



The League of Women Voters of Volusia County, Florida

THE VOTER

Jan/Feb 2010

Visit our Web site at www.LWVVC.org

League of Women Voters of Volusia County Presents:



January 16, 2010



Pros and Cons

Coquina Coast Seawater Desalination Project



Scott Shannon
Malcolm Pirnie, Inc, Sr. Assoc.

&

Jorge Aguilar
Food & Water Watch

10A-12:30P

Lunch: \$15



Sunset Harbor Yacht and Conference Center

861 Ballough Road, Daytona Beach, 32114

RSVP by Jan 13, 2010

Maritza Patterson - rpatterson11@cfl.rr.com

Cancellations after Jan. 13 will be invoiced.

Register @ 9:45 AM, Program @ 10 AM

Lunch at 11:45 AM

February 20, 2010

Health Literacy: Why Is It Important?



Gregory Smith
FL Literacy Coalition, Exec. Director

9:30A- 12 noon

Brunch: \$15

Grant Bly House

842 E. New York Ave., DeLand 32724

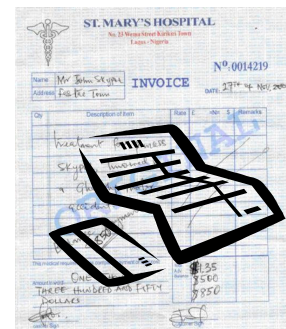
RSVP by Feb 17, 2010

Claudia Roth - hihorse@earthlink.net

Cancellations after Feb. 17 will be invoiced.

Register @ 9:15AM, Brunch at 9:30 AM

Program @ 10:30 AM





Hello Leaguers,

Happy New Year! It is 2010! Time for fresh starts and renewed resolutions! As a league, we will try to accomplish our work with new ideas and new approaches.

In 2010 we may have a chance to provide standards for creating our legislative and congressional districts. Florida will be able to vote on it if FairDistrictsFlorida.org gets all the necessary petitions in and an issue that LWVF has been fighting for a long time may become a reality!!

The new Legislative Session will begin soon. The LWVF Legislative Seminar is on March 22-24, 2010. This event provides excellent opportunity for learning and advocating and meeting fellow leaguers. Let me know if you are interested or want more information about it.

When the legislature is in session, keep up with the league issues in Capitol Reports. It is released on Fridays and is accessible via the www.LWVFla.org Website. LWVF has a new lobbyist, Ben Wilcox and LWVF will welcome contributions to the Lobby Fund for our advocacy program.

Water is another long time issue with the League. Is there enough water for Florida's population? What are our options? Our general meeting in January addresses one possible solution to providing drinking water: desalination of seawater. Come learn about the Pros and Cons of the Coquina Coast Seawater Desalination Project on the 16th. It will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about seawater desalination, whether it is a feasible option and how it may impact our environment.

Health issues are also of importance to the league. There are so many aspects to health, but a basic requirement to good health is Health Literacy. Learn about Health Literacy at our February 20th meeting by Gregory Smith of the Florida Literacy Coalition.

Note in our calendar our Annual Meeting on April 24th and Politicos on Parade on May 22nd. Harry Burney will emcee and we can look forward to an exciting, fun-filled fundraiser! Mark your calendars and save these dates!

I look forward to working with you in 2010!

Sincerely,
Sandy Horikami



Thank you!!

We appreciate your contributions to LWVVC



Jeanne Tanke



Pros and Cons of the Coquina Coast Seawater Desalination Project: The Speakers

Scott Shannon is a registered Professional Engineer and a Project Manager for the Coquina Coast Seawater Desalination Project, working with eleven municipalities in the region along with the St. Johns River Water Management District to develop conceptual plans for a facility that would produce high-quality drinking water from the coastal waters of the Atlantic Ocean. Mr. Shannon is a Senior Associate with the environmental engineering consulting firm Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., Orlando, FL, where he is responsible for managing delivery of the firm's services to clients in Northeast and Central Florida.

Jorge Aguilar represents Food & Water Watch, a non-profit organization working with grassroots organizations around the world to create an economically and environmentally viable future. Jorge is a water campaign organizer who focuses on helping local groups working to protect their water resources by helping to prevent water utilities from being privatized and tracking projects, like the bottled water, that endanger future water supply. He has also worked with communities in the Southeast to push for more federal funding for needed water infrastructure projects. He previously worked as a labor organizer for SEIU in Ohio for two years. Jorge has a B.A. in English Literature from the University of Miami as well as an M.A. in Communications from the University of Florida.

"Celebrate and Advocate" LWVF Legislative Seminar March 22-24, 2010 Tallahassee, Florida

- See Florida's Government in Action!
- Meet LWVF's new lobbyist, Ben Wilcox
- Bakers Dozen Breakfast with Legislators: Key legislators involved with LWVF will speak at breakfast in the historic Governor's Club
- Meet your Legislators and Advocate!
- Tallahassee League presents Amendment 4 Debate: Growth Management or Voter Mismanagement?
- Opportunity to meet and learn from other Florida leagues
- Interested? Contact Sandy Horikami (sandmatsu@hotmail.com) by Feb. 9, 2010 for more information.
(Registration: \$99; Hilton Garden Inn \$132.05+tax/room/night)



What is Health Literacy? Why is it Important?

By Claudia Roth

Health literacy is the ability to obtain and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions. Health literacy is more than the ability to read. In order to understand information and instructions on prescription bottles, health brochures, doctor's directions, and consent forms people need complex skills. For example, diabetics taking insulin must be able to *calculate* unit doses and *interpret* blood sugar results. A mother giving her baby medicine must be able to *understand the directions* on the medicine bottle and give the appropriate amount. A search of the internet for health information requires the skills to *find* information and *evaluate* it for credibility and quality. Consent for a medical procedure requires *analysis* of the risks and benefits.

Why is health literacy important? The Institute of Medicine reports ninety million people in the United States, nearly half the population, have difficulty understanding and using health information.¹ There are direct and indirect consequences of this problem. Direct effects include medication errors, increased complications from chronic conditions and increased use of hospital services. Indirect effects may include insurance issues, accessibility to health care and poor health behavior choices.² There are economic consequences of increased expenditures due to low health literacy skills. Among Arizona Medicaid patients mean charges for those with very low literacy skills (\leq 3rd-grade reading level) were \$10, 688/year, but only \$2, 891/year for those with better literacy skills (\geq 4th-grade reading level).³

True or False?

- Most people with limited literacy are poor, immigrants or minorities.
- Most people with limited literacy have low IQs.
- The number of years of schooling is a good general guide to determine literacy level.

All of the above are false. While it is true the percentage in groups of immigrants and minorities is high, the majority of low literacy patients are still Caucasian and native born. People hold jobs and succeed despite low literacy. While years of schooling are useful for estimating the scope of the literacy problem in a community, it is not an accurate reflection of literacy.⁴

The LWVVC is pleased to have Gregory Smith, *Executive Director* from the Florida Literacy Coalition, Inc. speak to us about the issue of health literacy. Join us Saturday morning February 20, 2010 at the Grant Bly House 842 E. New York Ave. DeLand, FL 32724. Contact Claudia Roth hihorse@earthlink.net.

¹ *Health Literacy: A Prescription to End Confusion*

² National Network of Libraries of Medicine *Health Literacy Update* June 2, 2008 by Penny Glassman

³ The Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine 17:44-47 (2004)

⁴ *Recognition and Treatment of a Hidden Problem* Claudette Dalton, M.D. University of Virginia School of Medicine Power Point



DELTONA DAYS!
Pat Gadbow & Betty Johnson
Distributing league and census materials

Census 2010-It's About Life!

We have all heard to some extent, about the importance of the Census and how it helps all of us to get much needed services and improve our overall quality of life. This is true and was so evident during these past and current holidays as we watched neighbors and friends, even strangers, struggle to get even the basic necessities of life for themselves and their families.

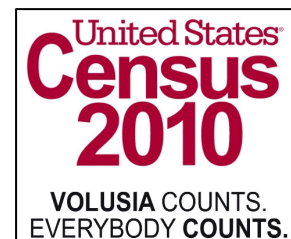
The Census really is about life!

We take so much for granted in life until we are faced with the harsh realities of what it means to be without—without a warm meal, clothes on our backs, an education, a roof over our heads; roads to drive on, jobs, places to care for our children, places to care for our elder citizens; services and care for our veterans, the list goes on and on. The provision and funding to meet those needs however is limited. Limited by not only the funds available, but limited by “the count” of our population in comparison to others, particularly regarding those in need. We can do our part in helping others; and do our part in ensuring that the services for those in need and “funding to help meet our needs, is right here, where we need it.”

What can you do?

Complete your Census form when it comes to you in the mail in March 2010, return it before April 1. Encourage your family, friends, neighbors and others to do the same. We have unmet needs in our area, and the Census helps to ensure that funding for those needs comes to our area. Only you can help and ensure that happens. You can also volunteer to help with your local municipality or Volusia County's Census efforts too by contacting them directly. Working together we can save lives and improve life, for all of us!

Gwen Azama-Edwards
Chair, Faith-based/Churches Subcommittee
Volusia County 2010 Complete Count Committee



Blue Spring Restoration and Protection

The Blue Spring Working Group provides a forum for stakeholders to discover and promote the well-being of Blue Spring and the spring run. This group was organized two years ago and has since held eight quarterly meetings. It is funded through the Wildlife Legacy Initiative of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. A matching contribution comes from the Florida Springs Initiative of FDEP.

Scientists and specialists in water, Robert L. Knight and Sky K. Notestein from the University of Florida, have identified the issues threatening Florida's springs. The impact of urban development and land use changes has been significant. It was evident that every draw of water from the springshed resulted in reduced ground water flow to the springs. In years past with a more sparse population the lower draw of consumptive use would hardly be detectable. Over time the consequences of low spring flow is detected only after the ecosystem has suffered severe damage.

The concentration of nitrate nitrogen found in surface and ground water is staggering and a state-wide condition which continues to rise. However, last month a turn-around course has been set. A federal judge in Tallahassee approved a historic consent decree which requires the USEPA to set numeric nutrient standards for the widespread nutrient poisoning that triggers harmful algae blooms in Florida waters. This allows the EPA to proceed with its plan to introduce standards for freshwater rivers and lakes beginning next October, and then on coastal waters in the year that follows. Pristine waters would normally measure a nitrate concentration of 0.02 parts per million---we are currently reaching 50 to 1000 times higher.

Studies out of the Florida State University have estimated the annual economic value of springs for recreation uses in Florida is in excess of \$300 million (2004 figures.) The health and beauty of Florida's springs are dependent upon maintaining the water clarity and its strikingly blue appearance. The desired submerged aquatic vegetation flourish in good spring flow, and is buffered from increasing nutrient concentrations, high recreational use and invasions of exotic plant and animal species. The use of floats and tubes at Ichetucknee State Park has reduced the trampling of submerged plants.

Rosemarie Gore

Welcome Ellen & Anne!!

Ellen Nielsen, Ormond Beach

Ellen's interests include Water issues, redistricting and monitoring local government.

➤ Anne Darragh, Ormond Beach

Anne is interested in Voter Registration and Redistricting issues.

OBSERVER CORPS

Welcome to our newest Observer, Ellen Nielsen. Ellen Nielsen recently moved to this area from New Hampshire, where she served in the NH State Legislature from 2006 to 2008. Currently, she is an adjunct instructor at Daytona State College. She is interested in environmental issues and education.

PORT ORANGE CITY COUNCIL,

November and December

Energy conservation: The city received a \$250,000 grant to purchase an energy efficient air conditioner for city hall and for the purchase of a solar-energy demo that will be placed on three wells in order to determine how much energy can be saved. If there is adequate savings, all well fields will be converted to solar energy.

Spruce Creek retention pond: The city council approved the purchase of 4 ½ acres outside the city limits in order to build a retention pond to correct inadequate drainage for nearby Port Orange subdivisions. The property has frontage on Spruce Creek which is designated an outstanding Florida waterway. The plans will need to go through rigorous regulations in developing and completing the retention pond in order to protect the creek. Residents living on Hewitt Road, where the retention pond will be built, voiced concerns that their neighborhood will be impacted by Port Orange residents using the land as a passive park. The residents of Hewitt Road had researched the history of the flooding in the area and offered suggestions for the council to consider. The council asked the city manager to review the suggestions to see if there may be other options.

Sea Bird Island marina: In its first reading, the council approved the rezoning of 4.5 acres along the Dunlawton Causeway

to construct a 102 boat slip marina. This property is adjacent to Sea Bird Island. In order to develop the property, the developer will need to dredge and fill areas of the property. Dave Hartgrove, from the Halifax Audubon Society, asked the council to deny approval because he is concerned about the dredging, storm water drainage, lighting affecting birds nesting on the rookery, and cleanup of marina debris after hurricanes. He also mentioned that while the developer plans to clear invasive vegetation, it would also destroy the black mangrove that is growing under the Brazilian Pepper trees. *Summer Clayton*

NEW SMYRNA CITY COMMISSION

December 8.

- Approved trail using non-motorized vehicles across Utilities property.
- Approved Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) commercial Impact Fee Assistance Program with weighted value applications.
- Approved on first reading Ordinance (O) 43-09 changing twenty-six acres southwest of I-95 and Pioneer Trail to allow FPL substation. The hearing and second reading will be January 12.
- Passed Resolution 42-09 regarding policies for existing and future community redevelopment agencies and proposed Volusia County responses. Council will vote on the contract after revisions.

EDGEWATER CITY COUNCIL

Monday, December 14

They passed the final reading of the updated comprehensive plan. Repealed and restated article vii of the water conservation standards of chapter 29 Utilities and Services to meet the St. Johns River Water Management District's (SJRWMD) requirements and allowed

reuse water customers extra watering times. Left temporary reduction in reuse hookups in place to encourage residents to take part. Also, had a letter of intent arranged with Deltona to allow wells only out to five miles from city limits in both cities, which settles problems without going through the State.

Awarded a bid to Mathew Corp for the southeast service area ground storage tank and pumping station on Utility Road at old animal control shelter site.

Authorized execution of a loan agreement with Florida Department of Environment Protection (FDEP) for new water supply wells.

Executed construction loan agreement with FDEP for southeast service area storage tank and pumping station; 85% of the money for these projects comes from stimulus monies. The city approved a bond for the balance.

Dates for February and March city council meetings changed to Feb 1, and March 1st.

Nora Jane Gillespie

DAYTONA BEACH SHORES CITY COUNCIL - December

Approval on second reading an alternative means of enforcement of city codes and ordinances by means of citations and hearings before a Hearing Officer as noted in the October Voter.

PONCE INLET TOWN COUNCIL

At the request of Council, Councilmember Davis conducted an analysis of the various boards and commissions and found some duplication which was causing a lot of confusion between boards, some of which caused duplication in legal fees, doubled staff work and added confusions for citizens. She recommended that the city rework the boards and commissions.

Patricia Gadbow

ORMOND BEACH CITY COMMISSION

Pulled from the Consent Agenda by Mr. Kelly was a resolution to apply for a grant (SAFER grant from Homeland Security) that would, if successfully granted, allow for the hiring of two firefighters. At the present time the city is expected to lose 5 firefighters to retirement or early retirement and the City has reduced the staff by two. While the city intends to replace some of the 5 positions the funding may allow for a better hiring formula. This is only a grant application and as such it passed with Mr. Kelly dissenting.

Several ordinances were passed on second readings allowing for the vesting of several existing and one yet to be built building as required by the height amendment passed by the citizens. The Height Amendment limiting buildings to 74 feet was passed and later amended by the voters to allow for one existing building that had already acquired a permit and grandfathering in several buildings with exceptions to the height limits. This was deemed necessary in case of remodeling or rebuilding due to weather and or other related event.

The Commission passed a first reading of an ordinance allowing for preference to local hiring for small bids that do not exceed a certain limit (\$25,000). This was an initiative promoted through the County by the FAITH organization.

The Airport Noise Abatement Task Force made its recommendations. Although these recommendations are voluntary, users from several Aviation Schools are complying with them. It was noted that at the present time the Ormond Beach Airport has 165,000 operations.

A 30- minute presentation was made prior to the meeting by VCOG about sustainability and the ECO Map. The January 5, 2010 meeting will include a review of the Waterfront Park proposal.

Maritza Patterson

SAVE THE DATE

POLITICOS ON PARADE

SPECIAL GUEST AND EMCEE:

HARRY BURNEY



**Saturday, May 22, 2010
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Palmetto Club**

Sponsorships, booklet ads, tables, and individual ticket opportunities are available. Mark your calendars now!

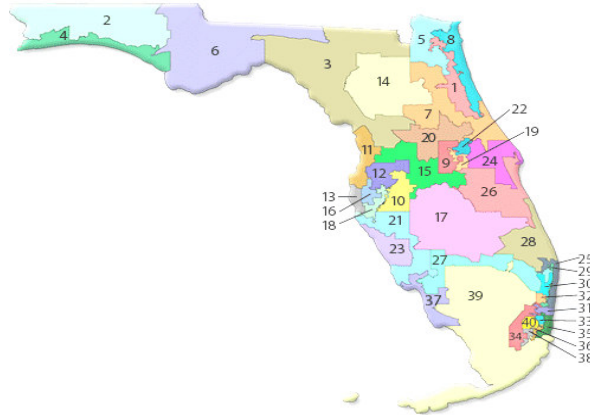


LWVVC 2010 Calendar

This calendar schedule is tentative and is subject to change

Date	Event	Where	Time	Comments
Wednesday January 13, 2010	LWVVC Board Meeting	Indigo Profess. Ctr. 2570 W. ISB, DB	5:30–7:30PM	All members welcome!
Saturday January 16, 2009	General Meeting: Pros & Cons: Coquina Coast Seawater Desalination Project, Scott Shannon and Jorge Aguilar	Sunset Harbor Yacht and Conference Center 861 Ballough Road, DB	10 A -12:30 P Register at 9:45A, Program @10 A, lunch at 11:45 A	RSVP by Jan 13, 2010 Maritza Patterson, rpatterson11@cfl.rr.com
Wednesday February 10, 2010	LWVVC Board Meeting	Indigo Profess. Ctr. 2570 W. ISB, DB	5:30–7:30PM	All members welcome!
Saturday February 13, 2010	General Meeting: Health Literacy: Why is it important? Gregory Smith	Grant-Bly House, 842 E. New York Ave., DeLand	9:30A- noon Register @ 9:15A, Brunch @ 9:30A, Program@ 10:30 A	Claudia Roth, hihorse@earthlink.net
Sunday February 14, 2010	LWVUS 90th Birthday			
Wednesday March 10, 2010	LWVVC Board Meeting	Indigo Profess. Ctr. 2570 W. ISB, DB	5:30–7:30PM	All members welcome!
Saturday March 13, 2010	General Meeting: Florida Water Issues-- Ann Moore, speaker	TBA	TBA	
March 22-24, 2010	Legislative Seminar	Tallahassee, FL		For more information— Sandy Horikami, sandmatsu@hotmail.com
Wednesday April 14, 2010	LWVVC Board Meeting	Indigo Profess. Ctr. 2570 W. ISB, DB	5:30–7:30PM	All members welcome!
Saturday April 17, 2010	AAUW Meeting Featuring Dan Warren	TBA	TBA	Eileen McDermott eyesleuth@hotmail.com
Saturday April 24, 2010	Annual Meeting	TBA	TBA	TBA
Wednesday May 12, 2010	LWVVC Board Meeting	Indigo Profess. Ctr. 2570 W. ISB, DB	5:30–7:30PM	All members welcome!
Saturday May 22, 2010	Fundraiser Politicos on Parade, Emcee: Harry Burney	Palmetto Club, 1000 S. Beach St., DB	TBA	
Wednesday June 9, 2010	LWVVC Board Meeting	Indigo Profess. Ctr. 2570 W. ISB, DB	5:30–7:30PM	All members welcome!
June 11-15, 2010	LWVUS Convention	Atlanta, GA		

SUPPORT
FairDistrictsFlorida.org
P.O. Box 350188, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335



LWVVC
HOLIDAY PARTY EVENT

December 9, 2009 at the Moseleys'



Carol Grigas &
Maritza Patterson



Nancy Ryan &
Bea Romans



A Great Time Was Had By All!!



**Don't Forget to Renew Your Membership
for 2009-2010!**

**Your membership and support
are very important for the League's work!**

Visit our Website at www.LWVVC.org