Greetings from President Linda Kramer

I hope you are all enjoying your holidays and holiday preparations. I want to take this opportunity to thank Carolyn Gray and Stuart Langton for once again hosting our LWV Sanibel Holiday Party.

We have had a busy fall. We collected some 150 petitions to place the Florida Water and Land Conservation Amendment on the 2014 ballot. Thanks to all of you who signed and gathered petitions and especially to Dick Calkins for getting this done in just one month! For those of you who attended our Affordable Care Act luncheon and panel discussion on November 20th, I hope that you will agree that it was both informative and balanced. We invite you to attend all of our 2014 Hot Topic luncheons (details below) which are being organized by our Program Chair, Ellen O’Neill.

Our Hot Topic luncheons originated last year from our Program Focus Group. The word "Program" in League-speak refers to the issues for action and the positions and topics adopted by the membership at the Annual Membership Meeting. The focus group coordinates our program with our luncheon topics. We are looking for your ideas NOW and invite you to join our January Focus Group meeting (see below for details).

Looking ahead to next year, we have many ideas and we need each one of you to help us get them done. We hope your New Year's resolutions include League participation!

All my best wishes for 2014,
Don't Miss our January LWV Program! RSVP Now.
Ellen O’Neill, Program Chair

Following our very successful program on the Affordable Care Act, the LWV Sanibel is hosting a very special speaker for our luncheon and program on January 14th. We'll meet at The Sundial Beach Resort, 1451 Middle Gulf Drive, Sanibel. Registration will open at 11:30 a.m. and the luncheon with speaker will be from 12:00 to 2:00 pm.

January 14, 2014

History of Voting Experiences Nationally and Proposed Election Reforms for Florida Residents

Our keynote speaker is Charles Stewart III, Kenan Sahin Distinguished Professor of Political Science at MIT. Prof. Stewart studies congressional politics, elections, and American political development. He serves as the MIT Director of the Caltech/MIT Voting Technology Project, a major research project that applies scientific analysis to questions about election technology, election administration, and election reform. A highly regarded scholar who has won numerous awards of recognition, Prof. Stewart is a national leader in quantitative assessment of election systems.

If you paid $80 for all four LWV luncheon programs (20 November, 14 January, 18 February, and 25 March), we have reserved your place. Otherwise, the cost is $25 per person for this luncheon and program. Please make your check payable to LWV Sanibel and note the program date and number in your party on the memo line. Mail checks to LWV Sanibel, P.O. Box 1194, Sanibel, FL 33957.

RSVP: Click Here to email Ellen O'Neill and reserve your place.
RSVP:  Click Here  to email Ellen O’Neill and reserve your place by email. Please provide the names of the people in your party. Reservation deadline is January 11.

**Other LWV Program Dates to Note**

**February 18, 2014**

*Stand Your Ground: Legislation and Consequences*

Confirmed speaker:
Mike Scott, Sheriff of Lee County

**March 25, 2014**

*Immigration Reform*

Speaker TBA

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**The League of Women Voters of Sanibel needs YOU to volunteer.**

The ballot box returns in 2014. There will be a Florida primary election on August 26 and a general election on November 4. To help engage all Sanibel citizens in the election process, especially those who are not yet registered to vote, the LWV Sanibel will host voter registration tables on the following dates:
Registration tables on the following dates:

**Sunday, January 12, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Sanibel Farmers' Market.**

**Saturday, January 18, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Bailey's General Store**

**Saturday, January 25, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Bailey's General Store**

During these Voter Registration sessions, a Lee County Resident will be able to: register to vote, change his or her party affiliation, and change his or her address.

**We need YOUR help to staff the registration table! Bring a friend! Please volunteer to work one or more two-hour sessions to help register new voters.**

You must be certified by the LWV Florida to register voters, so we are offering a (free!) training session on Tuesday, January 7, at 11:00 a.m. at the Sanibel Public Library. If you were trained last year, you don't need to be retrained this year, although you are welcome to attend the training session to refresh what you learned last year. The training session will take less than an hour of your time. If you have one, please bring your laptop or an ipad (or other tablet) so you can participate in the on-line LWV Florida voter registration training and take the (easy) on-line quiz. Even if you don't have a laptop, etc., sign up! We will some tablets and computers available.

Registering voters will be fun; you can meet the public and welcome new residents to our Sanibel community and encourage them to participate in our democratic process. Each registration session must have two volunteers, so call a League friend or get a friend to join the League and sign up together!

For information and to sign-up for training and registration sessions, [click here](#) to email Dick Calkins or call him at 239/395-1751.

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**Program Focus Group Meeting**

**Tuesday, 21 January, 4:00 p.m.**

**Location TBA.**

Do join us, it will be fun!

[Click here](#) to email LWV President Linda Kramer or call her at 239/395-3419.
If you cannot attend please send your ideas ASAP as below.

Questions we'll consider:

What issues concern you the most?

- Is there something you see that the LWV Sanibel needs to be working on?
- Is there something that you wish that LWV Sanibel would be involved with? Or do differently? Or not do?
- How do you think we can best educate and encourage the most voters to participate in the upcoming election?

The National League of Women Voters Supports Regulations on Carbon Emissions

Consider giving your support for this crucially important legislation. Stand with the League and tell the EPA that you support the proposal of a groundbreaking regulation to control carbon pollution from new power plants. This proposed regulation is a game changer for the climate - especially because power plants are our single largest source of carbon pollution. [Click here](#) for a League form for you complete and submit in support of this regulation. Make your voice heard!

Suggested Reading

*Finding Florida: The True History of the Sunshine State*

By Mary Lavelle

Finding Florida: The True History of the Sunshine State


Anyone who has ever read a Carl Hiaasen novel has seen Florida in some of its bizarre contemporary glory. The place just seems to attract grifters, conmen, racists, control freaks, loonies, and the ever-hopeful who do not put much stock
in reality. It is a place where people who have made money elsewhere come to spend it or lose it. This trend seems to have started in the 1500's and continued, pretty much unabated, until the present time. Allman's meticulous research paints an unforgettable portrait of hubris, of public relations trumping truth, of voting rights (and human rights) denied, often violently. Hurricanes take a back seat to all of the other destruction visited on Florida. If it weren't so well written, fast-paced, and often wryly funny, you'd have to cry reading it.

Would you like to recommend a book?
Email Linda Kramer at SanibelLWV@gmail.com.

Membership Application

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

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
LWV Sanibel 2013-14 Board

Linda Kramer, President
Linda Robison, Vice President
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Carla Benninga, Founding President
Maree Elowson, The Voter Newsletter Editor
Ellen O'Neill, Programs
Carolyn Gray, Director
Martha Wolf, Director

Off Board
Jana Stone, Publicity

LWV Sanibel Board Meetings 2013-2014

Members are invited to attend all Board meetings which are held at 3:30 p.m. at the Bank of the Islands from October through May. With some exceptions, meetings are on the second Wednesdays of the month. The 2013-2014 schedule for Board meetings is: December 11 (meeting at 2010 Wild Lime Dr.), January 8, February 12, March 12, April 9, and May 14.

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.