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The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization dedicated to promoting political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to acting on selected government issues.

2007-2008
Board &
Committee
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Secretary
Corky Pezzati

Treasurer
Marilyn Boyle

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Millie Headdy
Pat Price
Sandy Rinehart
Virginia Tarika

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Upcoming Events

Pancakes & Politics

February 13

Sarasota County Tax Collector

Barbara Ford-Coates

A History of County Government

One of our favorite speakers! A student of history, she always brings an interesting perspective to a subject.

Waterside Estates
4540 Bee Ridge Road

(Just past the light at McIntosh going West or just before the light going East. South side of Bee Ridge)

\$3 per person 9:00 a.m.

For reservations, contact Kim Noyes
at lwvsc@comcast.net or call the
League phone line 921-9778

Hot Topics

February 25

Melissa Mehan

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
Speaking on...

"Coastal Areas and Climate Change: How
Could You Be Affected and What Can Be
Done"

Selby Library - Downtown Sarasota

12:30 p.m.

Boxed Lunches

\$10 members / \$12 non-members

SAVE THE DATE:

March 31 - Hot Topics Luncheon
With Shannon Staub speaking on...
WATER: Availability & Conservation

A Message from your President

Your help is needed planning for next year!

By the time you get this, ballots from the Presidential



Preference Primary will have been counted. We will be further along the Presidential selection process and the proposed property tax revision will be a fact or history. The League is already thinking about the upcoming elections and what events and materials we need to provide in order to help our citizens make informed decisions. We have

a lot of important work to do and that can only be accomplished with an engaged Board and membership. We are in particular need of a membership and fundraising chairs. I would like to encourage anyone who would like to volunteer to serve on the Board to let Marilyn Gerkin, Chair of the Nominating Committee, know of their interest. We would also greatly welcome some representation on the Board from the southern part of our county. This would greatly help in ensuring we plan events of interest and importance for all of our members. Please let Marilyn or me know if you, or someone you know, would be interested.

Thank You!

We would like to thank everyone who responded to our recent request for donations. These will provide website access, more mailings rather than relying solely on email, convention attendance, and will be extremely important as we prepare materials and events for upcoming elections. This campaign has been very successful to date. It is not too late to contribute.

It's time for local program planning.

Every year we participate in the local Program Planning process by making recommendations concerning program issues. This is how we remain a grassroots organization. This process is an important League tool for identifying issues for study. What are YOUR concerns, what would improve/enhance Sarasota County? Are you concerned about the environment, recycling, alternative energy sources, some aspect of the local government, access to voting, or something else. Voice your cares/concerns. Let us know what issues you want our organization to work on next year.

Warmly In League,

Cindy Guest

Special Contributors

Operating Fund Contributors:

Chris Pfahler
 Georgia Keep
 Frank and Dot Moore
 Andrea Rogers
 Ann Hardy
 Bev Zimmer
 Doug Heinlen
 Beth Winston
 Trude Bennett
 Katherine Thorpe
 Pat Price
 Sue Sherman

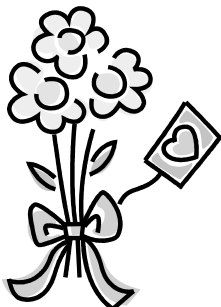
Education Fund Contributors:

Marilyn Gerkin
 Debbie Trice
 Claire Love
 Carl Olson
 Susan Chapman
 Ina Levy
 Vera Rosen

And...make a note of our special LIFE Members!

Alice Andrews
 Evelyn Good
 Sara Herman
 Mrs. A. J. Johnson
 Alice Scott
 Mimi Mendelson
 Sue Sherman
 Jean Slocum
 Joyce Solo

Thank you!



Board Bytes January

- We will donate \$100 to the LWVF Lobby Fund.
- The tea bag fundraiser was a success bringing in over \$800 to date.
- We will send a representative to Legislative Days.
- Marilyn Boyle, Ginny Tarika, Pat Price, Cindy Guest (ad hoc) were appointed to the 2008 Budget Committee.
- The membership directory will be published around July 1.
- The Board will have a retreat to do event planning for the coming year.
- Upcoming programs will be on: "Tax Reform—What's Next" (February Hot Topics), Coastal Areas and Climate Change (February Hot Topics), a showing of the movie "Iron Jawed Angels" (February Popcorn & Politics) "Water: A Status Report" (March) (to be held in mid-county), Presidential Primaries: Is the system broken and how to fix it (Annual Meeting)

Divided We Fail, But Together We Can Do Anything

LWVF has joined with AARP to activate Floridians to demand leadership and action on health care and financial security from public officials, business and non-profits, as well as individuals. The League believes that all Americans should have access to affordable, quality health care. The League believes that all Americans should have peace of mind about their future long-term financial security.

AARP has launched **DIVIDED WE FAIL** to get presidential and congressional candidates to address health care and financial security issues with specific plans to end the Washington gridlock with meaningful solution. If you care about fixing health care and lifetime financial security, join the growing numbers who have signed up to be Divided We Fair Voters. For further information and to sign the Pledge, go the www.dividedwefail.org.

From LWVF Winter 2007 Voter

LWVF determined 5 goals on the LWVF Mission

- Position League as the pre-eminent (go to) grassroots organization for participatory government;
- Be a proactive force in furtherance of our principals and positions;
- Enable every local League to be a thriving League;
- Have largest percentage increase in membership based on national PMP figures by Convention 2009; Become consistently financially able to achieve our goals.

Report of the Consensus meeting of the Immigration Study Committee

On January 24th, the Immigration Study Committee met at the Fruitville Library to come to consensus. Only one other member, who came late, joined the group, but lively, informed discussion took place. We were to address 6 Questions.

The first addressed the criteria that Federal immigration laws should take into consideration, and listed 11 issues. After we rated each for priority, we were to rank our 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices. Our group rated them as follows:

1. History of Criminal Activity
2. Family reunification of Authorized Immigrants and Citizens with Spouses and Minor Children.
3. Economic, Business and Service Employment Needs.

The second question dealt with the treatment of unauthorized immigrants currently in the US, and 6 options were ranked for priority, including deportation, with various options. We felt that none of the options answered the problem.

The third question stated that: "Federal immigration law should provide an efficient, expeditious system (with minimal or no backlog) for legal entry into the U.S. for immigrants who are:" followed by 5 qualifications, to, again, be ranked for priority, all of which our group deemed to be 'high priority'.

Question 4a asked about requiring a Social Security Card or Other National Identification Card with Secure Identifiers for all residents, and we felt that that is a high priority item.

Question 4b dealt with enforcement of immigration law. We felt that most of these are high priority items, except 'Physical barriers (such as Fences) and Surveillance at Borders.

Questions 5 and 6 asked for consensus or no consensus . #5 mixed federal financial benefit with financial costs to states and local governments, and we could not come to a consensus. Question 6 called for coordination of immigration law with US foreign policy to improve life in nations with large emigrating populations. Again, we could not reach consensus.

All-in-all, it was an interesting study, opening our eyes to the many complications in dealing with both legal and illegal immigration. However, it became clear to us that there is a need for unskilled workers in many areas in addition to agriculture, and this need will continue to grow. At the same time there are many willing workers to fill these jobs – but they are not, by and large, US citizens. Our current immigration laws need complete overhaul to allow dealing with this reality.

Ann Hardy and I would like to thank Millie Headdy, Suzanne Lutkoff, Ruth & Ray Ritenour, Patty Schreiber, Sue Sherman, Kerly Sekera and Elinor White for their dedication to, and enthusiastic participation on this committee.

For any of you interested in looking at all of the consensus questions, you can go to www.lwv.org, click on 'Immigration Study' and bring up whatever part you are interested in.

Program: What is it?

Program is the League's "reason for being," the basis for both education and action efforts. League program consists of those governmental issues that League members choose for concerted study and action. It includes both adopted positions upon which action is taken and issues for study that will lead to a position and action. League Principles – the League's philosophy or concepts of government – provide the authorization for adoption of national, state and local program

The League program process begins with selection and adoption, continues with study and discussion, and culminates in action and change. It involves members of the League and members of the community, and it cuts across government and League levels both horizontally and vertically. Local Leagues work simultaneously on local, state, national and, if applicable, regional program issues. Issues reflect community concerns and range from local park facilities to international trade, from child care to offshore drilling, from air pollution to arms control, from mental health to agriculture policy. Name it and the League, somewhere, is involved!

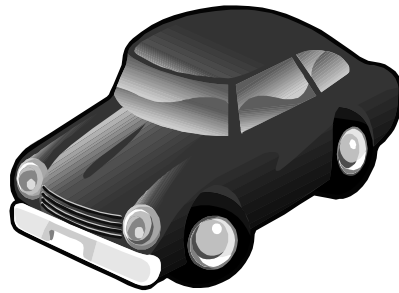
What to consider when suggesting a program.

- Does it fall within League Principles?
- Does the League already have positions that can be applied to the proposal?
(See the Yearbook for League positions.)
- Is government action needed? Possible?
- How much member interest has been expressed for the issue?
- Is this the crucial time for the issue?
- Do the political realities permit effective action?
- Is this the appropriate level of the League to address the issue?
- Will the League's involvement make a unique impact? Increase the League's influence and credibility?
- What are the prospects for funding anticipated educational and/or action strategies?
- Will the League be able to draw on allies?

From St. Petersburg Voter 1/2008

Eco-Tips

- Check your tire pressure regularly. You'll be safer and save gas at the same time.
- Moderate your speed. You'll save up to 30% of your gas.
- Use cruise control on the highway to maintain a constant fuel-efficient speed.
- A roof rack increases drag. Remove it when it's not being used.
- Replace your air filter once a year. You'll get 10% more mileage.
- Don't idle for longer than 30 seconds. Turn the engine off instead.



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