Interested in some perspective about Florida's "Stand Your Ground" Law?

Don't Miss our February 18 Program! RSVP Now.

Stand Your Ground: Legislation and Consequences

Mike Scott, Lee County Sheriff

Sheriff Scott, a third generation Lee County resident, has served as Sheriff since 2004. He is a graduate of the University of South Florida and holds an MBA. He is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA where he was selected by his classmates to give the commencement address alongside the FBI Director. He heads the Lee County Sheriff's Office of 1500 employees.

Where: Sundial Beach Resort, 1451 Middle Gulf Drive, Sanibel

When: Tuesday, February 18th
Registration - 11:30 a.m.
Luncheon and program - 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
**Cost:** 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. Please provide the names of the people in your party. Reservation deadline is February 14th.

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Mark Your Calendars!

"The Challenges Facing Women in the Political Arena"

Presented by Marian Walsh,

Former Massachusetts State Senator.

Thursday, February 13, 10 AM

Big Arts, Schein Performance Hall

Senator Walsh's talk is presented with assistance from the Sanibel League of Women Voters and the Sanibel Public Library.

Marian Walsh, a public affairs consultant, author, lawyer and former legislator, is the featured speaker during the BIG ARTS Women's Seminar Discussion Group: For and About Women. A question and answer session-- and refreshments-- will follow her presentation.

Walsh was born in Boston, Massachusetts. She holds a B.A. in American Studies from Newton College of the Sacred Heart, a M.A. in Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School and a Juris Doctor from Suffolk University Law School. In addition to a distinguished political career of 22 years, serving in both the Massachusetts House of Representatives and Senate, Senator Walsh was the first woman from her district to be elected to the Legislature.

After leaving public office, Senator Walsh established her own consulting and
coaching firm, the nonpartisan American Campaign School and Leadership Camp, in Boston, and began teaching Leadership and Ethics at Northeastern University. She wrote RUN: Your Personal Guide to Winning Public Office, a non-partisan primer for citizens aiming to run for public office-and win!

Admission to this session of the BIG ARTS Women’s Seminar Discussion is open to the public. A $5 fee is requested by BIG ARTS from those who are not registered members of the discussion group. The full series of the Women’s Seminar Discussions is held on Thursdays from February 6 through March 6.

Contact www.BIGARTS.org for further information.

Tour the Everglades with the League

22-23 February 2014

Join our own Carolyn Gray, LWV Florida Second Vice President, along with an experienced guide on this weekend excursion into the Everglades, a habitat that exists nowhere else in the world. Click here for details and registration information.
LWV Voter Registration Drive a Success

The League of Women Voters of Sanibel has completed its January registration drive. This year's sites were the Sanibel Farmer's Market and Bailey's General Store. Those who worked at the drive felt it was a worthwhile activity. They registered some voters, and allowed other voters to change addresses on their registrations or to change party affiliations registrations (mostly from a party to independent—an interesting trend). Participants also discussed the League's mission and activities with many interested people. We hope this exposure will lead to new members, as well as to positive support for League activities.

Thanks to all who volunteered to work at this year’s drive. They are: Enid Packard, Carol Gestwicki, Martha Siders, Rick Siders, Mary LaVelle, Maddy Mayor, Robin Krivanek, Maree Elowson, Erhard Joeres, Marcy Calkins and Dick Calkins.

The Water and Land Conservation Amendment Will Be on the November 2014 Ballot!!
The LWV Florida is thrilled to announce that after many months of hard work by League volunteers, the Florida Water & Land Legacy Amendment has officially qualified to appear on the November 2014 ballot!

The figure above gives the number of petitions collected from 16 different congressional districts. Huge kudos to our LWV Florida Natural Resources Chair Chuck O'Neal, to our LWV Sanibel petition coordinator, Dick Calkins, and to all of the volunteers across the state who worked so hard to collect nearly 25,000 petitions to help the initiative make the grade! Now onto the campaign to get Florida voters to say YES!

Click here for more details about the Florida Water and Land Legacy.
Our Fascinating January Program, "Florida and the Voting Wars."

League Members and guests were privileged to hear MIT Professor Charles Stewart, III at our January luncheon. **Kudos to Ellen O'Neill** for arranging this informative event!!

In his presentation, "Florida and the Voting Wars," Professor Stewart reported that, unlike many other states, Florida must run three different types of elections with each election cycle - mail-in ballots, early voting, and voting on Election Day. This requirement makes conducting elections more difficult for our state and county officials. By contrast, the states of Washington and Oregon conduct all elections by mail-in ballot only. In their Working Paper, #114, "Waiting in Line to Vote," Prof. Stewart and Harvard's Steven Ansolabehere reported that:

- From 500,000 to 700,000 votes were not cast because voters became discouraged.
- Voters who waited in long lines are less confident that their votes-and votes nationwide-- are counted as intended; and even when people do not experience the long lines themselves, their confidence is lessened.
- The economic cost to voters of standing in line to vote was approximately $500 million.

In his LWV presentation, Prof. Stewart noted that Lee County appears to be less into Early Voting than other Florida counties and had the dubious distinction of being the Florida county in which voters had to stand in line the longest before voting in November 2012. Prof. Stewart noted that much of the mechanics of an election could be worked out more easily if election officials would approach its organization as traffic engineers do in making complex traffic patterns function efficiently.

Charles Stewart III is the Kenan Sahin Distinguished Professor of Political Science at MIT, where he has taught since 1985. His research and teaching areas include congressional politics, elections, and American political
development. His current research about Congress touches on the historical development of committees, party leadership, and Senate elections.

Since 2001, Professor Stewart has been a member of the Caltech/MIT Voting Technology Project (VTP), a leading academic research effort that applies scientific analysis to questions about election technology, election administration, and election reform. Click here for more information about this fascinating project. Prof. Stewart, currently the MIT director of VTP, is an established leader in the analysis of the performance of election systems and the quantitative assessment of election performance.

Professor Stewart has been recognized at MIT for his undergraduate teaching, being named to the second class of MacVicar Fellows in 1994, awarded the Baker Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, and the recipient of the Class of 1960 Fellowship. Since 1992, he has served as Housemaster of McCormick Hall, along with his spouse, Kathryn Hess. (Read further below for more information about Katie McCormick, an MIT graduate who financed McCormick Hall, which opened in 1964.)

Professor Stewart received his B.A. in political science from Emory University, and S.M. and Ph.D. from Stanford University.

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A Nearly-forgotten

LWV Founder

By Mary E. LaVelle

The Vote. The Pill. Two achievements essential to the seismic shift in women's rights and roles in the Twentieth Century. One woman was central in the development of both: Katherine Dexter McCormick (woman on the left in the photo).

Born in 1875, she had two early essentials for a life that could become significant: a wealthy family who believed that women should be educated, and then a fine education at MIT. She was MIT's second woman graduate. Her degree was in biology, and she harbored a desire to become a doctor.
In 1904, however, she married her childhood friend Stanley McCormick—an heir to the International Harvester fortune and a tall, handsome gifted athlete and scholar while at Princeton. She gave up plans to go to medical school, but in a strange twist of fate, what might have become a conventional life as a married Boston socialite took a different turn. After years of worsening symptoms of schizophrenia, her husband succumbed to dementia; he was declared mentally incompetent in 1909 and kept in virtual isolation at a California estate for the rest of his life. It was a family curse; his sister also suffered from schizophrenia.

Husbandless and childless, Katherine began to use her family's wealth in causes she espoused. In 1909 she became vice-president and treasurer of the National Women's Suffrage Association. In this role she bankrolled much of the organization's outreach and activity, working with Carrie Chapman Catt to organize their efforts to pass the 19th Amendment, which was finally ratified in 1920.

Once the right to vote was secured, McCormick teamed with Catt and other activists to found the League of Women Voters. She was the original Vice President of the League, while Carrie Chapman Catt served as President. Dexter family money was apparently essential in helping launch our organization as well as supporting suffrage earlier.

At the same time, she was working with Margaret Sanger on birth control. Again and again she smuggled diaphragms in her luggage from Europe to New York for Sanger's Clinical Research Bureau! She hosted delegates at the Dexter family home in Geneva during the 1927 World Population Conference and was a generous supporter of Sanger, but she was also locked in a struggle with the McCormick family—famously litigious concerning money—over his wealth. Birth control research was not on their agenda. So, though even then Katherine was fascinated with the possibility of making birth control as easy as taking an aspirin for a headache, that idea would have to wait.

She remained married to Stanley until his death in 1947, always sharing in decisions about his care. During these years she combined her own wealth with the yearly stipend granted her by the McCormick trusts to fund medical research in endocrinology, which was thought to be a possible cause of schizophrenia. Beginning in 1927, Harvard University was the recipient of her generous grants in that field, and over the years that support continued.

Katherine was 72 years old when Stanley passed away and his fortune became wholly hers. The inheritance made her—even after taxes—one of the wealthiest women in the country. Finally she could independently fund the birth control research she had long dreamed of—and she proceeded to do so. Entirely. No one else took on this long and complicated project. The $2 million she gave would be about $18 million in today's dollars. And her impatience and insistence on results made The Pill happen in time for many of us to benefit.

In the years that followed, Katherine Dexter McCormick, granddaughter of one of the founders of the University of Michigan, began to give serious amounts of money not only to Harvard but to Stanford and to MIT. She insisted that the gifts honor her deceased husband Stanley, and also that they support education for women. Almost 40 million dollars have gone to MIT.

One of those MIT gifts financed a dormitory for women; it opened in 1964, ensuring that women would always be a part of the student body there. Two hundred women live in Stanley McCormick Hall; their housemaster is Professor Charles Stewart III, our Sanibel
Captiva LWV January luncheon speaker, in his capacity as MIT's leader of the Cal Tech/MIT Voting Technology Project. HE told us about Katie! (And lots about voting...)

So—we in Sanibel finally are beginning to learn about Katherine Dexter McCormick, suffragist, activist, philanthropist—and the LWV founder whose name we had almost lost. When she died in 1967 at age 92, no major newspaper carried her obituary. She deserved better. She now deserves our remembrance and respect.

More interesting stuff --- click on the links.
Wikipedia
Amazing Women in History
MIT Technology Review

Katharine Dexter McCormick, Pioneer for Women's Rights, a biography by Armond Fields

Not an LWV Sanibel Member, but interested in joining?

Special Bonus: If you join now, your membership will be valid through March 31, 2015. You will enjoy more than year of membership.

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

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 _________________________________
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

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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 remaining Board meetings for this season are: 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.