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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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Upcoming Events

Pancakes and Politics!

At the October 12 Pancakes and Politics, we'll welcome Supervisor of Elections

KATHY DENT

Speaking on
"The Upcoming Elections
and the New Voting System"

The Fountains at Lake Pointe Woods

3240 Lake Pointe Blvd.
(1/2 mile north of Sarasota Square Mall
on the east side of U.S. 41)

Your \$3.00 donation covers breakfast
and benefits the LWVSC
9 to 10 a.m.

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

Hot Topics!

At the October 22 Topics luncheon,
we'll welcome

TIM DUTTON of SCOPE,
Speaking on "Active Citizenship"

**Community Foundation
of Sarasota**

2635 Fruitville Road
(between Tuttle Avenue and
Lime Avenue)

\$10 members / \$12 non-members
Boxed lunches 11:30 a.m.

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

A Message from your President

Cindy Guest



The League of Women Voters has taken the following position on the extended sales tax issue for Sarasota County and on the Instant Runoff Voting issue for the City of Sarasota:

With regard the Sarasota County question: The League of Women Voters **supports** the issue "Referendum to Continue the Sales Tax and the Citizen Tax Oversight Committee" issue. This is in alignment with the League of Women Voters Florida tax position that states:

"Local government in Florida should be authorized through enabling legislation to utilize additional sources of revenue to finance capital improvements and major maintenance projects", and

"Local governments in Florida should have available a variety of options for generating revenues to meet local needs."

It should be pointed out, however, that within the general scope of taxation, the League of Women Voters "believes that Florida's tax structure should be reformed in order that a greater proportion of taxes would be levied on the basis of ability to pay."

With regard to the proposed City of Sarasota Charter Amendment on the use of **Instant Runoff Voting (IRV)**:

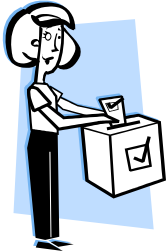
INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING
"The question that was submitted to League members was whether the current method of plurality voting is adequate under all circumstances, or should alternate options be recommended. Based on the results submitted by the local Leagues, there is **substantial agreement (consensus) that at least one alternative to plurality voting should be recommended by the LWVF as an alternative to Florida's present system of plurality voting name Instant Runoff Voting.**" Per the LWVF Board of Directors

LWV positions are always the result of nonpartisan and thorough study.

POLL WORKERS NEEDED!

Poll workers will be needed for the following elections:

- November 6, 2007
- January 29, 2008 (Presidential Preference Primary Election)
- August 26, 2008 (Primary Election)
- November 4, 2008 (General Election)



Log on to www.srgelections.com for updates on the new voting system. Information is posted about implementation on the new voting system progress, and poll worker and voter activities. If you want to help at the polls contact the Supervisor of Elections office. If you want to help at the LWCS poll at Gulf Gate Library, contact Cindy Guest at 922-0585.

Email Barbara Bain at bbain@srgelections.com to obtain information on how poll workers can demonstrate Sarasota County's new voting system to their neighborhood association, club or any other group or organization.

NEW VOTING SYSTEM ON DISPLAY *Marilyn Boyle*

The Supervisor of Elections will be introducing Sarasota County's new voting system to the public at a series of Open Houses. The optical scan voting system, manufactured by Premier Election Solutions, will be used for the first time in the countywide election on Tuesday, November 6. Voters who are visually impaired or disabled will be able to use the AutoMARK Voter Assist Terminal. The Open Houses are scheduled for Friday, October 5, at the George Mullen Activity Center in North Port; Monday, October 8, at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium and Tuesday, October 9, at the Venice Community Center. Each will offer demonstrations of the new equipment as well as information about early voting, absentee ballots and voter registration. On each of the scheduled days, a session from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. will be for accredited media only and a session for poll workers only will be scheduled from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The public is invited to attend any of the three events between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. For more information, call the supervisor of elections office at 861-8610 or visit their website at www.srgelections.com.

STATE LIAISON VISITS LWVSC BOARD



We were very fortunate to spend some time with Clara Anne Graham, Treasurer LWVF, from Bonita Springs and Peg McGarity, Executive Director LWVF. Clara Anne provided our Board with an informative orientation of League policies and procedures and gave us many great ideas on how we can be a strong and effective organization.

Thank you both!

A SPECIAL EVENT AT GLENRIDGE *Ginny Tarika*

The members of the Glenridge on Palmer Ranch have issued an invitation to community members for a very special afternoon on Monday, November 5, 2007. Our aim is to fill every seat in the theater for a gripping documentary on the early suffragists who fought for the privilege of voting.

We will be stressing the importance of voting. The inspiring documentary, IRON JAWED ANGELS, is not a "feel good" film. Suffragists were not only ridiculed but beaten...and worse. Our hope is to increase voter turnout for the county election on November 6.

Tickets are free but must be reserved in advance (522-5325). The film will be shown from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Voter registration applications will be available from 1:00-2:00 and from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Claire Stern

Congratulations to long time league member Claire Stern on her 100th birthday!



Clare has not only been active with LWVSC, serving on the Board and as President, but also with many other organizations in the county. She was on the School Board and League Board in her "up north" community.

You are an amazing woman!



WELCOME !

To Pat Rounds and Kathy Neueauer!
THANKS for joining our group

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ⇒ If you would like to register to vote, change your voting affiliation or address, please contact the Supervisor of Elections office at 861-8600
- ⇒ The new Facts for Citizens is available at our local libraries and Supervisor of Elections office. You may also obtain it on line by contacting the League office at 921-9778 with your email address, send us an email at lwwsc@comcast.net or go to the Supervisor of Elections website www.srgelections.com
- ⇒ We still have a few copies of our membership directory available. Contact the League office if you would like one.

Board Bytes

A neutral position will be taken on the super majority referendum and a panel discussion in October will be planned to provide an opportunity for the Board, League members, and the public to become better informed on this issue.

Upcoming programs on the new voting system, and state property tax and the immigration issues will be planned.

We will look into contacting various local groups, contact National members, have more Popcorn and Politics evening events, and possibly try other means of advertising to increase membership.

We will attend the Payne Park Grand Opening to recruit members.

A sub-committee for a fundraising event was formed to include Millie Headdy, Pat Price, Marilyn Gerkin, Sandy Rinehart, and Corky Pezzati.



Current LWVSC Board members Michele Mician, Millie Headdy, Sandy Rinehart, Cindy Guest, Corky Pezzati, Ann Hardy.
Missing: Ginny Tarika, Pat Price and Marilyn Boyle

LEAGUE CONDUCTING IMMIGRATION STUDY *Ann Hardy*

Every two years, local Leagues participate in LWVUS Program Planning and identify issues of interest for study at the national level – issues on which the LWVUS has no position, and, consequently, is unable to take action to affect public policy in that area. The League cannot take action without a position.

During 2005-2006 LWVUS Program Planning, a large number of local and state leagues expressed interest in studying immigration. The LWVUS Program Planning Committee recommended, and the delegates concurred, that for the first time since 1992 (Health Care), a new LWVUS study (on immigration) would be conducted.

What does this mean for us? We need the viewpoints of our local membership to contribute to the study. We're asking for members who would like to be part of the discussion to send their names to Kim Noyes at lwvsc@comcast.net or 921-9778. We will send you a preview of the topics that will be discussed. In October or November (the exact time and place TBD) we will hold an approximately 3 hour moderated discussion of the topics, and our results will be sent back to the LWVUS to be included in the national study.

In the meantime, you can educate yourself on immigration issues through various newspapers and journals. The LWVUS has also provided background papers and briefs on their web site, www.lwv.org. The immigration briefs will also be included in the October 2007 issue of the *National Voter*.

The resulting position will allow the League to affect national policy for years to come. Be a part of our history.

Janie Poe Task Force Update *Millie Headdy*

The Task Force's major focus now that the funding appears to be on track is the relocation of families in Janie Poe. Forty-three Section 8 vouchers have been requested by the Housing Authority. Seven of the 50 families who will be relocated in Phase 1 wish to remain on the Sarasota Housing Authority site. Forty-three families (average 4 members per family) wish to stay in the Sarasota area using the Section 8 vouchers. The families were given a relocation packet August 18, 2007. The relocation will start October 1 so it does not give the Janie Poe Organization much time to meet with the families and help them prepare for the move.

The families' responsibilities include: 1) finding an apartment; 2) finding a babysitter when the mother looks for an apartment; 3) finding transportation; 4) reading the lease and asking about house rules; 5) once a rental agreement has been reached, requesting the Housing Authority to have the unit inspected; 6) arranging for the move working with Michael's Development Company; 7) arranging for utilities; 8) seeking Ross training classes for help with budgeting, job interviews, etc.

The Housing Authority will: 1) provide a list of Sarasota rentals where landlords will accept Section 8 vouchers; 2) explain responsibilities of residences accepting the vouchers; 3) provide individual meetings for those who speak Spanish; 4) provide bus maps and passes; 5) explain utilities allowances - residences can pay up to 40% of their income on rent; 6) provide a copy of the relocation plan; 7) Section 8 vouchers will be given to all heads of households even if not working - upon return all must be working. 8) Section 8 can be used to buy a place; 9) A security deposit will be supplied/loaned by the Housing Authority; 10) Vouchers will be provided on a staggered basis beginning October 1 and families will have 60-days to find housing.

The Social Worker will focus on families in the first wave of moving. She is currently seeing 10 Janie Poe residents helping them find child care services, jobs, credit counseling, etc.

The Ross grant for Resident Self Sufficiency is available to the residents. There are 25 participants that have completed Job Skills, 15 have completed Life Skills, 2 have completed MCC Computer Class and 11 are enrolled in GED classes.

Panelist include: Del Borgsdorf, Executive Vice President, Sarasota Chamber of Commerce; Jay Brady, Gulf Coast Builders Exchange; Susan Chapman, Coalition Of Neighborhoods Association; Bill Earl, Citizens for Sensible Growth

Special Forum Discussion,
Thursday, October 4 at 5:30 p.m. at
Selby Library Gelbart Meeting Room, on
Sarasota County Super Majority Referendum

Special Super Majority Forum



The Payne Park Grand Opening on Saturday October 6 from 12:00 noon to 10:00 p.m.
The League will have a booth there and we need volunteers to help man it. If interested, contact Cindy Guest at 922-0585. This event should be a lot of fun.

PAYNE PARK GRAND OPENING

lwgsc@comcast.net 941-921-9778

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