



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARTIN COUNTY

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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 21, 2019
Hot Topic Luncheon**

**Speaker: The Honorable Larry Lee, Jr.
Member of the Florida State House of Representatives
2012 - 2018**

**January 2019
VOTER**

**President: Madrienne Crow
Editor: Jennifer Durrant**

We are excited to host the Honorable Larry Lee, Jr. former member of the Florida State House of Representatives, serving District 84 in Saint Lucie County including most of Port Saint Lucie and Fort Pierce.

During his time at the State House, Mr. Lee embraced Insurance and Banking, Protection of Children and Education as a few of his major causes. He served on the Education Committee in 2017 and sponsored legislation which improved child-protective investigations; education for prisoners; the Office of Early learning and school readiness programs, as well as many other topics.

Mr. Lee attended Livingstone College in Salisbury, NC, on a football scholarship. After getting his degree, he went on to a brief stint in the NFL, as a linebacker for the Denver Broncos in 1976.



Mr. Lee's awards and commendations include: Saint Lucie Chamber of Commerce, Presidential Award, 1986; Leadership Florida Distinguished Alumni Award, 2001; Livingstone College, Sports Hall of Fame, 2001; Commemorative Black College Football Classic, Hall of Fame Inductee, 2011.

It will be our pleasure to enjoy Mr. Lee's thoughts on Reverend Martin Luther King's inspirational messages on his birthday holiday.

RSVP by January 17th

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 Restaurant

**2851 SW High Meadows Avenue
Palm City, FL 34990**

Doors open at 11:30 a.m. (serving at 12:00 noon)

Send to
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Report from the Environmental Committee:

The **State League's Water, Land and Wildlife Team** has been establishing their environmental priorities for 2019. We have been telling them emphatically -- that the Martin County Leagues #1 Priority is water and that everything else is far-distant second. We have thus been urging the Florida League to focus their environmental efforts on water-related issues; issues that during the past year have severely impacted both water and wildlife from the Gulf Coast through Lake O to the Indian River Estuary.



Toxic Algae St Lucie River


Meanwhile, we have been in close contact with our counterparts in the St. Lucie County and Palm Beach County Leagues and have all been encouraged by recent political developments. For example, **Rep. Brian Mast** has been strongly criticizing a recent environmentally-unfriendly South Florida Water Management Board decision, indicating that he intends to keep his campaign promises on environmental issues. Also, Governor-elect deSantis appointed Rep. Mast, one of the most environmentally-friendly possible candidates, to head his 40-member environmental transition team.

Finally, some critical environmental issues will be coming up for hearings and votes in both Tallahassee and Washington in 2019, and we will alert you to them via our environmental group e-mail list. Politicians have great respect for the League and its members, so an email, phone call or letter from you at the right time can really make a difference.

-- Bobbie & Walter Deemer

President's Comment: I was also pleased to see the United States House of Representatives pass Congressman Mast's legislation which renamed the **Hobe Sound National Wildlife Refuge** in honor of longtime League member **Nathaniel Reed**. Additional legislation added four acres to the refuge to protect turtles and other endangered species. Both bills were supported in the Senate by Senators Rubio and Nelson.



 Help! We need Somebody: Per our bylaws we will be electing the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President and Secretary at the April Annual meeting. In addition, we will be electing three directors. Many of these are currently vacant positions. Please let the nominating committee know if you are interested: Marilyn Mordes, Chair, Ingrid Cohen, Jane Schubert, Betty Paterson and Carolyn Wood. Thanks in advance for your help.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Madrienne Crow

Happy New Year:

May Your 2019 Be Joy-Filled and Prosperous!

Where did the year go? 2018 was very successful for the League of Women Voters of Martin County. Eve Samples graciously received our annual **Susan B. Anthony Award**; Several of our members participated in the March (and Vote) for Our Lives (Including the wonderful Seniors Supporting Students event); We enjoyed our first May Hot Topics Luncheon (with 50 attendees), our first Board Retreat Planning Meeting, and our first Vino & Votes (with 100 attendees); two of our members attended the League of Women Voters of the United States Convention in Chicago (our little League on the big stage!); and of course, we co-hosted a remarkable Candidates Forum. On a sad note we lost several league members, including the **Honorable Nathaniel Reed**. So Let's get the 2019 off on the right foot!



I am very excited to announce that **Governor Bob Graham** will be our guest speaker for the March Hot Topic's Luncheon, on March 18, 2019. He is an engaging speaker and a longtime friend of the League. Gov. Graham will be presenting a thought-provoking discussion on the meaning of citizenship and civic responsibility. He will also have his books for sale and for autograph. Please invite your friends, and prospective members.

Watch this Space (and email): We will be looking for a bigger venue for March if we get a good turnout for Bob Graham.

I am also excited about our January speaker: **Larry Lee, Jr.**, former three term Representative of St. Lucie County in the Florida State House. Every year our January Hot Topic luncheon falls on the holiday honoring **Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.**, but we don't always recognize it. In this time of national divisiveness and disrespect, I thought it would be nice to hear some of the uplifting and uniting words of Dr. King. As we know from history, the **Women's Suffrage Movement** (which we will still be fighting for until the passage of the ERA) is closely linked to the struggle for equal rights for all people in the United States.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who attended the Holiday party at our home in December. We had a very nice turnout (the largest in several years!) and we all had a lovely time. I especially want to thank everyone who brought food and goodies. Everything was delicious.

In League,

Madrienne



Study the Issues:

- **Be Informed about Decisions that your Community and Your Future**
 - **Study Issues that Directly affect You; Your family; and Your Neighbors**
 - **Voter and Civic Education**
 - **Redistricting and Voter Access**
 - **The Environment and Clean Water**
 - **Local issues such as Brightline Train, Elected School Superintendent**
- **Attend League Events:**
 - **Hot Topics Lunches the 3rd Monday of Each month**
 - **Candidates Forums**
 - **Vino & Votes**
 - **State and National Conventions**

Make a Difference
Volunteer, Donate, Lobby, Assist,
JOIN!!!!

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