

LWV[®] League of Women Voters
 of Collier County
 P. O. Box 9883
 Naples, FL 34101
 Tel 239-263-4656 Email: lwvcc@lwvcolliercounty.org

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD
 Attend the LWVCC 2007 Annual Meeting
 Monday, April 16 at the Norris Center
 See Annual Meeting Insert in this Voter for details

Reminder
 If you plan to have lunch at this meeting, you **must**
 make a reservation by Thursday, April 12. If you
 have not made a reservation, we will not be able to
 accommodate you for lunch.

LABEL HERE

| UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS (MUST HONOR OR CANCEL RESERVATIONS BY RSVP DATE TO AVOID CHARGE) | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Event | Date & Time | Place | RSVP & Cost |
| Coffee & Capitol Report Page 2 | Thursdays 9:30—10:30 a.m. | Panera's Bread Naples Blvd & Airport Rd | No RSVP required Dutch treat |
| Coffee & Capitol Report Page 2 | Fridays 8:30—9:30 a.m. | Calistoga Bakery Café 7945 Airport Pulling Rd N | No RSVP required Dutch treat |
| Social Policy Committee Page 7 | Wednesday, 4/11 8:00—9:00 a.m. | Crissy's Wild Side Café 5026 Airport Pulling Rd N | SocialPolicy@lwvcolliercounty.org Breakfast — \$10 |
| LWVCC Annual Meeting See insert | Monday, 4/16 10:30—12:00 noon | The Norris Center 8th Ave S & 8th St S across from City Hall | By 4/12 at 5pm to 263-4656 or Hospitality@lwvcolliercounty.org for lunch—\$15 (\$20 non- members) |
| LWVCC General Meeting Page 1 | Monday, 4/16 12:30-1:30 p.m. Lunch at noon | The Norris Center 8th Ave S & 8th St S across from City Hall | By 4/12 at 5pm to 263-4656 or Hospitality@lwvcolliercounty.org for lunch—\$15 (\$20 non- members) |
| Board Meeting—new board | Monday, 4/16 Following the Gen- eral Meeting | The Norris Center 8th Ave S & 8th St S across from City Hall | Please let Chris Straton know if you will <u>not</u> attend |
| Justice Committee Page 6 | Tuesday, 4/17 9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. | PACE Center for Girls 160 N. First Street, Immokalee (carpools avail- able) | By 4/12 to Justice@lwvcolliercounty.org Lunch, for those interested, in Immokalee |
| Government Committee Lunch with Leaders Page 5 | Wednesday, 4/18 12:00—1:30 p.m. | Property Appraiser's Office County Government Center | By 4/15 to Government@lwvcolliercounty.org Lunch — \$16 |

Visit our website at www.lwvcolliercounty.org or call us at 263-4656

LWV[®] LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS[®]
 OF COLLIER COUNTY

VOTER

April 2007

Volume 32 Issue 8

OUR MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization,
 encourages informed and active participation in government,
 works to increase understanding of major public policy issues,
 and influences public policy through education and advocacy

APRIL 16 GENERAL MEETING
 Planning for a Flu Pandemic

The ad hoc committee researching Homeland Security operations in Collier County has invited county officials to speak to the LWVCC membership and the public on Monday, April 16 at 12:30 p.m. following the Annual Meeting and lunch at the Norris Center. Dr. Joan Colfer, director of the Collier County Health Department, and Dan Summers, director of the Collier County Bureau of Emergency Services, will talk about the impact a widespread outbreak of influenza in a population without immunity to a particular virus would have in this community and what is being done to prepare for such an eventuality.

Pandemics disrupt every aspect of life and can continue spreading destruction in repeated ways that can last for a year or more. In the event of a pandemic, we would be experiencing a homeland security issue that, in a worst-case scenario, business as usual would cease. Government officials might have to implement drastic measures, such as shutting down restaurants and theaters, restricting travel, cancelling public gatherings and closing schools. A moderately severe influenza pandemic could kill over half a million Americans, hospitalize more than two million and cost the U.S. economy \$160 to \$675 billion. Hospitals would be severely stressed.

Collier County agencies conducted a drill involving hundreds of volunteers this winter to test response mechanisms and to identify problem areas that need to be corrected. Dr. Colfer and Mr. Summers will tell us about local preparedness for a flu pandemic and will teach us how, as individuals, we can prepare and protect ourselves and our families if a flu pandemic should hit this area. Pandemics have been recorded in the history books for hundreds of years; scientists say it is not *if* but *when* the next one will occur (and how bad).

MONDAY, APRIL 16TH — GENERAL MEETING
PLANNING FOR A FLU PANDEMIC
LUNCH AT NOON; PROGRAM AT 12:30 P.M.
THE NORRIS CENTER
RSVP FOR LUNCH BY 5P.M. APRIL 12TH TO 263-4656 OR
HOSPITALITY@LWVCOLLIERCOUNTY.ORG

SAVE THE DATE!
 (see page 8 for details)

Wednesday, 4/11
 Social Policy Committee

Monday, 4/16
 Annual Meeting &
 General Meeting

Monday, 4/16
 Board Meeting
 —New Board

Tuesday, 4/17
 Justice Committee

Wednesday, 4/18
 Government Committee
 "Lunch with Leaders"

**LWVCC
 Annual
 Meeting**

**Monday,
 April 16th**

10:30 a.m.— noon

The Norris Center

**See insert to this
 Voter for details**



LWVCC OFFICERS

- President
Chris Straton
- 1st Vice President & Government Committee
Sandy Parker
- 2nd Vice President & Publicity
Jennifer Walker
- Secretary
Jeannette Boucher
- Treasurer
Marjorie Joder

LWVCC DIRECTORS

- Membership
Joyce Evans
- Development
Lydia Galton
- Natural Resources
Bonnie Michaels
Nicole Ryan
- Justice
Bernice Schmelz
- Affordable Housing & Adopt-A-Precinct
Kathleen Slebodnik
- Hospitality
Nancy Wolfe
- LWVCC OFF-BOARD
Social Policy
Ann Campbell
- Historian
Barbara Elliot

The VOTER is published monthly from October through April by the League of Women Voters of Collier County. Editor & Publisher: Sandy Parker. Next (special) issue: July 2007.

"Bad public officials are elected by good citizens that do not vote"

— F. Garrett Richter, father of District 76 state representative Garrett Richter, 1948



IT HAS BEEN A GREAT YEAR FOR THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF COLLIER COUNTY

By Chris Straton — LWVCC President
President@lwvcolliercounty.org

I just spent two days organizing all my League of Women Voters files. Like many of you, I benefited from having a wonderful secretary who kept me organized. On my own, I find that I have the world's largest MISC. File which has to be sorted every so often. My best friend refers to my house as LWV Central. That is probably because she has seen my kitchen counter, dining room table, guest bed, guest bedroom floor, and lanai table covered with important stuff—most of which is League business. Oh, I just remembered the boxes in the garage.

Anyway, it was a wonderful chance to look back on this past year and review what our League had accomplished. Please take time to peruse the committee reports in the Annual Meeting Insert. It will give you a sense of our accomplishments and a taste of what we can do in the upcoming years as more and more of our members are coming forward and asking to become more involved in our activities. If you haven't been asked to join a committee or take on a task, don't be shy about offering your services. Anyone out there want to help get me organized?

It takes people and money to do the work of the League. Of our \$60 dues, we send \$13 to the state and \$26.80 to the national organization. The national payment has gone up twice in the last 3 years and is scheduled to increase again this coming year. We have not passed along those increased costs to our members. However, we can no longer absorb those costs in addition to all the other increases in expenses that we have incurred. Therefore, we will be asking you, our members, to approve a dues increase to \$65 effective at our April 16th Annual Meeting.

Our **Annual Meeting** will precede our April 16th program and will begin at 10:30 a.m. At that time, the members will select officers and directors, vote on a dues increase, approve a budget and more importantly, review this League's work program for 2007/2008. See the Annual Meeting Insert for more specifics. We need you to be there, let us know what you think about our plans for the future, and get involved.

Remember: the person that doesn't show up ends up being the chairwoman!

COFFEE & THE CAPITOL REPORT

A weekly get-together to discuss what's happening in Tallahassee during the Legislative Session

Thursdays from 9:30—10:30a.m. at Panera's Bread
Fridays from 8:30—9:30a.m. at Calistoga Bakery Café

NEW! Access the Capitol Report from www.lwvcolliercounty.org under Stay Informed!

Contact Sandy Parker at Government@lwvcolliercounty.org for details

SOCIAL POLICY — Crisis Intervention in Collier County

By Ann Campbell — SocialPolicy@lwvcolliercounty.org



A recent incident in which a mentally ill person was shot and killed by police who responded to a threat served to highlight a need in this and other communities: law enforcement

the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) is working with trained members of the Collier Sheriff's Department to form Crisis Intervention Teams.

Our April 11 breakfast meeting at Crissy's Wildside Café (8:00 am) will feature Kathryn Leib Hunter, Executive Director of the Collier County NAMI, as our speaker. Kathryn will tell us how the Crisis Intervention Teams will work, the training involved and other needs/issues.

As always, all members are welcome and guests are invited. Please contact Ann Campbell at 263-1755 or SocialPolicy@lwvcolliercounty.org to reserve a place. There is a cost of \$10 for breakfast.

personnel who are trained to recognize and hopefully defuse a crisis situation.

Recently, as much as six percent of the Collier County Jail inmates had psychiatric problems. Ideally, these individuals would have been diverted to a crisis stabilization unit rather than a jail cell.

Steps are being taken to promote crisis intervention and diversion. The Collier branch of

The 2006/2007 Program Goals for the Social Policy Committee include:

Monitor and support local efforts to provide basic health care to those in all age groups not otherwise covered

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

By Joyce Evans — Membership@lwvcolliercounty.org



A warm welcome to the following new members who joined our League since the last Voter was published!

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Asia Rial Elsbee Kate C. Henry Tom & Carol McCann</p> | <p>Jutta & David Parsons Wendy H. Riedel Kaye M. Willette</p> | <p>Contact information for these new members can be found in the "For Members" section of our website at www.lwvcolliercounty.org</p> |
|--|---|---|

IF YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO MAY BE INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR LEAGUE, PLEASE CONTACT JOYCE EVANS, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



Freyda Albin and Jessica Kardas have changed their address or email since the 2007 Roster was published. Their new contact information can be found in the "For Members" section of www.lwvcolliercounty.org



JUSTICE — PACE Center for Girls Expands

By Bernice Schmelz — Justice@lwvcolliercounty.org

Join the Justice Committee on April 17 to see the new 80-space PACE Center for Girls in Immokalee and, more importantly, learn about the PACE Center's clients, philosophy, successes and needs from Executive Director Threasa Miller.

Created in 1983, PACE (Practical, Academic, Cultural Education) Center for Girls, Inc. is a non-residential delinquency prevention program which targets females 12-18 who are identified as dependent, ungovernable, delinquent, truant, runaway, or in need of academic skills. PACE's mission is to provide "... girls and young women an opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training and advocacy."

Miller shared some dramatic statistics about

the girls currently enrolled at the Immokalee center with our legislators this fall: 66% were previously suspended, 11% were previously arrested, 69% had used illegal drugs and/or alcohol, 17% had at least one suicide attempt, and they were an average of four years behind academically. An eight-year study, which followed up on 98% of the Collier attendees, showed a 93% success rate

after one year and an 88% success rate after two. According to PACE's website, one of the secrets to their success "...is truly understanding the relationship between victimization and female juvenile crime..."

Reservations are required; please contact Bernice Schmelz by April 12 at Justice@lwvcolliercounty.org or 455-4984. Carpools will depart Naples area at 9 a.m. for a 10 a.m. meeting, and details will be provided when you RSVP.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

LWVFLA Policy Position on Justice in Florida

Support a juvenile justice system that encourages prevention and diversion and recognizes the special concerns of children and their families


☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

2007 LWVUS ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

These are the advocacy priorities selected by the LWVUS Board for the current term of Congress. They were selected using input from state and local Leagues, the LWVUS Board and other sources.

- Campaign Finance Reform
- Civil Liberties
- DC Voting Rights
- Election Administration
- Ethics & Lobbying Reform
- Global Climate Change
- Healthcare Reform

In addition, the Board reaffirmed the League's commitment to maximizing voter education and participation in the months leading up to the 2007 and 2008 election seasons.



The U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C.

For a full statement of LWVUS positions, see *Impact on Issues*, a LWVUS publication.

Visit our website at www.lwvcolliercounty.org or call us at 263-4656



HOUSING— Consensus Reached in Workforce Housing Study

By Kathleen Slebodnik — WorkforceHousing@lwvcolliercounty.org

The report of the Housing Study Resource Committee was accepted by the Board and became our position on Workforce Housing. The purpose of this study was to determine if local government should be involved in facilitating housing for residents who earn between 80 to 150 percent of area median income and to identify criteria that could be used to evaluate programs when they are proposed.

For some League members and nonmembers in the community, the consensus process may be a new experience and they may expect

specific solutions to solve defined problems. League positions, however, tend to be general in nature and are used to address broad areas and issues of interest and concern to members. Rarely do they specify a course of action. Positions do serve as the basis for action when appropriate action needs to be taken.

The summary below from the full Housing Study Report serves as a broad statement of our position on this issue. The full report will be available at the Annual Meeting on April 16 and on www.lwvcolliercounty.org in the Publications section.

LWVCC POSITION ON WORKFORCE HOUSING

LWVCC believes that local government does have a role in facilitating housing for people in Collier County who earn 80 to 150 percent of area median income. This becomes a quality of life issue when workers who contribute to the health, safety and general welfare of the community cannot afford to live here and choose to either leave the area or decide not to accept employment in essential occupations.

League believes that government should consider all the options at its disposal to encourage the building of public/private partnerships that would lead to the development of housing for this income group. Goals need to be set and short-term and long-range plans developed and carried out that offer safe, decent and affordable housing. These plans should include the rental market as well as owner-occupied housing.

LWVCC also believes that community standards should not be compromised in developing housing for this income group. The quality of neighborhoods within the community must be considered along with increased availability of homes in this income range.

The Housing Study Resource Committee members were Sheilah Crowley, Joyce Evans, Marjorie Joder, Sandy Parker, Kathy Ryan and Chris Straton.

IN MEMORIAM — VIOLET CHURCH

Violet Church, a long-time member of the League of Women Voters of Collier County, passed away in February. She was a familiar face at our General Meetings over the years and she will be missed. Our condolences to her family and friends.

Visit our website at www.lwvcolliercounty.org or call us at 263-4656

Collier County League was Well-Represented at the LWVF's Annual Legislative Seminar in Tallahassee

By Lydia Galton

Chris Straton, Kathy Ryan, Sandy Parker, Joyce Evans, Anne Lewallen and I were privileged to watch democracy work in Tallahassee March 18-20. The main objective of our visit was to lobby our representatives on bills supported or opposed by LWVF. We were briefed at a seminar with the League's lobbyist Jeanne Zokovitch and later by LWVF officers.

Early Monday morning we met with ten of our legislators who enunciated their own priorities for this session. That afternoon, armed with "Talking Points" we went to lobby our own representatives about the following issues:

- Automatic restoration of felons' right to vote
- Equal Rights Amendment
- Campaign financing
- Initiative petitions (opposed to a high level of government regulation)
- Support of the use of paper-verifiable ballots
- Opposition to burdensome restrictions on gathering petitions
- A number of bills supporting environmental causes

Our initial meetings were with Representatives Mike Davis and Garrett Richter. Monday evening our dinner speaker was Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp who outlined Governor Crist's ambitious objectives.

Early Tuesday morning we had breakfast at the Governor's Club, a beautifully refurbished building where we had a wonderful address from Craig Waters, Director of the Florida Supreme Court Public Information Office. Mr. Waters reminded us of how far the Supreme Court had come from the scandal-ridden days of the '70's when Justices were elected and corrupted by business interests, and warned us to be vigilant of those trying to resuscitate the practice.



At the March '07 LWVF Legislative Seminar in Tallahassee (from left: Rep. Mike Davis' Legislative Aide Linda Burke with LWVCC members Joyce Evans, Anne Lewallen, Lydia Galton, Sandy Parker and Chris Straton.

After breakfast we visited Representative David Rivera and Senator Burt Saunders before leaving for Naples.



Lydia Galton, Joyce Evans, Chris Straton and Anne Lewallen with Rep. David Rivera

This trip made me proud to live in a state that makes its government accessible to its people — and the League can be equally proud of its lobbying corps which is trying to influence the process and the outcome of government.

Our government will remain transparent only if we and other concerned citizens demand it and only if as many citizens

as possible vote.

Representative Richter's father said that "Bad politicians are elected by good people who don't vote." Belonging to the League helps bring those good people to the polls.



GOVERNMENT — "Lunch with Leaders" with the Constitutional Officers Continues with Property Appraiser Abe Skinner

By Sandy Parker - Government@lwvcolliercounty.org

"Lunch with Leaders" is an opportunity to sit around a table for an informal discussion with one of our elected officials — not scripted, no presentations, just us.

To date, we've met with Clerk of Courts Dwight Brock, Supervisor of Elections Jennifer Edwards, and Sheriff Don Hunter.

On April 18, Lunch with Leaders continues with Abe Skinner, who has served Collier County since the 1960s and as Property Appraiser since 1991. As with all these sessions, we'll

dine at our host's home territory — in this case, the Property Appraiser's building in the County Government Center.

How does Mr. Skinner feel about proposals to

double the Homestead Exemption and make the Save Our Homes property tax cap portable? What effect has the slowdown in the housing market had on the appraised value of our homes?

Join us for what promises to be an interesting

meeting on **Wednesday, April 18, from 12 – 1:30 p.m. at the Collier County Government Center.** Cost is \$16 for lunch. RSVP to Sandy Parker at Government@lwvcolliercounty.org by 4/15.

The 2006/2007 Program Goals for the Government Committee include:

- Increase member knowledge of the five Collier County constitutional officers and understanding of their roles, responsibilities and current issues

Our last session of the season will be with the Tax Collector on May 14. For details, contact Sandy Parker at Government@lwvcolliercounty.org.

2007 LWVF LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

These are the priorities selected by the LWVF Board for the 2007 Legislative Session. They were selected using input from local Leagues, the LWVF Board and other sources.

Government in Florida

Promote an open government that is responsive to the people of the state.

Specific priorities being monitored by the League's paid lobbyist are **election law, re-apportionment, the constitutional amendatory process, fiscal policy, tax reform, and campaign finance.**



The old and new capitol buildings Tallahassee, Florida

Natural Resources in Florida

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Specific priorities being monitored in this area are environmental protection and resource management.

For a full statement of LWVF positions, see *Study and Action 2005-2007*, a LWVF publication.