

November/December 2016

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.

VOTER

President: Linda Grand
Editor: Jennifer Durrant

**Martin County's Future
Nathaniel Reed
Environmental Activist and Longtime Jupiter Islander
Monday, November 21, 2016**



Our November luncheon featured speaker will be LWV Martin member and supporter, Nathaniel Reed. Longtime Jupiter Islander Nat Reed has served six Florida governors and two presidents in many positions, including terms as chairman of the Florida Department of Air and Water Pollution Control, and Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Beyond his government service, he helped found 1000 Friends of Florida and has served as both president and chairman of the board. He currently or has served on the boards of the, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Geographic Society, Yellowstone National Park, the Everglades Foundation and Hope Rural School. He is a dynamic speaker on a wide range of subjects.

LWV Hot Topics

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

RSVP by November 17

Please include your menu choice with your reservation

Oriental Chicken Salad

Salmon with Rice and Side

Vegetarian Sampler

Dessert and beverage included

Send to

Alice Kraus

2784 SW Bear Paw Trail

Palm City, FL 34990

Phone: 772-223-9010

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

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Donna Dupuy

It was Otto von Bismarck who said, “Laws are like sausages. It's better not to see them being made.” But as League members, we are called to understand the legislative process -- and help others do the same. Fortunately, it's not all that difficult, especially in today's digital world, and the first part is fairly easy to understand.

The legislative process begins with and is ruled by the calendar -- and the first page of the calendar for the 2017 Session of the Florida Legislature is turning NOW. On November 22nd, the House and the Senate will meet in Organization Session. In this very brief (usually one-day) session, members are sworn in, officers are elected, rules are adopted, and the various committees and their chairs are officially appointed.

This issue of The Voter goes to press well before Election Day, but barring unforeseen events of seismic proportion, here's who the leaders of the two houses are virtually certain to be. Joe Negron will be elected President of the Senate. For those who may not know him: Joe represented Martin County in the Florida House from 2000-2006, when he was tapped by the GOP as a last-minute stand-in for Congressman Mark Foley (with Foley's name still on the ballot) following his abrupt resignation. He lost that race, but came back to win his Senate seat in 2009 in a special election necessitated by the retirement of Ken Pruitt and has served in the Senate since then. The Speaker of the House will be Richard Corcoran, a three-term Representative from Land O'Lakes (near Tampa) who ran unopposed for re-election this year, and is not expected to encounter opposition to his ascendance to the Speakership. A trial lawyer with one of Florida's top firms (Broad & Cassel), Corcoran made his political bones running campaigns for others and as a consultant to the state GOP before serving as chief of staff to Marco Rubio when Rubio was Speaker. He was first elected in 2010.

After the Organization Session, legislators will begin filing bills which would create, change or repeal Statutes, and the focus of activity becomes Interim Committee meetings. According to their websites (below), the House and Senate will hold meetings as follows:

Week of 12/5 (House only)
Week of 12/12 (Senate only)
Week of 1/9
Week of 1/23
Week of 2/6
Week of 2/13
Week of 2/20

The Regular Session convenes on Tuesday, March 7th. At that point, the committee meeting schedule changes and the pace of activity picks up, quickening by the week until it reaches a hectic crescendo around the 45-day mark – 15 days before its scheduled adjournment.

In the next issue of The Voter, we will highlight major issues identified by LWV/F for the 2017 Session. If you'd like to learn more about the legislative process in the meantime, you can visit both houses on line. Just go to <http://www.myfloridahouse.gov/> and/or <https://www.flsenate.gov/>



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Linda Grand

The Elections of 2016 are historic events for many reasons. First, this election is the first in 50 years to take place without the full protection of the Voting Rights Act. Second, after 96 years since women got the right to vote, the first woman presidential candidate was nominated by a major political party. Third, Florida races for Congress and State Senate were conducted based on fair districts using maps drawn as part of the League's successful 10-year battle for redistricting.

The League of Women Voters is needed now more than ever to encourage informed and active participation in government, to work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

Please sign up for our Monday, November 21 luncheon and mark your calendar for our holiday get-together on Sunday, December 4. Guests and friends are always welcome. Our November luncheon featured speaker will be our own LWV Martin member, Nathaniel Reed. Longtime Jupiter Islander Nat Reed has served six Florida governors and two presidents in many positions. Beyond his government service, he helped found 1000 Friends of Florida and has served as both president and chairman of the board. He currently or has served on the boards of the, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Geographic Society, Yellowstone National Park, the Everglades Foundation and Hope Rural School.

We received excellent coverage of our October luncheon by Gil Smart in the October 19 edition of Treasure Coast Newspapers. The article appeared in all editions of Martin, St. Lucie, and Indian River Counties.

If you would like to find a way to get involved with League, and/or find it difficult to get to our luncheons, please remember to sign up for our many committees and interest groups: 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.

Thank you for your membership and support. We look forward to your suggestions and comments.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

November 21
Martin County's Future

Dec 4
Holiday Get-Together

Jan 16
Hot Topics

Feb 20
Susan B. Anthony Award

Mar 20
National Issues

Apr 17
Annual Meeting

NEW MEMBERS:

Jean Pawlik
6395 SE Oakmont Place
Stuart 34997
Cell: 203-470-6650
Email: jeanpawlik@gmail.com

Laurie Aguera-Arcas
6020 SE Mariner Sands Drive
Stuart 34997
Cell: 772-530-7049
Email: Laguera9@outlook.com

NEW ADDRESS:

Shirley Baer
1701 SW Capri St #241
Palm City 34990



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

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