

VOTER April 2017

Message from the President

Clara Anne Graham

FIRST AND FOREMOST: My Thankfulness to an awesome 2016-2017 Board who for me was a pleasure to work with!

Your LWVLCF Board started the 2016-2017 league year with a day-long planning meeting.

- Stasia Arcarese, First Vice President and Program Chair
- Sandy Frank, Second Vice President, Observer Corp Chair and Administrative Assistant
- Patty Duncan, Secretary
- Anna Callwood, Treasurer
- Judy Alves, Education Director
- Louis Eason, Social Policy Director
- Terry Lianzi, Environmental Director Assistant
- Laura Miller, Environmental Director
- Sarah McDonald, Membership Director
- Jim Pelstring, Voter Service Director

Nominations Committee Chair, Amy Wulf

- Carol Barclay
- Marie Glasgow
- Louis Eason
- Stasia Arcarese

- Lee County Climate Change Facebook Group, Adrienne Kaltman
- Registration, Carol Barclay
- Public Relations, Meghan Dorsett
- Website/Social Media, Carol Lindstrom

Advocacy, Action, and Other Activities

Clara Anne Graham

- Bonita Spring Utilities Board of Directors ballot count: Thank you to Dr. Pat Washington, Laura Miller, Amy Wulf, Lyn Brown, Patty Duncan, Niki Janus, Judy Alves, Jim Pelstring, Anna Callwood, Madelon Stewart, Murray Newton,

Sandy Frank, Louis Eason and Clara Anne Graham.

- Clara Anne Graham was guest speaker at the All Faith Unitarian Church Climate Change interest group.
- League of Women Voters of the United States Convention in Washington DC attended by Adrienne Kaltman, Barbara Carter, Terry Lianzi, Sarah McDonald and Clara Anne Graham. (The LWVUS Climate Change Task Force presented 3 workshops at convention.).
- Clara Anne Graham held meetings with Scientist Scott Smith of Water Defense (actor Mark Rufflo's Foundation) and Dr. Marc Edwards , Virginia Tech Professor about Southwest Florida Water Issues. (Both men have been working on the Flint, Michigan water issues.).
- Clara Anne Graham, interviewed by Fox 4 TV about Early Voting and later about US Department of Justice monitoring Lee County Voting Process.
- Holiday Letter from the President emailed to all email contacts.
- 2017 Day Long State of Florida Lee County Legislative Delegation: Clara Anne Graham addressed the delegation. Sandy Frank, Charlotte Britt, and Patty Duncan attended in the afternoon. League members who spoke for other organizations: Kathy Mayo for NOW and Joan Marshall for All Faith Unitarian Church (Water and Fracking).
- LWVLCF board members lobbied our State of Florida Elected Officials about the LWV of Florida legislative priorities.
- The LWVLCF supports the NAACP proposed redistricting plan. The plan is consistent with policy for fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunities for public participation.
- LWVLCF supports the use of Conservation 20/20 funds to purchase Edison Farms (4,000

acres). Letters to the Editors emailed to Fort Myers News Press and Cape Coral Breeze. Published.

- LWVLCF supports an increase in the Lee County Human Services Budget and the establishment of a Children's Services Council in Lee County.
- LWVLCF continues to promote League issues through meetings with elected officials including the League sponsored Meet and Greet, testimony at the State of Florida Lee County Legislative Delegation and Board of County Commissioners, and in individual meetings with elected officials.
- The LWVLCF Observer Corps is a structured way for League members to exercise their right to know and to promote government transparency and accountability. Currently, LWVLCF has observers for the Lee County Board of Commissioners, Lee County Schools, Mosquito District, the Human Services Council and other government bodies.
- League members participated in meetings and conferences on Climate Change, Fracking, Big Sugar, Save our Water, Lee County Environment, Sea Level Rise, Showing Up for Racial Justice, Women's March, Sunshine in Government, Horizon Council, and MLK Day Celebration.
- LWVLCF filed an Ethics Complaint against a County Official.

Voter Services & Education

Jim Pelstring

- Registered Voters and Continues to Register Voters (membership participation).
- Published an 80 page Voters Guide (Jim Pelstring, Judy Alves, Carol Barclay, Hugh Barclay, Laura Miller, Carol Lindstrom, and Meghan Dorsett).
- Held six Candidate Forums: (membership participation):
 - Four Held at the Alliance for the Arts Lee Memorial Hospital Board Supervisor of Elections County Commissioners Districts 3 and 5 School Board At Large;
 - One Held in Bonita Springs: School Board District 3; and
 - One Held in Estero: US House of Representative
- Organized and conducted LWVLCF discussion for the LWV Florida Open Primary Study and Consensus Meeting.

- Met with the newly elected Supervisor of Elections, Tommy Doyle.

Education

Judy Alves

- Seminar sponsored by Lee County School to establish project YES (Youth, Education and Success) attended by Judy Alves.
- Judy Alves along with members of the community, school district administrator, and several board members resurrected the Y.E.S. Project.
- Lee County School Board Redistricting meetings attended by Judy Alves.
- Judy Alves attended the swearing in ceremony of recently elected Melisa Giovannelli.
- Lee County School Board Workshops attended by Amy Wulf and Lyn Brown.
- Action Alert emailed to the membership to attend Lee County School Board meeting addressing redistricting. 8 members attended.
- Lehigh Acres Rotary meeting addressing NAACP proposed redistricting map attended by League members.
- The LWVLCF supports the NAACP proposed redistricting plan. The plan is consistent with policy for fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunities for public participation.

Observer Corp

Sandy Frank

Observing Your Government in Action: Protecting our right to know is integral to the health of our democracy.

- Lee County School Board: Lyn Brown and Amy Wulf
- Board of County Commissioners: Patty Duncan and Laurie Hutton-Corr
- Community Human Services Council and Community Agency/Neighborhood District Committee: Sandy Frank and Louis Eason
- Fort Myers City Council; Ward 6: Terry Lianzi
- Mosquito Commission, Kathy Mayo.
- State of Florida Constitutional Revision Commission: Madelon Stewart

Representation on Boards & Committees

Clara Anne Graham

Members currently serve on:

- LWV of Florida Juvenile Justice Study, Adrienne Kaltman
- Agency on Bay Management, Laura Miller
- Regional Advisory Committee on Trauma Services (Lee, Collier, Henry, Glades and Charlotte), Carol Barclay
- Dunbar Core Group, Judy Alves and Amy Wulf
- Pennies for Community Progress, Louis Eason
- Youth Education Success (YES), Judy Alves
- Lee Voter Freedom, Clara Anne Graham
- The LWVUS Climate Change Task Force, Clara Anne Graham

The LWVLCF Board encourages League members to become active in organizations that share League priorities and goals and to apply for appointment on governmental advisory councils and boards and newspaper editorial boards.

Program

2016-2017 LWVLCF Educational Programs and Membership Meetings

Stasia Arcarese

- **October 1, 2016** Yvonne McConnell, RN., BSN, Florida Department of Health, Teen Health Matters.
- **November 5, 2016** Wayne Daltry, DRGR To Build or Not to Build.
- **December 3, 2016** Membership Meeting to Meet and Greet our Elected Officials.
- **January 7, 2017** John Boland, Director, Lee County Department of Economic Development.
- **February 4, 2017** Roger Mercado, Director, Lee County Department of Veterans and Human Services.
- **March 4, 2017** Lynn Yeakel, Founder and President, Vision 2020, *Let's Act Like the Majority We Are* and membership meeting LWV of Florida Open Primary Study and Consensus.

- **April 1, 2017** Linda Doggett, Clerk of Court Lee County Florida and Membership Annual Meeting, Accessing *Public Records and Information*.
- **May 6, 2017** Cathleen Morgan Lee County Schools, *Lee County School District Vision 2020*.

Member Involvement

Clara Anne Graham

- LWVLCF encourages member participation in ALL of our programs and activities.
- LWVLCF Members are encouraged and welcome to attend LWVLCF Board meetings. Regular meeting are held after each educational program meeting.
- We need volunteers to assist us with internal communication and in media public relations. If you would like to help, email 2ndVP@lwvlee.org.
- We encourage members to share their ideas for educational program topics.
- Members are welcome and encouraged to attend the [LWVLCF Board Retreat April 22, 2017, 9am-3pm](#).
- Members should join committees. Current committees include Voter Service and Environment.
- Promote LWVLCF on social Media including Facebook: Review, like and share posts: League Women Voters of Lee County Florida and League of Women Voters Lee County Florida Climate Change.

Environment

Laura Miller

- Big Sugar Summit 2 in West Palm Beach attended by Laura Miller, Adrienne Kaltman and Clara Anne Graham.
- Lee County Environmental Breakfast attended by Laura Miller and Teddy Hogle.
- Fort Myers News Press Save Our Water Summit attended by Laura Miller, Terry Lianzi, Barbara Carter, Teddy Hogle, and Clara Anne Graham.
- Co-Sponsored Sea Level Rise Summit "Resilience and Adaptation in the Estero Bay Region" at FGCU (membership participation) Thank You Laura for your efforts to fund the event. LWVLCF and League members made donations.
- Fracking Summit at FGCU attended by Clara Anne Graham.
- LWVLCF supports the use of Conservation 20/20 funds to purchase Edison Farms (4,000 acres).

Social Policy

Louis Eason

- Carol Barclay and Clara Anne Graham addressed the Lee County Board of County Commissioners to fund the Children's Service Council during the budget process. Action Alert emailed to membership. 11 member attended.
- Quality Life Center Event: Louis Eason and Sandy Frank sponsored a table. Dr. Pat Washington, Charlotte Britt, and Clara Anne Graham joined them.
- Community Action Agency/Neighborhood District Committee Quarterly Meeting attended by Louis Eason and Sandy Frank.
- Louis Eason and Sandy Frank attended Heights Foundation Fundraiser: Kiwanis District Meeting FSW presentation on "Journalism as Activism" and movie presentation "13th" which focused on the criminalization of African Americans and the US prison boom.
- Fort Myers News Press workshop for the Children's Service Council attended by Louis Eason, Sandy Frank, Judy Alves, Jim Pelstring and Clara Anne Graham.
- LWCLCF supports Pennies for Community Progress petition initiative to place on the 2018 general election ballot the establishment of a Lee County Children's Service Council.
- Louis Eason and Sandy Frank meet with young minority professionals to discuss the Next Generation of Leaders.
- Louis Eason attended P4CP leader breakfast. Leaders present were Commissioner Manning, Mayor Henderson, Lee County staff, Representatives from Sheriff's department, and other leaders.

Upcoming Events

Clara Anne Graham

April 22, 2017, 9 am-3 pm (new date) LWVLCF Board Retreat

April 29, 2017, People's Climate Movement National – 11:00am Gather in front of Capital Building; 1:30pm Surround the White House on all sides; 3:00pm Reconvene at the Washington Monument grounds. **Local: March for Jobs, Justice and the Climate** 2:00pm Centennial Park, 2000 W First Street, Fort Myers

May 3, 2017, 6:35 pm League of Women Voters Appreciation Night with the Fort Myers Miracle Baseball Team who plays Daytona Tortugas at the Hammond Stadium. **JOIN US FOR THE FUN**

May 6, 2017, 9am-11am Cathleen Morgan Lee County Schools, Lee County School District Vision 2020

Week of May 8, 2017, State of Florida Constitution Revision Commission (CRC) Lee County Hearing TBA

Starting: Lee Voter Freedom

Clara Anne Graham

Starting: Lee Voter Freedom, a grassroots bipartisan citizen petition initiative. How Will It Work? WE THE PEOPLE will collect the signatures of 7% of Lee County registered voters in order for the following question to appear on the ballot in the 2018 general election. **"Shall the Charter of Lee County, Florida be amended to require that County Commissioners be nonpartisan officers chosen by vote of the electors in a nonpartisan election instead of one indicating a political party affiliation."** (Officials in all six cities in Lee County, along with the School Board, are already chosen in nonpartisan elections.)

Membership

Our Membership Keeps Growing!

Sarah McDonald

Dues are payable on April 1st for the year 2017/2018. When you join the League of Women Voters of Lee county, you become a member at the state and national levels.

Membership ensures that the League continues to speak with a strong voice on issues in the community, state and country. It is more important than ever that the League works for good public policy decisions.

Bring your check to the Annual Meeting; join/pay online through Pay Pal ; or submit the membership form and check <http://www.lwvlee.org/join-us/>

Individual \$60

Household \$90

Student \$25.

Associate 1/2 regular due
(with membership in another local league)