

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.

April 2017

VOTER

President: Linda Grand
Editor: Jennifer Durrant

April 17 Luncheon
Indiantown and Hobe Sound Incorporation Efforts
Speakers: Brian Powers and Mike Ennis



Mike Ennis

From The Palm Beach Post: Indiantown and Hobe Sound, two of Martin County's oldest communities, want to be towns. "We're a small seaside town and we want to stay a small seaside town," said **Mike Ennis, a 60-year-old contractor who is one of the leaders in the drive for incorporation of Hobe Sound.**

Control of zoning and building codes is one of the main benefits of incorporation, say supporters from both areas. "Our two biggest challenges are that we are losing jobs and we need workforce housing. People should be able to live where they work," said **Brian Powers, 50, the owner of Indiantown Gas and a leader of a group supporting incorporation of Indiantown.**



Brian Powers

The Martin County legislative delegation unanimously agreed this past January to propose a bill in the 2017 legislative session to call for a referendum to incorporate Hobe Sound and Indiantown. If passed by the House and Senate, and signed by the governor, a vote will be held in both areas in November to decide if incorporation will take place.

Hobe Sound, in southeastern Martin County, would be a town of about 15,000 residents. Hobe Sound would hire a town manager, assistant town manager, finance director/comptroller, town clerk/treasurer and administrative assistant. Estimates put the total annual cost in salary and benefits at about \$675,000, according to the website established by incorporation supporters.

Indiantown, in far western Martin County near the border with Palm Beach County, would become a town of about 6,000 residents. Town voters would elect a five-member town council. The town would hire an administrator, Powers said.

Persuading voters that incorporation is not another layer of government that will raise their taxes is a big challenge, Ennis and Powers agreed.

Indiantown originally was established by the Seminole native Americans as a trading post. It was settled by Europeans in the 1890s. The community is known for having one of the top thoroughbred horse racing facilities in the United States.

Hobe Sound originally was settled in late 1600s when British merchant ship *Reformation*, on its way from Jamaica to Philadelphia, sank off the coast just north of the Jupiter Inlet. After being forced ashore, Captain Jonathan Dickinson and crew encountered two local Indian tribes, the Hobe Sound and Tequesta Indians.

LWV Hot Topics

RSVP by April 13
Please include your menu choice with your reservation
Oriental Chicken Salad
Salmon with Rice and Side
Vegetarian Plate
Dessert and a beverage included
\$18.00 (\$20.00 if paid at door, but reserved ahead)

Manero's Restaurant
2851 SW High Meadows Avenue
Palm City
Door open at 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 or walt29@comcast.net

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Donna Dupuy

ARE YOU CONCERNED? NEED TO VENT? WANT TO EXPRESS YOUR OPINION?
HERE'S HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LAWMAKERS

(Note: The President and Governor are not listed because they are not actually lawmakers...)

FEDERAL OFFICES

Senator Bill Nelson, D-FL

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Congressman Brian Mast, R-FL (Representing District 18; all of Martin and St. Lucie and part of Palm Beach)

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STATE OFFICES

Senator Joe Negron, R-District 25

Representing all of Martin and St. Lucie and parts of Palm Beach

305 Senate Office Bldg., 404 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100 – Phone: 850-487-5025

District office: 3500 S.W. Corporate Parkway Suite 204, Palm City, FL 34990

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Website: www.flsenate.gov/Senators/s25

Facebook : www.facebook.com/pages/JoeNegron

FLORIDA HOUSE

Representative MaryLynn Magar, R-District 82 (Representing parts of Martin and Palm Beach)

214 House Office Bldg., 402 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300 – Phone: 850-717-5082

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Twitter: @MaryLynnMagar

Representative Gayle Harrell, R-District 83 (Representing all of Martin and St. Lucie)

214 House Office Bldg., 402 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300 – Phone: 850-717-5083

District office: 900 S.E. Federal Highway, Stuart, FL 34994-3724 Phone: 772-221-4011

Website: www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/details.aspx?MemberId=4211

Email: gayle.harrell@myfloridahouse.gov

Twitter: @Gayle_Harrell Facebook: www.facebook.com/Grandma-Gayle?fref=ts

Representative Larry Lee Jr., D-District 84 (Representing part of St. Lucie)

1003 The Capitol, 402 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300 – Phone: 850-717-5084

District office: 100 N. U.S. 1, Fort Pierce, FL 34950-4205 Phone: 772-595-1391

Website: www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/details.aspx?MemberId=4576

Email: Larry.Lee@myfloridahouse.gov

(Source:TCPalm – 2/19/17)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Linda Grand

I cannot believe how quickly this year, my final year as your LWVMartin President, has gone. Our upcoming April luncheon will be our annual meeting, and we are fortunate to have leaders in the incorporation movements for Indiantown and Hobe Sound as our speakers. This is sure to be a hot topic in Martin County for months to come.

LWVMartin has again had a record year. Our membership numbers have reached new heights, and our luncheons remain a big success, not only for a discussion of important issues, but also for our members to get to know one another. We have enjoyed speakers who have discussed legislative updates, NOT All Aboard Florida, climate change, natural resources, MartinCounty government, environmental concerns, water policy, and gun safety.

We honored Kherri Anderson from the Martin County Elections Office as our Susan B. Anthony awardee in February. Her acceptance and presentation were moving. Thank you Kherri, for all that you have done for Martin County, and continue to do.

Our education and candidate forums, in conjunction with the NAACP and AAUW, brought our primary mission, to work to educate voters to the forefront, broadcast on MCTV (the Martin County government channel), and YouTube. Our membership in The Rivers Coalition was a focus during the 242 days of State Emergency declared in Martin County. Letters to the editor and op-ed pieces also helped to boost awareness of LWV in Martin County.

LWVMartin board member Jeanette Hartzell and I currently serve respectively on the LWVFlorida Natural Resources Committee, and the LWVFlorida Advisory Task Force on Water Policy. I must also mention the effort and time that LWVMartin's Legislative Chair and Board Secretary Donna Dupuy has devoted to LWV's Open Primary Study and Consensus. Additionally Donna lobbied in Tallahassee, and appeared before the Treasure Coast Legislative Delegation where she was chosen to be interviewed and televised.

In closing I would like to thank my Board members and others for generously giving of their talents to LWVMartin over the past two years. We would not have been able to do half of what we have accomplished without the support of Pat LaSusa, Donna Dupuy, Jeanette Hartzell, Carolyn Wood, Donna Melzer, Betty Paterson, Jane Shubert, Alice Kraus, Sue Yorke, Jennifer Durrant, Ingrid Cohen, and Shirley Laman. And a special nod to my mentor and predecessor, LWVMartin Past President Noreen Fisher.

I know that the League will be in good hands in the years ahead. I am confident that we will continue to change and add programs, all for the best. I am humbled and honored to have been asked to be your president these last two years. Thank you for all you do to keep us vibrant, active, and a voice for our community.

In League,
Linda



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete the information below with your check payable to LWV Martin

Mail to: LWV Martin
POBox 2874
Stuart, FL 34995-2874

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Address _____

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ANNUAL DUES

Table with 2 columns: Membership Type and Amount. Rows include Individual Annual Membership (\$55), Household Membership (\$85), and Student Membership (\$25).

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Gun Safety
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Candidate Forums
Speakers Bureau
Observer Corps
Community Outreach
Phone Tree
Membership/Hospitality
Publicity
Website
Social Media
Other

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