



Collier County

VOTER

Vol. 26, No. 2

League of Women Voters of Collier County

May 2000

General Meeting, Monday, May 8, 2000

Noon Room, The Depot

11:00 a.m. - Lively League

Communities of Character & Design Master Plan

12 noon - Buffet Luncheon

12:30 p.m. - Program

Community Character - Exhibits

Speakers:

Jim Rideoutte, Chair, Select Committee on Community Character

*Debra Preston, Collier County Planning Department
and*

Amy K. Taylor, Collier County Planning Department

For noon lunch reservations (\$10 for lunch and program) call Jane Lahy, 261-8654 or the League office, 263-4656, by Friday, May 5th. The public is welcome. The price for attending the program only is \$3.00 for non-members, reservations are not necessary to attend only the program. Any member who makes a lunch reservation must pay the \$10 unless the reservation is cancelled by May 5th.

The League of Women Voters of Collier County, a non-partisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The Collier County VOTER is published monthly, October through May

President's Message

As outgoing President, it is my pleasure to welcome, congratulate and introduce our League's new President, Alda Pierce. Alda brings to us a wealth of experience, not only as a professional musician and educator, but also as a former President of the Seminole and Palm Beach County Leagues -- a truly five-star leader!

The Collier County Community Character and Design master Plan is an innovative program designed to address urban and rural growth, traffic issues and plans for neighborhood parks and other natural areas to preserve and enhance the character of Collier County. A team of consultants, hired to help develop the plan, scheduled a series of neighborhood and community workshops to encourage and receive ideas from the public in mapping out Collier County's future. At the May Lively League meeting, exhibits will be on display for members to examine. A presentation by consultants and county planning staff involved in the program will follow the luncheon for the General Meeting. I hope to see you there.

I have truly enjoyed my years as President of this super League. Be assured that I am not stepping down, just aside. I wish to sincerely thank all of the Officers, Directors and members whose commitment and diligence have contributed so greatly to our League's continued success. I look forward to seeing you in the Fall. In the meantime, have a great summer!!

Pat

LWV

This issue of the Voter is devoted to the Annual Reports from our various committees

Voter Service Committee

A televised Candidate Forum was held on January 28, 2000, prior to the Naples City election for Mayor and City Council. League members also worked at the Supervisor of Elections Office in February and March. Voter registration was held at the Coastland Mall on Saturday, April 15 with more dates scheduled in July. These activities were made possible by the following members:

Claire Beckler	Jackie Gillespie	Joanne Quinn
Pat Clark	Pat Lawrence	Shirley Roellig
Grace Crandell	Claire MacMillian	Pat Scudder
Sheilah Crowley	Alda Pierce	Miriam Silver
Mary Ann Fick	Henny Porter	Kathleen Slebodnik

Tammie Golden, Chair

Education Committee

The Education Committee's activities included a tour of the new Florida Gulf Coast University, observing School Board meetings and participating in the LWVF survey of Charter Schools. The Chair attended the Advisory Committee to the Collier County School Board on Charter School application of the Redlands Christian Migrant Association. The Chair also spoke in favor of the new anti-harassment policy being considered at a School Board meeting. Arrangements were made for Dr. Ang to speak at the November General Meeting on the FCAT evaluation system. Letters of congratulations were sent on behalf of the League to school faculty members on achieving special honors.

Nancy Wolfe, Chair

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Office Phone and Fax: 263-4656

President:	Pat Clark (263-2216)
Membership:	Grace Crandell (262-5541)
Voter Editor:	Needed
Mailing:	Cathy Motley (263-7760)

International Relations Committee

The International Relations Committee has had a number of interesting studies this year. Some of the studies include the International Monetary Fund, The United States Central Intelligence Agency, The World Trade Organization, Help for Haiti, and Teaching in China.

Tom Lauber gave us tremendous insight into the inadequacies of the International Monetary Fund. It needs tremendous change! Jim Norbom, a former economist with The United Nations and GAT, and former Minister of Norwegian Finance, gave us an informative picture of World Trade. We were fortunate to hear Lacey King speak about "Help for Haiti." She painted a very bleak picture of the situation there! Don Healey, formerly serving in the CIA Operations Division for 35 years spoke about the past and future of the CIA. The McGreevycys discussing their teaching in China gave a most interesting presentation.

The intent of the International Relations group is to view world situations with an eye towards the policies of the United States League of Women Voters.

Alda R. Pierce, Chair

Hospitality Committee

Monthly luncheon meetings were held at the Naples Depot in May, and October through April. The highest attendance for the year was 65 for the program on the Central Intelligence Agency and the Lively League's program on the Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary.

Dot Chapoton assisted Jane Lahy with registration and calling. Other callers were: Pat Bain, Ruth Ciner, Arlyne Goodwin, Ellen Heckman, Rosemarie Henson-Rowe, Dorothy Schirr, Pat Scudder, Madeline Sorenson and Joanne Swanson. Their assistance was greatly appreciated.

We are indebted to Pat Scudder for her imaginative theme-related decorations, and to Ann Bleakley, Pat Lawrence and all who gave a helping hand at the meetings.

We are grateful also to Flo Beckler, Chair, and her Committee for our annual Holiday Reception at the Monaco Beach Club.

Jane Lahy & Louise Porter, Co-Chairs



Natural Resources Committee

Our committee has been monitoring and discussing the many issues and events affecting our natural resources. There has been ongoing debate on the Everglades Restoration and the Army Corps of Engineers E.I.S. of South West Florida. Our members, represented by Pat Clark, Kathleen Slebodnik and myself, were present at several large meetings and spoke in the name of our committee. At the opening ceremonies of the Everglades Coalition, Governor Bush spoke to us via Video, announcing that the State would honor its commitment to fund its half of the cost of restoration. Since that time, various proposals on ways to do this have involved putting part of the burden on the Water Management District of South Florida. No final decision has been made to date on how to raise the money.

Our League of Collier County is a member of the Advisory Committee to the South Florida Water Management District and I have attended most of the meetings in West Palm Beach (thanks to Michael Simonik of the Conservancy, who did the driving). Fran Stallings has been the Acting Chair of the committee, speaking for the west coast.

When Gov. Bush decided that local government should have more power over growth management, DCA Secretary Seibert called for public hearings throughout the State. The hearing in Fort Myers was attended by Pat Clark, Kathleen Slebodnik and myself. All three of us spoke for the League.

Last month, at the State League Legislative Seminar, Kathleen Selbodnik (our State N.R. member), Pat Clark, Alda Pierce and I had the opportunity to interview Sen. Burt Saunders, Rep. Dudley Goodlette, Rep. Carol Green and an aide to Sen. Geller. All assured us that the attempt by Rep. Albright to rush through an extensive law, tearing down all state participation in growth management didn't stand a chance to go further. Now, however, HB 2335 is in committee and it incorporates many of Rep. Albright's ideas, which would in effect, destroy State oversight of growth management.

With the upcoming election next fall of three new County Commissioners, the League can again provide an impartial forum for the candidates. The parameters of priorities for our committee are clearly defined by our Florida State League and we will have no shortage of issues and events to work with in our committee. This important committee needs you! Please call me at 566-2352.

Attending members: Pat Clark, Kathleen Slebodnik, Jane Lahy and Nicole Ryan, with special thanks for networking with her information from the Conservancy.

Lenore Reich, Chair

Justice Committee

There were only three opportunities for this year for the Justice Committee to meet since the chair, Dorothy Ferguson, had to take a leave of absence from League responsibilities in February.

The October General Meeting was a tribute to "Domestic Violence Month." The speaker was Christine Greider, Prosecutor for Domestic Violence Cases in the Office of the State Attorney. Ms. Greider's presentation was both interesting and informative, focusing on the support available for victims of domestic violence and the effects of the new law giving law enforcement the power to press charges in domestic violence cases.

In December, the Justice Committee met at the new Department of Children & Families building on Radio Road. The speaker was Lori Wallace, Teen Court Coordinator. Ms. Wallace described the development of Teen Court, an initiative spearheaded in Collier County by Judge Baker. Members of the League and others were invited to observe Teen Court at the Court House.

In February, the Justice Committee spent a couple of hours at the Court House watching Teen Court in action. It was enthralling to see teens who have been in trouble being assisted by teen lawyers and tried by teen jurors. The members of the legal profession who donate their time coaching the teens and participating in the activity must be commended.

The Justice Committee also has been watching developments in the reorganizational changes within the Department of Juvenile Justice that involve a proposal to realign Collier County and the rest of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit, placing Collier County under the same umbrella as either Dade or Broward County. The League joined Judge Baker in protesting this change because of Collier County's distinctly different approach to and success with juvenile justice issues.

Unfortunately, Justice Committee meetings are not well attended. It is hoped next year more members will join up in learning about the Collier County justice and juvenile justice system.

Membership of record:

Renee Hansen	Dorothy Ferguson
Marilyn Bogen	Louise Porter
Dorothy Fitch	Pat Clark
Betty DiAndriole	Alice Stewart
Barbara Bartlett	Mary Ann Fick
Joanne Quinn	Ann Campbell

Dorothy Ferguson, Chair

Social Policy Committee

We are indebted to the speakers who came to our monthly breakfast meetings at the Pacific 41 Restaurant. **Barbara Brown** and **Val Ryan, RN**, from the Collier County Public Health Department; **Debbie Ogden** from the Collier County Public Schools; **Elaine Wade** from NCH's School Nurse program; and **Joe Paterno** of the Southwest Florida Workforce Development Board.

We had some very interesting discussions and committee members agreed that the sessions were most informative.

We learned about the funding issues involved in providing health insurance and access to care for Collier County's children (**The Kid Care Program** and, specifically, **Healthy Kids**), **Mary Figg** of the Lawton and Rhea Chiles Center, the University of South Florida College of Public Health, further enlightened us and the membership at our January General Meeting.

- ◆ We learned that, while there isn't a nurse in every public school, the school nurse program is steadily expanding and is now providing essential services in elementary, middle and high schools . . . ten hours per school per week.
- ◆ We were impressed at the depth and sophistication of the age-appropriate health, human growth and development, and life management skills curricula being introduced in the schools. We support these programs along with programs for a safe environment and enhanced physical education!
- ◆ We learned that the 85% of former W.A.G.E.S participants (Florida's welfare-to-work program) who are no longer eligible for cash assistance still have a "safety net" in place in the form of food stamps, Medicaid, child care and transportation. The emphasis is increasingly toward educating individuals for jobs that will enable them to move away from public assistance and toward real self-sufficiency.

Committee members are involved in networking with the Naples Alliance for Children in the areas of child care and school health as well as teen pregnancy prevention. We are participating in the work of the Collier Health Review Committee and hope to help raise the consciousness of the community about the gaps in access to health care in Collier County.

Members: Ann Bleakley, Jeannette Boucher, Dorothy Ferguson, Donna Fiala, Marcy Flinn, Rosemarie Henson-Rowe, Pat Lawrence, Louise Porter, Joanne Quinn, Pat Scudder, Nancy Wolfe, Barbara Yeager, Ann Campbell, Chair

Ann Campbell, Chair

Focus on Community Character

Special Report

The "anywhere USA" virus that is choking other rapidly growing metropolitan areas has found its way to Collier County. We know that our roadways are increasingly over-burdened, and green-space is disappearing at an alarming rate.

At the urging of the Greater Naples Civic Association, the Board of County Commissioners approved the creation of a Select Committee on Community Character, and this committee then selected the Miami consulting firm of Dover-Kohl to come here in April to take an outsider's long, hard look at how we are growing.

If you read about the Community Character project and were not able to attend the workshops that were held, our May 8th program will be your opportunity to come see and hear what it is all about.

In the place of our usual Lively League, members of the county's Planning Department will be at The Depot to display the preliminary maps and drawings Dover-Kohl recently presented to the community at the Naples Beach Club. Members will be able to view them up

close and ask questions.

Following lunch, Jim Rideoutte, Chair of the Select Committee on Community Character, will give us background on this endeavor and bring us up to date on what has been accomplished so far. Jim has been president of GNCA, chaired the City of Naples Planning Commission, and is well versed on current growth and design issues. He is determined that this effort will not be shelved and forgotten.

Debra Preston and Amy Taylor of the Collier County Planning Department will then show us the Dover-Kohl Power Point presentation along with their initial findings and impressions.

Schedule permitting, a Dover-Kohl consultant will also attend.

If Collier County is to survive its own success, there is much work to be done. This year-long study may be our last chance to develop a plan that will support and enhance our unique character, and this program will be of interest to us all.

Kathleen Slebodnik, Chair

The "anywhere USA" virus . . . has found its way to Collier County. This may be our last chance to develop a plan . . .

Government Committee

The focus of the Government Committee's work this year was LWVF's effort in the People Over Politics campaign. This is a citizens' petition initiative to place before the voters in November the question of whether or not to amend Florida's constitution and have an independent commission rather than the state legislature draw congressional and state district lines.

We sponsored the March General Meeting with Tom Eubanks, State Coordinator for POP, visiting us from Tallahassee, distributed and collected signed petitions and will continue this project through the summer months.

Committee Members: Flo Beckler, Pat Clark, Pat Lawrence, Mary Ann Fick, Marcy Flinn, Jane Lahy, Louise Porter, Pat Sdudder, and Pat Thompson.

Kathleen Slebodnik, Chair



Community Development & Environment Services

Presents

A Short Course in:

Growth Management, Zoning & Transportation Planning

*To be Held on Thursday, May 4th - at 6:30 pm
At The Collier County Administration Building
3rd Floor - Collier County Board Room
3301 Tamiami Trail East (US 41)*

**Planning Services Section Heads will each provide a 20-minute presentation for Property Owner/Civic Association Members & Officers*

LWVCC Member Contributors for 1999-2000

Our League gratefully acknowledges the 75 members who made donations to our General and/or Education Funds during the past season

Anna Ajemian
Anna Allen
Mercy Bathey
Claire Beckler
Elinor & Berkley Bedell
Betty Binder
Dorothy Blair
Ann Bleakley
Marilyn Bogen
Jeanntte Boucher
Jo Ann Boydston
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Marion DeForest
Charlotte DeSota

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