



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANIBEL

The Voter

lwvsanibel.org

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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

Greetings to all LWVS members and supporters!

We are indeed swiftly heading into the mid-term elections set for Tuesday, November 6, 2018. I'm sure this will find a good number of you who may have already voted by mail or are on your way to early voting. Whichever way you choose to cast your vote, just be sure to get out and make a difference!

Your local Leaguers held a National Voter Registration Day event on Tuesday, September 25, a day specifically devoted to getting people to register nationwide. With the help of Bailey's General Store and the very kind Bailey's employee, Billy (pictured with Carla and Robin), we were able to help folks with their registration questions and provide information about voting in the mid-term elections. Many people stopped by; the biggest item on their agenda was how to vote by mail, which may be the preferred method this year given the high number of ballot questions. Big thanks to Robin Krivanek, Dorit Fisher, Carla Benninga and Maddie Stewart for taking part in a successful event!



As you get ready to vote in the November 6 general election, you can still register for the general election by **October 9**. Register on-line at registertovoteflorida.gov If you cannot go to the polls, you can vote-by-mail (especially good for the Nov. 6 election with it's long list of Amendments).

Vote by mail ballots are not forwarded, and you must renew every two general elections. Call 239-533-8683 to renew your ballot by mail option, change your address or ask for a mail ballot for the first time. Early voting begins October 22 and runs through November 3.



There are two incredibly helpful websites created by the League of Women Voters Education Fund where you can find all the information you need regarding your personal ballot for the primary, the general, and substantive information about the statewide Amendments on the ballot this fall: bereadytovote.org and vote411.org. Both of these sites are up and running to guide you to your ballot; you can review all the in-depth information you need for the candidates running in the primary and beyond.

The League of Women Voters Florida has published their helpful 2019 Non-Partisan Voters Guide, which you can now pick up at the Sanibel Library. It will also come to your mailbox in your October 3 issue of the Islander/Island Reporter newspaper. It contains an in-depth review of all 12 of the slate of Constitutional Ballot Amendments. In addition there are interviews with the candidates in the five key Florida races: U.S. Senate, Governor, Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer, and Commissioner of Agriculture.

One of the important ballot questions is **Amendment 4**. Placed on the ballot via citizen initiative, it would automatically restore the voting rights of felons after they have completed their sentences, except for those convicted of sex offenses. The League of Women Voters of Florida was one of the sponsors of this initiative. Florida is one of only four states that permanently bars felons from voting after their sentences are completed. This restriction on voting is a vestige of Florida's post-Civil War Constitution. Everyone deserves a second chance.



A gathering was held September 25 at my home to send postcard messages to voters who signed the petition to get Amendment 4 on the ballot. Across Florida, to date over 30,000 postcard have been sent. This is to ensure that the recipients check their voter status, register to vote if needed, and don't miss the chance to see their vote count. Thank you to Robin Krivanek, Sandy Greco, Dorit Fisher, Maddie Stewart and Kandee Grossman for lending a "hand!"

Save the dates for the upcoming season of luncheon programs (listed below), beginning with "The Politics of Water Quality" on November 15. You'll want to be there for this unique panel discussion!

And for those of you who have just come back to the island after your summer sojourns, Welcome Back!

Yours "in League,"
Robyn Cook

Save the Date!
"The Politics of Water Quality"
LWV of Sanibel

Program and Luncheon

Thursday, November 15, 2018

Expert Panel Featuring:

John Cassani, Calusa Waterkeeper

James Evans, City of Sanibel Director

of Natural Resources, and

Rae Ann Wessel,

Natural Resources Policy Director, SCCF

We kick off the 2018-19 Series of LWV of Sanibel luncheon programs with a topic that is high on the list of concerns for every resident and visitor to Sanibel and for all environmentally aware people up and down both coasts of Florida. We have asked the experts to take off the kid gloves and tell it like it is. The election will be behind us, we will have a new governor, and we will be curious to learn how the elections will affect our panelists' strategies as they continue advocating for water quality.

If you have spent the late spring and summer months with tears in your eyes, both literally and figuratively, from the blue-green algae and red tide disaster affecting our waters and wildlife, and for those who are just coming back to the stark realities, you will want to hear from this outstanding panel. All of them have been central to the ongoing dialogue and strategies involving the past and current impacts of red tide and blue-green algae on our local and all of Florida's incredible waterways and the wildlife living in our midst.



John

John Cassani accepted the position of Calusa Waterkeeper in December, 2016, licensed through the Waterkeeper Alliance. John's professional career as an ecologist started in Lee County in 1978 after he received degrees in Biology and Fish and Wildlife. From 1978 to 2014 he worked as a resource manager for local government, managing waterways of southwest Florida. He has authored both peer-reviewed science publications and popular media sources on resource management, history, water policy and conservation issues. John is a courtesy faculty member at FGCU in the Department of Marine and Ecological Sciences with research interests in the areas of exotic species and biodiversity. His service on advisory boards, commitment to community and involvement with land and water conservation has received recognition from various civic groups. Because of his expertise as a fisheries scientist and water manager, he has been sought as a consultant to private industry, government and academia.



James

James Evans is the Director of Natural Resources for the City of Sanibel, where he has worked as a biologist and resource manager for the past 18 years. He has a B.A. in Environmental Studies and a M.S. in Environmental Science from FGCU. As part of his graduate research, James investigated the influence of freshwater inflow on fish and invertebrates in Estero Bay. Prior to working with City, James was employed by the Center for Environmental Studies, where he monitored tape grass, oysters, and water quality in the Caloosahatchee River and estuary as part of the South Florida Water Management District's Valued Ecosystem Component Study. Most recently, he authored the Caloosahatchee Watershed Regional Water Management issues white paper, a document outlining short- and long-term strategies to address the freshwater discharges from Lake Okeechobee and the Caloosahatchee watershed.



Rae Ann Wessel is the Natural Resources Policy Director for the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. She is an expert in freshwater and marine ecosystems; a gifted and knowledgeable limnologist (a scientist who studies fresh water bodies) and marine scientist, with more than 30 years of experience working in South Florida on environmental issues and policy. She was instrumental in the formation in 1994 of the non-profit Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association that focuses on improving the ecological health of the River, promoting public awareness of issues affecting the River, and monitoring governmental agencies responsible for management of the River and its watershed. Rae Ann is appointee to the 2020 Conservation Lands Acquisition and Stewardship Committee and has received a number of awards for her environmental work.

When: Thursday, November 15. Registration at 11:30 am for the noon to 2 pm 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 by email, or call Robyn Cook at 239-312-4996.

Deadline to RSVP (or to cancel a reservation) is by NOON, Monday, November 12.

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.

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 pm.

Mark Your Calendars! LWV Sanibel 2018-2019 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, November 15, 2018

The Politics of Water Quality

Panel discussion: John Cassani, Calusa Waterkeeper;
James Evans, City of Sanibel Director of Natural Resources;
Rae Ann Wessel, Natural Resource Policy Director, Sanibel-Captiva
Conservation Foundation (SCCF)

Thursday, January 17, 2019

Is Democracy Working?

Speaker: Peter Bergerson, Ph.D.
Political Science Professor, Florida Gulf Coast University

Thursday, February 21

Immigration: Speaker TBA

Thursday, March 21

Reproductive Health: Speaker TBA

Thursday, April 18

Annual Meeting; Social Justice & Drinking Water: Speaker TBA

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.

*You may pre-pay with a check for \$100 for 5 luncheons.



**Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership
for 2018-19
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 your check to 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 Application
& 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: email lwvsanibel@gmail.com

Membership is open to all residents of the U.S.A. Men, as well as women, are welcome to join. Non-U.S. citizens may join as nonvoting members. Sanibel residency is not a requirement. We are a 501(c)(4) organization.

Membership level: _____ **New** _____ **Renewal**

_____ \$65 Individual membership

_____ \$95 Household membership

_____ \$125 Susan B. Anthony supporting membership

_____ **TOTAL MEMBERSHIP CHECK**

_____ Tax-exempt Education Fund Contribution
(make separate check payable to LWV Florida Education Fund)
501 (c)(3)

Contact information:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Local Phone (mobile): _____

Local Phone (home): _____

E-mail: _____

Please circle your areas of interest:

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

2018-2019 LWV Sanibel Officers and Directors

Robyn Cook, President
Maria O'Brien, Vice President
Bob Terry, Treasurer
Chris Schluter, Secretary
Nancy Elting, Director
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:



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 (with one exception*) of the month at the Sanibel-Captiva Community Bank: November 7 (*Wednesday), December 13, January 10, February 14, March 14, April 11.