

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.

**January 2017
VOTER**

**Monday, January 16, 2017
Luncheon Speaker
Martin County Commissioner (District 5)
Ed Ciampi**

President: Linda Grand
Editor: Jennifer Durrant



The League of Women Voters of Martin County is honored to welcome our Martin County Commissioner (District 5), Ed Ciampi. This term will be the second time that Ed Ciampi has served as a Martin County Commissioner from District 5. He and his wife Liz have been married for 21 years, and have three children. He resides in Hammock Creek in Palm City.

Ed attended college in Massachusetts and New York. He was certified as a county Commissioner by the Florida Association of Counties. Previously Ed had a professional corporate career that we are all probably familiar with; he worked for Sag Harbor, the \$600 million dollar women's clothing manufacturer in New York City. He ran the \$200 million dollar plus size division, managing the day to day operations and hundreds of employees through the world.

Commissioner Ciampi is extensively involved in our community, and has served on the Hammock Creek Homeowners Association, the executive board of Palm City Elementary School, the Board of Directors of the United Way of Martin County, The board of the Treasure Coast Food Bank, the Palm City Chamber of Commerce, and is active in all Martin County Chambers. He is a lecture/commentator at Holy Redeemer Church in Palm City, and has served on many Treasure Coast planning organizations. He is also a member of the Florida Association of Counties.

LWV Hot Topics

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

RSVP by January 12

Please include your menu choice with your reservation

Oriental Chicken Salad

Salmon with Rice and Side

Vegetarian Sampler

Dessert and beverage included

\$18.00 (\$20.00 if paid at door, but reserved ahead)

Send to

Alice Kraus

2784 SW Bear Paw Trail

Palm City, FL 34990

Phone: 772-223-9010

walt29@comcast.net

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Donna Dupuy

As anyone who's been a member of League for any length of time knows, ours is an organization that takes a position only after studying an issue thoroughly and carefully – sometimes to death. As frustrating as that can be for some people, it actually makes for better decision-making, because it reduces the likelihood of having to backtrack or reverse course, and that's a good thing.

Lobbying the 2017 Florida Legislature will be a lot like tap-dancing in a mine-field because Florida's right-wing conservatives, emboldened by the results of November's election, are on a tear. A number of bills in direct conflict with League's values and positions have already been filed, and there are a lot more to come between now and the beginning of the session in March. For the truly wonkish -- or those who are just interested -- there are several ways you can follow the action. We will discuss those in detail in the next newsletter, but for now, here's a summary of our positions on some of the issues.

GUN SAFETY: We support expanded background checks, closing the "gun show" and internet loopholes and a statewide ban on semi-automatic assault weapons and large capacity magazines. We oppose campus carry, open carry and any expansion of the "stand your ground" law – all of which are included in a bill sponsored by the new chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

NATURAL RESOURCES: We support full funding of the Florida Forever land acquisition program and proper implementation of the Water and Land Legacy Conservation Amendment approved by 75% of the voters in 2014. We oppose fracking. Period. Exclamation point.

EDUCATION: We support efforts to improve oversight of charter schools by increasing transparency in admission and retention data, ensure the independence of charter boards from charter management companies, and reduce self-dealing opportunities in charter services. We also support efforts to eliminate the growth of corporate-tax credit scholarships to private schools and require schools currently receiving them to participate in the state accountability system.

ELECTIONS: We support automatic restoration of voting rights for former felony offenders, including a constitutional amendment to achieve same, We also support legislation to restrict the ability of people to file as write-in candidates or "ghost candidates."

Finally, as you know, LWV/F led the campaign to end the odious practice of gerrymandering by adopting the Fair Districts amendments to the state constitution, which the voters approved overwhelmingly in 2010, as well as the coalition of organizations that engaged in the litigation necessary to enforce those amendments after the Legislature failed to comply with their requirements. We remain committed to Fair Districts, and despite credible reports that an effort will be made to undo our work, we are hopeful that the will of the people will be respected by both the 2017-2018 Legislature and the soon-to-follow Constitution Revision Commission.

For more information than any normal person would want on these and other issues, visit the LWV/F website and click on "Issues."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Linda Grand

Happy 2017!

Thanks to all who attended our holiday party at Vine & Barley. We were treated to many delicious offerings, some laughs and conversation, along with a great start to the season.

Our luncheon speaker this month, Martin County Commissioner Ed Ciampi is well-versed in Martin County issues, and since he is a resident of Palm City, he can also share some insights into District Five.

Due to overwhelming requests, The League of Women Voters of Florida will present the Powerful Leaders Demanding Action Workshops, training and networking program for ALL members.

The Powerful Leaders Demanding Action Workshops include an Elections Debriefing, Media Training, Public Speaking, League Leadership Suggestions, and Networking with State Action Groups on key issues.

The workshops are designed to engage and inspire you, all held at The Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando, January 27-29. Some of the LWVF's brightest minds and most innovative leaders will present at this effort, and all LWV Martin members are invited to attend. (Registration is \$99).

If you have any questions, please call LWVF Executive Director Penny Walker Bos at 850-224-2545. For more details, see the League of Women Voters of Florida website at www.TheFloridaVoter.org

This event will help to make the LWVF and every Local League more powerful and effective leaders, a great goal for 2017.

Please check out the areas of interest list on the next page, and let our board know your thoughts. Please return the list at the next luncheon, email to LWVMar@gmail.com, or mail to LWVMartin, PO Box 2874, Stuart, FL 34995. Also if you can volunteer to serve on our LWV Martin Board of Directors, please let us know. Member participation is vital to our League, and we encourage your consideration.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

Jan 16
Hot Topics

Jan 27-29
LWVF Workshop (Orlando)

Feb 20
Susan B. Anthony Award

Mar 20
National Issues

Apr 17
Annual Meeting

NEW MEMBERS:

Helena Gaviola
1800 SE Saint Lucie Blvd #5-205
Stuart, FL 34996
Home: 772-872-6751
Cell: 954-913-5133

Mary (Molly) Mercker
11000 SE Federal Highway, Lot 79
Hobe Sound, FL 33455
Phone: 772-546-8242
Email: MerckerMolly@yahoo.com

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:

Ida Corrigan
ida.corrigan@outlook.com



MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

ANNUAL DUES

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

Please check your interests:

- Education
Voting Rights/Registration
Health Care
Immigration
Natural Resources
Land & Water
Reproductive Rights
Animal Rights Advocacy
Gun Safety
Legislative Interviews
Legislative Actions
Candidate Forums
Speakers Bureau
Observer Corps
Community Outreach
Phone Tree
Membership/Hospitality
Publicity
Website
Social Media
Other

League of Women Voters of Martin County
P.O. Box 2874
Stuart, FL 34995-2874