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## ...Presidents' Message 2011-2012...

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President's Annual Report to the Membership  
April 1, 2011-March 31, 2012  
Clara Anne Graham, President

### My Gratitude to the 2011-2012 Board

- Stasia Arcarese, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Community Liaison
- Patricia Fish, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Voter Editor, Membership Directory, Annual Report
- Anna Callwood, Treasurer
- Lloyd Fish, Secretary
- Judy Alves, Social Policy Director (ELLP)
- Cheryl Byrd, Representative Government/Redistricting Director
- Sandra Frank, Program Director, Public Relations, Meet and Greet, Annual Meeting Email
- Mildred Schindler, Health Director
- Sarah Larsen, Webmaster, Facebook
- Sharon Kapp, Education Director (ELLP)
- Laura Miller, Natural Resources/ Environment Director

### And To

- Nominating Committee: Louis Eason, Chair, Carole Broome, Fran Skovlund

### Voter Service Activities

- Participating in the Be Ready to Vote.org
- Carol and Hugh Barclay, Jean Prokopow, Pat and Lloyd Fish, and Clara Anne Graham worked the District 4 Informed Voters and League of Women Voters of Lee County Sponsored District 4 City of Bonita Springs Candidates Forum.
- 17 Members Counted the Bonita Springs Utilities Election Ballots (Sandy Frank, Ann Parton, Laura Miller, Jo Bogdan, Sharon Kapp, Harri Wisser, Louis Eason, Lloyd Fish, Carol Fuechsel, Carole Broome, Mildred Schindler, Nat Wisser, Pat Fish, Cheryl Byrd, Dick Hoffman, Jean Hoffman, and Clara Anne Graham)

### Letters To The Editors

- Clara Anne Graham addressing Discrimination against Women: 5 major newspapers
- Clara Anne Graham addressing National Clean Air Act Legislation 5 major newspapers
- Clara Anne Graham addressing the State of Florida Redistricting Process 5 major newspapers
- Laura Miller and Clara Anne Graham addressing the proposed State of Florida fertilizer legislation. 5 major newspapers Also sent and emailed to State of Florida Legislators.

### League of Women Voters of Lee County Represented

- Anna Callwood, Clara Anne Graham, LWVF 2011 Legislative Seminar (Lobbied 5 Representatives and 3 Senators)
- Anna Callwood, Clara Anne Graham, LWVF 2011 Convention (Held Caucus on Nuclear Power as an alternative energy source)

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## ...Presidents' Message 2011-2012 (con't)...

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- Clara Anne Graham, State of Florida 3 day Energy Summit in Orlando
- Pat and Lloyd Fish, Fourteenth Annual Environmental Breakfast
- Judy Alves, Sandy Frank, Martin Luther King Jr. Day Event
- 12 Members attended The Landing's MLK Jr. Dinner Chairs Louis Eason and Sandy Frank
- Anna Callwood, LWVF 2012 Legislative Seminar (Lobbied 5 Representatives and 3 Senators)
- Mildred Schindler. Attended Planned Parenthood fundraiser. Hispanic Civic Engagement Seminar; passed out pamphlet "How to Contact Your Legislator"
- Mildred Schindler.

### Legislative and Action Issues Activities

- 
- Laura Miller, Pat Fish, Lloyd Fish, Clara Anne Graham, Cheryl Byrd gave Presentations before the State of Florida Redistricting Committee Public Hearing in Lehigh Acres August 31, 2011
- Judy Alves, Sandy Frank, Pat Fish, Lloyd Fish, Clara Anne Graham attended the First Amendment Foundation all day seminar. (LWV Lee County supplied coffee and rolls)
- Laura Miller, Sarah Larson, and Clara Anne (part of the conference) attended the Daylong League of Women Voters of Lee County sponsored "Conservation Lands' Economic Value Conference" at FGCU.
- Clara Anne Graham participated in the Statewide Renewable Energy Webnair
- Laura Miller participated in the Everglades Water Supply Summit Webnair
- Clara Anne Graham lobbied State of Florida and United States Legislators - Redistricting, Election Laws, Renewable Energy, Environmental Issues

### League of Women Voters of Lee County Members Appointed to Boards and Task Forces

- Laura Miller, Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management
- Carol Barclay, Regional Advisory Committee on Trauma Services (Lee, Collier, Henry, Glades and Charlotte)
- Mildred Schindler, Lee County Human Services Council
- Judy Alves, Dunbar Core Group
- Clara Anne Graham, LWVUS 11 member Climate Change Task Force

### Other

- Held 8 Hot Topic General Meetings LWV position that relates to the speaker's topic was read to enlighten the membership
- Participated in the LWVUS Core Value Standards National Education Study
- Comment on LWVUS Leader Update site addressing paid advertising attacking Massachusetts' and Missouri's Senators:
- "Early Language and Literacy Project (ELLP)" received a \$2,500 award from the Southwest Community Foundation
- Sarah Larsen Updated the LWV Lee County Website and developed the LWVLC Facebook page
- 18 Members plus representatives from Rep Trudi Williams and Sen Liz Benacquisto's office Toured Algenol Bio-Fuels, Inc.
- Held Meet and Greet Your Elected Officials We heard comments from Lee County Commissioners, Public Defender, Sheriff, Lee Memorial Hospital Board Member, Cape Coral Mayor and Council Members, Bonita Springs Council Member, Fort Myers Council Member, Lee County School Board Members,
- Board Direction to look into possible implementation of Constant Contact
- Application for 2012 LWVUS Convention Awards- Strengthening Democracy  
(Submitted March 14, 2012 Narrative composed by Sharon Kapp and Judy Alves -Modified



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## ...Presidents' Message 2011-2012 (con't)...

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to meet LWVUS word requirement)

1. The Strengthening Democracy project of the Lee County League of Women Voters the "Early Language and Literacy project (ELLP)" began in June 2009. The project centers on closing the achievement gap which threatens the educational, social and civic mobility of low income populations and their ability to participate effectively in a democratic society. A substantial body of research (*Hart & Risley (1995), Reardon, S.F., & Bischoff, K. (2011) More Unequal and Core Separate: Growth in the Residential Segregation of Families by Income, 1970-2009. Report prepared for the Russell Sage US2010 project. "Whither Opportunity?" Russell Sage Foundation*) documents the growing achievement gap between children of middle and upper income families and children from poor families. There has been 100% endorsement and participation for this project by every local community agency and institution contacted by the Lee County League. Our goal is to reach every underserved community in Lee County and educate them about the importance of early language development as the infrastructure needed to enhance reading readiness and therefore, all educational outcomes.
2. The priority issue of the "Early Learning and Literacy project" is to inform parents, caregivers, educators and health care providers of the importance of language development in the birth to four year old age group. Research validated over the last few decades (Hart and Risley) documents a 35 million word discrepancy in words heard between children of middle and upper income families and children from poor families. This lack of exposure affects vocabulary development and reading acquisition, which is the highest predictor of school success. Children with deficient language development upon entering school often never catch-up to their peers from higher income families. In 2007, a study by the National Endowment of the Arts, "To Read or Not to Read: A Question of National Consequence", noted:

"Deficient readers are less likely to become active in civic and cultural life, most notably in volunteerism and *voting*." It went on to state, "regular reading not only boosts the likelihood of an individual's academic and economic success, but also seems to *awaken a person's social and civic senses*."

The impact and ultimate outcome of the "ELLP" project is important to the League of Women Voters because a well educated, informed population believes they are empowered to have an impact on government and therefore are more likely to participate in elections. This participation is critical to a vigorous and healthy democratic participation in local, state and national government.

3. The Lee County League of Women Voters optimally used its grassroots network to make important introductions to leaders in the Southwest Florida Community. Members introduced us to the Executive Director of the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida, an agency that now partners with us in outreach to health-care and education providers of the birth to three population.

Our members introduced us to the Director of the Lee County Health Department who endorsed our project and introduced us to the Director of the WIC project so our informational video could be played in their waiting rooms and provide WIC recipients with information about the importance of language development. This introduction led to an introduction to the Director of the Healthy Start Coalition who embraced the project and currently has providers review the content of the project with their clients.

The Lee County Superintendent of Schools spoke at one of our educational meetings. When told of our project, he introduced us to the Lee County Schools' Director of Curriculum who supported showing our video on

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## ...Presidents' Message 2011-2012 (con't)...

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their cable TV network and incorporating it into their program for pregnant students and their Early Childhood Learning Center.

One of our members arranged an in-service for the Lee County Human Resources Council and we have gained the support of the Lee Physicians Group who have agreed to display the "ELLP" posters, law enforcement, medical professionals and clergy. The Council voted to endorse the project.


One of our League members is an administrator of our unified hospital system, Lee Memorial Health System, and provided us with an introduction to the VP of Women's and Children's Services who agreed to play our instructional video in their waiting rooms.

4. We have instituted a two prong approach working with both community leaders and directly with the low income population that we want to reach. In addition to the introductions and outreach to the community as and to play the videos for their patients in all of their sites. We have met with Executive Director of the Alliance of Educational Leaders for SW Florida, a high profile group of Southwest Florida's top university and public school leaders committed to improve students' academic performance, formed as a result of our local newspaper sponsored 'The News-Press Market watch Education Summit' to discuss our participation with SW Florida Colleges and Universities. We have also gained the support of Community Cooperative Ministries Incorporated for their "Baby U" program that will allow us to directly work with parents and caregivers. Materials for this project include posters, an informational video, press releases and in-services. Please see below to reference these materials.


**TALK TO US ABOUT THE WORLD, AND THE WORLD WILL BE OURS!**

*Here are the Best Ways to Lead your Baby to School Success!*

Sing and make sounds  
Look at and talk about what your baby is seeing.  
Talk about what you are doing  
Point out things to show your baby  
Add a word to what your baby says, "car...red car...big red car"  
Talk about the picture books you share



**YOUR BABY NEEDS TO HEAR WORDS, WORDS, AND MORE WORDS**



**Yours In League,  
Clara Anne Graham**

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## ...President's Message (Con't) 2011-2012...

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### Press Release

**naplesnews.com**

Printer-friendly story  
Read more at [naplesnews.com](http://naplesnews.com)

Words, words, words making the difference

Originally published 10:18 a.m., February 15, 2011

Updated 10:18 a.m., February 15, 2011

Literacy levels for children entering schools is of the utmost concern in Florida and around the country. Researchers, education professionals and child care providers are learning kindergarten is too late to start the process of language and communication development. The Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida (ELC) is working to address this situation through a myriad of efforts including a new initiative with the League of Women Voters called "Words, Words, Words".

Words, Words, Words is an effort the ELC and the League are coordinating to spread the message to all parents, and especially low income parents, about the need to speak and engage their children. The message is simple - speak with your children, from birth, to increase their success in school.

Learning and communication skills begin developing at birth. Literally, according to a Harvard's Zero to Three studies at the National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families ([zerotothree.org](http://zerotothree.org)) 80% of a person's brain is developed by age 3, and 90% by age 5. By speaking with very young children about shared experiences, parents can ignite cognitive reactions, resulting in the ongoing creation of brain synapses, or connections. This ability to enhance brain wiring begins to taper off around age five.

"The success of a child is directly impacted by their communication skills," explained Kathleen Reynolds, Ph.D. and CEO of ELC. "It's critical that parents understand their part in the early learning of their children and that it can be as simple as talking to and with them from the beginning."

Sharon Weiss-Kapp, MED, CCC-SLP an Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor at MGH Institute of Health Professions, Speech Pathologist, Reading Specialist and Senior Clinical Associate at the Children's Hospital in Boston confirmed, "The area we're most concerned with is birth to three years old where language is developed." She went on to explain "We've found there is a 35 million word discrepancy between how many words a child has heard from a low income family versus a middle class or professional family. There aren't even 35 million words in the English language so we aren't asking parents to use extensive vocabulary, but just to talk to their children and interact with them."

For more information on Words, Words, Words or to support the cause, please visit the ELC Website <http://www.elcofswfl.org>. If you'd like more information on the research and activities ELC and the League of Women Voters are doing in Southwest Florida, please contact ELC at (239) 267-4105.

The Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida exists to enhance the quality of children's lives by providing families, early childhood educators, care-givers and community partners in Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties, with opportunities to positively impact the future. For details on our many services or to

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## ...President's Message 2011-2012...

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donate, please visit <http://www.elcofswfl.org> or call (239) 267-4105.

**Informational Video:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fArQ97uliWw>

League of Women Voters of Lee County Florida video modeling how parents and caregivers can enhance their children's developing language and literacy skills. This video is appropriate for parents, older siblings, early childhood workers, social service workers, prenatal and pediatric workers.

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## ...Annual Meeting—2011-2012...

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEE COUNTY  
BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 2, 2011  
ROYAL PALM YACHT CLUB

Clara Ann Graham called the meeting to order at 9:40 am.

She told us how successful she felt their attendance at the Legislative Seminar and Convention was. She attended with Anna Callwood . While they were there they visited with 3 Senators and 5 Representatives. The Lee County chapter was honored for second in voting for the passing of Amendments 5 & 6.

The minutes for March meeting were approved. Stasia Arcarese made the motion to accept the minutes, and it was seconded and approved,

The Nominating Committee chaired by Lloyd Fish presented the following Slate of Officers and Board:

Clara Ann Graham	President
Stasia Arcarese	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President
Patricia A. Fish	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President
Secretary	Lloyd Fish
Treasurer	Anna Callwood



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## Annual Meeting—2011-2012 (con't)

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### Directors 2011 - 2013

Judy Alves	Education
Clara Ann Graham	Legislative Action
Louis Eastman	Nominating
Sarah Larson	Student Member
Sandy Frank	Programs
Laura Miller	Natural Resources & Environment
Carol Fuechsel	Health
Fran Skovlund	Nominating Committee Members
Carol Broome	"
Cheryl Byrd	"

A motion was made by Lloyd Fish and seconded by Pat Fish to accept the slate as presented. It was passed by a show of hands.

Clara Ann Graham outlined programs the LWV were participating in.

#### Early Language and Literacy Project (ELLP)

Promoting Early Language and Literacy Project using LWV, Lee County, produced a video to instruct parents and caregivers with skills to enhance the language development of children from birth to 24 months and improve their educational outcomes.

#### Student Privacy

Support 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,

#### Social Policy

Promote essential human service 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 implementation

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

#### Health

Promote the well being of our citizens by ensuring that they have sufficient opportunities to obtain needed health services within an economically viable system.

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

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## ...Annual Meeting 2011-2012 (Con't)...

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country.

Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Support efforts to eliminate tobacco use and to promote smoke free environment.

### Voter Education

Educate voters on single member districts and issues related to redistricting and fair representative government in Lee County.

Expand effort to submit op ed and letter to the editors. Encourage members to draft letters on behalf of LWL Lee to be submitted by President.

Continue monthly educational programs from October to May.

Identify and reach out to other community organizations, and the general public to expand member base.

### Voter Service Activities

\*Judy Alves, Laura Miller and Clara Anne developed LWV of Lee County Florida Constitutional Amendment Pro and Con Document

\*Board members distributed LWVLC Florida Constitutional Amendment Pro and Con document and LWVF Special Votes countywide.

\* Clara Anne gave a Pro and Con Florida Constitutional Amendments presentation to the Bonita Springs Rotary Club.

\*Laura Miller and Clara Anne gave a Pro and Con presentation of the Florida Constitutional Amendments to the Democratic Group at Shell Point Village

\*Held a televised Lee County Commissioners Candidates Forum

\*Election Day telephone at WCGU

\*FOX 4 televised news coverage of Election Day telephones at WGCU

### Letters to the Editors

\*Clara Ann Graham letter honoring Lee County Commissioner Bob James was published by Fort Myers News Press, Cape Coral Breeze, Bonita Daily News, and Sanibel Breeze as well as a modified letter to Lt. Gov. Kottcamp and Gov. Crist

\*Letter to the Editorial Board of USA TODAY addressing the LWVLC Early Language and Literary Project (Judy Alves, Sharon Weiss-Kapp)

\*Letter addressing Fair Districts Vote Yes on Amendments 5 & 6 "Politicians are Choosing Their Voters Instead of Voters Choosing Their Politicians" published in Fort Myers News Press, Cape Coral Breeze, Bonita Daily News and Leigh Area newspapers. (Clara Anne Graham)

\*Letter addressing Vote Yes Fair Districts Amendments 5 & 6 was published in the Fort Myers News





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## ...Annual Meeting 2011-2012 (Con't)...

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### Press

\*Second letter addressing Vote Yes Fair Districts Amendments 5 & 6 published in the Fort Myers News Press

\*Letter addressing 10/10/10 initiative submitted to Fort Myers News Press, Bonita Daily News, Cape Coral Breeze, Sanibel, Leigh Areas newspapers (Laura Ann Miller, Clara Anne Graham)

\*10/10/10 Letter to the Editor placed on the LWVUS Climate Change Task Force website (Laura Ann Miller, Clara Anne Graham)

### League of Women Voters of Lee County Represented

\*LWV of Florida Orlando Council (Anna Callwood, Clara Anne Graham)

\*LWV of the United States Atlanta National Convention (Clara Anne Graham)

\*LWV of Collier County Florida Constitutional Amendment Forum (Clara Anne Graham)

\*Thirteenth Annual Environmental Breakfast held in Fort Myers (Pat and Lloyd Fish, Clara Anne Graham)

\*Daylong "Clean Energy and Sustainable Technologies Conference and Expo" conference sponsored by LWV of Lee County, University of Florida, Florida Atlantic University, University of Miami, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Division of Emergency Management, Lee County High-Tech Central, Algenol Biofuels, Wind Energy Florida Group, FPL, Charlotte County, Walmart, and others.

\*MLK DAY Event (Judy Alves, Sandy Frank)

### LWVLC Members Appointed to Boards and Task Forces

\*Laura Miller, Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management

\*Carol Barclay, Regional Advisory Committee on Trauma Services (Lee, Collier, Henry, Glades and Charlotte)

\*Lloyd Fish, Lee County Human Services Council (Retired 2010)

\*Carol Fuechsel, Lee County Human Services Council

\*Phyllis Brewer, L.I.F.E. (Lee's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness)

\*Clara Anne Graham, LWVUS 11 member Climate Change Task Force

### Legislative and Action Issues Activities

\*At each Hot Topic General Meeting LWV position that relates to the speaker's topic is read to enlighten the membership

\*Laura Miller and Clara Anne Graham lobby Florida Senator Michael Bennett

\*Clara Anne Graham interviewed by NBC 2 news - Vote Yes on Amendments 5 & 6 (televised)

\*Clara Anne Graham interviewed by FOX 4 news - Vote Yes on Amendments 5 & 6 (televised)

\*LWV of Lee County sponsored an educational table at the "Clean Energy and Sustainable Technologies Conference & Expo"

\*Clara Anne Graham called Congressman Connie Mack and Congressman Thomas J. Rooney to urge them to support all federal funding for local public television and radio stations.

\*Clara Anne Graham called Gov. Rick Scott to urge him to Implement Health Care Reform in Florida

\*Clara Anne Graham called Gov. Rick Scott to urge him to respect the voters vote addressing Fair Districts and Implement Amendments 5 & 6

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## ...Annual Meeting 2011-2012 (Con't)...

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A motion was made, seconded, and passed to raise the dues as follows in April:

Regular	\$60
Household	\$90
Associate	\$30
Student	\$25

Judy Alves reported that the LWV of Lee County received a grant for \$2,500 from the SW Community Foundation

Our guest speaker at the meeting was Stephanie Borden, and the topic was "Aging in Place"

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 am.

Olga D'Angelo, Secretary

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## ...Slate of Officers Up for Election...

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2nd Vice President	Carol Fuechsel (2012-2014)
Secretary	Carol Barclay (2012-2013)
Treasurer	Anna Callwood (2012-2014)
Director	Sharon Kapp (2012-2014)
Director	Judy Alves (2012-2014)
Director	Cherl Byrd (2012-2014)
Director	Louis Eason (2012-2013)

(Nominations from the floor will be accepted)

### Continuing on Board:

President	Clara Anne Graham (2012-2013)
1st Vice President	Stasia Arcarese (2011-2013)
Director	Sandy Frank (2011-2013)
Director	Laura Miller (2011-2013)
Director	Mildred Schindler (2011-2013)
Nominating Committee Chair	Louis Eason (2011-2013)
Nominating Committee Members	Fran Skovlund (2011-2013) Carole Broome (2011-2013)



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## ...Proposed Programs 2012-2013 ...

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### Board Recommendation for LWV of Lee County Program 2012-2013

#### Education

##### Quality Schools in Lee County

Support a free high quality public school system for Lee County:

- 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 through an equitable funding formula;
- e. That monitors expenditures in the operating budget;
- f. That promotes civics and environmental education; and
- g. That ends disparity among individual schools in the Lee County School District.

Work cooperatively with the school board and superintendent.

##### Early Language and Literacy Project, (ELLP)

Promote Early Language and Literacy Project using LWV Lee County produced video to instruct parents and caregivers with skills to enhance the language development of children from birth to 24 months and improve their educational outcomes. This video is appropriate for parents, older siblings, early childhood workers, social service, prenatal and pediatric professionals. View video; <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fArQ97uliWw> Seek new funding to promote ELLP. Develop internship programs with local colleges and universities to assist in program expansion and review.

Work cooperatively with Lee Memorial Health System, Healthy Start, Family Health Center, Lee County Board of Education, Lee County Dept of Health, and other agencies to promote reading and literacy through the Early Language and Literacy Project, (ELLP), a LWV Lee County initiative to help parents teach their infants and toddlers skills that will aid reading ability.

##### Student Privacy

Support 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, except Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (JROTC).

Seek concurrence from local Leagues on Lee LWV position regarding military recruitment in high schools.

#### Social Policy

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.

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

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## ...Proposed Programs 2012-2013 (Con't)...

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### Health

Promote the well being of our citizens by ensuring that they have sufficient opportunities to obtain needed health services within an economically viable system. To that end, the League will advocate for the delivery of affordable health care, dental, vision and mental health services, including transportation so that citizens may avail themselves of those services. The League recommends that infant hearing testing be mandated in Florida. The League will support the retention of family planning services as an essential component of health care services.

Promote a universal health care system with a view to the establishment of a single payer health care system. In the present climate of political conflict about health care reform, the League will work towards the inclusion in health care reform of programs and services which are considered vital for our citizens, including education about end of life directives.

Support for the Lee Memorial Health Care System Trauma Center including initiatives for funding deemed appropriate by the League.

### 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.

Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Support efforts to eliminate tobacco use and to promote smoke free environments.

### Voter Education

Educate voters on single member districts and issues related to redistricting and fair representative government in Lee County.

Educate voters on proposed government consolidation efforts.

Expand effort to submit op ed and letters to the editors. Encourage members to draft letters on behalf of LWV Lee, to be submitted by President.

Continue monthly educational programs from Oct to May.

Identify and reach out to other community organizations, and the general public to expand member base.

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**...FY 2012-2013 Budget...**

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	2011 - 2012 BUDGET April 1, 2011 to March 31,2012	2011-2012 ACTUAL Feb 14, 2012	2012 - 2013 PRO- POSED BUDGET April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013
<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>A. Membership Dues</b>			
Regular	3,600.00	2,720.00	3,420.00
Household	900.00	525.00	525.00
Winter Associate	120.00	145.00	135.00
Student	175.00	50.00	150.00
<b>Total Membership Dues</b>	<b>4,795.00</b>	<b>3,440.00</b>	<b>4,230.00</b>
<b>B. Contributions</b>			
Members	395.00	290.00	400.00
Non-Members	400.00	0.00	481.00
Election Workers	0.00	0.00	
Fundraisers	2,000.00	1,500.00	2,000.00
In-Kind	250.00	516.04	500.00
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>3,045.00</b>	<b>2,306.04</b>	<b>3,381.00</b>
<b>C. Other Income</b>			
General Meeting Luncheon	4,500.00	3,535.00	4,500.00
Interest	125.00	63.04	75.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>4,625.00</b>	<b>3,598.04</b>	<b>4,575.00</b>

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...FY 2012-2013 Budget Con't)...

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<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>12,465.00</b>	<b>9,344.08</b>	<b>12,186.00</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
<b>A. Office</b>			
<b>Business Expenses</b>	<b>75.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>75.00</b>
<b>Office Supplies</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>55.94</b>	<b>75.00</b>
<b>Postage:</b>			
<b>LWV General</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>38.24</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>Annual Report</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>40.65</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Bulk Mail</b>	<b>150.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>150.00</b>
<b>Directory</b>	<b>75.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>75.00</b>
<b>Bulk Permit</b>	<b>185.00</b>	<b>190.00</b>	<b>190.00</b>
<b>Printing &amp; Copying</b>			
<b>LWV General</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>Annual Report</b>	<b>425.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>150.00</b>
<b>Brochure</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Directory</b>	<b>200.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>200.00</b>
<b>The Voter</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>1,171.90</b>	<b>500.00</b>
<b>Telephone</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>315.71</b>	<b>500.00</b>
<b>Electronic Comm/Website</b>	<b>125.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>600.00</b>
<b>Total Office</b>	<b>3,435.00</b>	<b>1,912.44</b>	<b>2,815.00</b>

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...FY 2012-2013 Budget (Con't)...

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<b>B. Delegates</b>			
State Convention/Council	200.00	0.00	0.00
Florida Legislative	200.00	99.00	150.00
National Convention	0.00	0.00	300.00
<b>Total Delegates</b>	<b>400.00</b>	<b>99.00</b>	<b>450.00</b>
<b>C. Per Member Payment</b>			
LWV FL	1,125.00	967.50	656.00
LWV US	2,250.00	0.00	1,785.00
<b>Total Per Member Payment</b>	<b>3,375.00</b>	<b>967.50</b>	<b>2,441.00</b>
<b>D. Educational Activities</b>			
Eco SWFL	25.00	0.00	25.00
Programming	100.00	0.00	300.00
Publications	50.00	0.00	150.00
Voter Services	50.00	0.00	275.00
In-Kind	250.00	516.04	500.00
<b>Total Educational Activities</b>	<b>475.00</b>	<b>516.04</b>	<b>1,250.00</b>
<b>E. Other Expenses</b>			
Fundraisers	100.00	0.00	250.00
<b>General Meeting Luncheon</b>	<b>4,500.00</b>	<b>3,220.62</b>	<b>4,500.00</b>

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...FY 2012-2013 Budget (Con't)...

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Lobby Fund	50.00	0.00		50.00
Public Relations	100.00	200.00		400.00
Miscellaneous	30.00	22.90		30.00
Total Other Expenses	4,780.00	3,443.52		5,230.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>12,465.00</b>	<b>6,513.46</b>		<b>12,186.00</b>
<b>RESTRICTED FUNDS:</b>				
Educational Fund Ac- cruel - FL				
Educational Fund Ac- cruel - US				
Social Policy		250.00		
<b>TOTAL RESRICTED FUNDS</b>				
LWV Certificate of Deposit	May 2012	12,220.29		
Bank Balance as of 2/14/12		2,299.28		



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## ...2011 Planning Meeting Minutes...

### Home of Patricia & Lloyd Fish - April 23, 2011

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LWV 2011-2012 Planning Meeting  
April 23, 2011

Present Cheryl Boyd, Dandy Frank, Sharon Weiss-Kapp, Clara Anne Graham, Stasia Arcarese, Judy Alves, Laura Miller, Sarah Larsen, Pat and Lloyd Fish

March 17, 2011 Board minutes were approved

**Treasurers report-** Anna Callwood , not present,  
President reported

Discussion Re: Certificate of Deposit maturation on May 30, 2011. Board approved allowing Treasurer to pursue at her discretion a division of CD assets in accord with short, medium and long-term maturation accounts.

IRS 990 must be filed for 25 Thousand and more 501 (c ) 4 corporations

Sun Biz requires filing and must be activated. There might be an opportunity to waive past filing fees.

President will speak with Treasurer regarding tax and Florida State business filings.

Membership - Stasia Arcarese

78 current members

Charlotte Zeroff made a \$50. contribution

May 7, 2011 meeting

Announcement about meeting will appear in the News-Press Online Calendar of events. There has been no response from the FL Weekly from Judy's request to publish announcement.

Sarah will have press releases sent to a friend who does Public Relations work.

Activities

All are encouraged to participate in the The Rotary meal packing event that will be held May 14, 2011 at various times and locations.

Social Policy - Sharon Kapp

Announced the receipt of a \$25,000 award, that is deposited through the LWVUS Education Fund, and will be treated as a grant. Money can only be obtained by using LWVUS withdrawal forms, that have been delivered to Judy Alves (Education Director).

Money from the general fund, assigned to Social Policy, will be used to purchase promotional materials from the charitable organization, "Mano a Mano", for the Early Language Literacy Project (aka, *Jump Start, aka Words, Words, Words*).

JA moved:

Motion to purchase banners, posters and finger puppets from "Mano a Mano, a Fair Trade organization, for the ELLP. Passed

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## ...2011 Planning Meeting Minutes (con't)...

### Home of Patricia & Lloyd Fish - April 23, 2011

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#### Education - Judy Alves

Request to be part of the News-Press citizens' review of School Superintendent search was ignored. Discussion: Clara Anne, Judy Alves and Sandy Frank will attempt to meet with Mei Mei, Chief Editor of the News-Press, to discuss LWV announcement and participation in non-partisan political and community activities.

#### Environment - Laura Miller

Captiol Reports concern local Fertilizer issues. The 2020 funds remain in tact for use as proposed by taxpayers.. Growth management is now a target of debate. The State may close 6 offices that are watchdogs for environmentally sensitive areas. The Estero Bay Management Office may be at risk. A LWV Lee County letter will be drafted and sent to the State legislators.

LWV Non-Partisan Policy. The by-laws have been changed to allow board members, excluding the President or Voter Service Board member, to personally participate in partisan political activity. This policy will be clarified by Clara Anne.

#### Voter Service

There is no Board member for Voter service at this time. Clara Anne will seek a volunteer. As in the past, all board members are requested to pitch in to accomplish all voter Service duties.

**Website/ PR** - Sarah Larsen has agreed to assume the duties related to LWVlee.org website and Public Relations. Clara Anne will send a letter to Harri Wisser, thanking her for her service.

**Representative Government** - Cheryl Boyd has agreed to be the director of this board position that concerns the current Fair District planning and implementation.

#### Newsletter - Patricia Fish

The board will solicit a student intern from FGCU's new department of Journalism to help Pat with the LWV Lee County newsletter.

#### Telephone duty 2011-2012

May	Judy	<b>2012</b>	
Jun	Sharon	Jan	Carol Fuechsel
July	Clara Anne	Feb	Sharon
Aug	Clara Anne	Mar	Pat
Sep	Pat	Apr	Stasia
Oct	Sarah	May	Anna
Nov	Cheryl	Jun	Laura
Dec	Judy		

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**...2011 Planning Meeting Minutes (con't)...  
Home of Patricia & Lloyd Fish—April 23, 2011**

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**2011-2012 Programming**

- Oct 1, 2011 Tobacco Free Lee Coalition, (LWV host, Sarah Larsen)**  
**Oct 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>, FGCU/LWV Lee County Forum**
- Nov 5 Everglades Restoration, speaker Ray Judah (host, Laura Miller)**
- Dec 3 Reapportionment (host, Cheryl Boyd)**  
**Book Sale (unsold books to BetterWorldBooks.com)**
- Jan 7, 2012 Judicial Issues (host, Judy Alves)**  
**Jan 16<sup>th</sup> MLK (host, Judy Alves)**  
**Jan 21<sup>st</sup> Meet and Greet**
- Feb 4 News-Press, speaker Mei Mei Chang (host, Clara Anne)**  
**Program planning meeting, local and national @ 9:00 am**
- Mar 3 Women Involvement in Policy Decisions (host Cheryl, Sandy)**
- Apr 7 Nuclear Power as Alternative Energy Source (host, Lloyd)**
- May 5 Mosquito Control Tour on Location (host, Sarah Larsen)**

LWVUS Convention will be held in Washington D.C.

LWV Lee County will seek award for its Early Language/Literacy Project

Beginning at the last yearly May 2011 meeting, the Board will introduce the technique of utilizing 'ice breakers' to encourage bonding and conversation within the local membership. Sarah Larsen will host the 'ice breaker'.

Next Board meeting May 24, 2011 at 6:00 at Fish's home.

All board members are requested to provide ideas for Development, fund raising.

Proposed corrections and Amendments to the April 23, 2011 Planning meeting minutes:

Typo correction 'D' to 'S' to correct [Sandy Frank's](#) name in the line regarding who was present at the meeting.

**Treasurer's report:** Amend to include the amount of the CD, \$12,768.69

Regarding the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Amend to include that Harri emailed press releases.

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## ...2011 Planning Meeting Minutes (Con't)... Home of Patricia & Lloyd Fish—April 23, 2011

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**Social Policy:** amend to change amount award to \$ 2,500, (not \$25,000.)

**Education Report:** Amend to replace Sandy Frank to Sharon Kapp, to attend lunch with News-Press editor. Add Clara Anne and Cheryl Boyd to meet with editor of [Cape Coral Breeze](#).

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## ...Annual Reports 2011-2012...

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### PROGRAM Sandy Frank

During 2011-2012, LWV of Lee County held monthly luncheon meetings at the Hilton Garden Inn-Fort Myers. Topics and speakers supported our program issues and were arranged by board members according to the plan developed at our April 2011 Planning Retreat. Speaker presentations were summarized in the LWV Lee Voter for the following month. At each meeting, we collected donations for the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

#### October 1, 2011

**Tobacco Free Lee**, Dr. Mary Bonnette, Tobacco Free Lee Coalition

#### November 5, 2011

**Being Globally Competitive through World Class Education.** Dr. Larry Byrnes, retired Dean of Education, FGCU and Margaret Byrnes.

**Lee County Schools.** Dr. Joseph Burke, Superintendent, Tom Scott, School Board Chair.

**The Role of the Federal Government in Public Education.** discussion and consensus. Sharon Kapp, LWV Lee Director Education.

#### December 3, 2011

**Redistricting.** City of Cape Coral - Mayor John Sullivan, Lee County - Richard Burrus, Chief Planner, and Commissioner Tammy Hall, City of Fort Myers - Richard Calkins, GIS.

#### December 11, 2011

Carole and Jerry Broome hosted the LWV of Lee County Annual Holiday Party at their home.

#### January 7, 2012

**Judicial Issues.** Margaret Steinbeck, Judge, 20<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit, Civil Division



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## ...Annual Reports 2011-2012 (con't)...

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January 21, 2012

**Meet and Greet.** League members and elected officials attended the annual LWV Meet and Greet held to show the LWV's appreciation for the services elected officials perform for the citizens of Lee County and the contributions they make so we can live in a well-ordered society.

January 16, 2012

MLK Day Celebration, Centennial Park, Fort Myers. "Kids Vote Here" Booth developed by Judy Alves

February 4, 2012

**Program Planning** for LWVUS and LWV Lee County.

**Lee County Economic Development.** James Moore, Director, Fort Myers Regional Partnership

March 3, 2012

**Women in Government.** Yesterday's Challenges, Today's Opportunities, Tomorrow's Global Leaders. Sandra Pavelka, Ph.D., Director, Institute for Youth and Justice Studies, FGCU

April 7, 2012

Annual Meeting

**Nuclear Power as an Alternative Energy Source.** Arthur Weissbach, Retired NIH

April 21, 2012

Board Retreat

May 5, 2012

**Lee County Mosquito Control**

### HEALTH CARE Mildred Schindler

The Health Director for Lee County League of Women Voters is responsible for keeping the members informed of significant national and local health issues. Because of serious economic problems everywhere and the ensuing cuts to the financing of medical services, the League will be challenged to monitor how these will affect the provision of services.

The League believes that every resident should have access to a basic level of primary care which includes prenatal and reproductive health, including abortion, as well as prevention of disease, health education, acute care and mental health care. In keeping with the League's position on reproductive health care, we are very supportive of Planned Parenthood. The Health Director attends monthly meetings of Planned Parenthood and many League members attend their fund raising events.

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## ...Annual Reports 2010-2011 (Con't)...

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The Health Director also attends monthly meetings of the Lee County Human Services Council and reports back to the membership on the various service presentations, particularly those dealing with health issues and needs.

The League continues support for the Lee Memorial Health Care Trauma Center, including initiatives for funding deemed appropriate. Carol Barclay continues to represent the League on the Lee Memorial Trauma Center Board.

### NATURAL RESOURCES/ENVIRONMENT

Laura Miller

Once more our state and national governments are in the negotiation process for the new budgets. Governor Scott, who early in his administration seemed to give the environment a low priority, now seems to understand the need for all of us to be concerned about clean air and water. The governor has recommended 40 million be devoted to water-related projects in the Everglades, and the House has been developing a spending plan for Everglades-related projects. The Senate has yet to follow suit. Perhaps this is a good time for a note to your senator to urge him or her to get into action.

President Obama's proposed budget contains 232 million for Everglades projects, with 161 million earmarked for Army Corps of Engineers activities and 70 million for Everglades projects through the Department of the Interior. Not only are such projects designed to help the Everglades, but they also mean jobs in the construction industry.

Another area that interests us is renewable energy. The President has also proposed 27.2 billion for the Department of Energy, 2.3 billion of which would go for research and development for energy efficiency, advanced vehicles and biofuels. He also proposes 522 million in renewable energy sources.

In January, almost immediately after the start of the new legislative session in Tallahassee, bills appeared in both houses that would gut local fertilizer ordinances. Not only would the new state regulations, which would be more generous in the spreading of nutrients than most present rules, overrule local ordinances, but amendments appeared exempting professional landscapers entirely. We must continue to be vigilant.

The problem of slime in our waterways continues. The Florida Wildlife Federation has been a leading voice in bringing attention to this problem. The Florida legislators continue to try to set weaker water standards than those of federal agencies, such as the EPA.

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## ...Annual Reports 2010-2011 (con't)...

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### **EDUCATION/SOCIAL POLICY**

**Judy Alves/ Sharon Kapp**

The Early Language development project received a \$2,500 award from the Southwest Florida Foundation. The funds are being used to promote the project in our community by educating and training local leaders and institutions about skills related to developing infant language, the foundation of reading readiness. During the past year, the largest local institutions, Lee County Health Dept, the School District of Lee County, and Lee Memorial Hospital Healthy Start coalition have adopted and promoted the project. Currently, a two-prong approach is underway designed to both engage individual community leaders and smaller community organizations that directly communicate with infants and parents. Meetings are scheduled with Pediatric organizations, the Alliance of Southwest Florida University presidents, and the member churches of Collaboration21 coalition. In-service training will follow, and efforts are being made to build a coalition to fund the erection of billboards in strategically targeted neighborhoods.

### **SECOND VICE PRESIDENT/LEAGUE PUBLICATIONS**

**Patricia Fish**

The editor of the *VOTER*, newsletter of League of Women Voters of Lee County, is published eight monthly issues of ten pages each from October 2011 to May 2012. 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. 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 500 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 available to each member at the annual meeting in April.

### **FIRST VICE PRESIDENT/MEMBERSHIP**

**Stasia Arcarese**

League Membership has seen some changes in the past several years. Several of our long time members have become inactive due to various situations. On the bright side, we have added several new members who are very enthusiastic about becoming involved in League activities.

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## ...Annual Reports 2011-2012 (con't)...

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As of January 31, 2011 membership includes:

Individual members	46
Household members	16
Associate members	4
Students	3
Honorary	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>

We have many ways to recruit League members: Sending letters of invitation to individuals who attend our luncheons or other activities, and asking friends and neighbors to join. We also put these individuals on a 3 month temporary list to receive our newsletter, The Voter.

Recruitment is the job of each League member. We encourage members to talk about the League, educate friends and neighbors about what we do and invite them to become a part of this great organization. Keep League flyers, that can be picked up at our monthly meetings, in your purse or pocket. Potential members are there only if they know who and what we are. Many times an invitation to come to a League meeting, hear a great speaker, is all it takes to convince them to join,

### **REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT** **Cheryl Byrd**

#### State and Congressional Redistricting.

During the 2010 election cycle, Florida voters passed two amendments to the Florida Constitution by overwhelming margins. Dubbed the "Fair District" amendments, they require that the redistricting of Florida's Congressional delegation and Florida's legislative bodies (Senate and House of Representatives) be done in a manner that does not favor incumbents or any particular voting bloc; instead, new districts are supposed to be relatively compact and should avoid splitting up counties, cities and identifiable communities. With final 2010 U. S. Census figures available in 2011, the Florida Legislature began its deliberations to develop new districts, which, for the first time, must comply with these new constitutional amendments. The process got off to a slow start, with meetings last summer all over the state held by committees of the Legislature to collect public input and suggestions for redistricting. The closest meeting for us was held in Lehigh Acres at the end of August 2011. Clara Anne Graham, Pat and Lloyd Fish, Laura Miller and Cheryl Byrd - officers and/or directors of LWV Lee - all spoke at that meeting and urged that the committees take the new constitutional requirements for fair districts seriously. The committees did not have any preliminary redistricting maps available to provide even a glimpse of their own thinking as a basis for public input at these meetings. Hundreds of suggestions and more than 150 suggestions for district maps came out of the meetings and additional written submissions by the end of October, but the manner in which these data would be used was never clear.



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## ...Annual Reports 2011-2012 (con't)...

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Since August, the three committees and their staff have drawn new maps - largely behind closed doors until they were released at the end of November and beginning of December. With little time for public input and decided reluctance to accept any, three of the maps (one each for Congress, the FL Senate and the FL House) were submitted to the Florida House and the Florida Senate in January. They had been agreed on before being submitted for a vote and were approved largely along party lines.

Unfortunately, none of the approved maps satisfies the requirements of the Fair District amendments. Lawsuits - in which the LWV Florida is involved - have now been filed to require compliance.

### Local Redistricting

Local governments were also required to redistrict this year if district sizes were not approximately equal. Consequently, the Lee County Board of Commissioners, the City of Cape Coral, and the City of Fort Myers all completed redistricting efforts in 2011 and the City of Bonita Springs has begun such an effort. Except for Bonita Springs, representatives from the other three local governments were at our December 2011 LWV Lee meeting to talk to us in depth about their new plans and the processes that were used to arrive at them. Lee County and the two cities seem to have arrived at plans that satisfy their constituents - a good thing.

### The Role of Women in Government

March 2012 is Women's History Month. The LWV will be exploring "Women in Government - Yesterday's Challenges, Today's Opportunities, Tomorrow's Global Leaders" with Sandra Pavelka, Ph.D., Director, Institute for Youth and Justice Studies, at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). (More on this after the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting)

### **LEGISLATIVE LIAISON**

**Clara Anne Graham**

(See President's Annual Report )

### **PUBLIC RELATIONS/COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**Sandy Frank**

We continued our efforts to reach out to other community organizations and the general public. Public relations and community outreach responsibilities were shared by several board members and the website administrator.

Announcements for monthly program meetings were submitted to the News-Press, Cape Coral Breeze, Bonita News, Florida Weekly and a number of community newspapers. Press releases for monthly program meetings and special events were e-mailed to numerous reporters in Lee County with targeted outreach

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## ...Annual Reports 2010-2011 (con't)...

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for specific topics including education, meet and greet and women in government. Print coverage as the result of these releases has been minimal.

We are increasing our e-mail distribution list to include key community and government leaders and working to identify opportunities to work with area organizations.

Our website [www.lwvlee.org](http://www.lwvlee.org) continues to be an excellent source of information about LWV Lee and includes links for voter and government information and to facebook.

### **REMINDERS**

**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.

### **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 2008 election year.

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

### **WEBMASTER**

**Sarah Larsen**

The web site, [www.lwvlee.org](http://www.lwvlee.org), has been updated each month. Every issue of the VOTER, October through May and 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. Photos of various events and speakers are published in the 'Photo Album'.

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



**VOTER SERVICE**  
**(The LWV Board)**

**SPEAKERS BUREAU**  
(Vacant—No report)

**OBSERVER CORPS**  
(Vacant—No report)



## With Gratitude

We are grateful to our members, members of the community and businesses that have contributed to date. For the period April 1, 2010 - February 23, 2011 we say thank you to:

**IN-KIND DONATIONS**  
Members of the Board

**SUPPORTERS**  
Bonita Springs Utilities

**OTHER**  
Harrison Auction



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## NOTES

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