



League of Women Voters of Lee County Florida

Annual Report
2012-2013
(electronic version)

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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LEE COUNTY

League of Women Voters of Lee county Florida
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LWV of Lee County Florida Board of Directors 2012 to 2013

President, Clara Anne Graham (2012-2013)
1st Vice President, Stasia Arcarese (2011-2013)
2nd Vice President, Carol Fuechsel (2012-2104)
Secretary, Carol Barclay (2012-2013)
Treasurer, Anna Callwood (2012-2014)
Director, Judy Alves (2012-2014)
Director, Louis Eason (2012-2013)
Director, Sandy Frank (2011-2013)
Director, Sharon Kapp (2012-2014)
Director, Laura Miller (2011-2013)
Director, Mildred Schindler (2011-2013)

Annual Report Editor—Patricia Fish

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League of Women Voters of Lee County Florida
Annual Meeting
April 6, 2013
Hilton Garden Inn

Agenda

8:45am Registration

9:00am Breakfast

9:30am Welcome and Introduction of Speaker—Clara Anne Graham

Supreme Court Decisions-- James L. O'Leary, II, Attorney at Law

11:00am Call to Order/Annual Business Meeting—Clara Anne Graham, President

Approval of April 7, 2012 Minutes--Carol Barclay

Acceptance of Treasurer's Report for Audit 2012-2013--Anna Callwood

President's Report-Status of LWV Lee County--Clara Anne Graham

Election of Board of Directors--Louis Eason

Adoption of Budget FY 2013-2014--Anna Callwood

Adoption of LWV-Lee Program 2013 to 2014--Sandy Frank

Introduction of New Board of Directors

Recognition of Board Members Leaving Office

Member's Comments/Issues/Direction for the Board

Announcements:

- Planning Meeting--April 13, 2013, 9 am to 3pm, for Board and interested members
- Other

Adjournment

President's Annual Report to the Membership
April 1, 2012-March 31, 2013
Clara Anne Graham, President

First and Foremost: My Thankfulness to an awesome 2012-2013 Board who for me was a pleasure to work with. (Your LWVLC Board started the 2012/2013 league years with a day-long planning meeting.)

Stasia Arcarese, 1st Vice President, Community Liaison and Co-Chair Voter Service
Carol Fueschsel, 2nd Vice President and General Meeting Reservationist
Carol Barclay, Secretary
Anna Callwood, Treasurer
Judy Alves, Social Policy Director and Voter Service
Cheryl Byrd, Co-Chair Voter Service (Resigned November 2012)
Louis Eason, Communication Director
Sandra Frank, Program Director and Meet and Greet Coordinator
Sharon Kapp, Education Director
Laura Miller, Natural Resource Director
Mildred Schindler, Health Director

And To

Nominating Committee: Louis Eason, Chair, Carole Broome, Ann Parton, Stasia Arcarese and Anna Callwood

Task Forces/Boards (Members Representing LWVLC)

(Continuing)

Laura Miller-Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management
Carol Barclay-Regional Advisory Committee on Trauma Services (Lee, Collier, Henry, Glades and Charlotte Counties)

Judy Alves-Dunbar Core Group
Mildred Schindler-Lee County Human Services Council
Clara Anne Graham- LWV US 11 member Climate Change Task Force

(New Appointments)

Judy Alves-Chair of the Education Committee 21st Century Collaboration
Sharon Kapp-Lee County Homeless Coalition Board
Commissioner Pendergrass appointed Clara Anne Graham to the 15-member Lee County Community Sustainability committee.

Voters Service:

Candidate Forums:

Candidates are running for an elected office to serve people of their district; their salary is paid by the tax money of their constituents and there is no viable excuse for them not to meet these people face to face to answer questions and state their positions about issues that concern the community. A

candidate forum can be seen as a job interview. The forum is about the candidates, the voters, and the issues – not the League.

SHELL POINT VILLAGE, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4TH. 7-9 PM

Katy Motz, Stasia Arcasese, Laura Miller and Clara Anne met with Shell Point Village staff to discuss Thursday, Oct 4th Candidate Forum 7:00pm to 9:00pm

- o District 3: County Commission: Larry Kiker and Charlie Whitehead (Both have accepted) 7:00-7:30pm
- o District 30: Florida Senate: Lizbeth Benacauisto (will not attend) and Debbie Jordan (accepted) 7:30-8:00pm
- o District 19: Congressional: Trey Radel and Jim Roach (both have accepted) 8:00- 8:30pm Meet and Greet 8:30-9:00pm

Save This Date mailed to all June 27, 2012

Email to Candidates: August 21, 2012

Certified Return Receipt Letter August 21, 2012 (Cover letter and Candidate Forum Guidelines)

Phone calls made to candidates who did not respond.

Moderator: Stasia Arcarese. Screeners: Laura Miller, Clara Anne and Carol Barclay. Timekeeper: Hugh Barclay. Question Collectors: Judy Alves, Mildred Schindler and Cheryl Byrd.

Clara Anne Graham was interviewed by the Shell Point Village Activity Director, Teri Kollath for her television program for Shell Point residents to promote the Candidate Forum.

LCBCC TELEVISED FORUM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10TH , 5-7pm

Katy Motz organized the venue details. Candidate forums and debates are controlled by Federal Election Commission (FEC), Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Internal Revenue Service

All Leagues must protect their nonpartisanship. All forums dealing with candidates that are broadcast should have at least two candidates with no "empty chairs."

Cheryl Byrd coordinated Candidate Forum participants - Lee County Tax Collector and School Board Candidates.

Voter Registration:

Voter registration is the answer to ensuring that all qualified citizens have the chance to make their voices heard on Election Day. Every single vote counts. Democracy Is Not A Spectator Sport!!!

Judy Alves continues to work with Dunbar Core Group, NAACP and a local Ministers' Organization to register voters and implement restoration of felon rights. (Judy's Collaboration 21 Newsletter article "How To Get Out The Vote" can be read in our voter.)

Kathleen Motz, Mildred Schindler, Judy Alves, Judy Burget, Stasia Arcarese, Sandy Frank and Louis Eason have been certified by LWVF to register voters.

Mildred Schindler, Judy Burget and Stasia Arcarese registered voters at Hodges University. (See Photo on Website) Also, Katy Motz and Stasia Arcarese returned to Hodges University to register voters.

Stasia Arcarese and Cheryl Byrd registered individuals and provided absentee ballot applications to patients at Cape Coral Consulate Health Care Facility.
Cheryl Byrd and Stasia Arcarese registered voters at the Cape Coral New Resident Club meeting.
League Members registered voters at 4 Lee Memorial sites from 7a to 7p

Other Voter Service:

Primary Election, August 14, 2012

Judy Alves composed, emailed and compiled Circuit Judges' Candidate Questionnaire.
(Posted on Website)

[2012 Circuit Judge Voter Guide \(Groups 9, 18, 26, and 29\)](#) (.pdf)

[Circuit Judge Group 9](#) (.pdf)

[Circuit Judge Group 18](#) (.pdf)

[Circuit Judge Group 26](#) (.pdf)

[Circuit Judge Group 29](#) (.pdf)

Clara Anne Graham composed, mailed certified letter and compiled Florida House District 76 and District 79's Candidate Questionnaire. (Posted on Website.)

[District 76 Voter Guide](#)

[District 79 Voter Guide](#)

Also Posted on Website for Primary and General Elections

:****Resource alert: 2012 Candidate Financial Reports on our website****

Clara Anne Graham lobbied The City of Bonita Springs Council Members to run this PSA on the local governmental channel. GRANTED



The League of Women Voters of Lee County

Making Democracy Work for More Than 60 Years

State of Florida Constitution Article VI Section 5 (b) states:

If all candidates for an office have the same party affiliation and the winner will have no opposition in the general election, all qualified electors, regardless of party affiliation, may vote in the primary elections for that office.

District 76 State of Florida Representative will be elected in the primary, Tuesday, August 14th.

District 76 Candidates: (ALL Registered Voters VOTE)

Michael Grant, Republican

Ray Rodrigues, Republican

Chauncey Solinger, Republican

Go to League of Women Voters of Lee County, FL.'s website www.lwvlee.org to obtain candidate information.

Judy Alves and Clara Anne Graham staffed Primary Day Telephone at WGCU from 7am to 6:30pm

Clara Anne Graham sent Thank you notes to Former State Rep. Auboucon and Kreegle for their service to Florida residents and congratulatory notes sent to Rep. Ray Rodrigues and Rep. Matt Caldwell.

Televised Interviews:

Clara Anne Graham interviewed by Wink TV about early voting long lines.

Judy Alves interviewed by Fox 4 the election day process and the League staffed election day telephone, as well as, after the election about long lines during election day.

Newspaper/Television Phone Interviews:

Clara Anne Graham

Was interviewed by Naples News Press addressing the 68,400 Lee County voter registrations increase. . (Lee County ranked 2nd in the state for voter registration)

Held phone interviews with Wink TV and Fox TV television reporters.

2 Day Election Telephone at WGCU

Sandra Frank, Carol Barclay, Mildred Schindler, Judy Alves, Louis Eason and Clara Anne Graham staffed 2day election telephone Monday and Tuesday 7am to 7pm.

11 Constitutional Amendment Presentation:

Judy Alves, Pat and Lloyd Fish, Sandra Frank, Louis Eason, Laura Miller, Stasia Arcarese, Cheryl Byrd, and Clara Anne Graham distributed 9000 LWV Florida Citizens Guide and 9000 The Vote is in Your Court countywide.

Laura Miller and Clara Anne Graham presented the Constitutional Amendments Pros and Cons to the Lee County Key Women Educators Group

Laura Miller presented the Pro and Cons of the Constitutional Amendments Saturday, Sept. 22nd at Shell Point Village

Laura Miller presented a televised presentation of the Pro and Cons of the Constitutional Amendments

Early Learning and Literacy Project (ELLP):

Sharon Kapp and Judy Alves negotiated an Early Learning and Literacy Project Billboard. (Picture is on our website)

Sharon Kapp spoke to 2 FGCU classes about ELLP.

Carol Lindstrom, LWV of Montgomery County, Va member and LWVLCF Web Master has promoted ELLP in Virginia and West Virginia. DVDs are being used by Literacy Volunteers, , 3 home school parent groups, local social services, the CASA program (Virginia's equivalent to the Guardian ad Litem in Florida), and all of the branches of their Regional library system, churches child care programs

Sharon Kapp presented an in-service for the Lee County Public Schools for parents at the J. Collins English School

Sharon Kapp and Judy Alves met with Lee County School Board member, Cathleen Morgan, to address ELLP for Head Start, the Lamp Program and Bob Sorenson of the Literacy Foundation.

Sharon and Judy Alves held a brainstorming workshop for ideas to start an ELLP program in the Dunbar area.

Sharon Kapp presented an in-service meeting for the Quality of Life Center for their providers.
Sharon Kapp meet with the Head of the CCMI Montessori program.

Letters to the Editor/Opinion:

(Only the President of their designee can speak for LWVLC)

Clara Anne Graham

Submitted a LTE for the LWVLC Board requesting the Families for Freedom for Fairness to remove the League of Women Voters name on their campaign literature addressing new form of Lee County Government. Published Fort Myers News Press and Cape Coral Breeze.

Submitted Letter to the Editor addressing all registered voters in District 76 and 79 as well as publicizing our website and primary day telephone. Published: Fort Myers News Press and Naples Daily News.

Submitted LTE announcing the LWVLC Candidates Forums. Published: Fort Myers News Press and Cape Coral Breeze

Clara Anne Graham's Opinion Article addressing Moratorium of Impact Fees Published: Fort Myers News Press.

Advocacy:

(Only the President or their designee can speak for LWVLC)

Clara Anne Graham:

Lobbied Florida's United States Senator and Representative on Climate Change, Budget, EPA, Clean Air Act. and Healthcare issues.

Lobbied Florida's Senators and Representatives on Election, Environmental, Growth Management, Florida Forever, Healthcare, Healthy Kid Care and Educational issues.

Spoke before BoCC addressing support for Conservation 2020

Met with City of Bonita Springs Mayor and City Manager, City of Cape Coral Mayor, and City of Fort Myers Mayor addressing the BoCC Moratorium of Impact Fees. Telephone tag with City of Sanibel

Met with Estero Council of Community Leaders and Bike/WalkLee addressing Mobility Fees and Impact Fees.

Spoke before BoCC addressing opposition to the proposed Moratorium on Impact Fees.

Spoke before BoCC addressing the proposed impact fee reduction percentage.

Other:

Pat Fish was Editor of the Annual Report publication.

Clara Anne Graham and Judy Alves spoke before the The Montage Group about LWVLC, ELLP and election issues. (80 plus members attended)

Clara Anne Graham worked with Fort Myers News Press reporters addressing Families for Freedom and Fairness unauthorized usage of the League of Women Voters name.

Clara Anne Graham email and sent a certified letter to Families for Freedom and Fairness to remove the League of Women Voters name from the initiative publications.

Families for Freedom and Fairness issued a public announcement that they had removed the League of Women Voters name from their documents.

Clara Anne Graham attended the 5-day LWV United States Convention in Washington DC and developed educational materials and presented LWV Lee County, Fl. Nuclear Power As An

Alternative Energy Source Caucus. Printed and Passed out over 500 Toolkit for Climate Action flyers.

Carol Lindstrom, LWV of Montgomery County, Virginia member and their Web Master and State of Virginia Web Master and our new Web Master developed a new LWVLC Website. (Please check out our Website.)

Anna Callwood obtained 5 scholarship, (included registration fee, room, meals and travel costs) for LWV members to attend the 3 day 2012 Sea Level Rising Summit in Boca Raton.

Attendees: Anna Callwood, Laura Miller and Clara Anne from LWV Lee County, Sandra from LWV Collier County, and Adrienne Kaltman from Broward County. THANK YOU ANNA

Laura Miller and Judy Alves represented LWVLC on the Viva Florida 500 Lee County Committee. Laura, Judy and Clara Anne met with the Bonita Springs Town Manager to discuss potential Viva Florida 500 activities.

Mildred Schindler worked with Planned Parenthood, HOPE Clubhouse Program, Autism Easter Seals and Eden and Mental Health merger groups.

Louis Eason met with Steve McQuilkin the New Economy and Education Editor for the Fort Myers News Press, implemented Constant Contact, and discussed potential communication ideas with Naples Daily News.

Sandy Frank, Louis Eason and Mildred Schindler attended the "Expanding Sustainability Summit" Judy Alves lobbied and met with the United States Justice Department.

Sandy Frank organized outstanding General Meeting programs from Oct to May. (See Program Report for details)

Sandy Frank organized an extremely successful Meet and Greet. 25 Elected Officials were in attendance.

- o Mathew Caldwell, Rep FL House #79
- o Ray Rodrigues, Rep FL House #76
- o Dane Eagle, Rep FL House #77
- o Linda Doggett, Lee County Clerk of Court (LWVLee Member)
- o Kevin McGrail, Cape Coral Council
- o Leonard Nesta, Cape Coral Council
- o Tom Scott, Lee Co School Distr.
- o Cathleen O'Daniel Morgan, Lee Co School District (LWVLee Member)
- o Larry Hart, Tax Collector
- o Steve Russell, State Attorney (LWVLee Member)
- o Sharon Harrington, Supervisor of Elections (LWVLee Member)
- o Cecil Pendergrass, Lee Co Commission
- o Tammy Hall, Lee Co Commission (LWVLee Member)
- o John Manning, Lee Co Commission
- o Pam Gill, Gateway Services District
- o Jack Tanner, Lee Co Soil and Conservation
- o Stephen McIntosh, City of Bonita Springs
- o Bill Lonkhart, City of Bonita Springs
- o Peter Simmons, City of Bonita Springs (LWVLee Member)
- o Ed Fitzgerald, Bonita Springs Fire
- o Chris Hansen, LMHS
- o Judge Josephine Gagliardi
- o Kathy Smith, Public Defender
- o Ken Wilkinson, Property Appraiser
- o David Brower, FMB Fire Commissioner

Regrets for elected officials not attending:

- o Jean Dozier, Lee Co School Distr.
- o Randy Henderson, FM Mayor

- Joe Kosinski, FMB
- Bill Nelson, United States Senator
- Mike Scott, Sheriff
- Garret Richter, FL Senate
- Larry Kiker, Lee Co Brd.
- Mayor Sullivan, Cape Coral

Development:

Bonita Springs Utilities Ballot Counting: Thank you. Sandy Frank, Louis Eason, Clara Anne Graham, Anne Parton, Carole Broome, Harri and Nat Wisser, Mariana Grimes, Carol Fuechsel, Mildred Schindler, Dick and Jean Hoffman, Carol and Hugh Barclay.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LEE COUNTY
ANNUAL MEETING – APRIL 7, 2012
HILTON GARDEN INN, FT MYERS, FLORIDA

President, Clara Anne Graham, called the meeting to order at 11:40 am

Minutes from last Annual Meeting was presented by Lloyd Fish. Clara Anne Graham asked that an “ e” be added to her name. Cheryl Byrd moved and Ann Parton seconded that the minutes be approved as corrected. Motion passed

Treasurer Report – Presented by Anna Callwood, One correction was made. Motion made by Cheryl Byrd and seconded by Hugh Barclay to accept Treasurer Report and file for audit with correction.

Proposed Budget for 2012/2013 was presented by Anna Callwood. Lloyd Fish moved and Cheryl Byrd seconded to accept the budget as proposed. Motion Passed

President, Clara Anne Graham, presented State of Lee County Lee report. She announced two Voter Service requests from Shell Point Community and Florida Gulf Coast students. She also announced a presentation that the Lee County would be presenting to the Junior League of Naples. She invited the Lee County LWV membership to attend the upcoming Board Retreat, on Saturday, April 21st from 9:00 to 3:00pm to be held at the Hilton Garden Inn.

Someone in the membership asked if the membership had seen the Editorial Cartoon in the News Press that showed a member of the LWV demonstrating for better access to voter registration.

Louis Eason, Nominating Chair, presented the following slate of officers and directors:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 nd 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 | Cheryl Byrd (2012-2014) |
| Director | Louis Eason (2012-2013) |

Laura Miller moved to close nominations and accept the slate as presented – seconded by Lloyd Fish. Motion passed

President asked for nominations from the floor for Chair of Nominating Chair. One name offered but was declined by that person.

Program Chair, Sandy Frank, presented proposed programs as presented in the 2011-2012 Annual Report for:

Education: Quality Schools in Lee County; Early Language and Literacy Project; Student Privacy

Social Policy

Health

Natural Resources

Voter Education

Lloyd Fish moved and Pat Fish seconded to adopt entire proposed Recommended Programs for 2012/2013. Motion passed

President Graham presented an orchid and booklet to Pat and Lloyd Fish as a thank you for their long and dedicated contributions to the LWV of Lee County over the last 10+ years.

President Graham asked for direction for the board over the next year. "More visibility in the community"

President Graham asked the new board members to come forward and presented them with LWV Decals.

Membership Announcement: Thank you to everyone who has paid their dues

Meeting adjourned 12:07pm

Report of the Nominating Committee 2012-2013

Under our By-Laws, one-half of the elected directors shall be elected by the general membership at each annual meeting and shall serve for a term of two years. Following are candidates proposed by the 2011-2013 Nominating Committee (Carole Broome, Anna Callwood, Louis Eason, Ann Parton, and Stasia Arcarese):

President, 2013-2015 (2 Years) -- Clara Anne Graham

1st Vice President, 2013-2015 (2 Years) -- Stasia Arcarese

Secretary, 2013-2015 (2 Years) -- Sandy Frank

3 Directors, 2013-2015 (2 Years)

Debra Kettling
Laura Miller
Mildred Schindler

1 Director, 2013-2014 (1 Year) -- Trudy Cleary (to fill 2012-2014 board vacancy)

Nominating Committee, 2013-2014 (1 year)

Carol Barclay, Chair
Ann Parton
Carole Broome

Continuing on Board:

2nd Vice President, 2012-2014 -- Carole Fuechsel
Treasurer, 2012-2014 -- Anna Callwood
Director, 2012-2014 -- Judy Alves
Director, 2012-2014 -- Sharon Kapp

In addition, the nominating committee recommends that the board appoint Louis Eason, as Director, 2013-2014.

Board Recommendation for LWV of Lee County Program 2013-2014

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.
- h. That provides quality pre-school education for all children.

Work cooperatively with the school board and superintendent.

Early Language and Literacy Project, (ELLP)

Promote Early Language and Literacy Project to enhance the language development of children from birth to 24 months and improve their educational outcomes.

Social Policy

Promote and collaborate with organizations that seek delivery of essential human services by supporting programs that enhance the well being of individuals, recognize the special needs of children and families, and provide adequate shelter.

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. The League will advocate for the delivery of affordable dental, vision, and mental health services, including transportation to reach these services. The League believes that infant hearing testing should be mandatory in Florida. The League will support the retention of family planning services as an essential component of health care.

The League supports a universal health care system. The League will advocate for the expansion of mental health services. We also support the early screening of children for autism and expansion of the necessary treatment services.

Continue support of 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, including efforts to promote smoke free environments and prevent fracking.

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

Voter Education

Educate voters and advocate for citizen participation in government.

Review forms of government under consideration in Lee County and educate members.

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.

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.

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.

EDUCATION
Sharon Kapp

The Lee County League of Women Voters Early Language and Literacy Project (ELLP) continues to garner support and awareness throughout our community. This past year we met with Kathy Bridge-Liles, VP of Women and Children's Services of the Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida. The ELLP Instructional Video is now available in sixteen birthing centers in the Lee Memorial Hospital System. The Pediatric Associates of the Lee Physician's Group supports the project and has the ELLP posters available in their waiting rooms.

Earlier this year we met with Pat Riley, Executive Director of the Alliance of Educational Leaders and through her support we were asked to provide two lectures to the education majors at Florida Gulf Coast University.

The Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida has provided in-service training for over 70 of their day care providers and has held parent work shops to model suggestions for enhancing language development in infants and toddlers.

The Early Childhood Learning Services of the Lee County Schools has arranged a series of in-services provided by the League to help parents develop specific skills such as how to choose appropriate books and how to read to an infant and toddler.

Charles Cockrill, of Carter Outdoor of Fort Myers and Miami, has donated his company's time, skills and space to promote the ELLP project on their vacant billboards in SW Florida. Currently, the billboard is located on Rte 41 near the downtown location of Lee Memorial Hospital.

Carol Lindstrom, our Lee County LWV Webmaster, has promoted the ELLP video in Virginia and West Virginia.

Our most current project involves exploring partnerships with Colleges and Universities to design a public service model. Specifically this model would enlist their student population to service their communities by modeling specific skills for language development for parents and child care providers of infants and toddlers.

Social Policy
Judy Alves

LWV, Lee County, assisted a voting initiative in the low-income communities called, "Souls to the Polls," by educating participants about the voter suppression laws, ten amendments included in the ballot and the design of the 2012 ballot. This movement brought area church communities together to help register voters, encourage mail-in ballots and bring residents to the voting booths during early voting. Precincts in the covered area greatly improved voter turnout.

The LWV, Lee County reached out into the Fort Myers low-income community and joined a local group, The Dunbar Core Committee. The Committee meets once a month to discuss social service programs available in the predominately minority community. The Dunbar Core group is particularly dedicated to improving the quality of life, specifically, health, safety, and educational outcomes within defined zip codes 33916.905 and 901. It is also an advisory committee to a larger organization, the 21st Century Collaboration, which interacts with local government and harnesses area resources to analyze and devise programs to improve the lives of residents who live in low income, disadvantaged environments.

League members, Judy Alves, Sharon Weiss-Kapp, Louis Eason and other League volunteers participate in an Education committee with the goal of improving area graduation rates by 50%. Currently, the LWV has expanded its efforts to partner with community organizations including, Early Learning Lee County School District, The Quality of Life Center, Children's Network, Nations Association, Guardian Ad Litem program, Edison College, Fort Myers and Lee County Housing Authorities.

HEALTH Mildred Schindler

The membership has been kept informed of health issues both locally and nationally. We also looked at access to care. Presently we are waiting to see what Florida will do about extending Medicaid to the many uncovered adults. We found that there is a great need for more mental health care providers. Also, autism is becoming a greater problem. Children should be screened for it at a very early age, so they may have the benefit of early intervention therapies. Insurance companies must now provide coverage for autistic children. There is also a need for more service providers in this area.

The League supports a universal health system, preferably with a single payer. We support the Health Care Reform law, particularly the provisions for women's right of choice and the provision of contraceptives.

We continue to support the Lee Memorial Health Care Trauma Center. Carol Barclay remains the League's representative on the Trauma Center's Board.

Attendance of the Health Director at the County Human Services Council keeps us informed on services provided as well as the problem of funding for services.

NATURAL RESOURCES Laura Miller

In 2012 a new threat to the environment of Southwest Florida came to the forefront. Fracking (short for "fracturing"), a procedure which makes it easier to extract natural gas from the ground, is used widely in the Mid-Atlantic states and other parts of the North. It requires pumping large quantities of water and chemicals deep into the ground in order to release natural gas. In many places where fracking is done, there is no requirement that companies which use the process must reveal what chemicals they are using. There is much concern about what will happen if those chemicals, whatever they are, find their way into water supplies.

There are mining companies which are seeking permission to use the process in Southwest Florida. We hope they will not succeed, and we will continue to monitor the situation. In addition to the obvious threat to the water supply, we are concerned that so much national interest is in finding new sources of fossil fuels. We would like to see federal and state governments put more effort into developing alternate forms of energy and less into searching for fuels that produce carbon, which in turn contributes to global warming.

We are glad that the economy is improving, but that improvement also means that developers are looking for new locations for shopping malls and housing developments. We can never let our guard down, can we?

Voter Service Report
Stasia Arcarese and Cheryl Byrd

Voter Registration Drives

Several voter registration drives were held in Lee County: Hodges University, Dunbar Community, Consulate Health Care facility, Pine Island Library, Cape Coral New Residents Club, Shell Point Candidates Forum and all four major Lee Memorial Health System facilities – Gulf Coast, Health Park, Downtown Fort Myers and Cape Coral.

Cheryl Byrd made a presentation to the Cape Coral New Resident's Club on Getting Ready to Vote. The Lee Memorial Hospital drive involved the effort of 38 volunteers recruited by both the Lee County and Sanibel LWV organizations.

Thanks go to the following LWV Lee members who have been involved with these various efforts: Judy Alves, Stasia Arcarese, Judy Burget, Lloyd Eason, Lloyd Fish, Patricia Fish, Sandy Frank, Clara Anne Graham, Kathy Motz, Cheryl Byrd and Mildred Schindler. Without their help, much of this would never have happened.

Candidate Forums

A Shell Point Candidate's Forum was held on October 4th organized by Shell Point and the Lee County League members Stasia Arcarese, Laura Miller, Kathy Motz and Clara Anne Graham. Stasia Arcarese moderated the forum of FL Congressional candidates for District 19 and District 3 Lee County Commissioner candidates. It was followed by Meet and Greet time.

A Candidate's Forum was held on October 10th for District 3 School Board candidates and Lee County Tax Collector candidates moderated by Carol Barclay. Laura Miller gave a presentation on the 11 Proposed Constitutional Amendments. It was broadcast live over LeeTV and replayed on Comcast channel 97 on October 26th. This was planned by Cheryl Byrd, Stasia Arcarese and Kathy Motz.

Phone Banks at FGCU

They were held on August 14th, November 5th, 6th from 7 am-7 pm. Thank you to the volunteers, especially Judy Alves, Mildred Schindler, Care Anne Graham, Carol Barclay, Louis Eason and Sandy Frank for staffing.

Voter Guides

FL LWV and the Bar Association have produced nonpartisan flyers; these have been widely distributed at our various voter services activities and elsewhere.

LWV Lee produced a one page "Are You Ready to Vote" flier – also widely distributed and used for press releases. A modified version was used for the Lee Memorial Health System voter registration drive jointly sponsored by the Lee and Sanibel Leagues.

Questionnaires

Circuit Court Judges – done by Judy Alves and placed on our website prior to Primary Election
State House of Representatives – done by Clara Anne Graham and placed on our website before Primary (Dist 76&79).

PROGRAM
Sandy Frank

During 2012-2013, LWV of Lee County held monthly meetings at the Hilton Garden Inn-Fort Myers, on the first Saturday of the month from October through May. Topics and speakers supported our program issues and were arranged by board members according to the plan developed at our April 2012 Planning Retreat. In an effort to meet the needs of our members, we changed to an earlier start time and served breakfast instead of lunch.

October 6, 2012, Policy Issues Vital to the Lee Co. Hispanic Community
Carmen Rey-Gomez, Director, Hispanic Institute, Hodges University

November 3, 2012. Government, Newspapers, and Consumer Protection
Melanie Payne, Columnist Tell Mel-- News-Press

December 1, 2012. Lee County Department of Human Services
Ann Arnall, Director

January 5, 2013. Impact of Health Care Reform
Jim Nathan, President and CEO Lee Memorial Health System

February 2, 2013. Meet and Greet with elected officials
Program Planning for LWV Lee County 2013 to 2014

March 2, 2013. Women's History Month
Discussion coordinated by Sharon Kapp, LWV Lee Director-Education

April 6, 2013. Supreme Court Decisions
Jim O'Leary
And LWVLee Annual Meeting

May 4, 2013. Natural Resources Forum
Jim Beever, Principal Planner, SWFL Regional Planning Council

Communication
Louis Eason

During the past year we have continued our efforts to reach out to our members, other community organizations and the general public. We have increased our e-mail distribution list to include key community and government leaders and we continue to look for opportunities to work with area organizations to promote good government In Lee County.

Our website www.lwvlee.org continues to be an excellent source of information about LWV Lee. We employed a new Website Administrator (Carol Lindstrom) and continue to enhance the quality and content of our website. The homepage features our monthly program and includes links for the *VOTER*, the LWV Lee By Laws and Non Partisan Policy, government contacts, and State and National League news. Photos of various events and speakers are published on the website. Special thanks to Pat and Lloyd Fish for donating the expense of the website.

Electronic communication is now our primary means for communicating with our members. We utilize *Constant Contact* to distribute the VOTER (monthly October through May), notice of our monthly program meetings and other events of interest to our members. This has allowed us to communicate to our membership in a more timely and cost effective manner. We will continue to mail information regarding our League to those members who do not have access to the internet.

We continue to make use of the telephone tree to communicate time sensitive information to our members, including reminders for monthly program meetings. Special thanks to those who assisted in these efforts.

Announcements for monthly program meetings were submitted to Lee County media including the News-Press, Cape Coral Breeze, Bonita News, Florida Weekly, television and radio, 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 for specific topics including education, Meet and Greet, voter registration, and candidate forums. Print coverage has improved and we continue to work hard to improve our exposure through the media.

This year we are consolidating the *Annual Report and Membership Directory*. Members will have this printed publication for background and resource information.

MEMBERSHIP

Stasia Arcarese, 1st Vice President

League membership has seen a growth thanks to our excellent programs and members encouraging friends to attend League meetings.

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.

With Gratitude

We are grateful to our members, members of the community and businesses that have contributed. For the period April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013 we say thank you to:

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Members of the Board

SUPPORTERS

Bonita Springs Utilities

Charles Cockrill of Carter Outdoor of Fort Myers and Miami