximately $13 BILLION over
the next 20 years sound to you?!

The Resiliency group headed by Murley has just hosted its 9th Annual Summit,
where scientists and engineers exchange latest information. One group of
experts especially listened to are from the Netherlands. The Dutch have been
dealing with the sea for centuries, and innovative for-profit companies have
grown up there. Other experts are from insurance and reinsurance companies.
Once the risk to homes and businesses, and to infrastructure, becomes too
great, those companies can abandon whole areas. They cannot pretend that
risk does not exist.

In Florida, hurricanes are a "force multiplier." Start with baseline sea level rise,
add a high tide driven by a full moon, and flooding amplified by a hurricane
storm surge and an attendant deluge, and all bets are off.

What can we do? As citizens, it is our job to question our leaders: Do you
recognize the issues, and what plans are you making to deal with them? Are
you starting with facts, and soliciting university involvement? Are you making
use of free satellite data? Are you working with the US Geological Survey
ground water models? And is the business community involved? We know from
working on Everglades restoration that the involvement of that community is
very important. While some may simply cross their fingers and pray, the League
of Women Voters will stay active in seeking resilience on the local, state and
national levels.

The business session of the Annual Meeting included the election of the Board
of Directors’ officers and directors for 2017-2018. They are: Robyn Cook,
President; Barbara Joy Cooley, Vice President; Robin Krivanek, Treasurer;
Maria O’Brien, Secretary; and Directors: Nancy Elting, Christine Schluter, Ellen
Strobel, and Robert Terry. Also announced were the program topics for the
2017-2018 season. Following the summer hiatus, the LWV of Sanibel will
commence its new luncheon series in November of 2017. Details will be
available in the coming months.
Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership
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 out your check to the 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: lwvsanibel@gmail.com

Name_________________________Phone (Home)_________________________
Address______________________Phone (mobile)_________________________
_____________________________E-mail______________________________

Please Circle Annual Membership Level

$125 Susan B. Anthony membership ________________________
$95 Household membership ________________________________
$65 Individual membership ________________________________
$30 Student membership ________________________________

TOTAL ________________________________

Please Circle Your Interest Topics

Voter Services Publicity
Local Government | Membership
Fundraising | Hot Topics
Health Care | Education
Sustainability/Natural Resources | Hospitality/Events

2017-2018 LWV Sanibel Officers and Directors

Robyn Cook, President
Barbara Joy Cooley, Vice President, Natural Resources
Maria O’Brien, Secretary
Robin Krivanek, Treasurer, Membership
Nancy Elting, Director
Christine Schluter, Director
Ellen Strobel, Director
Robert Terry, Director

Media Relations: Janis Cain
Webmaster: Barbara Freeman

2017-18 Nominating Committee
Robin Krivanek (Chair), Erhard Joeres, Ellen O’Neill

LWV Sanibel Board Meetings for 2017-2018
Members are invited to attend Board meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Noon at the Sanibel-Captiva Community Bank on Library Way. Dates for 2017-2018 are November 16, January 18, February 15, March 15, and April 19. No need to RSVP, just drop by!

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.

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

SafeUnsubscribe™ {recipient’s email};
Forward this email | Update Profile | About our service provider
Sent by lwvsanibel@gmail.com in collaboration with

Try it free today