Message from Robin Krivanek, LWV Sanibel President

Greetings, Leaguers, it's ACTION time. I look forward to seeing all of you and your neighbors on February 11th at the Community House as we interview the candidates for the Sanibel City Council. Dick Calkins has done a great job of organizing an informative evening for our resident community (details below). Come and learn about the candidates who want to serve our community as members of the City Council.

On the state scene, we're preparing for the March/April state legislative session in Tallahassee. The Florida League's primary goal this session is extending healthcare to the uninsured, a campaign called "Closing the Gap." Early indicators are quite positive for making progress this year with the Florida Chamber of Commerce and hospital industry groups joining the push. Warm up your pens and your keyboards so we can react to the legislation as it develops. But first, because our local league does not have a healthcare study committee, we need a contact person, preferably a LWV Sanibel member who is not on our Board of Directors, to interact with the state LWV committee and funnel action items back to our...
State LWV committee and funnel action items back to our membership. This is a perfect job for one of our 'seasonal' members since the Florida Legislature is seasonal too!

Another action item for LWV groups statewide is participation in the constitutional amendment petition drive sponsored by Floridians for Fair Democracy. The League of Women Voters of Florida is a member of this coalition, which is working on restoration of civil rights for non-violent offenders who have completed their sentences. Hundreds of thousands of petitions will need to be signed this year if the measure is to be on the 2016 ballot. Someone on Sanibel needs to organize the drive here. Is that somebody you?

If you are interested in helping or want more information about being the LWV healthcare contact person or about the petition drive for restoration of civil rights, please email (click here) or call me (239-395-0927).

Finally, I want to thank Nola Theiss for her excellent presentation on human trafficking at our January meeting (see article below). Regretfully the hotel bumped us to a very inappropriate space, which was a disservice to the speaker and to those who had trouble seeing and hearing her. If you know her, please extend to her our apologies and our appreciation for her perseverance.

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**LWV Sanibel Will Host Candidates' Forum for City Council Candidates**

On Tuesday, March 3, 2015 the City of Sanibel will hold an election to fill two seats on the City Council. Three candidates have been qualified to run for the two seats on the Council. They are incumbent Jim Jennings, Chauncey Goss, and Francis Slane.

The League of Women Voters of Sanibel will host a Candidates' Forum at the Sanibel Community House, 2173 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, on **February 11, 2015** at 7 p.m. All three candidates have agreed to appear at this event which is free and open to the public.

Professor Roger Green, Chairman of the Department of Public Affairs at
Florida Gulf Coast University, will serve as the moderator. Prof. Green's areas of expertise and teaching are public policy, political theory, and ethics. The audience will have an opportunity to submit questions to the candidates.

There will be no signs or demonstrations allowed in the auditorium during the program. If you have questions call Dick Calkins at 239-395-1751.

Justice in Florida

LWV Sanibel Luncheon and Program

February 25, 2015

An Overview of the 20th Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office and of the Judicial Nominating Process

Special Speaker:

Amira Fox, Chief Assistant State Attorney and Member of the Judicial Nominating Commission

Did you know?

- Florida is divided into 20 Judicial Districts. Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee counties comprise the 20th District.

- The State Attorney offices have responsibilities for all civil and criminal suits in which the State is a party.
• The LWV Florida supports a merit based system for selection of judges and provisions in the Florida Constitution to appoint judges from a group of nominees selected by a commission.

This program provides a rare opportunity to learn how the judicial system in SW Florida functions, including the all important process for selection of judges. Come with your comments and questions.

Amira Fox earned her law degree at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. in 1990 and began her career as an assistant state attorney in the Florida 20th Judicial Circuit. She has served in several regional offices of the State Attorney as well as in private practice.

**When:**  Wednesday, February 25, 2015, 11:30 registration, 12:00, noon, luncheon and program.

**Where:**  Sundial Beach Resort, 1451 Middle Gulf Road, Sanibel

**Reservations and Cost:**
[Click here](mailto:) to email LWV Program Chair, Ellen O'Neill, with your reservation or call her at 239-395-1019. Cost is $25 per person. You can pay at the door or send your check to LWV Sanibel, P.O. Box 1194, Sanibel, FL 33957. RSVP deadline is February 25.

If you already paid for 5 of the 6 LWV Sanibel programs, we have your name and reservation, but recommend that you confirm your attendance. [Click here](mailto:) to send an email confirming that you plan to be at the luncheon.

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**Point of Contact, Point of Rescue: How You Can Help to End Modern Slavery**

On January 28th Nola Theiss, Executive Director of Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships (HTAP), spoke at the LWV Sanibel luncheon and gave a highly informative presentation on the status of human trafficking in SW Florida. Our state is one of four with the highest incidence of human
trafficking in the country; the others are California, Texas and New York. Florida was among the first states to enact legislation making human trafficking a crime. Human trafficking is defined as recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery.

Much of the problem derives from the huge demand for labor in the large agricultural industries in the four states with significant trafficking problems. Human trafficking also involves significant number of young women and girls who are forced to work in domestic servitude or in the sex trade. A major component of Florida's economy is tourism, which demands a large pool of people working as motel/hotel housekeeping staff. All of these situations create circumstances in which human trafficking occurs.

Worldwide, there are an estimated 21 million people in forced labor, including 12.3 million in sex trafficking. Approximately 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders annually. More than 80% of the victims are female and over 50% are children. In the US, 100,000 to 300,000 children are sex-trafficked every year and the average age of a child being lured into this crime is only 12. Given the magnitude of the problem, an astonishingly small number of traffickers are prosecuted annually - only about 6,000 such cases worldwide. Economically, trafficking generates about $150 billion internationally, making it one of the most common global crimes along with trafficking in illegal drugs and arms. Except for North Korea, all countries in the world have some form of anti-trafficking laws, including all 50 states in the USA.

A common point of contact for people who are being trafficked is through the healthcare system, whether due to physical injury or pregnancy or attempted suicide. HTAP provides training sessions for medical and law enforcement personnel to teach them how to identify individuals who are being held against their will. In addition to obvious physical injuries or mental stress, a key observation is that there is always a controlling person "in charge" of the victim who is never left alone. If the victim is being used in the sex trade they often have tattoos to indicate to whom they belong, analogous to branding their skin.
owners branding their cattle.

What can you do to help?
If you see something suspicious, report it!


FLORIDA LEGISLATURE SEEKS TO BLOCK 'PARTISAN' MAPS

Legislative lawyers want the Florida Supreme Court to discard proposed redistricting maps offered by voting-rights groups, arguing that the maps were drawn up by Democratic "partisan operatives and political consultants." Lawyers for the House and Senate took aim at the proposed maps in a court filing January 26, little more than a month before the Florida Supreme Court hears arguments in a long-running battle about the constitutionality of congressional districts approved by the Legislature.

Groups such as the Florida League of Women Voters say the districts violate an anti-gerrymandering constitutional amendment approved by Florida voters in 2010. Voting-rights groups argued in circuit court that Republican operatives and consultants had improperly influenced the Legislature's work. But legislative lawyers flipped that argument in the recent filing, contending that the Florida Supreme Court should not consider alternative maps offered by the groups. The filing said Democratic operatives were involved in creating the alternative maps --- and drew a parallel with the case's focus on behind-the-scenes Republican figures Pat Bainter and Frank Terraferma. "According to Appellants (the groups), it is fine and appropriate to submit to the judiciary maps drawn by Democratic partisan operatives and political consultants --- the Bainters and Terrafermas of the Democratic world ---
and hide the truth from the court," the filing said. "This proposition must be rejected. The idea that parties may submit maps drawn by partisans, invite courts to rely on them and impose them and avoid all scrutiny and disclosure --- misleading judges and undermining the Constitution --- and that the whole caper is irrelevant and no business of the court, is flat wrong."

But in a filing earlier in January, the voting-rights groups said there is no basis to exclude the proposed maps. "In the redistricting process, the Legislature did not simply rely on otherwise constitutional maps that happened to have been submitted by persons with partisan motives," the groups said in the earlier filing. "Instead, the Legislature repeatedly communicated with Republican operatives, received advice from at least one of them, disproportionately relied on maps secretly drawn by the same operatives to whom it provided special access, and destroyed any evidence revealing what it had done. That collaboration with operatives, together with other circumstantial evidence, constitutes unconstitutional intent. The same considerations are not implicated when courts evaluate maps submitted by private plaintiffs to determine whether the enacted districts are justified." The Florida Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments in the case March 4.

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Your LWV Sanibel is a growing organization. We welcome the following new member.

Alice Tetelman

Future LWV Sanibel Luncheon and Special Programs

2015
February 11
Sanibel City Council Candidates' Forum
February 25
An Overview of the 20th Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office and of the
March 25
   "Are We Making Progress?" A Water Quality Legislation Up-Date with Rae Ann Wessel, SCCF Director of Natural Resource Policy

April 22

All luncheon programs will be held at the Sundial Beach Resort (1451 Middle Gulf Rd.) with registration beginning at 11:30 a.m. The Candidates’ Forum will be held at the Sanibel Community House at 7 p.m.

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Travel With The League

Each year, your state League organizes a number of special trips designed to engage, educate, and enchant you.

**Delray Beach** -- LWV Florida state convention 15 - 16 May 2015

Join your fellow Leaguers to commemorate LWVF State President Deirdre Macnab as she reaches the end of her term! This event will bring members from all across the state together for two days of exciting activities, including an oceanside gala, an evening of live music and more! Participants will also learn about the League's issues via caucuses and educational workshops, and will help shape LWVF's 2015-2017 Program during Plenary sessions at the historic Old School Square Crest Theater! [Click here for more details.]

**Alaska** -- 15 - 22 June 2015
Seize the opportunity to travel to the Last Frontier on the trip of a lifetime! Next summer, the League of Women Voters of Florida and the League of Women Voters of Juneau are hosting a week-long trip to Alaska -- and we want you to join us!

Explore the Mendenhall Glacier and hike Nugget Falls; ride the Mt. Roberts Tramway for breathtaking views of Juneau; pan for gold in an Alaskan gold mine; visit a small Native American settlement; travel by boat to the Tracy Arm fjord for incredible views of icebergs, glaciers & wildlife; go whale-watching; get an inside look at Juneau's government and much more! Click here for more details.

LWV Sanibel Revises Membership Dues Deadlines

Last spring, your LWV Sanibel Board revised the membership year to run from October 1 to September 30th. Members who have already renewed their memberships will have valid memberships until September 30, 2015.

If you have friends and neighbors who might be interested in joining, please forward to them this issue of The Voter and note the membership application form below.

Membership Renewal & Records Update

Please copy this form and mail it along with your check (made out to LWV Sanibel) to
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SANIBEL

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

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 (excepting October and May) of the month. Meeting dates are February 4, March 11, 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
major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.