



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARTIN COUNTY
P.O. Box 2874
Stuart, FL 34995-2874
website: www.LWVMartinCounty.org
email: LWVMar@gmail.com

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 18, 2019
Martin County Commissioner
Sarah Heard

November - December 2019
VOTER
President: Betty Paterson
Editor: Jennifer Durrant



The League of Women Voters of Martin County is pleased to have as our guest speaker Martin County Commissioner Sarah Heard. She has served as a Commissioner since 2002 and as Chair of the Board from 2012 to 2014. Her primary concerns are protecting the taxpayers and protecting Martin County's water resources. Her many awards include:

- 2006-Martin County Conservation Alliance Public Service Award for outstanding leadership and for dedication to the protection of the Indian River Lagoon
- 2010-Woman's Club of Stuart Pomeroy Civic Leader Award
- 2011-1000 Friends of Florida Community Steward Award for consistent advocacy for maintaining the integrity of the Martin County Comprehensive Plan
- 2014-Garden Club of Stuart Community Service Award
- 2016-League of Women Voters of Martin County Susan B. Anthony Award for outstanding service to the community

Commissioner Heard is a member of Airport Noise Committee, Children's Services Council, Law Library Committee, Pal Mar Water Control District and Canvassing Board.

RSVP by November 12

Please include your menu choice with your reservation

- Oriental Salad with or without Chicken
- Salmon with Rice and Salad
- Eggplant Parmesan with Pasta and Salad
- Rolls, Dessert and Coffee or Tea are included.
- \$20.00 (\$25.00 if paid at door, but reserved ahead)

Manero's Restaurant
2851 SW High Meadow Ave.
Palm City

Doors open at 11:30 am (serving at 12 noon)

Send check and meal choice to:
Alice Kraus
2784 SW Bear Paw Trail
Palm City, FL 34990
Or phone Alice at 772-223-9010



Libations and Holiday Cheer

December 8, 2019

3-5 p.m.

***At the home of
Alice and Walter Kraus
2784 SW Bear Paw Trail
Palm City***

Phone Alice at 223-9010
to RSVP and receive gate code access

Bring a friend or spouse!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Betty Paterson

Good news. Maybe, for once, we are all "on the same page"!

Our U.S. Rep. Brian Mast has visited Lake Okeechobee and the St. Lucie River and gotten news coverage of our troubled waters and what needs to be done. Best of all, those were not just onetime P.R. events. He sponsored legislation and worked to get government funding for Lake O projects. He worked to get the Army Corps of Engineers to substitute smaller frequent releases from Lake O, rather than the large single releases that caused desalination of our naturally-balanced fresh and salt water content.

Gov. Ron DeSantis visited Lake O and the St. Lucie River along the Riverwalk in Stuart showing his concern and getting news coverage for the problem. Then he put the State's "money where its mouth is" and had State funds allocated for a Lake O runoff reservoir for the purpose of eventually sending excess water south to the Everglades instead of to our river. Recently the State bought out a Sugar Company's lease, a major milestone in making land available for this reservoir.

Senator Marco Rubio joined Congressman Brian Mast in telling the US Army Corps of Engineers to accelerate work on building the reservoir designated to contain excess Lake O water and prevent the need for discharges.

Last year Congress passed and Pres. Donald Trump signed WRDA, the Water Resources Development Act, a list of water projects needed throughout the country. The Everglades Agricultural Area storage reservoir was among them.

Martin County has to solve the problem of what is being leached into the St. Lucie River by agriculture businesses and residential properties. Animal fertilizer runoff and septic tank leaching into the river cause dangerous bacteria. Is the County willing to monitor manure runoff? Is it willing to incentivize or subsidize homeowners to convert septic tanks to Martin County Utility sewer system?

All these projects will take years to accomplish but the problems that were created years ago by building the Hoover Dike and creating Lake O by blocking water flow from the Kissimmee River are finally being addressed and funded!



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