



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

# Miami-Dade Voter

Volume 2, Issue 3  
March-April 2010  
Making Democracy Work

## Annual Meeting to Be Held May 6th

By Terry Coble



Miami Herald Editorial Page Editor Myriam Marquez will be the keynote speaker for the 2010 Annual Meeting of the LWV of Miami-Dade County, while Judge Joseph P. Farina of the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals will swear in the new board, Miami-Dade County Commissioner Katy Sorenson will receive the Miami-Dade League's JoAnne Hayes Democracy and Mentoring award, and former Miami-Dade League president and longtime local League member Dorrit Marks will receive our League's Marjorie Rankin Memorial award.



This year's event will again be held at the Coral Reef Yacht Club, 2484 South Bayshore Drive, in Coconut Grove. The membership meeting will be held from 6 PM to 6:45 PM, and will include the adoption of the budget and local program, as well as the election of the 2010-11 board and officers. A reception, awards presentations, and the keynote speaker's address will follow from 6:45 PM to 7:30 PM.



Please join your board and our honored guests for a stellar evening on beautiful Biscayne Bay! **RSVP 305-751-0504 or [terryrose@bellsouth.net](mailto:terryrose@bellsouth.net).**

## LWVM-D HOSTS UNEMPLOYMENT FORUM

On April 21, 2010, the LWV of Miami-Dade County will host a Hot Topic lunch on the Unemployment Crisis at the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant in Miami: "The Unemployment Crisis: How Bad Is it? What Can be Done?"

Panelists include Dr. Dario Moreno, Director of the Metropolitan Center, who will address the extent of our unemployment and the sectors most impacted; Jacqui Colyer, Director of the Southern Region of the Department of Children & Families, who will address the impact on our families and children; Cheri Kavahersi of South Florida Workforce, who will describe the jobs created through the Putting Florida Back to Work program; Dr. Emily Eisenhauer of the Center for Labor Research, FIU, who will give an overview of the jobs created by federal stimulus funding; and Valory Greenfield, Esq. of Florida Legal Services, who will describe the safety net programs.

**RSVP 305-751-0504 or [terryrose@bellsouth.net](mailto:terryrose@bellsouth.net).**

## IN THIS ISSUE

Annual Meeting - May 6th	1
LWV Unemployment Forum	1
Mark Your Calendars	1
President's Corner	2
Welcome New Members	2
Your Board	2
LWVM-D Hosts Fellows	3
Bay Harbor Islands Forum	3
Hometown Democracy Forum	3
Membership Application	4

## GO GREEN! HELP US REACH YOU VIA E-MAIL

If you are receiving this issue of *The Voter* by U.S. mail, please send us your e-mail address! Help us lower our mailing expenses by sending you *The Miami-Dade Voter* and other timely notices via e-mail! Please send an e-mail to Terry Coble, Associate Editor, *Miami-Dade Voter*, at [terryrose@bellsouth.net](mailto:terryrose@bellsouth.net) so we can add you to our e-mail distribution list. **Thank you!**

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS! The Unemployment Crisis

Wednesday, April 21st  
12:00-1:30PM  
94th Aero Squadron Restaurant  
1395 NW 57th Avenue  
Miami

**Buffet Lunch—\$25**  
**RSVP 305-751-0504**  
[terryrose@bellsouth.net](mailto:terryrose@bellsouth.net)

## LWV of Miami-Dade Annual Meeting

Thursday, May 6th  
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM  
Coral Reef Yacht Club  
2484 S. Bayshore Drive  
Coconut Grove, FL

**RSVP 305-751-0504**  
[terryrose@bellsouth.net](mailto:terryrose@bellsouth.net)

## President's Corner

As I write this message, proposals are being considered by the Miami-Dade County Commission that would reshape our local government if authorized by the electorate. One measure would have the County Manager report directly to the BCC, returning us to the system in place a few years ago. Another provision calls for paying County Commissioners a salary commensurate with state law instead of the present \$6,000 yearly stipend, but with the proviso that commissioners would be restricted to 3 four-year terms.

In recent years, our local League has stood back from testifying or taking action on issues of local governmental structure. One of the LWV's cornerstone values is to advocate only after having studied the matter and reached consensus among our membership - so in some cases, we may have withheld action because we do not have an existing position. But we must remember that even in the absence of an agreed-upon position, our League is often the best organization to convene a reasoned discussion regarding controversial topics. And we can also take action on issues based on applicable State and National League positions.

So what are the good government issues that you believe the LWV of Miami-Dade County should take up? Our State League has reached consensus in support of instant run-off voting—so our local League could campaign to enact this economical and pluralistic means of holding local elections. Or are you interested in one of the measures now being proposed by the Miami-Dade County Commission, or proposed a few years ago by the Charter Review Task Force? With your help, we can fill the vital role for which the LWV was created: To support civic discourse and participation in the best tradition of a representative democracy.

The LWV is the premier civic organization championing good governmental structure. But our local League is only as focused, dedicated and influential as its membership. We need your ideas, your enthusiasm and most of all, your participation!

*Terry A. Coble*

### WELCOME NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS!

Phyllis Adler	Carlos Martinez
Susannah Troner	Betty Metcalf
Truly Burton	Catherine Penrod
Dorothy Davis	Bickley Simpson
Betsy Kaplan	Dorris Shellow
Santiago Leon	Jeanette Sullivan
Janet McAliley	Susannah Troner
Lisa Sharon Walsh	

## Our League

### LWV of Miami-Dade County Board of Directors - 2009-10

**Terry Coble** - President  
**Dorrit Marks** - V.P. Administration  
**Annie Betancourt** - V.P. Program  
**Sherry Ulsh** -Treasurer  
**Caesar Phillips** -Secretary  
**Terry Coble** - Voter Editor  
**Gigi Pardo** - Historian/  
 Parliamentarian  
**Karen Andre**  
**Maribel Balbin**  
**Alina Becker**  
**Fran Bohnsack**  
**Lourdes Diaz**  
**Donna Ginn**  
**Bobbie Mumford**  
**Elizabeth Pines**  
**Sabrina Salomon**  
**Susan Windmiller**

**JOIN THE LWV M-D!**  
**SEE PAGE 4 FOR A MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION!**

The **Miami-Dade Voter** is published every two months by the League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade County.

**Terry Coble**  
 President.....305.751.0504  
**Dorrit Marks**  
 V.P. Administration .305.661.3906  
**Annie Betancourt**  
 V.P. Program.....305.446.0880  
**Sherry Ulsh**  
 Treasurer.....305.864.1331  
**Caesar Phillips**  
 Secretary.....305.375.5132

**Terry Coble**  
 Editor.....305.751.0504

### **LWV M-D HOSTS INTERNATIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM - By Dorrit Marks**

On April 8th, the LWV of Miami-Dade hosted the orientation program for ten Columbian and Brazilian participants in the LWVUS sponsored Connecting Future Legislators with Civil Society program, funded by the US Department of State. The month-long fellowship program is under the direction of Zaida Arguedas, Deputy Executive Director of the LWVUS and Senior Director of the Global Democracy Programs. Dorrit Marks and Annie Betancourt, both Vice-Presidents of the Miami-Dade League, conducted the day-long April 8 event, and organized the evening reception at the Columbian Consulate in Coral Gables, followed by a tour of Miami Beach. Speakers at the event and reception included Zaida Arguedas, Dr. Bruce Bagley of the University of Miami's Department of International Studies, Annie Betancourt, Dorrit Marks, the Consul General of Columbia, Angela Suarez, and journalist Bernadette Pardo.

The goal of the Citizens Exchange program is to strengthen the understanding of leaders from other countries aged 25 to 35 regarding legislative processes in the United States and the role played by civil society. Two of the fellows will remain in Miami to pursue their internships, while the remaining fellows will travel to other U.S. locations in Kansas, Minnesota, California and Texas. The Miami fellows will stay at the homes of Annie Betancourt and League member Helene Dudley, and will intern at the Miami-Dade County Health Department and the office of County Commissioner Rebecca Sosa, respectively. After three weeks, all of the fellows will travel to Washington to exchange information with the other 90 fellows participating in the nationwide Citizen Exchange program and to meet with congressional leaders. This is the first year of a 2-year program; a second group of fellows will come to the U.S. in the fall of 2010.

### **MIAMI-DADE LWV TO HOLD LOCAL CANDIDATE FORUM**

On Wednesday, April 14th, the LWV M-D will moderate a candidate forum for a contested council seat at the Bay Harbor Islands Town Hall, 9665 Bay Harbor Terrace. Well-known community leader and LWV member Merrett Stierheim will moderate the event, while former local League president Judy Cannon will keep time, and local League board member Gigi Pardo will facilitate written questions from the audience.

### **LWV CO-HOSTS HOME TOWN DEMOCRACY DEBATE - by Terry Coble**

On January 20, 2010, the LWV of Miami-Dade County co-hosted a debate on Hometown Democracy with the Urban Environment League at the Rusty Pelican on Virginia Key. Lesley Blackner, Esq., the author of the ballot measure and co-founder of the movement backing the initiative, spoke in support, while local land use attorney Jeffrey S. Bercow, Esq., spoke in opposition. Well-known TV host Helen Ferre of WPBS Channel 2 ably moderated the event, which was expected to engender spirited debate. It did not disappoint: Although it was often difficult to ascertain the truth of the assertions being made on each side, the discussion was lively and animated.

Hometown Democracy will be Amendment 4 on the November 2010 ballot. It proposed to amend Article II, Section 7 of Florida Constitution to provide that before a local government may adopt a new comprehensive land use plan, or amend a comprehensive land use plan, the plan or amendment must be submitted for to the electorate of the local government for vote by referendum. For the full wording of the proposed amendment, please visit the Florida Division of Elections website, <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/>

### **THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!**

We want to express our deep appreciation to the following people for their generous donations to the LWV of Miami-Dade County Education Fund: Susannah Troner

## Membership: Our Lifblood



**Making  
Democracy  
Work**

**League of Women Voters  
Of Miami-Dade County**

**The League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade Wants You!**

The League of Women Voters has stood for good government for almost ninety years – no individual can take your place in helping us make democracy work. Since 1920, the League has worked at local, state and national levels to generate democratic conversation among members, educate the general public and policy makers on pressing issues, and take concerted action to bring about social change.

**The League of Women Voters is the most trusted not for profit organization in America. As such, League chapters are often called upon to convene community issue forums as well as host candidate debates.**

- The League is nonpartisan; we do not support or oppose candidates.
- The League registers and mobilizes people to vote.
- The League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade County is one of 25 local Leagues and two Member-at-Large Units functioning in 31 of Florida's 67 most populous counties, and one of 850 local Leagues nationwide. There are Leagues in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Hong Kong. In addition to the numerous grass roots efforts that local Leagues are known for, the League of Women Voters of Florida represents League positions in Tallahassee, while the League's National Lobby Corps represents League positions on Capitol Hill.

***"No chance, no destiny, no fate can circumvent or hinder or control the firm resolve of a determined soul."***  
**Carrie Chapman Catt, founder, the League of Women Voters.**

### **LWV of Miami-Dade County, Inc.**

5794 Bird Road - Box 146  
Miami, Florida 33155

Visit us on the Web!

[www.lwvmiamidade.org](http://www.lwvmiamidade.org)

## **JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2010 / 2011 TODAY!**

**If you became a member in response to a letter from the national League of Women Voters, please renew your membership with your local League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade County—you will still be a member of the national League, but some of your dues will be paid to our local League! Help support your local League!**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 35 STUDENT MEMBERSHIP                      \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT SOCIETY  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 65 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP                \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 IRON JAWED ANGELS  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$105 CORNERSTONE MEMBERSHIP

NAME/NAMES \_\_\_\_\_ STREET \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE (DAYTIME) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (EVENING) \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks are payable to the League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade County, Inc.  
Membership dues are not deductible as a personal or business expense.  
Mail to: 5794 Bird Rd. #146 Miami, FL 33155 (305) 666-0186.**