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 19th
The Honorable Sarah Heard
Martin County Commissioner

The League of Women Voters of Martin County is pleased to have District Four, Martin County Commissioner, The Honorable Sarah Heard as our guest speaker. Sarah has been the Commissioner representing Eastern and Lower Central Martin County, including Port Salerno and Tropical Farms, since 2002. She served as the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners from 2012-2014. Commissioner Heard is the recipient of the Commissioner of the Year Award for her stance on managing growth, and the Public Service Award for outstanding leadership and dedication to protect the Indian River Lagoon and Martin County’s Comprehensive Plan. In 2011 she received the Community Steward Award from 1000 Friends of Florida for her consistent advocacy for maintaining the integrity of Martin County comprehensive plan. Sarah has also been awarded the Pomeroy Civic Leader Award from the Woman’s Club of Stuart, Community Service Award from the Garden Club of Stuart, and of course the Susan B. Anthony Award from the League of Women Voters of Martin County. Commissioner Heard was recently reelected and will continue to work tirelessly for the residents of our wonderful county.

RSVP by November 15th
Please include your menu choice with your reservation
Oriental Chicken Salad
Salmon with Rice and Side
Vegetarian Plate
Rolls, Dessert and Coffee or Tea are included.
$18.50 ($20.00 if paid at door, but reserved ahead)

Manero’s
Doors 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
LWVMar@gmail.com
As this is written, a few days before Election Day, the votes are coming in by mail and by early vote, and many of us are holding our breath, or praying -- or both.

In this bitterly partisan, sharply divided political climate, it’s anyone’s guess what the results might be. But two things are for sure: the list of priority issues for League will remain very much the same; and LWV/Martin County will need a new legislative director.

Here are League’s priorities, by subject area:

- Education
- Election Law
- Gun Safety
- Healthcare
- Natural Resources
- Solar-Affordable Energy
- Ethics & Campaign Finance
- Reproductive Health & Justice
- Immigration
- Juvenile Justice

There are multiple items under each of those headings, and as you know, they change from year to year, although the overriding principles remain the same. This especially includes what might be called League’s mission statement: to improve government systems and influence public policies through advocacy and education.

League’s “M.O.” -- its approach to its work -- begins with study, and it is League’s commitment to thoroughly studying every issue it tackles that sets League apart from many other organizations, and has established League’s reputation as a reliable source for objective information in a world where it is increasingly harder to find such sources.

For several years, it has been both my privilege and my pleasure to serve LWV/Martin as the person responsible for tracking and reporting the results of League’s efforts in that wise on a range of issues.

But as such, my own priorities (or passions, if you will) have often had to be set aside or back-burnered. Whether my team wins or loses on 11/6, the next few years are going to be rough, so we will need all hands on deck, and I would like to be unfettered in my advocacy. Largely for that reason, I am vacating my position as legislative director. If you would be interested in undertaking the task of learning about League’s legislative priorities, following their progress through the legislative process, and reporting the results, sign here.

(Actually, see Madrienne.)

I guarantee that you will find that it is meaningful, rewarding, important work.

*Note: The 2019 Legislative Session begins on March 5th. Committee meetings begin in early December, following the Organization Session, which is scheduled for November 20th.*
Is the League too “Palm City Centric”?

Oh no not another vote!

Over the past several years, the League of Women Voters of Martin County has primarily held Hot Topic Luncheons at Manero’s Restaurant in Palm City. Manero’s has been good to us, serving nice sized meals for $18.51 per person and parking is easy. Many of our members are very familiar with the location and very happy to continue with the status quo.

Recently, several of our members suggested that we might be too “Palm City Centric” and requested the League consider having more events at locations throughout Martin County. As examples, the Vino&Votes event in downtown Stuart was very well received. Last season we had two luncheons at Allegro Inspired Senior Living: one in January when Manero’s unexpectedly cancelled us at the last minute due to their construction, and the second one in May. Both were well attended and most people seemed to enjoy themselves, although parking was difficult and the portions were smaller. Another consideration is that Manero’s will no longer offer us the small back room since the are using it as part of the bar now.

The Board of Directors and Officers of the League of Women Voters of Martin County propose we rotate restaurants in the peak of season: October, November, April and May at Manero’s in Palm City; with January, February and March at other restaurants in Martin County. This will be a “slow start” to see if we like the change or if we as a group want to remain primarily at Manero’s. The upside to changing venues is that members from throughout the county will be respected and the food might be pretty good. The downside is that the price may increase.

All interested League members will be given the chance to choose between:

A. Luncheons in October, November, April and May at Manero’s in Palm City with January, February and March at other restaurants in Martin County.

Or

B. Stay at Manero’s for all luncheons.

If approved, the January Hot Topics Luncheon be at Mariner Sands Country Club in Stuart. Lunch will be $25 and there will be three choices, similar to Manero’s.

Ways to Vote:

1. We will have ballots at the November Luncheon
2. You may email madriennelwv@gmail.com or lwvmar@gmail.com
3. You may mail a note to LWVMC PO BOX 2874 Stuart, FL 34995
4. You may include a note or mention it when you RSVP for November’s Luncheon

December’s Holiday Party

Save the Date: Just like last year, I will be hosting a Holiday Party on Sunday, December 9, 2018, 4 pm at my home 2512 SW Racquet Club Drive Palm City FL, 34990. All members and spouses/significant others/guests are invited.
LWV is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization’s current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.