



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.

October 2015 **VOTER**

President: Linda Grand
Editor: Jennifer Durrant

LUNCHEON

Monday, October 19, 2015

FLORIDA'S CHALLENGES

Chuck O'Neal
First Vice President
League of Women Voters of Florida



Chuck O'Neal is a lifelong resident of Florida, having grown-up in Winter Park. He is a graduate of Duke University and an entrepreneur. Chuck is president of a residential investment and rehabilitation company.

He has a passionate attachment to Florida's natural resources and beauty. His participation in the League of Women Voters has given him an opportunity to put that interest to good use. He now serves as chair of both the Natural Resources Committee of the League of Women Voters of Florida and of the Orange County League. In addition, to leading the League's participation in the Florida Water and Land Legacy constitutional amendment campaign, Chuck has been working to restore the Wekiva River in Central Florida to its former health by addressing the problem of groundwater pollution by a water treatment facility and other sources.

Chuck is well versed in the many policy and fiscal challenges Florida faces as it struggles to preserve its great water and land resources – the bases of Florida's beauty and its economy.

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 October 15

with your check (to LWVMC)

Alice Kraus

2784 SW Bear Paw Trail

Palm City, FL 34990

Phone: 772-223-9010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Linda Grand

Welcome back to all our members! The Board of Directors looks forward to seeing everyone at the October 19th luncheon meeting.

First and foremost, we are pleased to introduce Jennifer Durrant as our new Voter editor. Jennifer has broad experience in the fields of publishing and marketing. We are so fortunate to have her as a member and thank her for her time and efforts on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Martin County.

Our board and officers have had a busy off-season. Vice-President Betty Paterson and I attended the 2015 LWV of Florida state convention in Delray Beach. We learned a great deal from the many instructional workshops, while making some valuable connections around the state.

Our LWVMartin membership has increased by 25%. We have had a record year. Our luncheons have had excellent attendance. We also received our tax-exempt status from our State League.

Additionally we visited with local elected officials, including Gayle Harrell, MaryLynn Magar, Patrick Murphy, and the legislative coordinator for US Senator Marco Rubio.

Recently we co-sponsored, with the NAACP of Martin County, a Voter Education Forum which was highly successful thanks to our secretary, Donna Dupuy. A panel of five speakers from around the State (including LWVFlorida President Pam Goodman) was moderated by Martin County Supervisor of Elections (and LWVMartin member) Vicki Davis. Elections and political topics were discussed, and voter registrations were applied for and updated. LWV information was distributed.

In preparation for the forum, Donna, Lillie Mackey and I met with all five Martin County Commissioners. Commissioners voted to televise the forum on MCTV, the county's TV station. Look for replays in the near future.

During late July, VP Betty Paterson and Luncheon Committee chair Alice Kraus organized a newcomers' luncheon at Lady Ann's in Stuart. It was a lovely opportunity for new and "old" members to meet. Alice has also coordinated with Manero's to expand our menu choices for the upcoming months.

Please RSVP to our October 19th luncheon with guest speaker Chuck O'Neal; a sign-up sheet for future Hot Topics discussions will be circulated.

League of Women Voters of Martin County

Moved

Katherine (Kathy) Carew
101 Osceola Avenue
Hobe Sound, FL 33455

WELCOME

Sandra (Sandy) Packer
4742 SE Cheerio Way
Stuart, FL 34997
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Donna Dupuy

Since this is my first article as your Legislative Chair, it seems appropriate to offer some introductory comments. First, because I'm a veteran of the legislative process, I tend to get a little wonky, but I will do my best not to get too far into the weeds here, and will not even attempt to predict what the Florida Legislature will or will not do for the same reason. Second, because this is a monthly newsletter, I also will not cover any current or imminent activities or events. For those who want that kind of detail and insight, I suggest visiting the websites for the major daily newspapers that maintain bureaus in the Capital. For general information about the Legislature, I suggest going to the websites for the Florida House: <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/> and/or the Florida Senate: <https://www.flsenate.gov/>.

Important Legislative Dates

Two legislative sessions loom on the near horizon. Here are the basics:

10/19/15: The Special Session to draw a new Senate district map convenes on October 19th, and is scheduled to last three weeks. Hopefully, the Legislature will do a better job with this map than they did with the Congressional map, and we can finally conclude the litigation on Fair Districts.

1/12/16-3/11/16: The 2016 Regular Session begins earlier than usual, on January 12th, and is scheduled for 60 days, as per the Constitution.

Because the Regular Session was moved up to accommodate the Presidential Preference Primary, standing committees in both chambers have already begun meeting. The schedule for their meetings for the next couple of months is as follows:

10/5-10/9

10/19-23

11/2-6

11/16-20

11/20-12/4

Naturally, legislators in both chambers have also begun to file bills. As of 9/23/15, 293 bills had been filed in the House; and 166 bills had been filed in the Senate. Even though the House has a six-bill limit per member, those numbers will increase dramatically by the opening of Session. For example, in the last Regular Session, 1755 bills were filed in the House and 882 were filed in the Senate. However: the number typically goes up in election years.

How to communicate with area legislators

Rep. Gayle Harrell, Dist. 83 - Suite 325, 900 Southeast Federal Highway, Stuart, FL 34994
(772) 221-4011 - TLH: (850) 717-5083

Rep. MaryLynn Magar, Dist. 82 - 11700 Southeast Dixie Highway, Hobe Sound, FL 33455
(772) 545-3481 - TLH: (850) 717-5082

Sen. Joe Negron, Dist. 32 - 3500 Southwest Corporate Parkway, Suite 204 Palm City, FL 34990
(772) 219-1665 - TLH: (850) 487-5032

You can also email these people directly from the House or Senate website, although it usually does not generate any meaningful response. If you have a burning issue or a critical personal matter, it's best to write a letter and/or ask for an appointment to discuss it. If you simply want to express your support for or opposition to a given bill, it's usually better to call -- especially towards the end of the Session, when things move at warp speed.



Voter Education Forum



Legislature In Session

**2015-2016
CALENDAR**



Oct 19

Florida's Challenges - Luncheon

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

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