



2016
CALENDAR



<u>Jan 18</u>	LWVFL's Legislative Priorities - Luncheon
<u>Feb 15</u>	Susan B. Anthony Award - Luncheon
<u>Mar 21</u>	Environmental Concerns – Luncheon
<u>Apr 18</u>	Annual Meeting & Local Issues – Luncheon

League of Women Voters of Martin County
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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARTIN COUNTY
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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.

January 2016 **VOTER**
President: Linda Grand
Editor: Jennifer Durrant



LUNCHEON
Monday, January 18, 2016 **Pamela Goodman**
President Florida League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters of Martin County is honored to welcome League of Women Voters of Florida President Pamela Goodman as our January 18, 2016 luncheon speaker. She will speak to us on Capitol Affairs and league legislative priorities, including redistricting, land and water, the solar initiative, open primaries, and healthcare.

Educated at the University of Iowa in journalism and business, Goodman spent her professional career in retailing, rising to President/CEO of Limited Express, with \$1.5 billion in revenue and over 850 stores nationwide. Her international business relationships involved the Far East, Europe, India and Israel.

She served as president of the League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County from 2005 to 2009 and has been serving on the League of Women Voters Florida Board of Directors from 2007 to the present. Since 2006, she has chaired the Fair Districts campaign statewide for the League and was responsible for coordinating all League work during the campaign to secure passage of the two Fair Districts constitutional amendments. She continues to work with all litigation regarding this issue.

Goodman has also served on the League of Women Voters of the United States Nominating Committee and Membership Recruitment Committee. In addition to being a member of the first "Sisters Across the Straits" delegation that traveled and met with women in Cuba, she has received numerous awards, including the 2008 Susan B. Anthony Award for Outstanding Feminist from the National Organization for Women.

Goodman also serves as President of The Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County, a nonprofit organization that has more than quadrupled its revenue under her guidance and now serves as the key fundraising, education and advocacy organization in Palm Beach County supporting the Ten Year Plan to end homelessness. Goodman also serves as a Director on the Board of Hospice of Palm Beach County Foundation. She resides in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

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 January 14th Please include your menu choice with your reservation	\$18.00
Salmon on rice with cole slaw Chicken Oriental Salad Soup and Salad (French Onion Soup and Manero's Signature Gorgonzola Salad)	(\$20.00 if paid at door, but reserved ahead)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Donna Dupuy

UPDATE: OPEN PRIMARY STUDY

At its statewide convention last May, LWVF voted to conduct a statewide study on the subject of open primaries. The objectives are to evaluate the current closed primary system in Florida to determine whether it is a hindrance to voter turnout; investigate alternative voting systems; and research reasons for and solutions to low voter turnout. This is a status report on that study.

Under the leadership of Michele Levy/Orange County and Mimi Tipton/Duval County, a three-phase methodology was designed to move the study forward. The three phases are: (1) Pre-Local League research; (2) Local League research; and (3) Consensus building.

The first phase of the study involved interviewing and gathering data from Supervisors of Elections and leaders of the major parties. At this writing, 35 counties have been covered, and we are proud to be among the counties participating.

Carolyn Wood, Ida Corrigan and I interviewed Vicki Davis, Supervisor of Elections; Dennis Killila, Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee; and Don Pickard, Chairman of the Republican Executive Committee. Transcripts of our interviews were sent to the leadership team, and the data we provided will be collated with information from the other participating counties.

The next phase of the study will consist of Millennial Interviews, to obtain a representative sample of voters 18-34; Out of State LWV Interviews, to learn about alternate primary election systems in use in other/selected states; and Voting System Analysis, to examine multiple types of alternate primary election systems in comparison to our current closed primary election system. In addition, since the State League approved Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) in 2005, the voting system analysis must address validation of that current position or adopt a new position.

After all of that – and ONLY after all of that – the local league consensus sessions for the Open Primary Study will be held. Consensus is the final step and one of the most important parts of the study process. The Consensus Sessions give all league members an opportunity to participate in the study and enable the state league to take a position.

If you'd like to learn more about this study, or join Carolyn, Ida and me on this project, let me know. There's more than enough work for everyone!

Membership Handbook Updates

Change of address:

Olga Drucker
1100 SW Shoreline Dr. Apt.305
Palm City, Fl. 34990

New member:

Sarah Heard
4584 SE Williams Way
Stuart, FL 34997
Phone (772) 286-6792

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Linda Grand

Happy 2016!

First and foremost, many thanks to Noreen and Rip Fisher for hosting the League's Holiday Party at their beautiful Sailfish Point home. It was a delightful event and we all appreciated the presentation, hospitality, and the delicious food and drink.

The League of Women Voters of Martin County/NAACP Voter Education is now airing on the MCTV (Martin County TV) schedule, Comcast channel 20. The link is available on our website, www.lwvmartincounty.org, and also the Martin County website.

Just a reminder that the Presidential Preference Primary will be held on Tuesday, March 15. If you need 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, you can 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.

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.

Our luncheon speaker this month, LWV Florida President Pamela Goodman, along with LWV Florida State Board Members and Legislative Advocate Debbie Harrison-Rumburger, will be in Tallahassee networking with League members from across the state on February 16-18, at the League's 2016 Legislative Summit.

The Summit brings members from across the state to Tallahassee 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