



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF BROWARD COUNTY, FL

May 2016

Volume 65 Number 4



2016/17 Board Members Elected at April 16th Annual Meeting

See story on page 3-5.



President's Message

Happy New Year League of Women Voters of Broward County! May 1st marks the beginning of our 2016-17 fiscal year, and it promises to be exciting with major elections and important LWVBC programs.

On April 16th we held our successful **Annual Meeting and Luncheon** joined by many members, guests, elected officials and candidates. At the meeting, you elected new officers and board members, while reaffirming continuing leaders who will guide us in achieving our mission. **Congratulations to each of the LWVBC officers, board members and committee chairs.** LWVBC gives special thanks to Annual Meeting and Luncheon Co-Chairs **John Kent** and **Donna Meyers** and their team of volunteers for creating an extraordinary event enjoyed by all.

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LWV BROWARD COUNTY VOTER

(*President's Message* – continued from page 1)

LWVBC members also shared insights, interests and support for the ambitious 2016-17 program. We committed to

- **Voter Services:** Increasing voter turnout for national, state and local elections, while expanding our voter services/ information efforts
- **Broward County Government:** Voicing our interests as we support revisions to the Charter
- **Environmental Issues:** Supporting parks, conservation of water resources, and a regional climate change action plan
- **County Wide Library System:** Supporting the system
- **Children's Issues:** Reinvigorating LWVBC commitment to supporting children services and initiatives
- **Education:** Supporting high-quality education and accountability across all schools and public/private partnerships
- **Human Issues:** Supporting equal rights for women, safe rescue and rehabilitation of human trafficking victims and sustainable resources for all populations

To accomplish our goals for 2016-17, **we need your active support and participation.** Get involved with our Registration Drives, Election Volunteer effort, Speakers Bureau and Candidate Forums, Broward Vote! Coalition, Water Management Initiatives, new Children's Issues Committee, Education Committee and Action Committee. Or attend some of our board meetings--get better informed, share your thoughts, and find out ways you can best serve.

As you can see there's plenty to do as we head into this important election year. We hope to see you soon and often.

Regards,

Jocelyn Jocelyn Carter-Miller, *President, LWVBC*



Go to www.vote411.org and enter your address to find information on all candidates who will appear on the August Primary ballot. Our electronic Voters' Guide will be updated with local candidate information in late July.

VOTE411 is a work in progress throughout election season. Check back frequently to find information on candidates running for local offices after qualifying dates in May and June.

The **VOTE411** team has been at work preparing for these upcoming qualifying dates. We'll be inviting qualified candidates to participate in our Voters' Guide by answering questions we have prepared for each office and category of candidates. Candidate answers to these questions will be posted on **VOTE411**.

Got a question about **VOTE411**? Contact Jane Gross at 954.791.0387.

League Course Set at Annual Meeting

The League of Women Voters of Broward County elected board members, affirmed action issues, and approved its 2016 budget at its annual business meeting on April 16. Held at the Sheraton Suites Fort Lauderdale at Cypress Creek, the **Annual Meeting** was organized by Committee chairpersons **John Kent** and **Donna Meyers**.



Jocelyn Carter-Miller will return to the board as president. She will be joined by Vice President **Shaheewa Gelin**, Secretary **Elayne Garver**, and Treasurer **Gloria Reinhardt**. 2016/17 Board members are: **Nora Ayala**, **Betty Gambino**, **Bradette Jepsen**, **Margery Marcus**, **Harriet Mathis**, **Donna Meyers**, **Ghazala Salam**, and **Laura Simon**.

The 2015 budget calls for total expenses of \$21,020. The largest expenses are membership dues to the national and state League organizations (\$6,110), education activities (\$3,600), and rent (\$2,400).

The League recognized **Juan Arroyo III**, the winner of the *2015 League of Women Voters* scholarship. In his remarks, Juan thanked God, his family and “every opportunity I have been given.” The 2015 St. Thomas Aquinas High School graduate was awarded the scholarship based on his essay response on how to encourage young people to become engaged in the democratic process. Juan is studying business administration with a minor in criminal justice at Broward College. He hopes to join the U.S. Marines on graduating and wants to serve in the FBI or the Drug Enforcement Agency.



The Keynote Address was delivered by *Broward Women’s Hall of Fame Inductee* **Ghazala Salam**. Her presentation entitled “Politics, Priorities, and Prejudice in 2016 - American Muslim Views” highlighted the results of a recent Georgetown University Poll which examined the political engagement and participation of religious groups in America.

Notable guests included Pembroke Pines Commissioner **Iris Siple**, City of West Park Commissioner **Kristine Judeikis**, former School Board member **Maureen Dinnen**, Broward Sherriff representative **Patti Lynne**, candidate for the U.S. 23rd Congressional House **Tim Canova**, and candidate for the Florida House District 92 **Paulette Armstead**.

Also recognized were LWVBC past presidents: **Priscilla Hawk**, **Jane Gross**, **Alice Levy**, **Stephanie Pearson**, and **Carol Smith** and *Lifetime* members: **Harriet Mathis** and **Carol Smith**.

Meeting Highlights



Members Suggest Additional Action Issues

Several action possibilities were discussed by League members at the Annual Meeting.

1. **Change in Structure of County**

Government: The Broward County Charter Review Committee will be discussing a change in the structure of government. The Full Committee meets every second Wednesday of the month at 1:30 pm in Rm. 430 in the Governmental Center, 115 S. Andrews Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale. The

Subcommittees meet at various times, listed below. All meetings are public.

- *The Structure of County Government Subcommittee* meets on May 6, 1-2:30 pm, Rm 430
- *Human Services and Public Safety Subcommittee*, meets on May 7, 9:30-11:30 am, Rm 430
- *Infrastructure Subcommittee* meets on May 3, 2-3:30 pm, Rm 430
- *Ethics Subcommittee* meets May 9, 1:30-3 pm, Rm 430

2. **Children's Services Committee:** Some members would like to reactivate the committee to monitor child nutrition—please contact **Carol Smith** (cssmith@att.net) if interested.

3. **School Bond Performance and Oversight of Charter Schools:** There was strong recommendation to monitor both. Please contact **Margery Marcus** (rma470000@aol.com) if interested.



Did you know? LWVBC adopted a study of **Handgun Management** in 1982, reached consensus in 1984 when Broward voters, with LWVBC support, passed a charter amendment allowing a maximum 10-day waiting period. In 1989, Florida League members concurred with several local leagues to support a state-wide 5-day waiting period for purchasing a hand gun. In 1990, with LWVF support, Florida voters passed a Constitutional Amendment for a 3-day waiting period. The documentary "Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA" is a stark, fact-filled, brutal accounting of the greed of the NRA and lawmakers. If you want to watch this, go to www.bravenewfilms.org and click on 'new feature'.

Why Your Per Member National League Payment Matters



Recently the *New York Times* and *Washington Post* both highlighted the League's pending lawsuit against the Executive Director of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, **Brian Newby**, who unilaterally decided to amend the national uniform mail-in voter registration form to require documentary proof of citizenship in three states. If allowed to stand, this illegal action could free other states to erect this new restriction on voter registration. *The New York Times* editorial board also weighed in. Earlier this month, the *New York Times* also printed a letter by League President **Elisabeth MacNamara** calling out the hypocrisy of Speaker **Paul Ryan** on efforts to restore the Voting Rights Act.

Report on Charter Schools, 2016



The interest expressed in charter schools at last month's Annual Meeting, prompted Education Committee Chair **Margery Marcus** to compile this review. Margery and Education Committee member **Jane Koszoru** did an in-depth review of charter schools in Broward in 2015. They presented their finding to the LWVBC Board of Directors as well as to the Broward Retired Teachers organization. Additionally, they both contributed regularly last year to the LWVFL's Education Blog.

The State League's position was developed from the extensive study of charter schools it undertook in 2013. Charter schools:

- Should be limited to those that fill unmet needs in identified local school districts
- Should be supervised by district staff with enforcement powers to ensure conformity to state regulations of fiscal responsibility and adherence to building codes
- Must be transparent and accountable to the public in their reporting of teacher turnover, teacher certification, student mobility and student grade retention
- Must avoid conflicts of interest with members of its governing boards who serve as state legislators
- Must adhere to the same facilities and procurement standards as traditional public schools

Currently there are 652 charter schools in Florida enrolling 269,000 students. Broward numbers 103 charter schools enrolling over 43,000 students.

In a victory for charter school advocates, **Governor Scott** recently signed off on legislation allocating \$75 million for charter school capital projects in 2016-2017. It is the same amount given to the state's 3600 traditional public schools. (Note: traditional schools receive about six times more in capital funding per pupil than charters due to local funding sources.)



The law adds several new standards for charters, however. It requires them to provide monthly or quarterly financial statements in order to flag potential money issues in the future. It also adds the provision that any charter school with two consecutive "F" grades will be automatically terminated.

Meet Gloria Reinhardt: LWVBC Treasurer

Gloria Reinhardt is a retired financial management professional and resides in Coral Springs with her husband, Ken. She has an accounting degree, an MBA and is a Certified Management Accountant. She has been an active volunteer in Broward County since retirement. She focuses on education, advocacy and community issues. In addition to being a member of the League of Women Voters Broward County, she is an AARP volunteer focusing on Speakers Bureau presentations and advocacy. She also serves on the Public Policy Committee at Broward United Way.





Voters Service

The League registered voters at 12 events in April. We are always in need of registration event volunteers and appreciate your flexibility in last minute changes to the schedule. If you haven't yet completed the required online **LWVFL** Voter Registration certification, please consider doing so at <http://thefloridavoter.org>

May Voter Speaking and Registration Events (Volunteers Needed)

- **May 2: National Council of Jewish Women**, 1:30 pm, Wynmoor Ballroom C, Coconut Creek
- **May 6: Urban League Staff**, Time: TBA, 560 NW 27th Ave., Ft. Lauderdale
- **May 12: Senior Connection**, 9:45 am, Mount Nebo Baptist Church, 2251 NW 22nd St., Ft. Lauderdale
- **May 18: Let's Talk/Sr. Group**, Time: TBA, Sunrise Senior Center, 10650 W. Oakland Park Blvd., Sunrise

Contact Voters Service Chair: **Laura Simon** (johnsimon@bellsouth.net) or 954-430-5234



Informed Voter Turnout Task Force



Volunteer your creativity and support for ideas to reach the 30% of Broward County voters who are registered No Party Affiliation (NPA). Florida is a **closed primary state** in which only registered Democrat or Republican voters may choose party nominees. Many NPA voters are unaware that they cannot vote in partisan elections, including the upcoming August 30 primary.

Members of **Informed Voter Turnout Task Force (IVTTF)** are brainstorming and seeking strategies and opportunities to tell NPA's that they must register a Party affiliation before August 1 or they cannot vote for Party candidates on August 30. Without a Party affiliation, they can only vote for candidates in non-partisan races including county and circuit Judges and the School Board.

Task Force members will reach out to the Supervisor of Elections, libraries, and universities through social media with a monthly email blast coordinated by **Jane Gross**.

The IVTTF schedules meetings on Saturday mornings at the League office and welcomes new ideas, connections, and volunteers!

If you are interested, please call **Harriet Mathis**. 954-0563-3685

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Committee Reports

	Education Margery Marcus rma470000@aol.com	<p>The Education Committee and the Speakers Bureau are working together to personalize presentations to community groups. We have developed a basic template that can be hand-tailored to the group requesting a speaker. The template includes an opening slide "tribute" to the specific group, as well as slides which address specific information requested by the group: i.e. role of senior citizens in Florida elections and term limit information on Broward County offices.</p>
	Voters Service Laura Simon johnsimon@bellsouth.net	<p>Voter Registration Events: May 2: National Council of Jewish Women, 1:30 pm, Coconut Creek May 6: Urban League Staff, Time: TBA, Ft. Lauderdale May 12: Senior Connection, 9:45 am, Mount Nebo Baptist Church, Ft. Lauderdale May 18: Let's Talk/Sr. Group, Time: TBA, Sunrise Senior Center, Sunrise</p>
	Membership Data Base Scherry Donato scherryd1@gmail.com	<p><i>Welcome New Members</i></p> <p>Dr. Kamala Anandam Weston Mary Molina-Macfie Weston Katy Syed Weston</p> <p>We celebrate the following Lifetime members: Ruth Clark, Carolyn Fromuth, Priscilla Hawk, Marjorie Head, Harriet Mathis, Helen Runes, Carol Smith, Naomi Sukman, Ricki Witte</p>
	Speakers Bureau Carol Smith cssmith@att.net	<p>Judges will qualify between May 2 and May 6. Watch for information on those candidates. Also on the August Primary ballot will be an amendment to the Florida Constitution titled: "Solar devices or Renewable Energy Source Devices; Exemption from Certain Taxation and Assessment." Join the Speakers Bureau to help explain this ballot issue.</p>
	Fundraising Betty Gambino Bmeyers461@aol.com	<p>A big thanks to all of the merchants who donated so generously for our Annual Luncheon on April 16th. Also a big thank you to our board members for their donations and to all of our members for their participation. We raised \$400. It's been an honor to serve in this capacity.</p>



Ilene Singer, long time League member and Tamarac resident, died suddenly on April 19. Politically active for years, Ilene was a driving force behind South Florida's *Move to Amend* movement.



Date	Event
Saturday May 21 9:30 am	Board of Directors Meeting LWVBC Office 5101 NW 21 st Avenue, Suite 450 Fort Lauderdale, FL
Wednesday - Sunday August 17 - 21	Seneca Falls and Rochester New York Tour Visit the homes of Susan B Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and meet a descendent of Harriet Tubman and more! Go to http://thefloridavoter.org/seneca-falls-2016-trip/ for more details

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Jane Koszoru – editor jkoszoru@aol.com
Jocelyn Carter-Miller – LWVBC president jcm197@aol.com

LWV BROWARD COUNTY VOTER



BOARD MEMBERS			
Jocelyn Carter-Miller	President	954-464-5512	jcm197@aol.com
Shaheewa Jarrett Gelin	Vice President	305-495-8252	shwah07@yahoo.com
Elayne Garver	Secretary	954-471-1355	elaynetg@aol.com
Gloria Reinhardt	Treasurer	954-344-3787	kgr5130@bellsouth.net
Nora Ayala	Director	954-547-1473	argen1214@aol.com
Kamalie Belizaire	Director		kbeli001@fiu.edu
Betty Gambino	Director	954-849-8568	bettyboop9132001@yahoo.com
Bradette Jepsen	Director	954-980-9086	bradette@earthlink.net
Margery Marcus	Director	954-464-4165	rma470000@aol.com
Harriet Mathis	Director	954-563-3685	mathis.lwvlbc@gmail.com
Donna Meyers	Director	954-600-4563	bmeyers461@aol.com
Ghazala Salam	Director	954-385-7834	ghazalasalam@yahoo.com
Laura Simon	Director	954-430-5234	johnsimon@bellsouth.net
COMMITTEE CHAIRS			
Ghazala Salam	Action	954-385-7834	ghazalasalam@yahoo.com
Shaheewa Gelin	Community Outreach	305-495-8252	shwah07@yahoo.com
Scherry Donato	Membership Database	240-603-7711	scherryd1@gmail.com
Nora Ayala	Membership Outreach	954-547-1473	Argen1214@aol.com
Harriet Mathis	Public Relations	954-563-3685	mathis.lwvlbc@gmail.com
Carol Smith	Speakers	954-341-9221	cssmith@att.net
Margery Marcus	Bureau	954-646-4165	rma470000@aol.com
Janie Koszoru	Voter Editor	954-895-4150	jkoszoru@aol.com
Laura Simon	Voter Services	954-430-5234	johnsimon@bellsouth.net
Bonnie Gross	Webmaster	302-521-7741	bonnielgross@gmail.com
Betty Gambino	Fundraising	954-849-8568	Bettyboop9132001@yahoo.com
Margery Marcus	Education	954-646-4165	rma470000@aol.com
Donna Meyers	Hot Topics	954-600-4563	bmeyers461@aol.com
Harriet Mathis	Voter Turnout Taskforce	954-563-3685	mathis.lwvlbc@gmail.com
Jane Gross	VOTE411/WRY	954-791-0387	Jane144@att.net

LWV BROWARD COUNTY VOTER



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF BROWARD COUNTY, FL**

PO Box 15952
Plantation, FL 33318-5952
954-735-1311 www.lwvbcfl.org
info@lwvbcfl.org

MEMBERSHIP FORM

October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016

Thank you for your support of the League of Women Voters. Our voice is more important today than ever!
Membership includes local, state, and national membership and *VOTER* newsletters.

	INFORMATION
Name	
Address/Apt	
City/State/Zip	
Home Phone	
Work Phone	
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Contact me by: Email ☐ Mail ☐ Home Phone ☐ Work Phone ☐ Cell Phone ☐

Please tell us how you heard about the League:

- ☐ FRIEND
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- ☐ RADIO
- ☐ TV
- ☐ SCHOOL
- ☐ INTERNET
- ☐ GROUP/ORGANIZATION

Select Annual Membership Level:

- ___ \$100.00 Susan B. Anthony
- ___ \$75.00 Household
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- ___ \$25.00 Full-time Student
- ___ Your donation is appreciated
- ___ Total Amount enclosed

COMPLETE MEMBERSHIP FORM AND MAIL WITH CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO LWVBCFL
TO: LWVBC Membership, P.O. Box 15952, Plantation, FL 33318-5952

Check # _____ Date _____

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR AREAS OF INTEREST:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
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