
...Annual Meeting...

League of Women Voters of Lee County
Annual Meeting
April 5, 2008
Royal Palm Yacht Club

AGENDA

Call to Order

Welcome

Announcements

- * Planning Meeting for 2008-2009 Board - April 26, 2008 9:30 am-3:00 pm at home of Pat Fish
- * LWV Council of Leaders May 17-18, 2008, Daytona
- * LWWVUS National Convention - June 13-17, 2008, Portland, Oregon

Approval of April 7, 2007 Minutes - Jean Prokopow

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report for Audit 2007-2008 - Anna Callwood

Status of LWV Lee County - Katrina Brewsaugh, Stasia Arcarese

Annual Business Meeting

Bylaws

Election of Board of Directors - Mildred Schindler

Adoption of Program for Study

Adoption of FY 2008-009 Budget - Anna Callwood

Introduction of New Board of Directors

Recognition of Board Members Leaving Office

Member's Concerns/Issues/Direction for the Board

Speaker

Adjournment

...SLATE OF OFFICERS 2008-2009...

Proposed Slate of Officers and Directors

Co-PresidentStasia Arcarese (2007-2009)
Co-President Katrina Brewsbaugh (2007-2009)
Secretary Helen Leddy (2007-2008)
1st Vice-President/MembershipCarol Barclay (2007-2009)

Director (Health Care)Lloyd Fish (2008-2009)
Director (New Study)). Judy Alves (2007-2009)
Director (Program)Sandra Frank (2007-2009)
Director (Natural Resources/Environment)Laura Miller (2007-2009)
Director (Observers/Speakers Bureau) Tamara Hayes (2007-2009)
Director (Social Policy).Lynn Monsen (2007-2009)
(Nominations from the floor for will be accepted)

Nominating Committee Chair Fran Skovlund (2008-2009)
Nominating Committee MembersCarole Broome (2008-2009)
Mildred Schindler (2008-2009)

Appointed Directors (one year, 2008-2009)

Hugh Barclay/Public Relations
Clara Anne Graham/Legislative Action
Charla Sutter/Education
Voter Service/Vacant
International Relations/ Vacant
Fund Raising/Vacant

...Local Program 2008-2009. . .

Education

Support and monitor the implementation of school impact fees as an integral part of the Lee County School District's funding.

Support a free public school system for Lee County:



...Local Program 2008-2009 (Con't)...

- a. That sets high standards for student achievement;
- b. That provides equality of educational opportunity for all;
- c. That recruits and retains faculty and staff of high quality;
- d. That is financed adequately by the state through an equitable funding formula; and
- e. Monitor expenditures in the operating budget.

Social Policy

Support, through education, advocacy and implementation, resources available for children at risk in Lee County.

Promote essential human services delivery to people living in Lee County by supporting programs that enhance the well being of individuals, recognize the special needs of children and families, and provide adequate shelter.

Health

Support funding initiatives deemed appropriate for the Lee Memorial Health System Trauma Center.

Promote the delivery of affordable health care and mental health services within Lee County that provide for the well-being of all with an effort to control costs.

Natural Resources

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Initiate and support local efforts by our cities and county to improve the environmental quality of our county.

Military Recruitment.

Support local high school principals' current policies for additional safeguards for the privacy concerns of local high school students and parents, and the integrity of local high school classrooms by restricting military recruiters from access to classes and lunchrooms.

Seek concurrence from the state on Lee LWV position regarding military recruitment in high schools.

...FY 2007-2008 Budget...

League of Women Voters, Lee County
Year-To-Date Financial Statement (2007-2008)

2/15/2008

| DESCRIPTION REVENUE | 2007-08 PROPOSED BUDGET | 2007-08 ACTUAL | 2007-08 VARIANCE |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| A. Member Dues | | | |
| Regular Membership | 4,800.00 | 3,410.00 | (1,390.00) |
| Household Membership | 1,200.00 | 710.00 | (490.00) |
| Winter Associate Member | 100.00 | 25.00 | (75.00) |
| Student Membership | 25.00 | 0.00 | (25.00) |
| LWF National Membership | 45.00 | 0.00 | (45.00) |
| Total Member Dues | 6,170.00 | 4,145.00 | (2,025.00) |
| B. Contributions | | | |
| Members | 3,000.00 | 150.07 | (2,849.93) |
| Non-Members | 2,000.00 | 22.50 | (1,977.50) |
| LWVFL Education Fund | 100.00 | 50.00 | (50.00) |
| Election Work | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| In-Kind Contribution | 300.00 | 242.50 | (57.50) |
| Fundraisers | 1,000.00 | 66.00 | (934.00) |
| Total Contributions | 6,400.00 | 531.07 | (5,868.93) |
| C. Finances | | | |
| General Meeting Lunches | 4,000.00 | 3,260.00 | (740.00) |
| Total Finances | 4,000.00 | 3,260.00 | (740.00) |
| D. Restricted Funds for | | | |
| Social Policy Committee | 1,100.00 | 1,100.00 | 0.00 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| A. Office | | | |
| Business Expenses | 375.00 | 0.00 | 375.00 |
| Office Supplies | 200.00 | 71.93 | 128.07 |
| Postage & Mailing-LWV General | 150.00 | 0.00 | 150.00 |
| Annual Report | 200.00 | 89.91 | 110.09 |
| Bulk Mail | 650.00 | 150.00 | 500.00 |
| Directory | 75.00 | 0.00 | 75.00 |
| Printing & Copying-LWV General | 50.00 | 0.00 | 50.00 |
| Annual Report | 375.00 | 0.00 | 375.00 |



...FY 2007-2008 Budget (cont)...

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Brochure | 180.00 | 120.22 | 59.78 |
| Directory | 175.00 | 188.00 | (13.00) |
| The VOTER | 1,800.00 | 894.87 | 905.13 |
| Telephone | 630.00 | 381.42 | 248.58 |
| Web Site | 150.00 | 0.00 | 150.00 |
| Total Office | 5,185.00 | 2,056.35 | 3,128.65 |
| B. Delegates | | | |
| State Convention/Council | 300.00 | 555.00 | (255.00) |
| Florida Legislative Session | 700.00 | 0.00 | 700.00 |
| National Convention | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Total Delegates | 1,000.00 | 555.00 | 445.00 |
| C. Per Member Payments | | | |
| LWVUS | 2,900.00 | 2,653.40 | 246.60 |
| LWVFL | 1,400.00 | 654.00 | 746.00 |
| Total Per Member Payments | 4,300.00 | 3,707.40 | 992.60 |
| D. Educational Activities | | | |
| EcoSWFL Newsletter | 25.00 | 0.00 | 25.00 |
| Education Fund | 310.00 | 0.00 | 310.00 |
| Programming | 400.00 | 0.00 | 400.00 |
| Publications | 150.00 | 0.00 | 150.00 |
| Voter Services | 500.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 |
| Total Educational Activities | 1,385.00 | 0.00 | 1,385.00 |
| E. Other Expenses | | | |
| Fundraisers | 500.00 | 0.00 | 500.00 |
| General Meeting Lunches | 4,000.00 | 2930.84 | 1,069.16 |
| Lobby Fund | 200.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 |
| Total Other | 4,700.00 | 2,930.84 | 1,769.16 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 16,570.00 | 8,849.59 | 7,720.41 |

...FY 2008-2009 Budget (Con't)...

League of Women Voters, Lee County
Proposed Budget (2008-2009)

| REVENUE | | EXPENSES | |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| DESCRIPTION | BUDGET | DESCRIPTION | BUDGET |
| Member Dues | | | |
| Regular Membership | 4,500 | The VOTER | 1,200 |
| Household Membership | 1,200 | Telephone | 630 |
| Winter Associate Member | 75 | Web Site | 150 |
| Student Membership | 25 | Total Office | 4,115 |
| LWF National Membership | 45 | | |
| Total Member Dues | 6,170 | | |
| | | B. Delegates | |
| B. Contributions | | State Convention/Council | 300 |
| Members | 2,500 | Florida Legislative Session | 500 |
| Non-Members | 1,500 | National Convention | 300 |
| LWVFL Education Fund | 100 | Total Delegates | 1,100 |
| Election Workers | 0 | | |
| In-Kind Member Cont. | 300 | C. Per Member Payments | |
| Fundraisers | 1,000 | LWVUS | 2,700 |
| Total Contributions | 5,400 | LWVFL | 1,400 |
| | | Total Per Member Payment | 4,100 |
| C. Finances | | | |
| General Meeting Lunches | 3,500 | D. Educational Activities | |
| Total Finances | 3,500 | EcoSWFL | 25 |
| | | Education Fund | 245 |
| TOTAL REVENUE | 14,670 | Programming | 300 |
| | | Publications | 150 |
| | | Voter Services | 435 |
| | | Total Educational Activities | 1,155 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| A. Office | | E. Other Expenses | |
| Business Expenses | 200 | Fundraisers | 500 |
| Office Supplies | 150 | General Meeting Lunches | 3,500 |
| Postage & Mailing | 100 | Lobby Fund | 200 |
| Annual Report | 200 | Total Other | 4,200 |
| Bulk Mail | 450 | | |
| Directory | 75 | TOTAL EXPENSES | 14,670 |
| Post Office Permit | 175 | | |
| Printing & Copying | 50 | | |
| Annual Report | 375 | | |
| Brochure | 160 | | |
| Directory | 200 | | |



...2007 Annual Meeting Minutes...

Royal Palm Yacht Club - April 7, 2007

Call to Order

The meeting of the League of Women Voters of Lee County was called to order at 1 pm by co-president Carol Fuechsel.

Announcements

*Planning Meeting for 2007-08 Board will be held on April 21, 2007 from 9:30-3 at the home of Pat Fish.

*LWVFL 31st Biennial Convention May 18-20, 2007 in Tampa.

Approval of Meeting Minutes, April 1, 2006 - Stasia Arcarese

The minutes of April 1, 2006 Annual Meeting, as published in the 2006-2007 Annual Report pp 7 - 11, were accepted as written.

Approval of Treasurer's Report - Anna Callwood

The Year to Date Financial Statement (2006-2007), as printed in the 2006-2007 Annual Report p.4, was accepted and put on file.

Status of LWV-Lee County- Carol Fuechsel summarized the accomplishments of the League during the last year.

Special Member Recognition: Pat Fish was recognized for her contributions for publishing the Voter and was presented with a plaque.

Annual Meeting Business

1. Bylaws - Carol Fuechsel

The proposed by-law changes that addressed "co-presidents" and the Purpose of the League were accepted as printed in the 2006-2007 Annual Report on p. 23.

2. Election of Officers - Carol Barclay

Officers and Board (2007-2009)

Co-President

Stasia Arcarese

Co-President

Katrina Brewsbaugh

Secretary

Jean Prokopow

1st Vice-President/Membership

Carol Barclay

Director (New Study)

Judy Alves

Director (Program)

Sandra Frank

Director (Natural Resources/Environment)

Laura Miller

Director (Observers/Speaker's Bureau)

Tamara Hayes

Director (Social Policy)

Lynn Monsen

Minutes (Continued on p. 8)



...2007 Annual Meeting Minutes...
Royal Palm Yacht Club - April 7, 2007

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Nominating Committee Chair | Mildred Schindler (2007-08) |
| Nominating Committee Members | Lloyd Fish |
| | Fran Skovlund |
| | Carol Fuechsel |

There being no nominations from the floor, Nat Wisser moved, Charla Sutter seconded a motion to approve the slate. Approved.

Adoption of Program for Study - Fran Skovlund

Education: Harri Wisser moved, Elaine Grosse seconded a motion to approve the Education Policy program. Approved.

-Supports and monitors the implementation of school impact fees as an integral part of the Lee County School District's funding for construction of required buildings.

-Supports a free public school system for Lee County:

- a. that sets high standards for student achievement.
- b. provides equality of educational opportunity for all,
- c. that recruits and retains faculty and staff at high quality, and
- d. that is financed adequately by the state through an equitable funding formula,
- e. monitoring expenditures in the operating budget.

Social Policy: Nat Wisser moved, Lucy Wistreich seconded a motion to approve the Social Policy program.

Supports through education and advocacy and implementation, resources available for children at risk in Lee County. Promote essential human services delivery to people living in Lee County by supporting programs that enhance the well-being of individuals, recognize the special needs of children and families, and provide adequate shelter.

Health Care:

Hugh Barclay moved, Phyllis Brewer seconded a motion to approve the Health Care Policy program. Approved.

Supports funding initiatives deemed appropriate for the Lee Memorial Health System Trauma Center. Promote the delivery of affordable health care and mental health services within Lee County that provide for the well-being of all with an effort to control costs.

Natural Resources: Lucy Wistreich moved, Hugh Barclay seconded a motion to approve the Natural Resources/Environment Policy program. Approved.

...2007 Annual Meeting Minutes (con't)... Royal Palm Yacht Club - April 7, 2007

Promotes an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Recommended New Study: Phyllis Stanley moved, Charla Sutter seconded a motion to approve a study list of concerns about military recruiters recruiting on school/campus during school hours.

Scope: 1. Whether military recruiters interfere with students' and parents' rights to privacy.

2. Whether military recruiters interfere with the educational process.

3. Whether military recruiters supersede or ignore parents' rights.

4. Whether military recruiters intimidate or coerce or deceive vulnerable students.

The study was approved after Judy Alves gave background information regarding the reasons for the study.

Adopt FY 2007-2008 budget - Anna Callwood

The new budget format was explained which put Board expenses under categories rather than under board expenditures. Lloyd Fish pointed out that in the Annual Report 2006-2007 on p.4 in the 2006-2007 budget, the (variance) donates a negative connotation and was used incorrectly. Anna Callwood will amend this to be correct.

Paul Schafer moved, Charla Sutter seconded a motion to accept the Proposed 2007-2008 Budget. Approved.

Recognition of Board Members Leaving Office: Fran Skovlund presented the outgoing board members with roses.

Gifts of League logo sun catchers were presented to Carol Fuechsel and Fran Skovlund for their contributions to the League by Stasia Arcarese and Katrina Brewsbaugh, incoming co-presidents.

Speaker: Carol Fuechsel introduced Bob Janes, Lee County Commissioner, who spoke about "Issues Before the Commission." He said that water is the number one economic issue facing Lee County. "Water is our economic engine." He quoted Mark Twain who said that "no one's property is safe while the legislature is in session." He gave a summary of several bills. County Pre-exemption H 791/S2080). He said Lee County is one of 19 Florida counties that are charter counties. Lee has 5 municipalities within its boundaries. Voters have the ability to work with regional governances. Charter counties have two powers: pre-exempt ordinances of conflicting municipal ordinances (speed limits and fertilizer use are examples); avoid legislative intervention to over-ride local laws. The bill would divests counties of municipal powers which would disrupt planning done by municipalities (roads for example).HB7121- If this bill passes, local government will be unable to regulate limestone mines for local concerns such as the hours of operation, noise, traffic and dust.

Minutes (Continued on p. 10)

...2007 Annual Meeting Minutes (con't)...
Royal Palm Yacht Club - April 7, 2007

HB 957 - Wetlands Permitting. If passed, smaller wetlands will go entirely unregulated. Local governments are the only regulators of small wetlands up to $\frac{1}{2}$ acre. State and federal policies require no net loss of wetlands. However, every year Florida loses more and more of its wetlands, and this bill will only speed up that process. Local governments will be put in violation of their comprehensive plans.

HB 291 - Mental Health Parity. Forty-six states already have some type of mental health parity. They are working on grants to decide how to do this and then plan to get grants to carry out the plan to expand services. This would also reduce recidivism. Currently 66% go back to jail within a year.

SB 144/HB 367 - Affordable Housing. This bill would remove the cap (currently at \$243 million/yr) on the amount of monies distributed into the state and local housing trust fund. Without the cap it could rise to \$450-650 million/yr.

Other issues:

- *Property tax bills and sales tax are always changing. He hopes that the legislature will take another year to study this issue. The homestead/non-homestead classification has created economic disparities in the state.
- *He said that Lee County has seen a growth of 230,000/year. You can limit expenditures only if services can't be reduced and a hardship is not created. He would like to keep the budgets within a 10% increase.
- *He has supported \$2 million for the detox center (40 beds) facility. 150/month are turned away from detox beds because of a lack of facilities. The cost to keep them one day in jail is \$100 vs \$30/day in a treatment facility. He would also like to keep people with a 1st time arrest out of the justice system and referred to a detox facility instead. The jail was built to house 1600 inmates. There are currently 2001 in jail of which 10-20% shouldn't be in jail because of mental health problems.
- *He supports research for the algae.
- *Areas are being identified for mixed use development which is a part of smart growth.
- *He is hoping to have a homeless 10 year plan to end homelessness. The Human Services Council would help providers in an advisory role.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Stasia Arcarese
Secretary



...Annual Reports 2007-2008...

PROGRAM Sandy Frank

During 2007-8, LWV of Lee County monthly luncheon meetings were held at the Royal Palm Yacht Club. Topics and speakers supported our program issues and were arranged by board members according to the plan developed at our April 2007 Planning Retreat. The new start time of 10:30 am allows for greater discussion during lunch.

October 6, 2008. Judy Alves and Nancy Howell presented the findings of the LWV Lee study on military recruiting in high schools. Members reached consensus on three issues; board agreed at the October board meeting:

- 1) Prohibit military recruiting in and around lunchroom areas and restrict military recruiters to career counselor's offices.
- 2) Support additional safeguards for the privacy concerns of students and parents by requiring counselors to verify parental permission prior to making appointments for students and recruiters.
- 3) Support the integrity of high school classrooms by restricting military recruiters access to all classes, including physical education, music, and all other academic subjects, excepting JROTC.

November 3, 2007. Dorrit Marks, a member of the LWVUS Immigration Study Committee discussed US Immigration Issues. On November 17, 2007 Carol Barclay led the discussion and development of LWV Lee County members' consensus on the issues; the Board agreed at the January Board meeting and response was submitted to LWVUS.

December 1, 2008. Jim Nathan, President of the Lee Memorial Health System, discussed Health Care challenges facing Lee County and the US.

On December 9, 2007, Carole and Jerry Broome hosted our Annual Holiday party at their home. Their gracious hospitality allowed us to socialize and discuss issues in a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere.

January 5, 2008. Karen Hawes, Director of Lee County Human Services discussed Lee County's 10-year plan to deal with chronic homelessness.

Jan 12, 2008. Elected officials and LWV members exchanged ideas on a number of critical issues including school and infrastructure funding and city leadership at the annual LWV Meet and Greet. Fran Skovlund and Jean Prokopow organized the event that was held at Thomas Edison Congregational Church.

PROGRAM (Continued on p. 12)

...Annual Reports 2007-2008 (con't)...

PROGRAM (Continued from p. 11)

February 2, 2008. LWV Lee members reviewed, discussed and voted on LWVUS Public Policy Positions and LWV Lee local program for 2007-8 and 2008-9. Katrina Brewsaugh, Co-President presented Tools for Change: Do's and Don'ts of Advocacy.

March 1, 2008. Candace Morin, Director of Mental Health, Lee County Jail is scheduled to speak about "High Risk Kids, Where They Come From, Where They Are Going and Can We Prevent This?"

April 5, 2008. Clara Anne Graham will discuss "Work of the LWVF Climate Change Committee" followed by the Annual Meeting and election of officers.

May 3, 2008. Speaker will discuss the Environment.

HEALTH CARE **Phyllis Brewer**

The primary role of the LWV-Lee County Director for Health is to keep our members informed about health care issues at the local, state and national levels. The LWVUS has adopted Health care Reform as one of their advocacy priorities, so advocacy efforts on our part are in keeping with the national position.

This past year I have attended the monthly meetings of the Lee County Human Services Council. I sit on the council as your representative and feel that this relationship with the community is an important one for the league. Based on information I have obtained at these meetings I have written a number of articles for the Voter to inform you of the serious health care needs here in Lee County. Due to the worsening economy, rising unemployment rate and increasing home foreclosures, these issues will remain of the utmost importance to us in the near future.

Core Health Issues in the Lee County Community are:

1. Behavioral Health Triage Center
2. Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness
3. Lee Memorial Health System Trauma Center
4. High level of uninsured in Lee County and negative health consequences.



...Annual Reports 2007-2008 (con't)...

The Director of Lee County Human Services, Karen Hawes, spoke at our January general meeting about local needs. The need for a Behavioral Health Triage Center to deal with individuals with mental health or substance abuse crisis issues is still there. Recently, they have received a \$1 million grant from the Dept. Of Children & Families, which is about a third of what they need but it will go a long way to making this a reality. This is a joint effort by law enforcement, SW Florida Addiction Services, Lee Mental Health, The Salvation Army and the Board of County Commissioners.

The second issue is Homelessness. There are over 650 school age children who are homeless and more than 52% of Lee County children live in low income households. The County recently became the 400th community in the US to institute a "10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness" and this issue was also a topic of Karen Hawes' talk as well as an article I wrote for the Voter. I have encouraged our League members to voice support for these efforts.

The third issue is the Lee Memorial Health System Trauma Center. Carol Barclay serves on the Trauma Center Board and has been asked to serve another year. The Trauma Center continues to serve

the public in Lee County but remains chronically underfunded and struggling. The Director of Lee Memorial Health Systems, Jim Nathan, spoke about the health care situation in Lee County at our December general meeting.

The problem with the health insurance crisis is much wider than Lee County with 16% (or 47million) uninsured in the US and 25% (or 137,040) uninsured in Lee County. This is a prominent issue in the current Presidential campaign and I have tried to keep our membership informed of the candidate positions on health care as the election year progresses.

In the December VOTER I provided a list of the web sites for all Presidential candidates. At that time there were 16 candidates. In the January VOTER I tried to summarize the 6 front runners' plans and again referred readers to their individual web sites. I will continue to do what I can to keep our membership informed of developments in this arena.

Legislation at the state and federal levels is another area members need to be aware of and I know Congressman Pete Stark introduced the "The AmeriCare Health Care Act" (HR5886) in March of 2007, but do not know the status. There are at least 18 states that have introduced health care legislation but no coordinated national effort has emerged. While our legislators and Presidential candidates struggle with national health care solutions, I encourage us to remain informed about the issues and also to continue to focus on the local core health and social issues that challenge us in Lee County.

NATURAL RESOURCES/ENVIRONMENT

Laura Miller

This year the Florida State Board made Climate Change one of its legislative priorities. The Board also decided to establish a Climate Change Committee which would have as one of its goals making the people of Florida aware of how vulnerable our state, with its very long coastline, is if global warming continues to raise the level of our oceans. The statewide committee is chaired by one of our members, Clara Anne Graham, who also serves as state treasurer. I was also appointed to the committee, and much of my time this year has been devoted to the work of that group.

One of my duties is writing first drafts of letters and press releases. The committee's current project is convincing mayors of cities and municipalities to sign on to the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. We have enlisted the help of local Leagues, and I wrote the sample letters which we are encouraging local presidents and natural resources representatives to use in approaching mayors in their area.

We also continue to monitor Lee County environmental conditions, such as the current controversy over whether drainage culverts should be installed as I75 is being widened in the area of the Agripartners property. Another area of concern has to do with rules for the application of fertilizers at the county and state levels; we recently signed on with the Sierra Club in their efforts to convince county officials to limit the amount of nitrogen and other nutrients in fertilizers used in areas which drain into waterways.

I continue to attend meetings which concern the environment. I am the representative of the League of Women Voters of Lee County on the Agency for Bay Management. Clara Anne Graham and I have attended a number of meetings in recent months. A few weeks ago we attended a session of the environmental teach-in at FGCU, at which local elected officials made presentations and answered questions. Last week we met with the president and executive editor of the Florida Wildlife Federation.

Right now there is so much public concern over climate change and global warming that it is difficult to keep up with the wealth of information available.

SOCIAL POLICY

Lynn Monsen

Candace Morin, Director of Mental Health, Lee County Jail, spoke on "Kids at Risk" at the LWV general meeting April 5, 2008 at the Royal Palm Yacht Club.

...Annual Reports 2007-2008 (con't)...

FINANCE DRIVE **Carol Fuechsel**

An ad hoc group was responsible for the membership/donor drive scheduled in 2007 as a Fund Raising Chair had not yet been appointed. Although there were no contributions donors during this drive, members were generous in their donations and the League received close to #2,000.

In the spring of 2007, Carol Fuechsel agreed to be responsible for fund raising for the 2007/2008 year. Throughout the summer, spring and fall, a variety of contributions were received from members, amounting to \$173 as well as from two donors: Publix, \$50 and Harrison Auction, \$60 for a Voter ad. The LWV store made available a number of items for purchase by members, including pens, calendars, pins, mouse pads, water bottles and window stickers. During the late fall, sales yielded \$66.00.

Another fund raising drive is scheduled for March 1, 2008.

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT/LEAGUE PUBLICATIONS **Patricia Fish**

The editor of the VOTER, newsletter of League of Women Voters of Lee County, published nine issues of ten pages each. There were regular monthly issues from April, 2007 to March, 2008, and one summer issue. Each issue gives information about the date, time and place for the monthly meeting, the speaker and his/her topic, as well as a reports on the previous meeting. Each issue also contains dates and times of

Committee meetings and the book club. The summer issue contains a short biography of each the current board members. In order to save costs to the LWV and the environment, the VOTER is being sent by email to all members having a computer.

In addition, the editor is responsible for having printed 1000 brochures "We Care About Good Government" for distribution to the Fort Myers libraries.

The editor is also responsible for preparing a yearly directory which is printed and mailed to each member.

And last, but not least, the editor has the duty of preparing the Annual Report, having it printed and mailed to each member one month prior to the annual meeting in April

...Annual Reports 2007-2008 (con't)...

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT/MEMBERSHIP

Carol Barclay

This year membership has suffered somewhat of a loss. We have had several people join over the last few months. We currently have 93 local members, 1 lifetime and 2 winter associates and 7 National members equal 101 members. This is a time that we need to talk with our friends and talk to those we meet during this election year. The League is an excellent place to learn about the issues and where we can join together to address on going problems such as immigration and military recruitment in our schools. (The first being a national issue and the second an issue we have chosen to address on the local level.)

Please help me by seeing yourselves as members of our Membership Committee and reach out into the community to give more people the opportunity to become local League members. Remember - League isn't just for women any more.

If you would like to take an active part on our membership committee, please give me a call. (239-947-1127) We have worked hard and even been awarded for our outstanding membership numbers. Lets keep up the good work.

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

Clara Anne Graham

June 18, 2007

To enlighten yourselves on the background and League positions, *go to www.lwv.org and review [Impact on Issues](#) and go to www.lwvfla.org and review [Study and Action](#).*

League of Women Voters of the United States - June 11th to June 14th, 2007

- The League this week urged House Appropriations Committee Dave Obey (D WI) to fully fund the *Help America Vote Act* and make meaningful election reform a reality.
- The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs this week reported out the *DC Voting Rights Act* with a favorable bipartisan vote of 9 to 1. The next step will be the Senate floor. **Please contact your US Senators and urge their support for the DC Voting Rights Act.** Tell them that the democracy Americans have fought for around the globe must be brought to our nation's capital.
- The League has signed on as a partner in the **June 26 Day of Action to Restore Law and Justice**. All League members who are interested in participating should go to www.juneaction.org and sign up. Also, sign up for free bus transportation to and from Washington, DC. Florida: Orlando -



...Annual Reports 2007-2008 (con't)...

Departs Mon. 6/25 6:00am, exact location to be determined.

League of Women Voters of Florida - 2007 Session and Special Session

LWVF Action Special Session

Taxation Bills

Bill Summary: HB1/SB2 Large substantive bills that roll back property taxes and place caps on tax increases by local governments and special districts

HJR3/SJR4 Constitutional amendment to create tax exemption for tangible personal property and revise other constitutionally protected tax issues

HB5/SB6 Creates a special election on Jan 29, 2008 for consideration of the constitutional amendment created above

The League opposed all of these bills because they:

- Recklessly disregard their impact on local governments and the infrastructure and services they provide
- Fail to take into account the tremendous diversity of Florida's cities and counties in terms of needs and resources
- Hamper the ability of local governments to raise local revenue to meet local needs
- Are not based on principles of equity, adequacy and reasonableness

These talking points were hand delivered to all legislators. Op-Ed was written by LWVF and emailed to Local League Presidents. Several Editorials were published. Disappointed - Bills passed

LWVF Action 2007 Session

LWVF Lobbyist's Session Overview

- B-/C+ Rating for League's priorities - Our efforts did not go unnoticed as we were frequently mentioned by Legislators on the record and in the public media, why they acted one way or another on legislation dealing with our priority issues. *(Please read the details in the LWV of Florida Capital Report (May 16, 2007) - online at www.lwvfla.org)*
- Activated the League of Women Voters of Tallahassee Lobby Corp

Legislation Overview:

Government in Florida - Florida Constitution

- Disappointed - Constitutional amendment for new redistricting standards, redistricting commis-

...Annual Reports 2007-2008 (con't)...

sion, etc. - died in Senate Committee on Ethics and Elections.

- League will be working to get petitions signed to place redistricting constitutional amendment on the 2010 ballot

Initiative Petition Requirements - SB900/HB7009 (Petition revocation process)

- Disappointed - veto being sought (Editorials around the State, both newspaper Editors and Local League Presidents, have been published encouraging the Governor to Veto SB900)

Initiative Petition Requirements - Private Property Rights: Ballot Initiatives

- Disappointed - veto being sought for SB1920 (Letter written to the Governor by LWVF President) Authorizes private property owners & others to prohibit or regulate activity on their property which opposes or supports ballot initiatives

Fiscal Policy - Financial Impact Statements

- Disappointed in failure to pass out of committee
- Would have proposed constitutional amendment to publicly provide probable financial impact on any proposed constitutional amendment/revision - not just those proposed by initiative

Fiscal Policy - Homestead Exemption/Increase

- All proposed legislation died in committee - Disappointed - This legislation was included in the Property Tax Reform legislation Special Session.

Fiscal Policy - Ad Valorem Taxation

- Disappointed - This legislation was included in the Property Tax Reform Special Session.

GOVERNMENT IN FLORIDA - ELECTION LAW

League is pleased and disappointed with:

- Voter-Verifiable paper ballot - HB537 (Bill was signed by the Governor in Palm Beach County where the League was represented by local league members at the signing.) Last minute legislation that the League opposes was attached to HB537. We, along with other groups, are calling for the Governor to appoint a Blue Ribbon Committee to review the last minute attached legislation to HB537.

League unhappy with:

- Voter Identification Provisions - bill removes all but basically a passport, driver's license and

...Annual Reports 2007-2008 (con't)...

military ID (employee badge ID and buyer's club ID no longer acceptable)

- Third-party voter registration provisions - fines for late delivery reduced and capped at total \$1000 and includes political parties (vs last year's bill, which LWVF is challenging in the court)
- Limits to the petition process (signatures verified within 30 days of receipt; revocable within 150 days of signing)
- Failure to pass out of committees HB391/SB2560 - would have enabled Supervisor of Elections to designate additional early voting sites
- Failure to pass out of committee HB581/SB302 - would have required district school boards & county supervisors of elections to cooperate to provide program of voter education for high school seniors
- Moved Presidential primary to last Tuesday in January

Felony Rights Restoration

- Please that some progress was made via action of the Executive Clemency Board.
- At LWVF Convention, delegates directed the LWVF Board to write the Executive Clemency Board and encourage further action.
- Disappointed that legislation attempts to restore former felons' rights failed.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

The League is disappointed that none of the campaign finance laws its lobbyist followed passed out of Committee. No campaign finance legislation passed this session.

- Campaign Financing/Local Government - prohibits local government from spending public funds to lobby an issue that will be subject to vote of electors; or for political advertisement
- Campaign Contributions - prohibits elected officials & some candidates from soliciting or accepting contributions from tax exempt organizations
- Florida Clean Elections Act - provides eligibility requirements for clean-money campaign funding; disclosure of excess spending by nonparticipating candidates
- Political Advertisements - requires targeted political ads or electioneering communications be submitted to Elections Division; creates Florida Campaign Sunshine Website

...Annual Reports 2007-2008 (con't)...

SOCIAL POLICY

- Disappointed - The ERA legislation Died in Committee

NATURAL RESOURCES IN FLORIDA - GROWTH MANAGEMENT/WATER RESOURCES

- Legislation died in Committee or in Messages or Enrolled - We lobbied against HB957 (Sponsored by Rep. Trudi Williams)

EDUCATION - CIVIC EDUCATION

- Legislation died in Committee

PUBLIC RELATIONS/PUBLICITY

Hugh Barclay

Our League of Women Voters Lee County public relations goals are to increase the awareness and visibility of the League, support current positions and programs, encourage voter turnout, and help inform voters on issues and candidates. Our Voter Guide and candidate meetings are our most visible and effective PR vehicles each year. With a limited budget, we rely on news releases to a large number of publications for meeting coverage. The News-Press is the most effective medium for reaching the broad Lee County audience. The News-Press prints and distributes the Voter Guide and publishes our meeting notices. We have had some success with letters to the Opinion Page as well as member letters to the Mail Bag. While our co-presidents are the only individuals identified as LWV representatives in releases to the press, we encourage members to support LWV positions through letters to the News-Press Opinion Page and local publications. Another effective LWV awareness tool is our presence as League members at meetings of boards, councils and social action committees.

MEETING REMINDER CREW

Patricia Fish

A database of all the LWVLC members is maintained by the editor of the VOTER. Approximately ten days before a monthly meeting, the Meet & Greet, the holiday party, or any other special event, an email message is sent requesting response for reservations. Those members having no email address are telephoned for their reservations. The number of reservations for each event is telephoned to the appropriate caterer.

...Annual Reports 2007-2008 (con't)...

LEAGUE TELEPHONE Board of Directors

For the past year, answering the League's telephone number, (239) 278-2032, has been rotated through the Board of Directors. Each member volunteers for one month of on-call. The schedule is developed around personal schedules, and board members make their own arrangements for coverage when their on-call schedule conflicts with personal needs. To date this system has worked well. The test of the system came during the 2006 election year.

In January, 2007 the League obtained an e-mail address: lwvlee@yahoo.com. The address is posted on the web site and on the cover of each VOTER.

WEBMASTER Lloyd Fish

The web site, www.lwvlee.org, has been updated each month. Every issue of the VOTER, April through the summer newsletter, has been published to the website. Every month announcements of coming events, such as the monthly meeting, the planning meeting, the annual meeting and the 'Meet & Greet' have been posted on the web site approximately three weeks before each event. As the members of the board change, the web site is updated, also.

The expense of the web site has been contributed to the League by Patricia & Lloyd Fish.

VOTER SERVICE Connie Hill

Bonita Bay Mayoral Debate- January 2008.

Voter Guide- Still in talks with Sharon Harrington.

Florida Gulf Coast University- Currently, Voter Services is working to arrange for LWV to speak with various political and social clubs at FGCU to inform them of their local politics, and encourage continued interest in the political arena. The goal of this project is to inspire this country's future leaders to get involved in their community, state and nation now, and maintain that interest going into the future.

...Annual Reports 2007-2008 (con't)...

SPEAKERS BUREAU

The League received several calls for speakers and the League responded.

- January 15, 2008—Laura Miller and Lloyd Fish appeared before the Palms of Edisonia Chapter of the American Business Woman's Association to present information on Amendment 1, the Property Tax Amendment.

OBSERVER CORPS

Katrina Brewsaugh attended the Cape Coral City Council February 4, 2008. The report of the meeting appears in the April, 2008 issue of the VOTER.



With Gratitude

The 2007 Fund Drive is underway. Our goal this year is \$6,500. We are grateful to our members, members of the community and businesses that have contributed To date. For the period April 1, 2007 - February 23, 2008 we say thank you to:

MEMBERS

(include donations made to LWV Education Fund)/

Stasia Arcarese
Nancy Beecher
Patricia Beausoleil
Karen Bickford
Phyllis Brewer
Carole Broome
Robert & Bonnie Burn
Anna Callwood
A Campbell
Agnes Dobronski Cichocki
Lloyd & Patricia Fish
Nancy Fisk
Frank & Vera Foulke
Carol Fuechsel
Reo Gaissert
Clara Anne Graham
Patricia Howell
Robert & Lynda Janes
I T Jones
Carolyn Koestenblatt
Laura Miller

Helen Moe
Lynn Monson
Joan & Norman Newman
Joanne Orr
Anne Parton
William & Jean Prokopow
Lois Rankin
Mildred Schindler
Fran Skovlund
Cecelia Sweet
Barbara Winne

Hugo & Lucy Wistreich
Charlotte Zerof
Cynthia Zimmer

SUPPORTEERS

Karen & Jim Nathan

OTHER

LWV Auction)
Harrison Auction
LWV Store



NOTES
