

The League of Women Voters of Volusia County, Florida



THE

VOTER

February - March 2006

Visit our Web site at: <http://www.stetson.edu/~bjohnson/LWVVC.html>

LWV Purpose : To promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to act on selected issues.



General Meeting: Smart Growth Implementation Committee Report

***Speakers:** Clay Henderson, Holland & Knight, LLP
Glenn Storch, Storch & Morris, PA

(*Members of the Smart Growth Implementation Committee)

Saturday, February 25, 2006

Halifax Historical Museum,

252 S. Beach St., Daytona Beach

10:00 a.m. Coffee and Cookies

10:30 a.m. Program

(There's parking on Beach Street in front of the museum and also plenty of parking in the back.)

General Meeting: Updating the Volusia County Comprehensive Plan

Saturday, March 25, 2006

10:00 a.m. Brunch, \$5.00

10:30 a.m. *A Panel of Local Officials

United Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall

730 Beville Road, Daytona Beach

RSVP: Judy Craig or Rosemarie Gore at LWVVC:

LWVVC@cfl.rr.com; 386-248-0511, or P.O. Box 9418, Daytona Beach, FL 32120

*Will be announced when speakers are confirmed

The President's Column: Many Notes of Appreciation

***Many thanks and much appreciation go to the hosts of our Holiday Get-together on December 7, Chris and John Moseley. Their lovely home provided the perfect atmosphere for what was for many of us the first party of the season. In addition to board members, there were also many members who were able to share this special occasion with us. We all thank you, Chris and John, for your gracious holiday hospitality.

***On Thursday afternoon, December 15, when most LWVVC members were shopping, preparing for the holidays and basking in the freedom from League responsibilities, several board and off-board members took time to appear and speak at one of two public hearings of the Volusia County Legislative Delegation.

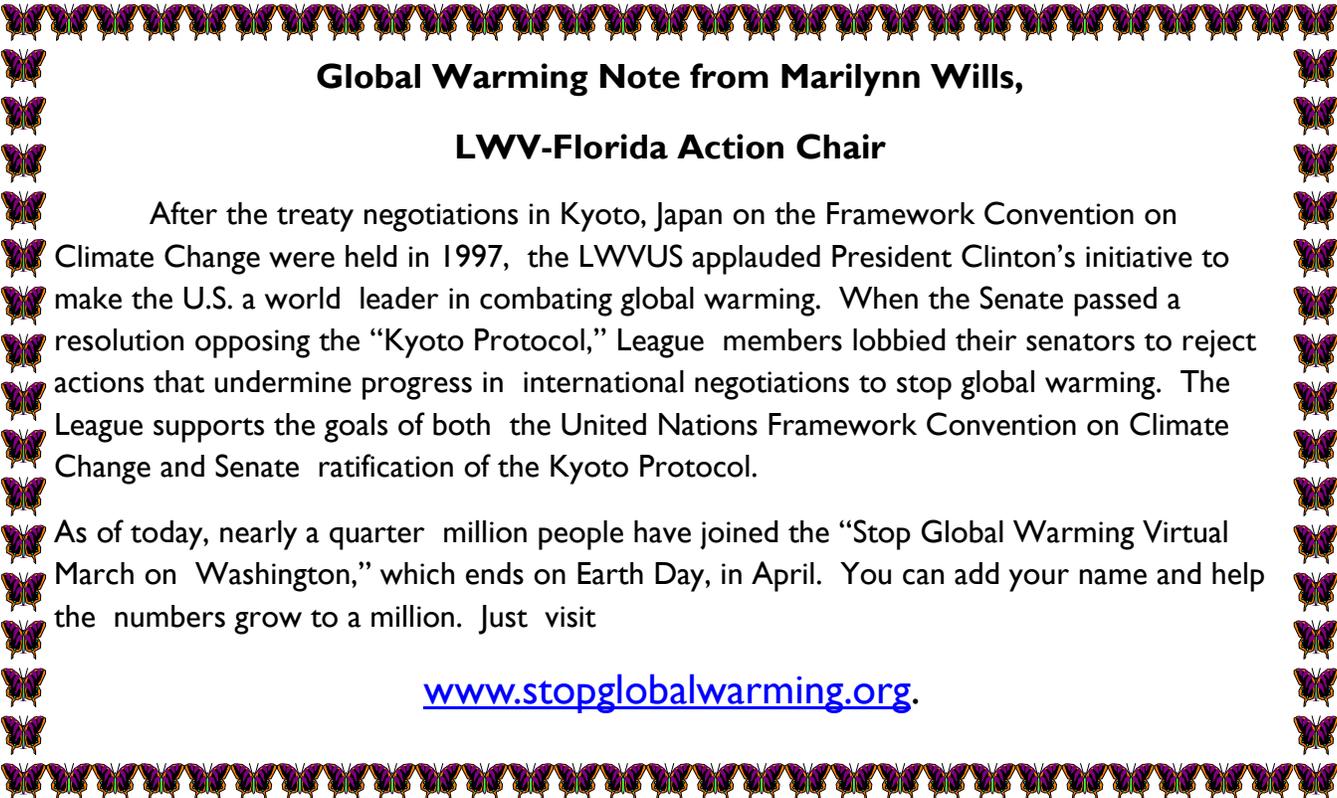
We are most grateful to Pat Gadbow and Jean Snyder who spoke at the public hearing in Daytona Beach, held from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Pat spoke in favor of the **ERA**, and Jean spoke about the need for **comprehensive growth management planning**. At the close of this hearing, Senator Anthony Hill asked that the members of the LWVVC in attendance at the meeting please meet with him. He was most impressed with Jean's comments because of the Growth Planning Committee that he serves on.

Later at 4:00 p.m. the delegation met in DeLand to hear comments from West side citizens. At this meeting, Ann Smith spoke about the need for **Civic Education** in public schools, Nancy Ryan addressed the lawmakers' duty to **protect, extend, and encourage the use of the voting franchise**, Rosemarie Gore stressed the need for the **protection of water supplies and quality** in her remarks, Rachel Sieg (wearing her BPW hat) spoke in favor of the **ERA**, and Judy Moore urged the lawmakers to join the growing number of states that **grant voting rights to ex-felons** upon completion of their sentence. Each legislator received a written copy of each League member's comments on LWVVC letterhead.

***If you did or did not get to attend the November 19 General Meeting, I would still like to share with you a brief summary of our meeting on the Smart Growth Implementation Committee's report, as a way of thanking all our great presenters. Ann Smith, 3rd VP and Voter Service Chair, suggested that individual board members take a section of the report to present and discuss in relation to LWV public policy positions. Rosemarie Gore, Natural Resources Chair, assigned the sections to the following members: Sandy Horikami, Ann Smith, Linda Sullivan, Betty Johnson, Judy Craig, Sue Johnson, Judy Moore, and herself. In addition, Nancy Ryan agreed to start the program with a comprehensive explanation of SB 360 because it is referenced frequently in the report. A couple of board members who had to withdraw their offers of help went ahead and prepared their reports for others to give. We thank Dennis Clayton for pinch-hitting for Betty, and Ann for taking on an extra section. Summer Clayton sent out her timely reminder postcards, and Chris Moseley reminded us that digesting lengthy, complicated reports is how we cut our teeth in the League of Women Voters.

Judy Moore
President

Visit our Web site: www.stetson.edu/~bjohnson/LWVVC.html



Global Warming Note from Marilyn Wills,

LWV-Florida Action Chair

After the treaty negotiations in Kyoto, Japan on the Framework Convention on Climate Change were held in 1997, the LWVUS applauded President Clinton's initiative to make the U.S. a world leader in combating global warming. When the Senate passed a resolution opposing the "Kyoto Protocol," League members lobbied their senators to reject actions that undermine progress in international negotiations to stop global warming. The League supports the goals of both the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Senate ratification of the Kyoto Protocol.

As of today, nearly a quarter million people have joined the "Stop Global Warming Virtual March on Washington," which ends on Earth Day, in April. You can add your name and help the numbers grow to a million. Just visit

www.stopglobalwarming.org.

NOTICE: LWVF has a new email address: lvvfl@comcast.net

LWVUS-Education Fund Awards a 3-Year

Grant for \$9,060 to LWV-Florida

Dear LWV Members:

Great News!!!!!! The LWVUS Education Fund has awarded LWVF a \$9,060, three-year grant to develop and distribute a DVD on the balance of powers in Florida with an emphasis on an independent judiciary. Congratulations to Elizabeth Mannion, Grant Coordinator, and to Judy Dean, President, THE FINER PLACES, INC, Sarasota, FL, who crafted this grant proposal for LWVF on a pro bono basis. You will meet Judy at the Legislative Seminar; she will be conducting a marketing/craftsmanship workshop. The award letter follows.

Exultingly yours,
Dianne Wheatley Giliotti, President
LWV-Florida

STATUS OF THE REDISTRICTING PETITION

Caroline Emmons-Schramm, LWVF's petition chair, reports that the Committee for Fair Elections collected nearly 900,000 signatures, well above the 750,000 goal. The committee has worked furiously to get them verified by local Supervisors of Elections by the Feb. 1 deadline. As noted in the Florida VOTER, 611,000 verified signatures are required to get the amendments on the 2006 ballot.

LWVVC mailed in a total of 405 signed petitions. That doesn't include any returned by individual members or by those who took the forms and mailed them in themselves. We definitely put forth a great effort. At times, some members drove to the far reaches of the county--only to collect a tiny handful. But then there was Port Orange Family Days where we raked in 165 in two days, in spite of rain. We requested permission to gather signatures at the Halifax Art Festival but were turned down.

There are two things to be aware of. First, this is all still in the courts. The Florida Supreme Court must determine if the petitions are clear and meet the rule requiring that a constitutional amendment deal with a single subject only. The court review is set for Feb. 9. House Speaker Bense has hired an attorney (using taxpayer money!) to speak in opposition.

Another development is that the committee has decided to focus solely on the amendment that establishes the independent commission--and not push for implementing the change in 2007. As you know, the amendment setting up the guidelines for districts was thrown out because the ballot summary had six words more than allowed. That leaves us with only one amendment to advocate for, provided the Supreme Court gives its OK.

Lynn Lempel

Below is the latest update, received January 27, on the REDISTRICTING PETITION.

Cheers!!! Caroline Emmons-Schramm reports that "The call this morning included information that we have over 630,000 validated signatures, have officially qualified in 12 Congressional Districts, and are almost there is 2 others. We should be there by the end of the week. Certainly we will make it by the end of the month!"

She states further, "The Committee for Fair Elections is beginning to plan for the next step of the campaign. They want to highlight the League of Women Voters and Common Cause to reduce the perception that this is a partisan issue. They are talking about kicking everything off in Tallahassee with a press conference, possibly in March - utilizing our Legislative Seminar in March was one suggestion." Stay tuned.

Dianne Wheatley-Giliotti, President, LWV-Florida

Two LWVVC Members are LWVF Off-Board Members

Betty Johnson, LWVVC Web Master, has been asked by the LWV-Florida Board of Directors to join an *ad hoc* committee whose function is to reactivate the state Web site. The site has been "Under Construction" for some time now, and we're sure that someone with Betty's expertise will help get it back up and running.

Judy Moore, LWVVC President, serves as the LWV-Florida liaison to the Florida Right Restoration Coalition (FRRC). Her responsibilities include participating in the monthly FRRC conference calls and writing a report for the LWVF Board. During this year's legislative session, she will be tracking this issue in the legislature and making reports for possible inclusion in the CAPITOL REPORT.



County Comprehensive Growth Management PLAN - Year 2



The members of the Local Study Committee continue reviewing Elements of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan of Volusia County. This year our emphasis has been on how regulations in the plan are being monitored and policed. But as most of you know, this county and therefore this committee have gone through many twists and turns because of the unique situation this county faces.

This is the year of the Charter Review Commission meetings and Subcommittee discussions. Many of the elements tied to the Comprehensive Plan could be directly affected by the wording in the Charter. And they may be directly impacted by the Smart Growth Report.

It appears that the County Council is working on the County Comprehensive Plan now, and as the News-Journal reported, a workshop was held on Thursday, Jan. 19th @ 2:00 p.m. at the Administration Center, 123 W. Indiana Avenue, DeLand. The draft Evaluation and Appraisal Report for future land use (and other EAR related information) can be accessed at <http://www.volusia.org/growth/ear.htm>.) These are the proposed amendment changes that will be recommended to the Council.

Most all the LWWVC Local Study committee are observing or participating in a sub-committee or committee meetings for either the Charter Review or Smart Growth. Also, through the Observer Corps we are checking on the process for making changes in the comprehensive plan and how easy it is to make those changes.

The committee believes that we will not be making any proposed changes or additions to our Government Program statements for LWWVC this year but plan to set up a speaker or speakers for the March meeting.

Jean Snyder, Chair
Local Study, 2005-06

LWWVC Phone System

The phone number that is listed for the League of Women Voters of Volusia County, 386-238-7361, is affectionately referred to by board members as “the phone system in the sky” or “our cyber space phone system.” That’s because it’s an automatic answering system that must be accessed on a regular basis to respond to the public’s phoned-in inquiries. It’s a very important link with our communities.

Jackie Minnick, a Port Orange resident who joined the League this summer, has just joined the LWWVC Board as an off-board director whose responsibility is to check our messages daily (well, maybe not on the weekend), and refer calls to the appropriate board members or to public agencies, such as the Department of Elections. She attended the November board meeting and explained how she maintains a log of callers and how important it is that board members respond to these calls. We are most fortunate that such an organized member stepped forward to help with this task.

Membership Matters: Reduced LWWVC Dues

At its November 2005 meeting the LWWVC Board of Directors voted to adjust dues for anyone who joins our organization between January 31 and June 30 to one-half the yearly amount. Yearly dues, from July 1 to June 30, are \$50 for an individual membership, \$70 for a family membership, and \$25 for a student membership. Therefore, anyone who joins between now and the end of June will pay only one-half the yearly amount for a one-half year of LWWVC membership.

This seems like a great time to invite a friend, neighbor, or colleague to join the League.

Florida Rights Restoration Coalition

SAVE THE DATE - TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2006

Please mark your calendars now and **fill out** and **return** the RSVP at your earliest convenience and distribute this notice widely to other organizations and individuals.

What: Restore the Vote Day of Action

When: Tuesday, March 14th, 2006, 9:00 am- 5:00pm

Where: Capitol Building, Tallahassee, FL

The FRRC is holding a Day of Action in Tallahassee on March 14th, 2006 to rally and lobby in support of legislation to restore the right to vote and work to hundreds of thousands of people with past felony convictions in Florida who have completed their sentences. Your presence in Tallahassee will be critical in furthering our continuing progress to remove Florida's voting ban from the constitution.

Please mark your calendars and RSVP now! Your answers to the following questions will help our planning process.

Are you able to attend ? Yes or No

Transportation:

Providing own? Yes or No

Willing to carpool? Yes or No

Need ride on a chartered bus? Yes or No

Need overnight accommodation? Yes or No

Please provide your name, phone number, and email address here:



Please RSVP now and send to Elton Edwards by e-mail at eedwards@aclufl.org or by fax at (305) 576-1106. For more information, please call Elton at (305) 576-2337 ext. 21.

SAVE THE DATE - TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2006

The Florida Rights Restoration Coalition is a state partner in the national Right to Vote Campaign.

LWVVC members interested in attending this rally should call or email Judy Moore, who is arranging car pools: LWVVC@cfl.rr.com or 386-248-0511.

THE ERA CAMPAIGNER

Issue # 21, January 20, 2006

Contact: ERACampaign@aol.com

Web Site: www.ERACampaign.net

The e-mail newsletter of the **ERA Campaign Network**, a nationwide network of activists for and supporters of adding to the US Constitution the Equal Rights Amendment: "**Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.**" We focus our efforts especially on the "3-state" strategy to achieve the ERA: Since 35 states have ALREADY ratified the ERA, only three more need to ratify to reach the necessary 38 - three-fourths of the 50 states.

Observer Corps

We continue to grow and change as a group. We have added three new names in the past month to our corps: Lynn LaLombard, DeLand; Noreen Brownson, New Smyrna; and Bob Miller, Orange City. Mary Derr finds that the Volusia Council meetings conflict with another meeting she has. We may have someone to replace her.

Daytona Beach: The Commission unanimously passed an ordinance requiring renters of single family homes or duplexes to get a license. It is intended to address problems with absentee landlords and unkempt properties. After one year, city staff will evaluate costs, including the time taken up by code enforcers for this program. Also passed was a rezoning ordinance allowing the development of The Bellaria, a proposed 10-story condo on Halifax Ave. Of interest to the League was a discussion concerning the canvassing board—namely, the fact that the Commission itself serves as the canvassing board during elections, with the result that those who are candidates end up handling and counting ballots. Two ideas were suggested: appoint citizens to an independent board; or, since races are now staggered, have those commissioners not running serve on the board. The city manager was asked to bring in alternatives for the new commission to discuss.

Lynn Lempel

South Daytona: As with other towns along the Halifax, the debate goes on regarding boat slips. There are 632 boat slips permitted under State guidelines for the 2 1/2 miles of river shore in South Daytona. How big will the slips be. How much dredging is needed? Will there be public access? The meeting December 13 was primarily composed of ordinance changes moving from Residential high density range-1 to high-density range 4 with only Nancy Long voting against. And the beat goes on! Long is quoted as stating at one point “..city does not have to approve additional units just because the developer has purchased more land.” It was noted that the city has concurred with Land Development Regulation Board on 46 of 47 issues over the last 24 months.

Marcia Lewis

Ponce Inlet: Ponce Inlet continues to struggle with how to maintain their fishing village image with pressures to businesses and home owners to cash in on the escalating cost of land. The Council is proposing a change in the Sunshine Law allowing members of Boards and Commissions, along with citizens, to participate in open electronic discussions of subjects of interest. February 8 there will be a joint meeting with neighboring cities to discuss Charter Review.

Patricia Gadbaw

Port Orange: There are a number of local issues coming before the State legislature. Two of the most important are the Cambridge Project and Port Orange Riverwalk. The Council approved \$40,000 to hire a lobbyist who will follow and advocate for local issues. The hot issue of the December 13 meeting was the Port Orange Riverwalk Comprehensive Plan Amendment: “The city is proposing to amend the Future Land Use Element, Future Land Use Map, Transportation Element, Coastal Zone Management Element, and Capital Improvements element of the Port Orange Comprehensive Plan which was updated in 1998. Collectively, these amendments set the framework for redevelopment within the 35.4 acre Riverwalk Redevelopment Project Area, including the establishment of a Transportation Concurrency Exception Area (TCEA) for the entire Port Orange Town Center Redevelopment District.” The element discussed last night was the TCEA. The greatest concern came from residents of Bird Island. Those who spoke were concerned that if the State approves the Transportation Concurrency Exception for the entire Port Orange Town Center area, that more developers will be attracted to the area. City staff explained that the purpose of the TCEA will allow greater flexibility in the Port Orange Riverwalk, such as use of trolleys and trams. The TCEA does not change zoning or relieve the developers from the mobility study. Council members understood the concerns of the residents and explained that this is just one step in the process. After Council approval, the Planning Commission will review the current amendment package and make recommendations to the Council. It will then be forwarded to the State for review. January 17: The city received \$625,000 from the State's Small Cities Disaster Recovery Initiative to help with Seawall Restoration along the east side of the Halifax on either side

of Dunlawton. The Seawall will be built along publicly owned lands only. The city will inform private property owners and offer them the option of paying to have their property included in the project. Kent Donahue is in charge of this project. The City is the first in the county to initiate an area-wide view of our transportation network in determining the need for road improvement. Airport Road is being extended to route 44 by New Smyrna Beach. The Second Reading of ordinances covering the annexation and rezoning of the Nautica Lakes PUD, a 49.5 acre parcel, was rescheduled for the February 21 meeting. A full presentation of the project will be presented. The proposal is for 478 multi-family units and 50,000 square feet of commercial space. The few residents who attended tonight's meeting are concerned with a build up of traffic in the Williamson Blvd./Willow Run area.

Summer Clayton

Lake Helen The City engineer reported on the area that floods on Pennsylvania Ave and how it will be repaired. Two adjacent properties, contiguous to Lake Helen, petitioned to be annexed to the City of Lake Helen. The first reading of this consideration was passed. The Council was asked to support a Volusia County vacation of a right-of-way application submitted by two property owners requesting the County vacate Vista Street. This area is adjacent to the Lake Helen city limits and therefore the property owners required the Lake Helen City Council's support. The proposal was passed.

Sandy Horikami

Omitted from the November Observer Report

Deltona: An issue that is of concern for Deltona now is the problem with flood control. An article in the Orlando Sentinel by Erin Ailworth, posted October 19, 2005 gives more details of the dispute and includes a quote from Deltona spokeswoman Jeannine Gage saying that the city has a right to protect its citizens from flooding despite objections from a few who are worried about losing their lakefront property.

Barbara Mills

Port Orange: Walgreen has requested permission to build a store at the southwest corner of Airport Road. CVS submitted improved plans for its building that will replace the Shell station at the corner of Dunlawton and Nova. The city will annex a piece of property on Williamson that is on the Daytona Beach border and is currently part of Volusia County. Apartments have already been approved on the property, and Port Orange feels that it will have better control over the building requirements if it is under its jurisdiction. A one acre property from a five acre parcel was approved for rezoning. Mayor Green has asked to be a part of the process in determining where retention ponds will be built when DOT widens I-95 to six lanes. Mayor Green is very concerned about the head waters at the rest area and other wetlands in the area.

Summer Clayton

Ponce Inlet: The Manatee Protection Plan for Volusia County has targeted Ponce Inlet for higher density boat slips than elsewhere in Volusia County, called the Slip Aggregation option. The reasoning is that if more boat slips are available in Ponce Inlet, the boater will dock there rather than farther north. This will put fewer Manatees in jeopardy. In an hour long debate, Ponce Inlet rejected the plan fending further study of the impact on their roadways and infrastructure.

Pat Gadbow

School Board: Considerable opposition to requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act occurred at the August 30 meeting. Although Deputy Superintendent Chris Colwell reported that very few parents of students in Title I ("low-performing") schools opted for federally mandated transferring and tutoring, Board members argued that funds for those services would involve cutbacks in programs of good quality and send students to schools already overcrowded. The Board decided for now not to veto the transfer and tutoring requirements (there could be sanctions or loss of funds) but did discuss attempting a coalition with other districts to oppose what one member called the "balderdash coming down from Washington."

Ellen Smith

LWVVC Calendar for February-June 2006

- Feb. 8** **LWVVC Board Meeting**, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., VCOG/MPO/WAV Offices, Professional Village, 1190 Pelican Bay Dr., Daytona Beach
- 25** **LWVVC General Meeting:** 10:00 a.m. to Noon
 Clay Henderson & Glenn Storch: Smart Growth Implementation Committee
 Halifax Historical Museum, 252 S. Beach St., Daytona Beach
- Mar. 8** **LWVVC Board Meeting**, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., VCOG/MPO/WAV Offices, Professional Village, 1190 Pelican Bay Dr., Daytona Beach
- 14** Florida Right Restoration Coalition (FRRC) Day of Action
 Restore the Vote! Tallahassee, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- 19-21** **46th Annual LWV-Florida Legislative Seminar** - Tallahassee
- 25** **LWVVC General Meeting:** 10:00 a.m: Brunch, \$5
 10:30 a.m: LWVVC Study of Volusia Co. Comprehensive Plan Update
 United Presbyterian Church, 730 Beville Rd., Daytona Beach
 RSVP: Judy Craig or Rosemarie Gore,
 LWVVC@cfl.rr.com; 386-248-0511, or P.O. Box 9418, Daytona Beach, FL 32120
- April 12** **LWVVC Board Meeting**, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., VCOG/MPO/WAV Offices, Professional Village, 1190 Pelican Bay Dr., Daytona Beach
- 29** **Annual Meeting:** 10:00 a.m. to Noon
 Ruby's Fine Southern Cuisine (to be confirmed) - 629 ISB, Daytona Beach
- May 10** **LWVVC Board Meeting**, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., VCOG/MPO/WAV Offices, Professional Village, 1190 Pelican Bay Dr., Daytona Beach
- 20-21** **LWV- F Council of Leaders** - Hilton Orlando, Altamont Springs
- 27** **LWVVC Fundraiser Luncheon/Fashion Show: Politicos on Parade**
 11:00 to 12:30 p.m., Lunch--\$15 (price not firm) Palmetto Club, 1000 S. Beach St., Daytona Beach
- June 10-13** **LWVUS National Convention**, Minneapolis, MN
- 14** **LWVVC Board Meeting**, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., VCOG/MPO/WAV Offices, Professional Village, 1190 Pelican Bay Dr., Daytona Beach
- ?** **LWVVC General Meeting: Reports from the Observer Corps**
 TBA: time, place, and date

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ERA	Rachel Sieg
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Nominating Cmty.	Mary Derr

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