Greetings from incoming LWV Sanibel President Robin Krivanek

**Mark your calendars.** Elections yet to come this year include the Special General on June 24th for the vacant Congressional District 19 seat, the August 26th Primary and the November 4th General Election. If you’ll be away, you can order your ballot-by-mail by calling 239-533-8683.

**Membership.** This is the time of year to renew your membership. Details were given in our April LWV Updates Newsletter; letters will be sent to those who have not yet renewed. Remember, one dues payment makes you a member of not just the LWV Sanibel, but also the state and national Leagues too.
Looking back and ahead. As we wrap up another year of stimulating programs and effective civic action, we extend our thanks to those who had the vision and commitment to create the League of Women Voters of Sanibel. Retiring from the LWV Sanibel Board this year are Carla Benninga, Linda Kramer and Linda Robison -- the three founding members of your Sanibel League. They were recognized at our April 8th annual meeting for their extraordinary contributions. In addition, your Board is losing Bob Winters whose fine-tuned organizational skills were so important in the initial years of this League and Jim LaVelle who stepped up to serve as our Treasurer when needed last year.

The LWVS Annual Meeting also saw the election of three new board members, Enid Packard, Ellen Strobel and the writer of this column. Since it is unusual for someone to be elected president without previous Board service, it has been suggested that I include here a short bio for those who do not know me.

I first joined the League around 1960 (I'm no spring chicken as you can see) and in the early 1970s served on the state League board chairing the studies of absentee voting and campaign finance. In 1974, when a vacancy occurred in the Office of the Supervisor of Elections in Hillsborough County, I used that League background in a successful campaign for the office.

In 1993 I retired to Sanibel and my early training as a research biologist led me to join the Board at SCCF. I also have had the dubious honor of being Chairman of the Board of the Island Inn at the time of Hurricane Charley. My community service ended when my husband developed Guillian-Barre Syndrome and only recently have I been able to consider taking on new responsibilities. I extend my sincere thanks to the nominating committee and the membership for giving me this opportunity to work with the League again.

Recognition of the Founders of the League of Women Voters of Sanibel

By Carolyn Gray

At our Annual Meeting we honored the three people who decided in 2009 that Sanibel needed a League of Women Voters to hold forums and debates for local candidates and further the understanding of issues that concern our citizens. Carla Benninga, Linda Kramer and Linda Robison provided the groundwork for our election and to whom we owe our
provided the groundwork for our chapter and to whom we owe our thanks.

These three women are our "founding mothers" who organized, got legal paperwork together at the state and federal level and got the approval of the LWV of Florida Board to form a Member At Large or MAL group. We had a large and energetic crowd at the first meeting with Deirdre Macnab, President of the LWV of Florida. Our membership has been as high as 81 members, due in large part to the work of these three women. We owe it to these founders to continue our growth and strengthen our commitment to the ideal of the League as 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.

**LWV Sanibel Hosts Successful "Meet the Candidates" Event**

by Dick Calkins, LWV Sanibel Vice President and Voter Services Chair

Our League hosted a "Meet and Greet Evening" with six of the seven
Our League hosted a “Meet and Greet Evening” with six of the seven candidates running in the 19th Congressional District Special Election. The seat became open when Trey Radel resigned.

The event was held on Thursday, April 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanibel Community House. The candidates who attended were: Curt Clawson, Michael Dreikorn, Paige Kreegel, Ray Netherwood, Tim Rossano, and April Freeman. Lizbeth Benacquisto chose not to participate. The six Republican candidates (Clawson, Dreikorn, Kreegel, Netherwood, Rossano and Benacquisto) faced each other in a primary election held on April 22nd. Clawson was the winner in that election and he will face Democrat April Freeman in the Special General Election.

Each candidate spoke for 10 minutes. They shared their ideas with the audience of more than 100 people. Some of the candidates took questions from the public. After all had spoken, the candidates dispersed to stations around the auditorium, greeted the public, and answered individual questions.

The LWV Sanibel hopes to host more events of this kind in the future.

The Special General Election for the seat will be held on June 24, 2014. The Primary Election will be held on August 26, 2014 and the General Election is on November 4, 2014.
Introducing Your 2014-15 LWV Sanibel Board

Robin Krivanek, President
Dick Calkins, Vice President/Voter Services
Martha Wolf, Secretary
Carolyn Gray, Treasurer
Maree Elowson, Communications
Maddy Mayor, Membership
Ellen O’Neill, Programs
Enid Packard, Director
Ellen Strobel, Director

Announcing LWV Sanibel 2014-15 Luncheon Programs

2014
October 29
Election Up-Date, proposed Florida Constitutional Amendments
December, date TBA
Holiday Party

2015
January 28
Human Trafficking Awareness Partnership, Nola Theiss
February 25
City Council Candidates Night OR History of the Florida Judicial Branch (if election for Sanibel City Council is not contested)
March 25
SW Florida Water Quality, Rae Ann Wessel, SCCF Director of Natural Resource Policy
April 22
LWV Sanibel Annual Meeting. Judi Zimomra, Sanibel City Manager, presentation on Sanibel Island Issues

All luncheon programs will be held at the Sundial Beach Resort (1451 Middle Gulf Rd.) with registration beginning at 11:30 a.m.
Be very glad you were not an oyster in the Caloosahatchee Estuary (known to the Army Corps of Engineers as C (Canal)-47) during the summer of 2013. You might have been pretty miserable during many previous years, trying to survive despite huge fluctuations between fresh and salt water. But last summer your river and estuary—which once was a mixing place with many gradations of salt and fresh water to support many ecosystems—was instead a place where, day after day, polluted freshwater loosed from Lake O poured right over you and out into the Gulf of Mexico. You could not survive long, anchored to mangroves in all that fresh water—and your larval babies, swept away, perished out there in the inhospitable Gulf.

Yes it was very rainy last summer. And yes, water pours into Lake O from a watershed that goes all the way to Orlando (think of the roofs and pavements!) FOUR TIMES FASTER than they can let it gush out toward Sanibel and Port St. Lucie. And yes, the dike is vulnerable when the Lake gets over 15 or 16 feet, so the Corps has to let the water pour out. And yes, there are plans to fix engineering nightmares done in the past. But no,
big fixes are not in any budgets that matter.

Sanibel has tried to put its own house in order, with sewers built and fertilizers regulated. But the larger watershed—once 11,000 acres of lakes and swamps—is now 800,000 acres, and now contributes even more harmful nutrients to our water than Lake O. No wonder the shells on the beach are getting smaller and smaller.

Perhaps not until oysters can lobby politicians and contribute to their campaigns will these problems be solved.

But local leaders are trying a new tactic which may resonate more with the higher-ups in the economy: $4.3 billion dollars in tourism that depend on nice beaches, good fishing, and clean water; and 85,000 jobs that depend on the tourists returning once they've believed the hype and come here once, and of some of them staying and buying property. Stay tuned.

Holly, who has her MS in Marine Biology and is one of three biologists with the City of Sanibel, has been part of our clean water team for eight years. Her presentation to LWV Sanibel was rich in facts, too many to present here. Click here for the City's website with LOTS of information on this issue, from the history of the Caloosahatchee to weekly updates from meetings between our many West Coast Stakeholders and scientists, and the Army Corps of Engineers and the SWFL Water Management District—the entities that hold the real power.
If you are interested in keeping tabs on the local Sanibel and Captiva news while you are traveling or at your northern home, use the links below:

**The Island Sun**  
**The Sanibel Captiva Islander/Island Reporter**

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**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

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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 October 22, November 12, December 10, January 14, February 11, 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 advocacy.