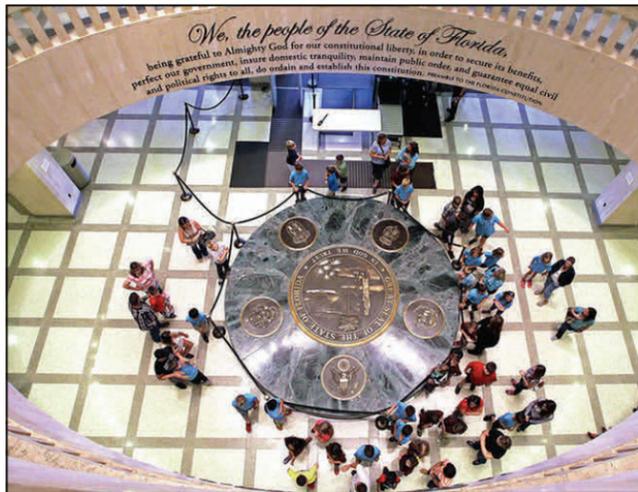




(From left): LWV Martin member Jeanette Hartzell with LWV Florida President Pam Goodman and LWV Martin treasurer Donna Melzer at our January luncheon in Palm City. Pam spoke on the League's Legislative Priorities 2016. What a great meeting!



The LWVF's annual Legislative Summit, February 16-18, brings members from across the state to Tallahassee to meet with and advocate before state legislators.

**2016
CALENDAR**



- Feb 15 Susan B. Anthony Award - Luncheon
- Mar 21 Environmental Concerns – Luncheon
- Apr 18 Annual Meeting & Local Issues – Luncheon

League of Women Voters of Martin County
P.O. Box 2874
Stuart, FL 34995-2874



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARTIN COUNTY
P.O. Box 2874
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League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

February 2016 VOTER
President: Linda Grand
Editor: Jennifer Durrant



**SUSAN B. ANTHONY AWARD
LUNCHEON**
Monday, February 15, 2016

**Honoree
Sarah Heard
Martin County Commissioner**

The Susan B. Anthony Award honors women who carry on the ideals of Susan B. Anthony: encouraging informed and active participation in government, working to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

Sarah Heard's devotion to the people of Martin County, serving as commissioner for almost 14 years, and chair of the commission for many of those years, is most deserving of the League's acknowledgement. She has tirelessly advocated not only for the residents of Martin, but statewide and federally on so many issues of importance.

Manero's Restaurant
2851 SW High Meadows Avenue
Palm City
11:30 a.m. (serving at 12:00 noon)

**Send to
Alice Kraus**
2784 SW Bear Paw Trail
Palm City, FL 34990
Phone: 772-223-9010

RSVP by February 11
**Please include your menu choice with
your reservation**
Salmon on rice with cole slaw
Chicken Oriental Salad
Soup and Salad (French Onion Soup and
Manero's Signature Gorgonzola Salad)

\$18.00
(\$20.00 if paid at
door,
but reserved ahead)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Donna Dupuy

Planning Ahead: The Constitution Revision Commission

It happens every 20 years in Florida. It's called the Constitution Revision Commission -- and the next round could be a real doozy. It all began in 1968. The state's population was exploding and the civil rights movement was sweeping across the nation, but Florida was still governed by a constitution adopted in 1885 that included next to nothing in the way of provisions for environmental protection and more than a few vestiges of the Jim Crow era in which it was written.

Prodded by Governor Claude Kirk, and guided by House Speaker Ralph Turlington and Senate President Verle Pope, the legislature held three special sessions, and produced a new constitution for a new Florida. Among other things, it provided for a commission to conduct automatic reviews of the constitution, with the first one to be done after ten years, and subsequent reviews to be done every 20 years thereafter.

So now we come to 2018, which is when the recommendations of the next Constitution Revision Commission ("the CRC") will be presented to the voters of Florida for their consideration. Who will serve on this important commission? When will they begin their work? And what is our role as citizens? Here are some of the answers, and the anticipated timeline for events.

During this year's Legislative Session, funds will be appropriated for planning the 2017-2018 CRC, and in June, the Governor's Constitution Revision Steering Committee will be named. In February 2017, the 37 members of the 2017-2018 CRC will be named. The Governor appoints 15; the Speaker of the House and Senate President each appoint nine; and the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court appoints three. The 37th member is the Attorney General of Florida, who is an automatic member.

The 2017 Legislature will appropriate funds for the CRC, and it will begin work immediately after the Session ends. If tradition holds (and that's a medium-sized "if" under the circumstances), the CRC will examine the constitution; hold public hearings throughout the state to gather input from the public; and present its recommendations to the people on the November 2018 ballot.

As citizens, we have four responsibilities:

1. To be informed and become educated about the process.
2. To suggest and monitor appointments to the CRC
3. To attend and participate in the public hearings
4. To vote on the proposals in November 2018.

As members of the League of Women Voters, we have an additional responsibility: to make others aware of the work of the CRC and its importance to all of us.



The First Constitution Revision Commission, which met in 1977-78.

For lots more information, visit www.revisefl.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Linda Grand

Our dynamic speaker at the January luncheon, LWV Florida President Pamela Goodman, has asked us to attend the February 16-18 League Legislative Summit in Tallahassee. Along with LWV Florida State Board Members and Legislative Advocate Debbie Harrison-Rumburger, the Summit brings members from across the state together to meet with and advocate before state legislators. The League works hard to ensure that our strong and unique voice is heard. This two-day conference takes place during the Legislative Session and includes an orientation program, seminars on League positions, face-to-face meetings with legislators, a tour of the Capitol, and other engaging and informative activities. For more details, see the League of Women Voters of Florida website at www.TheFloridaVoter.org

To make any changes or corrections to your voter registration information, the last day you can do that is February 16. If you wish to vote by mail, you must request your ballot no later than March 2. Voted ballots should be mailed by Thursday, March 3rd due to the change in postal services. (Supervisors of Elections have been advised that first class mail is now taking 3 to 5 days for delivery.) The early voting period will be March 5-12. For further information, please contact Martin League member Vicki Davis, who is Martin County's Supervisor of Elections at www.MartinVotes.com, phone 772-288-5637, or visit the office at 135 SE Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard in Stuart.

The League of Women Voters of Martin County/NAACP Voter Education Forum is continuing to air on the MCTV (Martin County TV) schedule, Comcast channel 20. The link is available on our website, www.lwvmartincounty.org, along with other valuable LWV Martin information.

With the battle for the White House already underway and presidential primaries looming, the League has answers to voters' most frequently asked questions. We have once again teamed up with the Newspaper in Education Institute to produce *Electing the President*, a handy guide outlining all you need to know about the presidential election process. The guide will appear in newspapers nationwide as well as be shared with schools, community organizations and voters who need a helping hand as they navigate the election process. From helping you navigate the complex nomination process to providing succinct tips for making sense of the daily barrage of campaign coverage and advertising, *Electing the President* will serve as your go-to resource all the way up to Election Day. The League is working hard to distribute this and other educational materials to voters across the country, but we need your help. Download the guide at <http://lwv.org/files/ElectingthePresident2016.pdf> and share it with your family, friends, and any potential new voters in your life.

And last but certainly not least, let's continue to grow our record-breaking LWV Martin membership numbers! Please bring a guest to our luncheons and let them enjoy firsthand what a great organization we have.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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