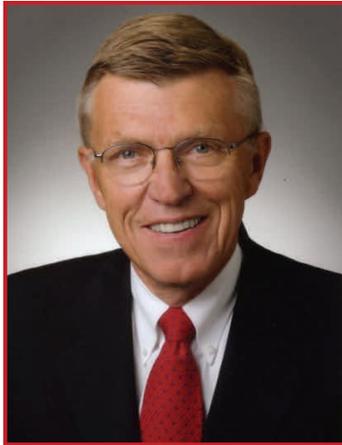


League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

November - December 2015 **VOTER**

President: Linda Grand
Editor: Jennifer Durrant



LUNCHEON
Monday, November 16, 2015
MARTIN COUNTY'S FUTURE
Robert Crandall



Robert Crandall was a titan of the airline industry in the rollicking days of deregulation, and at 79, his heart still pumps jet fuel. Today, though, he's got another transportation project in his crosshairs — All Aboard Florida's \$2.9 billion express passenger rail.

Crandall, a winter resident of Palm City, is on the steering committee of the anti-All Aboard Florida group Citizens Against Rail Expansion. When he joined the opposition, it bolstered the rag tag effort of grassroots organizers who were taking on All Aboard Florida. The Wall Street Journal has called Crandall "the man who changed the way the world flies." During his 25-year tenure at American Airlines, he was instrumental in introducing several changes, which revolutionized the travel industry. Among the many national and trade publications that have honored Crandall for his achievements and executive leadership are Business Week, Industry Week, Aviation Week and Space Technology, Financial World and Air Transport World.

A native of Westerly, R.I., he is a 1957 graduate of the University of Rhode Island and received a master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School in 1960. Crandall and his wife, Jan, have three adult children and seven grandchildren, and enjoy bridge, sailing and gardening.

Note: Crandall has suggested that LWV members view Martin County's comments on The Final Environmental Impact Statement filed by AAF with the Federal Railway Administration, reflecting the contemptuous attitude AAF and FRA have taken towards the concerns of Treasure Coast citizens:
http://ap3server.martin.fl.us:7778/web_docs/adm/web/All_Aboard_Florida/MC_Comments_DEIS.pdf

Manero's Restaurant

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

\$18.00

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

Menu Choices Available at
Luncheon

RSVP by November 12

with your check (to LWVMC)

Alice Kraus

2784 SW Bear Paw Trail
Palm City, FL 34990
Phone: 772-223-9010

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Donna Dupuy

For this month's newsletter, we invited our area legislators to tell us, in 150 words or so, what their priorities are for the Regular Session, which begins in January. In their own words, here are their responses:

SEN. JOE NEGRON: I would like to highlight two issues I will be working on during the 2015 Legislative Session. I have filed SB 86, which would prohibit the State of Florida from investing in or doing business with companies or organizations that discriminate against Israel. SB 86 opposes the Boycott, Divest and Sanction (BDS) movement by ensuring that Florida does not invest or contract with companies or organizations that choose to engage in economic decisions attacking Israel.

In addition, I will be working on voluntary ways to encourage boating safety through incentives in the annual boating registration process. The proposal would provide boaters with a reduction in their annual registration fee in exchange for their use of an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB) or Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) on their boat.

REP. GAYLE HARRELL: During the 2016 Legislative Session I believe the major issues will be continuing the effort to build our economy, improving education and creating a comprehensive water policy that will protect our environment and provide sufficient clean water for our state. Protecting our rivers and the Indian River Lagoon is my top priority and I will be introducing a bill to require that 25.7% of Amendment 1 funds be dedicated and used to fund projects that implement the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP), the final Lake Okechobee Basin Management Plan and the Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program with preference given to those projects that reduce discharges into our estuaries. As a former teacher, improving education has always been a priority for me. This year I will be continuing to work on providing appropriate evidenced based instruction for students struggling with Dyslexia. Under my proposed Dyslexia Choice Academy Pilot project, Martin County will be one of the 5 school districts selected to participate. As Chair of the Children, Families and Seniors Committee, I will be continuing to work to improve our child welfare system. We have made significant progress over the past 2 years and will continue the effort this year by addressing mental health and substance abuse issues.

REP. MARYLNN MAGAR: Last July, two boys went out on their small boat to do what 14 year old boys do on a beautiful summer day; enjoy the sunshine, catch some fish and talk about life. Like many days, a summer storm came up suddenly and violently. Hours led to days and days to weeks of searching for these two boys. Boating safety and preparation is something that we must all take seriously. Boaters should always have accessible life vests and locator devices on board. A personal locator device, or an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB), is a unit that can be activated by hand or upon submersion in the water. A registered locator sends a satellite signal to NOAA. The Coast Guard and other rescue personnel are immediately deployed. This month I have filed a bill that would promote the use of locator devices. This bill will allow boat owners that purchase and register a locator device to receive a discount on the annual state registration fee of their vessel. With this bill, I hope to bring attention to boating safety and encourage boaters to prepare before they set out. With a life vest around your shoulders or waist and a locator on board, loved ones can be found and lives can be saved.

WELCOME



Please add these new members to your
Membership Handbook:

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Linda Grand

Please mark your calendar to attend our November 16 luncheon. We have an outstanding and much sought-after speaker, Palm City resident Robert Crandall, former American Airlines CEO, who is now a guiding force in the Treasure Coast's fight against All Aboard Florida. Our October luncheon was a great success. Chuck O'Neal, Vice-President of the League of Women Voters of Florida, enlightened us on Florida's Challenges and 2016 LWVFL Legislative Priorities. Also don't forget our annual Christmas Party on December 6 (see attached flyer). Our past-president Noreen Fisher and her husband Rip have graciously volunteered to host. Please RSVP for gate access to the Fisher's beautiful Sailfish Point home.

As we enter the 2016 legislative session, it is important to review the League of Women Voters of Florida's priorities:

ELECTION LAW: Oppose any efforts that might be made to limit convenient voter registration or to limit access to the polls by limiting early voting locations, days or hours. Support pre-paid absentee ballot returns to the Supervisors of Election and oppose any infringement or restrictions on the absentee ballot process. Monitor, consider and comment on proposals to establish an independent Florida election redistricting commission.

EDUCATION: Oppose efforts to expand corporate tax credit scholarships. We continue to believe they are an inappropriate and unconstitutional program, funding private and religious schools with no proven benefit to students. Require greater fiscal management and accountability of charter school contracts, with oversight by local school boards. Address proposals to change the statewide assessment program to assure that a national assessment instrument is used, with such assessments applicable to every Florida student educated with public funds.

HEALTH CARE: Expand health care access and coverage for low-income, un-insured and under-insured Floridians. Accept federal funding to expand health care access and coverage and offset the costs of uncompensated care to hospitals and providers. Restore full funding for critical health care programs and services that were negatively impacted by the 2015 state budget, i.e. KidCare, free clinics, emergency transport, substance abuse treatment, etc.

GUN SAFETY: Oppose Bills (HB 4001/SB 68) that would make it legal for those with concealed weapons permits to carry firearms on all Florida public college and university campuses. Oppose Bills (HB 19/SB 180) that would allow Florida School Boards and Superintendents to designate employees to carry concealed firearms, for security purposes, on school grounds at K-12 schools. Oppose Bills (HB 41/SB 130) that would purport to regulate the recreational discharge of firearms in residential areas. It is already illegal to discharge recklessly a firearm on any residential lot, and such Bills would create exceptions to that.

LAND AND WATER: Properly implement Amendment 1 – restore funding to Florida Forever and exclude existing agency operating expenses. Pass comprehensive water quality and quantity Bills that concentrate on cleaning-up pollution at the sources and conserving our aquifer with no net additional withdrawals. Pass Bills that ban fracking in the state of Florida.

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2015-2016
CALENDAR



Nov 16

Martin County's Future - Luncheon

Dec 06

Holiday Get-Together

Jan 18

Water Matters - Luncheon

Feb 15

Susan B. Anthony Award - Luncheon

Mar 21

Capitol Affairs – Luncheon

Apr 18

Annual Meeting & Local Issues – Luncheon

LWV Martin Board of Directors at a recent get-together:
Jane Shubert, Pat La Susa, Elizabeth Cobb, Alice Kraus,
Betty Paterson, and Donna Dupuy



LWV Martin Board member Kathy Carew (seated) and
President Linda Grand.

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