Editor's Note: If you do not see a photo of Robin Krivanek below, click on "display images" in your email program.

Message from Robin Krivanek, LWV Sanibel President

Greetings, Leaguers:

As our annual diaspora commences, I want to urge all Leaguers to stay focused on the legislative activities in Tallahassee. Although our health insurance agenda is moving well in the Florida Senate, the Speaker of the Florida House is strongly opposed, so keep the pressure on. And as we heard at our March meeting, the proposed implementation of Amendment One does not appear to be following the intent of the voters when they approved Amendment One by a 75% margin. Also there has been no commitment to funding the purchase of sugar lands (Everglades Agricultural Area, EAA lands) south of Lake Okeechobee for water storage and time is running out. Several of our members will be trying their hands at citizen lobbying at the capitol next week and we wish them great success.

Here at home, April brings our Annual Meeting and with it an opportunity to focus on the City of Sanibel with Judie Zimomra, the city manager, as our guest speaker. Then we wrap up the season with preparations for 2015-2016 by the adoption of a budget, consideration of program items and the election of officers and directors.
If you scrutinized the slate presented at the last meeting, you may have noted the omission of two very familiar names. Leaving the board after years of dedicated service are two Leaguers we will truly miss, Maddy Mayor and Dick Calkins. The League of Women Voter-Sanibel has grown and effectively served our community due to their efforts. We can't thank them enough.

LWV Sanibel Luncheon and Program

April 22, 2015

Update on Sanibel City Issues and Challenges

Special Guest Speaker, Sanibel City Manager Judie Zimomra

A dynamic and knowledgeable speaker, Ms. Zimomra will bring us up to date on the recent City Council election, the plans for a new city cultural area, the challenges of traffic control on the island, and managing the city's growth.

Judie Zimomra has served as City Manager of Sanibel since 2001. She earned her Juris Doctorate degree from Capital University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Ohio State University with specialization in Fiscal Administration. She also is an alumnus of Harvard University JFK School of Government Program for Senior State and Local Officials.

Ms. Zimomra has earned a number of awards, including: the 30-year Service to Local Government Award from the International City Manager's Association (ICMA), one of the "Power Women of Lee County" by Florida Weekly, the 2012 "Public Official of the Year" by the Fort Myers News-Press, and Citizen of the Year by both the Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce, and the Committee of the Islands (COTI). Under her tenure, the City of Sanibel has been recognized by Florida Weekly as "Best Managed City" in southwest Florida and with two Program Excellence Awards from the Florida City and County Managers Association (FCCMA).

When: Wednesday, April 22, 2015, 11:30 a.m. registration; 12:00, noon, luncheon and program.

Where: Sundial Beach Resort, 1451 Middle Gulf Dr., Sanibel

Reservations and Cost: $25.00 per person, payable at the door or by mail
LWV SANIBEL ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Immediately Following the Luncheon and Program

AGENDA

Welcome
Adoption of Rules
President's Report
Adoption of 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes
Treasurer's Report
Adoption of Budget
Election of New Officers, Directors, and Nominating Committee
Old Business
New Business
Adjournment

Slate of 2015-2016 LWV Sanibel Officers and Directors

President                    Robin Krivanek
Vice President             Carolyn Gray
Treasurer                    Ellen Strobel
Secretary                    Robyn Cook
Director (2 yr term)     Ellen O'Neill
Director (2 yr term)     Judith Jones
Director (2 yr term)     Rosemary Powell
Continuing Director      Maree Elowson
THE TIME IS CRITICAL!

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS AND THE GOVERNOR. SCCF AND LWV SANIBEL URGE CITIZEN ACTION.

FUNDS TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF THE EAA LAND (Everglades Agricultural Area) MUST BE APPROVED DURING THE CURRENT LEGISLATIVE SESSION THAT CONCLUDES THE END OF APRIL.

THE FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE AND THE OPTION TO PURCHASE IS IN EFFECT --- ALL THAT IS LACKING IS POLITICAL WILL.

THE EAA LANDS ARE CRITICAL FOR WATER STORAGE AND WATER QUALITY FLOWING INTO INTO THE EVERGLADES. CLICK HERE FOR AN INFORMATIVE VIDEO THAT EXPLAINS THIS URGENT SITUATION.

CLICK HERE TO SEND AN EMAIL REQUEST FOR A SAMPLE LETTER (type "letter request" in the subject line) TO DOWNLOAD AND MAIL TO YOUR LEGISLATORS AND GOVERNOR SCOTT.

USE THIS LINK TO DOWNLOAD A FLIER EXPLAINING THE EAA LAND PURCHASE.
Rae Ann Wessel's Facts Shock Leaguers at Luncheon
By Mary La Velle

Were you one of the 75% of Floridians who voted for Amendment One, to force the State Legislature to spend collected document stamp fees for what they were intended---to purchase, protect and preserve Florida’s important conservation lands and waters? And did you think they would do so?

Think again! As Rae Ann Wessel, Natural Resource Policy Director at SCCF, explained to the audience at the LWV Sanibel program on March 25th, our elected officials show no sign of implementing Amendment One for the purposes that voters intended.

Of the $757 million collected this past year, only a fraction for the intended purposes has been included in any of the proposed budgets of the Governor, the House or the Senate. One example of the deflection of Amendment One funds is a proposed $2 million from the Senate to purchase vehicles for state agencies!

In what is even a more existential threat for Sanibel/Captiva/Lee County, funds to purchase already-approved sugar lands for a major reservoir south of Lake O (one that would help prevent huge pulses of destructive Lake O water from reaching us via the Caloosahatchee in years of heavy rains) must be appropriated THIS MONTH or the opportunity will vanish forever. Nothing of the sort seems to be on the present Legislative agenda. (See article about the EAA lands in this issue of The Voter.)

The SCCF website, www.sccf.org, has a Current Issues Box on (see the right side of the SCCF home page) that includes up to date information on the Legislative process and contact information for our Florida governmental representatives and officers. LWV Sanibel encourages everyone to be in the SCCF Alert email list to receive Action Items with a highly accessible link to send quick emails to our elected representatives. To sign up for the SCCF Alerts, click here to send an email and type the message "Please sign me up for SCCF Alerts!" and type "SCCF Alerts" in the subject line.
Southwest Florida Sea Level Rise Summit

**Hosts:** Florida Coastal and Ocean Coalition and LWV-Lee County

**What:** A prominent list of speakers presenting on topics such as sea level rise modeling, legal and planning challenges to adapting to sea level rise and proactive solutions to address rising tides and sea levels.

**When:** Thursday, May 7, 2015, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Where:** Florida Gulf Coast University, Student Union Ballroom at the Cohen Center

**Register:** Attendance is FREE (includes complimentary continental breakfast and lunch), but registration is required as space is limited. [Click here](#) to register.

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Third Annual Everglades Action Day and Rally in Tallahassee

**Sponsored by the Everglades Coalition**

**April 6 and 7, 2015.**

[Click here to register.](#) Join Jimmy Buffet for the rally on the
How to Contact Your Florida State Legislative Representatives

Your Florida Legislature went into session on March 3rd. Legislative Sessions may take up to 60 days. Many issues important to Lee County and Sanibel will be on the docket. The LWV encourages its members to monitor the discussions and contact their legislators with concerns and questions.

Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto (District 30)
330 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Phone: 239-338-2570 or 850-487-5030
Email: benacquisto.lizbeth.web@flsenate.gov

Rep. Ray Rodrigues (District 76)
1302 The Capitol
492 South Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
Phone: 239-433-6501 or 850-717-5076
Email: Ray.Rodrigues@myfloridahouse.gov

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
LWV Sanibel Board Meetings 2014-2015

Members are invited to attend all Board meetings which are held at 3:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday (except October and May) of the month. Meeting dates are April 8, and May 6th. The Board meets at the Bank of the Islands.

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.