

League Lines

Volume 46, Number 6

January 2000

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We are over 100 members strong. Our membership is diverse. We contain a diversity of political focus; we have prominent Republicans and Democrats and many members whose party affiliation, if any, is private. Above all, we are comprised of individuals with complex mixtures of conservative and liberal opinions. Our membership includes State officials, county officials, township officials, local school board representatives, local political appointees, as well as many, many members who act at the grassroots level from our homes. We have several members who are relatively new to the League as well as three women, Eleanor Beidler, Virginia Fiester Frederick, and Janet Ullman who've been League members for over 50 years. We work both inside the home, as mothers, entrepreneurs and outside the home in professional and volunteer capacities. And in the midst of the diversity we are all united by the belief that politics and government are important. That our participation in Democracy can make a difference both in our government and in our day to day lives.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Tracy Burns
Cyndy Cordell
Happie Datt
Cheryl Derman
Shirley Goldman
David Hall
Anne McNulty
Prudence Richardson
Nicole Snoblin
Barbara Waldman
Ann Walters

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Thank you,



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The program is scheduled every

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If you missed the program in November this is an excellent chance to see an interesting and informative discussion of local election processes.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 1999-2000

President	
Bev Adamczyk	515-7141
(Fax 295-9794) bev@adamczyk.com	
Vice President/Action	
Joan Kalise	234-4737 (Fax 234-4737)
Vice President/Voter Service	
Carol Gilbert	295-4044 (Fax 295-4003)
Secretary	
Denise Enell	615-0878
Treasurer	
Lisa Dralich	735-1813
Cable Coordinator	
Alice Fishery	295-8525
LWVLC Board Liaison	
Linda Barfines	234-7059
Membership	
Cynthia Maloney	515-1123
Membership Development	
Diane Lloyd	615-9182
(Fax 615-9418) wflloyd@aol.com	
Newsletter	
Anne Csar	234-4231
(Fax 234-8791) aelco@interaccess.com	
Program	
Julia Fiske-Parker	615-9858
(Fax 615-9025) law7fiske@aol.com	
Kimberly Moss	735-0535
Publicity	
Kathy Lawson	615-0106
(Fax 615-2329)	
Voter Registration	
Pat Rounsaville	295-3915

NOMINATING COMMITTEE 1999-2000

Chair: Elaine Slayton	295-0275
(Fax 615-0541) eslayton@netscape.net	
Mary Jane Wolter	234-2573
mwolter@bim.net	
Linda Hinde	295-5252
(Fax 615-0011) lindahib@aol.com	
(two members to be appointed from board)	

OFF BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Community Recycling	
Mary Claire Briggs	515-8561 (Fax 615-8663)
Hospitality	
Judy Grisamore	234-3510 (Fax 234-3510)
Observer Corps	
Pauline Mohr	234-5853
Partners for Progress	
Janet Nelson	234-1844
LF Senior Housing Committee	
Jane Partridge	234-1247

WEB DIRECTORY

LWVLF LB: <http://lkhhome.norlthstarnet.org/lwvlfb>
 County League: www.nsn.org/belkhome/LWVLC
 State League: www.lwvl.org
www.dnet.org/it
www.ilcampaing.org
 National League: www.lwv.org

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As always, we are looking for a few good women to add to our Deputy Registrar ranks. If you have any interest in serving your League in some way, this is a great way to do so! You will not only meet members of our community, but fellow League members as well.

Call Pat Rounsaville at 295-3916 for more information.

Last day for voter registration for the March 21st primaries is February 22, 2000. Registration begins again on March 23, 2000.

UP COMING CANDIDATE FORUMS

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Look to your next League Lines for dates and locations for the forums. If you are interested in volunteering with either Forum contact Carol Gilbert (295-4044).

THANK YOU

Thank Julia Parker, Kimberly Moss, and Carol Gilbert for doing such an extraordinary job making our Holiday Luncheon a special and memorable occasion. And thank you to all the others whose contributions added to the festive and enjoyable atmosphere.

LWVUS SURVEY

The latest National Voter arrived in your mailbox, probably just before the holidays. Well, dig it out. In the center is a member survey for National Program Planning. The survey compliments the work of the LWVUS 2000 Convention. This is the first year that League is asking for members to voice their opinions individually.



The League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages citizens to play an informed and active role in government.

At the local, state, and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

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The Great Decisions briefing book is published by the Foreign Policy Association and highlights eight of today's most significant, far-reaching foreign policy issues. Please join fellow League members and AAUW members in interesting and informative discussions based on the FPA's material. In compelling presentations, Great Decisions provides facts and nonpartisan analysis of the "great decisions" facing the U.S. public and policymakers. Maps, online services and other resources expand the unparalleled Great Decisions learning experience.

The Great Decisions discussion group meets every second Friday of the month at 1:00 p.m. at Betty Boker's (485 Oakwood Ave., Apt. A5, Lake Forest). Guests are Welcome! If you are interested in attending please contact Diane Lloyd (615-9182)

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- March 10 Indonesia in Aftershock
- April 14 The Military: What Role in U.S. Foreign Policy?
- May 12 Middle East Realignments: New Directions for the Next Millennium
- June 8 The Euro's Challenge to the Dollar: King Kong versus Godzilla?
- September 14 Africa: Prospects for the Future
- October 12 Defining Humanitarian Intervention
- November 9 U.S. Interests in the World: Time for a Redefinition

LWV Lake County - Homeless Shelter Program

Noon, January 26, 2000

North Chicago VA Campus, Building 5

The Waukegan/Zion League, jointly with the LWV Lake County present a "brown bag" lunch program on Homeless Shelters on January 26, 2000 at noon in Building 5 on the North Chicago VA Campus.

Attend this program on a topic that always deserves focus, particularly so during these bitter winter months when homeless battle the elements as well as other trials of "living on the street."

Bring a brown bag lunch for yourself, as well as an item for donation to the shelter, such as dry cereal, fruit drink mixes, paper goods and travel size toiletries.

Entrance to the VA campus is on Route 137, east of Green Bay Road at the Lewis Avenue/137 traffic light. To reach Building 5, turn left at the "T", and right at the stop sign. Park in Lot #2 on the right.

Do you appreciate the work League of Women Voters does?

Show your support by joining the League today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (home): _____ (office): _____ (fax): _____

e-mail: _____

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member | 75.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Regular) | 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Senior) | 45.00 |

Make checks payable to the LWV LF+LB. Dues are not tax deductible.

To support our efforts in educational areas, such as Voter Service and informational programs you may make a tax deductible contribution, please write a separate check to the LWV Education Fund. This money is used locally for community information and education.

Mail your check(s) to League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff • 400 E. Illinois Road • Lake Forest, IL 60045

Saturday, February 12, 2000

LWVIL'S ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING AND 80TH ANNIVERSARY

Gold Room - Congress Hotel - Chicago

312-939-5935, ext.10

Dates to Remember

January

- 11 LWVFLB Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Lake Bluff Community Room
- 17 Shields Township Meeting, 7:00 pm, Lake Bluff Public Library
- 20 *League Lines* February Issue Deadline
- 26 LWVLC Noon Program: The Homeless, North Chicago VA Campus, Building 5

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- 8 LWVFLB Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Gorton Community Center
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June

- 17-20 LWVUS Convention. Washington, DC

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PERMIT NO. 194
Lake Forest, IL
60045

League of Women Voters
of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff
Gorton Community Center
400 East Illinois Road
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County League:	www.nsn.org/bkhome/LWVLC
State League:	www.lwvl.org
	www.dnet.org/il
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Address: _____

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e-mail: _____

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member | 75.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Regular) | 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Senior) | 45.00 |

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Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

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WE NEED YOUR HELP! "CALL FOR NOMINATIONS"

The Nominating Committee is currently accepting nominations for board positions expiring this year as follows:

1st Vice President (State/
National Action)

Treasurer

Program

Publicity

Voter Registration

Nominating Committee Chair
and two members.

Please contact Elaine Slayton, Chair of the Nominating Committee at 295-0275, by fax at 615-0542, or e-mail at eslayton@netscape.net with any suggestions BY FEBRUARY 11TH PLEASE! Self nominations are also permitted, with no promises made.

The Leagues of Women Voters of the 10 Congressional District are coordinating and co-sponsoring

Candidate Forums for the 10th Congressional District for the Republican Primary

Tuesday, February 29, 7:00 pm
Deerpath Elementary Auditorium
95 W. Deerpath Rd., Lake Forest

co-sponsored by the Leagues of Deerfield - Lincolnshire,
Highland Park, Lake Forest - Lake Bluff Area,
Libertyville - Mundelein Area, and Waukegan - Zion

Sunday March 5, 3:00 pm
New Trier West Center
7 Happ Rd, Bldg A, Northfield

co-sponsored by the Leagues of
Arlington Heights-Mt. Prospect-Buffalo Grove, Glenco,
Glenview, Wilmette, Winetka-Kenilworth-Northfield

Moderator: Sue Calder

The eleven Republican candidates have been invited to participate. Candidates will give opening and closing statements and will address issues selected by the audience.

The forums are being recorded for rebroadcast on LFTV.

Voters Guides will be available at the Candidate Forums.



President's Message

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 1999-2000

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(Fax 295-9794) bev@adamczyk.com	
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LWVLF LB:	http://lhome.northstarnet.org/lwvlf/b
County League	www.crsn.org/bakhome/LWVLC
State League	www.lwvl.org
	www.dnel.org/fi
	www.ltcampaign.org

National League: www.lwv.org

National program planning is in the works. This year we are participating in national program planning in three ways: with a local league survey of the national positions, sending delegates, and a survey for the membership at large, "Program Planning in Transition."

At this month's board meeting (February 8th, 9:00 am at the Lake Bluff Community Room, in the Police Station, across the street from Village Hall) we will discuss the National Program. We will suggest to National to either retain, drop or request an update for each position the LWVUS holds. A brief statement of the LWVUS positions can be found in your Membership directory. We will also submit an issue for emphasis to the LWVUS. If you are interested in participating in the National Program Planning at this level we welcome you at our next Board meeting.

We are planning to send two members as delegates to the National Convention in Washington, D.C. this June. At the convention the issue for emphasis (which has been "Making Democracy Work") for 2000 - 2002 will be decided. Delegates will also vote on the national budget, any bylaw or program changes and the adoption of any National Study if one is proposed.

Every member is asked to participate in a planning survey. The center of this month's League Lines is the "Program Planning in Transition" survey. This same survey was included in your Dec/Jan 2000 issue of *National Voter*. I encourage you to fill out and submit the survey. This is the first year that the LWVUS is taking input from every member. In the past, members have been represented by delegates from their local leagues at the National Convention. This will also happen in June in Washington, D.C. However, this year, in addition to using delegates, National is interested in getting input from every member. You may fill the survey out on your own. You may discuss it with other members. If you want to discuss any of the questions feel free to call me at 615-7141. I would be happy to talk about the issues or pair you up with other members. The deadline for the survey is March 1, 2000. Please enjoy the privilege and take the responsibility to voice your opinion.

Thanks,

Bav

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff is a nonpartisan organization that encourages citizens to play an informed and active role in government.

At the time you are reading these, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

Announcing...

Presidents' Cocktail Party*a fund-raiser for the League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area*

at the home of Lt. Governor Corinne Wood
191 North Mayflower Road, Lake Forest



Friday, February 25

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

\$10.00 per person

RSVP by February 23 to Alice Flaherty, 295-8525

Please bring one of the following to share: an appetizer, a bottle of wine (2/couple), or a dessert.

For your contribution to be tax-deductible, make checks payable to: LWVIL Education Fund.

If you are unable to attend, contributions may be sent to:
LWV-LF-LB, 400 E. Illinois Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045

Learn more about foreign policy issues. Join Great Decisions!

Great Decisions is an interest group sponsored jointly by the LWVLF-LB Area and the American Association of University Women to discuss timely foreign policy topics.

Programs are based on the briefing books and videotapes of the Foreign Policy Association.

The Great Decisions briefing book highlights eight of today's most significant, far-reaching foreign policy issues. In compelling presentations, Great Decisions provides facts and nonpartisan analysis of the "great decisions" facing the U.S. public and policy makers.

WHEN: 2nd Friday of each month, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

WHERE: Betty Buker's, 485 Oakwood Av., Lake Forest

February 11 Russia: Report Card on Survival

March 10 Indonesia in Aftershock

April 14 The Military: What Role in U.S. Foreign Policy?

May 12 Middle East Realignment: New Directions for the Next Millennium

June 8 The Euro's Challenge to the Dollar: King Kong versus Godzilla?

September 14 Africa: Prospects for the Future

October 12 Defining Humanitarian Intervention

November 9 U.S. Interests in the World: Time for a Redefinition

"An informed public is the ultimate foundation of a successful foreign policy"

Come when you can, attendance is flexible. For information call Diane Lloyd, 615-9182 or Betty Buker, 234-4509.

We are very sorry to have to inform you that one of our dear and long time members, Elizabeth Peters has passed away. There will be a memorial service on Saturday, February 12, 2000 at 11:00 am at Union Church in Lake Bluff. Elizabeth worked with and was a friend to many League members. She will truly be missed.

Shields Township Study Update

Since May 1999, the Shields Township Study Committee has been meeting monthly and gathering information. The members of the Study Committee are Bev Adamczyk and Ann Hamlin, co-chairs, with Bob Bednar, Kathy Blahunka, Eleanor Knight, Audrey Nixon and Alice Sievert. The scope of our study is to define the revenues and expenditures of Shields Township, the duties and responsibilities of Shields Township and the relationship of services provided by Shields Township with those of the other municipalities of Lake Bluff, Lake Forest, North Chicago and the County of Lake. This first article from the committee will concentrate on the duties and responsibilities of Shields Township.

Townships have three state mandated responsibilities: 1) to provide General Assistance; 2) to assess property within the Township and 3) to maintain roads in unincorporated areas of the Township. Overseeing the responsibilities are a Township Supervisor (General Assistance), an Assessor, and a Road Commissioner. The three positions are elected and each is accountable directly to the electorate.

In addition to the above mentioned elected positions, Shields Township has five other elected officials; a Town Clerk, and four Trustees. All eight offices are four year positions, beginning and expiring at the same time. The offices are voted on during the consolidated Primary Elections (February) and the Consolidated Elections (April) in the odd numbered year following the presidential election. The next Shields Township elections will be in 2001.

The Township Supervisor is responsible for the oversight

of General Assistance. GA is a social program to provide aid for persons in severe financial hardship who do not qualify for other welfare type programs. Any resident of Shields Township may apply for GA when their financial situation warrants. The guidelines for awarding GA are outlined by the State and Shields Township follows the State's guidelines quite closely. GA is usually a temporary assistance, as recipients are required to participate in job search or educational programs as a part of the program. Shields Township employs a part time social worker to handle GA applicants. Although it is not mandated Shields also has an Emergency Assistance program for township residents requiring immediate, one-time assistance.

The Township Assessor is the elected official who maintains the Equalized Assessed Valuations on all the parcels in the Township. It is the Assessor's job to ensure that all property valuations are comparable to the market rate. Property valuations are turned into Lake County, where the County Collector uses the valuation as part of the equation for tax bills. Did you know that you may (and should) visit the Assessor's office and view the file on your home and property?

Shields Township has a little over 9 miles of road in unincorporated areas. The maintenance (paving, repair, plowing, lighting) of the roads is the sole responsibility of the Road Commissioner.

The Supervisor, Assessor and Road Commissioner may work independently or jointly. In Shields, the Supervisor and

(continues on page 7)



\$25 per person

League of Women Voters Seventh Annual Luncheon To Commemorate Women's History Month

Saturday, March 11, 2000
11:30 am Reception Noon Luncheon
Valley-Lo Sports Club
2200 Tanglewood Drive, Glenview

"Diversity on the North Shore - An Asian Perspective"

Guest Panel: Olivia Chui, social worker for the Wilmette Police Department
Jae Choi-Kim, past president, the Korean American Citizens Coalition
Chiye Tomahiro, Japanese American Service League

RSVP by March 6

Make checks payable to the League of Women Voters of Evanston Ed Fund
Mail to: LWV of Evanston Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave., Evanston, IL 60203

Reservations limited - respond by March 6

For more information, call 866-7844

Co-sponsored by the North Shore Leagues of Evanston, Glenview, Park Ridge, Wilmette, and Winnetka/Northfield/Kennilworth

PROGRAM PLANNING IN TRANSITION

Members Shape the Work of the League

THANKS for participating in the League's new planning process! We are seeking input from as many League members as possible on the broadest range of questions ever. You will help shape the work of the League through the next biennium.

We know from our recent survey research that volunteers appreciate choices when it comes to giving their valuable time and energy to a cause. That's why we are asking you to decide for yourself the best way to fill out this survey.

We've broadened the range of questions that used to define program planning. That's because League work involves so much more than just adding and dropping positions. Through this new process, we hope to show members the many ways we strive to fulfill our mission and seek your advice about how we can best do this in the future.

Our recently concluded Future Plan, which you received in the September/October *National Voter*, sets a course for the League as we move forward into the next century. Our goal for Program Planning in Transition is to ensure that we keep true to this course, making steady and significant progress toward our goal of Making Democracy Work.

Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, *President*

Mary Ann Burt, *Chair, Program Planning Team*

Fill this out online at

www.lwv.org

by clicking on the Members Only section.

LWVUS/Program Planning
1730 M Street, NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20036-4508

Our Positions

1.

You'll notice that this survey does not ask you to review every standing LWVUS position. That activity has failed to yield valuable insights, resulting in many positions remaining on the books unchanged throughout rapidly changing times.

You have told us—at recent conventions and councils and through much correspondence—that the League needs to keep its positions up-to-date. The challenge is determining which positions are most outdated, which ought to be priorities for updating and what process will work best to accomplish this task.

Because this concern has been evident for some time, and many good suggestions have been made, we are prepared to make some proposals. It's up to you to tell us if we're on the right track. Your League board has been sent a separate *Leader's Guide* that will provide them with an opportunity to review all existing LWVUS positions.

PROPOSAL: That the LWVUS systematically review each position area (Government, International Relations, Natural Resources and Social Policy) on a rotating schedule through successive bienniums, choosing a priority position or positions within each position area for in-depth review and update. Please circle your response.

AGREE DISAGREE

PROPOSAL: That this process commence with a review of the International Relations area in the 2000–2002 biennium. Please circle your response.

AGREE DISAGREE

We have identified two positions within this area that would benefit from a thorough review and updating. Let us know what you think is most important.

QUESTION: Which position shall the LWVUS review and update in the 2000–2002 biennium? Please circle one of the following three options:

United Nations Trade Other _____

Identifying Community Concerns

2.

Increasingly, League projects seek to involve citizens in public life through work on issues that are important to diverse groups within a community. As citizens become engaged, they are more likely to participate in all aspects of civic life, including voting.

Following Council '99, state League presidents identified areas of concern (see below) that they thought would most engage citizens in their communities. Knowing which areas of concern are common to Leagues around the country will help the LWVUS focus its field support resources in ways that will serve grassroots community organizing efforts. Help us identify these emerging local issues.

QUESTION: Which of the following are areas of concern to the public in your community? Please choose one primary and two secondary areas of concern.

Discrimination Primary Secondary

Economy Primary Secondary

Education Primary Secondary

Election Reform Primary Secondary

Environment Primary Secondary

Health Care Primary Secondary

Sustainability Primary Secondary

Tax Primary Secondary

Transportation Primary Secondary

Other (list below) Primary Secondary

3. Serving State and Local Leagues

As Leagues conduct civic participation projects in their communities, there are challenges and opportunities for our organization. The LWVUS is committed to helping state and local Leagues leverage the most impact, visibility and organizational development from these efforts. Tell us where our help is needed most.

QUESTION: In which of the following areas would your League most benefit from LWVUS support? Please pick one primary and up to three secondary areas.

Leadership

Development Primary Secondary

Diversity Training Primary Secondary

Coalition Building Primary Secondary

Fundraising Skills Primary Secondary

Media Skills Primary Secondary

Issue Background/

Research Primary Secondary

Facilitation/

Moderation Skills Primary Secondary

Grant Writing/

Management Primary Secondary

Membership

Recruitment Primary Secondary

4. Diversity

Now that the work of the League's Diversity Implementation Task Force is complete, it is up to every League to embrace the concept of diversity, taking advantage of opportunities to work with diverse groups and build a diverse membership. As the nation's demographics change, so must the League's. That is how we will remain strong and viable in the next century.

QUESTION: What are the most appropriate and effective ways for your League to work with underrepresented communities? Please pick two.

- ☐ Focus Get-Out-the-Vote efforts in under-represented communities
- ☐ Target underrepresented communities for civic participation projects
- ☐ Develop leadership-training programs and recruit community members
- ☐ Work in coalition on issues of concern to the community

QUESTION: Where do you see the need for League focus in voters service activities and/or civic engagement? Pick as many as apply.

- ☐ Economically disadvantaged communities
- ☐ Emerging democracies around the world
- ☐ Ethnic/minority communities
- ☐ Newly naturalized citizens
- ☐ Senior citizens
- ☐ Students
- ☐ Young adults (under 30)

Voters Services

5.

Enhancing voter participation has long been at the core of League work.

For many years that meant conducting voter registration drives, publishing voters guides and hosting candidate forums.

As we enter a new millennium, we face many new challenges and opportunities. Declining voter turnout, growing distaste for the political process and an increasingly polarized electorate are offset by the excitement of new media opportunities, Motor Voter and insights gained from our 1996 and 1999 survey research.

QUESTION: What kinds of voters service activities do you think will have the biggest impact in the next few years? Please pick three.

- ☐ On-line voter information (how and where to vote)
- ☐ On-line candidate and issue information
- ☐ Legislation to enhance the voting rights of all Americans
- ☐ Televised candidate debates
- ☐ Celebrity Public Service Announcements on television
- ☐ Get-Out-the-Vote organizing drives in targeted communities
- ☐ Get-Out-the-Vote campaigns involving youth
- ☐ Multilingual voter information
- ☐ Corporate partnerships that promote voting
- ☐ Publishing and distributing materials linking issues of concern to political action

Evaluation

To help us evaluate the success of Program Planning in Transition, please tell us about your experience.

Did you fill out this form:

- ☐ By yourself
- ☐ In a small informal group of League members
- ☐ At a general membership meeting of your League
- ☐ At a League board meeting

Approximately how long did it take you to fill out this form? _____

How did you like it?

- ☐ Great
- ☐ Pretty well
- ☐ Just OK
- ☐ Not at all

Knowing our members helps the LWVUS serve you better. Tell us a bit about yourself. Please include at least name and League ID.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____

LEAGUE ID#: _____

(look on your National Voter label)

Are you a Member-at-Large? ☐ Yes ☐ No

How many years have you belonged to the League? _____

Have you ever served on a local or state League board or the national board?

- ☐ Local
- ☐ State
- ☐ National

Year: _____

PLEASE TEAR OUT, FOLD AND RETURN NO LATER THAN MARCH 1, 2000

Thank you for helping to shape the work of the League!

Campaign Finance Reform

Campaign Finance Reform. How long has the issue been with us? Many even view the issue cynically as the costs of campaigns continue to rise. But Illinois is changing. Four years ago considered one of the worst states in terms of spending laws, now Illinois is seen as a model when it comes to campaign spending disclosure. The change could not have come about without a concerned and informed public. We are happy to announce two upcoming programs that are sure to be as interesting as they are informative. The programs will complement each other beautifully or be completely satisfying by themselves.

LWV LF/LB Campaign Finance Reform Discussion



Thursday, February 17, 2000
1:00 pm

at the home of Carol Gilbert
28 Oak Terrace, Lake Bluff



"Money In Illinois Politics"

A v video from The Illinois Campaign for Political Reform followed by discussion

Discussion leader: Eleanor Knight

Please join fellow Leaguers for an afternoon of stimulating discussion on money and its role in Illinois politics. To get the ball rolling we will view a video and begin a conversation based on questions from ICPR. No advance preparation necessary. Just come.

Race-Tracks, Casinos, and the Illinois Legislature:

*Is There a Link Between Campaign Contributions and Favorable Legislation and Subsidies?
How Can Citizens Make A Difference?*

Sunday, March 12th, 2000
6:00 pm



Northbrook United Methodist Church
1190 Western Avenue
Northbrook, IL



Invited Panelists:

State Rep. Jeff Schoenberg
(D) 58th District
State Rep. Candidate Timothy Bergman
(R) 58th District
State Rep. Beth Coulson
(R) 57th District

State Rep. Candidate Jody Wadhwa
(D) 57th District
State Sen. Cathy Parker
(R) 29th District
Rev. Tom Grey
National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling
Jim Kales
Illinois Campaign for Political Reform

For more information please call 272-2442

Reports from the field...

Observer Corps Update

Senior Housing

Affordable senior housing has been a high priority issue with our League, so members should be interested to learn that the Senior Housing Blue Ribbon Committee has selected a site for the first cottage to be built under this program. The property is owned by the City of Lake Forest and is on Conway Road. There is already a group home in the area and neighborhood opinion is generally in favor of senior housing use at the location. The City Council endorsed the Senior Housing Blue Ribbon Committee's report at the January 6, 2000 meeting, and at the January 20, 2000 meeting authorized the preparation of a business plan for the development of a cottage at the Conway Road site.

Smart Growth

The Central Business District (CBD) Task Force also presented its final report to the City Council at the January 20, 2000 meeting. The 16 recommendations forwarded to the City Council from the CBD Task Force were based on public testimony, reports from the staff and presentations made by consultants in land planning, traffic, parking, and water, sanitary sewer and electrical systems capacities. The reports and public testimony were heard at the seven public meetings held by the Task Force from October, 1999 through January, 2000. The final report of the CBD Task Force now goes to the Plan Commission. The public will be given a chance to comment on the results of the Plan Commission's deliberations relating to future development in the Central Business District at a series of public meetings scheduled to be held from March through June of this year. Interested League members: Plan to attend!

The Observer Corps needs additional observers. Observing is a great way to be involved with the League and to learn more, firsthand, about our local government and issues. We need to give the League more complete coverage of Village and City meetings while strengthening the League profile in our communities. Contact Pauline Mohr at 234-5853 to become an Observer or to get more information.

Voter Service reports...

With the onset of cold weather (finally!) the so-called spring elections may seem far away. But League's voter service effort for the next election cycle is already underway, as we prepare for the U.S. Congressional primary and contested Lake Forest municipal elections on Tuesday, March 21st.

LWV LF-LB will be hosting the debate for candidates seeking John Porter's Congressional seat. An astonishing 11 candidates are seeking the Republican nomination. (Lauren Beth Gash will run uncontested on the Democratic ticket.) Our tentative date and location for the Republican debate is February 29th at Deerpath Elementary school. Our cosponsors for this event are Leagues from Libertyville/Mundelein Area, Waukegan/Zion, Deerfield/Lincolnshire, and Highland Park. Our sister Leagues farther south will also host a debate to serve the southern half of the 10th district. We will work together with the Cook County Leagues to coordinate the format and publicity for both the 10th district forums. A voter's guide for the entire district is being prepared.

Also in the works is a forum for the contested municipal elections in Lake Forest. Both the Caucus and the Lake Forest Party put forth a full slate of candidates. In addition to the mayor and three statutory officers who must campaign every year, four of the eight aldermen are up for reelection. The West entrance to Gorton is now back in service, and we hope to provide a live cable tv broadcast with a live phone-in opportunity. Dates for the debate are still under study. As of this writing the Caucus has challenged the validity of the Lake Forest Party's petitions, and it is unclear how many candidates will be on the ballot on March 21st. As of this writing the candidate's petitions are still being reviewed; and when the slate of candidates for the ballot is ready, we will be, too!

If you would like to help with these events many opportunities are available. Local members will be needed to staff these events, and the task of preparing voter's guides and debate questions is in process, but any contributions to the effort would be appreciated. Write-in candidates for the Lake Forest election may file until March 14th, just one short week before the election, so this year's voter service effort may be a challenging task! If you would like to assist please call Bev Adamczyk at 615-7141 or Carol Gilbert at 295-4044



LWVIL Annual Issue Briefing and 80th Gala Birthday Celebration

Saturday, February 12, 2000
Gold Room - Congress Hotel - Chicago
Birth Place of the League of Women Voters

Festivities begin at 9:00 am
Program 9:30 am
Historic Luncheon 12:45 pm

Lt. Governor Corinne Wood - Honorary Chair

Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, President, LWVUS - Keynote Speaker

The LWVIL Program Committee Invites You to the League's Annual Issue Briefing...
Featuring

An Introduction to Smart Growth
and
An Update on the Spring Session

SMART GROWTH: A better way to manage growth in our cities and the surrounding areas, limiting "sprawl" and the problems of congestion, pollution and resource allocation associated with the uncontrolled growth. An introduction to the concept, how it affects our communities and how Leagues can add a Smart Growth dimension to the program agenda.

Panelists:

John McCarron: Chicago Tribune Urban Affairs Editorial Writer/Op-Ed Columnist
MarySue Barrett: President, Metropolitan Planning Council
Scott Bernstein, Center for Neighborhood Technology

UPDATE ON THE SPRING LEGISLATIVE SESSION: An update on League lobby activities in Springfield and at home by our issue specialists and grassroots advocates. Featuring campaign finance reform, election laws and gun control

\$20 breakfast briefing only

\$50 includes a luncheon ticket

For more information, call 312-939-5935, ext. 10

Township (cont. from page 4)

Assessor share an office space (currently at 191 E. Deerpath in Lake Forest, soon to be moving into West School in Knollwood). The Road Commissioner has his own office in Knollwood, on the property which also houses the Township Road equipment.

The Supervisor, Assessor and Road Commissioner are independent entities, but issues concerning the Township are also considered by the Trustees. The Trustees have an open meeting monthly with the Township Supervisor acting as chair. The Assessor and Road Commissioner are nonvoting members of the board of Trustees.

The Township budget consists of three funds. A Town fund, which covers the general operations of the Supervisor's

and the Assessor's office and a portion of the salary of the Road Commissioner. There is a General Assistance fund which covers the cost of providing GA and cash benefits. The third fund is the Road Fund which covers the expenses associated with the maintenance of the roads.

The township's primary source of revenue is from taxes. For the fiscal year ending Feb 28, 1999, Shields received approximately \$770,000 in tax revenue for two of its funds: the Town Fund and the Road and Bridge Fund. How the money is allocated and other revenue sources will be the focus of next months article from the study committee.

The Study Group meets the third Monday each month at the Lake Bluff Public Library at 7:00 pm. Guests welcome.

Dates to Remember

February

- 8 LWVFLB Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Gorton Community Center
- 11 Great Decisions, Russia, 1:00 pm, Betty Buker's
- 12 LWVIL Legislative Briefing and 80th Anniversary Party, Congress Hotel, Chicago
- 17 "Money in Politics", Video and Discussion, 1:00 pm, Carol Gilbert's
- 20 *League Lines* March Issue Deadline
- 21 Shields Township Meeting, 7:00 pm, Lake Bluff Public Library
- 25 President's Cocktail Party Fund-raiser, 6:30 pm, Corinne Wood's
- 29 Congressional District 10: Candidate Forum, 7:00 pm, Deerpath Elementary Auditorium

March

- 1 LWVUS Program Planning/Member Survey Deadline
- 6 Tentative date for Candidate Forums for contested municipal elections. Evening
- 10 Great Decisions, Indonesia, 1:00 pm, Betty Buker's
- 11 LWV Women's History Month Luncheon, 11:30 am, Valley-Lo Sports Club, Glenview
- 12 Informational Forum: "Race Tracks, Casinos, and the Illinois Legislature", 6:00 pm Northbrook
- 14 LWVFLB Board Meeting, Lake Bluff Community Room
- 20 Shields Township Meeting, 7:00 pm, Lake Bluff Public Library
- 21 General Primary and Lake Forest Municipal Elections

April

- 11 LWVFLB Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Gorton Community Center
- 12 LWVLC Program: Welfare to Work Program
- 14 Great Decisions, The Military, 1:00 pm, Betty Buker's

May

- 11 Annual Meeting

June

- 17-20 LWVUS Convention. Washington, DC

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60045

League of Women Voters
of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff
Gorton Community Center
400 East Illinois Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045





League Lines

Volume 46, Number 8

March 2000

March 21, 2000

VOTE

Lake Forest Municipal Elections
State Primaries
National Primaries

VOTE

Lake Forest Municipal Elections Candidate Forum

Thursday, March 9, 7:00 pm
Lake Forest Place

Participating Candidates:

City Marshal/Collector:
Herb Faulks, Lake Forest Caucus
Peggy Gubrandsen, Lake Forest Party

City Supervisor:

Ross Beatty, Lake Forest Caucus
Bruce McIlvaine, Lake Forest Party

City Treasurer:

John Anderson, Lake Forest Caucus
Robert Lee, III, Lake Forest Party

First Ward Alderman:

Jill Chaifetz, Lake Forest Party
Jerry Henry, Lake Forest Caucus

Second Ward Alderman:

Mike Burns, Lake Forest Party
Ashley Maentz, Lake Forest Caucus

Fourth Ward Alderman:

Dori Bell, Lake Forest Party
Jim Cowhey, Lake Forest Caucus



Third Ward Alderman:

Roger Mohr, Lake Forest Caucus
John Walker, Lake Forest Party

Mayor:

Howard J. Kerr, Lake Forest Caucus
Mike Levert, Lake Forest Party

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Questions from the audience will be taken for aldermanic and mayoral candidates and posed by the moderator.

Voters Guides will be available at the Forum and they can also be retrieved from our website <http://lwfhome.northstamet.org/lwvflb>.

The Forum will be taped for rebroadcast on LFTV.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 1999-2000

President	
Bev Adamczyk	615-7141
(Fax 295-9794)	bev@adamczyk.com
Vice President/Action	
Joan Kalsas	234-4737 (Fax 234-4737)
Vice President/Voter Service	
Carol Gilbert	295-4044 (Fax 295-4003)
Secretary	
Denise Enif	615-0878
Treasurer	
Lisa Delnich	735-1813
Cable Coordinator	
Alice Faherty	295-8525
LWVLC Board Liaison	
Linda Barnes	234-7069
Membership	
Cynthia Maloney	615-1123
Membership Development	
Diane Lloyd	615-9182
(Fax 615-9418)	wlloyd@aol.com
Newsletter	
Anne Csar	234-4231
(Fax 234-8791)	aeds@interaccess.com
Program	
Julia Fiske-Parker	615-9858
(Fax 615-9825)	law1fiske@aol.com
Kimberley Moss	735-0635
Publicity	
Kathy Lawson	615-0106
(Fax 615-2329)	
Voter Registration	
Pat Rounsaville	295-3916

NOMINATING COMMITTEE 1999-2000

Chair: Elaine Slayton	295-0275
(Fax 615-0541)	eslayton@netscape.net
Mary Jane Wolter	234-2573
mwolter@tm.net	
Linda Hirdle	295-5252
(Fax 615-0011)	lindahirdle@aol.com
(two members to be appointed from board)	

OFF BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Community Recycling	
Mary Claire Briggs	615-8661 (Fax 615-8663)
Hospitality	
Judy Grisamore	234-3510 (Fax 234-3510)
Observer Corps	
Pauline Mohr	234-5853
Partners for Progress	
Janet Nelson	234-1844
LF Senior Housing Committee	
Jane Partridge	234-1247

WEB DIRECTORY

LWVFLB:	http://lhome.northstarnet.org/lwvflb
County League:	www.nsn.org/balhome/LWVLC
State League:	www.lwv.org
	www.dnet.org/il
	www.ilcampaign.org
National League:	www.lwv.org

President's Message

The LWVUS is initiating a "Take A Friend to Vote" campaign targeted for the General Elections in November. It will debut in April, but I like the idea so much that I think we should try to initiate it here for the March 21 primaries and municipal election.

The idea is simple. The name says it all. Consider inviting a friend to vote. Literally this can be as simple as taking someone with you to the polls. But chances are getting someone to the polls will involve some form of education.

To help a friend feel informed share our Voters Guides. We will have Voters Guides for the 10th District Republican candidates and for the Lake Forest Municipal Elections. These will be available in the community and at both libraries. You can also retrieve the local Voters Guides from our web page at <http://lhome.northstarnet.org/lwvflb>.

Please invite a neighbor to the candidate forum on March 9 at 7:00 pm at Lake Forest Place to learn more about the candidates running for the statutory, aldermanic and mayoral offices in Lake Forest. The candidate forums for the 10th congressional district and the Lake Forest Municipal Elections will be rebroadcast on LFTV. Check the local channel listings for exact times and encourage a friend to watch.

If you have a friend who doesn't know where to vote they can find their polling place at the Lake County web page, <http://www.co.lake.il.us/> or call the County Clerk's office at 360-3610. And if you find that your friend is not registered, let them know that they may register between March 23 and October 9 for the November elections.

It's easy for those of us accustomed to following politics to overlook the basics of voting. But a little bit of information can go a long way towards getting a friend to the ballot box.

Wednesday, March 29, 2000
HEALTHY FAMILIES LOBBY DAY
Springfield

CALL PEG MATHIAS, 526-2140 FOR DETAILS.



The League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages citizens to play an informed and active role in government.

At the local, state, and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

Briefs, News and Opportunities

LOCAL UPDATES

Illinois Students Vote

Illinois Students Vote (ISV) is an arm of the National Student/Parent Mock Election for which LWVIL serves as the Illinois coordinator. This year our project will be co-sponsored by *The Chicago Tribune* News In Education Program, which will assist with the production of our brochure and curriculum materials as well as handle registration of schools. The *Tribune* will also produce a separate "tab" news section featuring election information that will supplement the curriculum materials and teacher's guide. Copies of the newspaper will be available for classroom use in the weeks prior to the November 7th General Election. The state League office will handle the tabulation of the incoming votes from schools throughout the state who have registered for the program. Mock election day is November 2, 2000. The first mailing to schools will be in early April 2000.

The LWVLF/LB has participated in this program in the Lake Bluff middle school with great success. We need a contact person if we want to participate in ISV 2000. If you are interested in this highly satisfying project of taking youngsters through the voting process contact Bev at 615-7141. There is preliminary work in April and later when the project is underway in October and November.

Local Business Recycling

Mary Claire Briggs, LWVLF-LB Community Recycling Chair, introduced the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County (SWALCO) to the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Chamber of Commerce. At the February 24 Business and Government Committee of the Chamber of Commerce meeting, SWALCO outlined its two year business recycling program which they administer jointly with Lake Co. municipalities to help businesses incorporate recycling into their waste removal. The committee directed the Chamber to approach the City of Lake Forest and the Village of Lake Bluff requesting the municipalities to pursue the recycling program in both downtown business districts.

NEWS FROM LWVUS

The League and Grassroots.com

The LWVUS board's search for viable options for expanding the DNET system eventually led to grassroots.com, a six-month-old political website dedicated to providing a platform for people to become engaged in government. The founders of Grassroots.com are committed to keeping the site rigorously nonpartisan in all its activities. Grassroots.com completely shares the League's vision of making political participation easier and more effective for all. The LWVEF is excited by the opportunity to join forces with an economically viable, nonpartisan, ethical organization that can accommodate every League and candidate who wish to participate.

The cooperation between DNET and Grassroots.com will allow Leagues to provide information about candidates at all levels of government from the federal to the local.

South Carolina Boycott

The LWVUS and LWVEF Boards endorsed the following statement: "The League of Women Voters Education Fund vow to hold no meetings in the state of South Carolina as long as the Confederate flag flies over the statehouse. We applaud the efforts to remove this symbol, which stands as a painful reminder of racial discrimination." The LWVUS/LWVEF action supports the position of the South Carolina LWV.

February brought the League a flurry of voter registration activity. We extend our thanks to Deputy Registrars Alice Flaherty, Char Kreuz, Diane Lloyd, Beverly Nelson, and Pat Rounsaville who registered at Barst College, Conway Farms, Lake Forest High School, and Lake Forest Place.

Interest in registration will continue to grow throughout this year -- so get in on the action! Call Pat at 295-3916 to learn how you, too, can participate in this worthwhile endeavor.



The Leagues of Lake County and Waukegan - Zion present
an Informational Forum on
The University Center for Lake County

Saturday, March 18
10:00 am - 12:30 pm
Prairie Crossing Community Barn, Grayslake

Participating Panelists Include:

Douglas Day, Illinois Board of Higher Education from Springfield
Dean Englund, CATS representative to describe Transportation Issues
Kathy Johnson, Coordinator of the Multi-University
Bob Leonard, Woodland School District 50
Dr. Gretchen Naff, President of College of Lake County
The office of Director of Planning and Zoning of the City of Waukegan
Martin Touhy, potential redeveloper of the Lakehurst Shopping Center

The panel will speak from many perspectives about the site selection of the University Center for Lake County. Following presentations there will be an hour to address questions from the audience.

Don't miss this important forum on higher education's future in Lake County!

For more information contact Robbyn Kilbane-McFadden, 625-9765

From the Shields Township Study Committee

Corrections. Last month's initial article on Shields Township deserves some clarifications. We stated that all the Township officials were elected and took office at the same time. This is not true. All the elections take place at the same time, every four years in the spring following the fall Presidential elections. But the Supervisor, Road Commissioner and Trustees take office in the summer following the election and the Assessor is sworn in, nine months later, the following January.

It was also stated that the Assessor is responsible for the Equalized Assessed Evaluation. Technically, the Supervisor of Assessors is responsible for the equalization. Our township Assessor is responsible for determining the fair cash value for property within the township.

The Assessor is required by law to adjust the fair cash value every four years. In Shields the general

assessment years are 2000, 2004, 2008, etc. In actuality, the fair cash value is adjusted annually and final assessments are published in the Pioneer Press.

Fair cash value is constantly monitored in Shields township. North Chicago, Lake Forest, Lake Bluff and Lake County forward copies of all building permits to the Assessor's Office. There are about 890 building permits in Shields annually. The Assessor's office does inspections of property, updates property data and drawings and recalculates property values. The township uses observation and even aerial maps to confirm the property data which is on file.

The fair cash values for property are forwarded to the County, where the Supervisor of Assessments equalizes the assessments and makes preferential assessments. Preferential assessments are made on model units, open lands, golf courses and other special properties.

Discuss challenging foreign policy issues with Great Decisions

Great Decisions is an interest group sponsored jointly by the LWVLF-LB Area and the American Association of University Women to discuss timely foreign policy topics.

Programs are based on the briefing books and videotapes of the Foreign Policy Association. The Great Decisions briefing book highlights eight of today's most significant, far-reaching foreign policy issues. In compelling presentations, Great Decisions provides facts and nonpartisan analysis of the "great decisions" facing the U.S. public and policy makers.

WHEN: 2nd Friday of each month, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

WHERE: Betty Buker's, 485 Oakwood Av., Lake Forest

- March 10 Russia: Report Card on Survival
- April 14 Indonesia in Aftershock
- May 12 The Military: What Role in U.S. Foreign Policy?
- June 8 Middle East Realignments: New Directions for the Next Millennium
- July 13 The Euro's Challenge to the Dollar: King Kong versus Godzilla?
- September 14 Africa: Prospects for the Future
- October 12 Defining Humanitarian Intervention
- November 9 U.S. Interests in the World: Time for a Redefinition

"An informed public is the ultimate foundation of a successful foreign policy"

Come when you can, attendance is flexible. For information call Diane Lloyd, 615-9182 or Betty Buker, 234-4509.

League of Women Voters Seventh Annual Luncheon To Commemorate Women's History Month

Saturday, March 11, 2000

11:30 am Reception Noon Luncheon

Valley-Lo Sports Club

2200 Tanglewood Drive, Glenview

"Diversity on the North Shore - An Asian Perspective"

Guest Panel: Utsha Chui, social worker for the Wilmette Police Department
 Jan Chai-Kin, past president, the Korean American Citizens Coalition
 Chiye Tomahiro, Japanese American Service League



\$25 per person

RSVP by March 6

Make checks payable to the League of Women Voters of Evanston Ed Fund
 Mail to: LWV of Evanston Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Ave., Evanston, IL 60203

Reservations limited - respond by March 6

For more information, call 866-7844

Co-sponsored by the North Shore Leagues of Evanston, Glenview, Glenview, Park Ridge, Wilmette, and Winnetka/Northfield/Kennilworth

Moderator Training

Learn how to moderate a successful debate or candidate forum at a Moderator Training Session on Tuesday, April 18 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. It will be cohosted by the League of Women Voters of Lake County and the League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area at the Gorton Community Center (Green Room) 400 E. Illinois Road, Lake Forest.

The training session from 7 to 8 pm will be conducted by Marilyn Scholl of Scholl Communications. Marilyn is a member of the Deerfield Area League and has conducted this training session for the League of Women Voters of Illinois. The second hour will be devoted to a panel discussion of potential problems that may arise in debates and forums and how experienced moderators deal with them.

This training is appropriate both for new (have never moderated and may be interested) and for more seasoned moderators. For reservations call Susan Dorn, 433-3759 or Gail Feiger Brown, 433-2093.

SAVE THESE DATES!

LWVUS- National Convention
June 17 - 20
Washington, DC

LWVLF-LB Annual Meeting
May 11, 2000

LWV-Lake County Annual Meeting
May 31, 2000
Lamb's Farm

Do you appreciate the work League of Women Voters does?
Show your support by joining the League today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (home): _____ (office): _____ (fax): _____

e-mail: _____

- | | |
|---|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member | 75.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Regular) | 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (Senior) | 45.00 |

Make checks payable to the LWV LF-LB. Dues are not tax deductible.

To support our efforts in educational areas, such as Voter Service and informational programs you may make a tax deductible contribution, please write a separate check to the LWV Education Fund. This money is used locally for community information and education.

Mail your check(s) to League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff • 400 E. Illinois Road • Lake Forest, IL 60045

The Board thanks Lt. Governor Corinne Wood, Alice Flaherty and You for making our Presidents' Day Cocktail Party such a great success. Lt. Governor Wood opened her magnificent home; Alice lent her time and organization to the festivities and together you produced a delectable assortment of food and wine. It was a wonderfully attended evening and enjoyable way to reach our fundraising goals. Thank you.

Race-Tracks, Casinos, and the Illinois Legislature:

*Is There a Link Between Campaign Contributions and Favorable Legislation and Subsidies?
How Can Citizens Make A Difference?*

Sunday, March 12th, 2000
6:00 pm



Northbrook United Methodist Church
1190 Western Avenue
Northbrook, IL



Invited Panelists:

State Rep. Jeff Schoenberg
(D) 58th District
State Rep. Candidate Timothy Bergman
(R) 58th District
State Rep. Beth Coulson
(R) 57th District

State Rep. Candidate Jody Wadhwa
(D) 57th District
State Sen. Cathy Parker
(R) 29th District
Rev. Tom Grey
National Coalition Against Legalized Gambling

Jim Kales
Illinois Campaign for Political Reform

In 1999, Governor Ryan signed into law a dramatic expansion of gambling in Illinois. Though still the subject of legal wrangling, the law allows a new casino based in Rosemont, permits near-24 hour dockside gambling at existing riverboats, and hands over an estimated \$55.9 million yearly in tax breaks and subsidies to the state's horse racing tracks.

At the same time, gambling and horse racing interests have given record amounts of campaign contributions to our politicians in recent years - \$1.8 million in '97-'98 alone. Is there a link between these campaign contributions and favorable legislation and subsidies? What influence does the average citizen have? And what can citizens do to make a difference?

All are invited to this important discussion of our legislature, the gambling industry, and campaign finance reform. Light refreshments will be served. Forum co-sponsors are the Northbrook United Methodist Church, the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, ILLCAAP, the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Glenview, LWV of Winnetka/Northfield/Kenilworth, LWV of Glencoe, LWV of Wilmette, LWV of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff, LWV of Arlington Heights/ML Prospect/Bufalo Grove, LWV of Park Ridge, Congregation Solel Social Action Committee, and Protestants for the Common Good. For more information please call 847-272-2442.

March

- 1 LWVUS Program Planning/Member Survey Deadline
- 6 Shields Township Study Meeting, 7:00 pm, Lake Bluff Public Library
- 9 Lake Forest Municipal Election Candidate Forum, 7:00 pm Lake Forest Place
- 10 Great Decisions, Russia, 1:00 pm, Diane Lloyd's
- 11 LWV Women's History Month Luncheon, 11:30 am, Valley-Lo Sports Club, Glenview
- 12 Informational Forum: "Race Tracks, Casinos, and the Illinois Legislature", 6:00 pm Northbrook
- 14 LWVFLB Board Meeting, Lake Bluff Community Room
- 18 Forum: Lake County University Center, 10:00 am, Prairie Crossing Community Barn, Grayslake
- 20 Shields Township Study Meeting, 7:00 pm, Lake Bluff Public Library
- 21 General Primary and Lake Forest Municipal Elections, VOTE
- 23 Voter Registration resumes
- 29 LWVIL Healthy Families Lobby Day, Springfield

April

- 11 LWVFLB Board Meeting, 9:00 am, Gorton Community Center
- 12 LWVLC Program: Welfare to Work Program, Libertyville Township Office
- 14 Great Decisions, Indonesia, 1:00 pm, Diane Lloyd's
- 17 Shields Township Study Meeting, 7:00 pm, Lake Bluff Public Library
- 18 Moderator Training, 7:00 pm, Gorton Community Center

May

- 11 Annual Meeting
- 12 Great Decisions, The Military, 1:00 pm, Betty Buker's
- 15 Shields Township Study Meeting, 7:00 pm, Lake Bluff Public Library
- 31 LWVLC Annual Meeting, Lamb's Farm

June

- 8 Great Decisions, Middle East Realignment, 1:00 pm, Betty Buker's
- 17-20 LWVUS Convention. Washington, DC

CANDIDATES FORUM
LAKE FOREST MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS
March 9, 7:00 PM • Lake Forest Place

Beverly J. Adamczyk
700 Quassey Avenue
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

League of Women Voters
of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff
Gorton Community Center
400 East Illinois Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045



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Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

Volume 46, Number 9

April - May 2000

The League's Annual Review of Local Issues:

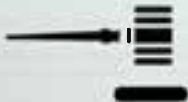
Local Community Update

Thursday, April 20, 9:30 am
Village Hall, Lake Bluff

Join Village Administrator, Kent Street and City Manager Robert Kiely for an informative report on current developments in Lake Bluff and Lake Forest. There will be an opportunity for questions from members.

Attendance is open to LWV members and their guests.
For information call Bev Adamczyk at 615-7141

2000 ANNUAL MEETING



Thursday, May 11, 2000

at the home of Alice Sievert,
918 West Safford Avenue, Knollwood

5:30 p.m. for drinks and networking

6:00 p.m. dinner

7:30 p.m. business meeting called to order

Please join fellow League members to network, approve next year's budget, vote for officers and directors, and participate in our position/program review. The Annual Meeting Packet will be mailed to all members. Please read the material and bring the packet to the meeting.

Dinner is optional. You may send checks (\$15.00 for dinner) in advance to LWV LF/LB, Gorton Community Center, 400 East Illinois Road, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045

Please make reservations by May 8 to Diane Lloyd (615-9182)

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 1999-2000

President		
Rev Adamczyk	615-7141	
(Fax 295-9754) oev@adamczyk.com		
Vice President/Action		
Joan Kaltsas	234-4737 (Fax 234-4737)	
Vice President/Voter Service		
Carol Gilbert	295-4044 (Fax 295-4003)	
Secretary		
Denise Ertell	615-0878	
Treasurer		
Lisa Dietrich	735-1813	
Cable Coordinator		
Alice Fishery	295-8525	
LWVLC Board Liaison		
Linda Bartmes	234-7069	
Membership		
Cynthia Maloney	615-1123	
Membership Development		
Diane Lloyd	615-9182	
(Fax 615-9418) willsyd@aol.com		
Newsletter		
Anne Csar	234-4231	
(Fax 234-8791) aelot@interaccess.com		
Program		
Julia Fiske-Parker	615-9858	
(Fax 615-9825) law1fiske@aol.com		
Kimberly Moss	735-0535	
Publicity		
Kathy Lawson	615-0106	
Rounsaville	295-3916	

NOMINATING COMMITTEE 1999-2000

Chair: Elaine Slayton	295-0275
(Fax 515-0541) eslayton@netscape.net	
Mary Jane Wolter	234-2573
mwolter@bhm.net	
Linda Hinde	295-5252
(Fax 615-0011) lindahib@aol.com	
(two members to be appointed from board)	

OFF BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Community Recycling	
Mary Clare Briggs	615-8661 (Fax 615-8663)
Hospitality	
Judy Giesmore	234-3510 (Fax 234-3510)
Observer Corps	
Pauline Mohr	234-5853
Partners for Progress	
Janet Nelson	234-1844
LF Senior Housing Committee	
Jane Partridge	234-1247

WEB DIRECTORY

LWVFLB: <http://thhome.northeastnet.org/lwvflb>
 County League: www.rsn.org/bethome/LWVLC
 State League: www.lwv.org
www.dnet.org/il
www.ilcampaign.org

National League: www.lwv.org

President's Message

On behalf of the entire board, I wish to thank Carol Gilbert for her awesome Voter Service work. Carol managed all the details and intricacies involved with two candidate forums and the Lake Forest Voters' Guide, which was widely distributed throughout the community. Also, thanks to everyone who participated in the candidate forums.

It is not always easy to tell by looking out the window this year what season it is. But by glancing at any LWV bulletin you can tell that spring is in the air because of the resounding calls to convention and annual meetings. Our Annual Meeting this year is May 11, dinner at 5:30 with the business meeting beginning at 7:30. Alice Sievert has graciously agreed to open her home to us for the evening.

There have been many people working on various committees preparing and positioning us for our work into the next year. I am grateful for all the work and time that has been put in. Anne Taylor and Pat Rounsaville reviewed our bylaws this year. Happie Datt, Linda Bartmes and Lisa Dietrich have prepared next year's budget. Linda Hinde, Mary Jane Wolter, Mary McLenahan-Fielding, Lisa Krimen under the chairmanship of Elaine Slayton have proposed a wonderful slate of officers and directors for your consideration.

A special commendation goes to Char Kreuz, Denise Ertell, and Joan Kaltsas for undertaking the task of reviewing our local positions. Char and the others have evaluated each position and propose recommendations which I am really looking forward to discussing at the Annual Meeting.

Your Annual Meeting packet will arrive by mail in the next week.

This last year has been a busy one. I've had the special pleasure of working with a wonderful and enthusiastic board. I especially want to tell the outgoing board members, Joan Kaltsas, Cynthia Maloney, Anne Taylor, Julia Fiske Parker, Kathy Lawson, and Pat Rounsaville, I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with you and appreciate all you've done.

See you all on May 11th at Alice's!

Bev
 ★★★★★★

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At the local, state, and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

Million Mom March Mother's Day May 14

LWVUS and LWVIL support the Million Mom March which aims to send a message to Congress in support of better gun control laws. The Chicago March is at 1:00 pm at the Chicago Lakefront, Lake Shore Drive and Randolph; for details call (312) 648-4MOM. To register or to find out where other marches are located, contact www.millionmomsmarch.com or 1-888-989-MOMS. Supported by the Bell Campaign "Freedom From Gun Trauma."

The LWV book, Choosing the President: A Citizen's Guide to the 2000 Election is an excellent graduation gift or gift for a first time voter. Support your League and provide excellent, timely information to our newest voters. \$10.00. To arrange for your copy call Bev at 615-7141.

Great Decisions

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Programs are based on the briefing books and videotapes of the Foreign Policy Association. The Great Decisions briefing book highlights eight of today's most significant, far-reaching foreign policy issues. In compelling presentations, Great Decisions provides facts and nonpartisan analysis of the "great decisions" facing the U.S. public and policy makers.

WHEN: 2nd Friday of each month, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

WHERE: Betty Buker's, 485 Oakwood Av., LF

May 12	The Military
June 8	Middle East Realignments
July 13	The Euro's Challenge to the Dollar
September 14	Africa: Prospects for the Future
October 12	Defining Humanitarian Intervention
November 9	U.S. Interests in the World

"An informed public is the ultimate foundation of a successful foreign policy"

Come when you can, attendance is flexible.

For information call Diane Lloyd, 615-9182 or Betty Buker, 234-4509.

LWVUS CONVENTION 2000

The League of Women Voters of the United States 44th National Convention will be held in Washington, DC this year June 17th through 20th. In addition to the plenary sessions where the business of the League is debated and approved, the convention features "An Afternoon on Capital Hill," in which members will make the rounds on Capital Hill, visit their senators and representatives and lobby for League's legislative priorities. There are also workshops on many topics pertinent to local board activities, as well as opportunities to meet the nominees for the LWVUS Board. There will also be many caucuses, which are prearranged meetings, planned and conducted by delegates to discuss issues.

Convention is an exciting opportunity to meet and network with other League members from across the country. This year there is the added benefit of doing this in the nation's capital.

Convention registration forms are included in the March/April issue of *National Voter*. When you register, don't forget to sign up for the Banquet on Monday, June 19 celebrating the League's 80 years of achievement.

Based on our membership, our League is entitled to send two delegates to the convention this year. If you are interested in being a delegate or an alternate, call Bev Adamczyk (615-7141).

April

- 17 Shields Township Study Meeting, 7:00 pm, Lake Bluff Public Library
- 20 Community Update, 9:30 am, Lake Bluff Village Hall

May

- 11 Annual Meeting, 5:30 pm. dinner; 7:30 pm. business. Alice Sievert's
- 12 Great Decisions, The Military; 1:00 pm. Betty Buker's
- 15 Shields Township Study Meeting, 7:00 pm, Lake Bluff Public Library
- 31 LWVLC Annual Meeting, Lamb's Farm

June

- 8 Great Decisions, Middle East Realignments, 1:00 pm, Betty Buker's
- 17-20 LWVUS Convention. Washington. DC

July

- 13 Great Decisions, The Euro's Challenge to the Dollar, 1:00 pm, Betty Buker's

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League of Women Voters
of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff
Gorton Community Center
400 East Illinois Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045





September 2000
Volume 47, Number 1

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- 2 Deputy Registrars
- 2 Membership Coffee
- 2 Campaign Finance Forum
- 2 Election Day Workers
- 3 Updated Positions
- 3 Nominating Systems and Caucus
- 3 Shields Township Study Consensus Meeting
- 4 LWV-LFLB Officers and Directors for 2000-2001
- 5 Fall Candidate Forums
- 5 News From LWVIL
- 6 Campaign Finance and Gambling

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

Message From the President

Bev Adamczyk

Dear Members,
This summer I was asked to "give a brief description of your organization and outline volunteer opportunities that you offer." I set about to do this task and was overwhelmed by the number of things our members *do*. In addition to the ongoing activities of our board, every year many of you participate in the Kids First Health Fair, bringing immunizations and school supplies to over a thousand school children. We also have a core of more than twenty deputy registrars, who register individuals to vote at various locations in the community throughout the year. We have members working on study committees (Shields Township and Charter Schools). Some members observe our local governing bodies. Others organize programs and candidate forums, and others still work at the events and cablecast them for the broader community. Some members champion our concerns, such as recycling and senior housing. And several are involved in educating themselves through our Great Decisions study group.

Members participate in so many diverse ways. Some have lots of time and overlapping interests in more than one area of the League. Others have specific tasks they get involved with and may only participate in one League activity a year. But as I stand back and look at the big picture of all that the League does with individual contributions of time, energy, and resources, I see a very impressive list of accomplishments!

Thank you for being a part of our success!

Normally, I would have stopped my message with the last line, but this month I must take a moment to mention the upcoming Shields Township Study Consensus Meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, September 27th at 7:00 p.m. at Gorton Community Center in Lake Forest. Ann Hamlin has ably guided the research of Robert Bednar, Kathy Blahunka, Eleanor Knight, Audrey Nixon, Alice Sievert, and myself. We have learned a lot. And one of the only things more exciting than learning is sharing newly gotten knowledge. At the Consensus Meeting the Study Group will present its findings. Following the presentation there will be discussion of consensus questions. This consensus discussion will be the basis for any position we formulate about Shields Township. Everyone is welcome to attend, but consensus discussion is limited to members residing in Shields Township. Sallie Hamm, from the League of Women Voters of Libertyville, will moderate the evening's proceedings. Mark your calendars now, and we will see you at the Consensus Meeting!

Bev

P.S. Join us for a great evening as we kick off our year by mixing entertainment and education. Learn about our federal tax policy and how it could better reflect our national priorities by playing the Concord Coalition game, "Taxing Choices"! Don't miss the show at Diane Lloyd's on September 23rd!

Special Thanks

Thank you! Members of the League wish to express their appreciation to Alice Sievert for opening her home for our Annual Meeting on May 11. Alice is an active long-time League member (and a gracious hostess). Thank you, Alice, for a wonderful evening!

Welcome to New Members

Bob and JoAnn Bednar
12987 Sanctuary Ct., Lake Bluff

Cesilie Price
1414 Woodhill Ln., Lake Forest

Ruth Shoemaker
604 N. Westmoreland Rd., Lake Forest

Marcia Duncan
1660 Yale Ct., Lake Forest

Voter Registration

You may have seen us registering voters at the 4th of July Parade in Lake Bluff or at Lake Forest Day on August 2nd or at the Jewel in Lake Forest on August 26th! We've been busy and have more work to do. Look for us registering voters at the following:

September 3rd and 4th at the Lake Forest Art Fair

September 15th and 16th at the Friends of the Lake Forest Library Book Sale

We will also be registering voters at Barat College and are investigating the possibility of registering at Lake Forest High School. This year the last day to register to vote in the November 7th election is October 9th.

Fall Fundraiser

The League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest Lake Bluff Area will hold its fall fundraiser and cocktail party at the home of Diane Lloyd, 500 College Rd., Lake Forest, on Saturday, September 23rd from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. We will participate in an interactive exercise developed by the Concord Coalition entitled "Taxing Choices."

Look forward to an evening of lively debate:

- How does the government get its revenue?
- How does the government spend its revenue?
- Could alterations in our taxing system encourage a better national savings rate ... or produce fewer negative impacts on our environment?
- What would your budget look like?

Cost is \$10 per person. Watch for your invitation in the mail. For more information, call Mary Claire Briggs at the Concord Coalition, toll free, at (877) 333-4248.

Deputy Registrars

We need to increase our corps of Deputy Registrars in order to help share the workload during our busy late summer/early fall season. Registering voters with the League usually involves working a two-hour shift a couple times each year. (Of course, you may spend more time registering voters if it fits in your schedule.) It is satisfying to see individuals registered, and usually they are very grateful for the service. To learn more about becoming a deputy registrar, call Lisa Krinen at 615-8825.

Membership Coffee

The Membership Coffee for new and old members will be held Wednesday, October 4th, at 10:00 a.m. at Glen Rowan House, Lake Forest College.

The topic will be "Health Care in the Year 2000"; the speaker will be Dr. Larry Shoemaker, Chief Medical Officer, Lake Forest Hospital. Coffee and refreshments will be served. Watch for more information in the mail.

Campaign Finance Forum

"Campaign 2000: What Price Democracy?" will be held on Monday evening, September 11th, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Congregation Solel, 1301 Clarendon Rd., Highland Park.

The keynote speaker will be U.S. Senator Paul Simon. Panelists include Dawn Clark Lutsch, Professor of Constitutional Law, Northwestern University, and former Illinois state legislator and treasurer; Margaret Blackshire, President, AFL-CIO of Illinois; and Billie Paige, lobbyist, Shea, Paige & Rogal, Inc.

Correction

In our recent Observer Corps Report, we misstated the recipient of the loan for the restoration of Dickinson Hall on the Grove School property. The loan was made to the Senior Citizen Foundation (a private organization), and not to the Senior Resources Commission.

Election Day Workers

Want to be an immediate part of the democratic process and support the League? Consider taking an election day job this November with the intent of contributing your earnings to the League. There are many jobs, such as being an election judge, picking up absentee ballots, and jobs at the Lake County Courthouse. This is a very League-like way to be involved with the election and to raise funds. If you are interested in learning more about election job opportunities, contact Bev Adamczyk (615-7141).

Updated Positions

One highlight of the most recent Annual Meeting was our local position review. Char Kreuz presented the well-thought-out recommendations of the Position Review Task Force (Char Kreuz, Joan Kallsas, and Denise Ertel) and we examined and modified each position. Thanks to Char's, Joan's, and Denise's effort, we have modified and updated our positions to the following:

Lake Forest and Lake Bluff Positions
Preschool Programs and Services: The LWV-LF/LB supports improved preschool child care and recreational facilities and services in the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff area. The League encourages surveys of the preschool and school-age populations through School Districts 65 and 67 and information sharing to provide all necessary community agencies and institutions with the data necessary to plan effectively to meet the demand for quality programs and services.

Solid Waste: The LWV-LF/LB supports federal and state policies to reduce the quantities of waste, to reclaim useful materials, and to safely restore the residue to the environment. The League encourages its municipalities to expand local

programs, to combine efforts to solve waste problems regionally, and to report to residents on disposition of recycled items.

Affordable Senior Housing: Support of the development of below-market-value rental housing for seniors in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff. (1998)

Comprehensive Plan: The LWV-LF/LB supports effective comprehensive plans for Lake Bluff and Lake Forest that encompass potential and existing land use in incorporated and surrounding unincorporated areas, as well as capital improvements, including the infrastructure.

Lake Bluff Positions

Conservation: The LWV-LF/LB supports these measures to preserve the natural resources of Lake Bluff: protection and preservation of the Lake Bluff shoreline and bluff; preservation of ravines and other open areas; preservation, through restricted use, of the flood plain lands along the Skokie River; establishment of walkways and bicycle paths.

Land Use: The LWV-LF/LB will monitor the disposition of property owned by the Village west of the West

Terrace, which is in its natural state and some of which is in the flood plain.

Coordinated Nominating Systems:
 POSITION IN ABEYANCE

Lake Forest Positions

Lake Forest Caucus: POSITION IN ABEYANCE

Lake Bluff Nominating Systems and Lake Forest Caucus

At our Annual Meeting in May we adopted recommendations to begin a review and possible restudy of our Lake Bluff nominating systems and Lake Forest Caucus positions. Both positions were put into abeyance; effectively we have no position on the Lake Forest Caucus or the Lake Bluff nominating system. Now is the time to begin task of evaluating the positions in abeyance to determine the need and direction of possible restudies. If you are interested in working on the review process, we need individuals from both communities, as we will review each position separately. Contact Bev Adamczyk at 615-7141.

What Do You Know About Townships ?

How is a township defined? • How many townships are there in Illinois? • Is every Illinois community served by a township? • How much of Shields Township is in Lake Michigan? • How many communities are served by Shields Township? • What services must a township provide by law? • What services may be provided by choice? • Does Shields Township serve the Great Lakes Naval Training Center? • How many current elected township officials were appointed prior to election? • How many miles of roads are maintained by Shields Township? • How many pieces of property are assessed by Shields Township? • How much general assistance did Shields Township pay out in 1999? • What are the total annual revenues/expenditures of Shields Township?

Shields Township Study Consensus Meeting
Wednesday, September 27, 7-9 p.m.
Friends' Room, Gorton Community Center

Put it on your calendar now!
 Be there to learn and help formulate our League position.

League of Women Voters Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area 2000-2001 Officers and Directors

	Address	Phone	Fax	E-Mail
OFFICERS				
<i>President</i>				
Bev Adamczyk	702 Quassey Ave., Knollwood	615-7141	295-9794	bev@adamczyk.com
<i>Vice President/Action</i>				
Beverly Nelson	754 Oak Ave., Lake Bluff	295-1472		bnelson62@aol.com
<i>Vice President/Voter Service</i>				
Carol Gilbert	28 Oak Terrace, Lake Bluff	295-4044	295-4003	CRViolin@aol.com
<i>Secretary</i>				
Denise Ertell	495 N. Exeter Pl., Lake Forest	615-0878		dertell@prodigy.net
<i>Treasurer</i>				
Lisa Dietrich	525 E. Blodgett, Lake Bluff	735-1813		WLapelJD@aol.com
DIRECTORS				
<i>Cable Coordinator</i>				
Alie Flaherty	750 Gardner Ln., Lake Forest	295-8525	295-0615	lfpmk@msn.com
<i>LWVLC Board Liaison</i>				
Linda Bartmes	242 Ravine Forest Dr., Lake Bluff	234-7069		
<i>Membership</i>				
Kitty Lansing	390 E. Wisconsin Ave., Lake Forest	234-3672		
Elaine Slayton	811 Larchmont Ln., Lake Forest	295-0275	615-0542	elaine.slayton@excite.com
<i>Membership Development</i>				
Diane Lloyd	500 College Rd., Lake Forest	615-9182	615-9418	WFLloyd@aol.com
<i>Newsletter</i>				
Nicki Snoblin	1010 Atkinson Rd., Knollwood	295-9059		nicki_netter@ama-assn.org
<i>Program</i>				
Kimberly Moss	1045 W. Old Mill Rd., Lake Forest	735-0535		
Mary Ritter	1041 Timber Ln., Lake Forest	234-8215	234-8232	unhortence@aol.com
<i>Publicity</i>				
Kathleen Stevenson	1220 Griffith Rd., Lake Forest	735-1424		kaslf@aol.com
<i>Voter Registration</i>				
Lisa Krinen	770 Greenview Pl., Lake Forest	615-8825		
OFF-BOARD APPOINTMENTS				
<i>Hospitality</i>				
Julia Fiske Parker	463 Glen Ave., Lake Bluff	615-9858	615-9825	JulsFiske@aol.com
<i>Observer Corps</i>				
Pauline Mohr	2000 N. Knollwood Rd., Lake Forest	234-5853		
<i>Partners for Progress</i>				
Janet Nelson	PO Box 247, Lake Bluff	234-1844		
<i>LF Senior Housing Committee Liaison</i>				
Jane Partridge	1799 Farm Rd., Lake Forest	234-1247		
NOMINATING COMMITTEE				
Chair: Joan Kaltsas	101 W. Kohl Dr., Lake Bluff	234-4737	234-4737	jokaltsa@dist214.KI2.il.us
Pam Rogers Eggert	402 E. Prospect Ave., Lake Bluff	295-5212		
Pat Rounsaville	901 Valley Rd., Lake Forest	295-3916		
(two members to be appointed from board)				

Fall Candidate Forums

The League is already thinking November . . . November elections, that is. The race that has received the most press so far is John Porter's vacated 10th Congressional District U.S. seat. Last spring in the Republican primary, Mark Kirk bested ten other candidates. He will now run against Democrat Lauren Beth Gash, who has given up her 60th District Illinois House seat to campaign full time. On October 18th, we will co-sponsor a debate with the Libertyville-Mundelein and Waukegan-Zion Leagues. (Gash's home territory of LWV Highland Park and LWV Deerfield-Lincolnshire will host their own forum this time.) Also co-sponsoring the 10th Forum are the Cook County Leagues of Glencoe, Glenview, Wilmette, and Winnetka-Kenilworth-Northfield.

In addition to Porter's seat this fall, we have contests for the 30th and 59th Districts of the Illinois Senate and House, respectively, and also many county candidates. Please check your newspaper to confirm the details of the following forums.

Highland Park Community House
1901 Sheridan Rd., Highland Park
September 26th: 10th, 30th, 60th
From 7 to 8 p.m., Terry Link (D) will debate Greg Kazarian (R) for the 30th Illinois Senate and Nancy Flouret (R) will debate Karen May (D) for the 60th Illinois House seat. From 8 to 9 p.m., Lauren Beth Gash (D) will debate Mark Kirk (R). In addition to audience questions, the candidates will respond to a panel of journalists. Cindy Canary will be the moderator.

Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd., Lake Forest
October 5th: 59th, 30th
From 7 to 7:45 p.m., Cecilie Price (R) will debate Susan Garrett (D) for the 59th Illinois House seat. From 7:50 to 8:10 p.m., county candidates will make

statements. Candidates for Circuit Court Clerk are Mary "Margo" Nelson (D) and Sally Coffelt (R). Candidates for Lake County Recorder are Mary Ellen Vanderventer (D) and Tom Adams (R). From 8:15 to 9 p.m., Greg Kazarian (R) will debate Terry Link (D). Edith Aucter will be moderator.

Wilmette Junior High School
620 Locust Rd., Wilmette
October 15th: 10th
From 3 to 5 p.m., Lauren Beth Gash (D) will debate Mark Kirk (R). Sue Calder will be moderator. Candidates will take audience questions.

Libertyville High School,
Vernon Hills Campus
145 N. Lakeview Pkwy., Vernon Hills
October 18th: 10th
From 7 to 8:30 p.m., Lauren Beth Gash (D) will debate Mark Kirk (R). Sue Calder will be the moderator. Candidates will take audience questions.

News From LWVIL

The Illinois League has received funding to expand their study of the effects of the 1980 cutback amendments, which eliminated cumulative voting for representatives to the Illinois House. The scope of the study has been redesigned to include an in-depth examination of alternative election systems and the development of election systems criteria. Please consider getting involved in this study.

Election Systems Criteria is chaired by LWVIL Election Laws Issue Specialist Mary-Lou Aagaard ([847] 729-2763).

Alternative Election Systems is chaired by past state Board member Bobbie Friedman ([847] 256-1432 evenings; or e-mail at briedma@interaccess.com).

Impact of the Cutback Amendment in Illinois is chaired by past state League president Sue Calder ([847] 864-1299; or e-mail at calder@nwu.edu).

Our Votes, Our Voices, Our Victories

LWVIL, in cooperation with the American Association of University Women of Illinois, is hosting two receptions for Marie Wilson, President of the Ms. Foundation and the White House Project.

The first is Thursday, September 28th, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Chicago Mercantile Exchange Club, 30 S. Wacker Dr., Chicago; guest speakers will be Jan Flapan, President, LWVIL, and Alice Smith, President, AAUW-IL.

The second is Friday, September 29th, 9:00-10:30 a.m., Harper College Auditorium, 1200 W. Algonquin Rd., Palatine; guest speakers will be Suzanne Calder, LWVIL President from 1993-1997, and Alice Smith, President, AAUW-IL.

Learn about the White House Project, a public awareness campaign to support the idea of women in key leadership positions, including that of President of the United States.

Please RSVP by September 26th to Barrington LWV member Jeannie Hanson at Jeaniehans@aol.com or (847) 382-4554.

Campaign Finance and Gambling

LWVIL and LWV Park Ridge will co-sponsor a panel discussion on campaign finance and gambling on Sunday, October 1st, at 6:00 p.m., at the Park Ridge City Hall. Speakers include candidates for state representative and state senators in the area (House 14 and 55, Senate 28) plus Cindi Canary from the LWVIL Education Fund Project, Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, and Rev. Tom Gray, Chair of the Illinois Coalition Against Gambling. Call (847) 823-5832 for more information.

Dates to Remember

- September 6 LWV-LFLB Board Meeting, Lake Bluff Community Room, Public Safety Building, 11:00 a.m.
 September 8 Great Decisions: "Africa: Prospects for the Future," Betty Buker's, 1:00 p.m.
 September 11 Campaign Finance Forum, 7:30 p.m., Congregation Solel, 1301 Clavey Rd., Highland Park
 September 20 State of the State Luncheon, Standard Club of Chicago, 11:30 a.m.
 September 22 October *League Lines* deadline
 September 23 Fall Fundraiser, "Taxing Choices," Diane Lloyd's, 500 College Rd., Lake Forest, 6:30 p.m.
 September 26 Candidate Forum: 10th, 30th, and 60th Districts, Highland Park Community House, 1901 Sheridan Rd., Highland Park
 September 27 Shields Township Study Consensus Meeting, Friends' Room, Gorton Community Center, 7 p.m.
 September 28 LWVIL Reception for Marie Wilson, Chicago
 September 29 LWVIL Reception for Marie Wilson, Palatine
 October 1 Panel Discussion on Campaign Financing and Gambling, Park Ridge City Hall, 6:00 p.m.
 October 4 Perspective Membership Coffee, Glen Rowan House, Lake Forest College, 10:00 a.m.
 October 4 LWV-LFLB Board Meeting, time and place T.B.A.
 October 5 Candidate Forum: 59th, 30th Districts, Gorton Community Center, 400 E. Illinois Rd., Lake Forest
 October 12 Program: Charter Schools, Gorton Community Center, 7:00 p.m.
 October 13 Great Decisions: "Defining Humanitarian Intervention," Betty Buker's, 1:00 p.m.
 October 15 Candidate Forum: 10th District, Wilmette Junior High School, 620 Locust Rd., Wilmette
 October 18 Candidate Forum: 10th District, Libertyville High School, Vernon Hills Campus, 145 N. Lakeview Pkwy., Vernon Hills
 October 27 November *League Lines* deadline

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
 League of Women Voters
 Gorton Community Center
 400 E. Illinois Rd.
 Lake Forest, IL 60045

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October 2000
Volume 47, Number 2

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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

Message From the President

Bev Adamczyk

Dear Members,
One of the things that I love about the League of Women Voters is that it is an organization that I not only support, but also shape. I really took this to heart in May of 1999 at my first State convention. That year the Jackson County League asked for concurrence of a position they had developed on mega-hog farming. By the convention they had not gained enough support for their position to become a part of the LWVIL suggested program. But at the convention, the topic of mega-hog farms was discussed and debated both on and off the floor. Ultimately, we delegates from all over the state voted to adopt the position (slightly revised) at the state level. For me it was an amazing lesson in the difference my vote as an individual delegate—as an individual league member—can make in the direction of the League. I'm sure that Beverly Nelson and Jane Partridge felt the same way as they voted whether or not the National League should study the War on Drugs. It is awesome to be among a group of exceptionally sharp people forming a collective opinion. As members we are all given the opportunity to participate in the League's future agenda through studies and concurrence.

On October 12th at 7:00 p.m. at Gorton Community Center there will be a program on charter schools. This program fits into the context of the larger state study on charter schools. Later in the year we will have an opportunity to discuss and respond to the consensus questions that come out

of the state study, and ideally some position on charter schools will be adopted at the State convention next June. The October 12th program will be an opportunity to get background information on charter schools: what they are and their impact on the public school system. I know we have many members locally who are extremely experienced in the education of our children. I urge all of you who are interested in education to attend. Your experience coupled with the information presented on October 12th will be invaluable to the League as it develops its position on charter schools. League positions do evolve out of individual members' perspectives guided by the solid research of the study group.

Other organizations typically solicit my support for an agenda that is already clear-cut. I am usually asked for money, but rarely my opinion. The League is unique in all the organizations I am affiliated with in that not only are members asked to support their current positions, but all are invited to participate in the formation of future League action. I love this about the League and hope that you too will find this aspect of the League gratifying.

Volunteers Needed

Absentee voting will be available at Lake Forest City Hall from October 16 through November 6. Frequently (and especially the week before election), the number of voters overwhelms the staff at City Hall, and they are requesting League of Women Voters volunteers to help. If you can spare some time during the day (even two hours would help) please call Bev (615-7141) or Beth Markez at City Hall (615-4269).

Election Guide

We have *Choosing the President: A Citizen's Guide to the 2000 Election* available for sale (\$10). This is a perfect book for a first-time voter or anyone who wants a more in-depth look at the election process.

October 9th is the last day to register for the November 7th elections!

Taxing Choices

The League of Women Voters Fall Fundraiser has been rescheduled. We heard you loud and clear! For those of you who expressed interest, but were unable to attend, we have changed the date to Saturday, October 21, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

The fundraiser and cocktail party will be at the home of Diane Lloyd, 500 College Rd., Lake Forest. We will participate in an interactive exercise developed by the Concord Coalition entitled "Taxing Choices."

Cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call Mary Claire Briggs at the Concord Coalition, toll free, at (877) 333-4248.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions is an interest group sponsored jointly by the LWV-LB Area and the American Association of University Women to discuss timely foreign policy topics.

Programs are based on the briefing books and videotapes of the Foreign Policy Association. The Great Decisions briefing book highlights eight of today's most significant, far-reaching foreign policy issues. In compelling presentations, Great Decisions provides facts and nonpartisan analysis of the "great decisions" facing the U.S. public and policymakers.

Save This Date!

Holiday Luncheon
Featuring Barbara Rinella

Tuesday, December 12th, 11:30-2:00 p.m.

St. James Lutheran Church
1380 N. Waukegan Rd., Lake Forest

Watch for more information!

- WHEN: 2nd Friday of each month,
1:00-3:00 pm
WHERE: Betty Baker's, 485 Oakwood Ave., Lake Forest
- October 12: Defining Humanitarian Intervention
 - November 9: U.S. Interests in the World

"An informed public is the ultimate foundation of a successful foreign policy."

Come when you can, attendance is flexible. For information call Diane Lloyd (615-9182) or Betty Baker (234-4509).

Illinois Student Vote

Thanks to the invitations of Julia Fiske-Parker and Alice Flaherty, East and Central Schools in Lake Bluff and Lake Forest Middle School and Lake Forest High School will be participating in the Illinois Student Vote. The program is coordinated through the State League, and several students all over the state will be "voting" on November 2. We'll publish the election results of the junior voters and see how they compare to the general electorate.

Ad Spotting

Barry Rundquist, professor of political science at the University of Illinois at Chicago, is conducting a "soft money" study to find out which organizations (e.g., Sierra Club, National Rifle Association) are running what issue ads,

where, and when. A lot of soft money is going to be spent in the 10th Congressional District, but, because much of it doesn't have to be reported, as many sightings as possible are needed.

Please help with the monitoring efforts. Choose a particular cable/network channel and record what you see:

- Date/time ad spotted
- Number of times seen
- Which television station
- Organization sponsoring ad
- Issues addressed in ad
- Whether the ad said "vote for ..." or not

(Even if you miss some of the above information, the sighting is still valuable.)

Sightings can be sent to Barry Rundquist directly via e-mail (il10soft@hotmail.com). Also, if you encounter issue-oriented advertising in newspapers, on radio, by direct mail, or by phone, it would help to forward this information as well.

If you have any questions about this project you may call Bev Adamczyk (615-7141) or Professor Rundquist (312-413-2190), or send him an e-mail. Thank you in advance for your help.

Preschool Directory

We need to update our Preschool Directory and are looking for someone (or someones) who would like to help. The project should last only through the fall and involves contacting preschools and area organizations to get the most up-to-date information about the programs for preschool-age children in the community. The job is gratifying because of the knowledge that our directory is considered useful by many parents throughout the community. If you would like to help, please contact Bev at 615-7141.

**The Leagues of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area and
Libertyville/Mundelein Area present**

A Panel Discussion of Charter Schools

**Thursday, October 12
7:00-9:00 p.m.**

**Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, Illinois**

Charter schools, created by the Illinois Legislature in 1996 (Article 27A of the School Code) were intended "to create a legitimate avenue for parents, teachers, and community members to take responsible risks and create new, innovative, and more flexible ways of educating children within the public school system. The General Assembly seeks to create opportunities within the public school system of Illinois for development of innovative and accountable teaching techniques. The provisions of this Article should be interpreted liberally to support the findings and goals of this Section and to advance a renewed commitment by the State of Illinois to the mission, goals, and diversity of public education."

Come hear of the challenges and opportunities presented by charter schools to the public education system in Illinois.

Panelists are Dr. Harry Griffith, Superintendent, District 67; Professor Arthur Zilvermit, Lake Forest College; Ms. Kathy Johnson, Principal, Prairie Crossing Charter School; Ms. Peggy Agnos, Illinois Association of School Boards; Mr. John Ayres, Director, Leadership for Quality Education; and Dr. Michael J. Bakalis, Professor, Kellogg Graduate School of Management of Northwestern University and President and CEO of American Quality Schools Corporation.

For more information, please call Cynthia Maloney at 615-1123.

Membership Reminder

Membership renewal packets have been sent out. Please return your check and member interest form in the renewal envelope at your earliest convenience. This will ensure that you are included in the 2000-2001 LWV directory and will help us keep the follow-up phone calls to a minimum.

Please note: Checks for membership should NOT be made payable to the Education Fund. If you would like to make an additional donation to the League, over and above membership

dues, please make a separate check payable to the Ed Fund. Thank you, and we apologize for any confusion the renewal envelope may have caused.

If you have any questions about membership renewal, or if you didn't receive a packet, contact Elaine Slayton at 295-0275 or elaine.slayton@excite.com.

Membership Coffee

The Membership Coffee for new and old members will be held Wednesday, October 4th, at 10:00 a.m. at Glen Rowan House, Lake Forest College.

The topic will be "Health Care in the Year 2000"; the speaker will be Dr. Larry Shoemaker, Chief Medical Officer, Lake Forest Hospital. Coffee and refreshments will be served.

Questions or RSVPs for the Fall Coffee should be directed to Kitty Lansing at 234-3672.

Deputy Registrars

Thank you to all the deputy registrars who have registered voters this fall with the League! Thank you to Bev Adamczyk, Phyllis Albrecht, Alice Flaherty, Judy Grisamore, Peg Holding, Linda Hinde, Emily Jennings, Joan

Kaltsas, Char Kreuz, Diane Lloyd, Bea Mueller, Jan Schnobrich, Julia Shackelford, and Elaine Slayton. And special thanks to Lisa Krimen for organizing the League's voter registration efforts!

Upcoming Candidate Forums

Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd., Lake Forest

October 5th: 59th, 30th

From 7 to 7:45 p.m., Cesilie Price (R) will debate Susan Garrett (D) for the 59th Illinois House seat. From 7:50 to 8:10 p.m., county candidates will make statements. Candidates for Circuit Court Clerk are Mary "Margo" Nelson (D) and Sally Coffelt (R). Candidates for Lake County Recorder are Mary Ellen Vanderventer (D) and Tom Adams (R). From 8:15 to 9 p.m., Greg Kazarian (R) will debate Terry Link (D). Edith Auchter will be moderator.

Wilmette Junior High School

620 Locust Rd., Wilmette

October 15th: 10th

From 3 to 5 p.m., Lauren Beth Gash (D) will debate Mark Kirk (R). Sue Calder will be moderator. Candidates will take audience questions.

Lake County Forest Preserve Referenda

In reference to the Transportation/Land Use Position, the League of Women Voters of Lake County recently endorsed the two Lake County Forest Preserve referenda on the November 7th ballot. Nationally and locally, the League supports preservation of open space, conservation of resources, and an improved quality of life.

The first referendum is to issue bonds of \$85 million, which will enable the Forest Preserve District to buy \$70 million of land and to spend \$15 million for trails and improvements. Lake County needs more land preserved,

wildlife protected, and new trails to balance development. Land purchased will help protect against flooding and will provide large refuges for animals and plants. The second referendum is to raise the taxing rate from .034 to .046, which would result in an additional \$1.9 million for operating expenses to cover public safety and maintenance.

League members have leadership roles in the nonpartisan campaign. Joyce O'Keefe of Highland Park is chair for the Friends of the Forest Preserves, a political action committee formed to pass the referenda. Mary Mathews of Lake Forest is the campaign coordinator. If you have any questions, please call Marge Reaume, Vice-President of LWV-Lake County, at 543-4093. Volunteers are needed, so please call the campaign number (247-9107) if you can spare an hour or two.

LWV Convention Highlights

Bev Nelson and Jane Partridge attended the LWV Convention 2000, June 17 to 20 in Washington, D.C., and reported on the following highlights.

Current Positions: The delegates agreed to retain the current positions on government, international relations, natural resources, and social policy. They also agreed to review and update current league positions with a systematic review of all positions. They will examine one position area each biennium, starting this year with the international relations position on trade and the United Nations.

New Studies: (1) Study the systems used to elect our legislative bodies and executive offices at all levels of government (subject to availability of outside funding); and (2) study the drug control policy of the United States.

"Take a Friend to Vote" Campaign: Inserts will appear in the October issues of *Vanity Fair*, *New Yorker*, and *Self*

magazines. Tool kits will be available in some stores. For more information, see www.lwv.org.

Bylaws: The delegates passed two amendments to the basic charter. Article X, section 4.b, was amended to authorize the council meeting to transact "such other businesses as may come before it." Article XIII, section 2, adds a new paragraph d, reading, "The per-member payment for a member who is a student shall be equal to one-half the per-member payment amount determined at convention. A student is defined as an individual enrolled full- or part-time in an accredited institution."

Budget: The convention delegates adopted the FY 2000-2001 budget with no amendments. The new education fund board of trustees adopted the LWVEF FY 2000-2001 budget with no changes. The per-member payment remains at \$21 for both years of the biennium.

Comments: It has been 80 years since women gained the right to vote and LWV was founded. ABC News correspondent Lynn Scherr, in her speech, emphasized the many women who sacrificed their own personal lives to lead the fight for women's suffrage.

The convention was both exhilarating and inspirational. There were inspiring speakers who represented a variety of backgrounds. It was very interesting to learn what other states are doing. The workshops were informative.

Book Published on CROYA

The Committee Representing Our Young Adults (CROYA) has published a book, written by League member Elaine Slayton, entitled *Empowering Teens: A Guide to Developing a Community-Based Youth Organization*. CROYA has served the youth of Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, and Knollwood for 20 years. Documenting

CROYA's history and evolution, *Empowering Teens* is a guide to others seeking ways in which to connect with and work more effectively with youth.

In keeping with CROYA's philosophy, young people were a part of the book process from inception. They earned funds to help pay for writing, publishing, and promoting the book, participated in meetings and interviews, read excerpts and gave feedback of the draft in progress, wrote sections themselves, and appear on the cover. The author, Elaine Slayton, is a freelance writer and educator living in Lake Forest. She is active in the community with the League of Women Voters, the Everett School APT Board, and the YWCA policy committee.

For more information, contact CROYA at (847) 615-4304. Lake Forest Book Store, 624 N. Western Ave. in Lake Forest, will be hosting a book signing of *Empowering Teens* on Saturday,

October 21, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Stop by to meet CROYA youth, staff, and the author, and to purchase a book.

Panel Discussion on Respect and Civility

Last December, a group of citizens from Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, and Knollwood, working together as Partners for Progress, concluded: "There has been a noticeable erosion of civility in our communities. Respect. Integrity. Courtesy. Politeness. Honesty. Responsibility. We don't have a lock on this deficit of basic values; it's a national issue."

On Thursday, November 2, at 7:00 p.m. in the Deerpath Middle School auditorium, 155 W. Deerpath Rd., Lake Forest, Partners for Progress will address this issue by sponsoring a panel discussion entitled, "Encouraging

Respect and Civility Through Collaboration: A Citizens' Dialogue."

One of the themes of the discussion will be to recognize the reciprocal nature of "collaboration": to receive respect and civility, we must all practice them every day. On stage will be a panel of citizens who live or work in our tricomunity area. There will be spontaneous discussion of issues identified by the moderator, the panelists, and members of the audience.

Panelists include Kris Andersen, moderator; John Andersen, business and civic leader; Diane Clark, teacher; Tony Danielson, clergyman; Fred Day, Lake Bluff police chief; Sharon Golan, parent; Liz Hinchman and Tom Ryan, students; Mike Hosking, Lake Forest police chief; and Lea Maurer, Lake Forest High School swimming coach.

COME SEE WHAT ALL THE FUSS IS ABOUT...



Did you know the League launched a **Clearinghouse** of League activities and information? The Clearinghouse provides information on events, grants, issues, publications, studies and training from Leagues across the country.

To access the Clearinghouse, go to the Members Only section of the LWVUS (www.lwv.org) website.

We are looking for a local **League administrator** to manage the information for our League. This person is responsible for entering information about our League in the Clearinghouse. It's easy--if you can type, you can do it! If you are interested, please contact the League president for more information.

It's all a click away...help us share our information with other Leagues!!



Dates to Remember

October 1	Panel Discussion on Campaign Financing and Gambling, Park Ridge City Hall, 6:00 p.m.
October 4	Prospective Membership Coffee, Glen Rowan House, Lake Forest College, 10:00 a.m.; topic: health care
October 4	LWV-LFLB Board Meeting, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
October 5	Candidate Forum: 59th Representative District, County offices, 30th Senate District; Gorton Community Center, 400 E. Illinois Rd., Lake Forest
October 12	Program: Charter Schools, Gorton Community Center, 7:00 p.m.
October 13	Great Decisions: "Defining Humanitarian Intervention," Betty Buker's, 1:00 p.m.
October 15	Candidate Forum: 10th District, Wilmette Junior High School, 620 Locust Rd., Wilmette
October 21	Fall Fundraiser, "Taxing Choices," Diane Lloyd's, 500 College Rd., Lake Forest, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
October 27	November <i>League Lines</i> deadline
November 1	LWV-LFLB Board Meeting, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Lake Bluff Community Room
November 7	Election Day
November 10	Great Decisions: "U.S. Interests in the World," Betty Buker's, 1:00 p.m.
November 21	December <i>League Lines</i> deadline

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

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Nicole Snoblin
1010 Atkinson Road
Lake Bluff, IL 60044



November 2000
Volume 47, Number 3

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League Lines

Message From the President

Bev Adamczyk

Dear Members,
As I write, the election is more than a week away. As you read, the election has just passed. This has been a long campaign. The first presidential primary debates were almost a year ago. The Illinois state legislature voted for a condensed session last spring to allow for time for politicians to get home with adequate time before the primaries. The preparation for November 7th has been under way, full force, for a long time.

Speaking for a nonpartisan organization, I feel I can commend you all. I commend the commitment and involvement in government of all our membership: from the individuals who are elected officials to those who register voters. From the candidates themselves to the election judges and poll watchers. From those who actively campaign, host coffees, and publicly voice their opinions to those who abstain from campaigning in order to provide League-sponsored nonpartisan information to voters. You have all worked a tough and intense election season.

The election results are a mixture of hopes realized and disappointments for us all. But the face of the legislature is defined. After a much deserved rest and pat on the back, it will be time for us to turn our attention to the legislative agenda both in Springfield and in Washington and to local issues in our community. As we do that, I am reminded that our strength comes from our diversity, our nonpartisan stance,

and the informed involvement of our members.

Here's to working and staying informed with *all of you*, here at home, with the next legislatures in Springfield, and with the next administration, House, and Senate in Washington.

Bev

Cable Programs

The League has been incredibly busy videotaping events of community interest. We hope that you all benefited from seeing candidate forums for the 59th, 30th, and 10th district races. Starting November 11th, watch for two worthwhile League programs on Channel 19: the Shields Township Study Presentation on Saturdays at 4:30 p.m. and Sundays at 5:30 p.m.; and the Charter School Panel, on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m..

Welcome New Members

Tracy Burns
725 Birch Road, Lake Bluff

Kitty Cole
340 Bluffs Edge Drive, Lake Forest

Kathryn Govas
999 E. Walden Lane, Lake Forest

Suzanne S. Meyer
1100 Pembroke Drive, #156,
Lake Forest

Sue Weisenack
840 Walden Lane, Lake Forest

Stacy Vermeylen
1227 W. Kajer Lane, Lake Forest

A Defining Moment (Meeting, Actually)

On Thursday, November 16th, at 7:30 p.m., at Gorton Community Center, Friends Room, please join interested members as we define the scope and objective of reviewing and studying the Lake Forest Caucus and Lake Bluff nominating process. We will talk about the positions that are in abeyance, why they are not currently useful, and what we need to explore about caucus and nominating that can be useful to the community. If you are interested in participating in the study, come. If you just want to observe what is going on, come. For planning purposes, an RSVP to Bev (615-7141) would be appreciated but is not necessary.

St. James Lutheran Church, 1380 N. Waukegan Rd., Lake Forest. Barbara Rinella will review *The Downing Street Years*, by Margaret Thatcher. A review of current books always follows Barbara's presentation, and the Lake Forest Book Store will be joining us with

samples of the books reviewed and of holiday gift books for sale. This is one of our favorite annual events. Plan to bring your friends. Invitations will be mailed in November.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions is an interest group sponsored jointly by the LWVLF-LB Area and the American Association of University Women to discuss timely foreign policy topics.

Programs are based on the briefing books and videotapes of the Foreign Policy Association. The Great Decisions briefing book highlights significant foreign policy issues. In compelling presentations, Great Decisions provides facts and nonpartisan analysis of the "great decisions" facing the U.S. public and policymakers.

WHEN: 2nd Friday of each month, 1:00-3:00 pm

WHERE: Betty Buker's, 485 Oakwood Ave., Lake Forest

- November 9: U.S. Interests in the World

"An informed public is the ultimate foundation of a successful foreign policy."

Come when you can, attendance is flexible. For information call Diane Lloyd (615-9182) or Betty Buker (234-4509).

Holiday Luncheon

The Holiday Luncheon will be Tuesday, December 12th, 11:30 to 2:00 p.m., at

Welfare to Work

"Welfare to Work in Lake County: Is It Working?" will be presented by the League of Women Voters of Lake County on Wednesday, November 15th at noon (bring a bag lunch) at College of Lake County in Waukegan. Presenters will be Jerry Stermer of Voices for Illinois children; Amy Hennings, Catholic Charities; and Staben House, a Waukegan shelter for homeless women and their children. For more information or to arrange a ride, call Diane Lloyd at 615-9182.

Shields Township Consensus

On Wednesday evening, September 27th, with Sallie Hamm facilitating the meeting, the League held its Shields Township Consensus Meeting. The meeting began with a presentation about Shields Township by members of the Study Group. Kathy Blahunka explained the origins of townships and the differences between geographic and

political townships. Shields is a geographic township, based on a 36-square-mile grid, with about half of its "square" in Lake Michigan. Audrey Nixon talked about the township governmental structure. Ann Hamlin described General Assistance, the aid that townships are required by law to provide for needy township residents who are not served by any other government programs and who meet qualifications set by the state. She pointed out that PADS, a Lake County homeless shelter, is now in place in North Chicago in Shields Township. Since any homeless person associated with the shelter will be able to use the PADS address as a personal address, Shields Township will be responsible for providing General Assistance to those qualifying from PADS. Eleanor Knight summarized how the Assessor's office assesses property in Shields Township. She pointed out that the assessment is not a tax, but that taxes levied by taxing bodies are based on the assessed valuation. Bob Bednar reported on the Road and Bridge Fund and its mandate to provide road maintenance and service to the 9-plus miles of road in unincorporated Shields Township. Alice Sievert walked the audience through the Township's income sources and reported on the percentage of expenditures applied to overhead and services. Over the past 12 years, ending with March 1, 1999, these figures showed a trend of increasing costs for personnel and of decreasing expenditures for services.

Following the presentation, the meeting was turned over to the League members present to evaluate the information and their experience and to find areas of agreement. The group generally agreed that the township ought to be able to find ways to do things more efficiently

What's Up?

"What's Up in the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area," a presentation for new members and any other interested Leaguers, will be presented on Wednesday, November 29th, from 1 to 3 p.m. at Diane Lloyd's house, 500 College Road, Lake Forest. Please RSVP to Diane at 615-9182.

to reduce costs, but that it would not be acceptable to sacrifice the quality of services that the unincorporated areas are accustomed to. There was also general agreement that the Township should reallocate its hours to be more reflective of when people may come in. It became apparent that many people were unaware of the services Shields Township does offer, and there was general agreement that these services can be better highlighted in the Township's newsletter and Web site. Members also reiterated the importance of the Township having a public comment period included in the agenda for their regular meetings.

Special thanks to Sallie Hamm for facilitating and moving the group through a lot of material. And thanks to all the Study Group for their time and commitment to seeing the League through to some kind of consensus. The consensus discussion is being considered by the Study Group for a formulation of a League position statement on Shields Township. A videotape of the Study Group's presentation is available at the local libraries and Center Video in Lake Bluff. Handouts from the meeting are also available; contact Ann Hamlin (234-9042).

Membership Coffee Addressed Health Care

On October 4th, we had a wonderful membership coffee in sunny splendor at the Glen Rowan House in Lake Forest. Dr. Larry Shoemaker, Chief Medical Officer at Lake Forest Hospital, spoke about current issues in health care. He prepared and handed out a helpful comparison of the presidential candidates' health care proposals. He also handed out a very informative report entitled, "Making the Grade on Women's Health: A National and State by State Report Card," which was put out by the National Women's Law Center. We are very grateful to Dr.

Shoemaker for sharing his expertise with us. We also thank Elaine Slayton and Kitty Lansing for organizing the membership coffee. (There are a couple of extra copies of "Making the Grade on Women's Health"; if you would like one, call Bev at 615-7141).



Fall Fundraiser Fun and Informative

The fall fundraiser, which featured an interactive exercise called "Taxing Choices," conducted by the Concord Coalition, was held on October 21st.

Members and guests who attended brought appetizers and desserts. After a period of socializing and eating, Corey Davison of the Concord Coalition introduced the exercise. Participants divided into groups and discussed taxing issues.

In the first issue, participants were presented six options for broad economic tax reform, ranging from a flat tax to a system of progressive reform. Each group's choices resulted in increased revenue. Two of the three groups chose the progressive tax reform plan. The third group could not get a majority to vote for the flat tax, so they chose "none of the above."

In the next issue, which involved environmental taxing options, one option was selected by all three groups: to tax air and water pollution to increase funding for environmental cleanup.

The evening's activities led to many interesting discussions, and we all left a little better informed about taxing

issues. It was a fun evening, and, as Shirley Goldman pointed out, only League members would get together on a Saturday night to talk about taxes.

League Notes

We offer an especially warm thanks to Diane Lloyd for opening her home to the League for our fall fundraiser, "Taxing Choices." We had a great evening!

Every fall the LWVIL does a fall Phonathon, in which they call members all over the state engaging their support. This year our league, LWVLF/LB will be calling members on November 5th. If we miss you then, you still may hear from the League later in the month. And this year, a portion of all donations made from our League will stay here locally in Lake Forest/Lake Bluff.

Thank you to Dodie Cook, Eleanor Knight, and Char Kreuz for volunteering at the Lake Forest City Hall to process absentee ballots for the election. The League and the City appreciate your time and energy.

Stop Receiving Mail You Don't Want
As you are well aware, the businesses in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff have begun a recycling program with SWALCO and the municipalities. However, many residents still do not have curbside recycling of magazines and other junk mail. If you want to reduce the amount of unwanted catalogues and other mail solicitations to your home, you can have your name removed from mailing lists by sending your name, address, and signature (on a postcard, even) to:

Direct Marketing Association /
Mail Preference Service
PO Box 9008
Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008

Dates to Remember

November 1	LWV-LFLB Board Meeting, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Lake Bluff Community Room
November 7	Election Day
November 10	Great Decisions: "U.S. Interests in the World," Betty Boker's, 1:00 p.m.
November 15	"Welfare to Work in Lake County: Is It Working?" 12:00 p.m., Waukegan
November 16	Meeting to define study of Lake Forest Caucus and Lake Bluff nominating process, 7:30 p.m., Gorton Community Center, Friends Room
November 21	December <i>League Lines</i> deadline
November 29	"What's Up in the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area," 1 to 3 p.m., Diane Lloyd's house, 500 College Rd., Lake Forest
December 6	LWV-LFLB Board Meeting, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Lake Bluff Community Room
December 12	Holiday Luncheon, 11:30 to 2:00 p.m., St. James Lutheran Church, 1380 N. Waukegan Rd., Lake Forest

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Denise Ertell
495 N. Exeter Place
Lake Forest, IL 60045



December 2000
Volume 47, Number 4

Inside This Issue

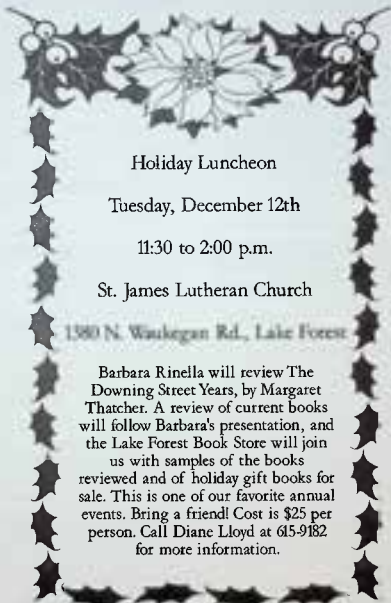
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Holiday Luncheon

Tuesday, December 12th

11:30 to 2:00 p.m.

St. James Lutheran Church

1380 N. Waukegan Rd., Lake Forest

Barbara Rinella will review *The Downing Street Years*, by Margaret Thatcher. A review of current books will follow Barbara's presentation, and the Lake Forest Book Store will join us with samples of the books reviewed and of holiday gift books for sale. This is one of our favorite annual events. Bring a friend! Cost is \$25 per person. Call Diane Lloyd at 615-9182 for more information.

Message From the President

Bev Adamczyk

Dear Members,
As we complete our Shields Township Study, we are embarking on a new study of the local nominating processes in both Lake Forest and Lake Bluff. During November I participated in meetings for both studies. The initial meeting of the caucus/nominating process study shows real promise. It was intellectually stimulating and interesting to hear members' present concerns as well as some of the local area's history. And it was invigorating to see the energy and enthusiasm growing over a new project. (To learn more about the meeting, see the article in this newsletter.)

The Shields Township Study Group met during November to draft our position statement on Shields Township as the culmination of its more than year-long project. The mood of this meeting was confident. The work was filled with a sense of respect for diverse members, and a feeling of completion and accomplishment.

Attending both study meetings within days of each other gave rise to many feelings for me personally. The Shields Township Study is the first League study that I have been involved with. I learned a tremendous amount, both about the Township government and study techniques and approaches. I also made true friends. I have developed meaningful relationships that I will always treasure. With the Shields Township study meaning so much to me, it is heartening to see a new study beginning. The fruits of knowledge are worthwhile, and the study process is rewarding. It is good to see the cycle beginning again.

I hope to see you at our Holiday Luncheon. The luncheon is an annual

favorite. It is a great time to socialize with friends and be entertained with a book review by Barbara Rinella. And who knows, with Barbara Rinella doing Margaret Thatcher's *The Downing Street Years*, we might learn something! Don't forget that Ms. Rinella also does excellent book reviews and the books are available for your convenient holiday shopping.

Happy Holidays, and see you on December 12th!

Bev

Welcome New Member

Chris Leone
674 E. Northmoor Rd., Lake Forest

Caucus Study

On November 16th, LWVLF/LB held its first meeting concerning our study of the caucus in Lake Forest and the nominating system in Lake Bluff. Even though Lake Forest and Lake Bluff have very different local governmental structure and different ways historically of slating candidates for local offices, we discussed the communities together. In Lake Bluff there is a school caucus for District 65, and in Lake Forest the Lake Forest Caucus slates candidates for the Lake Forest elected officials and for School Districts 67 and 115.

We turned our main focus to the question of how individuals become candidates for local elected offices. Our curiosity is not limited to the caucus candidate selection process, but extends to the Lake Forest Party and the nominating process in Lake Bluff. We decided that a good first step in our study would be to try to create a brochure on "Becoming a Candidate in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff." We would like to include information about the candidate selection process from the

local caucuses and local political parties as well as information on how to run as an independent. The information will be useful to the community.

At our next meeting we will consider the information we need to gather, the questions that need to be asked, and of whom. Join us, prepared with sample questions. We are tentatively scheduling our next meeting for Wednesday, January 17th, 2001, at 1:00 p.m. Time and place will be confirmed in our next issue of *League Lines*. For more information, contact Bev at 615-7141.

Preschool Directory

Judy Engel has graciously and competently taken on the task of coordinator for the League's 2001 Preschool Directory. She is doing a fabulous job and expects to have new directories available in January. If you have any information for the Directory, please forward it to Judy Engel at 604-8544 or jkengel123@aol.com. Thanks.

Recycling Coordinator Needed

We're looking for a recycling coordinator—Mary Claire Briggs has performed wonderfully as our League's local recycling coordinator for the past two years. She introduced SWALCO to the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Chamber of Commerce, which ultimately led to the introduction of a business recycling pilot program (now under way) in both communities. However, as Mary Claire changes her focus, we are absent a local recycling coordinator. The position involves seeing opportunities for recycling and advocating the introduction or expansion of recycling. The recycling coordinator is not required to attend board meetings. To learn more about the position or about recycling in the community, contact Mary Claire Briggs (615-8661) or Bev Adamczyk (615-7141).

League of Women Voters Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area 2000-2001 Officers and Directors

Name	Address	Phone	Fax	E-Mail
OFFICERS				
<i>President</i>				
Bev Adams	702 Quassey Ave., Knollwood	615-7141	295-9794	bev@adamczyk.com
<i>Vice President/Action</i>				
Beverly Nelson	754 Oak Ave., Lake Bluff	295-1472		bnelson62@aol.com
<i>Vice President/Voter Service</i>				
Carol Gilbert	28 Oak Terrace, Lake Bluff	295-4044	295-4003	CRViolin@aol.com
<i>Secretary</i>				
Denise Ertell	495 N. Exeter Pl., Lake Forest	615-0878		dertell@prodigy.net
<i>Treasurer</i>				
Lisa Dietrich	525 E. Blodgett, Lake Bluff	735-1813		WLapeLJD@aol.com
DIRECTORS				
<i>Cable Coordinator</i>				
Alice Flaherty	750 Gardner Ln., Lake Forest	295-8525	295-0615	ltpmk@msn.com
<i>LWVLC Board Liaison</i>				
Linda Bartnes	242 Ravine Forest Dr., Lake Bluff	234-7069		
<i>Membership</i>				
Kitty Lansing	390 E. Wisconsin Ave., Lake Forest	234-3672		
Elaine Slayton	811 Larchmont Ln., Lake Forest	295-0275	615-0542	elaine.slayton@excite.com
<i>Membership Development</i>				
Diane Lloyd	500 College Rd., Lake Forest	615-9182	615-9418	WFLloyd@aol.com
<i>Newsletter</i>				
Nicki Snoblin	1010 Atkinson Rd., Knollwood	295-9059		nicki_netter@ama-assn.org
<i>Program</i>				
Kimberly Moss	1045 W. Old Mill Rd., Lake Forest	735-0535		
Mary Ritter	1041 Timber Ln., Lake Forest	234-8215	234-8232	unhortence@aol.com
<i>Publicity</i>				
Kathleen Stevenson	1220 Griffith Rd., Lake Forest	735-1424		kasli@aol.com
<i>Voter Registration</i>				
Lisa Krimen	770 Greenview Pl., Lake Forest	615-8825		
OFF-BOARD APPOINTMENTS				
<i>Hospitality</i>				
Julia Fiske Parker	463 Glen Ave., Lake Bluff	615-9858	615-9825	JulsFiske@aol.com
<i>Observer Corps</i>				
Pauline Mohr	2000 N. Knollwood Rd., Lake Forest	234-5853		
<i>Partners for Progress</i>				
Janet Nelson	PO Box 247, Lake Bluff	234-1844		
<i>LF Senior Housing Committee Liaison</i>				
Jane Partridge	1799 Farm Rd., Lake Forest	234-1247		
NOMINATING COMMITTEE				
Chair: Joan Kaltsas	101 W. Kohl Dr., Lake Bluff	234-4737	234-4737	jokaltsa@dist214.K12.il.us
Pam Rogers Eggert	402 E. Prospect Ave., Lake Bluff	295-5212		
Pat Rounsaville	901 Valley Rd., Lake Forest	295-3916		
(two members to be appointed from board)				

Dates to Remember

- December 6 LWV-LFLB Board Meeting, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Lake Bluff Community Room
December 12 Holiday Luncheon, 11:30 to 2:00 p.m., St. James Lutheran Church, 1380 N. Waukegan Rd.,
Lake Forest
December 21 *League Lines* deadline

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Lake Bluff, IL 60044



January 2001
Volume 47, Number 5

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League Lines

Message From the President

Bev Adamczyk

Dear Members,
Happy New Year! 2001 marks the 75th anniversary of the League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area! Wow!

The League of Women Voters was created by and for women who had just acquired the right to vote. The goals of the early members were to educate themselves about and to affect public policy. The Leagues of Lake Forest and Lake Bluff were founded for the same purpose, but each could focus on issues specific to its own community as well as share information with other leagues on state and national issues.

Seventy-five years later, in the Lake Forest and Lake Bluff area, the need for the League is as strong as ever. The League is a nonpartisan political organization with the purpose of education and advocacy. Locally, there are issues that our nonpartisan and independent status make us uniquely

qualified to investigate and even advocate for. And most important, our nonpartisan status makes it possible to produce the voters' guides and candidate forums that are so valuable to busy voters, whether they be male or female.

We will be honoring the anniversary throughout the year. And we will begin with a cocktail party on February 3rd, 2001, at the home of Carol Gilbert. Celebrate with us at our 75th Anniversary Cocktail Party!

Membership Directory Recall

We had a printing problem with our membership directories this year. Most of the directories are complete, but many have blank pages within the membership roster. If you were at the Holiday Luncheon and picked up your directory, please thumb through the booklet; if you have any blank pages, call Elaine Slayton (295-0275) or Kitty Lansing (234-3672) and we will replace your directory.

The League of Women Voters Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area's 75th Anniversary Cocktail Party

Saturday, February 3, 2001

6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

at the home of Carol Russ Gilbert
28 Oak Terrace, Lake Bluff

\$10 per person

Please bring an appetizer, dessert, or bottle of wine
(two per couple)

RSVP to Bev Adamczyk (615-7141) by February 1st

Call to Convention 2001

The 50th State Convention of the League of Women Voters of Illinois will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Springfield on Saturday and Sunday, June 23rd and 24th, 2001. Watch your mailbox for a mailing from LWVIL in January with registration details.

Convention is always...Fun!

Interesting! Exciting! Be a part of the decision-making process, meet people from other Leagues, and network on ideas. *See the signs!*

Our League is entitled to four voting delegates. Interested? Call Bev at 615-7141 for more information.

Caucus/Nominating System Study Meeting

**Wednesday, January 24th, 2001
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.**

Gorton Community Center

Our first task is to produce a brochure or pamphlet with information on how to become a candidate for locally elected offices, through the local caucuses, through existing local parties, and as independents. At this January 24th meeting, we will concentrate on appropriate interview questions and a game plan for doing the research. Come join us with your questions about how individuals become candidates and participate in this very provocative and informative process. For more information, call Bev at 615-7141.

Special Thanks

Thank you, Pat Rounsaville, Diane Lloyd, Chris Leone, and Beverly Nelson, for organizing a fabulous Holiday Luncheon. And thank you to all who contributed to the magic of the event. We had a wonderful time.

Illinois Student Vote Campaign

Now that the national election is finally settled, League members might be interested in how the local schools and students voted. The results were fairly clear, and no recounts were taken.

Lake Forest High School

All classes received a Scantron ballot during their homeroom class on the day of the election. George Bush won, with 60% of the vote. Al Gore and Ralph Nader tied for second with 20% each. Postelection follow-up has been done in the individual social studies classes.

Lake Bluff Middle School

Students in grades 6 through 8 were required to register first. A mock debate was then held in front of the whole school, with eighth-graders playing the candidates. The presidential vote was taken during lunch periods, and Bush won overwhelmingly. Overall, there was good school coordination for the election, with strong participation in the Illinois Student Vote Campaign by teachers and staff.

Lake Forest elementary students also participated in the Illinois Student Vote Campaign, and after the election many good discussions were held. One student commented, "We were just trying to figure out what was going on. For us it was easy, Bush won."

Central School

While you might not think of third through fifth graders as politically active, the students at Central School in Lake Bluff were quite involved in the mock election voting. The whole school voted and the results were announced over the public address system. Not surprisingly, Bush was the winner. However, in one unusual fifth grade class, Bush won but a student commented, "It was pretty close."

The Lake Forest-Lake Bluff League is proud to have participated in the Illinois Student Vote Campaign.

April Election Update

November's Presidential election has now concluded, and for the League it is time to move to the next: April! In addition to the usually contested municipal elections, there will be school board and library board contests. The most heated contests so far are the Shields Township races. Serving parts of Lake Forest and North Chicago and all of Lake Bluff and Knollwood, Shields is a taxing body whose elected positions include supervisor, assessor, and road commissioner in addition to four trustee positions.

Planning our Voter Service events begins long in advance of the election date. Candidates for municipal office are often eager for exposure, but securing a meeting hall date and place for a large field of contenders was a big challenge last year. (Candidates' petitions were challenged in the Lake Forest municipal elections, and very little planning time remained before the election.) And it is hard to know in advance whether all of the upcoming elections will be contested. In recent years this has become the rule.

The first task is to consider Voter Guide questions. The Voter Guide produced by the League includes biographical information and also asks the candidates to answer timely questions directed at their particular position. All League members have received these by direct mail. Voter Guides are distributed to our video stores, libraries, and Northern Trust Bank lobbies. These locations have been partners with the League in Voter Service; the libraries and video stores distribute the Voter Guide and lend the candidate debate videotapes free, and Northern Trust underwrites our Voter Guide publishing expenses.

The second task is to plan Candidate Forums. Our typical format allows for live audience members to pose questions. Often broadcast live, and always rebroadcast until the election, our events are usually the only opportunity for candidates to appear together. Volunteers who will contribute several hours of service to help prepare for these multiple contests would be very welcome! If you are interested in planning for a particular forum or Voter Guide, or would just like to say "I'll give a few hours," please call Carol Gilbert at 295-4044

Book Reviews and Wine and Cheese

Lake Forest Bookstore has graciously agreed to host (another) fundraiser for the League. An evening of book reviews and camaraderie will be complemented by wine and cheese. Our hostesses at LF Bookstore will review books for us and rebate a portion of the evening's purchases back to the League. The suggested donation is \$25 per person. This will be an after-hours event just for us. We need to know if there is interest, so please call soon to reserve and we will set a firm date (probably late February or early March). Call Carol Gilbert at 295-4044.

We Need Election Reform!

A statement from Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States, December 14, 2000

We've heard all the appeals for healing and unity. These appeals have to be bolstered by appeals for election reform. True healing comes best when we learn from experience—and act to solve the problems that caused the divisions in the first place. The League is moving to solve those problems. We call on elected officials and citizens across the

country to join with us in that effort. We watched in frustration as Election 2000 revealed the disastrously outdated voting procedures used all across the country. The League believes that every vote should count, and count the same. Our organization was founded in 1920 as an outgrowth of the women's suffrage movement. One of our bedrock principles is that of one person, one vote.

We have:

- antiquated voting machines
- a crazy quilt of voting systems that vary from state to state and county to county
- ballot systems that confuse rather than clarify
- overcrowded polling places that keep voters in line for hours
- so-called ballot security measures that are used to intimidate voters
- incomplete registration lists and absentee ballot procedures that disenfranchise voters
- a federal government that doesn't pay for administering federal elections
- an Electoral College that is archaic and unnecessary.

These are problems for which there are identifiable solutions. Congress should pass, and the new President should sign, legislation to help states implement "best practices" voting systems. We need a Constitutional Amendment to abolish the Electoral College and provide for direct election of the President. Beyond this, we also need meaningful campaign finance reform. History shows that the United States of America is a resilient nation. Let Election 2000 be a clarion for reform. Join with the League in making election reform a priority for the 107th Congress.

Add your voice to the citizens demanding election reform now. Sign the League's online petition election_petition_msgwall.html at www.lwv.org.

League History

The following piece was found in the League files. It seems like an appropriate article to include in our first League Lines of 2001, the 75th anniversary year of the League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area. You'll note that the article is not current but gives a great picture of our League in the early 1900s. No authorship was included in the file. But thank you to whoever penned the history.

During this year, we would welcome articles, memories, or stories concerning various aspects or events from the League's past. Please submit them to Nicki Snoblin (295-9059) or send them to us at the Gorton Community Center, 400 E. Illinois, Lake Forest.

Like other women throughout the state, the women of Lake Forest and Lake Bluff did not take their new voting responsibilities lightly. Desiring the information to vote more intelligently, they formed the League of Women Voters of Lake Forest in 1926 and the League of Women Voters of Lake Bluff in 1930. Both Leagues looked to Alice Hixon, a Lake Forester and treasurer of the first board of the National League of Women Voters, for advice. Alice Hixon was the Lake Forest League's sixth president and served as president of the League of Women Voters of Illinois from 1933 to 1937. In the early years, both Leagues joined leagues across the country and the state in supporting measures to get out the vote, to improve the legal status of women and the welfare of children, and to reform selected government practices.

In Lake Forest, the League assisted in the expansion and coordination of the local Recreation Department and urged preservation of the ravines and maintenance of roads and bridges. It studied city planning and recommended that the city seek continuing professional planning advice and that it

review the city plan with special emphasis on conservation and beautification. It recommended and supported an Architectural Board of Review for the plan commission. The League educated the community about the need for additional schools, supported the bond referendum for a new high school in 1966, and conducted a survey and study of privacy in record keeping in the schools. With the cooperation of the City, the League surveyed the housing needs of empty nesters and studied youth needs and services, which led to the establishment of a teen center. It also studied the facilities available for young children, which led to the establishment of a day care center and publication of a child care facilities booklet. A study of the local caucus led to many league-recommended changes in the late 1980s, and in the early 1990s the League spearheaded the successful drive for an elected school board. From 1950 to 1989, it published a guide to the city's history, government, schools, community activities, and organizations.

In Lake Bluff, the League has actively worked for a model zoning ordinance, a comprehensive land use plan, and for ravine, bluff, and shoreline preservation. At the request of the school board, it recommended and established the school caucus in 1955. In 1962, the League became concerned with village nominating procedures and prepared an explanatory booklet which was mailed to every household. The Park Board then asked the League to suggest a procedure for the selection of qualified candidates and the League proposed an area caucus system which has been used since. The League supported annexation of High School District #115 to the College of Lake County and annexation of Knollwood to the Village of Lake Bluff.

The Lake Forest and Lake Bluff Leagues helped establish the Lake County Public Health Department and supported the movement for a Lake

County Forest Preserve, with emphasis on acquiring land along the floodplain of the Des Plaines River. The League is well known in both communities for registering voters and hosting debates and forums. For years, the League and the American Association of University Women have cosponsored a Great Decisions group through the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations. In 1960, the League received the World Understanding Award from the Council for its work on foreign policy within its membership and the community. In 1989, the Lake Bluff and Lake Forest leagues merged. The League is active today on a wide range of local issues including school articulation, cable casting of school and city council meetings, leaf burning, wetlands preservation, and the future use of the Fort Sheridan property.



Merit Selection of Judges

Excerpts from a November 7, 2000, statement from the League of Women Voters of Illinois

The partisan election of judges is a bad idea. The amount of money raised and spent by judicial candidates and the tactics used by some candidates this year make it imperative that Illinois adopt the merit selection of judges.

The League has long supported merit selection of judges. Now the abuses are so blatant that the League must mobilize and join forces with others to achieve merit selection of judges and a fair, independent, and impartial judiciary that avoids all appearance of impropriety.

The League's support of a nonpartisan selection system for judges is based on the premise that judges are not politicians and should not be candidates in the traditional sense. The do not represent constituents; they represent the law. They should not declare in advance how they would decide a case. Their decisions must be based upon an informed and good faith interpretation of the law and the Constitution, not popular opinion or special interests. Justice that is impartial is a cornerstone of democracy. Currently 16 states use merit selection through a nomination commission and nine states, for a total of 25, use a system combining merit selection with other methods.

Although the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform (ICPR) shares the League's view that Illinois is facing a crisis with its partisan election of judges, ICPR has adopted a policy supporting contribution limits and public funding of judicial elections.

At the October 7, 2000 meeting, the LWVIL Board reaffirmed its support of a nonpartisan selection system

- a) A nonpartisan commission for each court composed of both lawyers and laymen with staggered terms, a code of ethics, and precise procedures guaranteeing fair consideration of nominees.
- b) Appointment of judges at all levels by the governor from a list of at least three for each position.

ICPR staff members understand that local Leagues will not officially endorse ICPR activities in pursuit of public funding for judicial elections. However, . . . League members will, no doubt, receive ICPR materials about public funding of judicial elections from time to time. Local Leagues need to make every effort to ensure that local League members understand that the League supports merit selection of judges, *not* election.

League of Women Voters Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area 2000-2001 Officers and Directors

	Address	Phone	Fax	E-Mail
OFFICERS				
<i>President</i>				
Bev Adamczyk	702 Quassey Ave., Knollwood	615-7141	295-9794	bev@adamczyk.com
<i>Vice President/Action</i>				
Beverly Nelson	754 Oak Ave., Lake Bluff	295-1472		bnelson62@aol.com
<i>Vice President/Voter Service</i>				
Carol Gilbert	28 Oak Terrace, Lake Bluff	295-4044	295-4003	CRViolin@aol.com
<i>Secretary</i>				
Denise Ertell	495 N. Exeter Pl., Lake Forest	615-0878		dertell@prodigy.net
<i>Treasurer</i>				
Lisa Dietrich	525 E. Blodgett, Lake Bluff	735-1813		WLapelJD@aol.com
DIRECTORS				
<i>Cable Coordinator</i>				
Alice Flaherty	750 Gardner Ln., Lake Forest	295-8525	295-0615	ltpmk@msn.com
<i>LWVLC Board Liaison</i>				
Linda Bartmes	242 Ravine Forest Dr., Lake Bluff	234-7069		
<i>Membership</i>				
Kitty Lansing	390 E. Wisconsin Ave., Lake Forest	234-3672		
Elaine Slayton	811 Larchmont Ln., Lake Forest	295-0275	615-0542	elaine.slayton@excite.com
<i>Membership Development</i>				
Diane Lloyd	500 College Rd., Lake Forest	615-9182	615-9418	WFLloyd@aol.com
<i>Newsletter</i>				
Nicki Snoblin	1010 Atkinson Rd., Knollwood	295-9059		nicki_netter@ama-assn.org
<i>Program</i>				
Kimberly Moss	1045 W. Old Mill Rd., Lake Forest	735-0535		
Mary Ritter	1041 Timber Ln., Lake Forest	234-8215	234-8232	unhortence@aol.com
<i>Publicity</i>				
Kathleen Stevenson	1220 Griffith Rd., Lake Forest	735-1424		kaslf@aol.com
<i>Voter Registration</i>				
Lisa Krimen	770 Greenview Pl., Lake Forest	615-8825		
OFF-BOARD APPOINTMENTS				
<i>Hospitality</i>				
Julia Fiske Parker	463 Glen Ave., Lake Bluff	615-9858	615-9825	JutsFiske@aol.com
<i>Observer Corps</i>				
Pauline Mohr	2000 N. Knollwood Rd., Lake Forest	234-5853		
<i>Partners for Progress</i>				
Janet Nelson	PO Box 247, Lake Bluff	234-1844		
<i>LF Senior Housing Committee Liaison</i>				
Jane Partridge	1799 Farm Rd., Lake Forest	234-1247		
NOMINATING COMMITTEE				
Chair: Joan Kaltsas	101 W. Kohl Dr., Lake Bluff	234-4737	234-4737	jokaltsa@dist214.K12.il.us
Pam Rogers Eggert	402 E. Prospect Ave., Lake Bluff	295-5212		
Pat Rounsaville	901 Valley Rd., Lake Forest	295-3916		
(two members to be appointed from board)				

Dates to Remember

January 10	LWV-LFLB Board Meeting, 11:00 a.m., Gorton Community Center
January 24	Caucus/Nominating System Study Meeting, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Gorton Community Center
January 25	February <i>League Lines</i> deadline
February 3	75th Anniversary Cocktail Party, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Carol Gilbert's home, 28 Oak Terrace, Lake Bluff
February 7	LWV-LFLB Board Meeting, 11:00 a.m., Lake Bluff Community Room

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Nicole Snoblin
1010 Atkinson Road
Lake Bluff, IL 60044



February 2001
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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

Message From the President

Bev Adamczyk

Dear Members,
Every two years the LWVIL solicits input from local leagues concerning its positions. The League's positions are the basis for all action and lobbying the League engages in. In addition, the local League provides input to the State League about legislative priorities and action for the near future. The 2001 LWVIL convention will consider the adoption of a new position on charter schools in Illinois. Consensus is being sought from all local Leagues.

I believe the State League's system of defining its direction from the bottom up is most effective with the participation of the broadest membership base possible. To that end, we are extending an invitation to you, our members, to a Charter School Consensus Discussion and State Program Planning Working Lunch on February 7, 2001, from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at Gocky's Roadside Lodge in Lake Bluff. Lunch is \$10 (it includes a choice from a select list of entrees, beverage, and dessert). So that you have

background information, we have included the Charter School Study Consensus Questions and the State Positions in Brief in this issue of *League Lines*. Please bring the material with you. The Charter School Study Chair is Cynthia Maloney, and she will be with us as we address the compelling issues of charter schools.

Please consider joining us on February 7th. Take this opportunity to make your voice heard. RSVP to Denise Ertell (615-0878) or Bev Adamczyk (615-7141) (walk-ins are accepted, but RSVPs help for planning purposes). I really look forward to hearing your views on charter schools and the LWVIL Program!

Bev

Voter Registration Deadlines

Due to the April 3, 2001, consolidated election, registration will close on March 6, 2001. (Registration closes on January 29th and reopens on March 1st for individuals living within areas holding February 27th primaries, including the City of Waukegan and the City of North Chicago.)

The League of Women Voters Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area's

75th Anniversary Cocktail Party

Saturday, February 3, 2001, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
at the home of Carol Russ Gilbert
28 Oak Terrace, Lake Bluff

\$10 per person

Please bring an appetizer, dessert, or bottle of wine
(two per couple)

RSVP to Bev Adamczyk (615-7141) by February 1st



Legislative Interview

Monday, February 26, 2001
10:00-11:00 a.m.

Gorton Community Center

The LWVFLB will interview State Representative Susan Garrett and State Senator Terry Link. Beverly Nelson, our Vice President, Action Chair, will conduct this legislative interview. As the spring session gets under way, we also feel fortunate to have the opportunity to share some of the League's major concerns. Topping the list are campaign finance reform and education funding issues. We also feel fortunate to have the opportunity to hear the views of Representative Garrett and Senator Link about the current session. Mark your calendars and join us for an informative interview.

Great Decisions

Interested in foreign policy? Want to become better informed? The Great Decisions discussion group, sponsored jointly by the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women, begins its monthly meetings on February 9th. We will meet on the second Friday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Meetings begin in February and end in November, with a break in the summer.

Each discussion begins with a 20-minute video produced by the Foreign Policy Association that augments the text for the day. Topics for 2001 are as follows:

- U.S. trade policy
- China and Taiwan
- Missile defense: a cold-war debate continues
- Dealing with Iraq: which way forward?
- International health crisis
- Mexico in transition
- European integration
- Conflict resolution in Africa

The discussion manual includes up to ten pages of background material on each topic and a bibliography prepared by the Foreign Policy Association.

Guests and friends are always welcome. Come when you can; some of us come every month, others a few times a year. Workbooks are available from Diane Lloyd (615-9182) for \$12.

Questions? Call Betty Buker (234-4509) or Diane Lloyd (615-9182).

Cecilie Price
1414 Woodhill Lane
Lake Forest, IL 60045
615-8806

Sue Engelhart (patron)
1640 Surrey, Lake Forest
Phone 234-1761, fax 234-1769

Mary Claire Briggs
Correct address: 309 Briar Lane, Lake Bluff

Kitty Cole
Correct address: 340 Bluff's
Edge Dr., Lake Forest

Diane Lloyd
e-mail address:
ldiane@aol.com

David Hall
Local league member as well as
national member.

Shields Township Position

The Shields Township Study has been concluded and we have adopted a position. The study group formed in May of 1998 and completed their research, which was compiled in *A Study of Shields Township Government* in August 2000 (the report is available at the Lake Bluff, Lake Forest, and North Chicago public libraries). In September 2000 a consensus meeting was held. It was open for participation from all League members living in Shields Township, and the public was able to attend. Due to less than optimal attendance at the consensus meeting, the board directed the study group to hold its own consensus meeting. This took place in November 2000. With the input from both meetings, the position statement was developed and submitted to the board for consideration. At the January 10, 2001, board meeting the following position was adopted.

Working Meeting: Charter Schools Consensus Discussion and State Program Planning

Wednesday, February 7, 2001
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Gocky's Roadside Lodge, Lake Bluff
\$10.00 per person

RSVP to Denise Ertell (615-0878) or Bev Adamczyk
(615-7141) by February 5th

Please join us as we discuss the Charter School
Study consensus questions and the LWVIL
program. Look for background on these questions in
this newsletter.

Updates for Your Membership Directory

Please make the following
additions/corrections to your 2000-2001
directory.

State Representative, 60th District
Representative Karen May
400 Lake Cook Rd., Suite 110
Deerfield, IL 60015
(847) 948-0600

2072-L Straton Office Building
401 S. Spring St.
Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-0902

Bob and JoAnn Bednar
12987 Sanctuary Ct.
Lake Bluff, IL 60044
615-2249

The League of Women Voters Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area supports a reduction in administrative costs for Shields Township, with special emphasis on General Assistance and Road Maintenance costs. Costs should be reduced without impairing services to residents of the township. The League also supports adoption of policies that encourage better rapport between the township and community.

In accordance with the above position, the League makes the following recommendations:

- A. With respect to cost reduction:
 1. Shields Township should define criteria for providing nonmandated services and share the criteria with the public. The township should demonstrate the benefits of the services to the taxpayers and solicit public input prior to implementing new services.
 2. Shields Township should explore intergovernmental agreements and shared services with nongovernmental agencies to augment services or to decrease costs, with emphasis in the areas of General Assistance and Road Maintenance administration.
 3. Shields Township should explore staff reductions, not limited to hired personnel, but including the use of part-time elected officials.
- B. With respect to communication and community relations:
 1. Shields Township should make township budgets, proposed budgets, financial papers, and board meeting minutes readily available to the public, including availability at public libraries.
 2. Shields Township should communicate meeting announcements and services on its Web site; describe township activities in greater detail in the township newsletter; and continually explore additional avenues to communicate services to all township residents.
 3. Shields Township should be available at times that are convenient to residents (e.g., during lunch, one evening per week, or Saturday morning). The township should consider establishing some regular availability in North Chicago.
 4. Shields Township should reduce the 30-day wait period that it takes to get Emergency Assistance.
 5. The township should maintain a personnel manual with hiring and performance standards.
 6. When opportunities arise, Shields Township should make an effort to improve the diversity of township personnel.
 7. Shields Township should preserve public comment time at all township board meetings.

Preschool Directory Available

The newly revised 2001 Preschool & Childcare Directory is available! As you would expect, the directory contains valuable information on area preschools and childcare facilities in the area. Moreover, it includes resources for babysitting, "ill-baby" childcare, maps of local parks, local activities for children, and more.

The directory is made possible by a generous contribution from the Lake Forest Bank and Trust. We are grateful to Judy Engel for managing the production and distribution of the directory, and to Robyn Engel for the drawings. We're very proud to have the directory broadly distributed in the community. It is available at Gorton Community Center, Helanders in Lake Forest, and Center Video in Lake Bluff, as well as the Lake Bluff Village Hall and the Lake Bluff Park District offices. The cost of the directory is \$3.00, and all proceeds benefit the League.

Charter School Consensus Questions and Background Information

The following are the consensus questions with accompanying background information for the state charter school study. The information comes from the state league's Web site. Please use the information to prepare for our charter school consensus meeting/state program planning working lunch on February 7th.

- I. Process to establish charter schools in Illinois
 - A. Charter schools should be established for: (choose all applicable)
 1. To correct disparities in educational opportunity due to socioeconomic factors
 2. For "at-risk" children
 3. For the purpose of addressing perceived gender, racial, or ethnic bias
 4. For parents to have expanded choices within the public school system
 5. Other (please specify)

Under the current Illinois charter school law, originally passed in 1996 and amended in 1997 and 1998, a local school district is authorized to grant charters to qualified applicants who meet the guidelines (see study packet #1). A local school board must hold a public meeting within 45 days of receipt of a charter school proposal. Within 30 days of the public meeting, the school board must vote, in a public meeting, to grant or deny the charter.

In January 1998, the state legislature amended the charter school law to permit substantive review of a district's denial of a charter proposal by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and to permit the ISBE to grant charters

to applicants who have been turned down at the local level.

In 1999, the ISBE reversed local discussion in two cases: the Prairie Crossing school in Grayslake and Thomas Jefferson Charter School, which serves students from Elk Grove District 59. Some appeals have not been approved; two petitions from Evanston/Skokie District 65 and one from Libertyville were turned down.

"At-risk" children are defined by the state law as children who, because of physical, emotional, socioeconomic, or cultural factors, are less likely to succeed in a conventional educational environment. [See Sec. 27-A-2.]
Legislative declaration of the Illinois School Code for a complete statement of the intent of the law.]

- B. Charter schools should be established: (choose all applicable)
 - 1. By parent groups
 - 2. By local school boards
 - 3. By not-for-profit educational foundations
 - 4. By for-profit educational businesses
 - 5. With adequate provisions for public education and participation in the decision-making process

A proposal to establish a charter school, as stated in the current Charter School Law, may be initiated by individuals or organizations that will have majority representation on the board of directors or other governing body of the corporation/legal entity. Individuals or organizations may be schoolteachers, school administrators, local school boards, colleges, universities or their faculty members or other representatives, corporations, or other entities and their representatives.

- C. School charters should be granted by: (choose only one)
 - 1. Local school boards

- 2. State Board of Education
- 3. State Board of Education only as an appeal to a local school board ruling not to grant a charter

Under the original law in 1996, charters were granted by the underlying school districts in which they would operate and from which they drew students and funding. In 1998, the law was amended to allow charters that had been turned down by their local districts to appeal to the Illinois State Board of Education for their charters. Two school, Prairie Crossing in Grayslake and Thomas Jefferson in Des Plaines, are both operating under ISBE-granted charters. The relationships between these schools and their local districts are strained as a result of this arrangement. Little communication passes between them, and no mechanisms are in place for the schools to learn from each other.

- D. Charter school student selection process should: (choose all applicable, but not contradictory)
 - 1. Be based on a lottery system open to all students in the underlying school district boundary
 - 2. Be based on a lottery system open to all children regardless of school district boundaries
 - 3. Include at-risk children/special needs children in the lottery system
 - 4. Other (please specify)

Current charter school law provides for enrollment to be open to any pupil who resides within the geographic boundaries of the area served by the local school board. However, no more than 50% of the number of resident pupils enrolled in any one grade in a school district with only a single attendance center covering that grade may be enrolled in a charter school at one time. Illinois charter schools are subject to all federal and state laws and constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, gender, national

origin, religion, ancestry, marital status, or need for special education services.

If. Funding of charter schools in Illinois should be: (choose all applicable)

- By local school districts using per capita tuition cost
- B. By the chartering entity, using per capita tuition cost of the underlying district
- C. A combination of state and local funding
- D. With start-up costs provided by the state
- E. With special education costs covered by the underlying district in the same way these costs are currently being reimbursed in traditional public schools
- F. Augmented by private foundation or business contributions

Illinois state law provides that any charter school will receive between 75% and 125% of the per capita tuition cost for the district from which the charter draws its students. (Per capita tuition cost is derived by dividing the total general funds budget for the district by the total enrollment.) Variability can occur because each district handles its accounting differently, and most exclude bond money and capital development funds from the general operating budget. Chicago charter schools, which account for most of the charters currently operating in our state, will receive as of fall 2000 what amounts to 83% of the per capita tuition cost of \$5,023, or approximately \$4,169.09 per student.

To alleviate the financial strain on districts, the state returns 95% of per capita tuition cost going to the charter to the local district in the charter's first year of operation. The second year, the state returns 65%, and the third year, 35%. By the fourth year, the district is on its own, theoretically having had an opportunity to reorganize its budget to reflect the loss of students and their tax dollars. School districts have maintained that the loss of a few students at each

grade level presents them with no opportunity to save money—their fixed costs are the same, and their operating costs aren't reduced by an amount equal to the loss of revenue.

School districts may elect to withhold a percentage to cover "administrative overhead." The Chicago Public Schools do not.

State aid to public schools is based on average daily attendance. Money paid to the charter from the district is based on enrollment.

Other sources of funding available to charters include foundation support and gifts from individuals or corporations. While this kind of financial support is available to traditional public schools as well, and many districts have parent-supported foundations or corporate sponsors, charters seem to be especially good at attracting this type of funding. All charters in Chicago have raised this type of financial support at a significant level (from \$100,000–\$1,000,000 annually). There is also federal money available, administered by the state, to the tune of about \$70,000 per year per charter. The charter statute provides for money to be made available by the state to loan money to charters to offset startup costs. Edison Schools, the for-profit management company operating in Illinois, makes loans and grants to their charters to help with startup costs.

The funding issue has been seen as the root of the problem between school districts and those who would seek to start a charter school. Large districts like Chicago, with multi-billion dollar budgets, can easily absorb the costs of 15 or so charter schools. They also can use the charter concept to better serve the very diverse student population in the district, some of which is not being served by traditional public schools. Smaller districts with only a few schools may not realize the same level of benefit that Chicago does, and have no way to recoup the costs long-term (a few children out of each class in, say,

four or five schools represents no savings to the school district). Meanwhile, many of these same districts are experiencing tremendous pressure from rapidly growing student populations and/or shrinking revenues. Programs in the traditional public school might have to be cut to finance the charter. The district is faced with the decision, "Do we want art, or music, or do we want this charter school that only serves a few students?"

Special education funding and other categorical aid programs from state and federal sources are supposed to be passed on to charter schools by their school districts. Prairie Crossing has alleged that they have not received this funding from their underlying district. Other services, such as food services, custodial services, maintenance, curriculum, media services, libraries, transportation, and warehousing, are to be subject to negotiation between a charter school and the local school board.

The federal Charter School Expansion Act of 1998 provides that federal grant money shall not be available to states wherein no appeal process is in place to override local school districts that deny an application for a charter school.

- III. Charter schools in Illinois should be accountable to: (choose all applicable but not contradictory)
- A. The chartering entity
 - B. The underlying school district board, regardless of who granted the charter
 - C. The State Board of Education
 - D. Each charter school's Board of Directors

Each charter school is responsible for its own management and operation of its fiscal affairs, including preparation of a budget. An annual audit by an independent, outside contractor is required under the charter law. Charters are free to set the length of their school day and school year independently from the underlying district. Charters may

limit enrollment. Charters negotiate their own pay scale for teachers, who do not have to be certified but may meet an alternative set of requirements for employment (see V below). Oversight of the attainment of educational objectives in Chicago is under the supervision of the Charter School Office of the Chicago Public Schools. There is some question as to who is responsible for reviewing the academic progress of those schools chartered by the ISBE. Their local districts have not been willing to perform this important function, and outside consultants have been used in some cases. Should an issuing district elect to revoke a charter, the charter school can appeal to the ISBE.

- IV. Charter schools' outcomes should be measured by: (choose all that apply)
- A. Improvement in individual student test scores
 - B. Achievement of stated goals provided in their charter
 - C. Other (please specify)

Performance on the ISAT is one measure of the success of a charter school. In exchange for the release of the school from so many requirements of the Illinois School Code, charters are expected to show improvement from year to year on this standardized test. Additionally, schools in Chicago have written their own accountability standards and incorporated these standards into their charters. Behavior and attendance are two major elements in many of the Chicago schools' new standards, along with academic performance. Increased parental involvement is another goal of several charters and is, in fact, required by Edison Schools' program in place at Chicago International Longwood Campus.

- V. Teachers in charter schools should: (choose one)

- A. Be certified

- B. Meet alternative standards outlined in the Charter School Law
- C. Other (please specify)

The state law says, "Charter schools shall employ in instructional positions, as defined in the charter, individuals who are certified under Article 21 of the School Code or who possess the following qualifications: (i) graduated with a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher learning; (ii) been employed for a period of at least 5 years in an area requiring application of the individual's education; (iii) passed the tests of basic skills and subject matter knowledge required by Section 21-1a of the School Code (105 ILCS 5/21-1a); and (iv) demonstrate continuing evidence of professional growth which shall include, but not be limited to, successful teaching experience, attendance at professional meetings, membership in professional organizations, additional credits earned at institutions of higher learning, travel specifically for educational purposes, and reading of professional books and periodicals.

Charter schools employing individuals without certification in instructional positions shall provide such mentoring, training, and staff development for those individuals as the charter schools determine necessary for satisfactory performance in the classroom."

From LWVIL's "Where We Stand, 1999-2001 Program":

"The League supports stringent entrance requirements into a four-year undergraduate program for students who intend to teach. Such students should pursue an undergraduate course of study which primarily emphasizes the liberal arts and sciences and allows for early and varied teaching experiences. Certification should be granted after the student obtains a liberal arts and sciences degree, completes a successful period of internship and passes an objective test to ensure competency in

basic skills and subject matter to be taught."

The following three questions are the overarching, subjective questions for the consensus.

VI. Disadvantages of charter schools may include: (please mark any with which you agree)

- A. A negative financial impact on the underlying school district
- B. An increased segregation of student populations along racial, ethnic, social, or economic lines and a fragmentation of the school community
- C. Dilution of the role of public education
- D. Decreased educational opportunities for children who remain in the traditional public schools
- E. Undue influence of private foundations and businesses, through their financial support, on a charter school's policy or curriculum.
- F. A lessening of a sense of shared community values for education
- G. Charters established to satisfy special interests compete for finite resources available for all students in the district

VII. Advantages of charter schools may include: (please mark any with which you agree)

- A. Increased parental choice and involvement
- B. A mandate to innovate teaching methods, curricula, and standards for performance for all stakeholders
- C. An opportunity to share successful innovations with the underlying school district
- D. An opportunity to provide a specialized educational approach or environment for students with special needs

E. An opportunity to limit class size and school community

F. An increase in overall funding for education by successfully soliciting financial support from alternative sources such as foundations, businesses, and individuals.

VIII. Please choose one of the two following major conclusions:

- A. Disadvantages of charters outweigh the advantages; therefore, charters should be eliminated.
- B. Advantages of charters outweigh the disadvantages; therefore, we should: (choose one)
 - 1. Expand the number of charters currently available under Illinois law, or
 - 2. Continue to monitor the progress of existing charters before supporting expansion.
 - 3. League should work to address the following issues:

State Program Planning

Our League is asked to consider retaining, dropping, or modifying each State position. The following are the positions in brief for the League of Women Voters of Illinois. Complete positions are detailed in *Where We Stand*, copies of which will be available at the working lunch on February 7th. In order to get a copy for review in advance, call Bev (615-7141) and arrangements will be made.

GOVERNMENT POSITIONS

The Illinois League takes action on the state level in the following public policy areas based on these LWVUS positions: agriculture; citizen rights, including reproductive choice; Congress and the Presidency; the election process, including campaign finance reform; and voting rights.

Constitutional Implementation and Amendments

The League supports implementation of provisions for governmental change in the Local Government Article, and amendments to achieve merit selection of judges, the indirect statutory initiative, and the recall of elected judges. The League maintains its support for positions already achieved in the Constitution but which may require effort to preserve.

County Government Structure

The League supports expanded citizen initiative powers to change the structure of county government. Petition requirements for citizen-initiated change should be a percentage of actual voters in a recent jurisdiction-wide election. The League supports changes in the Illinois County Executive Act to provide a clear separation of powers between the legislative and the executive branches and easily understood referendum language.

Criminal Justice

The League supports the increased use of intermediate sanctions in the community. Judges should retain discretion to choose between imprisonment and probation for most offenses. The League supports a sufficient number of trained probation officers and other court personnel, prompt trials, enforcement of jail standards, and a system of bail that does not rely on financial ability as a criterion for pretrial release. Correctional services should conform to national professional standards, with programs and services that offer the opportunity for self-improvement. The League believes that the justice system must be adequately funded to meet its goals. State funds should emphasize community sanctions over the construction of prisons. The League supports the expansion of prevention and treatment programs in order to ease the burden on the criminal justice system.

Gun Control

The League supports legislative controls to stop the proliferation of private ownership of handguns and their irresponsible use. The League advocates restricting access to semiautomatic assault-type weapons.

Schools

The League of Women Voters of Illinois supports a system of high-quality elementary and secondary schools for all children in Illinois that provides for local control of school program and budget within minimum program requirements set by the state. The state should provide leadership to local communities for program development and should set standards for recognition and accreditation of schools. The effectiveness of educational programs should be evaluated regularly. The League favors minimum standards for graduation and promotion of students. The League supports increased professionalism for teachers including stringent teacher preparation standards, comprehensive teacher and principal evaluations, changes in tenure, and increased teacher compensation. The state should assume the major responsibility for funding public schools and guarantee an adequate level of financial support.

State Election Laws

The League supports uniform election laws and procedures throughout the state to ensure the integrity of the election system and opposition to term limits for members of the General Assembly.

State Fiscal Policies

Support for a diversified revenue system that principally relies on a combination of broad-based taxes and user fees. is equitable, progressive, stable, responsive, and simple.

State Redistricting

Support for a redistricting process that is timely and orderly and meets the basic criteria relating to population, compactness, and contiguity, and the

requirements of the 1965 U.S. Voting Rights Act and subsequent amendments.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS POSITIONS

The Illinois League takes action on international relations issues only at the request of the LWVUS. LWVUS IR positions include Congress and the arms control, military policy and defense spending, trade, United Nations, and U.S. relations with developing countries.

NATURAL RESOURCES

The Illinois League takes action on the state level in the following public policy areas based on these LWVUS positions: resource management, environmental protection/pollution control, and public participation in the decision-making process.

Land Use

The League supports development of a comprehensive land use policy for Illinois that provides for orderly growth while preserving the environment, conserving natural resources, and providing needed open space. The state should identify, plan for, and have the final authority over key and critical areas within the state. Standards and guidelines for land use should be developed by the state, with local governments making purely local decisions. At every stage there should be citizen input. The state should plan for adequate supplies of low- and moderate-income housing, with every community providing a percentage under some kind of fair-share plan.

The League favors regional planning agencies with mandatory and continuous funding from local, regional, and state sources. The League supports state enabling legislation for development impact fees.

Large-Scale Livestock Position

The LWV supports strict regulation of large-scale livestock facilities on the state, regional, and county levels to include statewide environmental

controls, public hearings prior to siting, and regional and/or county control of

Pesticides

Support for reduction of exposure to all pesticides. The use of nontoxic alternatives should be encouraged.

SOCIAL POLICY POSITIONS

The Illinois League takes action on the state level in the following public policy areas based on these LWVUS positions: child care; equality of opportunity, including opposition to school vouchers and tuition tax credits, employment issues, affirmative action, fair housing, and equal rights; health care; meeting basic human needs; urban policy; and violence prevention.

Children's Services

The League believes that the state should play the leading role in meeting the needs of children and their families and have the primary role in funding to ensure that quality services are equitably available throughout the state. The League supports a continuum of community-based services that strengthens and preserves families and fosters healthy growth and development of children. Prevention and early intervention should have high priority.

The supply of affordable, quality child care should be expanded.

The League supports a juvenile court system that provides opportunities for effective protection, treatment, and rehabilitation. Detention should be reserved for delinquent children who meet professional screening criteria and provided separately from adult programs. The League opposes the automatic transfer of children to the criminal court and the death penalty for children.

Income Assistance

Support for income assistance and supportive services for all low-income individuals and families.

Marital Law

The League supports laws that recognize marriage as an economic partnership. Illinois should adopt a marital property system that establishes equal ownership of assets during marriage. Both spouses should participate in the selection of employee benefits. Access to continued group health insurance rates and coverage should be available to spouses in the event of divorce or the death or retirement of the employee-spouse. Divorce settlements should be fair and equitable to all parties. The League

supports equitable distribution of property, realistic maintenance awards, adequate child support awards, and the timely enforcement of child support payments. Custody decisions should be based on a determination of what will be in the child's best interest.

Mental Health

The League supports a comprehensive and coordinated system of treatment and rehabilitation services for mentally ill adults and children. There should be adequate funding, planning, program standards, and personnel training requirements for both state facilities and community programs.

The League supports a broad array of adequate and accessible community services. Although primary responsibility should rest with the state, funding from local, federal, and nongovernmental sources should be encouraged.

■ system of local boards to levy taxes, administer all funds, and to plan and coordinate services should be required throughout the state.

The state should require local governments to provide in their zoning ordinances for residential programs for mentally ill persons.

League of Women Voters Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area 2000-2001 Officers and Directors

Name	Address	Phone	Fax	E-Mail
OFFICERS				
<i>President</i>				
Bev Adamczyk	702 Quassey Ave., Knollwood	615-7141	295-9794	bevadamczyk.com
<i>Vice President/Action</i>				
Beverly Nelson	754 Oak Ave., Lake Bluff	295-1472		bnelson62@aol.com
<i>Vice President/Voter Service</i>				
Carol Gilbert	28 Oak Terrace, Lake Bluff	295-4044	295-4003	CRViolin@aol.com
<i>Secretary</i>				
Denise Ertell	495 N. Exeter Pl., Lake Forest	615-0878		dertell@prodigy.net
Lisa Dietrich	525 E. Blodgett, Lake Bluff	735-1813		WLapelJD@aol.com
DIRECTORS				
<i>Cable Coordinator</i>				
Alice Flaherty	750 Gardner Ln., Lake Forest	295-8525	295-0615	lafmk@msn.com
<i>LWVLC Board Liaison</i>				
Linda Barmes	242 Ravine Forest Dr., Lake Bluff	234-7069		
<i>Membership</i>				
Kitty Lansing	390 E. Wisconsin Ave., Lake Forest	295-0877		
Elaine Slayton	811 Larchmont Ln., Lake Forest	295-0275	615-0542	elaine.slayton@excite.com
<i>Membership Developers</i>				
Diane Lloyd	500 College Rd., Lake Forest	615-9182	615-9418	WFLloyd@aol.com
<i>Newsletter</i>				
Nicki Snoblin	1010 Atkinson Rd., Knollwood	295-9059		nicki_neter@ama-assn.org
<i>Publicity</i>				
Kimberly Moss	1045 W. Old Mill Rd., Lake Forest	735-0555		
Mary Ritter	1041 Timber Ln., Lake Forest	234-8215	234-8232	umhortence@aol.com
<i>Publicity</i>				
Kathleen Stevenson	1220 Griffith Rd., Lake Forest	735-1424		kaslf@aol.com
<i>Voter Registration</i>				
Lisa Krizan	770 Greenview Pl., Lake Forest	615-8825		
OFF-BOARD APPOINTMENTS				
<i>Hospitality</i>				
Julia Fiske Parker	463 Glen Ave., Lake Bluff	615-9858	615-9825	JuliaFiske@aol.com
<i>Observer Corps</i>				
Pauline Mohr	2000 N. Knollwood Rd., Lake Forest	234-5853		
<i>Partners for Progress</i>				
Janet Nelson	PO Box 247, Lake Bluff	234-1844		
<i>LF Senior Housing Committee Liaison</i>				
Jane Partridge	1799 Farra Rd., Lake Forest	234-1247		
NOMINATING COMMITTEE				
<i>Chair: Joan Kalnes</i>				
Joan Kalnes	101 W. Kottl Dr., Lake Bluff	234-4747	234-4777	joan.kalnes@dis214.k12.il.us
<i>Pat Rogers Egger</i>				
Pat Rogers Egger	402 E. Prospect Ave., Lake Bluff	234-4747		
<i>Pat Rounsaville</i>				
Pat Rounsaville	901 Valley Rd., Lake Forest	295-5916		

(two members to be appointed from board)

Dates to Remember

February 3	75th Anniversary Cocktail Party, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Carol Gilbert's home, 28 Oak Terrace, Lake Bluff
February 7	Working Meeting: Charter Schools Consensus Discussion and State Program Planning, 11:00 a.m.-1 p.m., Gocky's Roadside Lodge, Lake Bluff
February 9	Great Decisions, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
February 19	Deadline for March <i>League Lines</i>
February 26	Legislative Interview, 10:00-11:00 a.m., Gorton Community Center

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd
Lake Forest, IL 60045

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Lake Forest—Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

Message From the President

Bev Adamczyk

Dear Members,
I just began reading *Robin Hood Was Right: A Guide to Giving Your Money for Social Change*. In the initial chapters, the authors, Chuck Collins, Pam Rogers, and Joan P. Garner, point out that giving and charity are very popular. But they also state that giving can perpetuate the status quo rather than actually effect social change. Giving, while well-intended, frequently fails to address the underlying socioeconomic imbalances that need adjusting if we are ever to stop giving in perpetuity. For example, funding Toys for Tots during the holidays is a traditional form of charity that does brighten a moment, but does little toward moving the recipient out of poverty. Social change can be realized if, instead, we fund organizing for a livable wage so parents can buy toys for their kids.

This reminds me of the current campaign financing situation. Americans are donating money into politics. This is evidenced by the record levels of campaign spending. Yet the large sums of money invested to get the next congressman, senator, or president elected have served to institutionalize current campaign practices. In order to effect change, the resources being devoted to campaigns must be diverted to creating a fairer system for funding political campaigns.

We can effect change. *Robin Hood Was Right* points out that

we've all witnessed social change. As examples, we've witnessed increased environmental awareness and decreased governmental safety nets for poor people. "[Change] occurred when groups of people joined together in organizations to transform the rules of society. The dedication and commitment of these activists were nourished by money donated to their cause. Donors have made and can still make a huge difference."

The book has given me an added perspective on my own political contributions. On the one hand, we can all pat ourselves on the back for supporting the League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization working toward meaningful campaign finance reform and election reform. On the other hand, I need to better balance my own political donations to make sure the scale tips away from supporting the status quo and to effecting a more equitable campaign environment.

Bev

Candidate Forums

Saturday, March 3rd
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd., Lake Forest

Lake Forest Municipal Election, 9 am
Mayor, Alderman, Honorary Offices
School District 67 Election, 12:30 pm
LF Elementary School Board Members
School District 115 Election, 1:15 pm
LF-LB High School Board Members
Shields Township Election, 2:30 pm
Supervisor, Assessor, Highway
Commissioner, Clerk, Trustees
Sponsored by the League of Women Voters
for the April 3, 2001, consolidated election

Great Decisions

Interested in foreign policy? Want to become better informed? The Great Decisions discussion group, sponsored jointly by the League of Women Voters and the American Association of University Women, begins its monthly meetings on February 9th. We will meet on the second Friday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Meetings begin in February and end in November, with a break in the summer.

Each discussion begins with a 20-minute video produced by the Foreign Policy Association that augments the text for the day. Topics for 2001 are as follows:

- U.S. trade policy
- China and Taiwan
- Missile defense: a cold-war debate continues
- Dealing with Iraq: which way forward?
- International health crisis
- Mexico in transition
- European integration
- Conflict resolution in Africa

The discussion manual includes up to ten pages of background material on each topic and a bibliography prepared by the Foreign Policy Association.

Guests and friends are always welcome. Come when you can; some of us come every month, others a few times a year. Workbooks are available from Diane Lloyd (615-9182) for \$12.

Questions? Call Betty Buker (234-4509) or Diane Lloyd (615-9182).

Update for Your Membership Directory

Please make the following correction to your 2000-2001 directory.

Ann Grant
e-mail address: algjg@ix.netcom.com

75th Anniversary Cocktail Party a Success

Special thanks go to Carol Gilbert for opening her home to us for our 75th Anniversary Cocktail Party. The warm, open atmosphere perfectly complemented the great conversation and networking. We had a wonderful evening celebrating (and socializing, really) the 75th anniversary of our local League!

Voter Service for the Municipal Elections

This year we are providing candidate forums for the contested races for the April 3rd elections (see schedule on page 1). The forums will be aired on the local access cable channel. We feel that, in our times, we have the greatest opportunity to reach the largest number of people through cable. We are not producing a written Voters' Guide this year, assuming that we reach the broadest audience through cable.

Caucus/Nominating Procedures Study

The Caucus and Nominating Procedures Study is under way, and the following progress statement has been developed:

The League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area is undertaking studies to identify and articulate current procedures and policies used by caucus and party systems in both Lake Forest and Lake Bluff to nominate candidates for elected public office in municipal governments and school boards and for appointed positions on boards or commissions.

It is the League's intent to research these organizations and to interview key members to collect factual

information for a report to its own membership as well as to the general public on operating procedures and policies, including steps required for consideration as potential candidates for elected/appointed offices.

Information on independent filings and forms/deadlines required for all candidates, as administered through the office of the Lake County Clerk and the State Board of Elections, will be included, as will data from any other background sources (i.e., municipal attorneys) deemed necessary.

The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan. The League may take action on governmental policies and measures in the public interest, but it does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. Membership agreement, reached through consensus or concurrence, must precede any position taken by the League. These caucus/party system studies are being conducted because a thorough review of local positions, presented to membership at the group's annual meeting, clearly indicated a need to update information on nominating procedures in both communities.

The study committee welcomes new members. The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 4th, from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. in the Green Room at Gorton Community Center.

Call to Convention 2001

The 50th State Convention of the League of Women Voters of Illinois will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Springfield on Saturday and Sunday, June 23rd and 24th, 2001. The theme of the convention will be Building the Future. Our League is entitled to four voting delegates. Convention is always interesting, exciting, and inspiring. Consider attending. For more information, call Bev at 615-7141.

2001 Woman of Achievement Award

Lieutenant Governor Corinne Wood is working with LWV-IL on the second annual Illinois Woman of Achievement award program. Lieutenant Governor Wood began this program as part of Women's History Month to recognize the many women who are making a difference in their communities every

Mayors throughout Illinois will be asked to select one woman from their town who has made an impact in her community. Mayors and award recipients will be invited this year to bring items that will be donated to domestic abuse shelters statewide. Award ceremonies will be held in Springfield and Chicago in March 2001.

The Illinois Woman of Achievement award program is a collaborative effort of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the League of Women Voters of Illinois, the Illinois Municipal League, and the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Walgreen's is the corporate sponsor.

League members are asked to contact their local mayor or village president to encourage him or her to participate in the program. It's a wonderful opportunity to recognize women who are inspiring the history of tomorrow!

Voter Registration Improvements Urged

According to State Representative Susan Garrett in a recent letter, registering to vote in Illinois is more difficult than in most other states, and she is urging Illinois to embrace the spirit and the letter of the National Voter Registration Act. The Act, passed into law in 1993, requires that citizens be allowed to register to vote at drivers license facilities as well as by mail, and

to have access to registration forms at public facilities and state agencies.

Many states have additionally facilitated voter registration through Internet accessibility or toll-free information lines. Illinois has not taken any such steps, nor has it codified the Act, causing confusion for voter registrars.

Representative Garrett said, "It's time to move the Illinois voter registration process into the new millennium. We should be among the leaders in utilizing technology to improve voter registration efforts. . . . Nothing makes democracy work better than large numbers of well-informed voters."

Reform Groups Set Criteria for Election Changes

Twenty-five public interest, civil rights, labor and disability rights organizations, including the League of Women Voters, recently released the elements they believe must be included in any election reform legislation in the 107th Congress.

The organizations urged that Congress act quickly to "develop and pass truly nonpartisan election reform legislation . . . that will garner majority support from members of both political parties." The letter called for:

- A multiyear federal grant program to upgrade elections technologies
- Protecting the Voting Rights Act and the National Voter Registration Act (known as Motor Voter Act)
- Federally approved "best practices" with standards to ensure accessibility and convenience for voters, accuracy, and nondiscrimination
- Ensuring that funding goes to jurisdictions with the most significant problems

Members Needed for LWVIL Committees

ELECTION SYSTEMS STUDY
Election Systems Criteria chaired by LWVIL Election Laws Issue Specialist Mary-Lou Aagaard ((847) 729-2763). This committee will develop criteria to apply to election system evaluations.

Alternative Election Systems chaired by past state board member Bobbie Friedman ((847) 256-1432 or e-mail at bfriedma@interaccess.com). This committee will identify and evaluate a variety of alternative systems. Bobbie is committed to exploring member opportunities to work on-line and utilizes nontraditional days and hours for committee meetings.

Impact of the Cut-Back Amendment in Illinois chaired by past state League president Sue Calder ((847) 864-1299 or e-mail at calder@nwu.edu). This committee will review the IGPA data on voting before and after the cut-back amendment, Illinois voting patterns, con-con debates, interviews with stakeholders and politicians, and review and evaluate the League's 1980 position criteria.

MERIT SELECTION OF JUDGES IN ILLINOIS

This new core LWVIL issue priority reflects League's long-term commitment to merit selection. The committee will focus on legislative action to achieve merit selection. Contact Barb Lippai ((847) 432-8182 or e-mail at Blippai@aol.com) to sign up.

ILLINOIS ELECTION PROCEDURES

This task force will carry out the action priorities set at the February 3rd workshop. Contact Barb Lippai ((847) 432-8182 or e-mail at Blippai@aol.com) to sign up.

ATTENTION ALL LEAGUE MEMBERS
WHO CARE WHETHER THE LEAGUE
IS ABLE TO CARRY ON OR NOT

The Nominating Committee is out and about, seeking unique, veteran or rookie, willing-to-learn or has-already-been-there members who would be interested in serving on the League board. Listed below are the offices which will be in need of having a chair, co-chair or coordinator. If you would consider one of the positions, know that there is always help available to support you, a great Board with whom to meet once a month, and the satisfaction of knowing that the League of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area will continue to be present in our communities, to maintain its energetic level of participation, and to benefit from your contributions. And also know that it is truly a great personal growing experience where you'll meet fascinating women.

Vice President/ Voter Service---Our League has plenty of voter registrars to help you staff voter registrations anytime. You get all the "stuff" plus a card table is yours for the duration.....(just in case you might need an extra one for entertaining or your bridge group)

Secretary---an OFFICER of the Board!!!!!--no experience necessary---an easy position---take notes, listen to really interesting people at board meetings, say something if you feel the urge, lick stamps.

Cable Coordinator---if two apply, we'll have co-chairs working this job. And know that you'll be working with Alice Flaherty & Janet Nelson--two renowned League professionals in the field of cable broadcasting. Get trained---for free! You never know where this experience might take you (Hollywood, an Oscar, a New York stage).

Membership Co-Chair with Kitty Lansing. Kitty's great with everything, but.....she desperately needs a computer literate person to help her out, and isn't too proud to say so.

Program Co-Chair with Mary Ritter. Mary's a great partner for any job. She's also on Dist. 115's Board, so could use a little help with setting up the great programs the League puts on several times a year.

If you are interested, would like to talk about it, or would like to suggest someone for one of the positions(all suggestions shall remain anonymous), please give Joan Kaltsas a call @ 234-4737. Like the ad says, or means to say:

WE NEED A FEW GOOD WOMEN. *
So, consider yourself one!

*ok, even a good man would be more than welcomed.

Welfare to Work

Some facts from the LWV Lake County Welfare to Work Panel*

In Lake County, there has been a decline of nearly 75% of families on welfare; between 1997 and 2000 the numbers dropped from 2236 to 574.

In 1997, 6225 Lake County children were receiving welfare. In 2000, this number had dropped to 348.

A livable working wage of \$15.15 is required to sustain a family at fair market costs. The average wage of those off the welfare rolls in Lake County who are "making it in some way" is \$7.78

20,328 children in Lake County receive free or reduced-fee lunches.

There is a disconnect between leaving family assistance and being able to sustain a family at fair market costs which would require a living wage of \$15.15. The fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Lake County, for example, is \$788. 56% of families on welfare are able to afford this rent. 44% are not. The waiting list for Section 8 housing is one year or longer. The waiting list for low-income housing is 1 - 3 years.

Finding reliable child care is a major issue and the number 1 reason jobs are lost. There are often no back-up plans if care givers or children are sick and there is a great need for care from middle to late afternoons. A shift to more flexible schedules would be extremely helpful, e.g. a 6-hour day allowing working through the lunch hour or the permission to leave to pick up a sick child. There is a waiting list for Head Start.

Transportation is another major issue. Many recipients have no car and lack public transportation to their work or they often work later hours when public transportation is not available. Retail is one of best employers in Lake County, for example, but there is no transportation available to Milwaukee avenue from areas where welfare recipients live.

Adjustment to working is also an issue. Some may be at their first job in many years and have physical and mental stress making lifestyle changes. A workday may be 12 - 14 hours including child care drop off and pickup and transportation. There is depression and need for family counseling.

Of the 175 families served last year by Catholic Charities, only 13.61 held an associate degree, the indicator of a move from job to career. Education is the key to a livable working wage and a major hurdle for welfare families. There is a great need, for example, for Spanish-speaking trainers for home care workers.

Some statistics from Catholic Charities:

	food pantry	rental assistance	emergency shelter assistance
1998	16,000	808 families	3802 families
1999	35,000	2357 families	6337 families

A telephone survey conducted by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Lake County found that 3/4 of those who have left the rolls are making it "at some level". The average wage is \$7.78/hr. Nearly every family contacted cited the importance of child care, health insurance, transportation and a move up the pay scale. While the number of families on welfare are decreasing, caseloads are increasing and have at least doubled in the three years since welfare reform.

(over)

Lake County HHS tracks the number of cases that have left TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families). As of October 2000, there were 99 canceled cases; 90% have stayed off welfare and 87% have stayed off welfare for two years. Most have left because of an increase in earnings and employment. Families earning three times above their welfare grant lose the grant. The TANF clock stops when individuals work 30 hours or when two parents work a total of 35 hours. Supportive services are available for child care and for continuing education.

Illinois and Lake County have been progressive in a number of ways: Illinois has led the nation with welfare reform and Lake County was a government pilot project in 1995. We are one of a few states that has drawn down the full amount of federal monies. Also, we have decoupled TANF and eligibility for child care subsidy; Lake County now has a significant number of child-only recipients.

The YWCA caseload for women with subsidies needing child care has grown from 200 to 2000 and has required an increase from 2 to 11 employees. YWCA has 5 licensed facilities in Waukegan providing before- and after-school care. 66% of families in these programs are receiving a child care subsidy. An increasing number of schools are contacting them about before and after-school care; the YWCA receives more than 300 referrals monthly.

There has been a significant shift in interagency cooperation. Formerly, resources existed and referrals were made; now there is a need for working together among agencies and wrapping services around the client. A rich array of services is needed to achieve the goal of true self-sufficiency.

We should be concerned about the understandable inclination at the state or federal level to reduce funding 80% to correspond with an 80% drop in clientele. The facts clearly show the rich array of services needed to achieve the goal of true self-sufficiency. We all need to work to preserve the capacity of support systems to work with families.

The keys: education, child care, transportation, a living wage, health insurance

*The Lake County League of Women Voters hosted a Welfare to Work forum in November to look at our experience in Lake County. Panelists included representatives of Voices for Illinois Children, The YWCA, Catholic Charities, the Illinois Department of Health and Human Services, Lake County and Staben House, a Waukegan shelter for homeless women and their children.

The LWV Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area has indicated strong interest in recommending welfare reform as an Issue for Emphasis at both state and national levels. If you would like to work on this issue for the upcoming state convention in June, please call Jane Partridge 234-1247 or Bev Adamczyk, 615-7141.

LWVIL GRASSROOTS ADVOCATES 2001**Sign on for this membership benefit!**

Would you like the League to alert you when key decisions are pending on the issues you care about?

There are times during the year, particularly when the state legislature is in session, when LWVIL Issue Specialists have important information to share and/or need to mobilize grassroots action on League issues. If you are interested in any of the issues listed and would like to be an individual Grassroots Advocate, please complete the form below. Current Grassroots Advocates can use this form to make changes in their listing.

☐ SIGN ME UP AS A GRASSROOTS ADVOCATE!

☐ I am a current Grassroots Advocate, but would like to change my listing.

☐ I am a current Grassroots Advocate, but am unable to continue. Please delete my name from the database.

I am interested in receiving information and taking action on the following state issues:
(Check all that apply)

PRIORITY ISSUES: ☐ Campaign Finance Reform ☐ Election Laws ☐ Merit Selection of Judges

SECOND LEVEL ISSUES: ☐ State Redistricting ☐ School Funding

WATCHFUL ATTENTION ISSUES:

☐ Gun Control

☐ Health Care

☐ Criminal Justice

☐ Reproductive Choice

☐ Social Policy

☐ Juvenile Justice

☐ Natural Resources/Smart Growth

☐ Civil Rights/Women's Issues

Name:	
Address, City, St, Zip:	
Phone:	
Fax:	
E-mail:	
Local League:	
State Rep./Dist. #:	
State Sen./Dist. #:	
US House Rep./Dist. #:	

Mail completed form to: LWVIL, 332 S. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1050, Chicago, IL 60604;
or fax to: 312/939-6887; or email the information on this form to: info@lwvil.org

Dates to Remember

March 3	Candidate Forums, Gorton Community Center, 9 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:15 p.m., 2:30 p.m.
March 7	LWV-LFLB Board Meeting, 11:00 a.m., Lake Bluff Community Room
March 9	Great Decisions, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
March 19	Deadline for March <i>League Lines</i>
April 4	LWV-LFLB Board Meeting, 11:00 a.m.
April 4	Caucus and Nominating Procedures Study Meeting, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Gorton Community Center

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

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Lake Forest, IL 60045

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Nicole Snoblin
1010 Atkinson Road
Lake Bluff, IL 60044



April 2001
Volume 47, Number 8

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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

Message From the President

Bev Adamczyk

Dear Members,
On Saturday, March 3rd, the League hosted candidate forums for our local contested elections for the Lake Forest municipal offices, School Districts 67 and 115, and Shields Township. In hosting the forums, the League was carrying out the role for which it is probably most revered in the community: that of making information available to help citizens be informed voters.

Through the volunteer efforts of many, we produced forums that meet League standards. Carol Gilbert deserves special recognition for coordinating and organizing all the forums. She was the point person for 45 candidates and the many volunteers. And thanks to Alice Flaherty and the staff from Channel 19, the forums were aired during the month of March throughout the community.

And many, many heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who contributed their time, special skills, and talents. For moderating, thank you Joan Kaltsas,

Edith Auchter of LWV Barrington, and Sallie Hamm of LWV Libertyville. For timing and coordinating que thank you Fran Goostrey, Maureen Grinnell, Judy Grisamore, Ann Hamlin, Eleanor Knight, Char Kreuz, Mary Mathews, Jane Partridge, Alice Sievert, Elaine Slayton, Ann Walters, and Linda Williams. For providing hospitality throughout the day, thanks to Julia Fiske-Parker. And thanks to the Boy Scouts (Marshall Beck, Tim Phillips, Matt Russell, and Ben Steadman) for being youthful and responsible ushers. And to the many of you who offered your time and services, but had a conflict with the date, your support is invaluable.

Last but not least, nay, perhaps most important of all, thanks to all the candidates who participated and the local citizenry who watched the forums. Without the cooperation of candidates and the interest of voters, there would be no forums. We are committed to making our forums fair and informative. Our local governments and communities deserve no less.

ANNUAL MEETING: SAVE THE DATE!

Our Annual Meeting will be the evening of May 30th. We will begin with dinner and networking, take care of business, and enjoy a featured speaker: Representative Susan Garrett.

Mark your calendar and look for the details in the next *League Lines*.



Save This Date Too!

Tenth District Congressman Mark Kirk will be in Wilmette to talk with League members of the 10th District on Sunday, May 6. The exact place and time are being arranged. However, the date is fixed and the program will be in the early evening.

Congressman Kirk wants to meet with League members to talk about campaign finance reform and learn about other interests of the League. And we want you to be there participating in the dialogue. The LWV of Wilmette is hosting this first meeting with our Congressional Representative. Mark your calendars so you can attend this important event.

Call to LWVLC Biennial Convention

Wednesday, May 23, 2001, 6:00 p.m.
Lamb's Farm Country Inn
Route 176 and I-94

Elect officers and directors, adopt next year's budget, get program reports, and more.

Call to Convention 2001—June 23rd-24th

The 50th State Convention of the League of Women Voters of Illinois will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Springfield on Saturday and Sunday, June 23rd and 24th, 2001.

Convention is always... Fun!
Interesting! Exciting! Be a part of the decision-making process, meet people from other Leagues, and network on ideas. *See the sights!*

Interested? Call Bev at 615-7141 for more information.

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions discussion group, sponsored jointly by the League of Women Voters and the American

Association of University Women, meets on the second Friday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Each discussion begins with a 20-minute video produced by the Foreign Policy Association that augments the text for the day.

The discussion manual includes up to ten pages of background material on each topic and a bibliography prepared by the Foreign Policy Association. Guests and friends are always welcome. Come when you can; some of us come every month, others a few times a year. Workbooks are available from Diane Lloyd (615-9182) for \$12.

Legislative Interview

On Monday, February 26th, the League hosted state legislators Senator Terry Link and Representative Susan Garrett in an informal interview at Gorton Community Center in Lake Forest. Campaign finance reform and school funding were the main issues discussed.

Questioned about the hot issue of campaign finance reform, both legislatures definitely favored such reform and believe its time has come. Terry Link pointed out that some states, such as Minnesota and Nebraska, already have adopted legislation that will provide full or partial public funding for candidates.

With regard to school financing, it was disclosed that per-pupil funding will be raised to \$4500. Both legislators believe that it is critical for Illinois to look at the overall school funding picture and come up with comprehensive action.

State redistricting is currently the number one focus with state legislators. The redrawn map will have far-reaching effects for each Illinois citizen.

Submitted by Bev Nelson,
Action Chair

Preschool Directory Available

The LWV Preschool Directory contains valuable information on area preschools and child care facilities in the area. Moreover, it includes resources: babysitting, "ill-baby" child care, maps of local parks, local activities for children, and more. The directory is available at Gorton Community Center, the Music Institute of Lake Forest, Helanders in Lake Forest, and Center Video in Lake Bluff, as well as the Lake Bluff Village Hall and the Lake Bluff Park District offices. The cost of the directory is \$3.00, and all proceeds benefit the League.

LWVUS Legislative Priorities

The board of the League of Women Voters of the United States adopted the following legislative priorities for the first session of the 107th Congress:

Top Priority
Election Administration Reform
Campaign Finance Reform
Moderate Priority
Direct Election of the President
Health Care Reform (The Patients' Bill of Rights)
Federal Tax Policy

TOP PRIORITY

Election Administration Reform
What happened in Election 2000 proved that America's methods for running elections are in dire need of reform. Among the problems: antiquated voting machines, ballot systems that confuse voters, too few polling places, lack of accessibility for people with disabilities, chaotic absentee ballot procedures, and lack of standardization and consistency.

In addition, civil rights concerns arose from the unequal application of voter ID requirements and from the fact that many of the oldest, clumsiest voting machines found their way into minority neighborhoods. All of it points to

fundamental and systemic problems in the way we run elections.

The League of Women Voters has a special role to play in reforming the U.S. election system, with its unique, nonpartisan, locally based voice on elections. Leagues across the country are working on election reform at the state and local levels; some of these efforts are highlighted in the March/April 2001 *National Voter*.

The LWFVUS has already started to work with members of Congress and other organizations to develop significant federal legislation, including a substantial federal grant program to assist states in implementing "best practices" for voting systems.

We will also be working to ensure that any legislation respects existing protections for voters and civil rights concerns and establishes new standards for accessibility and nondiscrimination. Indications are that election administration reform could be on the floor of the Senate by late March.

Campaign Finance Reform

The abuses in last year's campaigns highlight what the League has been saying for years about the corrupting effect of special-interest money on American politics. With the League's long-standing commitment to campaign finance reform, we have a good opportunity in this session to turn up the pressure for real change.

In the last session of Congress, a bill sponsored by Representatives Chris Shays (R CT) and Marty Meehan (D MA), supported by the League, passed the House but died in the Senate.

Senators John McCain (R AZ) and Russ Feingold (D WI) have already reintroduced their League-supported bill in the new Congress; it is scheduled to be on the floor of the Senate in late March 2001. This bill would:

1. Ban soft money by closing the loophole that allows unlimited

contributions to political parties from corporations, unions, and wealthy individuals.

Prohibit corporate and union spending on "sham issue" advocacy that mentions federal candidates within 60 days of an election.

Require full disclosure of spending on sham issue advocacy and the large individual donors who pay for

MODERATE PRIORITY

Direct Election of the President

Election 2000 made many Americans aware for the first time that the President of the United States is not directly elected by the votes of American citizens, but rather by the 270 members of the Electoral College. Since 1790, the League of Women Voters has had a position in favor of direct election of the President and calling for abolition of the Electoral College. The League believes that when Americans go to the polls to choose their President, every vote should count—and count the same.

As LWFV members know, amending the Constitution is a difficult process, requiring two-thirds support in each house of Congress and ratification by three-fourths of the states. This Congress will bring the best opportunity in decades for an amendment to the Constitution providing for direct election of the President.

"Choosing the President: Let Every Vote Count," in the March/April 2001 issue of *National Voter*, looks at the benefits that a direct election system in the United States would bring to our democracy.

Health Care Reform (The Patients' Bill of Rights)

A new push for a Patients' Bill of Rights will be made in the 107th Congress. The League has long supported strong, comprehensive reform of our managed care system. The patients' rights legislation backed by the League is designed to ensure that health

care plans provide a basic level of quality care.

It would guarantee basic health care protections, including the right to emergency room care using the "reasonably prudent person" standard, and the right of seriously ill persons to receive ongoing treatment from specialists without getting permission each time from a managed care gatekeeper. It would set up an outside appeals process that would resolve patient grievances in a timely and balanced manner.

In late 1999, the House passed a League-supported, bipartisan health care reform bill, but it was killed in the Senate. The League will continue to press for legislation that provides genuine protection for patients. Senators McCain (R AZ), Kennedy (D MA), and Edwards (D NC) have introduced a modified version of a Patients' Bill of Rights in this Congress.

Federal Tax Policy

President Bush has proposed a massive, across-the-board tax cut as a cornerstone of his domestic agenda. The League will measure the President's proposal, as well as other tax-cut bills, against our position on fiscal policy. Early review indicates that the President's proposal would undermine debt reduction and essential programs and that it is inequitable.

The League believes that federal tax policy should provide for adequate and flexible funding for federal programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and relies primarily on a broad-based income tax. The League also supports responsible policies on the federal deficit and a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability, and health insurance. Our tax system should be understandable to taxpayers, encourage compliance, and accomplish its objectives without creating undue administrative problems.

April 2001

Dates to Remember

April 4	LWV-LFLB Board Meeting, 11:00 a.m.
April 4	Caucus and Nominating Procedures Study Meeting, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Gorton Community Center
April 13	Great Decisions, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
April 16	Deadline for <i>May League Lines</i>
May 6	Congressman Mark Kirk, Wilmette, place and time TBA
May 30	LWV-LFLB Annual Meeting

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
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Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Denise Ertell
495 N. Exeter Place
Lake Forest, IL 60045

HELP WANTED

The Nominating Committee is seeking a **volunteer** for the director position of **Cable Coordinator**.

Before you say, "Well, that lets me out, because I don't know anything about videography," . . . think again!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT IT! YOU WILL BE TRAINED! The current Cable Coordinator, Alice Flaherty, who has done this job so beautifully for several years, will be there to guide you every step of the way. The crew at LFTV will give you **PERSONAL, HANDS-ON training** in the use of the video equipment.

After just one training session with the LFTV people, you will be **CABLE-CERTIFIED!** This has added benefits—you can operate the camera for other community events, which gives you a real inside look at how these events are conducted. You can additionally receive training on the minicam—and then you can borrow LFTV's minicam for your own special events!

Maybe you have a **teenage** son or daughter interested in video—this is the perfect chance for the two of you to train together and work together . . . and you know any opportunity to share an interest with your teenager is **precious**.

If you simply can't fit another commitment into your schedule, maybe you know (or live with) someone who can! A League spouse would be **WELCOME** to take on this job! Even a friend or neighbor who is not affiliated with the League, but is willing to fill a valuable volunteer role, would be fine with us.

The League performs a **tremendous** service to the community by videotaping its programs and candidate forums for broadcast. At election time, candidates are *begging* to borrow our videos of past forums and panel discussions to help them prepare. Please help the League continue to provide this service!

If you can help, please call Joan Kaltsas (234-4737) or Nicki Snoblin (295-9059).

CALL NOW! CALL NOW! CALL NOW! CALL NOW! CALL NOW!



May 2001
Volume 47, Number 3

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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

Message From the President

Bev Adamczyk

When it rains it pours. May is filled with League activities sure to entice the politophile. On May 6th, Representative Mark Kirk is meeting with League members from all over the 10th District. We are thrilled to get his view from inside the Beltway and to address our priorities to the congressman. On May 17th, we are hosting a program that I believe to be of great interest. On very short notice, because of the concerns spawned while voting with new machines on April 3rd, program chair Mary Ritter has organized a program, "How Your Vote Counts," featuring Lake County Clerk Willard Helander. Come to Gorton on the evening of May 17th to find answers to your questions about how the new voting machines work and count our ballots.

On May 30th we are concluding the year with our Annual Meeting at the home of Bea Mueller. We will review our activities for 2000-2001 and determine our direction for 2001-2002. We are featuring Representative Susan Garrett as a guest, speaking on "Passion, Principles, and Politics." The evening promises to be productive, informative, and entertaining.

It has been a privilege to work with this year's stimulating and inspiring board. The outgoing board members, Denise Ertell, Alice Flaherty, Kimberly Moss, Kathleen Stevenson, and Elaine Slayton, have our sincere gratitude for their competence and hard work. Also leaving the board this year is Diane Lloyd. Diane has served on the board since her presidency in 1994. We thank

Diane for her contagious positive attitude and the enthusiasm with which she performs. For me, Diane has been an invaluable mentor.

The nominating committee, chaired by Joan Kaltsas with the assistance of Mary Ritter, Pat Rounsaville, and Nicki Snoblin, has put together an excellent slate for consideration at the Annual Meeting. There are returning members combined with several new members for a mix of experience and freshness. 2001-2002 should be a great year.

We are entitled to send five delegates to both the Lake County Biennial Convention and the LWVIL State Convention. To date, the LWV LF/LB will be represented by Bev Adamczyk and Carol Gilbert at the LWVLC convention and Bev Nelson and Jane Partridge at the LWVIL convention. If you think you would like to attend either convention, let me know.

I hope you to see you during May and especially at our Annual Meeting!

WHEN YOUR VOTE COUNTS:

A Conversation With Willard
Helander, Lake County Clerk
Thursday, May 17th, 7:00 p.m.
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois, Lake Forest

In this program, Willard Helander will give a presentation on the new voting machines, which we all had a chance to use in the last election. The audience will have an opportunity to ask questions. The program will be cablecast at a later date. Questions? Call Mary Ritter at 234-8215.

A Conversation With Mark Kirk

Sunday, May 6th, 5:30 p.m.
First Congregational Church
1125 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette

The League of Women Voters of Wilmette invites you to meet your freshman congressman, Mark Kirk. Please join us. The evening will be simple and informal. There will be an opportunity to network, then Representative Kirk will make a short presentation, followed by a question and answer session.

Light beverages and hors d'oeuvres will be provided. This is a great opportunity to catch up with League friends and

meet your congressman. Please RSVP to Bev Adamczyk (615-7141). Call Laura Botte at 853-9003 with any questions or e-mail her at ljbotte@aol.com.

Call to Convention 2001—June 23rd-24th

The 50th State Convention of the League of Women Voters of Illinois will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Springfield on Saturday and Sunday, June 23rd and 24th, 2001.

Interested in attending as a delegate?
Call Bev at 615-7141 for more information.

Call to Lake County Convention

Wednesday, May 23, 6:00 p.m.
Lamb Farm Country Inn
Route 176 and I-94

Featured Speaker: Judge Jane Waller

Cost: \$15.00 per delegate/guest. Guests are welcome! Send reservations and payments by Friday, May 18th, to:
League of Women Voters
of Lake County
c/o Robbyn Kilbane-McFadden
14488 Juniper Court
Wadsworth, IL 60083

Our League, LF/LB, is entitled to five delegates. If you are interested in being a delegate, contact Bev (615-7141).

THE ANNUAL MEETING PACKET

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 30, 2001

At the home of Bea Mueller

45 S. Mayflower Road, Lake Forest

Featuring guest speaker Representative Susan Garrett: "Passion, Principles, & Politics"

5:30 p.m.	Wine and networking
6:00 p.m.	Light catered dinner
7:15 p.m.	Business meeting called to order
	Announcements
	Adoption of Rules
	Discussion and Resolution of Existing Positions
	Discussion and Adoption of Budget
	Brief Reports of Board Activities of the Past Year
	Report of the Nominating Committee
	Election of Officers
	Featured Speaker: Representative Susan Garrett
	"Passion, Principles, & Politics"
	President's Comments
9:15	Adjournment

Please join fellow League members to network, approve next year's budget, vote for officers and directors, and participate in our position/program review. Information for the Annual Meeting is included in this issue of League Lines. Please bring the material with you to the meeting.

Dinner is optional. You may (and should!) bring a dish to share to LWC's 2001 Annual Community Dinner, 440 East Illinois Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045. Make your reservations by May 23rd to Phyllis Adams (214-7861) or phylad@att.net.

Rules of the Annual Meeting

1. Only members in good standing shall vote.
2. Debate and discussion from the floor shall be limited to three minutes per speaker. No one shall speak more than once to a question, until all who desire to speak have done so.
3. Speakers to a question should state their name and whether speaking for or against a motion.
4. The minutes of the Annual Meeting shall be referred to committee, named by the president for the purpose of reading, correcting, and/or approving.
5. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern in all cases in which they apply and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws of the League of Women Voters of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area.

Proposed 2001-2002 Program (Positions)

At the Annual Meeting we will consider retaining, dropping, or revising the following positions. We have begun a study of the caucuses and candidate selection procedures for local officials in both Lake Forest and Lake Bluff and expect this study to continue through 2001-2002.

Lake Forest and Lake Bluff Positions

Preschool Programs and Services: The LWV-LF/LB supports improved preschool child care and recreational facilities and services in the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff area. The League encourages surveys of the preschool and school-age populations through School Districts 65 and 67 and information sharing to provide all necessary community agencies and institutions with the data necessary to plan effectively to meet the demand for quality programs and services.

Shields Township: The LWV-LF/LB supports a reduction in administrative costs for Shields Township, with special emphasis on General Assistance and road maintenance costs. Costs should be reduced without impairing services to residents of the township. The League also supports adoption of policies that encourage better rapport between the township and community. (2001)

Solid Waste: The LWV-LF/LB supports federal and state policies to reduce the quantities of waste, to reclaim useful materials, and to safely restore the residue to the environment. The League encourages its municipalities to expand local programs, to combine efforts to solve waste problems regionally, and to report to residents on disposition of recycled items.

Affordable Senior Housing: Support of the development of below-market-value rental housing for seniors in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff. (1998)

Comprehensive Plan: The LWV-LF/LB supports effective comprehensive plans for Lake Bluff and Lake Forest that encompass potential and existing land use in incorporated and surrounding unincorporated areas, as well as capital improvements, including the infrastructure.

Lake Bluff Positions

Conservation: The LWV-LF/LB supports these measures to preserve the natural resources of Lake Bluff: protection and preservation of the Lake Bluff shoreline and bluff; preservation of ravines and other open areas; preservation, through restricted use, of the flood plain lands along the Skokie River; establishment of walkways and bicycle paths.

Land Use: The LWV-LF/LB will monitor the disposition of property owned by the Village west of the West Terrace, which is in its natural state and some of it is in the flood plain.

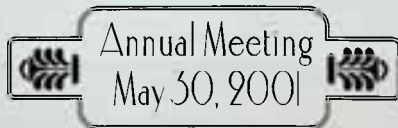
2000-2001 Summary Calendar

August	Kids First Health Fair
September	"Taxing Choices" fundraiser at Diane Lloyd's Shields Township Consensus Meeting
October	Prospective Membership Coffee: Dr. Larry Shoemaker, "Health Care in the Year 2000" Candidate Forum: 59th and 30th Districts Charter School Program
November	LWVLC Program: "Welfare to Work in Lake County: Is It Working?" Initial meeting of Caucus and Nominating Process Study Group Program: "What's Up in the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area" (local review)
December	Holiday Luncheon
January	Shields Township position adopted LWVLC Program: Lunch With the County Board Members
February	75th Anniversary Cocktail Party Charter Schools Consensus Discussion Legislative Interview with State Representative Garrett and State Senator Link
March	Candidate Forums: Lake Forest Municipal; School Districts 67 & 115; Shields Township
May	Program: "When Your Vote Counts," Willard Helander LWV Wilmette: A Conversation With Mark Kirk Annual Meeting

All of our programs and candidate forums were taped and rebroadcast on Channel 19.

Great Decisions (held in conjunction with the AAUW) met regularly throughout the year.

Voter Registration took place at the Deerpath Art Fair, the Lake Forest Book Sale, and many other locations and times throughout the year.



Proposed 2001-2002 Budget

		2000-2001 BUDGET	2000-2001 ACTUAL	2001-2002 Budget
INCOME				
Membership Dues (based on 113 paying members)				
	Regular @ \$50.00	\$3,850.00	\$4,100.00	\$4,100.00
	Senior @ \$45.00	\$1,255.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,350.00
	Household @ \$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
	Total Dues:	\$5,180.00	\$5,525.00	\$5,525.00
Interest		\$300.00	\$214.54	\$260.00
Preschool Book		\$400.00	\$632.00	\$100.00
Donations (member)		\$1,000.00	\$1,465.00	\$1,400.00
Fees				
	Annual Meeting	\$500.00		\$500.00
	Programming			
	Other			
Total Fees		\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Fundraising				
	Annual Appeal	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Bridge Marathon	\$1,200.00	\$680.00	\$1,200.00
	Cocktail party	\$900.00	\$575.00	\$750.00
	Dec. 99 Luncheon			\$1,900.00
	Dec. 00 Luncheon	\$1,900.00	\$1,903.00	\$0.00
	Election Work	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Other FR	\$0.00	\$546.25	\$500.00
Total Fundraising		\$5,500.00	\$3,704.25	\$4,350.00
Other Income		\$100.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
Transfer from Education Fund		\$0.00	\$2,701.26	\$1,135.00
TOTAL INCOME:		\$12,980.00	\$14,292.05	\$13,270.00
EXPENDITURES				
EX/Per Member Payments (PMP/Dues-based on 113 paying members)				
	LWVUS (National)@ \$21.00	\$2,373.50	\$2,299.50	\$2,383.50
	LWVIL (State)@ \$19.00	\$1,966.50	\$2,080.48	\$2,156.50
	LWVLC (County)@ \$2.00 per member	\$221.00	\$219.00	\$227.00
	Lake Mich. InterLeague Group@ \$25.00/league	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00
	Total PMP:	\$4,386.00	\$4,623.98	\$4,792.00
Administrative Expenses				
	Bank Charges	\$120.00	\$95.35	\$130.00
	Deposits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Gorton Rent	\$280.00	\$315.00	\$300.00
	Insurance (purchased through LWVLC from L	\$100.00	\$105.00	\$105.00
	Mailing Permit (bulk)	\$100.00	\$125.00	\$125.00
	Newsletter			
	Printing	\$900.00	\$829.00	\$1,000.00
	Postage	\$400.00	\$340.00	\$400.00
	Supplies/Stationery	\$300.00	\$226.22	\$250.00
Total Administrative Expenses		\$2,200.00	\$2,035.57	\$2,310.00
Local Program Expenses				

(continued on back)

Proposed 2001-2002 Budget (continued)

	Action/Lobbying	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Programs (includes all room rental)	\$750.00	\$448.91	\$750.00
	Hospitality	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
	Kids First Fair	\$250.00		\$250.00
	ObserverCorps	\$25.00		\$25.00
	Publications	\$25.00	\$57.90	\$25.00
	Publicity/Posters/Signage	\$500.00	\$117.25	\$300.00
	Scholarships/School Awards			
	School Government Awards	\$150.00		\$100.00
	Student Activities	\$0.00		
	Studies	\$200.00	\$132.03	\$150.00
	Voter Registration	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$75.00
	Voter Service	\$800.00	\$467.45	\$350.00
	Total Local Program Expenses	\$2,925.00	\$1,223.54	\$2,075.00
	Convention/Meetings			
	LWVIL01	\$500.00		\$500.00
	National Convention/2000	\$0.00	\$2,016.79	\$0.00
	National Convention/2002	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
	Annual Meeting	\$550.00		\$550.00
	Legislative Seminars/Regionals	\$100.00		\$100.00
	Fundraising			
	Bridge Expense	\$650.00	\$57.37	\$650.00
	Christmas Party Expense	\$150.00	\$95.11	\$150.00
	Holiday Luncheon Expense	\$1,300.00	\$1,211.16	\$1,300.00
	Other FR Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Total Fundraising Expenses	\$2,100.00	\$1,363.64	\$2,100.00
	Membership	\$500.00	\$292.68	\$400.00
	Officer Expenses			
	President	\$100.00	\$33.00	\$100.00
	President's Discretionary Fund	\$250.00		\$0.00
	Secretary	\$75.00		\$75.00
	Treasurer	\$40.00		\$40.00
	Preschool Book	\$250.00	\$229.00	\$0.00
	Contingency	\$25.00		\$25.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	\$15,501.00	\$11,818.20	\$14,067.00
	NET:	(\$2,521.00)	\$2,473.85	(\$797.00)
	NET WORTH:	4/25/00	4/17/01	
	Checking Account	541.17	\$6,015.48	
	Certificate of Deposit	5417.43	\$4,230.29	
	Education Fund	5019.63	\$2,399.69	
		\$10,978.23	\$12,645.46	

League of Women Voters Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area 2001-2002 Officers and Directors

OFFICERS

President	Carol Gilbert	28 Oak Terrace, Lake Bluff	295-4044
Vice President/ Action	Beverly Nelson	754 Oak Avenue, Lake Bluff	295-1472
Vice President/ Voter Service	Beverly Adamczyk	702 Quassey Ave., Knollwood	615-7141
Secretary	Stacy Vermeylen	1227 W. Kajer Lane, Lake Forest	615-1140
Treasurer	Lisa Dietrich	525 E. Blodgett, Lake Bluff	715-1813

DIRECTORS

Media Services	Ann Walters	601 E. Center Ave., Lake Bluff	295-8671
	Chris Leone	674 East Northmoor Rd, Lake Forest	234-3180
LWVLC Liaison	Linda Bartmes	242 Ravine Forest Dr., Lake Bluff	234-7069
Membership	Kitty Lansing	390 E. Wisconsin Ave., Lake Forest	234-3672
	Marcia Duncan	1660 Yale Court, Lake Forest	604-9822
Newsletter	Nicole Snoblin	1010 Atkinson Rd., Knollwood	295-9059
Program	Mary Ritter	1041 Timber Lane, Lake Forest	234-8215
	Anne McNulty	231 N. Warwick Rd., Lake Forest	295-6226
Voter Registration	Lisa Krinen	770 Greenview Place, Lake Forest	615-8825

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair	Gyndy Cordell	60 E. Woodland Rd., Lake Forest	234-1768
	Jill Lauer	190 E. Onwentsia Rd., Lake Forest	234-1720
	Maggie Kanakis	1290 N. Western, #211, Lake Forest	234-0325

(It is the suggestion of the Nominating Committee that the members slated from the Board be residents of Lake Bluff/Knollwood)

The above slate for the Officers and Board of Directors 2001-2002 is respectfully submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Joan Kalivas, Chair
Per Rosemarie
Mary Ritter
Nicole Snoblin

April 16, 2001

Dates to Remember

May 6	A Conversation With Mark Kirk, 5:30 p.m., First Congregational Church, 1125 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette
May 11	Great Decisions, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
May 17	"When Your Vote Counts," Willard Helander, 7:00 p.m., Gorton Community Center
May 21	Deadline for June <i>League Lines</i>
May 30	LWV-LFLB Annual Meeting

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

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Summer 2001
Volume 47, Number 10

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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

Message From the President

Carol Gilbert

As the League year closes, there is a flurry of activity to prepare for the next one. In this newsletter are notes about the LFLB League's Annual Meeting and the County Convention. And by the end of this month our delegates will have returned from the State convention in Springfield. Reporting on the state of the State in our next newsletter in the fall will be delegates Happie Datt, Stacy Vermeylen, Mary Ritter, Robbyn Kilbane-McFadden, Bev Adamczyk, and me.

I am very pleased to be writing this first newsletter to you as incoming president and to welcome our newest Board members. Stacy Vermeylen will be our Secretary, and Ann Walters and Chris Leone will jointly create a new board position entitled Media Services that will encompass both print media and cable broadcasts. Marcia Duncan will join us as Membership chair alongside Kitty Lansing (who continues her two-year term). Marcia brings to us her long experience with both League and AAUW from her former home state of Connecticut.

I am especially grateful that Bev Adamczyk has opted to stay on the Board, accepting a new term as our VP for Voter Service. In anticipation of her "retirement" several months ago, she mused to me, "What do past presidents do?" The answer is, they are still very active in League. Bea Mueller welcomed us to her exquisite (and recently published) home for our annual meeting. Phyllis Albrecht and Doris Pierce continue to be active at the

county level, with Phyllis and former County President Joan Kaltsas busy heading the Kids First Health Fair. Jill Lauer will contribute her expertise to us as a Nominating Committee member. And Diane Lloyd is currently coordinating information for a new study. Data is being collected about local nominating systems. The final form this information takes will be determined by the study itself, but preliminary thoughts are to publish a guide covering both candidacy and government service opportunities.

Hand in hand with our local government study, Pauline Mohr is working to reenergize the Observer Corps. The Corps has two benefits. The Corps' reports give us a window to multiple levels of local government, and the Corps creates a presence with local governments that allows us to better coordinate League program with community issues. Participation in the Observer Corps requires several hours a month—often only one night a month. Another goal for next year will be to participate fully online in DNet, short for Democracy Network. While the Observer Corps views local government, DNet will be our window to the county, state, and national level. Our future LFLB Voter Guides may be adapted to this digital form. By using DNet, the information generated by many individual Leagues is available to us to publish locally.

Though this message is already much longer than I anticipated, I find I cannot close without a farewell to the Board members who retire this year. We will miss the contributions of Denise Ertell (Secretary), Alice Flaherty (many years as our Cable Coordinator), and Elayne Slayton (Membership, Nominating, and Program). And Kimberly Moss

(Program) has moved forward to the role of 4th Ward Alderman in Lake Forest. Good luck to you and a great summer to all.

Welcome New Members

Audrey Nixon
1925 Winter Ave., North Chicago
689-1297

Nita and Narendra Mulani
55 E. Barnswallow Rd., Lake Forest
604-8113

Cathy Curtis
158A W. Golf Road, Libertyville
367-0715

JoAnn Eckmann
1239 Deer Trail Lane, Libertyville
367-4519

Leatrice Green
626 Hillcrest Drive, Libertyville
362-0304

Summary of the Annual Meeting

The 2001 Annual Meeting was held on May 30th at the home of Bea Mueller. The evening began with a lively hour of dinner and networking. Twenty-three members were needed to make a quorum, and when the business was called to order there were 28 members present. Bev Adamczyk presided over the meeting and Happie Datt acted as parliamentarian.

The 2001-2002 slate, budget, and positions were discussed and adopted. The slate put forth by the nominating committee was adopted as presented. The League adopted the proposed budget with one change: the expense line Voter Service was increased from \$350 to \$500. To our local positions one change was made. The Affordable Senior Housing position was modified to refer to affordable housing in the

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff area. The position now reads, "Affordable Senior Housing: Support of the development of below-market-value rental housing for seniors in the Lake Forest and Lake Bluff area." The business discussions were industrious and productive.

The highlight of the evening was our speaker, Linda Hinde, speaking about redistricting. (Linda stepped up and filled in for Representative Susan Garrett, who was in session in Springfield.) Linda outlined the redistricting process in Illinois. What the districts may look like, however, is still anybody's guess. However, Linda had a real treat for the audience. She shared the new congressional map with the League. It was fascinating to get a preview of the map before it was published in the papers. And Linda was able to answer questions about the new map as well as other redistricting questions.

Following the talk, the meeting was adjourned.

Special thanks go to Bea Mueller, Phyllis Albrecht, and Linda Hinde. Bea and Phyllis provided wonderful hospitality. Bea was a gracious hostess and opened up her beautiful home to us for the Annual Meeting. Phyllis arranged and organized the social aspects of the evening. She did a wonderful job. The food was fabulous, and everything ran very smoothly. And the biggest kudos go to Linda Hinde for sharing her knowledge and expertise on redistricting with us. Her information was timely and insightful. Thank you, Bea, Phyllis, and Linda, for providing us with a wonderful, informative and memorable evening!

Delegates to the LWVIL State Convention

The League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area is proud

to be sending the maximum number of delegates to the state convention. The delegation includes:

Bev Adamczyk
Happie Datt
Carol Gilbert
Robbyn Kilbane-McFadden
Mary Ritter
Stacy Vermeylen



Observer Corps Reports

Lake Forest Plan Commission
Submitted by Pauline Mohr

Meeting date: Second Wednesday of the month

Meeting time: 6:30 pm

Meeting place: Lake Forest City Hall
Council Chambers

Members: George Pandaleon, Chairman
William Avery
Edward Christie
Mark Condie
John Litchfield
Peter McKee
David Neumiester

During the past year the Plan Commission has engaged in a comprehensive planning study of the Route 60 Sub-Area. The goal of the study was to determine the types of future development that could occur in that area under present zoning and, then, to assess which types would be most beneficial for the City and its residents.

Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan would reflect the results of this study and assessment. This Sub-Area includes properties north of the north edge of Conway Park and all the properties along the south side of Route 60 from the Metra/Amtrak freight track on the east to the Tri-State Tollway on the west. When the study was completed, the Plan Commission amended the Comprehensive Plan to conform to the desired land uses and development ideas that came out of the study. The five goals for the development of these properties are: (1) to enhance the unique characteristics of the Sub-Area, (2) to preserve large open space, (3) to develop cultural, recreational, and park facilities, (3) to decrease development density and mitigate future traffic demands, and (5) to incorporate the Sub-Area into the larger physical and cultural setting of Lake Forest.

Other business coming before the Plan Commission included an ordinance amending the zoning code to permit Senior Cottages as a Special Use in all residential zoning districts (see report below).

Lake Forest City Council

Submitted by Pauline Mohr

Meeting date: First Monday and Third Thursday of each month

Meeting time: 7:00 p.m.

Meeting place: City Hall Council Chambers

Mayor: Howard J. Kerr
Aldermen: Michael Burns
James Cowley
Samuel Henry
Robert Lansing
Roger Mohr
Peter Mott
Mary Ann Pekarek

A major item on the City Council agenda was the expansion of the water plant. The water plant was last upgraded in the 1950s. The expansion has been necessitated by the growth of the City

and the anticipation of more stringent requirements for water purity by government agencies. A newer technology for water purification, that of membrane filters, is currently under consideration. The technology has been used in Europe for a number of years and currently is being used by a number of cities in the United States, including Kenosha, Wisconsin. The Council members have toured that plant and discussed the process with the personnel there. The advantages of the system include the high quality of the water it produces and the fact that this system requires much less space than the older filtration method. Since space on the lakefront where the Lake Forest water plant is located is limited, this is a big advantage. However, the IEPA has required the City to test this method for one year in a laboratory situation before proceeding with the water plant expansion using the membrane filter method.

The agreement between the Ragdale Foundation and the City of Lake Forest has been before the City Council for renegotiation. It is scheduled for consideration at the June 4, 2001, City Council meeting.

Traffic continues to be a major issue in the City. The Mayor appointed a Transportation Committee to study the traffic situation in Lake Forest and make recommendations to the Council. The final report of this committee is forthcoming.

The Route 53 extension will be on the City Council agenda soon. The Council is being asked to take a position for or against the extension and is gathering information from both state proponents and environmental opponents.

Affordable Senior Housing in Lake Forest

Submitted by Jane Partridge

Over two years ago former alderman Tom Tropp first proposed the idea of

senior cottages for Lake Forest, and when the City Council expressed interest in such a project, Mayor Kerr appointed a committee of eight, chaired by Tom.

On April 11, 2001, Tom Tropp and Mike Burns presented an attractive rendering of the first proposed site for five cottages on a city-owned one-half-acre parcel of land on the north side of Conway Road, just west of the Metra railroad tracks. Following the presentation and discussion, the Lake Forest Plan Commission considered and approved these cottages as a "Special Use" in any residential zoning district. Although the project awaits approval in June of the Lake Forest City Council, passage seems to be assured.

If the need is there, more cottages will be built, ideally in groups of two or three. Each cottage will have a garage or carport. These cottages are to accommodate a family of one or two adults, one of whom must be 65 years old or more; a couple or one senior with a caretaker. No children will be allowed.

These cottages will be approximately 1400 square feet, including garage. They will be scattered around town so that they are not segregated but instead will blend in with their surroundings. The Senior Cottage committee asked for flexibility so that they might build only a one or two unit or a larger unit, not to exceed five or six units. All would depend upon the size of the lot and the location.

The Lake Forest Planning Committee unanimously agreed that the project is good and should be carried out. In supporting the concept, the Plan Committee emphasized that the focus should be on age, density, and scattered sites in accessible locations. Tom Tropp emphasized that placement should be on a case-by-case basis. Tom was congratulated for the excellent work of his committee.

Lake Bluff Village Board of Trustees

Submitted by Janet Nelson

Meeting date: Second and fourth
Monday of each month
Meeting time: 7:00 p.m.
Meeting place: Lake Bluff Village Hall
Board Room, second
floor

President: Thomas Skinner
Clerk: Peter Sexton
Trustees: William Hart
Paul Lemieux
Christine Letchinger
James Stevenson
Frank (Pony) Swanton
Stephen Willard
Administrator: Kent Street

An opportunity is provided for the public to address the Village Board on any item not on the agenda. The meeting room is accessible by elevator.

Within the past year, the Village Board has hired Teng Associates to work on a proposal to develop "Block 1," the area surrounded by Sheridan Road, Scranton Avenue, Walnut Avenue, and North Avenue.

A Historic Preservation Ordinance was passed that will establish a Preservation Commission. The ordinance will go into effect next October. During the fall, an architectural/historical survey will be conducted in the southeast portion of Lake Bluff.

A long-range plan for the development of the Route 176 corridor has been developed and will be ready to implement when the state begins construction of the Route 41 overpass.

The Board of Trustees debated the issue of establishing a Library Special Service Area for the unincorporated areas of Lake Bluff. This was defeated because the Trustees were uncomfortable placing a tax on an area they do not represent.

The Zoning Code was studied and amended. As a result, the majority of

zoning decisions were reassigned back to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

There has been a discussion regarding the placement of a skate park. The park is to be located near the new Park District facility, but a portion of the land is Village property. It is hoped that this issue will be resolved in early June.

The Public Works facility on Route 176 will be renovated and construction may be starting this summer.

Lake Bluff continues to prosper financially from sales tax revenues brought in by the auto dealers Knausz, Sheppard, and Imperial Motors.

A special note: Lake Bluff's long-time police chief, Fred Day, retired as of April 30th; he will be missed. A new chief will be appointed.

Shields Township Board of Trustees
Submitted by Janet Nelson

Meeting date: Second Thursday of
each month
Meeting time: 7:30 p.m.
Meeting place: Township meeting
room, second floor of
West School in
Knollwood

Supervisor: Charles B. Fitzgerald IV
Clerk: Maurice DeWulf
Trustees: Larry Bridges
Rudy Iberle
Nicki Snoblin
Mona Strenger

The meeting room is handicapped accessible and is available for public use. Shields Township officials include Assessor Theresia Yakes and Road Commissioner Donald (Dan) Rogers.

The trustees serve as the local government agency for unincorporated areas within the Township. The pedestrian sidewalk along the east side of Waukegan Road was completed and the roadway into the mobile home park on the east side of Route 41 was repaved. The funds for these

improvements came through a grant from the state. Currently they are working with Abbott Laboratories to continue the sidewalk up to Abbott's southernmost gate.

Passports may now be applied for at the Township office, and a food pantry has also been opened. The Township administers the General Assistance Program for all Township residents.

They have also set up a 501(c)(3) foundation to obtain grant monies to help low-income families and the homeless to pay their first month's rent and security deposit on apartments.

The Township Board also donated \$1000 to the school district in an effort to help speed up the installation of the new playground equipment on the West School site.

The Township meetings are fairly well attended and the audience is given an opportunity to address the Board about items not on the agenda.

All of the township officials were up for election on April 2, 2001. Dan Rogers was elected Road Commissioner, defeating William Cervac, and Nicki Snoblin was elected as a trustee.

Lake Bluff Park District
Submitted by Janet Nelson

Meeting date: Third Monday of each
month
Meeting time: 7:30 p.m.
Meeting place: Lake Bluff Park District
Community Room,
Blair Park

Commissioners:

Steve Fennell, President
Tom Dobbins
Steve Ganshirt
Kurt Gronau
Judy Maloney
Jack Meierhoff
Lindley Smith
Administrator: Walt Schamber

Much of the Park District's attention this year was directed toward the completion of the new recreation facility and fitness center. The grand opening was held in March. This building has filled a need for the Lake Bluff and Knollwood community and has been well used since its opening.

The Park District is also planning to open a skate park for the children of the area. The idea was brought forward by a group of Middle School students and their parents. Funding came from a number of sources both public and private.

A driving range will be constructed on the golf course and should be in use sometime this summer.

Erosion control (large stone groins) has been installed at the Lake Bluff Beach and work continues to inhibit erosion of the south bluff.

The Park District works with the Village Board and the District 65 School Board as many Park District plans are contingent on agreements with the other governing bodies.

There is an opportunity for public input at the beginning of each meeting and audience members are usually recognized during the meetings to voice questions and concerns.

Join the Observer Corps!

The Observer Corps was established to monitor local governmental bodies in order to identify information of importance to the League and to our communities. Observer volunteers attend city and village meetings to keep informed on local issues and government operations, to establish a League "presence" at these meetings and to identify for the Board areas and issues for possible study and action. Observers do not speak at the meetings,

but they are identified as League Observers by wearing a League button. At year-end the Observers prepare summary reports for the membership.

If you have an interest in our local government and wish to be more informed about the day-to-day workings of our boards, commissions, and councils, consider volunteering to be an Observer. You will be doing a service for our League and for yourself—observing is interesting and satisfying work!

For more information about the Observer Corps, or to volunteer, call Pauline Mohr, 234-5853.



Biennial Convention of the League of Women Voters of Lake County

The Convention of County League convened at Lamb's Farm last month. Among the many program reports, Edith Auchter of Barrington announced that there is now a Web site for LWV Lake County. Barrington library is the host; it is accessed at <http://www.nsn.org/bakhome/LWVLC>. Barrington LWV is also the host of the DNet training site. One of the goals for LWV LFLB for next year is to take advantage of this site. DNet is an interactive online service wholly owned by the League. Its goal is to post information about candidates and elections.

The County League selected two issues for emphasis for the coming two years.

Transportation will continue as the area of primary emphasis. Two forums relating to this are proposed, the first on transporting of nuclear waste (10th District U.S. Rep. Kirk has called this his first priority, though the new district map may not include Zion in the 10th). The second forum will probably feature the Campaign for Sensible Growth. Criminal justice was also selected as an issue for emphasis, and Judge Jane Waller was the featured speaker for the evening. As Chief Judge of the Circuit Court, Judge Waller described the evolution of the court system during her career. Noting with pride that she handles more cases than any other circuit in the state, her presentation also included the alternatives to incarceration that have evolved over the years.

After reports from board members and delegates from local Leagues, the County Board then asked for direction from the delegates for the coming two years. The Highland Park League asked that the "short form" of all County positions be made available. Publication in local leagues' newsletters will allow better use of existing positions when local action is considered.

The biggest news of the evening was that a new pilot MAL program was adopted (MAL stands for member-at-large). The State League has joined with Lake County to create this new category of membership on a trial basis. Previously the Lake County League has been a Board whose members are those belonging to the local leagues (currently Lake Forest-Lake Bluff, Barrington, Highland Park, and Deerfield). The new MAL category allows membership affiliated directly at the county level. Members of the former Libertyville-Mundelein Area League were invited to join as members at large; 19 will join Lake County and three members have joined the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff League. Welcome to our new members!

LWVIL Election Reform Symposia

In spring 2001, the League of Women Voters Education Fund sponsored three symposia on election reform. The theme was "Focus on the Voter." The series was an outgrowth of the turmoil over Election 2000, which revealed serious problems in our election systems—problems that, in many cases, the League had advised correcting for many years.

Symposium 1: The Voter's Experience

Moderator: Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, LWVEF Chair

Dr. Jefferson-Jenkins opened with a call to action. Speakers cited many examples of problems with voting systems nationwide. Restrictive registration practices, purportedly designed to prevent fraud, often had the effect of discriminating against racial and ethnic minorities. They cautioned against thinking there is an easy fix for our election problems but urged reformers not to give up in spite of the complexity of the problems and not to seek political advantage in reforming the nation's election laws.

A speaker noted that people's voting experiences are defined by the particular polling place they use. She described the problems that election judges face, such as large crowds coming to vote between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.

"Problem voters" were also cited as an area of concern, with a need for election judges who speak languages such as Spanish, Vietnamese, and African dialects.

The responsibilities of the voter and of civic groups in solving the problems were also discussed. Public libraries were singled out as an institution with great potential to communicate information about how the election process works.

Many poll workers—who work only two days a year—have never done the job before. They work 12- to 15-hour days and have to deal with increasingly complex situations. It was suggested that high school seniors could be trained as poll workers: it would provide needed personnel, and the students would learn a lot from it.

Community organizations—such as the League, Rotary, the Chamber of Commerce, the AARP—would also be good sources of poll workers. A recruiting session for such workers could be combined with fund-raisers for these groups.

One speaker identified four kinds of problems encountered by voters: (1) questions about whether the voter was really registered; (2) confusing ballots and machines, and hence the possible inability to have the vote counted; (3) lack of standard procedures in recounts; and (4) a perception of partisanship. She called for uniform standards for recounts and for counting absentee ballots.

One audience member observed that there are more than 30 million Americans with disabilities who don't have jobs. He suggested hiring them as poll workers.

Symposium 2: The Election Workforce

Moderator: Dr. Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, LWVEF Chair

Dr. Jefferson-Jenkins began the session by quoting an old saying in politics: "Those who vote, decide nothing. Those who count the votes, decide everything."

This symposium consisted of two panels: Workforce Partisanship, and Poll Worker Recruitment and Training. The panels expanded on the problems cited in the first symposium.

The two major political parties may try to deny ballot access to independents or candidates from minor parties. State legislatures, for example, can see that the two major parties are placed first on the ballot. They can also set early dates for filing as a candidate and enact elaborate requirements for minor parties to get on the ballot. Independents and members of minor parties could serve as officials at the polls on election day.

Ironically, it was *easier* in 2000 to get minor-party candidates on the ballot in some states, including Florida. That meant there were 10 candidates for President on the Florida ballot. State election officials felt that putting all 10 on the same ballot page might make it hard to read for elderly voters with poor vision. It was that concern that produced the now-infamous "butterfly ballots."

A member of the audience asked if making election day a holiday would increase voter turnout. Where this has been tried, it does not seem to increase turnout, nor does it improve the pool of poll workers.

Lack of accessibility at the polls for the disabled was identified as a major problem. There were 21 million citizens with disabilities who didn't vote in 2000.

Symposium 3: Rethinking Election Day

Moderator: Joan Paik, LWVUS Board Member and Chair of Election Administration Reform

Ms. Paik set the tone of the session by reviewing the two earlier symposia and posing questions for the third. Why, she asked, is voter turnout so low, and what can be done to increase it? "Are our election systems too difficult? Too confusing and time-consuming? Are there legitimate alternatives? Is there a way to make it easier to vote?"

One panelist was disturbed by some of the trends in voting, particularly voting early and voting by mail. On the

horizon is voting by Internet. These methods may lead to increased fraud.

What should be done? Make voting on election day a seamless event. Expand the number of polling places. Increase the amount of time they're open. Have more voting devices and poll workers.

Another speaker thought Internet voting would ultimately be cheaper and more convenient for voters than other systems. One drawback, he said, is that Internet voting will make it easier to track who has and hasn't voted. But he dismissed concerns about violations of ballot security. The problem is the politics of Internet voting: who benefits and who loses from it?

Nearly 1600 bills on election reform have been introduced in state legislatures all over the country, of which 131 had been signed into law. Many of the bills called for a task force to study the issue, while others were very specific on what they wanted to study: absentee ballots, ballot design, standards for counting and recounting, modifying the Electoral College, voter registration procedures, voter ID at the polls.

Florida, Maryland, and Georgia were the states where comprehensive reform efforts had made the most progress so far. The Florida legislature provided \$24 million for new voting systems, to replace the infamous punch-card ballots with their dimpled and pregnant chads. It requires optical scanners or touch-



screen voting systems, establishes a no-excuse absentee ballot, and provides for the training of poll workers.

In Maryland, the main bill under consideration would require the state Board of Elections to set uniform standards throughout the state. Uniformity of standards was a theme in many state efforts.

In Georgia, the key bill would require uniform election equipment throughout the state by 2004. It would start with a pilot project to test new voting equipment.

Center for Neighborhood Technology Summit

The League of Women Voters of Illinois has been working with a number of regional planning organizations regarding transportation and "smart growth." Our coalition member, Center

for Neighborhood Technology, a nationally known organization, is asking for our participation here in the Lake County area.

Join your neighbors at a Connecting Communities summit near you. The Lake County summit will be held on Tuesday, July 24, 2001, from 6:30 to 9:30 PM at the Civic Center, 135 W. Church St., Libertyville. A light meal will be served beginning at 6:00. For information on how to register, or for the dates of summits in other parts of the six-county metropolitan region, see www.cnt.org/2030 or call (773) 278-4800, ext. 2030.

These summits are being held to help community people influence the engineers and planners who make decisions about transportation in their communities. Your ideas at a Connecting Communities summit can also become part of the new Citizen Transportation Plan, which will be the "platform" for regional advocacy on sustainable local and regional transportation. The Citizen Transportation Plan will be a rallying point for strong and continuous influence on the investments that "make or break" communities.

Please preregister at www.cnt.org/2030 by calling (773) 278-4800, ext. 2030, so we can provide you with workshop materials and dinner. Or for more information, call Mary Mathews, local member, 295-1494.

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area 2001-2002 Board of Directors

OFFICERS

<i>President</i>	Carol Gilbert	295-4044	<i>Secretary</i>	Stacy Vermeylen	615-1140
<i>Vice President-Action</i>	Beverly Nelson	295-1472	<i>Treasurer</i>	Lisa Dietrich	735-1813
<i>Vice President-Voter Service</i>	Bev Adamczyk	615-7141			

DIRECTORS

<i>Media Services</i>	Ann Walters	295-8671	<i>Newsletter</i>	Nicki Snoblin	295-9059
	Chris Leone	234-3180	<i>Program</i>	Mary Ritter	234-8215
<i>LWVLC Liaison</i>	Linda Bartmes	234-7069		Anne McNulty	295-6226
<i>Membership</i>	Kitty Lansing	234-3672	<i>Voter Registration</i>	Lisa Krimen	615-8825
	Marcia Duncan	604-9822			

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Cyndy Cordell (Chair)	234-1768	Jill Lauer	234-1720	Maggie Kanakis	234-0325
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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Non-Profit Organization
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September 2001
Volume 48, Number 1

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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

Message From the President

Carol Gilbert

During last fall's presidential election, Florida taught us an important lesson: counting votes is not simple or easy. The way people responded to this counting crisis was telling—and sometimes amusing. And the day-to-day drama was very exciting. I expected to hear rumblings signaling a national dialogue on voting procedures. I also scurried to my notebook to see if the League of Women Voters US had a position on the electoral college. (It does . . . the position favors direct election of the President by popular vote.) Is the debate over the Florida vote finished? Of course not!

At the local level we are already poised with the answer to last fall's big question of just how the heck votes get counted: An interview starring Lake County's new voting machines has already been completed by Program Cochair Mary Ritter. It will be rebroadcast before the next election. Two fact-finding missions are afoot. Happie Datt, with four others from sister leagues in our county, will interview Lake County Clerk Willard Helander and pass their findings to the State League to compile. At the national level, Voter Service Chair Bev Adamczyk and Voter Registration Chair Lisa Krimen are coordinating a team investigating both objective and subjective questions on voter access, vote counting, the election workforce, and voter education. The results of both the LWVUS and LWVIL task forces should be available this year. Also at the state level, LWVIL began a study of election systems in 1999, at the

direction of the delegates at the state convention. (Before Florida! How did we know??)

The voting problems highlighted by the last Presidential election challenge our most fundamental beliefs. In the words of LWVIL Election Administration Reform Committee member Daphne Daume, "Do we want to encourage voter participation by making access to the ballot easy or are we more concerned with preventing fraud?" Even a like-minded association such as League may have many different answers for that question. In the meantime, the events in Florida highlighted the simplest rule of all, one that every Leaguer already knows . . . if you want to be counted, don't ever not vote.

Welcome New Members

George Grumley
893 E. Westleigh Road, Lake Forest
234-7225

Julia Hultgren (National)
570 Golf Lane, Lake Forest
234-7650

Our Web Site

Have you seen our Web site lately? It's worth a second look. Webmaster Marcia Duncan has completely restyled it, adding much useful information and links to the League of Women Voters at the County, State, and National levels. Our local Web site includes information about League and about voting, and even includes a membership form. Marcia has done a superb job, so please see for yourself at <http://lfbhome.northstarnet.org/lwvflb>.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions will continue for two more meetings, September and October, and then recess until February 2002, when the latest Foreign Policy Association briefing book will be available. Questions? Call Betty Buker (234-4509) or Diane Lloyd (615-9182).

September 14, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Betty Buker's house, 485 N. Oakwood Ave., #3, Lake Forest
Topic: European Integration

October 12, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
Diane Lloyd's house, 500 College Rd., Lake Forest
Topic: Conflict Resolution in Africa

LWVIL Convention 2001 at a Glance

- A total of 141 delegates attended, representing 48 local leagues, three Inter-League Organizations (like our very own Lake County League), and one Member at Large.
- A position supporting the abolition of the death penalty in Illinois was adopted by concurrence with LWV Evanston's study.
- The board was instructed to reexamine the Merit Selection of Judges position in light of campaign finance reform by a will of the convention motion.
- New president of LWVIL Barb Lippai of Highland Park has made membership recruitment and retention a priority.
- All existing LWVIL positions were retained with the exception of Marital Law: drafted in 1985, it was deemed out of date.

Fall Coffee and Community Update for Members and Friends

Thursday, September 20, 2001
Coffee at 9:00 a.m.; Speakers 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Lake Forest City Hall, 220 E. Deerpath, Lake Forest

Featured speakers:

Robert Kiehl, Lake Forest City Manager
Kent Street, Lake Bluff Village Administrator

Topic:

**"What's Happening and What's Ahead
in Local Government"**

Invite a friend!

R.S.V.P. (acceptances only) to Kitty Lansing at 234-3672

Convention Reports

We have two first-hand reports from the State Convention: one a general summary and the other a newcomer's first-person account.

CONVENTION SUMMARY

The 50th State Convention of the League of Women Voters of Illinois was held in Springfield at the Renaissance Springfield Hotel from June 22-24, 2001. As Conventions go, it was a rather straightforward, uncontentious affair with lots of camaraderie, good will, and energy.

Delegates to the Convention focused much of their attention on retaining current positions of the LWV as the emphasis of work the League in Illinois will continue to undertake. They charged the State Board with continuing to advocate for, educate, and serve the citizens of Illinois in our traditional areas of focus with renewed energy. Voter service and public policy oversight are strongly supported by the membership of the League in Illinois as key elements of its solid mission and purpose.

"Building the Future" was the theme of this Convention, and the idea of building on the League's foundation and traditions, with an eye to the making needed changes that will ensure the future of the League in Illinois, was a central focus.

The delegates voted to retain current positions as issues for emphasis, but also had the courage to delve into some timely matters that represent some new thinking within our membership. One of the most important and controversial items at Convention was the adoption, by concurrence, of a proposal brought to the delegates by the Evanston League: namely, to support the abolition of the death penalty in Illinois. This concurrence was accomplished on the floor of the Convention, largely through the grassroots lobbying and caucus work done by the Evanston League to educate the delegates and leadership at Convention. Because of their considerable efforts, this position is now supported by the LWVIL after much debate, dialogue, and soul-searching among the delegates representing their Leagues at this Convention.

Another forward-looking issue was also a central, and much emphasized, matter that came before the Convention: the need to increase membership, immediately! A report submitted to the Convention by a special consultant charged with studying membership practices in the League was surprising to us all, and called for the League, at all levels, to make membership the number 1 priority of ALL League endeavors. Without this shift in thinking and direction, the League will NOT survive and thrive! So, this issue was pointed up as the KEY element to the future work of the League in Illinois, as well as the League at all levels, from local to national and international. The future influence and work of the League will not be accomplished by looking within; we must expand our circle of inclusion and networking by building new coalitions and by thinking "out of our own box." The report of the consultant is recommended reading for all League members and officers.

Our new State President, Barb Lippai, was in fine form as June 24 was declared "Barb Lippai Day" in Illinois, by proclamation. Very fittingly, Barb was crowned with a tiara, which she sported with great aplomb and good humor as she referred to herself as "Queen of Convention"! The hard work and efforts of our past president Jan Flapan received accolades, and Jan made a very moving and eloquent speech about her tenure, and her vision for the League. She received an ovation and thanks from the delegates in attendance.

One of the highlights of Convention was the performance of the Illinois Bar Association musical comedy troupe. This talented group of lawyers (who would have thought that LAWYERS could be so funny and entertaining?) exhibited professional-level skills in singing and acting, which were worthy of Equity membership and, literally, had many League members in tears of laughter for the duration of the performance after dinner on Saturday

night. They were wonderful and are highly recommended as entertainment!

All in all, it was a successful and enjoyable Convention, with important work accomplished for the future direction of the LWV in Illinois.

Respectfully submitted,
Robbyn Kilbane-McFadden
Delegate to State Convention 2001

MRS. V. GOES TO SPRINGFIELD *A Novice's Account of her First LWV Convention—by Stacy Vermeylen*

"Tell me again where you're going this weekend?" my husband asked. "You're spending a weekend with a bunch of female political types?" He was really confused why I would want to leave the family for a couple of days to go to a League of Women Voters Convention.

"Relax," I told him, "I'm not sure what the women will be like or what we'll be doing, but I'm not signing up for anything and I'm not running for office." With that, I headed out the door into the early morning light and hopped into the car with Mary Ritter, headed for Springfield.

On the morning's drive there, Mary and I talked at length about our perceptions of convention. We'd glanced at the packet, with its imposing list of proposals, agenda items, and resolutions, most of it going over our heads. We really had no idea what convention would be like, and whether we would be able to contribute anything. We agreed to listen and observe, mostly. After all, we were novices at this convention thing.

Upon arrival in Springfield (which, with legislature and school out of session, looked as dead as a doornail), at least the hotel housing the convention was bustling with new arrivals. Women of all ages, but mostly over 40, wandered through the hall. The really experienced ones wore buttons of various kinds (should I have dusted off my

"McGovern for President" button?) and greeted their cronies from all over the state with fond hello's. We made our way to our rooms and then headed to the convention reception desk to check in—receiving a fat folder filled with more details about the LWV proposed platform, agenda, and procedures. *Uh-oh, more homework!* We found our seats and waited for the rest of the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff crowd.

Once called to order, the leadership group at the front stage emerged. A group of bright, capable women, obviously committed to the League and this event, became quite familiar to us over the next 24 hours. Who takes on leadership of the State League, anyway? How do they juggle this job with children, careers, homes, exercise? It soon became evident that they probably don't—during their period of leadership, the League becomes their lives! State LWV leadership is a very big job, and some very heady issues are examined by this group and their committees. The tone in the room was immediately on the serious side.

Very quickly, it also became apparent what a major role a parliamentarian has at a convention like this. Each proposal, question, and agenda item was evaluated and reviewed for its fit with "proper procedure." Wow! Can't people just talk? Why all the rules? The reason became apparent as the debates about the various positions the League was voting on were reviewed. We would be here for the next century if some very strict guidelines were not enforced to limit and structure the discussion. Initially we were afraid of saying much for fear of being "out of order" and having Madame Parliamentarian glare at us!

It hit me what a broad and sophisticated list of issues the League had incorporated in its platform. Members and leaders of committees, such as our own Cynthia Maloney, shone among the crowd because of their significant expertise in specific issues. I had no

idea the League took such a comprehensive stand on issues. Could the lowly novice, with a pretty superficial understanding of most of the topics, really contribute?

The most heady discussion was on the death penalty—whether the League, at the encouragement of one of the local leagues, should take a position recommending the abolition of capital punishment. Impassioned speakers took the mikes with their stories—each with a compelling argument. How did I really feel? How did our League members feel—when we hadn't actually discussed it as a group? Would it make any difference if the League took this stand?

Another observation was the diversity across our long and narrow state. For example, our group from the Chicago area commented that it seemed old-fashioned to use overhead transparencies and handwritten proposals when laptops and computer projects were so common. "This is Springfield, not Chicago!" someone commented. Meeting women from more rural communities, less affluent ones, and from the inner city was helpful and enlightening.

Despite the serious work, the serious minds, and the very serious accomplishments of the group assembled at this convention, we all had time to laugh a bit with the Chicago Bar Association's singing and dancing group. They were hysterically funny, actually, and so talented we wondered they were as good at law as acting. *Their mothers were probably happier with the legal careers.*

As the convention came to a close, my mind reeling with the issues, I realized the commitment our public leaders make and the difficulty of sorting through all the issues of running our country fairly. Much of the time, these careers in public service sound downright horrible, yet wonderful people still pursue them. Many come up

through the ranks of organizations such as the LWV. And their passion for them and their commitment to the rest of us!

LWVUS Convention 2002 at a Glance

At the fabulous Fontainebleu Hotel on the beach, Miami Beach, Florida (the deco capitol of the country), June 15 to 18, 2002. Plan to swim in Esther Williams' favorite pool! We will send two delegates.

Get Involved With State League!

Become an Issue Specialist: Learn about an issue and help lead League action and education efforts! Specialists needed for Reproductive Choice and Gun Control (partnering with the current specialist, Barb Deli). Contact Paula Lawson, Issues & Action VP (847/835-8840, pjlawson1@home.com).

Join a statewide committee:

- School Funding Issues & Action Committee—contact Paula Lawson, Issues & Action VP (847/835-8840, pjlawson1@home.com)
- Election Administration Reform Committee—contact cochairs Gail Feiger Brown (847/433-2093, g.f.brown@home.com) or Marcia McConnell (708/957-9189, MarciaMcCo@aol.com). The next meeting is August 28, 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m., with speaker Jill Zwick, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs from the Secretary of State's office. She will be addressing the steps their office is taking to correct problems in the 2000 election.
- Reexamination of Merit Selection—contact Paula Lawson, Issues & Action VP (847/835-8840, pjlawson1@home.com)
- Member Services Committee—contact Barb Marsh, Member

Services VP (847/729-7493, hrmjrl@prodigy.net)

- Communications Committee—contact Pat Eden, Communications VP (708/448-5719, heden1@aol.com)
- Development Committee—contact Carla Hillman, Treasurer (309/852-5215, hillmanc@eastadmin.bhc.edu)
- Membership Brochure Subcommittee—we need a few good members (and nonmembers!) with marketing skills to help develop a new membership brochure—contact Jane Barnes, LWVIL Board, Member Services (630/820-0255, jbarnes14@ntsource.com)

Volunteer for a Day! We need help at the state office on September 5 and 6 to stuff and stamp invitations for the State of the State Luncheon; volunteers will be fed! Contact Patty Enriquez, LWVIL Receptionist (312/939-5935, ext. 10, PEnriquez@lwwil.org).

LWVIL 2001-2003 Positions in Brief

The following are the positions in brief of the League of Women Voters of Illinois. Before applying the state positions at the local and/or regional level, Leagues should refer to the complete position, including background and previous action.

GOVERNMENT POSITIONS The Illinois League takes action on the state level in the following public policy areas based on these LWVUS positions: agriculture; citizen rights, including reproductive choice; Congress and the Presidency; the election process, including campaign finance reform; and voting rights.

CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION AND AMENDMENTS: The League supports implementation of provisions for governmental change in the Local

Government Article, and amendments to achieve merit selection of judges, the indirect statutory initiative and the recall of elected judges. The League maintains its support for positions already achieved in the Constitution but which may require effort to preserve.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT

STRUCTURE: The League supports expanded citizen initiative powers to change the structure of county government. Petition requirements for citizen-initiated change should be a percentage of actual voters in a recent jurisdiction-wide election. The League supports changes in the Illinois County Executive Act to provide a clear separation of powers between the legislative and the executive branches and easily understood referendum language.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE: The League supports the increased use of intermediate sanctions in the community. Judges should retain discretion to choose between imprisonment and probation for most offenses. The League supports a sufficient number of trained probation officers and other court personnel, prompt trials, enforcement of jail standards and a system of bail that does not rely on financial ability as a criterion for pretrial release. Correctional services should conform to national professional standards, with programs and services that offer the opportunity for self-improvement. The League believes that the justice system must be adequately funded to carry out its goals. State funds should emphasize community sanctions over the construction of prisons. The League supports the expansion of prevention and treatment programs in order to ease the burden on the criminal justice system. The League supports abolition of the death penalty in the state.

STATE ELECTION LAWS: The League supports uniform election laws and procedures throughout the state to ensure the integrity of the election

system and opposes term limits for members of the General Assembly.

GUN CONTROL: The League supports legislative controls to stop the proliferation of private ownership of handguns and their irresponsible use. The League advocates restricting access to semiautomatic assault-type weapons.

SCHOOLS: The League supports a system of high-quality elementary and secondary schools for all children in Illinois that provides for local control of school program and budget within minimum program requirements set by the state. The state should provide leadership to local communities for program development and should set standards for recognition and accreditation of schools. The effectiveness of educational programs should be evaluated regularly. The League favors minimum standards for graduation and promotion of students. The League supports increased professionalism for teachers, including stringent teacher preparation standards, comprehensive teacher and principal evaluations, changes in tenure, and increased teacher compensation. The state should assume the major responsibility for funding public schools and guarantee an adequate level of financial support. The League believes that the Illinois State Board of Education should continue to monitor the progress of existing charters before supporting expansion and that charters should be established by local school boards.

STATE FISCAL POLICIES: The League supports a diversified revenue system that principally relies on a combination of broad-based taxes and user fees and is equitable, progressive, stable, responsive, and simple.

STATE REDISTRICTING: The League supports a redistricting process that is timely and orderly and meets the basic criteria relating to population, compactness, and contiguity and the

requirements of the 1965 U.S. Voting Rights Act and subsequent amendments.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

POSITIONS The Illinois League takes action on international relations issues only at the request of the LWVUS. LWVUS IR positions include Congress and arms control, military policy and defense spending, trade, United Nations, and US relations with developing countries.

NATURAL RESOURCES POSITIONS The Illinois League takes action on the state level in the following public policy areas based on these LWVUS positions: resource management, environmental protection/pollution control, and public participation in the decision-making process.

LAND USE: The League supports development of a comprehensive land use policy for Illinois that provides for orderly growth while preserving the environment, conserving natural resources, and providing needed open space. The state should identify, plan for, and have the final authority over key and critical areas within the state. Standards and guidelines for land use should be developed by the state, with local governments making purely local decisions. At every stage there should be citizen input. The state should plan for adequate supplies of low- and moderate-income housing, with every community providing a percentage under some kind of fair-share plan. The League favors regional planning agencies with mandatory and continuous funding from local, regional, and state sources. The League supports state enabling legislation for development impact fees.

LARGE-SCALE LIVESTOCK

FACILITIES: The League supports strict regulation of large-scale livestock facilities on the state, regional, and county levels to include statewide environmental controls, public hearings prior to siting, and regional and/or county control of siting.

PESTICIDES: The League supports reduction of exposure to all pesticides. The use of nontoxic alternatives should be encouraged.

SOCIAL POLICY POSITIONS The Illinois League takes action on the state level in the following public policy areas based on these LWVUS positions: child care; early intervention for children at risk; equality of opportunity, including opposition to school vouchers and tuition tax credits, employment issues, affirmative action, fair housing, and equal rights; health care; meeting basic human needs; urban policy and violence prevention.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES: The League believes that the state should play the leading role in meeting the needs of children and their families and have the primary role in funding to ensure that quality services are equitably available throughout the state. The League supports a continuum of community-based services that strengthens and preserves families and fosters healthy growth and development of children. Prevention and early intervention should have high priority. The supply of

affordable, quality child care should be expanded. The League supports a juvenile court system that provides opportunities for effective protection, treatment, and rehabilitation. Detention should be reserved for delinquent children who meet professional screening criteria and provided separately from adult programs. The League opposes the automatic transfer of children to the criminal court and the death penalty for children.

INCOME ASSISTANCE: The League supports income assistance and supportive services for all low-income individuals and families.

MENTAL HEALTH: The League supports a comprehensive and coordinated system of treatment and rehabilitation services for mentally ill adults and children. There should be adequate funding, planning, program standards, and personnel training requirements for both state facilities and community programs. The League supports a broad array of adequate and accessible community services. Although primary responsibility should rest with the state, funding from local, federal, and nongovernmental sources

should be encouraged. A system of local boards to levy taxes, administer all funds, and plan and coordinate services should be required throughout the state. The state should require local governments to provide in their zoning ordinances for residential programs for mentally ill persons.

STUDY
ELECTION SYSTEMS: A study of election systems with scope to include but not be limited to determination of criteria on which to evaluate election systems; a synopsis of alternative voting systems; a report on the effects of the cutback amendment; and community outreach forums to provide a platform for public education. The study is a continuation of the cumulative voting study approved at the 1999 convention.

ACTION FOCUS
MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK: Promote efforts to create healthier communities through strengthening citizen participation and confidence in government, with an emphasis on campaign finance reform, election administration reform and merit selection of judges.

LWVLC Program Meeting

Wednesday, September 12, 7:00 p.m.

The Byron Colby Barn, Prairie Crossing Subdivision, Grayslake

LWV Members and Spouses Wine and Cheese

Short Program, 8:00 p.m.

Speaker: Phil Rohivang
Director, Lake County Planning and Development

Call Marge Blake Reaume (543-4093) or Happie Datt (234-6801) by September 5

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area 2001-2002 Officers and Directors

POSITION	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
OFFICERS					
<i>President</i>	Carol Gilbert	28 Oak Terrace, LB	295-4044	295-4003	CRViolin@aol.com
<i>Vice President- Action</i>	Beverly Nelson	754 Oak Avenue, LB	295-1472		bnelson62@aol.com
<i>Vice President- Voter Service</i>	Bev Adamczyk	702 Quassey Ave., Knollwood	295-5641	295-9794	bev@adamczyk.com
<i>Secretary</i>	Stacy Vermeylen	1227 W. Kajer Ln., LF	615-1140	615-2401	
<i>Treasurer</i>	Lisa Dietrich	525 E. Blodgett Ave., LB	735-1813		WLapelJD@aol.com
DIRECTORS					
<i>Media Services</i>	Ann Walters	750 Gardner Ln., LF	295-8525	295-0615	lfpmk@msn.com
	Chris Leone	674 E. Northmoor Rd., LF	234-3180		
<i>LWVLC Liaison</i>	Linda Bartmes	242 Ravine Forest Dr., LB	234-7069		
<i>Membership</i>	Kitty Lansing	390 E. Wisconsin Ave., LF	234-3672		kh49@aol.com
	Marcia Duncan	1660 Yale Ct., LF	604-9822		DUNCANMA@MC.NET
<i>Newsletter</i>	Nicki Snoblin	1010 Atkinson Rd., Knollwood	295-9059	295-9078	nicki_netter@ama-assn.org
<i>Program</i>	Mary Ritter	1041 Timber Ln., LF	234-8215	234-8232	unhorce@aol.com
	Anne McNulty	231 N. Warwick Rd., LF	295-6226		
<i>Voter Registration</i>	Lisa Krimen	770 Greenview Pl., LF	615-8825		
OFF-BOARD APPOINTMENTS					
<i>Observer Corps</i>	Pauline Mohr	2000 N. Knollwood Rd., LF	234-5853		paulinemohr@msn.com
<i>Partners for Progress</i>	Janet Nelson	P.O. Box 247, LB	234-1844	234-2058	janet2@aol.com
<i>LF Senior Housing Committee</i>	Jane Partridge	1799 Farm Rd., LF	234-1247		
NOMINATING COMMITTEE					
<i>Chair</i>	Cyndy Cordell	60 E. Woodland Rd., LF	234-1768	655-6090	
	Jill Lauer	190 E. Onwentsia Rd., LF	234-1720		jlaucr@aol.com
	Maggie Kanakis	1290 N. Western, LF	234-0325	234-4234	

(Two additional members to be appointed from board, to be residents of Lake Bluff or Knollwood)

Mark Your Calendar

- September 12 LWVFLB Board Meeting, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Lake Bluff Public Safety Building
LWVLC Program, Members and Spouses Wine and Cheese
- September 14 Great Decisions, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Betty Buker's house, 485 N. Oakwood Ave., #3, Lake Forest
- September 20 Fall Coffee and Community Update, 9:00-10:30 a.m., Lake Forest City Hall

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 194
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Carol Gilbert
28 Oak Terrace
Lake Bluff, IL 60044





October 2001
Volume 48, Number 2

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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

Message From the President

Carol Gilbert

September 11th was a day to remember. As I write this, on September 16th, so very many people are saying "everything will change now." Some of the changes are perhaps overdue. Let's hope all of the changes will be well considered. The way in which we conduct our daily lives forms our character as a nation.

In last month's newsletter we were asked to ponder whether easy access to the polls was more important than preventing possible voting fraud. A workshop at the recent state convention asked which three amendments attendees would like to keep. (Yes, only three.) For many months to come, the nation will ask a parallel question: Can we respect individual freedoms when the assurance of greater personal security is so clearly needed? An old question we will ponder in light of our new experience.

At our Wednesday, September 12th League Board meeting (yes, that would be the day after the Terror), a member exclaimed, "I'm so happy to be here, to be doing something constructive." It was a sentiment I shared that day. I was happy to be in the company of women who give so much in community service, and there was a steadiness to the League group that offered comfort. Like so many others, I had spent that awful day before in front of the television, emotionally buried in an avalanche of the rawest of detail. All of us have been affected by last month's events. All of us have a heightened sense of vulnerability. And all of us try to

take stock of an event that is the basest meaning of destructive. On behalf of the entire Board, I hope you all are as well be given the circumstances, and that your loved ones can find comfort,

Correction

In last month's issue, in the list of LWVFLB officers and directors for 2001-2002, we inadvertently gave the wrong address, phone number, and e-mail address for Ann Walters. Her correct address is 601 E. Center Avenue, Lake Bluff; phone, 295-8671. Her e-mail address is newie61@aol.com.

Book Review Fundraiser

Space is still available for the October 9th Book Review evening. Lake Forest Books is presenting a preview of the season's books to benefit the League of Women Voters. Held at the store on Western Avenue, the event will feature wine and cheese and the opportunity to look over the books highlighted. The suggested donation for this, \$25, goes directly to the League. Please consider attending, as there is still plenty of time to read your books before the gift season compels you to give them away! Lake Forest Bookstore will also attend the Holiday Luncheon on November 28th. At that event they will bring along Barbara Rinella's favorites for purchase. If you wish to join us on Tuesday, October 9th, please call Carol Gilbert at 295-4044.

We're on the Web:
<http://fkhhome.northstarnet.org/lwvflb>
Check us out!

Voter Registration Notes

Lisa Krimen's corps of deputy registrars was seen about town several times this fall. League's registrars were at the Deerpath Art League Fair, the Lake Forest Library Book Sale, and the Newcomers Fall Luncheon. We appreciate their work. If you are interested in becoming a registrar, please call Lisa at 615-8825.

Future Program on School Finances

Program Chairs Mary Ritter and Anne McNulty have selected school finances as the topic for an upcoming forum. If you have suggestions or want to participate in the forum, call Mary (234-8215) or Anne (295-6226).

State of the State Luncheon

This year's State of the State Luncheon will feature Governor Ryan in a preview look at the state agenda for the fall veto session and for spring 2002, and remarks about last spring's legislation. Lieutenant Governor Corinne Wood will be honorary chair, and Mike Flannery of CBS Chicago will be emcee. Invitations for the October 12th reception and lunch have arrived in the mail.

Legislative Update

LWV-LFLB will sponsor the annual Legislative Update, featuring Senator Terry Link and Representative Susan Garrett. They will team together for this annual Springfield scoop. The evening presentation will take place at Gorton Community Center on November 5th at 7:00 p.m. Topics will include campaign finance reform and fiscal policy issues. The Update is always informative, and it's a perfect way to get to know your state legislators!

Membership Coffee and Community

Update

In the Council Chambers of Lake Forest City Hall on September 20th, Leaguers met for the annual Community Update to hear Lake Forest City Manager Bob Kiely and Lake Bluff Village Administrator Kent Street. Members had many questions, inquiring about traffic on Green Bay Road and on Route 60, the senior cottages in Lake Forest, the plans for Elawa Farms on Waukegan Road, a dog beach (Lake Bluff has one, Lake Forest does not plan to provide one), and regional planning to manage rain water. Flooding issues were of concern to more than one member, as was traffic.

Kent Street provided a capsule of current events in Lake Bluff. Lake Bluff will soon have a new police chief after a lengthy search to replace recently retired Chief Fred Day. Also new is the Historic Preservation Ordinance recently approved by Village Trustees. A Saab dealership on Route 41 will open soon. A "major" hardware store is expected to build in Lake Bluff on the property west of Shepard Chevrolet on Route 176. Also in the works is the relocation of Pasquesi's Home and Garden Supply to the Waukegan Road frontage of the Lake Bluff Industrial Park. Kent also noted that community preparedness is under review in light of recent events. Always newsworthy, Kent listed the roadway and utility construction projects that are currently under way or on deck.

Bob Kiely listed construction projects, too, noting the washout of the bridge at Deerpath and Sheridan. Whoops! Not really! Just kidding! But as Bob noted, "you could hear a pin drop" after that statement, and by comparison all the temporary traffic reroutings in Lake Forest seemed very inconsequential. After the Sheridan Road project is complete, the Union Pacific train

crossings at Westminster, Old Elm, and Deerpath will receive attention. Multiple issues are under study in Lake Forest: Deerpath Road traffic, potential land purchases along Route 60, revisions to the Central Business District zoning, and possible revisions to the city's charter. Of concern are the mayor's term (one year) and the statutory offices (generally considered honorary). Lake Forest's noteworthy Tree Preservation Ordinance is also being reviewed.

Enjoying the hospitality provided by membership chairs Kitty Lansing and Marcia Duncan were about 30 League members, including several guests. After our speakers departed, we lingered for coffee and camaraderie.

Spotlight on ... LWV Lake Michigan Inter-League Group

The Lake Michigan Inter-League Group (LMILG) was organized in 1967 under the auspices of the League of Women Voters of the United States and the State Leagues of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin. LMILG is composed of the 70 Leagues of Women Voters within the Lake Michigan watershed. These member Leagues are located directly on the lake, take their water supply from the lake, or are part of an officially recognized planning agency that deals with Lake Michigan. More than half of the Leagues are located in Illinois, within the six-county Chicago metropolitan area.

LMILG has taken positions by member consensus and takes action on the following topics: pesticide use in the Lake Michigan basin, the effects of shoreline power plants, dredging and filling issues, shoreline erosion causes, criteria for shoreline management, control of phosphates, and criteria for interbasin water transfer projects.

The Annual Meeting of the LMILG will take place on October 5th and 6th in Berrien County, Michigan, and is being hosted by the Cass and Berrien County LWV at "beautiful and historic Lakeside ... your first view of Michigan." The featured speaker will be Andrew Guy, journalist and policy specialist at the Michigan Land Use Institute. The theme for the weekend will be "Viewing Lake Michigan in 3-D: Drilling, Diversion, and Dredging." LMILG is now taking reservations for representatives from local Leagues to the meeting, which will include a tour of the Gallien River ecosystem. Call Carol Gilbert if you just need to see the fall colors in Lakeside that week-end!

News Briefs Presented Courtesy of LMILG

Wisconsin: Legislation was recently introduced in the Wisconsin Senate that

would prohibit drilling beneath Lake Superior and Lake Michigan for oil or gas. Legislation is pending to restore legal protection to a million acres of Wisconsin isolated wetlands.

Illinois: In addition to the Peaker Power Plant study and work to reduce pesticide use, Illinois is concentrating on "sensible growth" and problems that stem from urban sprawl.

Indiana: Indiana still refuses to pay its portion of the eight-state Great Lakes Protection Fund (in protest of the surcharge for its huge water consumption for steel production). PALS (Porter and Lake Students) continues to be active.

Michigan: Interest has rekindled in "slant" drilling from the shore into the oil-bearing rock under Lake Michigan.

Michigan currently has six wells for natural gas and oil, the only wells in this country on the Great Lakes Basin.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions will meet in October and then recess until February 2002, when the latest Foreign Policy Association briefing book will be available. Questions? Call Betty Buker (234-4509) or Diane Lloyd (615-9182).

October 12, 1:00-3:00
Diane Lloyd's house, 500 College Rd.
Lake Forest
Topic: Conflict Resolution in Africa



Mark Your Calendar

- October 9 Book Review Fundraiser, 7:30 p.m., Lake Forest Books
- October 10 LWV-LFLB Board Meeting, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Gorton Community Center
- October 12 Great Decisions, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Diane Lloyd's house, 500 College Rd., Lake Forest
- State of the State Luncheon, Union League Club of Chicago
- November 28 Holiday Luncheon

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League of Women Voters
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Carol Gilbert
28 Oak Terrace
Lake Bluff, IL 60044



November 2001
Volume 48, Number 3

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League of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

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League Lines

FIRESIDE CHAT

Presented by the League of Women Voters—Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area

Monday, November 5, 7:30 p.m.

Gorton Community Center

400 E. Illinois Rd., Lake Forest

Join us in front of the fireplace for an informative political program. Susan Garrett, State Representative in the 59th District, and Terry Link, State Senator in the 30th District, will describe their Springfield experiences and answer all audience questions. Please take advantage of the opportunity to get to know them at this informal discussion. Representative Garrett and Senator Link will speak about timely subjects, including public safety, education, and local redistricting.

Refreshments will be served.

Questions? Call Carol Gilbert at 295-4044.

League of Women Voters LFLB

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

**Tuesday, November 28, 2001
11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**St. James Lutheran Church
1380 N. Waukegan Rd.
Lake Forest**

Featuring **BARBARA RINE**
Don't miss it!
See inside for details!



Message From the President

Carol Gilbert

There's been an awful lot of inspirational writing around these days. Recently I've read that . . . "We should take a moment to consider what really counts." *We knew that.* "Good government and good citizens behave honorably in times of crisis." *We knew that.* "The best way for citizens to support democracy is by taking part in civic activities." *We knew that.* "It does make a difference who we elect and why." *We knew that.* These are all core League issues. These are concepts that we try to exemplify daily through the work we do. As life takes on its more familiar hues again, I hope you will find time to renew your League membership. Now that's inspiration.

Calendar Notes

As we move into the busy holiday seasons, I would like to tell you about our future programs. There will be events that exercise the gray matter—our brains, that is. And there will also be programs whose focus is more social.

First on the calendar is a "Fireside Chat." November 5th is the eve of an election with great activity in other locations, notably the New York City mayoral contest, but here in the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff area the election activity is minimal. Instead we will present an evening with our two local legislators, Senator Terry Link and Representative Susan Garrett, at 7:30 p.m. in the Gorton Community Room. In addition to brief presentations, there will be time to answer all questions, and time to mingle before the brief taping.

Two other community educational programs are in the planning stages. A presentation on school finance is slated for January, highlighting the budget and tax issues that face our several local school districts. In March a Candidate Forum will be held for

candidates in the Lake Forest municipal election. Additional events will be held for contested offices as needed, including primaries.

Events of a more social nature are coming, too. At the November 28th **Holiday Luncheon**, Barbara Rinella will again present her unique style of book review in character. Your invitation to our annual Holiday Luncheon will arrive by direct mail. Please be sure to mark your calendar for November 28th, since this is a little earlier than usual. We are hoping the week after Thanksgiving will prove to be a good date for all.

Two other social programs will be the February **President's Cocktail Party** and a **joint mixer with the AAUW** in April. Scheduled for April 3rd, Lake County League Criminal Justice Chairs Sally Zeit and Linda Bartmes are currently planning a program entitled "You Be the Judge." The evening will be a fun workshop featuring actual case studies.



Holiday Luncheon—Don't Miss It!

This year's Holiday Luncheon will feature the fabulously entertaining Barbara Rinella reviewing *The Last Great Dance on Earth*, the final novel in the trilogy about the life, loves, and adventures of Josephine Bonaparte, by Sandra Gulland. The review will focus on Josephine's time with Napoleon and will also integrate the first two novels in the history: *The Many Lives and Secret Sorrows of Josephine B.* and *Tales of Passion, Tales of Woe.*

So come and join your fellow League members and guests for an afternoon of fellowship and lunch, and enjoy Barbara Rinella as she brings Josephine B. to life. It's also a chance to do some early holiday shopping, as Lake Forest Books will be bringing their usual wonderful selection of books to purchase.

Date: Tuesday, November 28, 2001
Time: 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Place: St. James Lutheran Church
1380 North Waukegan Road
Lake Forest
Cost: \$25.00 per person

Watch for your invitation in the mail!
Feel free to invite friends!

Let's Really Think About Election Systems

For those of you who are tired of discussions about chads, and think there are more fundamental issues than how we count votes...

For those of you who wonder about representation and how best to represent whom in this country...

For those of you who enjoy theoretical issues in politics and educating yourself in the company of others...

Open Discussion on Election Systems Survey November 8, 7:30 pm

At Diane Lloyd's,

500 E. College Road, Lake Forest
RSVP to Bev Adamczyk at 295-5641

In mid-October, LWVIL sent a special edition of the *Illinois Voter* dedicated to the state's election system study to every League member in the state. LWVIL would like to have all of us fill out the survey at the end of the mailing and return it. This material is dense, though! For those of you who like to process information by listening and discussing, we are offering this opportunity to gather to educate ourselves on the background information accompanying the survey. Please join us. I always learn so much from other members of our league. Bring your *Illinois Voter*. It contains all the information we need. For more information and to RSVP, call Bev at 295-5641.

If you wish to read more material than was included in the *Illinois Voter*, we have a copy of Douglas Amy's *Guide to Voting Systems*. To arrange to borrow it from the League, call Bev.

Voter Service News

Campaigns are beginning. Nominating petitions are circulating. Bumper stickers and yard signs are starting to dot the landscape. Who's running for what when?

- Our next election is Tuesday, March 19, 2002.
- March 19th is the General Primary for the state and county and the municipal elections for the City of Lake Forest.
- December 17th is the filing deadline for state and county officer candidates.

- January 7, 2002, is the filing deadline for Lake Forest municipal candidates.
- March 12th is the last day to file as a write-in candidate at the county and municipal level.
- The general election for state and county officers is Tuesday, November 5, 2002.

Voter registration stops before the primary. February 19, 2002, is the last day for voter registration before the primary, and it resumes March 21, 2002.

The LWV LF-LB will be following the filings and the races, and as usual we are planning to provide candidate information and forums for contested races in our local area.

Motor Voter News: NVRA Is Experiencing Growing Pains

A forum on Motor Voter flaws took place last month at the *Waukegan News Sun* Community Room. A variety of people attended, representing the League and the press, the state's Board of Elections, the Secretary of State's office, and the Lake County Clerk's office. Hosting the round-table discussion were Representative Mike Boland, Chairman of the House Elections and Campaign Reform Committee, and Representative Susan Garrett, Vice Chair. The National Voter Registration Act, better known as "Motor Voter," has been hugely successful in one way. NVRA registrations far outnumber those from the traditional method. The vast numbers are also responsible for motor voter's biggest failures. A much larger percentage of motor voter applications are voided for various reasons. And a

far smaller percentage of the successful applicants actually vote.

The biggest reason voter registration applications are voided is because the form itself is improperly filled out. The staff at vehicle licensing stations are primarily trained to issue vehicle licenses, not to complete voter registration applications. When the lines are long, the staff's time to supervise this secondary task is very limited. Key suggestions for internal administrative improvement include better staff training, better registration forms, and better record keeping. According to County Clerk Willard Helander, the absence of a signature and absence of a legal residence (P.O. boxes are not acceptable) are the primary causes for rejection. Many potential voters do not understand that the form they have executed is only an application. Those who discover they can't vote on Election Day are frustrated and sometimes angry.

Some of the problems highlighted by the September program seemed very solvable. Motor Voter clerks can learn to provide adequate postage and visually check applications for completion before dropping them in the mail. Social agencies that had previously been directed to *not* identify themselves with a return address may now utilize the return address of the State Board of Elections. The motor voter form itself, if modified to clearly state the age and citizenship requirements, would minimize the number of improper registrations. Representative Garrett suggested that the voter registration process could be previewed in the driver's license renewal mailings. Representative Boland suggested the process should be explained by posting better bilingual signage at licensing locations. Language barriers create problems, too. The



convenience of motor voter unfortunately results in duplicate registrations.

Other problems discussed by the group require coordination between agencies to address their separate interests. Willard Helander, Lake County Clerk, feels linking the Secretary of State's computerized records of voter registration to local election authorities would minimize the number of would-be voters whose applications are adversely affected by the current system. Incorrect information is a problem, too. The Secretary of State's technical coordinator noted that many applicants do not correctly identify their county of residence. Even mailing address zip codes are of limited usefulness, since 20% of zip codes cross over or serve more than one county. And there are two vehicle license locations statewide that are not yet computerized, preventing the 110 election authorities from comparing data with each other.

The almost last word on motor voter was given by Mary Lou Aagard, the State League's expert on election law and election system criteria. She stated, "The Illinois code is a mess!" noting that NVRA has not been appropriately incorporated into the Illinois Election Code. On the bright side, there are some statistics that are heartening to trained League registrars. Not only are voter registration applications made by the traditional deputy registrar method more likely to result in a successful registration, voters registered by League members are much more likely to actually vote.

Report on the UN Briefing for the LWV

by Jane Partridge

League of Women Voters members received a UN briefing at the Union League Club in Chicago on Thursday, October 12, by Catherine O'Neill, Kofi Annan's liaison with the U.S. Congress.

1. She emphasized that the UN works for peace and security in the world, and that AIDS and international terrorism are also its major concerns.

2. O'Neill was glad to be in Chicago, Illinois, because she said that we could truly influence the national agenda because the Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert, comes from Illinois. She hopes that we will encourage him to focus the House agenda upon peace, health and human services, and the environmental concerns.

3. The UN has had responses from 80 nations of concern for the attack against humanity. The need now is to set global standards for what is a terrorist. She emphasized the need for moral clarity for terror against other human beings.

4. A resolution was passed providing that all members have only 90 days to report efforts on action against terrorism, including financial reports on money laundering, etc.

5. There is major concern about India, particularly in its relation to Pakistan, the situation in Kashmir, etc.

6. The UN is active in promoting the betterment of women. For instance, in Afghanistan, it has developed a bakery project in Kabul and home schools for girls there.

7. Post-Taliban Afghanistan is another major concern. Lactar Bahimi from Algeria, who had had much experience in Afghanistan and Pakistan, is to head

this effort in gathering representatives from all factions and others to try to come up with a viable government that will serve the Afghan people.

8. The UN is not seeking administration of Afghanistan but is prepared to do so.

9. There are now 43,000 UN peacekeepers in the world.

10. There are 12 Conventions on terrorism, and only two have been ratified. President Clinton ratified the one on the Court of Justice last December 31st, but the U.S. is

reconsidering it. Such a court and tribunals would affect all countries, not just Yugoslavia, Uganda, etc.

11. Although the U.S. Congress has voted to pay its UN dues since September 11th, it is still in arrears one

year. Therefore, we must urge our congressmen and women to catch up and pay our \$300 million. Our bill is a very small percentage for a country that has 26% of the world's economy and has a Pentagon budget of \$300 billion. O'Neill said. The Senate has passed on the bill, but the House has not.

12. She said that Secretary of State Colin Powell has asked Congress for ratification upon the remainder of the 12 Conventions and to sort out definitions. She sits behind him in Congress and attests to his concerted efforts.

13. O'Neill said that Kofi Annan and all who work at the UN were very pleased to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. She said that the UN has strengthened its efforts at coalition building. One example of this is in Uganda, trying to



bring some agreement among all of the factions.

14. The UN is the only world forum where problems of environment, women's issues, economic empowerment and sustainability, health issues, peace action, and many other issues can be discussed and often on a more grassroots level rather than upon official governments' policies. It also serves as an umbrella for the many nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that are working in their own ways to help world situations. For instance, in 1975, at the first Women's Conference in Mexico, there were only 15 NGOs worldwide. By the 1995 Beijing Women's Conference there were hundreds. However, the UN needs to

oversee all of the various efforts so that there is no overlap and there is communication among the works. When she was asked when the next women's conference would be held, O'Neill replied that the United States was objecting to contributing money for another conference. Perhaps our Congress needs to hear from us.

All of us who attended the briefing—Carol Gilbert, Bev Nelson, Happie Datt, Jane Partridge, Cynthia Maloney, and Robbyn McFadden—felt the briefing was very informative and worthwhile.

Update on Affordable Senior Housing in LF/LB

The stakes have been out on the plot of land on Conway Road, near the West Lake Forest train station, since last June, but no building has begun. Tom Tropp and the others on the committee are still working on the financing.



Mark Your Calendar

- November 5 "Fireside Chat" With Local Legislators, 7:30 p.m., Gorton Community Center
- November 8 Open Discussion on Election Systems Survey, 7:30 p.m., Diane Lloyd's house,
500 College Road, Lake Forest
- November 14 LWV-LFLB Board Meeting, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Lake Bluff Public Safety Building
- November 28 Holiday Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., St. James Lutheran Church,
1380 N. Waukegan Rd., Lake Forest



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December 2001
Volume 48, Number 4

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League Lines

Message From the President

Carol Gilbert

Money, money, money. It seems to hold everyone's interest. Anyway, we certainly hope so. *Money* describes one of two new dates on the League calendar ...

The School Finance Forum has now been tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 28th. The objectives for the presentation are twofold: to give an educational base on the subject in these times of escalating fees, and to provide a contrasting budget overview of the three separate local school districts. Participation in the planning process by both Leaguers and nonmembers is welcome. If you would like to join the committee, please call Cynthia Maloney at 615-1123; she has volunteered to be the team leader.

Fun is the word for our second date. Please note January 26th. It has been selected as the date for the president's cocktail party—which will not be held anytime close to President's Day this year! So, this year we will break form and honor Martin Luther King. Among his many contributions to modern society, his success at voter registration alone is enough to earn him a place in the League Hall of Fame.

Last month's phonathon fundraiser resulted in new funds for LWV LFLB. Some of you were called by the local team, which included former State Board member Cynthia Maloney, current State Board member and Lake County Co-President Robbyn Kilbane McFadden, Shirley Goldman, Sally Zeit, who is also a Lake County League

Board member, current LFLB secretary Stacy Vermeylen, and Phyllis Albrecht, former LFLB president and current co-president at LWV Lake County. I know that was a really long list, but I wanted to acknowledge the multiple contributions of time these women give to League. The phone calls they made on the 13th raised money earmarked primarily for work at the state level, for advocacy and education programs. But a portion of the money that our not-too-bashful phonathon team earned is given back to us—as cash. Thank you to all of you who responded to their call with a contribution.

As I write to you, the annual Holiday Luncheon is yet to come. This year we are the lucky benefactors of a crackerjack planning team. Reprising their success from last year are Beverly Nelson, Diane Lloyd, Chris Leone, and Pat Rounsaville. Decidedly recidivist, this group enjoyed working together so much last year that they re-upped. I hope you will join me in personally thanking these ladies next time you see them. I hope next year is good to you. See you then!

Membership Notes

About this time of year our calendars blossom with events, but Membership Chairs Kitty Lansing and Marcia Duncan shifted to high gear last summer. The annual membership renewal drive began with a blanket mailing, courtesy calls, and data verification. Publishing the just-completed member directory required a second lengthy effort. Marcia and Kitty reviewed the whole document. They . . . Read . . . Every . . . Single . . . Line. For your persistence, perspicacity, and probity in prose, thank you, Kitty and Marcia.

Please add the following renewing member to your directory:

Joanna Rolek
122 Ravine Forest Dr.
Lake Bluff, IL 60044
e-mail: jprolek@aol.com
234-7246 (home), 234-4282 (work)
295-1336 (fax)

Calling All Closet Techies

It's time to come out! After trailblazing for the League as our Cable Coordinator for many years, Alice Flaherty has retired. Taking over her duties is Ann Walters, our new Media Services specialist. Ann is looking forward to her duties as editor and producer. She says "it would be great" to expand the team. Free classes to train camera operators, editors, and producers are offered regularly by our local cable commission, LFTV. Janet Nelson, who often films for the League and many other community groups, states that the class to become a videographer is "very hands-on" and takes an hour or two. Consider adding a new talent to your ever-expanding repertoire. Second career, anyone?

A Special Opportunity

An enthusiastic anonymous donor has come forward. Stating that he would like to fund a program that would honor his mother, our benefactor has suggested "something League-like; she was so enthusiastic!" A high school-level initiative is preferred. Perhaps you have noticed a need that fits with the League program or have an idea that's just been waiting for the appropriate circumstance. Do you sense the presence of potential? Please send that idea on to any board member.

We'd Like Your Opinion

Do you still have the last *Illinois Voter* in your "to do" pile? The four-page mailer on Election Systems said, "We'd like your opinion," but it sure looked complicated. In a discussion group in early November, Voter Service VP Bev Adamczyk demystified the process, noting, "There are no wrong answers."

The chart on the third page of the *Illinois Voter*, which is also printed here, contains three sets of blanks to be filled in. The first column of the chart asks each of us to rank 19 criteria for their importance. You may select many high-priority issues, or just one. Each

criterion is to be ranked independently. The second and third columns are even easier to fill in. In these two columns you select the five really needed attributes of a good election system, and the five that are maybe not so essential to you. These two columns will be used as tie-breakers. And that's all you need to do. Except mail it to State.

But what was the rest of your very densely printed *Illinois Voter* mailer? It contains some really thorough documentation *just in case* you want more information. Page 1 shows voting systems: plurality (like we use in the U.S.), proportional representation (like that used in Europe), and semi-proportional (like cumulative voting). Page 2 shows criteria, or some of the elements, strengths, and weaknesses, inherent in all voting systems. Bev Adamczyk suggests you "make a cup of tea, sit down, read . . . and then the opinions will just flow." The State Election Reform Committee members who penned the survey state, "It's a different approach to arrive at a position." So please do participate.

Please mail your survey today to:
League of Women Voters of Illinois,
332 S. Michigan Ave., Suite 1050,
Chicago IL 60604

- 2) Next, please select the five criteria that are most essential to an ideal election system.
3) Finally, please select the five criteria that are least essential to an ideal election system.

POTENTIAL CRITERIA	PRIORITY RATING	MOST ESSENTIAL (✓ 5)	LEAST ESSENTIAL (✓ 5)
Close links between constituents and representatives			
Ease of use and administration			
High quality political campaigns			
High voter turnout			
Maximum effective votes and minimum wasted votes			
Minority representation			
Promotion of multiparty systems			
party			
Resistance to extremism			

Attended local League Meeting on Election Systems: Yes ☐ No ☐

LEAGUE: _____

NAME: _____

President's signature (for new members): _____

ADDRESS: _____

ZIP: _____

Lake County Jail: Come Stay With Us

Recently LFLB League members Sally Zeit and Linda Bartmes sponsored a visit to the Lake County Jail in Waukegan. The tour included temporary detention areas, the library and classroom, and cell floors. Lake County Jail was the first in the Midwest to be operated on the direct supervision management system. The architectural style and consequent management style of the cell floors are very different from those of the traditional "linear remote" jail. At the Lake County jail, the staff remains inside the living units and directly supervises inmates 24 hours a day. In the linear cell block, the staff is physically separate from the prison population.

A few interesting facts: The current facility opened in 1989. A county jail's purpose is to hold pretrial detainees and those who receive sentences of less than one year. The jail employs 146 professionally trained correctional officers. Private vendors provide medical, food, and commissary services. Eight part-time educational staff and over 50 community volunteers enter the jail weekly to conduct various programs. Inmate programs include GED and GED classes, high school equivalency programs, and ESL. English for foreign-speaking students. Last year, 114 inmates passed the five required exams given by the Regional Office of Education and were awarded equivalency diplomas. In 2000, 15,331

inmates were housed in the jail. In 2001, 142 Lake County Jail prisoners were sentenced and transported to Illinois prisons, typically Joliet or Dwight. More than 150 inmates visit the jail library each week. The jail's daily population in 2000 was 255, a huge increase over the maximum capacity of 125 in the old jail. The current capacity is 397 inmates. Another 100 inmates are housed in work release, which is housed in a separate facility.

In addition to being local League members, Sally Zeit and Linda Bartmes are also the Co-Chairs for Criminal Justice on the Lake County League's Board. Sally and Linda are working on our April 3rd meeting with the AAUW branch in Lake Forest-Lake Bluff. It will be a workshop to explore restorative justice and alternatives to incarceration. Call Sally or Linda directly for more information.

Chat With Legislators an Informative Program

On November 5, LWV LFLB held a "fireside chat" with State Representative Susan Garrett and State Senator Terry Link. Before a sizable crowd in the cozy Green Room at Gorton Community Center, Senator Link and Representative Garrett each made a brief presentation and then answered many insightful and timely questions about redistricting, education, campaign finance reform, and other topics. The videotaped program will be shown on LFTV, Channel 19, during the month of December; check your cable listings.

Reporters Wanted

Do you have a member news or a community event of interest to our membership? Would you be able to write a short report about one of our own events? Contact League Lines editor Nicole Shorling by phone (847) 455-1155, e-mail nicole_jensen@lflb.com, or mail 111 W. Stevenson, Lake Bluff, with your suggestions. Deadlines are usually near the middle of the month for the following month.



News From State League

Save the Date!

The Illinois League is hosting its annual "Issues Briefing and Action Workshops" event on Saturday, February 2nd, 2002, in Chicago at the Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson Blvd. Get caught up on the latest League issues, eat, network with old and new League friends, eat, build your skills—did we mention there's great food? The event goes from 9 AM to 3 PM. Organize your carpool and look for more details and registration information in your January all-member mailing.

Become an Issue Specialist

Learn about an issue and help the League action and education efforts! Specialists needed for Child Welfare, Campaign Finance Reform, Reproductive Choice and Gun Control (partnering with the current specialist, Barb Deli). Kathy Nesburg would also like to have a partner to attend the school funding coalition, Network 21. Contact Paula Lawson, Issues & Action VP (847) 835-8865.

plawson1@chicgo.com.

Join a Statewide Committee

- **General funding issues** - contact Paula Lawson, Issues & Action VP
plawson1@chicgo.com
- **Program Selection** - contact Kathy Nesburg, Issues & Action VP
knesburg@chicgo.com
- **Communications Committee** - contact the Editor, Communications VP, Nicole Shorling
nicole_jensen@lflb.com
- **Government Committee** - contact Carla Hilman
chilman@chicgo.com

Mark Your Calendar

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| December 12 | LWV LFLB Board Meeting, Carol Gilbert's house, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM |
| December 14 | <i>League Lines</i> deadline for January issue |
| January 26 | Annual Cocktail Party (tentative date) |
| February 28 | School Finance Forum (tentative date) |

Have a happy
HOLIDAY
season

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Gorton Community Center
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Lake Forest, IL 60045

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February 2002
Volume 48, Number 5

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League Lines

Message From the President

Carol Gilbert

Dear Members,
What is being done about racial profiling? What about families who are being displaced because of high property taxes? What steps will reduce the amount of drugs being brought into the state? How do you prevent unqualified teachers from getting jobs? How would you motivate people to be better citizens? These are questions on the minds of Chicago teenagers. It was a very special group of high school students, ones who are volunteering for this year's gubernatorial campaigns. They are an unusually far-sighted group of young people, but their questions also demonstrate the immediacy of the issues that concern them. And they seemed to believe, too, that good government could fix the problems they perceived.

The students had come from all over the city, accompanied by the teachers who would be their advisors. They were part of the Mikva Challenge, a program that funds teacher grants to oversee student

interns. We were at the Hothouse on Balbo to audition the candidates for governor, including LWV LFLB's very own Corinne Wood. The candidates had only 20 minutes each, including the students' questions, to make their case and win some of the 150 student volunteers. Each student had pledged a minimum of 20 hours to someone's campaign. Perhaps this is not a significant amount of time to a candidate for governor, but surely it is a huge commitment to a teen.

I was present because our League has received a generous offer to fund a new program. A donor would like us to create a program to benefit a young person. Our board hopes to begin a legislative internship program to provide a unique mentoring experience, and so I was invited to view the session with the students and candidates. We have not developed the nuts and bolts of our new program. In fact, we are still gathering our thoughts about the goals of this new mission. The Board did feel that this is a chance to significantly impact an individual's life. We are very excited about this opportunity. If you have some suggestions to share with us, please call.

COMMUNITY FORUM ON SCHOOL FUNDING

- Where does the money come from and how does it go?
- How does the tax cap work?
- What are impact fees?

Hear the experts and ask your questions!

Wednesday, February 27, 7:00 p.m.
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd., Lake Forest

Bring a neighbor!

LWV LFLB to Sponsor Community Forum on School Funding

Schools everywhere are in the news lately, with a pervasive emphasis on financial woes. After 10 years under the tax cap, districts are struggling to keep up with growth and steeply rising costs on an income that rises only as much as the cost of living index. We've invited Dr. Harry Griffith, Superintendent of District 67, Dr. Jon Lamberson, Superintendent and Principal of Lake Forest High School District 115, and Dr. Mark Van Clay, Superintendent of Lake Bluff's District 65, to come and share their visions of the challenges facing public education in our area and, we hope, to offer some vision for the future. Also invited is State League School Funding Expert Kathy Nesberg, along with outgoing State Superintendent Max McGee, to help explain the vagaries of where the money comes from and how it goes. The tax cap law will be discussed, along with such additional pressures as unfunded state mandates, tax incremental financing districts, dwindling sources of impact fees, and the special status of District 67 in relation to the City. Plan to come learn as much as we can pack into two hours about school funding and bring your questions, too, for a question-and-answer period after the presentation.

School Funding Community Forum
Wednesday, February 27
7:00 p.m.
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois, Lake Forest

Open Letter From the Voter Service Chair

Well, the next elections are March 19, 2002. They're primary elections. So, living in Illinois as we do, we will have to decide whether to take a Democratic

or a Republican ballot. At the state level there are choices on the Republican and Democratic tickets for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General. At the national level there are multiple Republican candidates for U.S. Senator. More locally, there is a contested Republican primary for our local County Board member and a contested Democratic primary for the State Senate's 29th district.

Redistricting has taken place since the last election, and odds are high you are in some new district. Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, and Knollwood now belong to two State Senate districts (the 29th and 30th), to two State Representative districts (the 58th and 59th), and *mostly* to one County Board district. If you live in Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, or Knollwood, you are probably in the 13th County Board District. If you live in Lake Bluff you are probably in State Senate District 29 and State Representative District 58 (a small part of Lake Bluff is in the 59th District). If you live in Lake Forest or Knollwood, you may want to check what district you are in. The more western portions of Lake Forest are in State Senate District 30 and State Representative District 59. The rest of Lake Forest is in the 29th and 58th Districts. Knollwood is divided into north and south halves for both State Senate and State Representative Districts.

To learn exactly what districts you are in, you may call the Lake County Clerk's Office, Voter Registration, at (847) 377-2410. Tell them your address, and they will tell you what districts you are in. To see a fairly detailed map of the state representative districts, you can visit www.ilredistricting.org/main.htm. Or you can take a trip to the Shields Township office at 906 Muir Avenue in Knollwood. Large maps of the new districts are on display in the upstairs hallway. You should also receive a new voter registration card soon, which will list the districts you're in.

In Lake Forest, there are municipal elections as well as primaries. This year the elections are uncontested. If you live in Lake Forest, you may choose a Democratic ballot or a Republican ballot, and both ballots will have the mayor, alderman, and statutory offices in addition to the primary races. If you want to vote in the municipal election, but not the primaries, you may ask for a ballot with only the municipal races (I think it is an independent ballot). I'm trying to make sure that every race you could have to vote on will be covered on Dnet. I am becoming the administrator for several races: the 10th Congressional District, State Senate Districts 29 and 30, and State Representative Districts 58 and 59. Edith Auchter will be the Dnet administrator for the county races, and I am working with her and Gael Feiger Brown to try to get participation of all Lake County candidates in Dnet. You can look at Dnet any time on the Web at www.dnet.org. Currently, the primary races are not set up, but the project is moving forward and coverage should be available well before the elections. If you have any input as to issues you'd like to see covered on Dnet, I'd love to hear from you (847 295-5641).

The last day to register to vote before the primaries is February 18th. On the next page you will find a list of most of the candidates who will be on the ballot in March (compiled from information from the City of Lake Forest, the Lake County Web Site [<http://www.co.lake.il.us/>], and the Illinois State Election Web site [<http://www.elections.state.il.us/>]). Thank you, Beth Marquez at the City of Lake Forest, for providing the municipal election information.). I've divided the candidates into three groups: Democrats, Republicans, and municipal candidates. The contested primary offices are in bold. I hope all of this information is helpful to you. I'd be happy to talk about what I know about who's running, for what, where.
Respectfully submitted,
Bev Adamczyk

Democratic Candidates

U.S. Senate: Richard J. Durbin

10th Congressional District: Henry H. "Hank" Perritt, Jr.

Governor

Paul G. Vallas

Rod R. Blagojevich

Roland W. Burris

Michael J. Bakalis

Lieutenant Governor

F. Michael Kelleher, Jr.

Pat Quinn

Joyce W. Washington

Attorney General

Lisa Madigan

John Schmidt

Secretary of State: Jesse White

Comptroller: Daniel W. Hynes

Treasurer: Thomas J. Dart

State Senator 29th District

Chris Cohen

Susan Garrett

State Senator 30th District: Terry Link

State Representative 58th District: Karen May

State Representative 59th District: Kathleen A. Ryg

Lake County Clerk: Patrick Patt

Lake County Treasurer: No candidate filed

Lake County Sheriff: Charles E. "Chuck" Fagan

Lake County Regional Superintendent of Schools:

Patricia Lee Pickles

Lake County Board Representative District 13:

Suzanne Bake McWilliams

North Shore Sanitary District Trustee—Ward 4:

Thomas A. Rudd

North Shore Sanitary District Trustee—Ward 5:

Harold J. Rafson

Judge—2nd Appellate—Ingilis Vacancy: No candidate filed

Judge—2nd Appellate—Thomas Vacancy:

No candidate filed

City of Lake Forest Municipal Elections

Mayor: John E. Preschlack

1st Ward Alderman: Tom Swarthout

2nd Ward Alderman: Michael J. Burns

3rd Ward Alderman: Roger J. Mohr

4th Ward Alderman:

James J. Cowhey, Jr.

Republican Candidates

U.S. Senate

James D. Oberweis

John Cox

Jim Durkin

10th Congressional District: Mark Steven Kirk

Governor

Corinne Wood

Patrick J. O'Malley

Jim Ryan

Lieutenant Governor

Carl Hawkinson

Jack J. McInerney

Charles G. Owens

William A. O'Connor

Attorney General

Joe Birkett

Bob Coleman

Secretary of State: Kris O'Rourke Cohn

Comptroller: Thomas Jefferson Ramsdell

Treasurer: Judy Baar Topinka

State Senator 29th District: Kathleen K. Parker

State Senator 30th District: No candidate filed

State Representative 58th District: No candidate filed

State Representative 59th District: Roger L. Byrne

Lake County Clerk: Willard R. Helander

Lake County Treasurer: Robert Skidmore

Lake County Sheriff: Gary Del Re

Lake County Regional Superintendent of Schools:

Roycealee J. Wood

Lake County Board Representative District 13

Susan Loving Cravenhorst

Bob Rolek

North Shore Sanitary District Trustee—Ward 4:

James E. Swarthout

North Shore Sanitary District Trustee—Ward 5:

Joseph R. Pasquesi

Judge—2nd Appellate—Ingilis Vacancy

Kenneth Moy

Barbara Gilleran Johnson

Ray McKoski

Judge—2nd Appellate—Thomas Vacancy

Thomas E. Callum

S. Louis Rathje

City Treasurer: John A. Anderson

City Supervisor: Charles F. Clarke

City Marshall/Collector:

Rhett W. Butler

Be Informed! Great Decisions Begins on February 8

The Great Decisions group, cosponsored by the League and the AAUW, meets on the second Friday of the month from 1 to 3 p.m. to discuss topics covering a variety of political, economic, and geographic issues shaping current U.S. foreign policy. The first meeting is Friday, February 8. Meetings are held in February, March, April, May, June, September, October, and November.

A workbook of background readings, published by the Foreign Policy Association, is available for \$15 by calling Diane Lloyd, (847) 615-9182.

Topics for the 2002 sessions are as follows:

Why do they hate us? Injustices and inequalities abroad, along with misunderstanding about the U.S., fuel

anti-American sentiments. What can the U.S. do to reverse anti-American trends?

Cooperative security in Korea. North Korea seems willing to end its long enmity with the U.S., but will the U.S. take the opportunity to transform relations throughout northeast Asia?

Middle East peace process. Are the long and deadly Middle East conflicts, punctuated by peace negotiations and intifada, on a new track after the September 11 attacks?

Colombia and drug trafficking. Fighting rages in Colombia, with political and security issues enmeshed in the drug trade. Is U.S. aid, intended to combat drug trafficking, serving its objective?

India. Mass illiteracy coexists with a burgeoning technology sector in India. U.S. policymakers seek stronger ties with India, but do they understand how India is evolving?

AIDS in Africa. The catastrophic results of AIDS are closing in on Africans, including political destabilization that could affect the entire world. Can the U.S. afford to ignore this global threat?

Russia. Russia has eagerly embraced the role of America as an ally and helped secure access to Afghanistan, but at what cost to vast and fragile regions of the former Soviet Union?

Energy policy. The global squeeze on oil supplies and degraded U.S. electricity infrastructure are causes of today's energy crisis, with solutions more difficult after the events of September 11.

For more information on Great Decisions, call Diane Lloyd (847 615-9182) or Betty Buker (847 234-4509).

Candidate Forum

*For the locally contested primary races for the March 19th primary elections**

Thursday, March 7, 7:00 p.m.
Highland Park Community House
1991 Sheridan Road, Highland Park

Featuring the following races:

Republican Primary Race for Lake County Board Member District 13:

Susan Loving Gravenhorst
Bob Rolek

Democratic Primary Race for State Senate District 29

Chris Cohen
Susan Garrett

We are hosting this jointly with the Leagues of Highland Park, Glencoe, and Lake County. In addition to the above races, the forum will include a segment for the Democratic Primary Race for Lake County Board Member District 23, and there may be an opportunity to meet the candidates for the Second District Appellate Judge races.

* State races will be covered by the LWVIL. Watch for details in upcoming League Lines and your Illinois Voter.

Observer Corps Call to Action—2002

The LWV LFLB Observer Corps is entering its fourth year. We would like this to be a year of expansion and are calling on our members to step up to the plate and volunteer to observe one of the local Lake Forest/Lake Bluff city or town meetings as an official League Observer.

A Little History

One of the founding principles of the League is the belief that democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens. In times past, the Lake Bluff League acted on this principle through its active and energetic Observer Corps, whose members established a "League presence" at village meetings, reported on the proceedings of those meetings, and published summaries for the membership. The summaries became well known in the community, and soon nonmembers began requesting copies of the reports. The Observer Corps continued for a short while after the Lake Forest and Lake Bluff Leagues merged, but then it faded away. In 1998, the LFLB League Board began to rethink the value of having an active Observer Corps and concluded that an Observer Corps would perform a vital service for the League in keeping members abreast of local issues in our communities and in identifying areas for local action and/or study. Reactivating the Corps was made a high priority. Since that time, we have had a small cadre of League members working as observers and filing year-end reports, which have been published in the newsletter. Now we are ready to increase the size of this group and broaden the scope of the Observer Corps in order to cover more board and commission meetings in our communities.

Value and Purpose

The regular appearance of a League Observer at community meetings

establishes a "League presence" and attests to the genuine interest and concern that we have for good government at the local level. With League Observers' fingers on the pulse of local issues, we will be more alert to matters that call for League action or would benefit from a League study. There is a "side effect" to acting as a League Observer. Along with the satisfaction of performing a service for the League, the observer will become a better-informed member of the community with a first-hand view of how our towns are being governed.

Join Us!

The role of a League Observer is not complicated, difficult, or time consuming, but it is interesting and satisfying. To learn more about observing or to volunteer, call Pauline Mohr at (847) 234-5853.

LWV LC Update on Welfare Reform

LWV of Lake County will present "Update on Welfare Reform: Is It Working in Lake County?" on Wednesday, February 27, at noon, at the Northern Trust Bank (lower level), 959 S. Waukegan Rd., Lake Forest (just north of the Everett Road intersection).

Join fellow League members for a brown-bag lunch as Phyllis Russell, Executive Director of Illinois Work, Welfare, and Families, reviews welfare reform and its impact on Lake County residents. Also participating will be other nongovernmental organizations, including PADS, Catholic Charities, the YWCA, and others.

The state of welfare reform is very important right now because Congress is going to decide this year whether to renew funding for it. Call Jane Partridge after February 18 at (847) 234-1427 for more information.

Program: Women Influencing Illinois Law

Save Saturday, February 16, 2002, for "Women Influencing Illinois Law," the AAUW District 5 gathering at St. Gregory's Episcopal Church, at the corner of Deerfield and Wilmot Roads in Deerfield, Illinois.

The invited panel includes Rep. Karen May (Democrat, District 60), Rep. Susan Garrett (Democrat, District 59), Rep. Beth Coulson (Republican, District 57), and Sen. Kathleen Parker (Republican, District 29). They will discuss proposed legislation of particular interest to women and will answer questions.

The meeting, hosted by the Deerfield Branch, will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude about 11:00 so that participants may attend the annual Networking Luncheon at the Deerfield Hyatt, which begins at 11:30 a.m. and features the Honorable Mary Ann G. McMorro, the first female justice of the Supreme Court of Illinois (see below).

Invite your friends to this informational and inspirational day featuring some of the most outstanding women in northern Illinois.

The \$5 reservation fee for Women Influencing Illinois Law should be made out to AAUW Rockford Branch and sent to Judy Schultz, 3910 Pinecrest Rd., Rockford, IL 61107-1314 by February 11, 2002.

19TH ANNUAL NETWORKING LUNCHEON

Featuring

JUSTICE MARY ANN G.

McMORROW

JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT
OF ILLINOIS

Saturday, February 16, 2002

11:30 a.m. Social Hour

12:15 p.m. Lunch

Deerfield Hyatt (847 945-3400)

1750 Lake Cook Rd., Deerfield

Cost: \$32

Deadline for reservations: February 1

Choice of Grilled Salmon or
Chicken Roma

Check Payable to: AAUW
Deerfield Area Branch

Please mail to: Muriel Davis Ganfield
(847 945-3654)

35 Berkshire Ln
Lincolnshire, IL 60069

brainstorming. Several of the attendees were students from Lake Forest High School, and their thoughtful and well-informed input was welcome.

The morning began with a bountiful Continental breakfast. By 8:45 a.m., participants were seated in Windsor Hall to hear an introduction by Judy Krueger, President of the United Way of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff. She explained how the United Way decides where to place its resources. Important in this process is determining community needs. To prepare for the forum, the United Way conducted random surveys of households and of community leaders to evaluate assets, concerns, and needs of the community. Results of the surveys were used to develop categories for discussion.

Bob Kiely, City Manager of Lake Forest, and Kent Street, Village Administrator of Lake Bluff, both thanked the participants and emphasized that all parties involved had the same goal in mind: to make the three communities the best they can be.

Jean Gibbons, the Executive Director of the LF/LB United Way, asked that difficult question mentioned earlier—about the single most important issue in the community. Participants took a minute or two to write down their thoughts. Responses would be grouped into categories of community needs.

The next phase in the process was table discussion. Attendees sat in groups of five to eight at individual round tables. Each table had a facilitator, a volunteer who led the discussion and kept it running on schedule. This was important, because during the 90-minute table discussion period, participants had to cover 15 areas of community needs. For each category, participants (1) rated the degree of the need within the community, (2) listed agencies that are currently addressing that need, and (3) rated how well it is currently being met by those agencies.

The areas of need covered were before- and after-school programs; community education and development; comprehensive senior services; day care (infant and preschool); day programming (all ages); family and individual counseling; homemaker services; housing assistance; information and referral/volunteer bureau services; legal assistance; prevention programs; residential and independent living for people with disabilities; temporary shelter; treatment programs; and vocational training, education, and placement. Results of this rating process will be available in May.

Connie Meyer, of the Board of Directors, then asked participants at each table to summarize what they had learned that was new, that they hadn't previously known. She and Louisa Levy, Vice President for Board Development, led a "table report out," in which a representative from each table reported on what participants had learned. These responses included knowledge of specific agencies and organizations, a broader sense of the resources available, the importance of communication about resources, the influence of social stigma and denial of problems on service utilization, the need to encourage use of services, and the need for a source book or directory to bring together all the resources of the community.

Margo Martino, Vice President of Community Relations, closed the forum by thanking the participants for engaging in this essential process of assessment and inviting them to help themselves to lunch. The use of the lovely facilities and the excellent food were very generously donated by the Deerpath Inn.

This method has become widely used for gathering input from relevant segments of the community to solve problems, develop new ideas, and perform assessment. It was very well suited to the United Way's desire to

United Way Hosts Community Assessment Forum

What do you feel is the single most important issue facing the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff/Knollwood community? It's a thought-provoking question, and one that attendees at a recent community forum were asked to address.

The United Way of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff hosted its Community Assessment Forum on Wednesday, January 23, 2002, at the Deerpath Inn. Attended by approximately 90 community leaders, the forum provided a means of assessing the services and resources available in the community and determining whether these services are meeting the community's needs. It also allowed plenty of networking and

evaluate the community services they provide and make sure funding is going to the agencies that can most effectively serve the needs of the Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, and Knollwood community. The forum was well organized and well facilitated. More time for discussion at the tables would have been helpful, but it would probably not have been feasible to ask for a greater time commitment on the part of the participants. It is hoped that the report to be generated from this forum will be helpful to the United Way in directing their efforts and to the community at large to spread the word about the many services already available to residents.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nicki Snoblin*

Nominating Systems Update: How Is a Candidate a Candidate?

A team of 14 of our members has been working since November of 2000 on the who, what, how, and when of candidates nominated for elected public office in municipal governments and school boards and for appointed boards and commissions in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff.

Membership voted at the annual meeting in May 2000 to hold positions on the Lake Forest Caucus and Lake Bluff nominating systems in abeyance pending review and study of the current status of the organizations. The reasons: The positions were based on studies more than a decade old; community perceptions of the organizations had changed over the years; and contested

elections and second parties had emerged.

The study group has researched four organizations—Lake Bluff School Caucus, Lake Bluff Town Meeting Party, Lake Forest Caucus, and Lake Forest Party—interviewing key members to collect factual information. In addition, information on independent filings and on forms and deadlines required for all candidates have been gathered.

It's the study group's intent to report its findings to League membership and later to the general public. The group is still hard at work assimilating and discussing collected information. Next up are decisions on the direction of its recommendation to the board and membership on potential future positions and actions. Watch for more updates in the coming months on the study team's deliberation.

Dates to Remember

February 8	Great Decisions , 1:00–3:00 p.m.
February 13	LWV LFLB Board Meeting , 11:00 a.m., Gorton Community Center, Lake Forest
February 16	AAUW Program: Women Influencing Illinois Law , Deerfield, 9:00 a.m.
February 16	AAUW 19th Annual Networking Luncheon , Deerfield, 11:30 a.m.
February 18	Last day to register to vote before the primary elections
February 18	Deadline for March League Lines
February 27	Update on Welfare Reform: Is It Working in Lake County? Northern Trust Bank, Lake Forest, noon
February 27	School Funding Community Forum , Gorton Community Center, Lake Forest, 7:00 p.m.
March 7	Candidate Forum , 7:00 p.m., Highland Park Community House, 1991 Sheridan Road, Highland Park
March 19	Primary elections

YOU CAN BE A "LEAGUE OBSERVER"—JOIN THE OBSERVER CORPS! SEE INSIDE!

Lake Forest–Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Lake Forest, IL 60045

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Carol Gilbert
28 Oak Terrace
Lake Bluff, IL 60044



March 2002
Volume 48, Number 6

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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

Message From the President

Carol Gilbert

Dear Members,
A whole weekend just for you. Moments of thoughtful contemplation balanced with moments of inspiration. And warm sand dripping through your toes. Sound like a travel commercial? Nope. It's a call to convention, the League of Women Voters of the United States Convention in Miami Beach. Four years ago the national convention was in San Diego, and I remember thinking what a great opportunity for some lucky person. I was certain there were many members more deserving than I.... And I said so. Ann Hollis, our president at the time, set me straight. She said even the newest member of League is a good candidate to be a delegate, perhaps even better, because there is so much more to be gained from the experience. We compromised, I put my name in as an alternate, and I went. I can tell you from experience: Convention 2002 is a great opportunity for some lucky person.

Like me, you probably need convincing, so here are my top ten reasons:

- The Hotel Fontainebleau is exquisite
- Convention politics can be fascinating
- You'll love the world-class beach
- The company of Leaguers is uplifting
- South Beach nightlife sizzles
- You'll probably make a new friend
- You'll be in the art deco capital of the world
- Convention is energizing
- Someone (actually two) will go
- Your desire to go is what counts, so why not you?

It's June 15th through 18th—think about it!

"Jazz in January" a Success

Our fundraising cocktail party in January was a great success. We thank Stacy Vermeylen for the use of her lovely home and Mary Ritter for organizing the party. The "Jazz in January" theme added a fun and sophisticated flavor to the event; the Jazz Combo from Lake Forest High School was terrific.

CANDIDATE FORUM

Thursday, March 7th, 7:30 PM
Highland Park Community House
1991 Sheridan Road, Highland Park

Featuring the following races:

Republican Primary Race, Lake County Board Member District 13:
Susan Loving Gravenhorst
Bob Rolek

Democratic Primary Race, State Senate District 29
Chris Cohen
Susan Garrett

Candidate Forum

The local Leagues of Women Voters in the 29th State Senate District will host a Candidate Forum on Thursday, March 7th, at 7:30 PM at the Highland Park Community House, 1991 Sheridan Road. Only candidates opposed within their own parties for the March 19 primary election will be participating in the forum.

The two candidates for the Democratic race for the 29th State Senate District are Chris Cohen and Susan Garrett. Immediately after the State Senate Candidate Forum, there will be an opportunity to meet the judicial candidates for the 2nd Appellate Court. Then, at 8:30, a forum for Lake County Board District 23 and District 13 candidates will be held. The Democratic candidates for Lake County Board District 23 are Anne Flanigan Bassi and Arlene Demb. The Republican candidates for Lake County Board District 13 are Susan Loving Gravenhorst and Bob Rolek.

The forums will be taped for cable coverage and a Voters Guide will be available. The LWV is a nonpartisan political organization whose purpose is to encourage informed citizen participation in government. The March 7th forum is being organized by the local Leagues of Deerfield-Lincolnshire, Glenocoe, Highland Park, Lake Forest-Lake Bluff, and the LWV of Lake County.

"Want Ads"

Program ideas wanted! Each year we present programs we believe will be of community interest, like the school funding panel, or of member interest, like the justice workshop. Successful events target issues of concern to the community, that can be addressed by government, and are in areas where League can make an impact. Do you have an issue? Say so.

Bylaw review team wanted! To prepare for our annual meeting, the efficacy of our bylaws must be reviewed.

Suggestions for change must be published 30 days in advance of the event, which is tentatively scheduled for early May.

Tech team desired! Our special events are collaborative affairs where we combine many talents. A team trained to film for cable TV is needed. Orientation sessions are brief and free. If you would like to add this unique talent to your repertoire, please call.

Sense of humor wanted! LWVIL plans a fundraiser for Sunday, April 14th, at Second City. They will serve a buffet dinner, cash bar, and heaping servings of political satire. A raffle will offer cash prizes. Watch for your invitation by direct mail from the State League.

Be a Pollwatcher!

Sound complicated? Not really. The American system of democracy is not intended to be exclusionary, and pollwatching is a fine example. Pollwatchers observe election practices on a spot-check basis, visiting the polling places to see how the process is working. Or not. Pollwatchers are allowed to be in the polling place before it opens, during the actual voting hours, and after the polls close. They provide a few minutes of observation several times during the voting day. Pollwatchers are observers only, a citizen oversight committee to make sure voting is conducted fairly.

Since the November 2000 elections, many of us have wondered how counting votes could be so subjective. Lake County's new voting machines have been in place since the 2001 election, so don't expect pregnant chads here. You're not likely to see vote fraud, either. You are much more likely to encounter well-meaning election workers who are a little too enthusiastic in helping people to vote. Some of the more common problems are challenges to a person's registration because the election judge knows the residents have moved. Sometimes motor-voter applications have not resulted in a

registration. Sometimes the number of votes cast and ballots used don't match, and the error needs to be identified.

What do pollwatchers do? They report anything untoward to the State Board of Elections. You may not see anything suspicious, so what else can you look for? The State League has prepared a checklist of 29 questions for the March primary elections to sharpen your powers of observation. The questions are easily recorded, often one-word answers. The characteristics of the site include straightforward questions like the number of voters waiting in line, or whether anyone is campaigning there. The second category covers how the judges work with voters, including assistance in the voting booth. The third category, which covers after the polls close, will be the least familiar territory to most of us. You will be able to watch how absentee votes are handled (yes, they are actually sent to the polling place for counting there) and see the ballots inspected and then stowed away.

Becoming a pollwatcher is rather easy. Credentials can be provided to you by League. Gail Brown of Highland Park LWV is coordinating our area. Pollwatching is an easy way to gather firsthand experience. Give Gail a call at (847) 579-0648 (g.f.brown@attbi.com), or call Carol Gilbert at (847) 295-4044 (crvlin@aol.com). The deadline to sign up for the March 19th primary is March 5th.

Member News

Long-time League member and legislator Virginia Fiester Frederick recently completed a new book, *Illinois Women Legislators: Their Experience as Formulators of Public Policy 1968-2001*. The book is a compilation of essays about and interviews with 17 female legislators, including Giddy Dyer, Adeline Geo-Karis, Grace Mary Stern, and Corinne Wood. If you are interested in a copy, you can contact Virginia at 234-3034.

"You Be the Judge"

By Linda Bartmes

Are judges too lenient? Too tough? Uncompromising? Would you like to don a robe, climb onto the bench, and try your hand at sentencing? You'll get that chance at an interactive workshop on alternatives to incarceration. Come to the Gorton Community Center Community Room on Wednesday, April 3rd, from 7:30 to 9:30 PM. This special evening event is cosponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest Lake Bluff Area and the American Association of University Women, Lake Forest Branch. Judge Ray McCoski of the Nineteenth Judicial District will guide us through actual case histories. Spouses and guests are welcome and are heartily encouraged to join us; Sally Zeit advises us that "the male perspective is very enlightening. Men and women sometimes have very different views" on this subject.

Why are community-based alternatives an important tool in our arsenal of criminal justice sanctions? Most of us are familiar with the high cost of incarceration in financial terms (over \$20,000 per year). Less frequently publicized is the cost in human terms. Those who serve time return to our communities, and we need a well-designed process for gradually transitioning inmates back into a free society. The range and availability of a support system necessary to "deprisonize" releases is not in place. As a society, sooner or later we are called upon to deal with the offender and his/her problems in our community, either as an alternative to imprisonment or following imprisonment.

Not every offender is a suitable candidate for alternative sentencing. However, it benefits us to think very carefully in terms of an appropriate sentence that is not only in the best interests of the offender but also in the best long-range interests of society. Please plan to join us on April 3rd. The

workshop is being planned for us by LWV LFLB members Sally Zeit and Linda Bartmes, who are also the Criminal Justice specialists on the Lake County League of Women Voters. It will be an interactive evening, so please take advantage of this chance to brainstorm alongside local AAUW members.

Another opportunity is available: An extended workshop cosponsored by the League of Women Voters of Lake County and the College of Lake County will take place on Thursday, April 18th, from 9 AM until 2:30 PM. Reverend Dr. Ernie Hall, Correctional Chaplain, will be the facilitator. The full-day workshop will include a panel with a representative from each of the following: Work Release, Rebound, NICASA, and Probation/Court Services. Judge Ray McCoski will lead the discussion of the group case studies. Preregistration and box lunch orders (if desired) should be requested by April 11th. For reservations for the 18th, call Sally Zeit at (847) 244-1347 or Linda Bartmes at (847) 234-7069.

Notes From the Action Chair

By Bev Nelson

There is an old Chinese saying, "May you live in interesting times." We certainly are living in interesting times. And the role of the Action Chair is to help you to take an active part in these most interesting times.

As Action Chair my main thrust is to inform members of current issues and events as well as providing a means of action, depending on the item at hand. My directives come from the League of Women Voters regarding local, state, and national issues.

I e-mail members to alert them to these issues and events. Although much of the information I pass on is oriented toward politics and government, other

important issues as school financing, child care, lobbying, etc., are also part of the scene.

We must individually and collectively communicate to our local government and state and national legislators our preferences on issues. It is only by directly contacting our government officials that we can most effectively get him/her to respond to issues. To underscore the latter, I believe the member alert and response from League members was a positive force in passing the Shays-Meehan Campaign Financing Reform Bill.

So far the most effective means of communicating issues has been through e-mail. In this way I can forward the complete document to each member. If you are not currently receiving League Alerts but would like to, please e-mail me at banelson62@attbi.com. If you have thoughts on communicating with members or any other issues relating to the Action Chair position, please e-mail or call me at 295-1472.

News From LWVIL

Save the Date!

The LWVIL's Spring Fundraiser will be at The Second City, 1616 N. Wells Street, Chicago. So save Sunday, April 14th!

Doors will open at 5:30 p.m., and there will be a buffet dinner featuring Marcello's Chicago Style Pizzas, salad, breads, and desserts. The Second City Review starts at 7:00 PM. There will be a cash bar.

You can also "take a chance on League" by buying drawing tickets. Winners of the cash prizes of \$500, \$250, and \$200 will be announced at the end of the show. Winners need not be present. Suggested donation for the prize drawings is \$5 for each ticket or six for \$25. The benefit tickets are \$60—the same amount charged in 1998!

Come and enjoy topical political satire, good food, and the company of friends and fellow Leaguers. Check the next Illinois Voter or look for the invitation packet in the mail. Urge your friends from inside and outside the League to join in for an evening of fun.

State's Annual Issues Briefing Informative

The League of Women Voters of Illinois sponsored the Annual Issues Briefing on February 2nd. The afternoon presentations were devoted to member interests and included workshops on Constitutional rights, new directions for League, and both basic and advanced moderator training. The featured topics in the morning were the death penalty and current Illinois fiscal policy. Speakers on both issues called for substantial reform.

State Comptroller Daniel Hynes painted a gloomy picture of the state of the state's checkbook. Revenue growth will not be enough to offset costs this year. Sales tax, hotel tax, and corporate tax are all down, and payments are now being deferred because of the revenue shortage. Medicaid and education are the biggest general funds and have both increased significantly, along with Illinois First costs. According to Hynes, the contributing historical factors are many. The State of Illinois has not had a significant rainy day reserve fund, opting instead for what Hynes characterized as a feast or famine budgeting. This year the turnaround in economic activity will result in a \$485 million shortfall in needed revenue. Hynes' proposals for financial stability include feeding a reserve fund annually, controlling the growth of spending by limiting it to 99% of revenue, and changing accounting procedures to prevent carryover of debt from year to year.

Another feature presentation at the Issues Briefing was the panel on the death penalty. At last year's State Convention a position to abolish the

death penalty was adopted; the panel at the Issues Briefing profiled the reasons why. State Representative Arthur Turner, the Deputy Majority Leader, stated emphatically that money and a private attorney do influence justice. He noted that a bill typically takes six years to pass, illustrating the urgent need for the moratorium on executions to be extended. Rob Warden of the Northwestern University Law School listed many reasons wrongful convictions can occur: erroneous eyewitness accounts, false confessions, jailhouse snitch testimony, and what he called "junk science." He believes the number of inmates released from Death Row because of new evidence is proof the death penalty "can't be fixed" to work justly. Jane Bowman, from the Illinois Coalition Against the Death Penalty, asked for support of House Bill 576 asking for life without parole in lieu of the death penalty. Echoing other speakers, she added that immense pressure to convict is felt by police, prosecutors, and juries.

The Illinois League takes action on issues on which there is a position, putting emphasis on areas where we can have the most impact. Fiscal policy is a second-level issue for LWVIL this year. Death penalty abolition is a 2002 Core Advocacy Issue, a first-level priority. The LWVIL annual Issues Briefing addresses timely questions like these, and also includes summary reports by other state-level "issue specialists."

Elections Systems Criteria Position

Election Systems Criteria (2002): The League believes that a good election system must meet the following two criteria:

1. An election system should provide stability and continuity of governance by ensuring smooth transitions after elections and should produce a legislature that addresses the problems of society effectively and in a timely manner.

An election system should also be resistant to both outright fraud and forms of political manipulation, such as those involving nominating processes and procedures, gerrymandering, or financing of campaigns.

The League believes these additional criteria should also be considered when judging an election system. A system should:

- Encourage close links between legislators and their constituents so as to promote citizen participation in government and help to ensure accountability.
- Be easy to use and to administer. Citizens should be able to cast their votes with ease and to understand the election results without difficulty. Complicated voting procedures that discourage voter participation and create confusion over voting results should be avoided. Consideration should be given to the administrative costs of conducting elections.
- Produce a legislature that fairly and accurately reflects the views found among the public, enabling voters to be confident that their voices will be heard.
- Encourage high-quality political campaigns by instituting procedures that promote discussion of issues and discourage mudslinging and dirty tricks.
- Encourage high voter turnout, recognizing that while administrative matters, such as barriers to registration, can affect turnout, the election system itself can also influence it.

Dates to Remember

March 7	Candidate Forum, 7:30 PM, Highland Park Community House, 1991 Sheridan Road, Highland Park
March 8	Great Decisions, 1-3 PM, Diane Lloyd's house, 500 College Road, Lake Forest
March 18	Deadline for April League Lines
March 19	Primary elections
April 3	"You Be the Judge," Gorton Community Center, 7:30 to 9:30 PM
April 14	LWVIL Spring Fundraiser, Second City, 5:30 PM

DON'T MISS THE CANDIDATE FORUM ON MARCH 7! SEE INSIDE!

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League of Women Voters
Gorton Community Center
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Lake Forest, IL 60045

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April 2002
Volume 48, Number 7

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- 3 Program: Lake County Framework Plan
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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
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Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

Message From the President

Carol Gilbert

Dear Members,
"This could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship," or so Humphrey Bogart said at the end of "Casablanca." Actually, he and the friend in question had known each other for some time, as is the case for the League and the American Association of University Women. On Wednesday, April 3rd, at our joint meeting we will renew that friendship. At our presentation that evening we will climb on the bench, take a close look at an actual case history, and decide how we would deal with people in deep trouble. "You Be the Judge" is an interactive workshop. The presentation will be followed by small group discussions.

"You Be the Judge" is a program tailor-made for the great collective mind of LWV-AAUW. We will be asked to think about more than the prisoner's

immediate punishment issues, beyond retribution. "Have they been punished into being good?" asks LWV Lake County's Criminal Justice Co-Chair, Sally Zeit. "And what's in the best interests of the community?" As prison building becomes a mainstay of Southern Illinois' economy, we continue to export detainees to distant prisons, severing their ties to community and family relationships. Yet, most prisoners return to their communities after incarceration. What kind of person do you expect back?

Please plan on joining us. Judge Ray McKoski of the 19th District Court will lead the presentation and take questions before we move to smaller discussion groups. And please do make a point of bringing your spouse or guest. A diversity of viewpoints is more than welcome; our deliberations will need some creative thinkers! We are likely to have students of various ages join us, too. Please be a part of our first annual joint meeting with the AAUW as we renew our friendship.



YOU BE THE JUDGE



Climb on the bench, take a close look at an actual case history, and decide how you would deal with someone in deep trouble if given the chance. "You Be the Judge" is an interactive workshop. Judge Ray McKoski's presentation will be followed by small-group deliberations.

**Gorton Community Center
Wednesday, April 3rd, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.**

Spouses and guests are enthusiastically encouraged to come:
A diversity of viewpoints is desired!

*Sponsored by the American Association of University Women
and the League of Women Voters*

Short Takes

The show must go on! Plans are under way for the **League Annual Meeting**. This year's event will be a mix of business and show business. On the business side, the work of four separate committees is under way. The budget committee has prepared a summary of this year's activity and projected next year's for review by membership. The nominating committee is contacting members. If you would like a more active role, please call one of the committee members listed in your League directory. The program group is reviewing our positions and next year's events for proposals for next year's League calendar. The bylaws committee will review our operating rules and make a recommendation for next year, too.

Our annual meeting will also present some show business. Reprising their roles in Community Capers will be some of League's own. Our featured speakers this year will be musical speakers! So please mark your calendar for May 7th, our tentative Annual Meeting date, in Jill Lauer's fabulous home. This year's date is a little earlier than usual, and we hope to have the annual meeting packet in your hands in early April with an invitation.

Call to Convention! Yes, you! We will fund two delegates for the League of Women Voters of the United States Convention in Miami Beach June 14th to 18th. In addition to the opportunity for first-class networking, this year's event will offer workshops on judicial reform, building engaged civic communities, leadership, and Web site tools. Let a board member know if you want to attend.

The School Funding Forum on February 27th was an education. The lesson was taught by our three superintendents, Harry Griffith of Lake Forest Elementary, Mark Van Clay of Lake Bluff Elementary, and Jon

Lamberson of Lake Forest High School. Their teaching aides were Kathy Nesburg of LWVIL and Bill Hinrichs of the State Board of Education. The evening will be broadcast on cable next month, but if you would like to borrow a videotape of the event, call Carol Gilbert. Thank you, Cynthia Maloney, for a quality program. All three of our local guests expressed sincere thanks for the opportunity to address our community jointly.

The well-attended **Candidate Forum** on March 7th featured State Senate, County Board, and Appellate Court candidates. The evening was sponsored

Watch for a special mailing for the Annual Meeting, arriving in early April. Tentative date for the Annual Meeting is Tuesday, May 7th—plan to come!

jointly with LWVs of Highland Park, Deerfield, Glencoe, and Lake County. The new districts developed by the new census information will offer additional opportunity to coordinate events with our sister Leagues. Thanks to Bev Adamczyk for organizing both the forum and the LFTV broadcast before the election.

Illinois' Welfare to Work: Is It Working?

"Guarded" describes the insider's view of welfare reform. At a program on Welfare to Work on February 27th, the League of Women Voters of Lake County asked seven experts to assess the current climate in Lake County. George Bush and George Ryan are both proposing social service cuts, but the panelists did have some good news.

Andrea Ingram, an advocate for Voices of Illinois Children, stated that Illinois

has been successful in reinvesting welfare dollars into family support. Also to be commended are the work incentives currently built into the financial aid requirements. Diane Taylor, from Waukegan's Staben House, also found some positive changes effected by the 1996 act. More funds have been devoted to screening and assessing needs, and better case management has resulted. Amy Hennings of Catholic Charities also noted that fuller employment since 1996 has been a boon, but she would like to see more emphasis on educational assistance to help people earn a better wage.

The recent downturn in the economy has changed the picture for many. The panelists agreed that, for those whose poverty is a constant, very small changes in fortune can be cataclysmic.

Ellis Russell, of Illinois Work Welfare and Families, noted that poverty-level families are always just one step away from crisis, even with a strong economy.

Unfortunately, it appears the tax dollars available for aid will shrink while the need for aid increases this year. At present, Catholic Charities is serving about 70,000 meals from its food pantry, up from 35,000 last year. Though Lake County's homeless are difficult to count, there are probably 1000 homeless on any night. About 400 of those people would be children.

Families with multiple complex issues, such as disability, mental illness, substance abuse, and lack of education, are not served well by the current 5-year limit on welfare assistance. Other barriers to employment are the lack of public transportation to jobs and absence of child care options. The average wage of \$7/hour earned by those on welfare rolls makes subsidized housing necessary; a wage of \$14/hour would be more appropriate for the cost of living in Lake County.

Rep. Karen May noted that the state has severe budgetary problems and asked the panelists to prioritize needs. The answers included the following: keep TANF (Temporary Aid to Needy Families), reduce poverty, commit to support all family members, address disability and mental illness better, and don't punish those who begin to earn more or pass time limits for aid. Those who "graduate" from existing programs are still not self-sufficient and need some extended assistance. There was great concern that the current proposed reduction in Illinois welfare aid from \$660 million to \$602 (with matching reduction in federal funds) will reverse progress since 1996.

Program: Lake County Framework Plan

The League of Women Voters of the Barrington Area is presenting a program on the Lake County Framework Plan, Tuesday, April 16th, 2002, at 7:00 p.m., at the Barrington Area Library.

Bill Hunt, principal planner from the Lake County Planning Division, will discuss the Lake County Regional Framework Plan, which is currently being updated by the Lake County Regional Planning Commission. The plan will help guide development, redevelopment, and the preservation of environmental resources throughout Lake County. The Commission is looking for input on the plan from residents, businesses, governmental groups, and civic organizations, such as the League.

You can get background on the plan at the Lake County Web site, <http://www.co.lake.il.us/planning/Update/main.htm>.

For more information on the program, contact Sarah Hoban at (847) 382-7269.

See Barbara Rinella and Benefit the Lake Bluff Library

The Lake Bluff Women's Club's philanthropic luncheon and program will be held Tuesday, May 14th, at the Hotel Moraine in Highwood. Book dramatist Barbara Rinella will present

the book, *Hidden Power: Presidential Marriages That Shaped Our Recent History*. The social hour and silent auction will begin at 11:30 a.m., followed by the luncheon and program. Tickets are \$35, and the proceeds from the event will go to the Lake Bluff Friends of the Library. Reservations can be made by calling Fran Goostrey at 295-2588.



The Second City

A League of Women Voters of Illinois Benefit Evening of Fun, Comedy Good Food and Fellowship

Sunday, April 14, 2002
Doors open 5:30 p.m.
Show at 7:00 p.m.

The Second City
1616 N. Wells Street
Chicago

Comedy show plus buffet dinner featuring
Marcello's Chicago Style pizzas, salad, breads
and desserts • Cash bar

A private showing of the famous
Second City comedy show that is
sure to entertain and amuse all.

Tickets are just \$60 each.

Show tickets include:

Drawing tickets are \$5 each; 6 for \$25
Drawing for cash prize immediately
after the show. Take a chance for League
and win \$500, \$250 or \$200!

Proceeds go to the League of Women Voters of
Illinois Operating Fund.

Seating is limited. Reserve now!
Call 312/939-5935

Parking at Picers Alley Garage (entrance on Nor Ave.) and at Treasure Island lot on Wells across street. \$1 off with validated parking ticket.



Dates to Remember

- April 3 "You Be the Judge," Gorton Community Center, 7:30 to 9:30 PM
April 10 LWV LFLB Board Meeting, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Gorton Community Center
April 12 Great Decisions, 1-3 PM
April 16 Program: Lake County Framework Plan, LWV Barrington Area, 7:00 PM, Barrington Area Library
April 19 Deadline for May League Lines
April 14 LWVIL Spring Fundraiser, Second City, 5:30 PM

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March 2002
Volume 48, Number 6

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League Lines

Message From the President

Carol Gilbert

Dear Members,
A whole weekend just for you. Moments of thoughtful contemplation balanced with moments of inspiration. And warm sand dripping through your toes. Sound like a travel commercial? Nope. It's a call to convention, the League of Women Voters of the United States Convention in Miami Beach. Four years ago the national convention was in San Diego, and I remember thinking what a great opportunity for some lucky person. I was certain there were many members more deserving than I.... And I said so. Ann Hollis, our president at the time, set me straight. She said even the newest member of League is a good candidate to be a delegate, perhaps even better, because there is so much more to be gained from the experience. We compromised, I put my name in as an alternate, and I went. I can tell you from experience: Convention 2002 is a great opportunity for some lucky person.

Like me, you probably need convincing, so here are my top ten reasons:

- The Hotel Fontainebleu is exquisite
- Convention politics can be fascinating
- You'll love the world-class beach
- The company of Leaguers is uplifting
- South Beach nightlife sizzles
- You'll probably make a new friend
- You'll be in the art deco capital of the world
- Convention is energizing
- Someone (actually two) will go
- Your desire to go is what counts, so why not you?

It's June 15th through 18th—think about it!

"Jazz in January" a Success

Our fundraising cocktail party in January was a great success. We thank Stacy Vermylen for the use of her lovely home and Mary Ritter for organizing the party. The "Jazz in January" theme added a fun and sophisticated flavor to the event; the Jazz Combo from Lake Forest High School was terrific.

CANDIDATE FORUM

Thursday, March 7th, 7:30 PM
Highland Park Community House
1991 Sheridan Road, Highland Park

Featuring the following races:

Republican Primary Race, Lake County Board Member District 13:
Susan Loving Gravenhorst
Bob Rolek

Democratic Primary Race, State Senate District 29
Chris Cohen
Susan Garrett

Candidate Forum

The local Leagues of Women Voters in the 29th State Senate District will host a Candidate Forum on Thursday, March 7th, at 7:30 PM at the Highland Park Community House, 1991 Sheridan Road. Only candidates opposed within their own parties for the March 19 primary election will be participating in the forum.

The two candidates for the Democratic race for the 29th State Senate District are Chris Cohen and Susan Garrett. Immediately after the State Senate Candidate Forum, there will be an opportunity to meet the judicial candidates for the 2nd Appellate Court. Then, at 8:30, a forum for Lake County Board District 23 and District 13 candidates will be held. The Democratic candidates for Lake County Board District 23 are Anne Flanagan Bassi and Arlene Demb. The Republican candidates for Lake County Board District 13 are Susan Loving Gravenhorst and Bob Rolek.

The forums will be taped for cable coverage and a Voters Guide will be available. The LWV is a nonpartisan political organization whose purpose is to encourage informed citizen participation in government. The March 7th forum is being organized by the local Leagues of Deerfield-Lincolnshire, Glencoe, Highland Park, Lake Forest-Lake Bluff, and the LWV of Lake County.

"Want Ads"

Program ideas wanted! Each year present programs we believe will be community interest, like the school funding panel, or of member interest, like the justice workshop. Successful events target issues of concern to the community, that can be addressed by government, and are in areas where League can make an impact. Do you have an issue? Say so.

Bylaw review team wanted! To prepare for our annual meeting, the efficacy of our bylaws must be reviewed.

Suggestions for change must be submitted 30 days in advance of the event, which is tentatively scheduled for early May.

Tech team desired! Our special events are collaborative affairs where we combine many talents. A team trained to film for cable TV is needed. Orientation sessions are brief and free. If you would like to add this unique talent to your repertoire, please call.

Sense of humor wanted! LWVIL plans a fundraiser for Sunday, April 14th, at Second City. They will serve a buffet dinner, cash bar, and heaping servings of political satire. A raffle will offer cash prizes. Watch for your invitation by direct mail from the State League.

Be a Pollwatcher!

Sound complicated? Not really: The American system of democracy is not intended to be exclusionary, and pollwatching is a fine example. Pollwatchers observe election practices on a spot-check basis, visiting the polling places to see how the process is working. Or not. Pollwatchers are allowed to be in the polling place before it opens, during the actual voting hours, and after the polls close. They provide a few minutes of observation several times during the voting day. Pollwatchers are observers only, a citizen oversight committee to make sure voting is conducted fairly.

Since the November 2000 elections, many of us have wondered how counting votes could be so subjective. Lake County's new voting machines have been in place since the 2001 election, so don't expect pregnant chads here. You're not likely to see vote fraud, either. You are much more likely to encounter well-meaning election workers who are a little too enthusiastic in helping people to vote. Some of the more common problems are challenges to a person's registration because the election judge knows the residents have moved. Sometimes motor-voter applications have not resulted in a

registration. Sometimes the number of votes cast and ballots used don't match and the error needs to be identified.

What do pollwatchers do? They report anything untoward to the State Board of Elections. You may not see anything suspicious, so what else can you look for? The State League has prepared a checklist of 29 questions for the March primary elections to sharpen your powers of observation. The questions are easily recorded, often one-word answers. The characteristics of the site include straightforward questions like the number of voters waiting in line, or whether anyone is campaigning there. The second category covers how the judges work with voters, including assistance in the voting booth. The third category, which covers after the polls close, will be the least familiar territory to most of us. You will be able to watch how absentee votes are handled (yes, they are actually sent to the polling place for counting there) and see the ballots inspected and then stowed away.

Becoming a pollwatcher is rather easy. Credentials can be provided to you by League. Gail Brown of Highland Park LWV is coordinating our area. Pollwatching is an easy way to gather firsthand experience. Give Gail a call at (847) 579-0648 (g.f.brown@attbi.com), or call Carol Gilbert at (847) 295-4044 (cviolin@aol.com). The deadline to sign up for the March 19th primary is March 5th.

Member News

Long-time League member and legislator Virginia Fiester Frederick recently completed a new book, *Illinois Women Legislators: Their Experience as Formulators of Public Policy 1968-2001*. The book is a compilation of essays about and interviews with 17 female legislators, including Giddy Dyer, Adeline Geo-Karis, Grace Mary Stern, and Corinne Wood. If you are interested in a copy, you can contact Virginia at 234-3034.

"You Be the Judge"

By Linda Bartmes

Are judges too lenient? Too tough? Underimprisoning? Would you like to don a robe, climb onto the bench, and try your hand at sentencing? You'll get that chance at an interactive workshop on alternatives to incarceration. Come to the Gordon Community Center Community Room on Wednesday, April 3rd, from 7:30 to 9:30 PM. This special evening event is cosponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest Lake Bluff Area and the American Association of University Women, Lake Forest Branch. Judge Ray McCoski of the Nineteenth Judicial District will guide us through actual case histories. Spouses and guests are welcome and are heartily encouraged to join us; Sally Zeit advises us that "the male perspective is very enlightening. Men and women sometimes have very different views" on this subject.

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Not every offender is a suitable candidate for alternative sentencing. However, it benefits us to think carefully in terms of an appropriate sentence that is not only in the best interests of the offender but also in the best long-range interests of society. Please plan to join us on April 3rd. The

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State's Annual Issues Briefing Informative

The League of Women Voters of Illinois sponsored the Annual Issues Briefing on February 2nd. The afternoon presentations were devoted to member interests and included workshops on Constitutional rights, directions for League, and both basic and advanced moderator training. The featured topics in the morning were the death penalty and current Illinois fiscal policy. Speakers on both issues called for substantial reform.

State Comptroller Daniel Hynes painted a gloomy picture of the state of the state's checkbook. Revenue growth will not be enough to offset costs this year. Sales tax, hotel tax, and corporate tax are all down, and payments are now being deferred because of the revenue shortage. Medicaid and education are the biggest general funds and have both increased significantly, along with Illinois First costs. According to Hynes, the contributing historical factors are many. The State of Illinois has not had significant rainy day reserve fund, opting instead for what Hynes characterized as a feast or famine budgeting. This year the turnaround in economic activity will result in a \$485 million shortfall in needed revenue. Hynes' proposals for financial stability include feeding a reserve fund annually, controlling the growth of spending by limiting it to 99% of revenue, and changing accounting procedures to prevent carryover of debt from year to year.

Another feature presentation at the Issues Briefing was the panel on the death penalty. At last year's State Convention a position to abolish the

death penalty was adopted; the panel at the Issues Briefing profiled the reasons why. State Representative Arthur Turner, the Deputy Majority Leader, stated emphatically that money and a private attorney do influence justice. He noted that a bill typically takes six years to pass, illustrating the urgent need for the moratorium on executions to be extended. Rob Warden of the Northwestern University Law School listed many reasons wrongful convictions can occur: erroneous eyewitness accounts, false confessions, jailhouse snitch testimony, and what he called "junk science." He believes the number of inmates released from Death Row because of new evidence is proof the death penalty "can't be fixed" to work justly. Jane Bowman, from the Illinois Coalition Against the Death Penalty, asked for support of House Bill 576 asking for life without parole in lieu of the death penalty. Echoing other speakers, she added that immense pressure to convict is felt by police, prosecutors, and juries.

The Illinois League takes action on issues on which there is a position, putting emphasis on areas where we can have the most impact. Fiscal policy is a second-level issue for LWVIL this year. Death penalty abolition is a 2002 Core Advocacy Issue, a first-level priority. The LWVIL annual Issues Briefing addresses timely questions like these, and also includes summary reports by other state-level "issue specialists."

Elections Systems Criteria Position

Election Systems Criteria (2002): The League believes that a good election system must meet the following two criteria:

1. An election system should provide stability and continuity of governance by ensuring smooth transitions after elections and should produce a legislature that addresses the problems of society effectively and in a timely manner.

2. An election system should also be resistant to both outright fraud and forms of political manipulation, such as those involving nominating processes and procedures, gerrymandering, or financing of campaigns.

The League believes these additional criteria should also be considered when judging an election system. A system should:

- Encourage close links between legislators and their constituents so as to promote citizen participation in government and help to ensure accountability.
- Be easy to use and to administer. Citizens should be able to cast their votes with ease and to understand the election results without difficulty. Complicated voting procedures that discourage voter participation and create confusion over voting results should be avoided. Consideration should be given to the administrative costs of conducting elections.
- Produce a legislature that fairly and accurately reflects the views found among the public, enabling voters to be confident that their voices will be heard.
- Encourage high-quality political campaigns by instituting procedures that promote discussion of issues and discourage mudslinging and dirty tricks.
- Encourage high voter turnout, recognizing that while administrative matters, such as barriers to registration, can affect turnout, the election system itself can also influence it.

Dates to Remember

March 7	Candidate Forum , 7:30 PM, Highland Park Community House, 1991 Sheridan Road, Highland Park
March 8	Great Decisions , 1-3 PM, Diane Lloyd's house, 500 College Road, Lake Forest
March 18	Deadline for April League Lines
March 19	Primary elections
April 3	"You Be the Judge," Gorton Community Center, 7:30 to 9:30 PM
April 14	LWVIL Spring Fundraiser , Second City, 5:30 PM

DON'T MISS THE CANDIDATE FORUM ON MARCH 7! SEE INSIDE!

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

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Theresa Yakes
Shields Township Assessor
906 Muir Avenue
Lake Forest, IL 60045



Summer 2002
Volume 48, Number 8

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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
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League Lines

Message From the President

Carol Gilbert

Year in and year out, League quietly works to enhance the health of our community: candidate forums and voter registration are services that are expected from us. But every once in a while we are called to respond to a unique circumstance. Who better than League to take a close look at referenda? That event may come to pass soon. Lake Forest High School is preparing to ask us for money. The high school board will probably vote on a referendum proposal at their August 19th meeting.

League's ability to respond quickly to public funding issues depends upon having a set of criteria to direct our inquiry, so a board-appointed team has developed one for members' discussion. There are such plaintive questions as, "Are curricula and costs competitive?" as well as more ponderous questions such as, "Do current patterns portend future financial difficulty?" As with all studies, it is reasonable to expect our members to have diverse opinions. I am looking forward to some lively discussions!

We will have a membership meeting on Wednesday, August 28th, at 7 p.m. at Gorton Community Center to discuss, modify, and perhaps approve our criteria questions, which are included in this newsletter. After we adopt the list of criteria, we can go on to the next step: We will form fact-finding teams to get the answers to the questions posed by the criteria, and present that information at a membership meeting. At that time we can choose to support or oppose the

high school proposal, or simply remain neutral. Though we have very limited time before the November election, I am confident the League of Women Voters can perform this task well. I expect to learn a lot, and to enjoy the company of women whose judgments I value. Please join us on the 28th.

Short Takes

Action on Referenda

The procedures for developing evaluation criteria are similar to a study's procedures:

- First, the membership or the board recommends that criteria be developed.
- Second, a study committee or task force is formed to develop the criteria.
- Third, the board holds a general membership meeting to approve the criteria or utilizes an all-member mailing with background information and a mail-in response.

To apply the criteria to a specific referendum proposal, local Leagues should:

- First, appoint a task force to apply the criteria to the referendum.
- Second, the task force reports to the board their recommendations and subsequent action plan.
- Third, the board approves the recommended action plan and communicates the results to the membership.

In conclusion, the strength and integrity of all League actions is based on the decisions of informed members. When a position is reached, the League speaks with one voice, the voice of a substantial majority.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING SCHOOL FUNDING REFERENDA

The following questions were developed by a committee to provide a guideline for evaluating school district funding referenda. These questions are meant to provide a basis to generate and reach consensus regarding referenda. These questions are meant to direct inquiry; additional pertinent questions may be agreed upon at the time of any such evaluation.

1. What is the proposed referendum: (a) exact wording and other identifying data?
2. Is the funding request consistent with other portions of LWVUS, LWVIL, LWVLC, and LWVFLD?
3. What are the school board's key reasons for proposing a referendum?
4. Has the school board adequately communicated the reasons for seeking additional funding? How and when?
5. Has opportunity been provided for citizen response to the school board's proposal(s) for increased local school funding?
6. Has the school board demonstrated fiscal responsibility in the following ways?
 - A. Implementation of cost-effective measures, including but not limited to identifying any operating inefficiencies such as utility costs, outside contracts, transportation routes, etc
 - B. Long-range planning (within a range of three to five years), including projection of income and expenses and their effects on reserves, programs, and personnel
 - C. Continued evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of programs, both educational and noneducational
 - D. Search for other suitable sources of revenue (e.g., district charitable foundations, grants, leasing revenues, other fees)
 - E. Judicious use of reserves
- Do current patterns portend future financial difficulty? Consider the following—have there been:
 - A. Budgeted expenditures that exceed budgeted revenues in one or more funds and in more than one fiscal year?
 - B. Closing of working cash fund combined with (1) repeated short-term borrowing or (2) the debt incurred not being systematically retired?
 - C. Repeated postponements of (1) maintenance actions, (2) purchases of instructional materials and equipment, or (3) program implementation?
 - D. Late payments of debt service, salaries, or contributions to pension funds, signaling that a fiscal crisis has already occurred?
 - E. Limits on borrowing imposed by financial institutions or school district bond rating changes, signaling that a fiscal crisis has already occurred?
 - F. Unique financial hardships imposed on the district (e.g., tax caps, tax-exempt properties, TIF districts, rapidly increasing enrollment, property reassessment)?
8. Have future educational or demographic trends that may require additional funding been considered (e.g., increasing use of technology, increasing special education cost, students "at risk," bilingual, special needs, new curricula)?
9. What are the school board's goals for the district?
10. Is passage of the referendum essential to maintain, restore, or achieve the established educational goals of the district? Considering the State Report Card, other pertinent data and reports, and the standards and values of the community, evaluate the following:
 - A. Are cost-per-pupil expenditures within acceptable range?
 - B. Are student-teacher ratios and student-administrator ratios acceptable?
 - C. Are salaries for teachers and administrators competitive enough to attract highly qualified talented personnel?
 - D. Are the curricula and programs competitive and of a high enough standard to prepare students for their future?
 - E. Are the requirements for the physical plant for health, safety, and educational needs of the district addressed (e.g., increased enrollment space needs, asbestos abatement, compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements)?
11. In determining the amount of the referendum, were the district's current reserves considered? Is any portion thereof being used to reduce this referendum? If not, why not?
12. What are additional concerns in the community that may impact the passage of the referendum?

School Funding Forum Redux

In addition to our discussion date on August 28th, available to you is the School Funding Forum that we presented to the community in February of this year. Several videotaped copies are available to borrow in advance. The speakers that evening were our three local school superintendents, a State Board of Education advisor, and our State LWV Issues Specialist. In fact, LWVIL expert Kathy Nesburg states that in the financial climate created by the tax cap, "Every school district will need to do this [file for referendum] every five to seven years."

Illinois Voter Report on LWVFLB School Funding Forum

The following article is reprinted from the Summer 2002 issue of Illinois Voter.

"Hanging on to a windowsill by my fingernails" is how Kathy Nesburg described a school board member's job. LWVIL's Issues Specialist Nesburg was joined by superintendents from three local school districts and the State Board of Education's Senior Policy Adviser. All the panelists at the February School Funding Forum produced by the League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area agreed on one key point: As funds decrease school referenda will become more common. After a decade the full effects of Illinois' tax cap are being felt. The tax cap, which allows school districts to collect money based on last year's taxes plus an incremental adjustment, is derived from the Consumer Price Index. Unfortunately, salaries and enrollment have increased much faster than the CPI.

Lake Bluff Elementary Superintendent Mark Van Clay (District 65 in Lake Bluff, K-8) stated current school budget problems "don't have a lot to do with how well you manage your money."

Education costs are about 80% personnel-driven. In a typical year school districts' costs will rise from 4% to 7% and income will rise 3% to 5% under the tax cap. A good year under the tax cap would be to collect 5% and spend 4%, for a 1% "margin of life." And that doesn't happen, according to the several superintendents. The options are to draw down reserves, cut programs and personnel, and ask voters for referendum money.

Lake Forest Elementary Superintendent Harry Griffith (District 67 in Lake Forest, K-8) approached the cash crunch from another perspective, delineating how money is spent. The cost of a "quality" education in Lake Forest was explored through four measures: the increasing costs for competitive salaries, the effort to slow the increase in class sizes, the need for new curriculum initiatives that increase the number of programs offered, and the desire to keep staff to pupil ratios low. Fortunately, Lake Forest is experiencing new growth, and new revenue, as annexed lands are developed and their impact fees are collected. Those new sources for money are "the only thing that's keeping our chin above the water," according to Dr. Griffith; "otherwise expenditures would exceed revenues."

Lake Forest High School Superintendent Jon Lamberson (District 115 in Lake Forest/Lake Bluff, grades 9 through 12) detailed the effects of the tax cap at the high school level. For Lake Forest High School 80% of revenue comes from property taxes. Over the last 10 years that money (after inflation adjustment) has increased 20%. Unfortunately, enrollment during that period has increased by 50%, leaving that school district coping through a variety of stopgap measures. Efforts include spending fund balances, reducing wage growth, increasing class sizes, instituting user fees, and underfunding long-range plans. Stated simply, Dr. Lamberson says, under the tax cap, "A healthy budget would

require a stable or declining enrollment."

Dr. Bill Hinrichs, the State Board of Education's Senior Policy Advisor, provided a statewide perspective and detailed a dizzying collection of funds and grants and study groups of same. He described programs thought to favor urban and collar county districts, and others supposedly designed to foster quality in property-tax-poor downstate districts. Noting that reform proposals always have "something for everybody to hate," he stated that the Education Fund Advisory Board is currently studying the restructure of revenue and of school districts themselves. But, if the three school superintendents are right, school referenda asking for more money will be the primary solution. In fact, since the forum in February, High School District 115 has announced its intent to file for referendum this fall. Though optimistic about the possibilities, Superintendent Lamberson noted that historically only one out of three school referenda succeed.



July 4th Parade Entry a Big Hit

Well, we did it—we put together a fun and entertaining entry in the Lake Bluff July Fourth Parade. Several members and assorted children marched as suffragettes (in the heat!) and put on a lively skit in which "Vice" and "Corruption" were swept away by women with the vote. A good (though warm) time was had by all, and the best part was getting on the front cover of the July 11th *Lake Forester!* Many thanks to all the women and girls who participated, as well as those who met at Carol's house in advance to prepare the props.

Illinois Students Vote

Illinois Students Vote is coming to town again. The local program is part of a nationwide effort, the National Student/Parent Mock Election. Its goals are to educate students about election issues and give them an opportunity to cast a ballot. A very extensive curriculum program will be provided directly to the schools, with extensive material and activity suggestions. Registration brochures will be mailed to local schools, both public and private, in mid-August. The schools determine which materials to use, though parent volunteers and teachers often choose to provide additional flourishes. For instance, LWV of Highland Park provided voter registration cards that asked, "Are you a student at Ravinia School? Are you a resident of Illinois? Are you at least five years old?"

Parents have enjoyed the opportunity to be in school again. A comment from 1998 seems to anticipate the 2000 presidential election: "When we voted on sample items, any ballot not done correctly was ripped ... so it was easy to impress upon them the concept of a lost vote." Teachers select age-appropriate activities from the materials. In one classroom winter soundly beat out fall as the favorite season. In another, student candidates and campaign managers created platforms on student-determined issues. This year's date for the mock election is October 29th.

Our local League is looking for a local coordinator for Illinois Student Vote; the main task is to make contact with the local schools, make sure the brochure was received, and encourage schools to register for the program. Please call Carol Gilbert (295-4044) or Bev Adamczyk (295-5641) if you would like to be part of a team to contact our local schools.

Report on the LWVFLB Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held on May 7, 2002, at the home of Jill Lauer, after a lovely dinner provided by Jill Lauer, Bev Adamczyk, and Cynthia Maloney. The following board member reports were given.

Secretary: *Stacy Vernylen* (whose work was highly praised by other board members) is working on getting a representative of the State Department as a speaker for our League.

Vice President, Action: *Bev Nelson* asked that we review our e-mail addresses in the League Membership Directory, since some action alert e-mailings from National and State bounced back.

Vice President, Voter Service: *Bev Adamczyk* reported that there were no elections in the fall of 2001. Voter Service could have been very quiet, but election surveys were conducted by the League at the state and national levels. The LWVLC interviewed our Lake County Clerk, Willard Helander, about election practices, and our own League added to the national survey with our unique impression of voting activities on election days. As part of the State League study of voting systems, we offered an informal evening to talk about election systems to help our members learn the lingo and grapple with the goals of various election systems.

The spring of 2002 saw national, statewide, and county primaries as well as municipal elections in Lake Forest. The municipal elections were uncontested, but all the candidates participated in the LWV Dnet project, making their bios available on the Internet. We covered two contested races: the 29th District State Senate race and the County Board District 13 race.

We cosponsored the candidate forum with the LWVs of Glencoe, Highland Park, Deerfield/Lincolnshire, and Lake County. We will all be working together again next fall: mark your calendar for October 27th for the 10th Congressional, 29th State Senate, and 58th Congressional Representative Candidate Forum.

Treasurer: *Lisa Dietrich* presented the budget on behalf of the budget committee, which also consisted of Marcia Duncan and Bev Nelson. The income and expenditures reported were for the 9-month period since the start of the fiscal year, but expenditures were expected to exceed income.

Income fell short of expectations, mainly because of fewer members, lower donations, lower interest rates on our accounts, and shortfalls for the bridge marathon and Holiday Luncheon. The budget committee recommended increased fundraising and soliciting donations from members, possibly in connection with the Holiday Luncheon. The November timing of the luncheon may also have reduced attendance. New fundraising categories in the budget are Election Work (members donating money earned when working at elections), Voter Service fundraising, and Convention fundraising. These latter might involve sponsorships.

Because of a proposed dues increase from National, the Board was given discretion to increase dues for one year, rounded up to the nearest dollar from \$3.35 (the amount of the proposed dues increase by National) if it goes through.

Soliciting donations from members should be by letter, with an explanation of how little of the collected dues remain with our League. The low level of the interest payments on our accounts could be addressed by moving the funds to banks or accounts that charge no fees and receive interest payments. There was agreement that expenses incurred by individuals for hospitality should be submitted to the treasurer for payment.

or charged to the League, since otherwise there would be no realistic picture of how much to budget. Also, individuals helping with hospitality should not be expected to pay these expenses.

A motion that the budget be adopted as amended for dues modification and with the addition of \$100.00 for hospitality was approved, with all in favor.

Media Services: Ann Walters filled this position, previously Public Relations, which publicizes and promotes League activities in the community. Activities included videotaping the Legislative Update and Candidate Forums. Janet and Herb Nelson advised and also videotaped. It takes much training to use the LFTV equipment. More League members are needed to learn to use the equipment, and we may also need to pay high school students. We would need \$10/hr. for each of four students. Carol Gilbert thought that we might find a corporate sponsor for cable programs and then credit them with sponsorship.

LWVLC Board Liaison: Linda Bartmes reported that there is now an Inter-League Organization (ILO) pilot program with enhanced services, so that at-large members can join the ILO directly. This has been helpful to Libertyville members. The LWVLC board hosted a wine and cheese party in September and hosted a lunch for members of the Lake County Board in November, under tight security. In February, Jane Partridge arranged a "Welfare to Work Update" panel discussion, which was videotaped. The tape is available and was also shown to Rep. Mark Kirk, by Jane, Phyllis Albrecht, and Hattie Datt. Jane emphasized that a vote on welfare reform is coming up and that our representatives need to hear that current funding is insufficient. Many of the homeless are children. The Illinois House should extend family care to low-income families and not just to children. She and Diane Lloyd are writing an article on what is really going

on. One piece of good news is that five units of senior housing in Lake Forest are almost finished.

On April 3, 2002, in conjunction with AAUW, the League Criminal Justice working group had a "You Be the Judge" program and repeated it on April 18 for College of Lake County students. This was an interactive workshop on alternatives to incarceration with a full panel of correctional field experts.

Membership: Marcia Duncan and Kitty Lansing began their work in mid-August of last year to plan the Fall Membership Coffee. They sent out the membership renewal mailing in late August. The Fall Coffee was held on September 20; Village Administrator Kent Street of Lake Bluff and City Manager Bob Kiely of Lake Forest were featured speakers. In October Kitty and Marcia began work on the Membership Directory, which was printed and handed out at the Holiday Luncheon in late November. In January, with Carol Gilbert's help, they updated their membership files for the National League. For 2001-2002, we had 108 regular members, one national member, and one honorary member.

Newsletter: Nicki Snoblin reported that we will have sent out nine newsletters this year, though normally there are 10 per year. This year's costs for commercial printing and postage probably will be \$1,056. Marcia Duncan has provided the mailing labels.

Program: Mary Ritter reported that much of the program was done by other groups, e.g., the program on school funding was organized by Cynthia Maloney, since Mary herself is on the high school board. Other programs were the Legislative Update and the Cocktail Party.

Paula DuBourdieu, who has an off-board appointment, suggested a lunchtime (approximately 12:15-12:45) brown-bag meeting for the third Wednesday of each month and has a list

of potential speakers, mostly community people. One would not need to be a member to attend. The board is committed to support this.

Voter Registration: Lisa Krimen sent in a report on a very successful voter registration drive at Lake Forest High School in May, registering about two dozen students in the cafeteria during lunch periods.

Observer Corps: Pauline Mohr provided the following Observer Reports.

LAKE FOREST CITY COUNCIL—The City Council meets the first Monday and the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. In the past year, a number of organizations, mainly nonprofit, have come before the City Council to request city support and financial assistance to allow them to continue to fulfill their missions. Some organizations could qualify as public/private enterprises if the City chose to enter into such relations with them. With limited financial resources, what balance does a municipal government strike in regard to these requests? Where should the responsibilities of the government end and individual responsibility begin in offering various services to a community? A League study?

Other matters before the Council: The plans for the expansion of the water plant received tentative approval. The expanded plant will use the membrane filtration method of water purification. Membrane technology has been used in Europe for a number of years but is rather new to the United States. The Lake Forest Water Plant will be the first water purification facility in Illinois to use membrane filtration.

The City has acquired property on Western Avenue, which will be used for the future expansion of the municipal services complex.

LAKE FOREST PLAN COMMISSION—The Plan Commission meets on second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. The Commission completed its study of the Route 60 corridor and made changes to the Comprehensive Plan to reflect the recommendations that came out of the study. The changes were approved and will have a significant effect on the remaining undeveloped parcels in the corridor. The changes include more open space and lower density in development.

SENIOR RESOURCES COMMISSION—The Senior Resources Commission meets the second Monday of the month. This report is compiled from the minutes of the Senior Resources Commission as forwarded to the League Board by Eleanor Knight. We would like to thank her for keeping us informed of senior activities.

Affordable Housing: The senior cottages on Conway Road in Lake Forest are ready for occupancy. The tenants were chosen by lottery, and all are Lake Forest residents. Affordable senior housing in Lake Bluff was discussed at the May meeting. There is no action to report at this time.

Dickinson Hall Senior Center: The fundraising campaign for the Senior Center went into the phase in May.

Partners for Progress: Janet Nelson submitted the following report. This group, representing various agencies and organizations within Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, and Knollwood, was started in 1998 under the auspices of Lake Forest Hospital. Their goal was to increase the quality of life by encouraging interaction between the three communities to identify and resolve shared problems/concerns. To that end, a series of community dinner meetings were planned, providing an opportunity for many residents to meet and talk about the commonalities of the greater community and the possibilities of sharing resources. Five meetings

were held and more than 400 residents participated. Presentations were well thought out and discussion was lively; however, in the end it was difficult for these participants to reach consensus regarding any problems or concerns (the "Camelot" syndrome emerged). The final result of the meetings was an agreement to work together to create a community atmosphere in which the spirit of civility, respect, and neighborliness would predominate.

Achievements:

- An informal intercommunity network was formed.
- Partners for Progress became the impetus to organize the Knollwood Neighbors organization to unite the Knollwood community and provide a collective voice for the residents.
- Partners for Progress, with help from the League, trained approximately 50 men and women as facilitators, teaching them how to encourage feedback and effect conflict resolution.
- A Neighbor to Neighbor Day was held in 2000.
- The Community Capers produced at Gorton Community Center last February raised several thousand dollars for the United Way of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff.
- A mission statement of beliefs was developed and distributed.

In many ways Partners for Progress overlapped the missions of other organizations and reflected many of the League's goals. It appeared to be an excellent vehicle to increase civic responsibility and provide a grassroots forum to discuss the interrelatedness of community concerns and actions. Disappointingly, the volunteer leadership did not emerge, and funding became an issue when Lake Forest Hospital ceased its support. The group has not met since October 2001.

I believe the experience was worthwhile and would encourage the League to support a similar movement in the future. However, at this time, it would

be prudent for the League to remove the role of Partners for Progress liaison from the Off-Board Appointments.

Report on Nominating Systems and Procedures Study: This study was prompted by a comprehensive review of the League's positions on local issues presented at the group's annual meeting in April 2000. That report recommended that positions referring to the Lake Forest Caucus and the Lake Bluff Nominating Systems be held in abeyance until review and restudy provided current accurate information.

The 14-member study group gathered initially on November 16, 2000, and met regularly through February 2002; in addition, individual members undertook research and interview responsibilities. The study first identified the procedures and policies followed by the four nominating systems operating in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff at the time—Lake Bluff School Caucus, Lake Bluff Town Meeting Party, Lake Forest Caucus, and Lake Forest Party—as well as the Lake Bluff Park District, which is not represented within a system.

A complete report, including background, study procedures, analysis of collected information, interview synopses, and recommendations, will be made to the League board in the summer of 2002, following study group approval of the final draft. An abbreviated report will be provided to all members and a meeting scheduled for early fall, with the intent of coming to concurrence on the study's recommendations.

The recommendation of the study is to articulate principles to which all local government nominating systems (caucuses, parties, independent candidates) for elective offices are held accountable. Briefly stated, the principles that the League believes can foster responsive, fiscally responsible, stable, effective government are openness of each process/candidate; ongoing communications between

systems/candidates and the electorate; responsibility of systems/candidates to be aware of and adhere to all legal requirements; campaigns based on issues and qualifications, with campaign conduct based on civility and honesty; and municipal government informational role free of bias for any system/candidate.

The role of the League is one of liaison in overseeing these principles, in publishing an annual pamphlet of information on how to file independently and how to contact the current nominating systems, and in discussing potential improvements with systems/candidates. Therefore, the study will also recommend that a board position of Vice President for Action/Local Affairs be created as liaison between the League and nominating systems/candidates.

Study group members are Bev Adamczyk, Alice Flaherty, Carol Gilbert, Char Kreuz, Jill Lauer, Diane Lloyd, Pauline Mohr, Cindy Morehead, Janet Nelson, Mary Ritter, Melanie Rummel, Nicki Snoblin, Stacy Vermynen, and Sue Wieseneck.

Voting on League Local Positions:

The positions to be voted on were shown on page 16 of the Membership Directory. All positions were retained except Lake Bluff Coordinated Nominating Systems and Lake Forest Caucus, which were not voted on and held in abeyance.

State of Nominations for Officers and Directors:

Nominees for officers and directors were Carol Gilbert for President, Beverly Nelson for Vice President—Action, Bev Adamczyk for Vice President—Voter Service, Stacy Vermynen for Secretary, Mary Ritter for Treasurer, Linda Barimes for LWVLC representative, Marcia Duncan and Cynthia Maloney for Membership, and Nicki Snoblin for Newsletter/Publicity. According to the bylaws we need six new directors, but the positions for

Voter Registration and for Program Chair are still open. The board can appoint someone to fill vacancies. The board worked cooperatively during the past year to develop programs. The position of Voter Registration is an organizational job; possibly Bev Adamczyk could take on the administration and the many deputy registrars could take turns attending Board meetings.

The nominations presented by the Nominating Committee were accepted. As there were no nominations from the floor, the nominated slate was elected. Carol Gilbert thanked the outgoing board members, Lisa Dietrich, Lisa Krimen, Kitty Lansing, and Ann Walters, for their work.

Report on Convention 2002

By Mary Mathews

When Carol Gilbert asked me if I wanted to represent Lake Forest/Lake Bluff at Convention this year, I was both a little apprehensive and delighted. As I am more active in the County and State Leagues, I wasn't sure I would know enough to represent our local League. But Carol reassured me that she only expected me to be informed when I voted. At the same time, I was delighted because I thought (like last time) there would be a caucus on Smart Growth and I would learn what was happening nationally. Robbyn Kilbane McFadden was attending on behalf of the Lake County League, and we thought that together we could cover the convention thoroughly.

Unfortunately, Smart Growth was not a subject for discussion this year, but I found two issues needing action. One was the new trade position and the other was energy. LWVUS had gone through all the steps and adopted a new position on trade. Later, members of LWV of Diablo Valley (CA) and LWV of Los Alamos (NM) read the position more

closely and decided it should be amended. I agreed with that idea. The position starts, "The LWVUS supports a liberal U.S. trade policy aimed at reducing trade barriers and expanding international trade. Such a policy helps foster international cooperation, democratic values, and economic prosperity at home and abroad as well as benefiting consumers through lowered prices, expanded choice, and improved products and services." In later paragraphs, the position does mention that the League supports strategies that protect the environment and promote human rights. We felt the opening sentence was misleading by giving the impression that LWV supports free trade unequivocally. There were early-morning and late-night meetings where delegates strategized the best way to pass amendments. Unfortunately, the amendments failed, and the new position on trade stands as adopted. It is not bad, but it could have been better.

The other issue that attracted my attention was energy. Delegates wanted LWVUS to include energy in the 2002-2004 Program. It was a non-recommended item but was eligible for consideration. The strategy for this issue was for as many delegates as possible to get to a microphone and issue a directive to the board during the last Plenary. Kay Maxwell, the new President, remarked at the closing of Convention that she heard the directives about energy. Yucca Mountain and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge are two examples of our concern with energy. Over the next few years there will be many more.

Robbyn will cover more Convention news in the next issue. Thank you for sending me, and I would be happy to answer any questions about the events and issues.

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area 2002-2003 Board of Directors

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	Cynthia Maloney	615-1123	<i>Program</i>	Open	

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September 2002
Volume 49, Number 1

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League Lines

Message From the President

Carol Gilbert

League is a founding sponsor of National Civic Participation Week, designated by the US Senate to be September 11th through 17th. The goal is to showcase American democracy and civic participation, and to honor and pay tribute to those we lost a year ago. The "Participate America" campaign has several different components, encouraging Americans to take a pledge to renew democracy in the following ways: to **volunteer** in their communities, to **contribute** to worthwhile purposes, to **communicate** with city, state, and federal government officials. I won't exhort you to do so...because that would be preaching to the choir. I will instead congratulate you on a lifetime of such constructive efforts. September is a month in which we surely will count our losses, so let's also celebrate our strengths. We each have a very personal contribution to make to the health of our society. So go forth, Leaguers, and multiply! ♦

Cynthia Morehead Joins LWV Board

At the time of the Annual Meeting in May, the Nominating Committee had not yet finished its work. Cynthia responded to the call to action that evening, at the conclusion of the meeting, indicating a desire to be our new Program Chair. We apologize for not having included Cynthia Morehead's name on our masthead last month; we are delighted she has joined the Board. ♦

Evaluating Referenda

Last month we outlined the steps for developing and applying evaluation criteria for referenda. Here we present an update to show what steps have been completed in regard to the High School District 115 referendum (please remember that some of these actions have already taken place when you read this, but had not occurred yet at press time).

- The membership or the board recommends that criteria be developed—**DONE**.
- A study committee or task force is formed to develop the criteria—**DONE**.
- The board holds a general membership meeting to approve the criteria or utilizes an all-member mailing with background—**MEETING SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 28**.

To apply the criteria to a specific referendum proposal, local Leagues should:

- Appoint a task force to apply the criteria to the referendum—**TO BE DONE AUGUST 28**.
- The task force reports to the board their recommendations and subsequent action plan—**TO BE DONE SEPTEMBER 25**.
- The board approves the recommended action plan and communicates the results to the membership—**MAY BE DONE SEPTEMBER 25**. ♦

Observer Corps Report: High School District 115

The District 115 Board of Education at their August meeting approved a referendum request that will be placed

on the November 2002 ballot. The referendum will ask taxpayers for an additional \$2.1 million in education funds for Lake Forest High School. At the meeting, much concern was expressed that \$2.1 is insufficient to continue the goal of educational excellence. However, the board felt that with the current economic times \$2.1 million was all they could reasonably ask the voters to support. The Board after closed session also approved a new administrative salary schedule. ♦

Referendum News

Lake Forest High School's referendum is not the only one in our community. The City of Lake Forest and the Lake County Forest Preserve have announced definite plans to seek money from voters this fall. As of this writing, Shields Township is also considering the possibility. If anyone would like to join a discussion group on these referenda, please let Carol Gilbert know. ♦

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions discussion group will meet on September 13th at 1:30 PM. The topic will be "AIDS in Africa: Is the World Concerned Enough?" Anyone is welcome, and there is no need to make a reservation. The meeting will be at Betty Buker's home at 485 Oakwood Avenue in Lake Forest. ♦

Connections: A New Approach

A novel League program debuts next month. "Connections," a brown-bag lunchtime speaker program, will begin on October 9th. It will be a regular event, a brief lunchtime presentation from about 12:15 to 12:45 PM to address timely topics. It will be a friendly, come-as-you-are event, and there will always be time for a few questions and informal discussion. We hope lunchtime will provide you a midday oasis, and allow for some camaraderie as well.

Members and guests are invited to drop in. The group will be small and informal, and will give us all a chance to hear a bit about local issues from the local people who energize them. Connections will be on the second Wednesday of the month, following Board meetings.

What kind of speakers can you expect? We'll look for current issues and people we would like to meet, such as ... someone from the Circuit Court to discuss juvenile programs, someone from the County to discuss emergency management planning, someone from the State Attorney's office to discuss consumers'/women's/seniors' issues, someone from the Forest Preserve to discuss open space and conservation, someone from the City to discuss planning and infrastructure, someone from the local welfare office to discuss current caseloads and programs, someone from a women's shelter to profile social services, someone from the Volunteer Center to present current initiatives, someone from the Sheriff's office to discuss community policing ... there are so many possibilities.

The brainchild of past president Paula DuBourdieu, "Connections" is intended to be both casual and convenient. Paula, in describing the concept, cited the need for connections to our community, to issues, and to each other, and that's how our new program was named. Her concept is delightfully straightforward: "No fuss, no charge, no RSVPs needed, and strictly nonpartisan, as always!" We will note in this newsletter next month's speaker, but we hope you will just plan to drop in for monthly vignettes. We'll

Membership Luncheon

Tuesday, October 1
Gorton Community Center

The annual Membership Luncheon this year will be a light lunch and a program by League member and local literary luminary Kathy Stevenson, author of *The Lake Poet*. We urge members to bring a friend, and to contact Cynthia Maloney (615-1123) about helping with the food.

According to the book jacket of *The Lake Poet*:

"When my grandmother died last month it was left to me, her only granddaughter, to go through her private papers." So begins the story of Lake Forest author Catherine Caldwell, whose private life is revealed in letters discovered by her granddaughter. The letters present one woman's interior life played out against a backdrop of Lake Forest history, and set in the context of world events.

Watch for your invitation in the mail!

also provide a thumbnail sketch after each speaker, but wouldn't you really rather be there? ♦

Save the Dates! October Candidate Forums

Forums will be held Sunday afternoons, October 13th and 27th. Watch the October League Lines for more details.

Forums will cover the contested elections for:

- 10th Congressional District
- 29th State Senate
- 30th State Senate
- 58th State Representative
- 59th State Representative
- Lake County Offices
- County Board Representatives

If you are interested in working at the Candidate Forums, we always need timers, ushers, and question coordinators. Please call Bev Adamczyk (847 295-5641) for more information. ♦

News From LWVUS

Now Is the Time for the Final Push on Election Reform! (August 7, 2002: LWVUS Urgent Lobby Request #107-25)

Crucial decisions will be made over the next two months that will shape our nation's election systems for years to come. Even if you've contacted your members of Congress before on this issue, they need to hear from you again.

Just before the August recess, House negotiators made a new offer—one that failed to adequately address faulty voting machines and that would actually set back the cause of voting rights for all Americans by changing the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the 1993 National Voter Registration Act. Senate negotiators made a counteroffer that included key national standards to ensure that the problems we saw in Florida and other states in 2000 will never happen again.

Take Action

1. YOUR members of Congress need to hear from you NOW, over the August congressional recess and as they return to work in September. Tell them that you support strong election reform legislation. Tell them that:

- The election problems we saw in Florida must never be allowed again;
- National standards are needed to protect voting rights and prevent discrimination;
- Existing voting rights protections must not be rolled back; and
- States need federal money with national standards to achieve election reform.

ELL MAIL: If you have a computer, you can send the alert directly through the League's Legislative Action Center by going to the following link: <http://www.capwiz.com/lwvusa/alert> (Telertid=382061) and inserting your zip code into the gray box at the right-hand side of the alert.

2. Members of the House and the Senate will be in their districts and states during August. Please take this opportunity to catch them at a town meeting or visit their district offices. Also, please be sure to ask your friends and colleagues to call your members of Congress: the Capitol Hill switchboard number is 202-224-3121 or 202-225-3121.

3. Please also send a letter to the editor of your local paper. Go to this link: <http://www.capwiz.com/lwv/issues/alert/?alertid=382491> to see a model letter that you can adapt and send.

4. Remember that you can copy this e-mail alert and forward it to other concerned citizens. Use the "Tell a

friend" button at the top of the alert page. If you have a computer, you can send the alert directly through the League's Legislative Action Center by going to the following link: <http://www.capwiz.com/lwvusa/alert> (Telertid=382061) and inserting your zip code into the gray box at the right-hand side of the alert.

Links

For a state-by-state election reform report card, see <http://www.naacp.org/news/releases/ElectionReformJuly02.pdf>

Background

As you remember, the House passed an election reform bill last December, and the Senate acted in April. Since that time, conferees from each house have been working to resolve the differences between the two bills. Their work reached a climax in late July, when negotiators from each body made proposals to each other.

The House offer would roll back existing voting rights protections by changing the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the 1993 National Voter Registration Act. It would reinstate the discredited practice of purging for nonvoting that removes the names of eligible citizens from the voting rolls if they choose not to vote in just two federal elections. It would also set up a

new requirement that voters submit a valid driver's license number or the last four digits of their Social Security numbers before their application to register to vote could even be processed, making these numbers a new eligibility requirement restricting access to the polls. Racial and ethnic minority voters, persons with disabilities, and students would be hardest hit by these rollbacks.

The House offer would also perpetuate across the nation some of the key

Current Events at Gorton Community Center

400 E. Illinois Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045
Thursdays, October 10th and November 7th;
10:00-11:30 am; \$15 per class

In a free-flowing interchange of information with a good deal of student participation, current election issues—local and national—will be talked about and interpreted in these mind-stretching discussions. Joyce Schragger will lead the class. Joyce holds a master's degree in American History from Northwestern University and has a background in teaching. In the field of politics, American history, and literature, she has taught for a variety of organizations, including JCC groups, Dawn Schuman Institute, the North Shore Hotel, Bryn Mawr Country Club, and private current events groups. Bring along a friend for a stimulating series of lively discussions. Call for reservations: (847) 234-6060.

problems experienced in Florida in 2000. It would require states to set up new systems to take voters off the rolls without the necessary safeguards to protect against the errors and mistakes that occur in such systems. And the House offer would keep the punchcard voting machines that don't work to properly record the voter's vote.

By contrast, the Senate offer contains national standards to ensure that voting machines properly record the voter's vote, to ensure that provisional ballots are offered to eligible voters when

they're needed, and to ensure that statewide voter registration lists are in place to protect voters and guard against possible fraud. The Senate offer also includes protections to reduce discrimination resulting from new photo ID requirements.

Both the Senate and House proposals provide substantial new funding for state election reform efforts, including the purchase of new voting machines and systems. For that funding to be available, however, there needs to be final agreement on the other contentious issues, particularly the civil rights issues.

If you have any questions about this alert, please contact Jodie Moxley, National Grassroots Lobbyist, at jmoxley@lwv.org.

Judicial Independence: The League Educates America

LWVUS has recently concluded a study of judicial independence. Fourteen Leagues participated in the year-long project, which was funded by the Open Society Institute of New York and administered by the League of Women Voters Education Fund. Information was first developed in an assessment phase, and then acted upon in the public education phase. The Detroit League summarized the scope of the project succinctly, stating, "The public is not actively participating in ensuring a fair and just system."

The Tallahassee, Florida, League opted to study judges themselves, gathering 800 "opinions." The Florida judges preferred appointment of judges over election, were very concerned about necessary fund-raising for elections, called for better public education on the need for judicial independence, and expressed concern over the consequences of making unpopular rulings. The Michigan League's report also noted judges' concern over special-

interest contributions to judicial campaigns. Wisconsin agreed. Since most donors to judicial campaigns are lawyers and lobbyists, the Wisconsin League felt impartiality will be an increasing concern as the costs of elections continue to increase. The Hawaii League opted to study the state's nominating system itself. Concluding that their system of selection of nominees by an independent commission was sound, criticism focused on the secrecy surrounding such deliberations and the lack of diversity that resulted.

The Lubbock, Texas, League chose to study the merits of electing rather than appointing judges and expressed an overwhelming preference for appointment of judges by a commission, to be followed by retention elections. The multiplicity of approaches by the various Leagues highlighted regional differences in judicial practices. The Minnesota League's assessment included negative comments about party endorsements of judges and legislative attempts to control the judiciary through appropriations. A concern for a healthy balance of power was noted repeatedly, and expressed succinctly in the report from the Washington State League, where some judges found "inappropriate day-to-day meddling and outright interference in the running of some court programs when their budgets are proposed."

After completing the assessment phase of the project, each of the Leagues used the knowledge gathered to complete the public education phase. Efforts included sponsoring conferences and workshops, creating school lesson plans, and launching educational editorial campaigns. According to the final report, the local Leagues' efforts "differed widely on the solutions.... This difference is likely explained by the difference among the states and localities in how judges are initially selected or retained, and on simple regional differences and traditions as well. What worked very well for this

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project was for each League to be able to address those judicial independence issues of importance to the particular state or locality, issues that may not have had commonality with other regions." Many of the participating

Leagues expressed interest in carrying on after the conclusion of the project. The Michigan League has adopted a restudy of its position on judicial selection and is beginning a campaign with three talking points: why judicial

elections are different, how to choose a judicial candidate, and "If spending money doesn't get results, then the special interests will stop spending it." ♦

The pay is low... The hours are long... But your contribution to democracy is ENORMOUS!

A severe shortage of poll workers is threatening our electoral system, which is vital to democracy in America. More than 1.4 million citizens fulfill their civic responsibility and work at the polls on Election Day.

But many more poll workers are needed!

Poll workers are the driving force of fair and accurate elections. Without Americans who are willing to donate their time and energy the election system would come to a grinding halt.

Working at the polls is a patriotic responsibility. By working at the polls on Election Day you will help expand democracy in your community.

**Call your county
election office to
work at the polls...**

Please do your part. Call your county election office to work at the polls on Election Day.

The National Association of Counties, the NAACP, The League of Women Voters, Nationwide Retirement Solutions, and the National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials and Clerks have launched Expand Democracy in America, a national campaign to help improve the nation's election system. The campaign aims to recruit 500,000 more poll workers by Election Day 2004.

**EXPAND
DEMOCRACY**
In America 

Partners for Democracy



NACRO



Mark Your Calendar

- September 13* Great Decisions, 1:30 PM, Betty Buker's house, 485 Oakwood Ave., Lake Forest
- September 25* Public Meeting on High School District 115 referendum/possible consensus meeting, Gorton Community Center; call Carol Gilbert for time
- October 1* Membership Luncheon—watch for invitation in the mail!
- October 9* "Connections" brown-bag lunch program starts; Gorton, 12:15 PM
- October 10* Current events discussion at Gorton, 10:00-11:30 AM
- October 13* Candidate Forum; watch for details next month
- October 27* Candidate Forum; watch for details next month

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October 2002
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League Lines

Message From the President

Carol Gilbert

September brings much news, and change. As summer activities conclude, we pursue other interests with renewed vigor. Plans for our annual Holiday Luncheon are evolving. We hope to be at the same venue, St. James Church, to provide entertainment, and to add an artisan crafts boutique. We believe the new format will prove enticing, and we encourage members to bring guests. Our tentative date is December 4th.

The Nominating Systems Study group, which has been meeting for a year and a half, is evaluating its conclusions this month and will report to membership soon. On another front, an ever-renewing circle of members has followed the evolving high school referendum. Many summer meetings tracked its progress, and an ad hoc committee formed to bring the FAQs to you publishes their work in this issue.

Plans are being made for a pre-election members-only chat session on referenda. We'll send you a postcard later in the month with details. Other referenda deserve voters' attention. The Lake County Forest Preserve notes in their newsletter that the November 2000 LCFP referendum "did not pass, partially because then legally required language did not explain what the funds were for." They will try again this November. The several City of Lake Forest referendum questions will be the featured subject of our noontime

luncheon speaker, Bob Kiecy, Lake Forest City Manager, on October 9th.

The LWV Board is happy to announce that this month marks the beginning of "Connections," Paula Dubourdieu's new program. Paula was League president from 1984 to 1987 and remains devoted to League.

Connections is her brain child, inspired by her love of discourse with League women and the desire to extend that fellowship. Connections was so named because it describes her concept: connecting people through conversation. The fellowship of a regular, brief, casual, informative get-together is what attracted the board to Connections. So do feel free to bring a friend. We'll let you know the monthly topic in this newsletter, but we hope you will just come every second Wednesday. We think the group will be just the right size to comfortably chat about issues in a supportive atmosphere. The subject will be different every time. Please give it a try and let us know the community leaders you would like to

Welcome to New Members!

Nancy Gunder

1145 Prairie Ave., Lake Forest
295-4014 (nbrug@yahoo.com)

Marilyn Shineflug
125 Wimbledon Ct., Lake Bluff
482-9303

Barbara Main
190 Margate Ct., Lake Bluff
295-5644 (bam03@aol.com)

Marilyn Harlow
1006 Timber Ln., Lake Forest
604-8611 (mwharlow@aol.com) ♦

Voter Registration Update

September 12th, Parent's Night at Lake Forest High School, was hopping. We did a brisk business and registered 12 voters in two hours and handed out even more information about where people can register with their documentation, concerning parents' newly turned 18-olds or their children who are off at college. Special thanks to Judy Grisamore, who worked longer than her planned shift to staff the bustling table. ♦

Save the Date! Holiday Luncheon

The League's Holiday Luncheon will be held at St. James Lutheran Church, Lake Forest, on Wednesday, December 4th. This year you will meet Mary Henrietta Kingsley, an amazing woman who was an explorer, adventuress, botanist, anthropologist, and author back when Victorian ladies were doing needlework and having babies. She was a woman who, through her writings, single-handedly changed how 19th century England looked at the continent of Africa. This extraordinary woman is brought to life by actress Betsy Means.

And, in the pre-holiday spirit, not only can you shop for books but you can shop in a boutique atmosphere filled with one-of-a-kind items made by artisans that will fill your wish list for family, friends—and you! So be sure to save the date, December 4th, for a fabulous afternoon of entertainment, food, and holiday shopping. Plan to bring a few friends to share in a great time. Watch for more details next month! ♦

It's Referendum Time

Up to five referenda will appear on the ballots of Lake Forest, Lake Bluff,

and/or Knollwood voters on November 5th. The title of each referendum is listed below. As mentioned in previous issues of *League Lines*, a discussion group has given attention to the Lake Forest High School referendum proposal. We are including four pages of information developed by members as a Referendum Insert in this issue.

- *Lake County Forest Preserve District: Proposition to Increase the Existing Tax Rate for Corporate Purposes*
- *The City of Lake Forest: Public Question of the Issuance of \$6,000,000 of General Obligation Bonds*
- *The City of Lake Forest: Public Question on Change of the Mayor's Term and Term Limitations*
- *The City of Lake Forest: Public Question to Establish Certain Local Taxes for Infrastructure Improvements*
- *Lake Forest Community High School District 115: Proposition to Increase Maximum Annual Educational Tax Rate of Lake Forest Community High School District Number 115, Lake County, Illinois*
- *Shields Township: Should River-Boat or Land-Based Casino Gambling Be Permitted to Exist and Operate Anywhere Within Lake County* ♦

Talking About Funding

Below are reports on three recent discussions LWVLF/LB has had with elected officials who are seeking additional funding.

A Chat With William Hinchman, District 115 Lake Forest High School Board President

In a conversation last month, School Board President William Hinchman conveyed his thoughts on the proposed

referendum dollars and future funding for the school district. Students and parents "have done a lot" to address budget shortfalls through user fees, but new money is still needed, according to Hinchman. The decision to file for referendum was made, he said, when the effects of the tax cap and the two-year-old cost saving suggestions of the Blue Ribbon Finance Committee squared off.

The Board has now achieved a break-even operating budget, and a new source of funds will alleviate some of the pressures, but only for the short term. When asked why the referendum amount addresses only an estimated three years of sufficient operating funds, Hinchman replied, "We wanted to succeed . . . There was considerable debate, and we thought \$2.1 million was realistic."

The school board's future plans also include additional cost reductions and potential fee increases. If the referendum passes, Hinchman said about \$1.2 million will be spent on what is characterized as "restoration," addressing traditional measures of quality such as class size, teacher ratios, and teacher training. The rest is targeted to support those improved/restored levels for a three-year period.

A Chat With D. F. Rogers III, Shields Township Highway Commissioner
Commissioner Rogers addressed the League board on September 11, 2002. He explained the financial position of the Shields Township Road and Bridge Fund and why he is asking the Shields Township board to authorize a one-year tax rate increase for this fund.

He stated that the Road and Bridge Fund has little reserve due to loss of a federal revenue source combined with overspending in the previous five years.

The annual total revenues of approximately \$170,000 cover day-to-day operating expenses only. Unfortunately, these revenues do not allow for reserves for capital improvements such as road repair/replacement or equipment replacement. The proposed tax increase will improve the fund position for the tax period covered.

If this tax increase is approved by the Shields Township board, all Shields Township residents will have an increase in their tax rate. Rogers reported that the proposed increase is from 0.025% to 0.045%, an estimated increase of \$20 on a \$300,000 home. Fifty percent of the revenues collected are rebated to the municipality of the resident.

A Chat With Michael Rummel, Second Ward Alderman, City of Lake Forest

The City of Lake Forest is proposing three referendum questions to voters this November. The proposal to fund a \$6 million land acquisition came about because of the opportunity to take 35 acres out of use. According to Finance Chair Michael Rummel, who is also the Second Ward Alderman, "It's up to the voters.... We're the stewards of the voters' money, and money's really cheap right now." Cost for the average household will be \$70 for four years.

Funding sewer repairs is a little more complicated, said Rummel, and two different systems need repair. The needed sanitary sewer repairs are already funded, but the storm sewers also need work, about \$10 million worth. The proposed sales tax hike of half a percent would generate about \$700,000 a year, and that money will be earmarked to issue an alternative revenue bond to finance sewer repair.

Currently, 60% of Lake Forest sales tax dollars are being spent by people who live outside the city.

The third City of Lake Forest proposal on the ballot is to lengthen the mayor's term, because the mayor "had to run again as soon as elected, taking time away" from City business, Rummel said. If the proposal passes, the future tenure of City mayors could be two-year terms, rather than three one-year terms. ♦

speaking on the several questions on the ballot.

TBA: Referendum Chat Session. A pre-election discussion group for members only is being planned. Additional information will be available soon. ♦

Status of Lake Forest Senior Housing

Submitted by Jane Partridge

I recently interviewed Tom Tropp about the current status of Senior Housing. The five cottages on Conway are now occupied by four women and one man, and they all seem very pleased with their new accommodations. The rent is \$1200 a month, but if the renter's income is below \$25,000 a year, he or she can apply to the Presbyterian Home (Lake Forest Place) and receive up to \$300 a month reimbursement from a \$50,000 amount set aside to help subsidize low-income Lake Forest residents. Forty-eight people had

applied for Senior Housing. The foundation envisions another 10 cottages in the future but wants to wait a while to see how these are working out. When they build more, they want to modify plans based upon suggestions these renters offer.

The site of the new Senior Housing still needs to be landscaped, and Mariani Landscaping has offered to draw up some plans free of charge. However, Tom says they would welcome offers of help in planting and further suggestions. He wondered if anyone from one of the garden clubs in town could help to bring about such a project. He would like them to contact him directly. At present the site sorely needs some plantings! The rents pay for the costs (mortgage, upkeep, etc.). In the future, if these Senior Cottages are not all called into

CONNECTIONS

**SECOND WEDNESDAYS, AROUND NOON,
AFTER THE BOARD MEETING—
BRING YOUR LUNCH!**

*On October 9th, we're connecting with . . .
Bob Kiely, Lake Forest City Manager*

*We're talking about . . .
November 5th referendum questions: land
acquisition, mayoral term, and sales tax hike*

*Join us at Gorton—feel free to come early and
sit in on the board meeting (11:00)*

Some Upcoming Events You'll Want to Know About

October 4th and 5th: LMILG Annual Meeting. Lake Michigan Inter-League Group's annual gathering will be held in Fond du Lac at Horicon Marsh. Delegates are desired; the agenda includes a lecture, a birdwatch, and keynote speaker Professor Warren Porter (University of Wisconsin, Madison).

October 9th: Lake Forest City Referendum Discussion. At noonish, following the LWV Board meeting, our lunchtime "Connections" speaker will be Lake Forest City Manager Bob Kiely

use for seniors, they might be used by young teachers, firemen, policemen, or other employees who might not otherwise be able to afford to live in Lake Forest where they work. Tom Tropp and the committee have done a wonderful job in carrying out this project and they deserve our congratulations and thanks.

P.S. Each cottage has a full-sized kitchen, a dining area, a living room, a bedroom and a den, as well as a one-car attached garage (1100 sq. feet). The land was donated by the city, and the Lake Forest Bank gave a low-interest mortgage with no other collateral than the land. So many people have donated time and help to this endeavor, which was Tom Tropp's conception. Now if we could help find some gardeners! ♦

Observer Needed

We are looking for an observer for the Lake Bluff Plan Commission. If you have any interest in this, contact Pauline Mohr, 234-5853, for more information. ♦

What's an Issue Specialist?

The League of Women Voters of Illinois has 13 Issue Specialists, dealing with diverse issues ranging from child welfare to the death penalty, from gun control to natural resources. But what, exactly, does an Issue Specialist do? Two of those 13 specialists happen to be members of our own LWVFLB, so we asked them that question.

Cynthia Maloney, Charter Schools Specialist, told us that she actually became an Issue Specialist as a consequence of having chaired the State League's study on charter schools. She has an interest in education, and after the study was completed, becoming an Issue Specialist was a way for her to

stay involved at the State level. According to Cynthia, "The really fun thing is that people call you from other states to ask questions. I've met a lot of people and made friends that way."

Mary Mathews, Smart Growth Specialist, says that the job of Issue Specialist is what you make it. She spends time keeping up to date with her issue and staying in touch with the League's coalition partners on Smart Growth, such as the Metropolitan Planning Council, Smart Growth Network, and Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission. "Smart Growth is primarily state-oriented," said Mary. "I get calls from local Leagues all over the state, as well as some out-of-state Leagues." She finds being an Issue Specialist interesting and fun, a way to be involved with League at a different level.

Do you have an issue you're passionate about? You, too, can be an Issue Specialist! No special skills are needed, other than the ability to use a computer and e-mail and Internet capability, and the League staff and your fellow committee members will provide support. If you're interested, call Paula Lawson at (847) 835-8840 (e-mail: pjlawson1@attbi.com). ♦

LWVIL Member News

Illinois Student Vote Is on the Web
For the first time, the Illinois Student Vote mock election program is on the Web at www.IllinoisStudentVote.org. Take a look, and encourage your schools to register online. Mock Election Day is October 29th, and any school that registers has free access to all curriculum materials. Hyperlinks lead to informative Web sites.

Death Penalty Action
The LWVIL supports commuting sentences of all current death row

inmates to sentences of life without parole. The League is urging Governor Ryan to act before he leaves office in January 2003—we encourage members to contact the Governor as well. Local League presidents have postcards to send to the Governor, or you may contact the Illinois Coalition Against the Death Penalty (ICADP) at (312) 849-2279 or www.icadp.org. The ICADP Web site has a sample letter to the Governor and background information on the commutation issue.

LWVUS Requests Action on CEDAW

It is essential that we American women push our senators to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), just as women worked hard for our right to vote in the last century. Even though American women enjoy more protections than women in many countries, we need to support all women worldwide against stoning, rape, and physical abuse of all kinds and for rights in many areas, such as education, health care, employment, and domestic relations, which are not subject to international standards. The world looks to the US for leadership, but we are the only developed country that has not ratified it, pairing us with countries such as Iran, Syria, Afghanistan, Somalia, the Sudan, and only 15 other small nations out of 186. It has finally emerged after 17 years from committee, and this may be the last chance in a long time to pass this treaty. The following is an Urgent Lobby Request from Jodie Moxley, LWVUS Grassroots Lobbying Coordinator.

Ask Your Senators to Pass CEDAW Now!

The Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is the most comprehensive

advancement of women worldwide. It establishes a legal framework to which all governments must adhere to ensure the equality of women in various areas of life including politics, law, employment, education, health care, commerce, and domestic relations. CEDAW sets forth criteria for determining what constitutes discrimination against women and provides a forum for addressing and resolving women's rights issues.

After many years of inaction and opposition to ratification of CEDAW, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee voted on July 30, 2002, to approve CEDAW by a vote of 12-7 and sent it to the full Senate for ratification. Treaties need the advice and consent of the Senate. (The House does not vote on treaties.)

The full Senate could vote on ratification at any time after Congress returns on September 3rd. Please contact your senators now to urge them to vote in support of CEDAW.

Take Action

1. E-mail can be sent directly to your senators through the League's Legislative Action Center by going to the following link:
<http://capwiz.com/lwv/issues/alert/?alertid=429331&type=CO>
 and inserting your zip code into the gray box at the right-hand side of the alert. This feature allows you to e-mail your senator and help get CEDAW ratified when the Senate comes back into session.

Remember that you can copy this e-mail alert and forward it to other concerned citizens. Use the "Tell a Friend" feature, at the bottom of this alert at:

<http://capwiz.com/lwv/issues/alert/?alertid=429331&type=CO> to easily

contact your grassroots network, your friends, and co-workers.

Message

1. Please ratify CEDAW. US ratification of CEDAW would be an important statement of support for women worldwide and would give credibility to the United States' long-standing opposition to human rights abuses. Women in many parts of the world lack basic legal rights or protection of their rights under law. CEDAW will promote the advancement of women and establish rights and equality for women worldwide.
2. CEDAW is relevant not just to the lives of women in countries with poor human rights records, but also to the lives of American women. The Convention assures American women that our government believes in, and will reinforce, their equality.

Background

US ratification of CEDAW would be an important statement of support for women worldwide and would give credibility to the United States' long-standing opposition to human rights abuses. Women in many parts of the world lack basic legal rights or protection of their rights under law. CEDAW will allow women to have the legal framework to improve their own lives in practice, as well as law. For example, although most countries give women the legal right to vote, the inequality of women in many countries prevents them from exercising this right. By ratifying CEDAW, the United States will show the world that we support equality under the law for all women and girls.

CEDAW is relevant not just to the lives of women in countries with poor human

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rights records, but also to the lives of American women. The Convention assures American women that our government believes in, and will reinforce, their equality. Most US laws extend rights to all but do not affect the specific ways in which women's rights may be compromised. By ratifying CEDAW, the US will make significant strides towards ensuring that equality is a political, economic, and social reality for women and girls both here and abroad.

The United Nations adopted CEDAW on December 18, 1979. From the start, the US was actively involved in drafting CEDAW but never ratified the treaty. CEDAW entered into force on September 3, 1981, and currently has 170 state parties. At the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in September 1995, the United States was a signatory to a document calling for the ratification of CEDAW.

CEDAW is the most detailed international agreement to promote the advancement of women. Its provision for women's rights covers a wide scope. Part I, Article 3, says: "State parties shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men."

CEDAW establishes a legal framework to which all governments must adhere for the equality of women. A main

provision creates the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (also called CEDAW) to follow the efforts of governments on the progress they are making in implementing the treaty. Ratification of this treaty would entitle the US to join the CEDAW committee.

The CEDAW committee meets several times a year and reviews a certain number of country reports at each session. Countries that are parties to the treaty must provide reports to the committee within one year of ratifying the treaty and every four years after that, detailing steps that they have taken and progress they have made in implementing the provisions of the treaty. The judges also seek independent information (from nongovernmental organizations [NGOs] and others) on the progress in the countries they are reviewing. They write a report at the end of each meeting reviewing the progress of the countries they reviewed. The League of Women Voters UN Observers work with NGO committees that follow the CEDAW meetings when they occur.

For countries that are parties to CEDAW, the treaty provides women with legal rights where they otherwise have no rights. In many parts of the world this is vital for women. Some UN agencies have written guides for NGOs in countries that are parties to the treaty, outlining steps they may take to sue for their rights under the treaties and citing examples of successful efforts.

Links

To read the treaty or for information on the treaty or on the CEDAW committee, see the UN Web site: www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw. For current information on the status in the Senate and for how the senators on the Foreign Relations Committee voted, see www.womenstreaty.org. For contact information for your senators, including fax numbers, see www.capwiz.com/lwv/dbq/officials.

If you have any questions about this alert, please contact Jodie Moxley, National Grassroots Lobbyist, at jmoxley@lwv.org. ♦

October is the Month for Candidate Forums

With the recent redistricting, the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff area finds itself sectioned into several new districts. This fall the LWVLF/LB has paired up with other local Leagues to produce candidate forums. Two of the forums are in Highland Park. Please know that the Highland Park locations are convenient, very close to Lake Forest, take place during daylight hours, and have ample parking.

Lake County Candidates

**Featuring the races for County Clerk and Sheriff
and County Board Member races for districts 13, 21, 22, and 23**

Sunday, October 13th, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Heller Nature Center

Heller Nature Center is located on Ridge Road, between Old Elm Road and Route 22. From east Lake Forest, take Rte. 41 south to Old Elm Road. Turn right off of Rte. 41, heading west on Old Elm Road. The first stop sign is Ridge Road. Turn left, heading south. Pass two stop signs, and look for the entrance to Heller on your left. From west Lake Forest, get to the corner of Everett and Waukegan. Take Everett east; it turns into Old Elm Road. At the stop sign at Ridge, turn right, heading south, and follow the directions above.

State Representative District 59

State Senate District 30

Date to be determined

(Probably Tuesday, October 22nd, 7:00-9:00 p.m.)

Location to be announced

Call Bev Adamczyk (295-5641) for the exact date and location.

10th Congressional District

State Senate District 29

State Representative District 58

Sunday, October 27th, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Highland Park Country Club

(This forum is being co-sponsored by the Pioneer Press)

The Highland Park Country Club is conveniently located just off Rte. 41, on Park Avenue. Take 41 south to Park. Turn left onto Park, heading east. Pass the traffic light on Park that goes into the Target. Take the next left into the Highland Park Country Club. There is ample parking.

Mark Your Calendar

- October 1* Membership Luncheon—watch for invitation in the mail!
- October 9* LWVLF/LB Board Meeting, 11:00 AM, Gorton
- October 9* "Connections" brown-bag lunch program, Gorton, noonish
- October 10* Gorton's current events discussion, 10:00-11:30 AM
- October 13* Candidate Forum: Lake County Candidates, 2:00-4:00 PM
- October 22?* Candidate Forum: State Representative District 59, State Senate District 30
- October 27* Candidate Forum: 10th Congressional District, State Senate District 29,
State Representative District 58, 1:00-3:00 PM
- November 5* Election Day
- December 4* Holiday Luncheon—save the date!

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Non-Profit Organization
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

CONNECTIONS

Who are we connecting
with this month?
See page 3.

Referendum FAQ's

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest Lake Bluff Area
November 2002 Lake Forest High School Referendum

significant additional funds are by going to referendum to issue bonds or going to referendum to increase the tax rate. Therefore, if school costs rise faster than what the tax cap allows, a school must cut costs, go out for referendum, raise fees or do all of the above.

5) *What if the referendum fails?* According to the "Frequently Asked Questions" given to High School parents at Open House in September, "The School Board has not determined what specific changes would be implemented if the referendum is not successful. During the 2003-2004 budget construction process, the School Board would have to eliminate a projected deficit of nearly \$600,000 – due to a low CPI (1.6%) and projected expenses that trend higher than CPI – by reducing expenses and/or raising fees."

6) *What factors are causing this referendum?* The biggest factor for expenses is the 55% increase in enrollment in the last decade. Another expense factor is rising personnel costs, especially health care. Consumer Price Index percentages, and consequent tax caps, have been smaller than both these factors. Other community concerns are addressed below.

7) *Would re-opening West Campus eliminate the need for this referendum?* No, reopening West Campus as an attendance center would increase the amount needed in a referendum. Capital costs to update the building and expenses associated with duplication of services increase costs.

8) *Can existing reserves be used instead of raising taxes?* Reserves can be used, but the State requires minimum reserves of 14% of the annual budget. The current reserve amount is 19% of the LFHS budget. Spending down that 5% of the reserve funds would offer some temporary relief, but would not be prudent.

9) *Did the auditorium cost overrun affect this referendum?* The auditorium renovation cost \$4 million dollars. The overrun of \$1.7 million dollars was unbudgeted. Debt on both the West Campus athletic fields and the East Campus auditorium was consolidated and will be paid off by 2009. The annual debt service for both interest and principal on these two is \$937,000.

10) *Have alternatives to referenda been discussed by the school district?* The School Board chose to file for referendum rather than put in place a more extensive cutting of services. The basic choices for new revenue are to create new fees, cut services, find alternative funding sources (such as foundations, impact fees, grants), or go for an operating referendum. Changes that address the first three options have been initiated. Bonds (which also require a voter referendum) were discussed, but bonding is for capital improvements, not for operating funds. A future capital referendum is probable.

11) *How does Lake Forest High School spending compare to comparable communities?* Four comparison charts are included in this referendum insert. The information presents the "Illinois Report Card" statistics for area schools, and includes four years of LFHS data.

12) *Where can I find additional information?* League members can borrow the League's videotape copy of the School Funding Forum presented to the public in February 2002. You can call the District 115 Referendum Information Line (847-582-7495), or check out materials from the High School library. Other organizations may be contacted directly: Illinois Association of School Boards (www.iasb.com) and the Illinois State Board of Education (www.isbe.state.il.us) have general information. Tax cap information is plentiful on the internet.

Referendum FAQ's

League of Women Voters of Lake Forest Lake Bluff Area
November 2002 Lake Forest High School Referendum

1) *What will my ballot say?*

The exact language is below. Basically, the High School is seeking a permanent increase in its tax levy, an increase of about 6.62%. The owner of a \$500,000 home will pay an additional \$165 a year.

Lake Forest Community High School District #115

Proposition To Increase Maximum Annual Educational Tax Rate Of Lake Forest Community High School District Number 115, Lake County, Illinois

Shall the maximum annual tax rate for educational purposes of Lake Forest Community High School District Number 115, Lake County, Illinois, commonly known as Lake Forest Community High School District Number 115, be increased and established at 1.61 percent upon all the taxable property of said District at the value, as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue, instead of 1.51 percent, the existing maximum rate otherwise applicable to the next taxes to be extended for said purposes?

- a. The approximate amount of taxes extendible for educational purposes under the proposed rate is \$33,665,774 and the approximate amount of taxes extendible for educational purposes under the existing maximum rate is \$31,665,774 representing an increase of 6.62 percent.
- b. The percentage of increase between the maximum rate at which the educational tax may be levied if the proposition is approved and the annual rate at which such tax is currently levied is 6.62 percent.
- c. The total dollar amount of the most recently approved annual budget of said District is \$27,516,241. If increased by the amount of additional tax which may be levied if said proposition is approved, the total dollar amount of this budget will be \$29,613,312 representing an increase in the total dollar amount of this budget of 7.62 percent.

2) *This referendum is for an "education tax rate increase" What does this mean?* The High School monies are distributed among different funds. Funds raised in this referendum will be directed to the education fund. Other funds are building and operations, bond and interest, transportation, municipal retirement and social security. The new tax rate, if approved, will bring in an additional \$2.1 million. "Seventy-seven percent of the referendum dollars will fund direct services for students...the remaining 23% of new dollars could restore a limited amount of support services", according to "Frequently Asked Questions" published by Lake Forest High School (September, 2002).

3) *What is a tax cap, and who/what is capped?*

All tax jurisdictions in Lake County are "capped". The Illinois State legislature imposed the tax cap on the metropolitan Chicago "collar counties" in 1991. Property values in this area were increasing so fast in the late eighties that property-based taxing bodies were collecting windfall amounts. The purpose of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), or tax cap, was to slow the tax increases caused by inflationary increases in property values. The tax cap does this by limiting the annual increase a taxing district may levy to the lesser of 5% or the increase in the consumer price index (CPI). Adjustments to tax levies under the cap law can be made; one way is by voter referendum.

4) *How does the cap impact school funding; how does the cap impact this referendum?* Schools have been affected the most by the tax cap because they derive 80% of their income from property taxes. The cap's impact on other taxing districts, such as municipalities and park districts has not been as great. Unlike schools, the majority of funds to those other tax bodies are derived from sources other than the property tax, such as user fees and sales taxes. Additionally, about 75% of LFHS's expenses are personnel costs, which have been increasing faster than the CPI. Prior to the tax cap, schools could raise taxes up to 5% without a public hearing. Under the tax cap, the only ways schools can generate

The membership of the League of Women Voters of Lake Forest Lake Bluff Area has not evaluated this referendum and neither supports nor opposes it. We provide this information as a member service; to the best of our knowledge it is correct.



November 2002
Volume 49, Number 3

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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
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League Lines

Message From the President

Carol Gilbert

Inspiration comes from many sources, often unexpectedly. I was performing some sobering Web research on voting recently, and David Letterman's tips appeared. He suggests that upon closing the curtain in the voting booth we all shout, "Hey! Who used up all the hot water?" Well!! Suddenly, the nature of my scholarly inquiries changed. My printer whirled away for some time, producing a pile of puerile prose for you (some of which was the literary equivalent of a whoopee cushion). Fortunately, I was blessed with some bona fide wisdom: the political insights of elementary school students. The following quotes were culled from essay and exam papers in the classroom of Mike Wilson in Ballwin, Missouri.

* Political science is to try to figure out what makes candidates act that way. * Elephants and donkeys never fought until politics came along. * A candidate should always renounce his words carefully. * Universal suffrage means even the illegible get to vote. * Much has been said about balancing the budget. It has been found that the budget is more talkable than balanceable. * The winning candidate is elected and inoculated. * Politician is the bawling-out name for a candidate you don't like. * Actually, elections are different from politics. Elections come and go while politics are with us all the time. * The nominees are usually called candidates or campaigners although I have heard them called other things. * A

caucus is something people vote in. Sort of a small booth. * A split ticket is when you don't like any of them on the ticket so you tear it up. * We are learning how to make our election results known quicker and quicker. It is our campaigns we are having trouble getting any shorter. * Did you ever think what I used to think about candidates running neck-and-neck? Well it's not true. *

We will need to take some humor to the voting booth. After all, Lake County ballots no longer have chads, pregnant or otherwise. So that's a whole pile of jokes right down the drain. And those darn booths don't have curtains anymore. What was Letterman thinking? As League member and author Kathy Stevenson mused recently, in her essay titled "Voter Anxiety Disorder," "Will I be overcount or undercount?" You be sure you go to the polls and find out. And take a friend. +

Where can you experience League camaraderie, a terrific lunch in a beautiful setting, Victorian England, the wilds of Africa, and great holiday shopping, all in the same place? At the annual

Holiday Luncheon,

of course!

.....

Put it on your calendar now!

.....

Tuesday, December 4th, 11:30 AM

St. James Lutheran Church,

Lake Forest

\$35 per person

Welcome to New Member!

Karen May

400 Lake Cook Rd.
Deerfield, IL 60015
(847) 948-0060

Voter Registration Update

We've been busy registering voters...

This fall the League registered voters at Lake Forest High School, the Lake Forest Library, Yeager School in North Chicago, and the Waukegan Library. We registered more than 60 voters! Several people were simply happy with the convenience of being able to register in their community. But other registrations were more touching: we registered several first-time voters who just turned 18, as well as a recently naturalized citizen! ♦

Don't Miss It! Holiday Luncheon

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 11:30 AM
ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
1880 N. WAUKEGAN ROAD
LAKE FOREST
\$35.00 PER PERSON

The Holiday Luncheon and Fundraiser is just around the corner. It will start at 11:30 AM with a chance to meet old friends and new. Next comes a pasta buffet, catered by Sunset Foods. Then, be entertained by local actress Betsy Means. Many of you may have seen Betsy as Mother Jones and know just how talented she is. Betsy will bring to life the amazing Mary Henrietta Kingsley, who, after devoting her life to caring for her parents until their death, suddenly threw away everything she knew in Victorian England and went to unknown and mysterious Africa to

**VOLUNTEERS ARE
URGENTLY NEEDED TO
HELP SET UP THE DAY
BEFORE (DECEMBER 3)
AND CLEAN UP ON THE DAY
OF THE HOLIDAY
LUNCHEON (DECEMBER 4).
PLEASE CONTACT BEV
NELSON (295-1472), DIANE
LLOYD (615-9182), OR PAT
ROUNSAVILLE (234-3916).**

become an explorer, botanist, anthropologist, adventuress, and renowned author.

After the entertainment, plan to spend some time shopping for one-of-a-kind items made by local artisans at our LWV Boutique. This is a great way to fill that holiday wish list for family, friends, and you. Bring a friend or two and have a really great day! ♦

Connections in November

Please welcome November's Connections speaker, Virginia Fiester Frederick. Sharing tales from her recent book on women legislators, Virginia notes, "I wanted to talk to them about why they ran in the first place, and why they returned." The times were not nurturing for women legislators. Though asked frequently why she was not home with her family, Ginny would reply patiently, "They are all grown." Likening the experience to "being given lemons to make lemonade," the book is an oral history of a particular time and place. The stories are truly personal, as told by colleagues, many of them women in Lake County. A regret is "not being able to include *all* the pioneer women... I wish I had done every woman in the house!"

The book was an outgrowth of a master's thesis completed recently at Lake Forest College. Thesis advisor Rosemary Cowler recalls urging Ginny to include her own memories of politics in the '60s, saying Ginny is "always a lady" and "just terribly interesting and terribly nice!" From clothing designer to author (with stops in between as League president, first woman alderman in Lake Forest, and 16 years in the Illinois House) Virginia Fiester Frederick will share her experiences with us. Please do come and enjoy this opportunity for a personal discussion with an accomplished fellow League member. We will begin at 12:15; Connections is always the second Wednesday. ♦

Membership Luncheon a Pleasant Affair

The Membership Luncheon on October 1st turned out to be very productive; it produced both a great deal of enjoyment and some new members!

The lovely buffet lunch was prepared by Cynthia Maloney and served in the Community Room of Gorton Community Center. Members and visitors spent time socializing before sitting down to enjoy the meal.

Kathy Stevenson of Lake Forest, a League member and author, then spoke about her book, *The Lake Poet*. She also read a very amusing essay she wrote, entitled "Voter Anxiety Disorder." Her excellent presentation was much enjoyed.

Many thanks to Cynthia Maloney and Marcia Duncan, Membership Chairs, for all their work in putting on this worthwhile event. We are also grateful to Kathy Stevenson for donating her entertaining presentation. ♦

Last Month's Connections

Last month, Bob Kiely, City Manager of the City of Lake Forest, was kind enough to join us for our Connections program to talk about the upcoming city referenda on the ballot on November 5. The three referenda are for lengthening the term of mayor; issuing bonds for purchase of property on Route 60; and increasing the city sales tax to produce revenue for sewer improvements. Mr. Kiely provided materials the city has prepared to explain each of the referenda.

This first Connections session proved to be very informative and enjoyable. The casual setting was conducive to informal questions and answers as well as conversation. Please do join us for this month's visit with Virginia Fiester Frederick—and bring your lunch! ➔

Successful Candidate Forums

by Bev Adamczyk, Voter Service
Well, we're having our first fall elections since the redistricting. And three forums later, I hope that you were able to make it to the forums or see the LFTV broadcasts of the races you will vote on.

We were only one of a handful of co-sponsoring Leagues for the forums for the Lake County candidates, the 10th Congressional District, the 29th State Senate District, and the 58th State Representative District.

We worked with the Lake County League to produce the forum for the 30th State Senate and the 59th State Rep races. And I have to say that this

CONNECTIONS

**SECOND WEDNESDAYS, AROUND 12:15,
AFTER THE BOARD MEETING—
BRING YOUR LUNCH!**

*On November 13th, we're connecting with . . .
Virginia Fiester Frederick*

*We're talking about . . .
Ginny's fascinating experiences as State Representative, League member, and in many other roles*

Join us at Gorton—feel free to come early and sit in on the board meeting (11:00)

League, our League, the LWV of the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area did a fantastic job. I am so touched by the effort and the excellent forum produced by so many people. Nicki Snoblin did a superb job in publicizing the event. We got a story in the Pioneer Press and we had an excellent turnout. Joan Kaltsas moderated the evening. Even if you are not in the 59th and 30th Districts, I would watch the LFTV broadcast just to see Joan—she was great. With the exception of Mary Jane Wolter, every League member who volunteered to work on the forum came in from outside the district to do so. I think this shows a phenomenal level of dedication on the part of Linda Bartmes, Gail Feiger Brown, Diane Lloyd, Mary Ritter, and Sally Zeit. We were all lucky to have the company of another League member, Janet Nelson taping the event for LFTV with her husband Herb. The use of the room in Northern Trust Bank was generously donated and it turned out to be a great place to hold a forum.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the forum in Lake Forest. We hummed!

And to everyone else, I can only say "VOTE!" ➔

Note From LWVLC

by Linda Bartmes

The League of Women Voters of Lake County had another successful Kids First Health Fair in August, with about 1700 children served. Many thanks to all of you who so generously gave your time to this effort.

For this year, LWVLC will focus on becoming well informed of issues before the Lake County Board rather than on programs. It is our mission to oversee public policy at the county level and to be prepared to speak on these issues and mobilize and monitor grassroots organizations.

We will be setting up an observer corps of the various County Board meetings in the near future and welcome any of you interested in a specific area to participate. We would greatly appreciate your input. ➔

News From LWVIL ERA: Strategy + Synergy = Success!

The ERA Task Force of the American Association of University Women of Illinois believes that the Equal Rights Amendment can be passed in Illinois in the spring 2003 legislative session. The AAUW, along with six other organizations, is having a meeting in Springfield on Thursday, November 14th, to determine a strategy for passage of the ERA. The LWVIL is looking for volunteers to attend this meeting. For more information, contact Paula Lawson, LWVIL VP of Issues and Action, at (847) 835-8840; e-mail: pjlawson1@attbi.com. ➔

Mark Your Calendar

- November 5* Election Day
- November 13* LWVLF/LB Board Meeting, 11:00 AM, Gorton Community Center
- November 13* **CONNECTIONS**, 12:15 PM, Gorton (guest: Virginia Fiester Frederick)
- November 20* *League Lines* deadline
- December 4* Holiday Luncheon, St. James Lutheran Church, 11:30 AM



Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

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CONNECTIONS

Who are we connecting
with this month?
See page 3.



December 2002
Volume 49, Number 4

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- 1 An Interesting Visit With Virginia Fiester Frederick
- 3 Observer Corps Interim Reports
- 3 Election Reform Update

CONNECTIONS

LUNCHTIME SPEAKER
PROGRAM

*No Connections in December—
watch for us to resume in
January!
Happy Holidays!*



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League of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

Message From the President

Carol Gilbert

Ahhh...December. It seems to arrive more quickly each fall. My year-end must-do list includes the usual practical items, like truly organizing those ubiquitous piles of papers that direct my daily life. I do have another somewhat contradictory, secret list in my head. *That* list says I should direct my time to more "meaningful" endeavors. (I hope that means less housework.) And I do spend time on worthy activities. League is one of them. For me it's a really big one, but for all of us, it's only one of them.

For a decade I have been hearing that volunteerism is changing rapidly. I am told there are fewer of us, and our time is less available. This year in particular I am hearing that giving to nonprofits is down, and memberships are down. Perhaps Americans are nesting this year, insulating themselves from the world. Can it be that the mood of a nation swings so quickly? Yes, I think so, and it will swing again. And that's where December can come in so darned handy.

I would like to take up the challenge issued by Barb Lippai, President of the League of Women Voters of Illinois. She has been asking, "If wishing were fact, how would you change League?" One answer might be that this is a year when nonprofits should remember we have a dual mission. Nonprofits are very service-oriented, and quite proud of their mark on our communities. They

often accomplish this at members' personal expense in both time and money. Perhaps this is a year in which nonprofits should remember our responsibilities to our members who provide that service. Perhaps a new goal should be, "What can League do to enhance member services?"

I am now three quarters of the way through my two-year presidency of League. And I have asked many individuals why we choose to be League members. The most common answer is, "It's mission, of course." The second most common answer is because we want to be in the company of other League members, who are witty, active, and constructive people. So, if you have an idea that will bring our members together, please let me know. In January we will begin planning for the Annual Meeting, so we can reset our priorities now. I hope to see you at the December 4th luncheon. If not, please have a wonderful holiday season...I hope to see more of you next year! ♦

An Interesting Visit With Virginia Fiester Frederick

In our November Connections program, Lake Forest-Lake Bluff League members were treated to a chat with Virginia Fiester Frederick, the Republican 59th Illinois House District Representative from 1978 through 1994. Our subject was Representative Frederick's new book. The book was written as a master's thesis and includes conversations between Ginny and legislators with whom she personally

served. The lone exception is Lieutenant Governor Corinne Wood; Representative Frederick served on her campaign committee. Weaving two parallel themes together, the book's chapters alternate the 17 legislators' reminiscences with Representative Frederick's reflections.

Though the book was conceived as an oral history of the legislators' personal experience, Virginia listened for a common theme in the answers to two questions: "why in the world" they ran, and why they opted to run again. The answer to the latter question could be simply described as unfinished business. In the case of Virginia Frederick, "It is not difficult to understand why I ran for office seven times. It becomes a never-ending quest. Some of the legislation I introduced each session Many ideas require time to find acceptance by the public." And sometimes, though the legislation was defeated, the concept was established.

Though the audience at our chat was rapt throughout, a story about Grace Mary Stern, the "Lake County Legend," particularly stands out. When a well-known conservative group voted Stern the award for the worst voting record, she surprised them by opting to accept it in person. Given a seat in the corner in the back of the room of a large downtown Chicago hotel, she made her way forward at award time and told the crowd she was happy to accept the pink donkey award for most liberal legislator. And then she sang her acceptance speech to the tune of "It's a Grand Old Flag" ... "You are some GOP to invite little me, To appear and to hear where I've failed, When I heard you guys, Had voted me last prize, I got to admit my heart quailed, But you have been so kind, I can see you don't mind, That our differences are so clear, So

when it's all been said and done, I'll try to win it again next year."

Representative Frederick also reflected on legislative practices since her tenure, saying though the periods to discuss and amend bills have now become much shorter, it's impossible to move a bill to completion in a single term due to committee structures. Some things still sound the same. We would still like to know "how wonderful it must be to be able to fund education at a more than adequate level, to provide better health care for more Illinois citizens, and to support single-parent families by providing child care."

Gender bias was an issue of varying concern to the women legislators profiled. Giddy Dyer, the Republican Representative from Hinsdale, and Eugenia Chapman, a Democrat, provide a useful example. They were "gender pioneers" and hence set apart from other (male) legislators, and the two "crossed the aisle" to share a Springfield residence for many years. They started COWL, The Conference of Women Legislators. Their association, still active, provided an opportunity for the women legislators to build strengths, to air their bills to each other, and to mentor. Though each was emphatically loyal to her individual party's philosophy, Giddy and Eugenia were bipartisan role models. Appreciation for a mentor was a common theme for the women legislators, too. Representative Frederick professed especial gratitude to John Matijevich, with whom she served with until Illinois' multi-member districts were eliminated by the Cutback Amendment. Matijevich was complimented for teaching her how to "avoid the freshman pitfalls."

In some ways gender did greatly affect the women's experience. Since women rarely came up through the party, they

generally didn't command the trust that can be earned in the party hierarchy. The more usual path for women was to gain experience through community work that often included leadership roles in League and AAUW. When asked why they ran, 13 of the 17 legislators ran because they were asked to do it, and four were just "self-starters." Giddy Dyer (Republican Representative from the 41st) said, "My entry into politics was a series of small steps." Similarly, reminiscing about an election night victory for a friend, Representative Frederick noted, "Just the vaguest feather of a thought floated through my mind—that I, too, might like to be involved in the political process. But it was just a thought." That idea came to fruition as Virginia moved from local caucus delegate to ward chair, then alderman, and on to the Illinois House. We can be grateful she moved on to her master's degree. The book offers a uniquely candid view of Illinois politics and the women who shaped it.

Representative Virginia Fiester Frederick's legislative career, and that of 17 other women, are profiled in Illinois Women Legislators: Their Experience as Formulators of Public Policy. It is available at Lake Forest Bookstore. The women profiled are Corinne Wood, Patricia Reid Linder, Carolyn H. Krause, Rosemary Mulligan, Andrea Moore, Karen Hasara, Mary Flowers, Margaret Parcels, Grace Mary Stern, Virginia Fiester Frederick, Barbara Flynn Currie, Mary Jeanne (Dolly) Hallstrom, Betty Lou Reed, Susan Catania, Virginia Macdonald, Adeline Geokaris, and Giddy Dyer. ♦

Observer Corps Interim Reports

The Observer Corps now has observers for the Lake Bluff Village Board, Nicki Snoblin; Lake Bluff Plan Commission, Marilyn Shineflug; and District 115 School Board, Julia Parker. Although technically not observers because they participate at the meetings, Eleanor Knight reports on the Senior Resources Commission and Pauline Mohr on the Lake Forest City Council and Lake Forest Plan Commission. If you are interested in learning more about the Observer Corps, contact Pauline Mohr, (847) 234-5853. We are always looking for more volunteers to enable us to cover all City and Village meetings.

Lake Bluff Plan Commission: The Gorter property at the north end of the Village, east of Route 41, has been proposed for annexation by Rolf Campbell & Associates for a Planned Commercial Development, which would consolidate property in unincorporated Lake County with three parcels located in Lake Bluff. A high-quality warehouse facility with an attached office space building and a fenced, but not covered, boat and RV storage area are being proposed for the initial stage of development. A number of issues related to this petition including engineering, safety, visual impact, curb cuts, and the demolition of the motel located on the unincorporated property need to be resolved before final approval of this petition.

Other business before the Lake Bluff Plan Commission: The owner of the Buehler property has requested a final plat of subdivision for the Buehler property on Waukegan Road between Sherwood Drive and North Shore Drive. A request for a traffic signal at the intersection of Waukegan Road and North Shore Drive is pending and will

require a relocation of North Shore Drive to align with Knollwood Road. Both roads would have to be moved, either to the north or to the south, in order to accommodate an alignment. Further study on moving the roads is needed and IDOT will be contacted.—
Reported by Marilyn Shineflug

Lake Forest Plan Commission: The Lake Forest Plan Commission and the City Council gave tentative approval to the annexation of the Miller property on the south side of Route 60 immediately west of Conway Farms Drive. The property will be developed to include two office buildings in the northwest corner of the property, adaptive reuse of the historic estate residence as a restaurant, three three-story condominium buildings in the northeast corner of the property, and 24 "courtyard" single-family, detached, clustered units on the south half of the property. The petition will return to the Plan Commission for stipulation of final conditions and final approval.—
Reported by Pauline Mohr

Senior Resources Commission: Eleanor Knight reports the Senior Cottages on Conway Road are now fully occupied.

District 115 School Board: At the November meeting the Board of Education discussed in detail the tax referendum. The Community Relations and Communications Committee, in conjunction with the APT, Student Council, Lake Forest Education Association, Booster Club, APPLAUSE, PALS, LF/LB LDA, and CROYA, with assistance from LWVLF/LB, will host a community forum, "Focus on the Future," for the purpose of open discussion regarding the future of Lake Forest High School. The first forum is scheduled for December 11, 2002, at 7:00 PM in the high school cafeteria. The initial forum

will be for Lake Forest High School community members. A larger forum open to all members of the communities that are served by the high school may be scheduled for a later date. Other actions by the Board included the appointment of Stacy Vermylen, a League member, to the Board to fill the unexpired term of Jim Bickler, who has resigned.—*Reported by Julia Parker ♦*

Election Reform Update

The League of Women Voters of Illinois is supporting two requests in the Illinois General Assembly veto session (November 19-21 and December 3-5). League is targeting its support for two requests: \$1.9 million for election judge stipends and \$1.2 million for completion of the statewide voter registration database. Additional funds are being requested now because major cuts were made in the State Board of Elections budget during the closing days of the spring legislative session. More money is needed for the judges' stipends because there are three elections in fiscal year '03, and only one can be paid for currently. Creating a statewide database of voter registration has been discussed for several decades. Though consultants have determined that Illinois' files are bloated with duplicate information, local election authorities are currently unable to transfer information to one another. The State Board of Elections has also asked for monies for four areas in the veto session. LWVIL has chosen to concentrate on these two initiatives because League has provided long-term support for a statewide voter registration system and feels the statutory mandate to pay judge stipends must be funded. The judges ensure that ballots are counted and tallied correctly, and that all local precinct procedures are in accordance with the law. ♦

Mark Your Calendar

- December 4* Holiday Luncheon, St. James Lutheran Church, 11:30 AM
December 20 *League Lines* deadline
February 1 League Cocktail Party

Have a happy
HOLIDAY
season

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SIGN ME UP!

Name: _____

League: _____

Day Phone: _____ e-mail: _____

(please print)

Registrations are due in the LWVIL office by Monday, December 9th—seating is limited! A confirmation will be sent by e-mail or a message will be left at your daytime phone.

Box Lunch Selections: \$14 each, includes sandwich, pasta salad, cookie, and beverage

_____ Turkey Waldorf—Roast turkey breast, apple, walnut, and celery salad on cranberry walnut bread

_____ The Turkey Carvery—Hand-sliced turkey with red leaf lettuce, slices of tomato, fresh mozzarella, onions, and bean sprouts on crusty French bread with garlic dressing on the side

_____ Veggie Herb Pocket—Swiss and Cheddar cheese, sliced tomato, avocado, lettuce, olives, and red onion packed into herb pockets

_____ Special Order—Please call the League at 312/939-5935, ext. 10, for other selections or special orders

Please forward your registration form and box lunch payment (checks made out to LWVIL Education Fund) to the address below.

League accepts Visa and MasterCard. If charging your box lunch, you can phone in your credit card information at 312/939-5935, ext. 10; or fax it to 312/939-6887; or mail it to the address below.

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

**The League of Women Voters of Illinois * 332 S. Michigan Avenue * Suite #1050 *
Chicago, IL 60604**

Phone: 312/939-5935 * Fax: 312/939-6887 * info@lwvil.org * www.lwvil.org

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ILLINOIS

invites you to the

STATE OF ILLINOIS BUDGET FORUM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2002

DE PAUL UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE CENTER

1 E. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL

8th Floor, Room 8002

PUBLIC PARKING: Grant Park Garage—on Michigan at Van Buren, Monroe, or Randolph,
\$13/day (in by 10:00 am)

Millenium Park Garage—on Columbus Drive between Monroe &
Randolph, \$10/day

.....
*A meeting for League of Women Voters of Illinois members to set the focus for a statement on
the State of Illinois Budget in the Spring Legislative Session*

The State of Illinois has a projected deficit of \$2.4 billion. It cannot pay its bills as they come due. Schools, health care providers, social service providers, and other businesses are not being paid by the state for work they have performed. This deficit continues after the State made many cuts in services in FY 2002 and borrowed \$1 billion this summer. The State must make more cuts or raise more revenues or do some combination of cuts and tax increases.

.....
REGISTRATION & NETWORKING: 10:00 AM

PANEL PRESENTATION & AUDIENCE QUESTIONS: 10:30 AM to Noon

Mike Colsch, Director, State of Illinois Bureau of the Budget, and Ralph Martire, Executive Director, Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, will provide their insights into how the State of Illinois budget got where it is and offer suggestions on what to do about it.

LUNCH & LEAGUE MEMBER DISCUSSION: Noon to 1:00 PM

.....
RSVP: League of Women Voters of Illinois, 312/939-5935, ext. 10, by December 9th. Seating is limited! If staying for lunch and wish to order a box lunch, please indicate type of lunch on back.



February 2003
Volume 49, Number 5

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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
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Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

Message From the President

Carol Gilbert

At the January Board meeting we seized the day and took the opportunity for some reflection. We discussed areas for improvement and made a New Year's resolution. A goal for the coming year is to create a more permanent calendar and communicate that schedule to you more clearly. Events that have attained a long-term status and will be offered on a recurring basis are the community update featuring our city managers in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff, discussions with our seated legislators, and of course, candidate forums. Social events include the fall member reception, holiday luncheon, and winter cocktail party.

There must also be a place on the calendar for current events programs and programs that support League's advocacy. Challenging as it can be, we do pride ourselves on our ability to

address issues on an ad hoc basis.

League is resilient; it constantly reinvents itself, as a grassroots organization should. The Board is now planning for our Annual Meeting and crafting next year's focus. League's loyal and active members are always constructively engaged on *many* fronts, so we'd like to hear from you. Mission matters! ♦

Updated Addresses for Legislators

Now that the busy fall election season is over and all of our newly redistricted legislators have been seated, we have some updated local addresses for them. Please add the following to page 34 of your Membership Directory.

Senators:

Susan Garrett (29th)
425 Sheridan Rd., Suite B
Highwood, IL 60040
(847) 433-2002
fax (847) 433-8002

Terry Link (30th)
906 W. Muir Ave.
Lake Bluff, IL 60044
(847) 735-8181
fax (847) 735-8184

Representatives:

Kathy Ryg (59th) (incorrectly given as Roger Burne in the directory—our apologies to Rep. Ryg)
10 Philip Rd., Suite 124
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

Please also add the following members to your directory:

DON'T FORGET!

President's Cocktail Party

Saturday, February 8th, 6:00 to 8:00 PM
at the home of Sue and Bob Wieseneck
840 Walden Lane, Lake Forest

Please bring an appetizer, dessert, or bottle of wine and a \$15 suggested donation per person.

Great music, great conversation—great fun!

Kathleen O'Hara
35 E. North Ave.
Lake Bluff, IL 60044
Home: 295-1041
Work: 234-9407
kohara@lbsd.lf.edu

JoAnn Eckmann
1239 Deer Trail Lane
Libertyville, IL 60048
Home: 367-4519

League Member Honored

LWVFLB member Prudence Beidler was honored on the evening of January 22nd at a reception at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Chicago. On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, Prue received the Dr. Marvin Rosner Award for Lifetime Achievement from Planned Parenthood. Dr. Rosner was a physician who was well known as a pioneer in the struggle for reproductive rights. He also performed the first legal abortion in Illinois. Prue has been on the Planned Parenthood board for nearly 20 years and has been a passionate advocate for the rights and well-being of women, children, and families. The reception in her honor was attended by approximately 700 people, including a sizable local contingent. The League is proud to have Prue as one of our members. ♦

Election News

Now that all candidates for the April 1st election have filed their nominating petitions, there will be contested elections in High School District 115 and the Lake Bluff Park District. All the others are not contested. A candidate forum will be held for the contested elections; date and time are to be announced.

The candidates are as follows.

**Lake Bluff
Village Board Trustees:**
Christine Letchinger
David Barkhausen
Rick Lesser
Clerk:
Peter Sexton
Library Board:
Britt Isaly
Clay Garner
Karen Bush

Lake Bluff Park District Board (5 candidates for 4 positions):

Blair B. Condon
Paul Engelhard
Stephen Fennel
David Ganfield
John Meierhoff

Lake Forest

Mayor: Jack Preschlak (for a two-year term; first ever in Lake Forest)
1st Ward Alderman: John Andersen
2nd Ward Alderman: Michael Rummel
3rd Ward Alderman: Timm Reynolds
4th Ward Alderman: Kimberly Moss

School District 65

David Bauer
Jim Dasso
Mary Andersen
Eric Grenier

School District 67

Christine Rossman
Joy Guscott-Mueller
Rick Salzer

School District 115

6 candidates for the 3 four-year terms:
Ronald Levitsky
Mark Remissong
Marilyn Harlow
Mary S. Ritter
Janet Nelson
Evan Murphy

Two-year term (uncontested):
Stacy VERNYLEN ♦

Empty-Chair Debates

Our local League strives to provide candidate forums for contested local elections. Efforts are made to include all candidates for multi-seat boards. However, sometimes a statement must be read in the absence of a candidate. LWVFLB allows candidates in multi-seat races, like municipal and school board contests, to appear if multiple candidates are available. For state and federal elections the guidelines are very specific and similar. League-sponsored debates or forums for candidates vying for a federal or state office must include at least two candidates for that office. The rationale is twofold. A candidate in a contested race who appears alone has an advantage. In that case, partisan views and comments can be presented without challenge because of the absence of an opponent. The unfairness of the empty-chair debate is a compelling reason. A second reason is spelled out by federal election guidelines. Providing a debate or forum to benefit an individual, in addition to its partisanship, is considered to be a contribution, and thus subject to both FEC and IRS limitations. Adjourning the forum, without giving a sole candidate a platform, is prudent. Though a candidate may choose to avoid meeting an opponent for political reasons, it is not the League's purpose to resolve such conflicts. ♦

Local Volunteer Opportunity

The April 1st Municipal Election falls during the schools' spring break this year. Consequently, Lake Forest City Hall is anticipating a brisk absentee voter turnout. The City would welcome League volunteers to help with the additional election work. The City has the authority to "deputize" ballot handlers. You don't have to live in Lake

Forest to help. Any morning or afternoon that you could help would be welcome during the week of March 24th to March 28th. For more information or to volunteer, call Beth Marquez at City Hall (234-2600). ♦

Great Decisions

The Great Decisions discussion group begins its discussions every February when the new Foreign Policy Association workbooks are available. Meetings are held in February, March, April, May, June, September, October, and November, on the second Friday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Each session begins with a 20-minute video distributed by the FPA, which augments the text for the day. Guests and friends are always welcome.

The eight topics for 2003 are multilateralism vs. unilateralism; Afghanistan; U.S.-Saudi relations; Nigeria; world trade and food policy; China; European integration; and women's rights.

Come when you can; no need to call if you cannot come. Some people come every month, others just a few times a year. Workbooks are available in February for \$15.

Questions? Call Betty Baker (234-4509) or Diane Lloyd (615-9182). ♦

Connections

Join us for an opportunity to meet with League member Roycealee Wood, our next Lake County Superintendent of Schools. She will discuss the costs of a public education, tax caps, and tax reform. And more . . . share your questions. Assistant Superintendent Wood will speak at 1:00 PM, directly following the League of Women Voters Board meeting at Gorton Community Center on Wednesday, February 12. ♦

CONNECTIONS

**SECOND WEDNESDAYS, 1:00 PM,
AFTER THE BOARD MEETING**

*On February 12th, we're connecting with . . .
Roycealee Wood, Lake County
Superintendent of Schools*

We're talking about . . .

*Costs of public education, tax caps, tax
reform, and more*

*Join us at Gorton—feel free to come early and
sit in on the board meeting (11:00)*

Board Notes

Below is a summary of the last several Board meetings.

September's Board meeting had a full agenda. Plans for Voter Service topped the list, with multiple candidate forums planned. County offices included treasurer, clerk, and County Board. Forums for the Illinois Senate districts 29 and 30 and Illinois House districts 59 and 60 were scheduled, as was the U.S. 10th District. Voter service in two other arenas was planned. Informational articles on voter registration were targeted for the newspaper, and the Board planned to provide voter registration at the upcoming high school open house. Also discussed was League action in the high school referendum. Information had been requested from the school, and the Board voted against taking a position on the proposal but decided to produce a fact sheet. A chat session about the referendum, for members only, was scheduled. Dan Rogers, Shields Township Road and Bridge Commissioner, presented a tax proposal. Also discussed was the League's observer program and holiday luncheon.

At October's Board meeting, the holiday luncheon discussion continued. A report on Lake County League was

given. LWVLC reported on a criminal justice program in partnership with the College of Lake County and a luncheon with County Board members. Official League observers for various county meetings are desired. A future focus for the County League is to meet with key people about League advocacy issues. The membership luncheon was discussed; League member Kathy Stevenson spoke about publishing and read a humorous essay titled "Voter Anxiety," written for the occasion.

Publicity in the Lake Forester was noted; the FAQ sheet on the high school referendum was mentioned; copies of the FAQs were placed in the libraries. A discussion of partisanship and political action led to a decision to form a committee to review the issues. Bob Kiely, City of Lake Forest Manager, joined the group for a discussion of the city's several referendum proposals.

Topics of discussion at **November's Board meeting** were the election results and two upcoming fundraisers, the December holiday luncheon and the February cocktail party. Bookmarks with voter rights information were given to the two libraries. The Community Update with Bob Kiely and Kent Street was discussed and scheduled for March. League was asked to assist with a meeting to "Focus on the Future" at Lake Forest High School by providing facilitators and a moderator. The Preschool Directory, a League publication, was being updated. November's Board meeting was followed by a chat with League member Virginia Fiester Frederick, presenting her new book, *Illinois Women Legislators*. The book profiles 17 women's personal experiences in Illinois government. ♦

State Convention

The State Convention will be held at the Hilton Gardens Hotel in St. Charles from Friday, June 21st, through Sunday, June 23rd. Convention business includes officers, budget, bylaws, and program. All members are asked to consider whether the LWFIL positions are relevant, viable, and up-to-date. Each position (which can be found in the membership directory) will be considered at the convention for retention, deletion, or restudy. Also to be considered is an "action focus," a specific current position to concentrate on in the next two years. Please consider becoming one of our delegates this year. In addition to meeting delegates from other parts of this diverse state, wonderful workshops directly precede the convention.

Appearing again on Saturday night is the Chicago Bar Association traveling show, a troupe that *could* quit their day jobs. If you haven't seen them yet, do pencil in the dates! ♦

High School Hosts "Focus on the Future"

Lake Forest High School will host its second "Focus on the Future" on Thursday, February 27th, from 6:45 to 9:30 P.M. The forum will be open to all residents of Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, and Knollwood. The Focus on the Future is part of an ongoing effort by the Board of Education's Community Relations and Communication Committee and others to strengthen communication within the community and articulate a shared vision for the high school.

In the first forum, on December 11th, nearly 200 parents, students, faculty, staff, Board of Education members, and members of the administration gathered at Lake Forest High School for an open

discussion about the future of the school.

Participants spent the first part of the evening in focus groups of 10 to 12 people, moderated by facilitators provided by LWFILB. They were asked to consider three questions: With which aspects of LFHS are you most pleased? What are your areas of concern at LFHS? What is LFHS not doing now that should be considered? With student participants recording all comments on flip charts, the groups brainstormed, selected their top three answers to each question, and then had the opportunity to report their results to the larger group. The last part of the evening was devoted entirely to the future as individual discussion groups were asked to describe their aspirations for Lake Forest High School.

The results were summarized as follows. LFHS has a lot to be proud of that should be maintained:

- Excellence of faculty
- Academic curriculum: breadth, depth, and high quality
- Accessibility of extracurricular activities
- Positive culture and atmosphere
- Student commitment and achievement

LFHS has opportunities for improvement that should be addressed:

- Negative impact of growing student enrollment on educational program
- Performance of the Board of Education and the administration
- Developing long-term goals and a plan for getting there
- Strengthening relationships among all LFHS stakeholders
- Financial issues

For those interested in learning more about the results of the forum, all of the discussion points were recorded and a summary is available on the Lake Forest High School Web site (www.lfhs.org).

For information about the second forum, contact Mary Ritter at 234-8215 or e-mail: mritter@lfhs.org. ♦

Annual Issues Briefing

The State League's annual Issues Briefing and Workshops on February 8th at the Union League Club will bring several issues to light. Missouri ERA organizers will discuss the ERA in Illinois' 21st century. School funding will be tackled by a panel discussion. Legislators will profile the new General Assembly. Workshops in the afternoon will be devoted to moderator training, tools for successful lobbying, and "A Visible Glow," a session devoted to community visibility. ♦

Save the Date— Community Update

The annual Community Update will take place on Tuesday, March 18th, at in the Lake Bluff Public Safety Building. We will have coffee at 9:00 A.M. and from 9:30 to 10:30, Lake Forest City Manager Robert Kiely and Lake Bluff Village Administrator Kent Street will speak about "What's Going on in Local Government." Watch for details next month. ♦

Annual Meeting Committees Set

The Board has set up committees to prepare for the Annual Meeting in May. The committees will address our program (contact person: Cynthia Maloney), bylaws changes (Stacy Vermeylen), nonpartisan and conflict of interest policies (Bev Adamczyk), budget (Mary Ritter), and nominating of next year's board (Kitty Lansing). If you have ideas to share with any of these committees, please feel free to call the appropriate contact person. ♦

VOTE! MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS ARE APRIL 1ST

The League of Women Voters encourages you to vote. "All politics is local," as the old adage goes, and there is no vote more important, no place to have a greater voice than in your own community. On April 1st, the communities of Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, and Knollwood will vote on Village Board, Library Board, and Park Board members, city mayor and aldermen, and high school and elementary school board members, as well as a school financing referendum in School District 65.

VOTER REGISTRATION AND ABSENTEE VOTING

The League of Women Voters is well known as an advocate for voters' rights. The League, along with other voting rights organizations, played an instrumental role in the passage of voter registration reform legislation in 1993. The National Voter Registration Act, also known as "motor-voter," enables citizens to apply to register at motor vehicle agencies automatically, as well as by mail and at public and private agencies that serve the public.

According to the County Clerk's Office, as a result of growth in Lake County and implementation of the National Voter Registration Act, the number of registered voters in the county has increased to an all-time high of more than 353,130. The clerk's office processes an average of nearly 1,000 new applications each week.

HOW AND WHERE TO REGISTER

March 4th is the deadline for registering to vote in this year's April 1st election. A resident may register to vote if he or she is (1) a U.S. citizen, (2) 18 years of age by the date of the next election, and (3) a resident of his or her Lake County precinct address for 30 days immediately prior to the next election.

Two forms of identification are required to register to vote: (1) at least one of the two forms must show the registering person's name and current address; (2) only one form of identification may be a piece of mail addressed and delivered to the person.

In an attempt to give every qualified person the opportunity to vote, prospective voters have many options for registering. In the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff/Knollwood area, registration is available at the following locations:

- County Clerk's Office, 18 N. County St., Waukegan, 377-2410
- Lake Forest City Hall, 220 E. Deerpath, 234-2600
- Lake Bluff Village Hall, 40 E. Center Ave., 234-0774
- Lake Bluff Public Library, 123 E. Scranton Ave., 234-2540
- Shields Township Office, 905 W. Muir Ave., 234-0802
- West Deerfield Township Office, 858 Waukegan Rd., Deerfield, 945-0614
- Moraine (formerly Deerfield) Township Office, 616 Laurel Ave., Highland Park, 432-3240
- Cook Memorial Public Library, 413 N. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville, 362-2330
- Libertyville Township Office, 359 Merrill Ct., 816-6800
- Village of Libertyville, 118 W. Cook Ave., 362-2430
- City of North Chicago, 1850 S. Lewis Ave., 596-8600
- City of Waukegan, 410 Robert V. Sabonjian Pl., 599-2500
- Waukegan Public Library, 128 N. County St., 623-2041
- Waukegan Township Office, 149 S. Genesee St., Waukegan, 244-4900

Any deputy registrar appointed by the County Clerk may also perform voter registration. There are several deputy registrars in the community, including most precinct committeemen, some League members, and some active Democratic or Republican Party members.

In addition, qualified residents may register when applying for services at any of the following:

- Driver's license facilities
- Department of Public Aid offices
- Department of Public Health offices
- Department of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities offices
- Department of Rehabilitation Services offices

Absentee Voting in Person

For in-person absentee voting, the application process and the actual voting are done all in one step. Any qualified voter may cast an absentee ballot in person at the Lake County Clerk's office not more than 40 days or less than one day prior to the election (February 20 through March 31 for the April 1st election). In-person absentee voting is offered at many township and municipal offices not more than 21 days or less than one day prior to the election (March 10 through March 31). A driver's license or voter registration card is required.

Residents of Lake Forest may vote in person by absentee ballot at Lake Forest City Hall (220 E. Deerpath, 234-2600). Office hours are 8:00 AM to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 PM. The Village of Lake Bluff does not offer absentee voting.

Residents of most townships may vote in person at their township office (the exceptions are Waukegan Township and Newport Township). Shields Township, which includes half of North Chicago, all of Lake Bluff, most of Knollwood, and much of Lake Forest, has its office at West School in Knollwood, 906 W. Muir Ave. (234-0802). Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to noon and 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM; they will also offer special Saturday hours on March 22 and March 29, from 9:00 AM to noon.

Residents of other townships and villages should check with their own municipal or township office.

Other Absentee Programs

Temporarily Absent Student Program

Students who temporarily live outside their precinct while attending school may enroll in this program. The County Clerk's office will automatically send an Application for Absentee Ballot to the school address for a two-year period. Each summer the school address is confirmed by a mailing to the home (permanent) registration address. The program is renewable. Call 377-2406 to enroll.

Snowbird Program

Voters who reside in Lake County but spend part of the year outside of the county (usually winters) may enroll in the Snowbird Program for convenient absentee ballot voting. During the periods requested, absentee ballot applications will automatically be mailed to the alternate mailing address provided. Call the Absentee Department at 377-2406 for more information.

LOCALLY AVAILABLE VOTER SERVICES

Location	Services
Lake County Clerk's Office 18 N. County St., Waukegan 377-2410 www.co.lake.il.us/cntyck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register to vote (deadline March 4th for April 1st election) • Request (by phone, e-mail, or in person) an application for absentee ballot by mail (starting February 20) • Drop off voted ballot obtained by mail (up to March 31) • Vote in person (between February 20 and March 31)
Lake Forest City Hall 220 E. Deerpath 234-2600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register to vote • Pick up an application for absentee ballot by mail (starting February 20) • Vote in person (between March 10 and March 31)
Shields Township Office 906 W. Muir Ave. (West School) 234-0802	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register to vote • Pick up an application for absentee ballot by mail (starting February 20) • Vote in person (between March 10 and March 31)
Lake Bluff Village Hall 40 E. Center Ave. 234-0774	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register to vote • Pick up an application for absentee ballot by mail (starting February 20)
Lake Bluff Public Library 123 E. Scranton Ave. 234-2540	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Register to vote

Mark Your Calendar

- February 8* President's Cocktail Party, 6:00-8:00 PM, home of Sue and Bob Wiscenck, 840 Walden Lane, Lake Forest
- February 8* State Issues Briefing, Union League Club
- February 12* LWVLF/LB Board Meeting, 11:00 AM, Gorton Community Center
- February 12* **CONNECTIONS**, 1:00 PM, Gorton (guest: Roycealee Wood)
- February 14* Great Decisions, 1:00-3:00 PM
- February 19* *League Lines* deadline
- February 27* LFHS Focus on the Future, 6:45-9:30 PM
- March 18* Community Update, Lake Bluff Public Safety Building, 9:00 AM

LWVFLB Area Board of Directors

OFFICERS

- President:* Carol Gilbert (295-4044)
- Secretary:* Stacy Vermeylen (615-1140)
- Vice President-Action:* Beverly Nelson (295-1472)
- Treasurer:* Mary Ritter (234-8215)
- Vice President-Voter Service:* Bev Adamczyk (295-5641)

DIRECTORS

- LWVLC Liaison:* Linda Bartmes (234-7069)
- Membership:* Marcia Duncan (604-9822)
Cynthia Maloney (615-1123)
- Newsletter/Publicity:* Nicki Snoblin (295-9059)
- Voter Registration:* At large
- Program:* Cynthia Morehead (295-6470)

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

CONNECTIONS

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with this month?

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March 2003
Volume 49, Number 6

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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

Message From the President

Carol Gilbert

The school-funding climate is becoming more urgent. One of the reasons for this exists outside of our several school districts, and that reason is the tax cap imposed by the state legislature on the collar counties and Cook County. Additional counties have followed voluntarily, adopting this undeniably attractive guarantee that taxes can't shoot up without prior voter approval. A voter's obligation to be informed is greater than ever.

The tax cap has had irrefutable consequences for schools. First, in a time of increasing enrollment, public schools have needed to accomplish more with less. More students are enrolled in our public schools, but the dollars per student have declined under tax cap math. A second, less celebrated consequence affects voters. The purpose of the tax cap was to make certain that the automatically escalating property taxes characteristic of the early 1990s were instead to be approved by voters. Actively approved ... through voting.

League would like to follow that theme: in this issue we are asking League members to be active decision makers and talk back to us. A committee of League members formed to examine the Lake Bluff Elementary District 65 referendum has synthesized information about the referendum. In straightforward language, the district's answers to League's "Criteria for Evaluating School Referenda" are presented as a pullout in this newsletter. At the end of it, members will see a response form. The committee would like input from the membership as to whether the board should adopt a position on the referendum, and what that position should be.

This newsletter has been a one-way communication, featuring League news and issues. This issue is different. Our challenge to you is to talk back by reading the information here and responding. We'd love to print some of your comments about this process and report on your responses, so please participate. There will also be an open discussion of the subject on Wednesday, March 12th, at Gorton Community Center at 10:30 AM, immediately before the Board meeting. Please join us

if you want to be part of this discussion. Thank you. ♦

Community Update— Don't Miss It!

Tuesday, March 18th
Lake Bluff Public Safety Building
45 E. Center Ave.

9:00 AM: Coffee

9:30 to 10:30: Lake Forest City Manager
Robert Kiely and Lake Bluff Village
Administrator Kent Street will speak about
"What's Going on in Local Government."

Welcome New Member

Mary E. Reljic
P.O. Box 6220
Lindenhurst, IL 60046
(847) 265-0692 (office)
MReljic@aol.com ♦

President's Cocktail Party Warms Up a Winter Night

The President's Cocktail Party on February 8th was a great success. Attendance was good, the food was delicious, and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. The Jazz Quartet from Lake Forest High School added just the right touch with their sophisticated musical selections and performance; these are four very talented young musicians. The cocktail party is an annual fundraiser, and this one was very successful; we are grateful for everyone's generosity. Many thanks to our gracious hosts, Sue and Bob Wieseneck, for entertaining us in their lovely home. ♦

March "Connections" Speaker

Our March lunchtime speaker will be Mark Dewart. Mark, a long-time Lake Bluff resident (although not a senior himself), represents Lake Bluff Friends for Senior Housing, a committee started by the Grace United Methodist Church in Lake Bluff to examine the need for senior housing in the community and how it can be addressed. His group has developed preliminary ideas for a senior housing development in Lake Bluff. Come and hear how the committee has done its research, what its recommendations may be, and what needs to be done to move its plan forward. Join us on Wednesday, March 12th, at 12:30 PM, at Gorton Community Center—and feel free to bring your lunch! ♦

Convention Calls

This year's State Convention will be at the Hilton Garden Inn, which shares amenities with Pheasant Run Resort in

St. Charles. The lucky delegates who attend "A League of Our Own" will be treated to a performance by the Chicago Bar Association Road Show. The Friday workshops include Web sites, running meetings, presentation tools, community engagement, and knowing your government. Additional topics on Saturday are League priority issues, voter service, and membership. Friday evening's speaker will be Professor Larry Marshall, Northwestern University, discussing the student research that resulted in the release of death row inmates. Plenary sessions are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday morning. The dates for this year's State Convention are June 20th to 22nd. LWVFLB will be sending delegates; both new and perennial members are welcome to represent us. Please call Carol Gilbert if you want additional information. ♦

Combined LWVFLB/AAUW Meeting

Wednesday, April 9th, 7:30 pm
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd., Lake Forest
The LWVFLB will host a combined meeting with the American Association of University Women on Wednesday, April 9th, at Gorton Community Center. The guest speaker will be Marjorie Dixon Zamora. Ms. Zamora is a graduate of Earlham College and the University of Illinois, and served in the first Peace Corps in Costa Rica, 1963-1964. She is Professor Emerita of Political Science at Moraine Valley College in Palos Hills, Illinois.

In February 2000, Congressman Dennis Kucinich appointed Marjorie to his planning committee to develop a Department of Peace, which would promote nonviolence as a basic human right—whether it be

domestic violence or war. Kucinich introduced HR2459 into the House on July 11, 2001, two months before the September 11th terrorist attacks.

As Director of the Coalition for a Department of Peace, Marjorie speaks to colleges and church and civic groups. She says, "Helping build a cabinet-level Department of Peace with a Peace Academy is my consuming goal." ♦

Local Volunteer Opportunity

The April 1st Municipal Election falls during the schools' spring break this year. Consequently, there may be a brisk absentee voter turnout. League volunteers would be welcome to help with the additional election work at our local municipal offices. The City of Lake Forest needs volunteers any morning or afternoon during the week of March 24th to March 28th, and there may be opportunities to help in Lake Bluff as well. For more information or to volunteer, call Beth Marquez at City Hall (234-2600) for Lake Forest, or Bev Adamczyk (295-5641) for Lake Bluff information. ♦

Last Month's "Connections"

February's Connections speaker, Acting Superintendent of Lake County Schools Roycealee Wood, brought a picture of area schools to those assembled. The County office's role is essentially regulatory, implementing codes of various kinds and reviewing certification issues. In addition to responsibility for 132,000 public school students, the County Superintendent's office also oversees alternative schools, advises home schoolers, and administers reading recovery programs. Local school boards are "fairly independent," and, though the State Board of

Education would prefer to consolidate smaller districts and thereby consolidate services, communities generally prefer the separate identity of multiple school districts.

Though ranked 48th in the country in state spending per pupil, Illinois actually is fifth in total spending once local property tax revenue is added. Royce noted, "The ability to pay more in our districts does give the opportunity" for more desirable programs locally. Salaries provide an example of the disparity in Lake County, where districts record a range of about \$20,000 to \$40,000 for entry-level high school teachers. State aid in Illinois has dropped over the years to its current 51% of costs.

The funding system has not worked well in communities like Round Lake. Acting Superintendent Wood stated, "When you vote in a referendum you protect the future of your children, and protect your property values. Nobody wants a house in Round Lake at the moment." Commenting on the general picture, Royce noted that a balanced tax base in a community can be helpful in evening out available funds. A prime factor reducing local public schools' income is low inflation, which depresses both investment income and the CPI-based tax cap. The tax cap was fully implemented locally in 1993-1994; currently 43 counties of 102 in Illinois have caps. The "astronomical" increase in health insurance costs has also reduced available programming funds.

Observer Corps Reports

Lake Bluff Village Board

The Lake Bluff Village Board meets twice a month, on the second and fourth

CONNECTIONS

**SECOND WEDNESDAYS, 12:30 PM,
AFTER THE BOARD MEETING**

On March 12th, we're connecting with...

Mark Dewart, Lake Bluff Friends for Senior Housing

We're talking about...

A possible new senior housing plan for Lake Bluff

Join us at Gorton—feel free to come early and sit in on the board meeting (11:00)

Mondays, at 7:00 PM in the Village Hall. Issues before the Board in recent months have included parking and building use issues on Center and Scranton Avenues in downtown Lake Bluff; expansion of the JAWA water treatment plant on Route 176 in a manner that minimizes impact on local residents; annexation and development of a commercial property adjacent to the east side of Route 41 and south of Blodgett Avenue; and several specific requests for residential zoning variations. The Board has viewed and discussed plans for storage and auto display at the Knauz Auto Park on Skokie Highway. They have authorized development of an intersection design for placing a stoplight at Waukegan Road and North Shore Drive. They have hired a lobbyist to facilitate possible inclusion of the intersection of Route 41 and Route 176 in the federal "TEA 21" transportation bill; the Board hopes to obtain federal funding to rebuild this intersection, as part of their long-range

At their meeting on February 10, the Board heard a detailed presentation from the Lake Forest Senior Center about the many programs and services the Center offers to residents of Lake Forest, Lake Bluff, and Knollwood, and about the support the Center receives from the community. This was followed by a presentation by Mark Dewart,

representing Lake Bluff Friends for Senior Housing, a committee started by the Grace United Methodist Church in Lake Bluff. Mr. Dewart described preliminary ideas for a senior housing development in Lake Bluff. The committee conducted a community survey and then developed a focus group of 30 local residents to research what type of housing would be desirable. The committee is considering a plan involving a two- to three-story building containing approximately

144 units; 85% would be "congregate housing" (apartments with a high level of services) and 15% assisted living. The committee hopes for support from the Village of Lake Bluff in the form of a long-term lease on an 11-acre parcel of land the Village owns on Route 176.

Lake Forest City Council-Lake Forest Plan Commission

The City Council passed a resolution requesting the Plan Commission to consider placing a moratorium on nonretail development in the Lake Forest Central Business District (CBD) as the Commission studies and reviews a proposal to expand the boundaries of the area currently governed by the 10% rule. The 10% Rule states that business, professional, and governmental offices and other non-sales tax generating uses in the area of the CBD bounded by Deerpath on the south, Western on the east, Westminster on north and Oakwood on the west shall be limited to 10% of the net rentable square footage within these boundaries and 10% of the street frontage within the boundaries. Any such uses above the allowed percentages require a Special Use Permit. ♦

Report on the LWVIL Briefing

The ERA

League's annual update on state action on February 8th included a guest speaker from Missouri, Mary Mosley. Noting that she cut her "political eye-teeth" in Evanston, Mosley profiled her subject—passing the Equal Rights Amendment in three more states—from several viewpoints.

Citing current studies, Mosley told the assembly that 72% of the public thinks ERA is already law, and 90% believes it should be. Though 21 states currently have some form of equal protection law, the states' provisions are variable in scope and do not have constitutional authority and the consequent Title VII federal coverage. Mosley termed the US the only industrialized country without an appropriate rights statement, and because of that, "sexual discrimination does not receive the same scrutiny as racial discrimination" legally.

Historically, the proposed ERA is unique for having had a time limit attached to it. Mosley contrasted the ERA proposal to the Madison Amendment, the 14th amendment, which took 200 years to pass. ERA has already had an extended life, too. When the first time limit was attached to ERA, Alice Paul (who wrote the statement in 1923) is said to have cried ... current ERA activists point out that the time limit was not, in fact, part of the motion, and hence nonbinding.

According to Mosley, the ERA failed to pass because opposition was not addressed responsibly or seriously. The top three reasons for opposition are abortion (Mosley notes there is no correlation between state funding of abortion and states' passage of ERA), same-sex marriage (according to Mosley, Vermont is the only state that

recognizes same-sex partners for benefits), and military service (Mosley notes that women in the military have asked for the pay and prestige of combat duty and oppose the glass ceiling extant without). Strategies for passage include contacting legislators and "answering every news article."

School Funding

LWVIL Issues Specialist Kathy Nesburg described the current structural deficit in the state budget. Even though the state lacks funds, our schools are in need of higher spending, said Nesburg, calling "the effects of TIFs and tax caps especially, insidious." New revenue is needed, and the main options are more taxes, "as in other states, like movies and car repair," which are currently untaxed in Illinois, or an increase in income tax of 1% to 2%. Trading the current property tax structure for income tax funding will not suffice, Nesburg said; "We need new real money." Currently 60% of schools are deficit spending, and that number is expected to go to 80% this year. Of 2,000,000 Illinois students, 400,000 can't meet the state standards established by the "No Child Left Behind" program. Improvement will come only when the state increases the "foundation level spending" above \$4560 per student, according to Nesburg.

Legislator Update

Barbara Flynn Currie, majority leader of the Illinois House, addressed the February 8th LWVIL gathering, stating that the budget shortfall could be \$5 billion in Illinois. She predicted 46 other states would join Illinois, because of the national economy. The state constitution precludes deficit spending, so the choices are cuts (termed "not enough"), or finding new revenue. Programs for "vulnerable" populations will be affected, according to Currie, since 92%

of the state's spending is for education, health, human services, and corrections. Commenting on the ERA issue, Currie lambasted the lack of enforcement of the Equal Pay Act, noting that Illinois Democrats have asked the US Labor Department to act more aggressively. Currie termed the current Illinois ERA progress "breathhtaking" in comparison to the 1982 vote, when ERA was narrowly defeated. Addressing school funding, Currie termed school reform a challenge. A progressive or graduated income tax would be "very difficult" in today's economy. "Getting more from people who have more is opposite to Bush's plan." Also, an increase in income tax with less reliance on property tax would be "a hard sell politically to risk-averse politicians." [Republican Patricia Reid Lindner was unable to appear as scheduled with Representative Currie.]♦

LWVUS Issues Opinion on Iraq Situation

The following statement was issued by LWVUS on February 3rd, 2003.

The League of Women Voters urges President Bush to continue working with the United Nations to resolve the situation with Iraq. International cooperation is an essential element in guarding against terrorism and protecting all nations from attack, particularly those that may involve nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons.

Working with the United Nations provides the US with many foreign and domestic policy advantages. First, it ensures a full and exhaustive debate of a range of alternative policies and actions. Second, it builds unity of purpose by clearly defining the objectives to be fulfilled. Third, it assures the world that

the United States is not acting solely for its own benefit while reassuring the American people that the US is not acting alone. Fourth, it provides the legitimacy of international law. And fifth, it increases the chances of long-term success through international peacekeeping and nation building efforts.

For these reasons, the UN should be an important component of US foreign policy. We should work actively and constructively within the UN system, exercising diplomatic leadership in advance of decision making. Resolution of past crises has shown the

effectiveness of multilateral action in dealing with international problems.

For decades, the League of Women Voters has supported the role of the UN in developing, maintaining, and protecting peace around the world. Today, when multilateral action is needed to combat terrorism, to establish the institutions and conditions for real economic and social development in post-war Afghanistan and other countries, and to guard against weapons proliferation, the active involvement of the international community and the United Nations is even more important.

League Cable Broadcasts in March

Look for upcoming cable broadcasts of two League events—the February 26 Candidates' Forum, featuring candidates for Lake Forest High School District 115 and for the Lake Bluff Park Board, and rebroadcasts of our School Funding Forum from February 2002. These broadcasts are timely, in light of the April 1st elections. Broadcast times weren't set yet at *League Lines* press time, so please check your cable listings for LFTV, Channel 19. ♦

Mark Your Calendar

<i>March 12</i>	LWVFLB Board Meeting, 11:00 AM, Gorton Community Center (10:30 AM: Open Discussion of School District 65 Referendum)
<i>March 12</i>	[UNNE]TIONE, 12:30 PM, Gorton (guest: Mark Dewart, Lake Bluff Friends for Senior Housing)
<i>March 14</i>	Great Decisions, 1:00-3:00 PM
<i>March 18</i>	Community Update, Lake Bluff Public Safety Building, 9:00 AM
<i>March 21</i>	League Lines deadline
<i>April 1</i>	Election Day
<i>April 9</i>	Combined LWVFLB/AAUW Meeting, 7:30 PM, Gorton Community Center

LWVFLB Area Board of Directors

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President: Carol Gilbert (295-4044)
Secretary: Stacy Vermeylen (615-1140)
Vice President—Action: Beverly Nelson (295-1472)
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April 2003
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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

Message From the President

Carol Gilbert

In this issue of League Lines, members will find their Annual Meeting packet. Our meeting agenda will include the usual annual presentations on budget, nominations, and program. We will also schedule time for our nominating systems study, bylaws, and nonpartisan policy. A brief presentation by A Safe Place will precede the business meeting and follow dinner.

Last month the Board voted to support the Lake Bluff Elementary District 65 referendum. We do not always take action on local issues, but the Board felt circumstances merited a position this time. Appropriate school funding will continue to be a focus for League. Our State League continues to lobby for effective changes in the tax structure. And Lake Forest High School is expected to propose a referendum for next spring. We are fortunate to live in communities where our tax base can support excellent schools.

In the next two issues of League Lines, we will bring to you news of 2003's LWVFLB board meetings, a synopsis of our Annual Meeting decisions, and news of State League's activity and outlook. As we work toward the close of this board's work, I would like to thank those who contribute so much. We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting ... please save the date: May 7th. ♦

Combined LWV/AAUW Meeting Scheduled for April 9th

Our local chapters of LWV and AAUW will host a joint meeting on Wednesday, April 9th, at 7:30 PM at Gorton Community Center. Our guest speaker is Marjorie Zamora, a graduate of Earlham College and the University of Illinois. She served in the first Peace Corps in Costa Rica, 1963-1964. Marjorie is Professor Emerita of Political Science at Moraine Valley College in Palos Hills. In February 2000, Congressman Dennis Kucinich appointed Marjorie to his Planning Committee for a Department of Peace. Kucinich introduced HR 2459, which promotes nonviolence (from domestic violence to military conflict) as a basic human right, to the House two months before 9/11. As director of the Coalition for a Department of Peace, she speaks to college, church, and civic groups. "Helping to build a cabinet-level Department of Peace with a Peace Academy" is her consuming goal. Hostesses for the meeting will be Carol Gilbert and Leslie Kirkeide. ♦

April "Connections" Speakers

Don't miss April's Connections speakers, the Committee Representing Our Young Adults (CROYA), at 12:15 PM at Gorton on April 9th. Hear the CROYA student committee's vision of their future. The presentation will describe their activities, building

expansion plans, and the proposed timing for an improved CROYA facility. Please come and get informed! This inspiring group of young people has put together a very informative presentation and will answer questions you may have about the CROYA program and objectives. ♦

Candidates' Forum Well Attended

We had a very successful Candidates' Forum on February 26th. Participants were all six of the candidates for the Lake Forest High School board of education, as well as three of the five candidates for the Lake Bluff Park Board. Thank you to everyone who worked on the Candidates' Forum: League members Nicki Snoblin, Ann Hamlin, Fran Goostrey, Carol Gilbert, Julia Parker, Diane Lloyd, and Edith Auchter. Also thanks to Sue Hetzel and Lake Forest Place for providing the use of the Vale Room, and thanks to LFTV and Herb Nelson for taping and broadcasting the event. ♦

Informative Community Update

The annual Community Update with Lake Bluff Village Administrator Kent Street and Lake Forest City Manager Bob Kiely on March 18th produced an abundance of information. Both municipalities are currently in budget cycles. In Lake Bluff the plan is to maintain the same service levels and to project potential revenue conservatively. The property tax levy is being increased only by the value of new construction. Future plans include budgeting for additional police, perhaps two officers in the next two years. Lake Forest is assuming tax revenue will be flat or declining. Capital improvements and equipment costs are being held down until the economy improves.

Fortunately, alternative revenue sources provide an additional 2% to the city's income.

Roadway improvements in our areas will include the Moffett Road and Route 176 bridges in Lake Bluff, and the Deerpath and Waukegan Road bridges in Lake Forest. The Deerpath and Route 176 projects will be simultaneous; residents should expect east-west travel delays this summer. Federal monies for improvements at Routes 60/294 and 41/176 are hoped for.

Lake Bluff's central business district is the site of several projects. Center Avenue Partners is proposing a bank drive-through and infill storefront on Scranton. Directly west, the Block One project on Scranton is being restudied by Cushman and Wakefield. The "Bermuda triangle" interchange at Center Avenue and Route 176 near Sheridan may be altered to redirect traffic. Land west of Green Bay is being eyed by advocates of new senior housing. Two presentations have been made to the Village Board. The proposed site is approximately ten acres located east of the water plant on 176. The land is currently used as a construction staging area by the JAWA group; that easement agreement will expire in two years.

Additional projects in Lake Forest include water plant upgrades (in progress), plumbing inspections (now required for home sales), overhead plumbing in new construction, and storm sewer improvements (beginning 2004). New emphasis is being given to strategic planning. Identifying desirable growth is a concern. The city's 10% limit on nonretail use in the central business district is being balanced by proposed mixed use and adaptive reuse projects farther north on Western. The most controversial issue in Lake Forest is the dog beach petition; passions are high on both sides of the issue. ♦

Last Month's "Connections"

February Connections speaker Mark Dewart presented "The Lake Bluff Senior Housing Initiative," a citizen's group proposal gaining momentum in Lake Bluff. Stating that "people want to be meshed into their communities," Mr. Dewart identified senior housing as a pressing community need. Citing a survey of seniors in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff, he stated that 97% of Lake Bluff seniors responded there is a need for senior housing. A market analysis identified 399 senior households in the Lake Bluff/Lake Forest/Knollwood community.

The Senior Housing Initiative group is exploring financing and land options. The Initiative has already defined the physical characteristics of a successful project. To provide significant amenities and an economical project, the ideal size would be 144 living units, including 66 one-bedroom and 54 two-bedroom apartments. An additional 24 assisted living units would be smaller apartments, similar to the one-bedrooms, but with an alcove. Essential services for the senior community would include transportation and meal service. Parking for 65 cars would be provided. Common areas would include dining and meeting areas, and other amenities as desired by the community, such as a privately operated convenience store.

The proposed "very conceptual" fees were based on local real estate values. Sale of a home in Lake Bluff (median value, \$500,000) was the basis to develop a financial plan deemed affordable to local seniors. Fees would vary with the living unit size and the level of assistance needed. The entrance fee for a one- or two-bedroom unit would vary from about \$140,000 to \$280,000. The monthly fee would be

\$1500 to \$2400. Assisted living costs might be an additional \$3500 to \$3900.

It is hoped that the operator of the home will be a not-for-profit group accomplished in this arena. Full occupancy could come as soon as three years from now. The property being considered for the project is owned by the Village of Lake Bluff and is located east of the JAWA water plant on Route 176. The Senior Housing Initiative grew out of "Vision 2000," a Grace United Methodist Church initiative. ♦

Endorsement of the School District 65 Referendum

The following is a letter to the editor submitted to the Lake Forester on March 14th, 2003, from Carol Gilbert, President, League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area.

On April 1st, District 65 voters will be asked to fund the Lake Bluff School District in the form of a referendum. Many school districts in Illinois are in financial distress; Elementary District 65 is just one of them. This year, 80% of Illinois' public schools are deficit spending. Lake Bluff Elementary is currently borrowing against itself, using early taxes. Its bond rating has dropped. The district's main source of income, the property tax levy (more than 80% of the budget) is tied to the Consumer Price Index. The district's real costs would be better indexed to labor and benefits. Those costs have ballooned in the decade past, and they constitute almost 80% of the annual budget.

Illinois' tax cap law limits the amount of tax increase a taxing body can make in any one year. Because of this law, when expenses exceed income, taxing

CONNECTIONS

**SECOND WEDNESDAYS, 12:15 PM,
AFTER THE BOARD MEETING**

*On April 9th, we're connecting with . . .
Committee Representing Our Young Adults
(CROYA)*

*We're talking about . . .
CROYA's current activities and plans for
the future
Join us at Gorton—feel free to come early and
sit in on the board meeting (11:00)*

bodies must either make budget reductions or appeal to voters via referendum for a revenue increase in the way of taxes.

Nationally, Illinois is in the bottom tier for state spending on education. Illinois moves into the top tier when we add our property taxes to the education fund. Our local tax dollars really do go directly to our local schools. We have excellent schools in the collar counties in large part because they are well funded.

The League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area believes that School District 65 has demonstrated a need for more revenue to maintain the quality of education that the community deems appropriate for its children. The League encourages you to vote YES for the School District 65 referendum on April 1st. ♦

Revised Nonpartisan Political Policy

The following statement is our revised Nonpartisan Political Policy, developed by a committee appointed by the Board because a need was felt for clarification of our old policy. We are proud that so many of our members are politically active and willing to work for the issues they believe in. The policy is intended to serve as a guideline for those members in and for the Board in determining

whether there is any possible conflict between a member's League role and her or his political activity.

I. Statement of Policy

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy. The League is a nonpartisan political organization; nonpartisan in that it never supports or opposes any candidate or political party; political in that it does act on those governmental issues selected by its members and on which a position has been reached through study and member agreement.

II. Rationale

The League of Women Voters must be nonpartisan so that:

- its position on an issue can be readily accepted as unbiased and independent;
- it will not be obligated to any political party or faction;
- it can seek solutions in the public interest on the basis of fresh inquiry and objective study;
- its voter service work will have wide public acceptance and trust;
- League membership will appeal to individuals of varying political views.

III. Guidelines for General Membership

The League recognizes the importance political parties play in our government and encourages its members to work in the party and for the candidates and issues of their choice. Accordingly, all members, other than the president and voter service chair are encouraged to participate in any political party or governmental activity, provided that

they act as individuals and not in the name of the League.

When a member is acting in the name of the League, that member shall refrain from any partisan display or action of party affiliation or politics.

IV. Guidelines for Board Members

A. Public Office, Boards, Commissions, Committees

The president and voter service chair shall not run for or hold an elected public office. There may be times when the board decides other positions are of particular sensitivity in the community. The president and board members may accept appointment to national, state or local commissions, boards or committees where such service would not be in conflict with League program.

When a board member decides to run for, to hold or to accept a public office, that member must notify the board.

If a conflict between a board member's public duties and the official position of the League should arise prior to or during the term of office, the League board shall review the conflict and decide upon a course of action which shall be in the best interest of the League.

B. Support of Candidates for Public Office

Individual board members may support candidates of their choice, as long as they do so as individuals and not in the name of the League. Because of the nature of their positions, the president and voter service chair may not publicly support any candidate.

C. Public Issues

Board members are free on their own behalf to sign petitions or otherwise speak publicly for or against an issue. The president may never speak in conflict with a League position, even as

an individual. During the study of an issue and before a League position has been reached, members speaking in the name of the League should refrain from making any public statements for or against the issue. After the League position has been reached, the president or a designated representative may speak or testify publicly at meetings or hearings only in agreement with the League position, and not in disagreement with it.

No petitions may be circulated during any League meetings unless petitions are in support of League positions. The president has the responsibility to assure that other petitions are not presented.

D. Employment

The board shall evaluate and resolve any questions of conflicts of interest arising from a board member's employment.

E. Resignations

If a board member chooses to engage in political activity beyond the extent deemed to be in the best interest of the League, the board may ask for that member's resignation.

V. Interpretation

The League has a responsibility to be sensitive to community perception of League bias or League candidate support.

VI. Annual Review of Nonpartisan Political Policy

A Nonpartisan Political Policy Committee, appointed by the president, shall be responsible for the annual review of this policy.

Revised March 2003 ♦

LWVUS Urgent Lobby Request #108-2

For three decades, the League of Women Voters has supported Title IX of the Education Act Amendments of 1972. We are deeply concerned about recent efforts to reverse the progress brought about by Title IX and we need your help in contacting your members of Congress today!

Title IX is the federal law that prohibits gender discrimination in all aspects of education, but it is best known for creating opportunities for women and girls in athletics. Title IX says, "No person in the United States shall on the basis of sex be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

In January 2002, Secretary of Education Roderick R. Paige appointed a "Commission on Opportunity in Athletics" to examine the impact of Title IX on athletics and to make suggestions for "improvements" in administration of the law. At its meeting in late January 2003, the Commission approved several proposals to change Title IX that would reduce sports participation opportunities and scholarships to which women and girls are entitled under existing regulations. Secretary Paige has since indicated that he will only accept "consensus" recommendations. However, it is not clear at this time what those recommendations would be.

We need you to contact members of Congress and to urge them to reject attempts to return women and women's athletics to second-class status. Congress must hear of our concerns to

ensure that Secretary Paige and the President don't try to roll back Title IX. We remain deeply concerned that any changes to Title IX will risk reversing much of this law's progress over the past 30 years.

What You Can Do

1. Call or e-mail your representative and senators. Remind them that Title IX is responsible for vastly expanded educational opportunities in athletics for women. We oppose all efforts to undermine equal opportunity for women. Call through the Capitol Hill switchboard at (202) 224-3121. E-mail can be sent to members of Congress through the League Legislative Action Center on the LWVUS web site at <http://interactive.lwv.org>.

2. Follow up with a hand-written letter to your representative and senators. This debate is likely to continue for some time, and hand-written correspondence is still the best way to make your points with your elected representatives. Mail can be sent to your representative (The Honorable Jane Doe/Dear Representative Doe) at US House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515, or your senators (The Honorable Jane Doe/Dear Senator Doe) at US Senate, Washington, DC 20510.

E-mail a letter to the editor using the media tools in the League Legislative Action Center at <http://www.capwiz.com/lwv/issues/alert/?alertid=1605881>.

4. Join with like-minded organizations in your community to take action to save Title IX.

Send this e-mail alert to other concerned citizens—your grassroots network, your friends and coworkers.

The Message

Title IX is responsible for vastly expanded educational opportunities in athletics for women. We oppose all efforts to undermine equal opportunity for women and girls in education. We urge you to support Title IX and to oppose any attempts to reverse the advances of the past three decades.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Betsy Lawson, LWVUS Senior Lobbyist at blawson@lwv.org. You can view this alert and additional history online at: <http://www.capwiz.com/lwv/issues/alert/?alertid=1605706&type=CO>. ♦

Mark Your Calendar

- April 1* ELECTION DAY
April 9 LWVLF/LB Board Meeting, 11:00 AM, Gorton Community Center
April 9 [DINNER], 12:15 PM, Gorton (guests: representatives of CROYA)
April 9 Combined LWVFLB/AAUW Meeting, 7:30 PM, Gorton Community Center
April 11 Great Decisions, 1:00-3:00 PM
April 19 League Lines deadline
May 7 LWVFLB Annual Meeting—watch for invitation in the mail!

LWVFLB Area Board of Directors

OFFICERS

- President:* Carol Gilbert (295-4044)
Secretary: Stacy Vermeylen (615-1140)
Vice President—Action: Beverly Nelson (295-1472)
Treasurer: Mary Ritter (234-8215)
Vice President—Voter Service: Bev Adamczyk (295-5641)

DIRECTORS

- LWVLC Liaison:* Linda Bartmes (234-7069)
Membership: Marcia Duncan (604-9822)
Cynthia Maloney (615-1123)
Newsletter/Publicity: Nicki Snoblin (295-9059)
Voter Registration: At large
Program: Cynthia Morehead (295-6470)

Lake Forest—Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

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Lake Forest, IL 60045

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

CONNECTIONS

Who are we connecting
with this month?
See page 3.



May 2003
Volume 49, Number 8

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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

Message From the President

Carol Gilbert

We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting at Pauline Mohr's. Those who attended last year will remember it as a delicious evening, thanks to the culinary creations of Cynthia Maloney and Bev Adamczyk. Please join us at Pauline Mohr's beautiful home the evening of Wednesday, May 7th. The business meeting information for your review was printed in the last newsletter, but additional packets will be available at the meeting.

Included in this issue are a summary of 2003's board meetings and a "Really Short Version" of LWVIL's program. If you would like more information about the State League's work, please call me, and also consider attending the State Convention in June as a delegate representing us. The dates are June 20th to 22nd at both the Hilton Garden Inn and Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles. On Friday there are workshops and a dinner speaker; Saturday brings plenary sessions, workshops, and the very funny Chicago Bar Association Road Show; Sunday includes a networking breakfast and the closing plenary session. You, and guests, are especially encouraged to attend the Saturday night entertainment.

The conclusion of our LWV year brings an enthusiastic slate of new board members, and a goodbye to some others. Heartfelt thanks for their years of service are extended to Beverly Nelson (Action VP), Marcia Duncan (Membership), Stacy Vermeylen (secretary), and Bev Adamczyk (VP

Voter Service and former President). I join them, and would like to say thank you for the opportunity to be a steward of League's heritage. It is an immensely satisfying personal experience that has also given me many cherished friendships. ♦

Board Notes

In January the Board reviewed our calendar, noting that our four major events could be scheduled in advance for next year. They are the holiday luncheon, community update, winter cocktail party, and a fall membership event. The newly proposed Lake Bluff School District 65 referendum was discussed and plans were made to study it. LWVILB's Criteria for Evaluation, adopted in the summer, would be used and a membership discussion meeting was called. A newsletter article on voter registration and absentee voting was proposed, since the April election date would fall during the public school vacation. Board members running for public office announced their candidacies and the board determined that those candidacies posed no conflict with their positions. League's role in the second "Focus on the Future" at Lake Forest High School was discussed. Annual meeting committees were assigned.

In February the State League's program was briefly reviewed; the Board voted to recommend those positions be readopted at this year's state convention. The continuing discussion about state funding of schools resulted in a decision to address the issue more intensively, both locally and, hopefully, at the state level. A report on holiday

luncheon and cocktail party funds was given, and joining with the AAUW for a holiday event in the future was approved. The annual meeting program committee's work was previewed, suggesting that areas of focus should be adopted by LWVFLB to direct the next year's work. Candidate forums were discussed; they were being planned for contested April elections. All board members were requested to make efforts to increase membership. The Connections speaker was Royce Wood, Lake County Schools Superintendent.

The March board meeting was preceded by a final open discussion of the District 65 referendum in advance of the scheduled board vote on establishing a position pro/con/neutral. The board reviewed the member tear-off votes and the task force's activity, and voted to support the referendum. The annual meeting committee discussed several areas of interest to general membership, including affordable housing, smart growth, and school funding reform. Noting "there aren't any new ideas" in tax reform, the board suggested that LWV efforts at state and national be considered in any program proposal. The Connections speaker was Mark Dewart discussing the Lake Bluff initiative for senior housing.

In April preparation for the annual meeting continued. The budget deficit was discussed, as was the need for a fundraising proposal and a dues increase. Phonathon profits would be smaller than last year, since fewer volunteers participated. Senior housing was discussed, with the comment that "affordable" senior housing is less accessible in our community than would be desired. The status of the continued nominating systems study was discussed. Much has changed since the inception of the study, and board members felt that additional information

on candidates' actual experience and caucus roles might be added. Delegates for the state convention should be solicited. The Connections speakers were four CROYA teens. ♦

April "Connections" Speakers

CROYA youth presented their dream to League members at Connections in April. CROYA, also (infrequently) known as the Committee Representing Our Young Adults, is dreaming of a bigger future. Noting that "we are bursting at the seams," the students described CROYA as "a necessary break from the daily grind" and welcome "relief from teenage pressures." And their dream is to have more space and more programming choices.

CROYA's current space in the Lake Forest Recreation Center does not allow for multiple simultaneous events. The group's preference is to remain at the Rec Center and hopefully expand the existing building. A variety of funding vehicles and building ideas have been discussed. Money will be raised through donations and a new CROYA foundation. Preliminary plans have been developed by the kids with John Chipman of Chipman/Adams architects.

The short-term plan is to expand by using the existing adjacent game room space in the LF Recreation Center. Funds are "about 95%" available for the in-house expansion. The long-term goal is to build more space, particularly additional dedicated spaces. Highest on the teens' building addition wish list is a permanent drop-in area. The goal is to create a "culture for the kids..." a permanent space with multiple opportunities."

The youth needs provided by CROYA include social opportunities, community

service events, leadership training, and various kinds of support. CROYA's mission is to serve the needs of youth grades 7 through 12, through programs that foster good values. CROYA allows teens the opportunity to participate in decisions that affect teens, and a social setting that is both comfortable and supportive. The decision to present CROYA's dream to the community is the culmination of a three-and-a-half-year process. A larger building space would allow "such awesome possibilities!" ♦

Year-End Observer Reports

Lake Forest High School

The Board of Education recently held its election for officers. The new president of the BOE is Janet Nelson; vice president, Bill Conrad; and secretary, Mary Ritter. The start time for Board meetings has been moved to 7:00 PM. Lake Forest High School plans to establish a Strategic Planning Team that will assist the Superintendent in making recommendations about the future direction of LFHS to the Board of Education.

Submitted by Julia Parker

Lake Bluff Plan Commission

At the April 2003 meeting, Plan Commission members continued discussion of the Tree Preservation Ordinance. The goal of the commission is to perform a maintenance review evaluating the effectiveness of the existing ordinance and to determine whether there are areas of deficiency. Regarding a request to vacate village right-of-way at 631 Ravine Avenue, commission members gave the following advisory recommendation: The property owner should receive the property without cost but the acquired area could not be included in any future calculations regarding bulk regulations.

At other meetings, the commission performed a profiling conceptual review of the Gorter property. This 12-acre site is located near the north edge of the village and east of Route 41.

Approximately one half of the site is located within the village and is zoned Light Industrial District. The remainder, including a former motel, is zoned General Office in Lake County and would require annexation to the village. The owner is proposing a Planned Commercial Development with high-quality storage facilities, including some with climate control, and an office building.

In other business, the owner of the Buehler property is petitioning the village for a final plat of subdivision for 41 Waukegan Road, located east of Waukegan Road and south of North Shore Drive. Significant realignment of North Shore Drive and Knollwood Road will be needed in order for a traffic light to be approved at this intersection.

Submitted by Marilyn Shneifug

Senior Resources Commission

The Senior Resources Commission meets on the second Monday of each month at 9:30 AM in Dickinson Hall. All meetings are open to the public. Roger Mohr is the Lake Forest City Council Alderman assigned to the Commission and, recently, Lake Bluff Village Trustee Paul Lemieux has been in attendance.

The occupation of the five senior cottages in July marked the achievement of a long-sought senior citizen goal. This year also marked Joyce Foster's retirement and Marge Burda's appointment as Director of Senior Services. The Commission sadly noted Susanna Bunta and Don Goostrey's retirements from the Commission.

The Commission receives regular reports from the All High School Liaison committee via representative

Diane Faubl. Long-range planning is an annual event, and finances are an ongoing concern.

Submitted by Eleanor Knight

Lake Forest Plan Commission and City Council

The Plan Commission gave final approval to the development of property along the south side of Route 60 just west of Conway Farms (Amberly Woods). This development includes retaining the historic estate home on the site for adaptive reuse. The remaining acreage will be developed with an office building, condominiums, and single-family homes.

The Plan Commission has been asked by the City Council to review the mix of retail and nonretail uses in the city's business districts and to report back to the Council on the impact the balance of these uses will have on the community.

Other major issues facing the City Council: (1) Storm and sanitary sewer improvements that need to be undertaken. This is an ongoing project. (2) Plans for the property along the south side of Route 60 across from Academy Drive. The city acquired this 25-acre site in February after passing a successful referendum. Conway Farms partners donated an adjacent 10-acre parcel to create a 35-acre site. Decisions on how this property will be developed for recreation and open space will be defined in the coming year based on planning that will include an opportunity for the public to express needs and desires.

Of major importance: The proposed budget for fiscal year 2004 will be reviewed at the May 5 City Council meeting. The city is fiscally sound, but future budgets could become very tight with little leeway for increasing revenues. This is an issue to watch.

Submitted by Pauline Mohr

Lake Bluff Village Board

The Lake Bluff Village Board meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7:00 pm at the Lake Bluff Village Hall, 40 E. Center Ave.

At the April 28th meeting, the Board approved its budget for 2003-2004 and inaugurated two new board members elected in April: Rick Lesser and David Barkhausen. The Board also passed resolutions honoring the service of the two out-going trustees, Frank Swanton and William Hart.

A major issue the Board is dealing with currently is the Central Business District Improvement Project. This will involve a major realignment of the intersections of Center Avenue, Scranton Avenue, and Sheridan Road at Rockland Road. The end result will be a more easily navigable area with perpendicular intersections, but there will be considerable impact on businesses in that area and residents who pass through it. The board is proceeding with the planning stages of this project.

Downtown Lake Bluff will also see a new office building erected in a currently vacant space on Scranton Avenue. In conjunction with this project, the Lake Forest Bank will have a drive-through lane installed, which cars will enter on Scranton and exit on Center just north of Rockland.

At the request of the Lake Bluff Village Board, U.S. Congressman Mark Kirk has submitted a request for \$3 million in federal funds for the Village to use in reconstructing the Route 176/Route 41 interchange. It remains to be seen whether this grant amount will be included in the final bill, which the House hopes to pass by July.

Submitted by Nicki Snoblin ♦

LWVIL: THE STATUS OF THE STATE (The Really Short Version)

GOVERNMENT

- I. **CONSTITUTIONAL IMPLEMENTATION AND AMENDMENTS** The State League Board has implemented League's commitment to merit selection of judges. If League is successful in the pursuit of merit selection of judges, a long-term League policy goal will be met. At the LWVIL 2003 convention, a directive was made to the board to increase the number of the position on merit selection of judges. To date the review has not been completed.
- II. **COUNTY GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE** There has been no recent activity or advocacy relative to expanded citizen initiative powers to address county government structure and support for changes in the Illinois County Executive Act.
- III. **CRIMINAL JUSTICE** In this arena LWVIL monitors many congressional committees. During the FY 2003 budget discussion, the League urged the Director of the Department of Corrections to retain educational programs and urged the General Assembly and the Governor to fund community supervision/treatment for nonviolent offenders. The League supported legislation HB 576 to abolish the death penalty. The League has an opportunity to work for a cost-effective correctional policy that does not rely on prison building. The reentry of offenders in the community after incarceration is an emerging concern that the League will monitor and, when appropriate, will support legislation to reform the death penalty in Illinois emphasizing the need for abolition. The League will continue to support legislation to abolish the death penalty completely.
- IV. **ELECTION LAWS** A State Election Systems Study was redopted at the 2001 convention, and LWVIL created an Election Administration Reform committee in 2001. The committee has undertaken a number of activities including hearing reports from representatives of the Secretary of State's office and the State Board of Elections, surveying local election administrators, and poll watching. The National Voter Registration Act, NVRA, remains an issue especially as Congress considers election reform legislation. Efforts to weaken NVRA and other voting rights laws as part of federal election reform will require League's attention. Illinois still has not incorporated NVRA provisions into the election code, resulting in uneven compliance. The project was moving along very well until spring 2002, when the board's requested appropriation request was cut drastically. Adequate funding for this critical project will be a high priority for the League.
- V. **GUN CONTROL** Gun Control lobbying at the national level, under the direction of the LWVUS, has focused on a variety of sensible gun safety measures, including tighter regulation of firearm sales at gun shows. The League will continue to take an active role in education and lobbying efforts, working in coalition with the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence.
- VI. **SCHOOLS** The League continues to advocate for legislation that would provide for stable and adequate revenues for schools, while avoiding a disproportionate tax burden on poor and middle-income households. The League participates in a coalition of education, business, labor, and civic organizations that share a common interest in reforming Illinois' school finance system and in improving education outcomes through quality and accountability reforms. The problems that the schools face are serious, widespread, and chronic. The State cannot bring in enough revenue to meet its spending needs under the current system of taxation, and this condition needs to be remedied quickly. The League will work to obtain adequate funding for schools. League will continue to oppose measures providing vouchers and/or income tax credits for private education.
- VII. **STATE FISCAL POLICIES** The State must make more cuts or raise more revenues or institute some combination of cuts and tax increases. The League advocated for progressive tax reform in the context of the school funding debate throughout the 1990s. In 2001-2002, the faltering economy and the state's failure to deal with its structural deficit has put the entire state budget and revenue raising structure on the table for discussion and reform. The League will work to ensure that policies are fair and promote economic growth and provide sufficient and adequate funds for the schools and the other programs that the League supports.
- VIII. **STATE REDISTRICTING** This position, based on a LWVIL Task Force report, was adopted by concurrence of delegates at the 1993 LWVIL Convention. The League's goal to ensure a fair redistricting process for Illinois was not met in 2001. The process followed the same route as in 1981 and 1991, forcing the creation of a map based on a tiebreaker vote in the redistricting commission. This was followed by numerous lawsuits, which prolonged the process. (Note: LWVUS 2002 convention adopted an update of the League's apportionment position, contingent upon the availability of funding.)

NATURAL RESOURCES

- IX. LAND USE** This position has been the basis for local League action on a variety of issues, including landfill siting, provisions for orderly growth and adequate low-income housing, and the preservation of open space. This heightened awareness prompted the State League to establish a "Smart Growth" statewide committee to further local League activities in this area, and add a "Smart Growth" issue specialist to the LWVIL's Issue Committee. League will monitor and support legislation that balances the desire for growth of communities with the need to protect farmland, green spaces, and air and water quality, as well as promoting transportation options and increased housing availability.
- X. PESTICIDES** The League will work for a safer and more effective approach to pest control, encouraging local leagues to work with their school districts in the implementation of safer pest management. LWVIL will continue to monitor pesticide legislation.
- XI. LARGE-SCALE LIVESTOCK FACILITIES** LWVIL will assist local leagues interested in monitoring large-scale livestock facilities in their community and will continue to monitor state legislation pertaining to these facilities.

SOCIAL POLICY

- XII. CHILDREN'S SERVICES** During the FY 2003 budget discussion, the League lobbied the state to retain funding for child care, health coverage of uninsured children, early childhood education, and prevention/intervention services for youth. The League was actively involved in revising the Illinois county juvenile detention standards. We continue with action to implement the *Charter for Illinois Children*, a document that promotes balanced development of children. The charter is a special project of Voices for Illinois Children. The League is increasingly concerned with the needs of emotionally disturbed children who are found in all systems of care.
- XIII. INCOME ASSISTANCE** League activity in this area reflects both national and state positions. League has advocated for reauthorization of TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), with a focus of retaining the level of block grant dollars allotted by the federal government and increasing the grant to meet the actual need, given inflation; expanding allowed work activities; giving supportive services to workers' families until economic self-sufficiency is reached; continuing support for families having significant barriers to employment, e.g., mental illness, domestic violence, job skills. Specific, successful legislation for which League worked includes a state earned income tax credit, an increase in the amount of the cash grant allotted to a family, and the expansion of Kidcare to include the adults in the family. League has been active in housing issues. League will continue to monitor and lobby for legislation and administrative activity that will promote economic self-sufficiency for low-income individuals and families in Illinois.
- XIV. MENTAL HEALTH** The League worked and will continue to work in coalition to pass legislation calling for insurance coverage equal to coverage for other illnesses (insurance parity).

ACTION ITEM

The "Making Democracy Work" (MDW) campaign seeks to counter Americans' growing cynicism about politics and government and build their confidence in the process of bringing about change. Change is sought in five areas: increased voter participation, reformed campaign finance practices, expanded civic education and knowledge, enhanced diversity of representation, and rebuilt public civic participation. Many of the projects the League is engaged in are a fundamental component of this overarching program. LWVIL's advocacy activity includes lobbying for ethics legislation, the Shays-Meehan campaign finance bill (HR 2356), and election administration reform (bill S565). Legislation passed in both of these areas. In the 2003 Legislative Session, the LWVIL worked on additional legislation in the areas of ethics, voters guides, a ban on direct giving by regulated industries, and contribution limits.

Throughout the biennium, the League has been an active member in the Illinois Campaign Finance Reform Coalition and local Leagues have worked on ethics and campaign finance projects.

PROGRAM ACTIVITY BASED ON NATIONAL POSITIONS

- I. HEALTH CARE** LWVUS has taken an active role in the US health care policy debate, currently championing the Patients' Bill of Rights.
- II. PUBLIC POLICY ON REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE** The League continues to oppose measures to restrict access to abortion services, especially to teenage and low-income women. It will continue to work against restrictive legislation and to collaborate with the broader reproductive choice community.
- III. CIVIL RIGHTS/WOMEN'S ISSUES** LWVIL supported the passage of Illinois legislation to codify the Federal Violence Against Women Act, which would have provided for civil remedies for gender-based violence.

Mark Your Calendar

May 7

LWVFLB Annual Meeting, home of Pauline Mohr, 2000 N. Knollwood Dr., Lake Forest

LWVFLB Area Board of Directors

OFFICERS*President:* Carol Gilbert (295-4044)*Secretary:* Stacy Vermylen (615-1140)*Vice President-Action:* Beverly Nelson (295-1472)*Treasurer:* Mary Ritter (234-8215)*Vice President-Voter Service:* Bev Adamczyk (295-5641)**DIRECTORS***LWVLC Liaison:* Linda Bartmes (234-7069)*Membership:* Marcia Duncan (604-9822)

Cynthia Maloney (615-1123)

Newsletter/Publicity: Nicki Snoblin (295-9059)*Voter Registration:* At large*Program:* Cynthia Morehead (295-6470)

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area

League of Women Voters

Gorton Community Center

400 E. Illinois Rd.

Lake Forest, IL 60045

Non-Profit Organization

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Lake Forest, IL 60045

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Carol Gilbert
28 Oak Terrace
Lake Bluff, IL 60044



Summer 2003
Volume 49, Number 9

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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

Message from the President

Cynthia Maloney

To my dear friends in League,

It is with great hope and some trepidation that I approach the next two years as your president. I can only say I'll do my best, and hope that I will be able to live up to the performance levels of my extraordinary predecessors and to the expectations and hopes we all share for the future. Daunted, in looking out toward our future, I can see we have some outrageous challenges staring us in the face. Basically I guess there are three that really stand out: time, membership and money.

TIME: We may be short of members and money, but we are *out* of time. Nobody has any of this anymore. While we're all of us every day getting older, time seems to go faster and faster, like we're all on the edge of some black hole or something. Meanwhile demands on our time seem to multiply geometrically as we struggle to fit in family, work, and life in general. How can we possibly find more time? At our recent state convention I met the new president of the Rockford League. She not only works full time in a corporate environment, she travels 50-80% of the time to places like Switzerland and Japan. She does it with wonderful support (her past president and mentor in League was this year's Carrie Chapman Catt award winner) and by reorganizing the structure and function of League work and meetings. Their meetings are very focused, very short events where decisions are made. The actual work is done in a committee structure. Lots of people don't have to be on the Board, but not enough people seem to want to do, but lots of

people can be on a committee, working on a schedule and at a pace of their choosing on projects that are especially interesting to them. I already have wonderful support...can we implement this committee structure to be more efficient and effective? Sure, why not?

MEMBERSHIP: There just aren't as many of us as there used to be. Since the 1998-99 biennium, 11 Leagues in Illinois disbanded, and membership is down pretty much across the board. Total State membership has gone from 4,474 in 1999 to only 3,864 in 2003. Our own League membership is down from 135 to 106. "*There is strength in numbers,*" and "*many hands make light work.*" It is truly the critical responsibility of every single one of us to promote membership. If we could each bring in just one new member this year, we could be so much more effective!

MONEY: I'm the first to admit that I'm not much good with money. I invariably spend more than I make, and I haven't balanced a checkbook, really balanced it, since my first child was born in 1985 (see TIME, above). But we are, I am told, in a bit of a pickle financially due to a drop in MEMBERSHIP (see above), and to less-than-expected success in FUNDRAISING (known to some of us as the "F" word). In order to continue to do our work, (candidate forums, studies of local issues, citizen education) and to fulfill our mission, we're going to have to get a little more out front about asking for and collecting MONEY. For example, our participation in the Patriot Act Forum this coming July involved Bev Nelson's donated time in attending the organizing meetings, but it also involved a \$150 contribution by our League to defray the expense of holding this forum (space rental, security, printing, postage, etc.).

While we like to think the best things in life are free, some of them, like League, are not. Carol Gilbert, Nicki Snoblin and Stacy Vermeylen are working on fundraising plans for the coming year, but in the meantime, when you pay your dues (like now, the form is enclosed with this newsletter!), please consider chipping in an extra \$50 or so – whatever you can spare right now – to help. Most of our dues, \$55 for a regular membership, go directly out again to State per member payments and National dues, leaving us less than \$9 per member in our local treasury.

I've run on much too long. More next time! Meanwhile, PLEASE CALL ME with your suggestions and concerns. I really need your help here, and promise to be grateful for all input. Thank you so much, have a fabulous summer, and don't forget to ask a friend to join LEAGUE!

Love,

Cynthia Maloney

LWVIL Convention Notes

School funding Chat

At the recent LWVIL State convention, a "caucus" with our own League President Cynthia Maloney was held. Though the hour was early, occurring before the all-day plenary session on Saturday, the discussion was lively. And, while school woes needed no introduction, Cynthia warmed the group to its subject by noting that problems are of a regional and shared nature, and that League members would benefit from shared information.

The conversation quickly illuminated a long collection of sub-topics: *legislative issues* (the need to lobby, increase advocacy, provide citizen education, disparities between districts, tax caps, CPI computations), *administrative issues* (enrollment growth in new communities, unfunded mandates, allocating finite resources, multiplicity

of small districts), *voter issues* (the difficulty of passing referenda, the perception that the tax caps are ideal), *revenue issues* (viability of property tax reliance, possibility of income tax, creating other new taxes, variability between districts' revenues), *effects of local government* (local leadership, "marketing" problems, competition for local tax dollars, TIF districts, differences between rural and urban districts), *related issues* (educating the homeless, poverty, military tuition to local districts, other states' experience, financial demands of modern technology).

Delegates from sixteen leagues participated. Also attending was Kathy Nesburg, LWVIL's Issues Specialist for School Funding. Kathy encouraged delegates to use the existing LWVIL position on education for action and advocacy. Though there is already a grass roots network for school funding action, many delegates agreed that a school action e-database would assist local Leagues' efforts. Discussion leader Cynthia Maloney asked that all present participate in a clearing-house for League action. She promised to communicate with those who signed in, and suggested files could easily be e-distributed to all concerned.

Campaign for the Future

In attendance at the recent convention was former LWVIL President Jan Flapan. Announcing the Endowment Campaign for the League of Women Voters of Illinois, Jan proudly stated that the founding donors had already created a \$400,000 balance. The goal is a \$1 million endowment by the end of 2004. The Chicago Community Trust is managing the fund, and until the sum reaches \$500,000, the income generated from the fund will be re-invested. Created for the tax-exempt Education Fund of LWVIL, the Endowment Fund is legally restricted so that the principal cannot be spent. The endowment was. Prominent contributors are LWV of IL/LB's Jim and Phyllis Albrecht. Thank you!! "A lasting legacy from donors who are passionate about

participatory democracy". The Endowment Campaign was first publicly announced at the 2003 State Convention.

Patriot Act

The USA Patriot Act was quickly passed by Congress shortly after the terrorist attacks on 9/11. This Act, intended to allow the government to track and combat terrorist activities, broadly expands law enforcement's surveillance and investigative power. Among other powers, some of these changes allow officials to:

- Include an all-encompassing definition of "domestic terrorism." This allows investigation and prosecution of persons engaged in a wide-range of political protest,
- Trace what materials and information individuals are accessing on the internet or at the library,
- Secretly access an individual's records, including business, financial, health and educational records,
- Conduct searches without showing "probable cause" or obtaining consent of the individual, and
- Permit jailing of non-citizens on mere suspicion and deny re-admission to the US.

The Bill of Rights guarantees the American people certain rights we tend to take for granted:

- The 1st amendment - freedom of religion, speech, assembly, and the press.
- The 4th amendment - protection from unreasonable searches and seizure.
- The 5th and 14th amendment - due process and equal protection under
- The 6th amendment - the right to a speedy trial by impartial jury, to know the facts of the accusation and to confront witnesses.
- The 8th Amendment - no excessive bail or cruel and unusual punishment.

Patriot Act (continued)

A debate has ensued on how to maintain our freedoms while assuring the security of the American people.

Legislative Interview with State Senator Susan Garrett (Senate District 29)

League Members from Glencoe, Highland Park, Glenview, and Lake Forest-Lake Bluff met with Sen. Garrett on Monday May 5th in her Highwood legislative office.

Fiscal policy: *The State of Illinois has a deficit despite cuts in FY 2002 and additional monies borrowed last summer. The state must make additional cuts and/or tax increases. The LWVIL supports a diversified revenue system; a progressive income tax with a graduated rate schedule is a priority to replace the current flat rate income tax.*

Sen. Garrett says, a graduated income tax is "not on the table" currently, and "I see the proposals" as a member of the Education committee.

School Funding: *The many causes of schools current deficit spending have caused a crisis of emergency proportions. Eighty percent of public school districts are deficit spending. The state's revenue problems are contributing to the school's difficulty. League advocacy for improvements to both funding and educational services is needed.*

Sen. Garrett is a member of the Education Committee and says she is a "firm believer in changing the disparity" between districts in Illinois. Change is needed, but "there's a lot of dissension" in current proposals for reform. And reform always affects programs; sometimes increases in State funding levels can decrease funding from the Federal level. Under discussion currently in Springfield is a tenth gambling license. Terming it a

regressive tax, Sen. Garrett stated, "I won't support it."

Death Penalty and ERA: *LWVIL has an extensive criminal justice position that opposes the death penalty and supports alternatives to incarceration. LWVIL favors passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.*

Sen. Garrett supports the abolition of the death penalty. Noting the ERA proposal is a resolution without deadline, Sen. Garrett states the ERA vote is not likely to be called until the additional necessary four votes are pledged. Sen. Garrett supports the ERA.

Additional comments

Legislation favored by, and sponsored by, Senator Garrett, includes property tax proposals making changes in tax-protest assessor procedures and in tax freeze eligibility, ethics legislation protecting corporate whistle blowers, a bill establishing a social service "211" directory assistance and a bill offering post-kindergarten high-risk support.

Environmental concerns: Press coverage about beach closings was extensive the week of the interview, with stories continuing the following week.

In local news currently is a beach study commissioned by the Lake County Health Department. Senator Garrett has challenged the results, stating that the testing protocol could not possibly produce conclusive information about summer beach closings. (The study indicated seagulls are responsible for the elevated e. coli bacteria readings.) Stating the testing dates were not beach closing dates, and additionally, were not even summer days. Senator Garrett is calling for new data. A foundation to fund a clean water test fund has been established, and an additional study (at a cost of about \$16,000 to \$26,000) is being commissioned. An expert panel will be convened to discuss and determine the methods of future tests.

Legislative Interview with State Rep. Karen May (House District 58)

League members representing Leagues from Glencoe, Highland Park and Lake Forest-Lake Bluff met with Representative May on Tuesday, April 22 and discussed issues concerning state fiscal policy, school funding, the death penalty, election administration reform and ERA.

The LWVIL position on state fiscal policy supports a diversified revenue system that principally relies on a combination of broad based taxes and user fees, is equitable, progressive, stable, responsive and simple. The League has worked with various coalitions in the 1980's and 1990's to increase the state income tax. Its goal is to have a progressive income tax with a graduated rate schedule. Since Illinois currently has a flat rate income tax, the League continues to support increasing the amount of the personal exemption to reduce the burden on low-income families. The League also advocates closing tax loopholes or "tax expenditures" which drain revenue from the state.

Rep. May pointed out that in Illinois we tax primarily the manufacturing sector as opposed to the service sector. Over the years, manufacturing in Illinois has decreased and the service industry has increased. Rep. May feels that services should be taxed. Gov. Blagojevich is not considering instituting a sales tax or income tax increase to help reduce the budget deficit. He is looking into the refinancing of pension funds, which potentially could save the state 2 billion dollars over the next 2 years. Also under consideration are reducing business tax exemptions and increasing revenue through the gambling industry. A tenth casino license, which had been already planned for, will probably be approved. There are twenty four different "categorical" funds; some of which have surpluses. Rep. May feels

that some of the fund surpluses can be used to help offset the deficit.

School Funding – More than 400,000 children in hundreds of Illinois schools are failing to meet state standards. Eighty per cent of Illinois school districts are operating with deficit spending. The causes are many and include tax caps, TIF's, insufficient state and federal spending, failure to pass referenda and increasing costs for salaries, pensions, health care and special education. The problem has reached crisis proportions. The League is a member of Network 21, a coalition of education, business, labor and civic organizations that share a common interest in reforming Illinois' school finance system.

Rep. May spoke about our local schools being hurt by the budget deficit, unfunded mandates and tax caps. While tax caps prevent property taxes from going above a certain level, there is not a mechanism in place to prevent them from going too low in an economic downturn such as the one we are presently in. She feels that such a mechanism would help to stabilize the swings in revenue for school districts. Regarding the "No Child Left Behind" initiative, she discussed the high costs of testing, both financially and in classroom time. Rep. May feels that school districts which have high test scores shouldn't have to be tested every year. Rep. May has concerns regarding increasing the income tax while decreasing the property tax. She thinks that eventually the property tax would slowly increase again; which is what happened in Michigan. For information and comparisons on property taxes in Illinois: the TaxPAYERS' Federation of Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization which provides research analysis and assistance to state, county and local officials,

studies state and local tax policies and tracks General Assembly legislation. Their website is www.taxpayfedil.org.

The LWVIL supports abolition of the death penalty.

Rep. May supports Governor Blagojevich's continuation of the moratorium on executions. She supports reform efforts and noted that many of the proposed reforms are expensive, such as videotaping confessions. Money for reform is not in the budget for this year. While she is not on record as a supporter of abolishing the death penalty, she is also not totally opposed to the idea and will continue to listen to both sides of the issue.

After the 2000 election, the Election Administration Reform Committee formed to identify areas where administrative reform is needed and to examine the uniformity of election code application throughout the state. Late in 2001, Election Authorities in Illinois were surveyed about many areas of elections including voter registration, election judge recruitment and training, polling place access for the blind and those with limited sight, voter rights and voting equipment. Several sub-committees are currently studying the following areas: voter rights for detained persons awaiting trial, recruitment of election judges, polling place access and completion of a computerized statewide voter registration data base.

Rep. May shared concerns regarding access for people with disabilities, particularly in Lake County. Some frustration was voiced by voters about the type of ballot being used

(filling in of circles) One polling place in Highland Park had election judges placed in an area that allowed cold air in every time a voter came through the door. The election judges were freezing. We also discussed the difficulty in recruiting election judges. A pilot program of the LWV of Chicago looks promising. The CEO project (Community Engagement and Outreach) involves working with corporations to provide on-site voter registration, non-partisan information on candidates and advocates on-site election judge training and encourages participation as an election judge. Rep. May suggested that it is a civic honor to serve as an election judge and there should be recognition at the community level.

Equal Rights Amendment – Rep. May supports ratification of the ERA Illinois.

LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP FORM ENCLOSED. PLEASE CONSIDER PAYING YOUR DUES A BIT EARLY THIS YEAR. NOT ONLY WILL IT HELP OUR BANK BALANCE, IT WILL SAVE OUR MEMBERSHIP VOLUNTEERS TIME, POSTAGE, AND FOLLOW-UP WORK.

THANKS!

Help Wanted: League positions for **Secretary** or **Vice President** Action currently open. If you are an energetic, community-minded, politically astute, opinionated woman, we need you! Hours flexible, personal satisfaction huge, pay non-existent – benefits include working with interesting, well-informed women, knowing the latest in local politics, and marching in the annual 4th of July Parade. Interested? Call Cynthia Maloney at 295-6470.



**WHY NOT GET A JUMP ON YOUR FALL
COMMITMENTS?**

**RENEW YOUR LEAGUE
MEMBERSHIP NOW!**

We all get so busy in the fall, with new activities starting. Sometimes it seems that everyone wants something from us at once. You can put League out of your mind for the summer and be ready to start fresh in the fall by *renewing your membership early*. Our membership year begins September 1st, but your early renewal will take you through August of 2004.

Why wait? Simply fill out the form now and mail it with your check to LWV LF/LB, 400 E. Illinois Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045.

THANK YOU!

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS/ LAKE FOREST-LAKE BLUFF AREA

*Please complete the following information and return with your check
to LWV LF/LB, 400 E. Illinois Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045.*

2003-2004 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Office) _____ (Fax) _____

E-mail: _____

____ Patron ----- \$150
____ Sustaining Member ----- \$100
____ Individual ----- \$ 55
____ Individual (Senior) ----- \$ 50
____ Student ----- \$ 25

Make checks payable to LWV LF/LB.

Dues are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.

MEMBER INTEREST SURVEY

Programs, Activities:

- ____ Illinois Student Vote project in school (national elections)
- ____ Candidate Forums
- ____ Be a Moderator (need training? _____)
- ____ Be a League Observer (where? _____)
- ____ Register Voters (need training? _____)

Hospitality, Support:

- ____ Holiday Luncheon
- ____ Annual Meeting
- ____ Joint Meeting with AAUW
- ____ Planning or refreshments for special programs
- ____ Short-term jobs (phone calls, mailing, etc.)
- ____ Fundraising
- ____ Newsletter items
- ____ Publicity/media services

Interests:

- ____ Great Decisions discussion group on foreign affairs
- ____ Preschool programs and services
- ____ School funding
- ____ Affordable senior housing
- ____ Comprehensive plan
- ____ Conservation and land use

____ Let me be a guilt free member!

____ I cannot be active this year but I am happy to support League's work.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Presents a panel discussion on

PATRIOTISM OR PARANOIA?

THE USA PATRIOT ACT:

Balancing Domestic Security and Civil Liberties

SUNDAY, JULY 13, 2003

2—4 PM

Discussion participants:

Carolyn Anthony
Skokie Public Library

Maria Valdez
Mexican American Legal Defense
& Education Fund

Frank Hoover
Citizen, Former Evanston Alderman

Ed Yohnka
IL American Civil Liberties Union

David Sweeney
North Shore Community Bank & Trust

William Zieske, Esq.
Attorney with Ross & Hardies

U.S. Attorney's Office

**Watson Auditorium
Glenbrook South High School
4000 West Lake Avenue, Glenview, IL**

*Hosted by the Leagues of Women Voters of Arlington Heights/Mt.
Prospect/Buffalo Grove Area, Deerfield/Lincolnshire, Evanston, Glencoe,
Glenview, Highland Park, Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area, Palatine Area, Park
Ridge, Wilmette, and Winnetka/Northfield/Kenilworth*

Mark Your Calendar

July 13

Patriot Act Panel Discussion, Sunday, July 13 (2 – 4 PM) Watson Auditorium, Glenbrook South High School, 4000 West Lake Avenue, Glenview (See page 5 for more information)

LWVFLB Area Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President: Cynthia Maloney (295-6470)

Secretary: (open position)

Vice President–Action: (open position)

Vice President–Voter Service: Christa Donnelly (234-1866)
Ann Walter (295-8671)

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Membership: Nicki Snoblin (295-9059)

Treasurer: Mary Ritter (234-8215)

Newsletter/Publicity: Elaine Slayton (295-0275)

Program: Cynthia Moorehead (295-6470)
Sally Zeit (244-1347)

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Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

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Carol Gilbert
28 Oak Terrace
Lake Bluff, IL 60044



September 2003
Volume 50, Number 1

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League Lines

Message from the President

Cynthia Maloney

To my dear friends in League,

I really like those inspiring messages from presidents of organizations that quote poetry or something...and I wish I'd had time in the last few years to have read something poetic that I could share, then segue into something relevant about what's going on with us. Alas, perhaps that could be a goal for next month's newsletter, but for now we are off and running, preparing a whole year of programs and events.

Our *Membership Breakfast*, coming up on *Saturday, September 13* from 9-11 a.m. promises to be both an informative event and a relaxing social opportunity. *State Senators Susan Garrett (our very own) and Terry Link will fill us in on what's new in Springfield*, and Nicki Snoblin has promised to fix everybody breakfast.

In October, we've all been invited to tour the restoration project underway at the *Genesee Theatre in Waukegan*. Sally Zeit is organizing this visit for the evening of October 17, so please mark your calendar. There is a new development plan that's been approved for downtown Waukegan, and we hope to learn more about this as well at this local meeting with a regional focus.

Then on *November 6, from 7-9 p.m.* our League is sponsoring, in partnership with the *Lake Bluff and Lake Forest Public Libraries*, a *panel discussion of the USA Patriot Act*. The discussion will take place in the Lake Forest Library's new meeting space downstairs, which was chosen for its

capacity of 120 people! Cindy Morehead, Program Director, Julia Fiske Parker, and Beverly Nelson are planning this event. Please give Cindy a call if you can help with the arrangements.

This year, to defray expenses and to have even more fun than usual, we are teaming up with AAUW to round out 2003 with our *annual Holiday Luncheon*, which this year will be a Brunch, at the usual place and with the usual cast of characters, but with some surprises as well. Carol Gilbert is chairing the event and has assembled a committee of joint LWV and AAUW members to assist.

In our last newsletter I talked a little about the experience of the Rockford League and their wonderfully organized "committee structure" approach. They e-mailed all local League presidents a whole bunch of flow charts and stuff, which looked really good and which bore a striking resemblance to the notes we scrawled on index cards from our new board-old board meeting. In fact, we are on the same page (without the flow charts and PowerPoint) as they, which I guess means we aren't so disorganized after all. Thank goodness.

We're still organizing, but so far Mary Clair Briggs has agreed to head a *committee on recycling*, and Jane Partridge is most interested in working on education funding. Mary Matthews is our point person for smart growth and regional planning. If you have a project or cause you'd like to manage for the good of us all, please give me a call and volunteer.

On the subject of board meetings, we are required by our by-laws to hold 10 meetings a year. Many of our members are working during the day, both on volunteer projects and at careers that

take them downtown or elsewhere and that make daytime board meetings impossible to attend. Our contract with Gorton allows us to use the facility 6 times a year. Our membership event and the candidate forums takes up two of those meetings. Everybody I've asked has a problem with attending meetings, one way or another, so I'm going to go out on a limb and just tell you that *we're going to have half of our meetings at our traditional time, at 10:30 on the second Wednesday of the month, and the other half at night, during the week (for simplicity, also the second Wednesday.), at board members' homes and/or the Lake Bluff public safety building.* I hope everybody will give this a chance, as it allows our organization to enter the 21st century and include women who work outside the home. To remind you, everyone is invited to all board meetings. Please plan to come if you can. I'm sure I don't have to invite your comments on this new schedule...feel free to call and complain, register a suggestion for an alternate system, or to heap gratuitous praise. I'm looking forward to seeing you on September 13! Don't forget to bring a non-League member along.

XXX Cynthia

Call for Voter Registrars!

The League is doing voter registration in September. Thanks to deputy registrars Bea Mueller, Julia Shackelford, Char Kreuz, Judy Grisamore, Alice Flaherty, Alice Sievert and Janice Schnobrich, we were able to register voters at the Deerpath Art League's Art Sale over the Labor Day weekend. *We are still looking for deputy registrars to work at the Friends of the Library Book Sale on September 12th and 13th. If you are interested, please call Bev at 847.295.5641.*

Fall Membership Event

Please ~~come~~...

Fall Membership Breakfast

Featuring....

Legislative Update

with state senators
Terry Link and Susan
Garrett

Saturday

September 13, 2003

9:00 to 11:00 A.M.

Community Room at
Gorton Community
Center

400 E. Illinois Rd.,
Lake Forest

The fall membership event is a way to welcome back our renewing members and introduce new and prospective members to the kinds of events and activities League offers.

*Please join us for a morning of ~~discussion~~
A continental breakfast will be served. Watch for your invitation in the mail!*

Patriot Act

Update & Forum

"The USA Patriot Act has been a focus of controversy since its passage in October of 2001, in the aftermath of the World Trade Center attacks. At LWVIL State Convention this past June, delegates overwhelmingly voted to lobby for the repeal of the Patriot Act as it exists, citing its negative impact on our civil liberties. Many Leagues, including ours, have participated in panel discussions regarding this law. This coming November 6, we will be co-hosting a panel on the USA Patriot Act with the Lake Forest and Lake Bluff Public Libraries. The event will be held in Lake Forest at the Library, from 7-9 p.m. Cindy Morehead is spearheading this event, along with Julia Parker and Beverly Nelson. Please give Cindy a call if you can help out."

The USA PATRIOT ACT: What's Happening to Our Civil Liberties?

The League of Women Voters has always stood for open government and civil liberties. Does the USA PATRIOT Act comply with these important objectives? Does this Act maintain a balance between domestic security and civil liberties or do civil liberties become a casualty of the war on terrorism?

Join with us in this important debate.

Date: Wednesday, September 10

Time: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Place: Harold Washington Library
Center Auditorium
400 South State Street, Chicago

There is no charge for this exciting event. Please share feel free to share this information.

Genesee Theatre Restoration & Tour

Restoration is under way at the historic Genesee Theater in Waukegan and we will have an opportunity to view a presentation on this project and (for those who wish) a tour of the theater. Upon its completion, the Genesee will boast a stage size and configuration putting it in the top 5% of stages in the country. This will be coupled with a seat capacity of 2,400 providing a venue attractive to professional touring Broadway shows and individual stars in the entertainment world. It is anticipated that a reopened Genesee Theater will make quality entertainment accessible and affordable to residents throughout Lake County. Put the date on your calendar and plan to join us at 221 N. Genesee St. (just north of the theater) at 7:00 p.m. Street parking in front of the building is available.

For information, call Sally Zeit
244-1347 or Cynthia Maloney 615-1123

Membership Dues – DUE NOW!

It's not too late to be included in the membership directory.

If you haven't already done so, it's time to pay your annual dues.. This year, please consider a higher level such as Patron (150) or Sustaining (200) to help with our higher costs and lower revenues.

**Have something to share
for our newsletter? Send
submissions to Elaine at
elaineslayton@yahoo.com**

Dedicated League Member Moves On

LWVFLB bids a fond farewell to member and past president Alice Pierce. Alice moved in July to Urbana, Illinois, to join her husband, who has been working in Champaign for the past year.

Alice moved to Lake Forest 16 years ago from Connecticut, where she was president of the Danbury-Bethel-Brookfield League of Women Voters. Over the years, she has held almost every board position her local Leagues have had to offer. She was co-president of the League of Women Voters of Lake Forest in 1988-1989 and helped to coordinate the merger of the Lake Forest and Lake Bluff Leagues during that year. She then served as president of the combined Leagues in 1989-1990 and as co-president with Phyllis Albrecht the next year.

Phyllis, in recalling her time as co-president with Alice, said, "Alice is an extremely well-organized person and a good leader. She was really a moving force in the revitalization of the Lake Forest League in the late 1980s and extended her leadership to the combined Leagues."

In recent years Alice has satisfied her interest in government by working in the district offices of both then-State Representative Susan Garrett and current State Representative Karen May. Her efficiency, her organization, and her friendly smile were assets in both of those offices.

Alice says she will miss her many friends in League and in the community. She points out that Urbana is a convenient stopping place for anyone heading for Springfield. She can be reached at 2011 B Amber Lane, Urbana, IL 61802; (217) 369-9288.

Welcome New Members!

Joy Gibson has not only joined the League but has agreed to assume the open position of League Secretary. Welcome, Joy, and thank you!

901 Larchmont Lane
Lake Forest, IL 60045
(847) 615-1504
joyhg@att.net

*Please consider serving your
League...*

Help Wanted: League position for *Vice President Action* currently open. If you are an energetic, community-minded, politically astute, opinionated woman, we need you! Hours flexible, personal satisfaction huge, pay non-existent – benefits include working with interesting, well-informed women, knowing the latest in local politics, and marching in the annual 4th of July Parade. Interested? Call Cynthia Maloney at 295-6470.



Mark Your Calendar

September 10, 2003 Board Meeting, 10:30 a.m. – Gorton Community Center

September 13, 2003 Fall Membership Legislative Update Breakfast, 9:00 am Gorton (see details inside)

LWVFLB Area Board of Directors

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Secretary: Joy Gibson (615-1504)

Vice President–Action: (open position)

Vice President–Voter Service: Christa Donnelly (234-1866)

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October 2003
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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

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League Lines

Message from the President

Cynthia Maloney

Four Days that Changed History: the USA PATRIOT ACT and How League Is Not Like the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives

This November 6, our League will be presenting a program about the USA PATRIOT Act (H.R.3162). The full name of the bill is, "Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001". This was introduced in Congress on October 23, 2001. On that day, the House Judiciary, Intelligence, Financial Services, International Relations, Energy and Commerce, Telecommunications and the Internet, Education and the Workforce, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Armed Services Committees received the bill, which was over 300 pages long and contained radical infringements on our rights as citizens.

By 7:15 p.m. THE SAME DAY, Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R.-WI) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill. A little over an hour later, at 8:27 p.m., the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.

The NEXT MORNING, at 10:37 a.m., the bill was considered as unfinished business. Thirty minutes later, the House of Representatives had agreed to the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, 357-66. The text of the measure as passed the House: CR 10/23/2001 H7159-7196.

That same day, October 24, 2001, the bill was received in the Senate, and read

twice. The next day, October 25, the bill passed the Senate without amendment, on a 98-1 vote. The bill was immediately presented to the President, and was signed on October 26, becoming Public Law No: 107-56.

Meanwhile, back in the Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area, League members were embroiled in a formal study of nominating systems. Research was conducted, people were polled, and criteria were established. The committee discussed, revised, and discussed some more. We took a little break. Now, about TWO YEARS LATER, we are coming to our membership with a recommendation from the committee and a request for concurrence.

One criticism I've heard of League is that things take too long, and studies drag on forever. But isn't that a better way to do things? League has a process for discussing policy and positions. Each interested party is encouraged to weigh in. Every member's opinion is heard, and people are respected for their contributions. Democracy takes time. Shortcuts are inherently dangerous.

While the relationship between our study of nominating systems and the U.S. Congress' consideration of the USA PATRIOT Act may seem tenuous, the point is that in the carefully woven web that is our Social Contract, supported by tradition, years of practice and our Constitution, every little thing is connected to something else. Radical revisions to what we as citizens expect of our government cannot help but have repercussions in ways we may not even understand at the time. Our social ecology, while especially enduring when threatened from without, is every bit as fragile and sensitive to change from within as our waters, our wildlife, and the very air we breathe. Process

must be respected, people must be respected, and our democratic traditions must be respected...lest we find the whole cloth of our wonderful American society fraying and falling apart.

See center section of this newsletter for information on the upcoming forum and more about the USA Patriot Act.

Nominating Systems Study - Set for Membership Concurrence

A study of nominating systems procedures in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff, prompted by a comprehensive review of the League's positions on local issues in 2000, was accepted by the board at its September meeting and approved for a mail-in concurrence by members.

The study identifies and articulates the procedures and policies followed by the four nominating systems operating in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff at the time. The 14-member study group, all League members, conducted in-depth interviews and extensive discussions to define the current status of the Lake Bluff School Caucus, Lake Bluff Town Meeting Party, Lake Forest Caucus, and Lake Forest Party.

A summary of the study and a more detailed explanation of the principles which will establish the League's position will be mailed to all members the first of October. Members are asked to return their ballots promptly with any comments they wish to include with their votes. Members who would like a copy of the complete report can contact Char Kreuz for an e-mail copy at ckkreuz@aol.com or at 847-295-3427.

The study concluded that the validity of non-partisan (non-primary, non-affiliation with major political parties) nominating systems has been demonstrated in the communities but that such systems do not and must not preclude the opportunity for candidates

to run for office as independents or representatives of other processes.

According to the study, principles to which local government nominating systems for elective offices are to be held accountable are (1) openness of each process/candidate, (2) ongoing communication between systems/candidates and the electorate, (3) selection of candidates based on qualifications for office, (4) responsibility of systems/candidates for awareness and adherence to all legal requirements, (5) campaigns based on issues and qualifications, with campaign conduct based on civility and honesty, and (6) municipal government informational role free of bias for any system/candidate.

The role of the League is one of liaison in overseeing these principles, in communicating to the electorate sources to contact for filing independently or through current nominating systems, and in discussing potential improvements with systems/candidates. The study recommends that a position of Vice President for Action/Local Affairs be created as liaison.

Study group members are Bev Adamczyk, Alice Flaherty, Carol Gilbert, Char Kreuz, Jill Lauer, Diane Lloyd, Pauline Mohr, Cindy Morehead, Janet Nelson, Mary Ritter, Melanie Rummel, Nicki Snoblin, Stacy Vermynen and Sue Wieseneck.

Call for Volunteers! Observer Corps

Our reactivated League Observer Corps is now five years old. Last year we had official League observers observing and reporting on meetings of the Lake Bluff Plan Commission and the Lake Bluff Village Board. Several League members who regularly attended Lake Forest City Council meetings, the Lake Forest Plan Commission meetings and the Senior Resources Commission meetings volunteered to submit reports to the League on the actions of those bodies, although they could not be

official League observers since they participated in the meetings.

We would like to be able to continue covering the meetings of these bodies, with official League observers. As an organization dedicated to good government, we can have the greatest impact right here at a local level. We lost our Lake Bluff Plan Commission observer last year when her attendance at the meetings as an observer resulted in her being asked to serve as a member of the Commission! So Volunteers Arise. Call Pauline Mohr (847-234-5853) to learn more about the Observer Corps and the role of a League observer.

New Membership - Legislative Update Breakfast a Success

State Senators Susan Garrett and Terry Link were on-hand to answer questions from attendees at the fall new membership breakfast. Question topics ranged from health care to health care to school funding. Both senators were happy to announce that, despite the budget shortage, they were able to protect people least able to afford the burden from incurring more cost, and that school funding actually increased. They are also working on the urgent issues of prescription drug costs and health insurance coverage and regional planning for transportation. For more information, contact Susan Garrett's office at (847)433-2002 or Senator Link at (847)735-8181.

In addition, ten new members joined the League. Thanks to Nicki Snoblin for preparing breakfast and putting the event together.

Welcome New Members!

Mary Andersen, 517 E. Center Ave., Lake Bluff, IL 60044, 295-0005

Helen Chon, 103 Pembroke Circle, Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Welcome New Members! (continued)

Abigail Fassnacht, 451 Beverly Place, Lake Forest, IL 60045; 234-7281

Dorothy Fletcher, 323 Park Ln., Lake Bluff, IL 60044; 234-5547

Joy Gibson, 901 Larchmont Ln., Lake Forest, IL 60045; 615-1504

Gloria Littles, 4144 Brentwood Ln., Waukegan, IL 60087; 244-9384

Pat Lynch, 675 Greenview Pl., Lake Forest, IL 60045; 604-9819

Jo-An Sabonjian, 2302 Walnut St., Waukegan, IL 60087; 336-5154

Alice Tell, 1533 Bowling Green, Lake Forest, IL 60045; 615-1706

Nancy Wallace, 706 Washington St., Knollwood, IL 60044; 735-0314

Membership Dues – DUE NOW!

ERA in Illinois

To: ERA Activists in Illinois
From: ERA Task Force
AAUW-IL, Inc.
Re: ACTION AT THE
GRASSROOTS LEVEL

Approximately 6 weeks remain until the IL Senate convenes for the Fall Veto Session. IL Senate leadership plans to bring the ERA to the Senate floor for a vote during November.

The Senate calendar posted on the web indicates that the Senate will be in session for 6 days in November: November 4, 5 and 6 and November 18, 19 and 20. This could change.

36 bipartisan pro-ERA Senators are needed before the ERA will be called for a vote.

Grassroots contact by in-district constituents is vital to the successful passage of ERA in Illinois, more so than contact by lobbyists and/or separate organizations. Personal contact, such as a brief handwritten note, weighs heavily on legislative decisions. Please ACT by telephone, by fax, in person, letter to the editor in support of ERA, etc.

Access the website for the Illinois General Assembly. The IL Senators are listed on the website, along with their respective in-district contact information. Collectively, we can make history by adding Illinois to the list of 35 ratified states.

We're invited ...

Lake Forest Women's
Club
Tuesday, November 11th
Program & Lunch
11:00 a.m.
Lake Forest Club
Cost 25.00

26 year Veteran Retired
Navy Chief Warrant
Officer Robert
Barchenger will share
his experiences from
Pearl Harbor

Send check payable to LF
Women's Club to:

Cathy Miller
410 N. Mayflower Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045
(make a notation on the check
that you are a LWV member)

Voter Registration

We registered voters last month at the Deerpath Art League Art Show and the Friends of the Library Book Sale. Of the 13 voters we registered, at least three were first time registrars. Registering first time voters is such an uplifting experience. Thanks to Bea Meuller, Julia Shackelford, Char Kreuz, Alice Flaherty, Judy Grisamore, Stacy Vermilynn, Joan Kaltsas, Eleanor Knight, and Bev Adamczyk (for organizing it all!)

Genesee Theatre Restoration

Tour Rescheduled!

The October 17th tour has been rescheduled to February 20, 2004 at 7:00 pm. Watch your newsletter for details as the date approaches. The tour will include an update on redevelopment efforts in Waukegan.

For information, call Sally Zeit
244-1347 or Cynthia Maloney 615-1123.

SAVE THE DATE:

Our League's annual Holiday Event will be a brunch this year, co-sponsored by the American Association of University Women.

Friday, December 5th
Barbara Rinella will present

Watch for details in your next
newsletter!

Noteworthy:

Affordable Housing Committee formed

Mayor Preschliak has formed a committee on affordable housing, that currently includes aldermen Burns, Reynolds, and Mohr. They meet at 5 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month, before the regular city council meeting. Interested persons are encouraged to attend these meetings.

**LWV of Lake Forest / Lake Bluff Area
Lake Forest Public Library
Lake Bluff Library**

Present

USA Patriot Act

Forum & Panel Discussion

Thursday, November 6, 2003

7:00 – 9:00 pm

Senior Center

Dickinson Hall

100 East Old Mill Road

Lake Forest

Featured Presenters:

Patrick Fitzgerald, *US States Attorney, Northern District Illinois*

Ed Yohnka, *American Civil Liberties Union*

Carolyn Anthony, *Director - Skokie Public Library*

TBD, *Representative from Northern Trust Bank*

TBD, *Representative from Legal Profession*

Moderator:

Suzanne Calder, Evanston LWV

Patriot Act – Special Section

The USA PATRIOT Act was passed into law in October 2001, 45 days after the September 11 attacks. Attorney General John Ashcroft now seeks to strengthen and expand the powers of the Act. According to Ashcroft, "the Patriot Act helps keep America safe in three critical ways: ... it closes the gaping holes in law enforcement's ability to investigate terrorists ... [It] updates our anti-terrorism laws to meet the challenges of new technology, and new threats ... [It] has enhanced our capacity to build strong law enforcement teams dedicated to uncovering and stopping terrorists before they strike."

However, the ACLU cautions that the USA PATRIOT Act increases the government's surveillance powers in four areas: it expands the government's ability to look at records on an individual's activity being held by a third party (such as banking, library, and medical records) and to perform secret searches of private property, and it expands two narrow exceptions to the Fourth Amendment, one for the collection of foreign intelligence information and one that allows for "trap and trace" searches, or spying that collects information about the origin and destination of communications, as opposed to the content. US citizens are not exempt from these powers, and the government need not show probable cause as would be required under the Fourth Amendment.

The American Library Association (ALA) has been outspoken in its opposition to the USA PATRIOT Act since inception of the Act. The ALA opposes any use of governmental power to suppress the free and open exchange of knowledge and information or to intimidate individuals exercising free inquiry. According to the ALA, sections of the USA PATRIOT Act endanger the constitutional rights and privacy rights of library users.

Message from our National League

CIVIL LIBERTIES ARE CORNERSTONE OF AMERICAN VALUES

Statement by Kay J. Maxwell, President, League of Women Voters of the United States

WASHINGTON, DC - Yesterday, the President proposed an expansion of the USA Patriot Act's law enforcement powers. This expansion of power would significantly undermine the fundamental liberties guaranteed to all Citizens in the Constitution. The League of Women Voters calls on Congress to reject the Administration's attempt to limit Americans' freedoms.

We are deeply concerned with the Administration's plan, which would allow subpoenas to be issued without obtaining approval from judges or grand juries, and make it legal to hold suspects without bail.

It is up to Congress to keep close watch over the Patriot Act's implementation and continue to address instances where citizens' freedoms have been abused.

On this second anniversary of September 11, 2001, the League memorializes those who lost their lives in the attacks two years ago. We must stand together to protect and strengthen the American way of life and our democratic system of good government that our adversaries would so like to destroy.

We call on the Administration and Congress to protect our homeland through means that protect our civil liberties, rather than chipping away at the basic values for which America stands.

Mark Your Calendar

October 8 Board Meeting, 7:00 PM -- Gorton Community Center
October 17 Genesee Theatre Tour **RESCHEDULED** to February 20, 2004
November 6 US Patriot Act Forum - 7:00 pm -- Senior Center (see inside for details)
December 5 Annual Holiday Branch -- (watch for details)

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November 2003
Volume 50, Number 3

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League Lines

Message from the President

Cynthia Maloney

It's ridiculously late on Sunday night: 10:35? 11:35? I'm not sure...falling back always confuses me, I can never remember which clocks I've reset and which I haven't. My President's letter is late again this month (Sorry, Elaine!). It's been one of those weekends. On Saturday, I found myself with three things to do, all at exactly the same time: a meeting with Cindy Morehead. Bev Nelson and Julia Parker for the Patriot Act program; a client's unexpected, urgent interest in a house, and a hockey practice that nobody knew about and that I thought my husband had covered, anyway. Of course, hockey won out, but it was a horrible experience, one that left me feeling miserably inadequate, disorganized and helpless to get a grip on all of my responsibilities. I felt, probably, like any number of us feel at any given time, **OVERCOMMITTED**.

Why do we try to do all the things we do? Faith Popcorn, in one of her tomes on modern culture, described the trend as "parallel lives"...the idea that we can have it all and do it all, all at the same time. I am at once a full time mom, a full time professional, and a full time volunteer. Needless to say, this doesn't work out in real life. Things take time, we have to juggle, and constantly reprioritize. But I am unwilling to downsize or eliminate any of these deeply satisfying roles. I'm a mom because I've been blessed with three wonderful children. I work because I'm good at it, it's fun and it enables me to help out a little bit every once in a while in maintaining my fabulously lavish lifestyle by buying food and making payments on my credit card debt. But

why do I volunteer? Believe me I've been thinking about that lately...why can't I just stop doing this?

In scanning (I don't usually read, I don't have time, but I do scan) the Tribune on Sunday, it was interesting to find other people are asking themselves the same question. In the review of Studs Terkel's new book, "Hope Dies Last," Beth Kephart wrote about the voices of hope Studs chronicled. Francis Moore Lappe said that "hope" for the future "comes from the power of an engaged life." "Hope is an act, hope is in action. Hope is not something we find, hope is something we become." People act because they believe they may make a difference.

Volunteering is also good for your state of mind. Research at Cornell University's Bronfenbrenner Life Course Center has shown that volunteering boosts self-esteem and energy levels. League offers us a forum in which to act to make the world a better place, to share our hopes and dreams and to work together to accomplish our shared vision. So in light of all this, I'm appealing to you to give up your "guilt-free membership" and join in the work. Get a portfolio! If you don't know what to do, call me and I'll tell you about the amazing opportunities there are to exercise your hope for a better world.

Along those lines, we have two very important opportunities coming up to get involved. The Lake Forest High School District 115 referendum, which failed last spring, is certain to reappear, probably in November of 2004. League did not take a position on the high school referendum for a lot of reasons, but one of the most obvious ones was that not enough people showed up to do the work to evaluate the situation. We need to get a committee formed right

now, to do background work and to be ready. School funding is one of our identified program foci for the next two years. This is an opportunity to make a difference in a big way!

On a smaller scale, our own fundraising efforts are being addressed with the annual President's Cocktail Party coming up in January. I desperately need some volunteers to help me plan and execute this event...anybody???

Finally, in response to the wonderful letter we received from Kathryn Kaiser which is reprinted herein, the board at our last meeting agreed to create a new event around our local update with Kent Street and Bob Kiely to honor current members who have served as past presidents of League. This event needs a chair and a committee a.s.a.p. Please call me if you have an interest in these opportunities! But call my cell phone, because who knows when I'll be able to check my messages at home?

Cynthia

Will ERA Pass?

ERA has been passed in the Illinois State House and is coming up for a Vote in the Illinois Senate in November, 2003. Both Susan Garrett and Terry Link support its passage. However, as Susan pointed out, there is not strong support throughout the state. Do what you can to help it pass by contacting everyone you know who lives elsewhere to ask their legislators to support the bill. Only three more states need to pass ERA before it becomes a federal law.

Congress voted on ERA initially in 1972 with the condition that 38 states ratify it and gave the states ten years. However, it failed. This is our second opportunity.

Welcome New Member!

Sherry Gillen
444 W. Witchwood Lane
Lake Bluff, IL 60044 (847) 234-6736

Observer Corps



Report

Our reactivated League Observer Corps is now five years old. Last year we had official League observers observing and reporting on meetings of the Lake Bluff Plan Commission and the Lake Bluff Village Board. Several League members who regularly attended Lake Forest City Council meetings, the Lake Forest Plan Commission meetings and the Senior Resources Commission meetings volunteered to submit reports to the League on the actions of those bodies, although they could not be official League observers since they participated in the meetings.

We would like to be able to continue covering the meetings of these bodies, with official League observers. As an organization dedicated to good government, we can have the greatest impact right here at a local level. We lost our Lake Bluff Plan Commission observer last year when her attendance at the meetings as an observer resulted in her being asked to serve as a member of the Commission! So Volunteers Arise. Call Pauline Mohr (847-234-5853) to learn more about the Observer Corps and the role of a League observer.

REMINDER



Please Respond to
Nominating Systems
Concurrence Mailing



Letter from Former LWV President - The Important Work We Do

To the Lake Forest / Lake Bluff League

How I wish I could give more financially and actively. I had a serious car accident 1 1/2 years ago and the doctors said it would be 2 years before I could walk again.

I treasure all my good memories of the LWV. In the 1960's, I was president of the Glencoe League (340 members) and prior to that vice president of the Cook County League, and after League presidency served on the Board of the Chicago Council of Foreign Relations. So, in many respects that was the golden age of the LWV, where studies of all items on our agenda were studied in depth. Then we lost members of the Board as women went to college for advanced degrees and to work. For many old timers, League studies were like getting a PHD!!

The League must make every one feel welcome and cooperate with other Leagues in complicated areas of expertise. You had the freedom act discussed by North Shore Leagues. Great! Good luck to all.

Sincerely,
Kathryn Kaiser

Membership Update

Our League is on target for a higher-than-usual membership this year; we may be up to 120 members once all of our current members have renewed. Besides the strength that increased membership gives us, there is another benefit this year: increased income.

Normally, all but a few dollars of each individual membership ends up going out as per-member payments to State, County, and National LWV. For this year and next, State is offering to rebate to local leagues their share of the per-member payment for net increases in membership of more than 5%. We could end up receiving a rebate check of \$200 or more, which would be most welcome. We could even be in the running for State recognition as the local league with the greatest increase in membership! If you haven't yet renewed your membership for 2003-2004, we hope you'll do so promptly. It will benefit our League on two fronts this

Annual Holiday Event



Friday, December 5th

A group of holiday social enthusiasts has been creating a special event for all. Our guest list includes members of both the AAUW and the League of Women Voters. Our morning together will feature a catered brunch, the Lake Forest Bookstore, and dramatist Barbara Rinella.

Our steering committee has selected a special topic: "Love", a unique program conceived by Ms. Rinella. The presentation embraces many familiar literary characters, who will share their musings on the nature of love. LF Books will join us, bringing a selection that includes bestsellers, community favorites, and Ms Rinella's characters.

Our banquet hall at St. James Church in Lake Forest will give us plenty of room for guests. So, please treat yourself and a loved one to some congeniality. An invitation with more detail will arrive shortly.

USA Patriot Act "Patriotism or Paranoia?"

Balancing Domestic Security & Civil Liberties

Forum & Panel Discussion

Thursday, November 6,
2003

7:00 - 9:00 pm
Senior Center

Dickinson Hall
100 East Old Mill Road
Lake Forest

Discussion Participants

Patrick Fitzgerald, US
States Attorney, Northern
District Illinois

Ed Yohnka, American
Civil Liberties Union

Jed Stone, JD
Department of Politics,
Lake Forest College

Carolyn Anthony, Director
Skokie Public Library

Martha Hinchman,
Northern Trust Bank

Suzanne Calder of the
Evanston LWV will act as
Moderator

LWV OF ILLINOIS to Hold Regional Workshop

Saturday, November 8, 2003
Port Clinton Square Atrium
600 Central Avenue (2nd Floor)
Highland Park, IL

9:00 a.m.

COFFEE & NETWORKING

* 9:30 a.m.

GENERAL SESSION: Increase Membership. Enhance Citizenship. Construct a specific membership outreach plan for your own League targeted toward one of two specific groups, newly retired people or women under 40. After initial large-group discussion, we will form smaller focus groups, selecting methods of communication, specific program choices, and effective appeals to those potential members. This approach, using the planning outline in the 2003 Membership Plan, can be applied to other target groups as well to bring in new members.

10:45 a.m.

CHOICE OF 2 WORKSHOPS:

* Moderator Training: "Oh No! What should I do?" Imagine you are moderating a candidates' forum and something unusual happens. Through role playing, you will learn how to be a more effective moderator.

* Action Campaign Training: With a focus on League issues like the U.S.A. Patriot Act and school funding, you will learn how to launch an action campaign in your community and brush up on your own personal lobbying skills.

12:00 Noon (optional)

LUNCH & MORE NETWORKING

Registration deadline is November 5. If interested, contact the Illinois League: The League of Women Voters of Illinois • 332 S. Michigan Ave. • Suite 1050 • Chicago, IL 60604
PH: 312/939-5935 • Fax 312/939-6887 • info@lwvil.org • www.lwvil.org

Mark Your Calendar

November 6 *US Patriot Act Forum - 7:00 pm - Senior Center (see inside for details)*
November 12 *Board Meeting, 10:30 AM - Gorton Community Center*
December 5 *Annual Holiday Brunch - Invitation to follow with Details*

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Mid-Winter 2003 / 2004
Volume 50, Number 4

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Message from the President

Cynthia Maloney

It feels like so much time has passed, like a year, maybe, since our last newsletter. It hasn't really been that long, it's just that so much has happened, and so much remains to be done in roughly the coming four or five months we have left before our next annual meeting.

I feel it would be wrong to let this public opportunity pass without expressing our grief for Happie Datt and her family over the tragic loss of her nephew, Uday Singh, who as we all probably know by now was killed in the line of duty in Iraq on December 1, 2003. In listening to the eulogies at his memorial service, it was clear that he was such a special young man, and was so deeply loved by all who knew him. Our thoughts will be with Happie now and for a long time to come.

In a more joyful vein, our League has so much going on, and again, so many chances to get involved. We're looking forward to a really fun and informative evening as we visit the Genesee Theatre in Waukegan on Friday, February 20 at 7 p.m. Guests are welcome at this free event, but reservations are necessary. Call me or Sally Zeit for more information, or to set up car pools.

The next weekend, on Saturday, February 28, starting at 7:30 p.m., we'll be enjoying our annual President's Cocktail Party and fundraiser. This year our own Susan Garrett, Karen May, and Corinne Wood, along with several of their friends yet to be coerced, will be reprising their wonderful show, "Capitol Capers", also known as "The Capitol

Step-Sisters" and probably other names as well. My husband has agreed not to leave me over having the event at our house, realizing this may be the only chance he has to get the place cleaned up this year. An invitation will be coming in the mail soon, and please bring guests or potential new members as well.

Nicki Snoblin, bless her heart, upon initiating a wildly successful membership campaign this fall, has now agreed to chair a committee to look into things at the high school. I don't know what to call this committee, exactly, since the school has not proposed a referendum yet, but if they do, we'll be ready with the information this committee will be collating. Call it the, "Everything you wanted to know about LFHS" Committee. Please give Nicki a call if you feel called to help on this one.

Finally in March we can look forward to Candidate Forums and the Phone-a-thon to raise funds for LWVIL. Expect phone calls to help with these two events based on your member interest surveys. Keep warm,

XXX Cynthia

Genesee Theater Tour Reminder

On Friday evening, February 20, we'll have an opportunity to get a first-hand look at restoration progress of Waukegan's Genesee Theater scheduled to open in the fall of 2004. We will gather at 7:00pm at 221 N. Genesee St. Street parking in front of the building is available (parking meters do not need to be fed after 6:00p.m.). Plans for the evening include an update

on redevelopment of Waukegan's downtown and lakefront areas. To ensure adequate tour arrangements, reservations are requested. Please call Sally Zeit (244-1347) or Cynthia Maloney (615-1123).

News from Lake County League

The Lake County Criminal Justice Committee has recently been formed and held it's first meeting on October 22, 2003, at the county building. Thanks to suggestions from Anne Bassi of Highland Park and others, LWV has a seat on this committee. Our representative is Sally Zeit with Linda Bartmes as her alternate.

The mission of this committee is to study the Lake County criminal justice system, identify deficiencies, and formulate policy, plans and programs for change when opportunities arise. This will be done through subcommittees that will look at particular issues in detail. Some of these subcommittees are: Resources in the Community, Recidivism and Reintegration, and Mental Health.

More News

There was a joint meeting of County ILJs Nov.15,2003. There were members present from DuPage, Cook, nd Lake Counties with Barb Marsh and Paula Lawson from the state board as moderator and presenter. We shared our progress as executive committees and discussed alternative models for board restructuring. Paula reviewed state and national positions and their applicability to county issues. Strategies for communicating with local leagues were also discussed. Paula Larson also instructed us on the correct procedure for taking action at the county level on LWVIL and LWVUS positions. It was a successful meeting. The three leagues plan to review the Rockford Model and reconvene in the spring.
-Linda Bartmes, LWVIL

Nominating Systems Position Approved

League members approved, by mail-in concurrence balloting, the local position on nominating systems. From the mailing sent to the League's 121 members in mid-October, 50 ballots, representing 41% of the membership, were received.

The result was 49 votes in concurrence with the position, one against.

Comments were included on 21 or 42% of the responses. Ten of the comments commended study group members for a job well done. Three comments related to the systems themselves: "Generally the caucuses have done an admirable job. . . . It is my belief that our four systems are much more open to scrutiny by the citizenry than they were ten years ago." "(One of the caucuses) has been accused of excluding people in the past. Openness and communication are key..."

Eight of the comments raised specific points which are reported here with the responses presented to the board at its November 12 meeting, when the board affirmed the concurrence vote.

"Although I don't know/understand what gives the League the right to dictate/mandate that these principles are followed." The League does not dictate or mandate. Because a study has been conducted and membership has concurred with the recommendations, the League can determine if systems are following these principles and inform the public if and when procedures and practices are not in accordance.

"I think these principles would be a good basis for action if any were violated during an election cycle in our community. Does this add anything to State or National positions? Is it necessary at all?" Without a stated and member-concurred position, the League would not be able to make any

statements or take any action on nominating processes, elections, campaigns, etc. which do not uphold the position's principles. Local Leagues can set positions only for local areas; local leagues can apply state and national positions to local area but local studies are more specific.

"How will the League react/respond if a campaign conduct does not appear to be -- is -- not civil?" With a position in place, the League can make public statements at meetings, in the media, etc., calling the public's attention to incivilities and the persons/organizations behind them. Without a position, no League comments can be made. However, the League will always maintain its non-partisan and fairness-to-all policies.

"Why is this position limited to municipal government?" The scope of our local league extends only to our area. And, the study covered only the nominating systems for Lake Forest and Lake Bluff.

"Additionally the League should continue to provide candidate profiles and responses to questions about their positions on issues of importance to the community, as well as continuing candidate forums. Those are the most valuable services carried out by the League with respect to the electoral process in our community." The League plans to continue candidate forums and to provide candidate profiles. These are the primary responsibilities of the Vice President/Voter Service.

"Committee members obviously invested great time and thought in this study for which we are grateful. A very specific suggestion toward goal of openness: Names, addresses, and phones of all caucus committee members should be listed somewhere all year, possibly monthly in the Lake Forester, posted at Gorton or ? But not at a government building or publication, not in the city directory." Some of the nominating systems do a better job than others on regular publication of their committee

members. While the League can probably not take on the responsibility for publishing names of all the systems, this study's recommendations do include plans to communicate sources to contact for candidacy, both for caucus-type systems and independent candidates.

"But would like to see interview process open to the public." The four systems studied interview candidates in various ways. The study group did not address changes in interview policies but its recommendations encourage openness in all aspects of nominating systems procedures.

"It is with a great leap of faith to state that openness is the responsibility of the system. That is not a true safeguard for participatory democratic elections." Openness refers to the processes followed by local nominating systems in identifying, screening, and slating candidates for elective offices. The study group felt strongly that without public understanding of the way these systems operate there is no public trust.

The 2003-2004 Directory includes the position on nominating systems. (The disclaimer statement was included because the Directory was printed prior to the ballot deadline.) The Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area League can now take action and make public statements when these principles are not upheld. ERA has been passed in the Illinois State House and is coming up for a vote in the Illinois Senate in November, 2003. Both Susan Garrett and Terry Link support its passage. However, as Susan pointed out, there is not strong support throughout the state. Do what you can to help it pass by contacting people you know who live elsewhere to ask their senators to support the bill. Only three more states need to pass ERA before it becomes a federal law.

Congress voted on ERA initially in 1972 with the condition that 38 states ratify it and gave the states ten years. However, it failed. This is our second opportunity.

Observer Corps



Reports

New Members

Welcome to the three new members who have joined our Observer Corps: Dorothy Fletcher, Autumn Franger and Kirty Cole. Dorothy has volunteered to observe the District 65 School Board meetings. Autumn will be reporting on the Lake Bluff Plan Commission, and Kirty will observe the Lake Forest Ad Hoc Affordable Housing Committee meetings. The willingness of these League members to serve as observers greatly strengthens our work in monitoring the governance of our communities. Thank you Dorothy, Autumn, and Kirty. We look forward to your reports.

Lake Bluff Village Board

The Lake Bluff Village Board meets twice a month, on the second and fourth Mondays, at 7:00 p.m. in the Village Hall. The Board hears many requests for zoning variances for both residential and commercial properties, which they evaluate on an individual basis. They also encourage prospective developers to make an initial presentation to the Board, outlining their proposed project, so that the Board can provide general guidance and a sense of whether they are likely to look favorably on the development in question. This can help prevent the developer or property owner from wasting time in working with the Zoning Board on a plan that the Board is unlikely to approve.

On September 22, the Board approved the second reading of an ordinance that will allow the owners of a large building in downtown Lake Bluff to renovate their property. The building extends from 26 E. Center Avenue to 113 E. Scranton Avenue. Many of the current

tenants will remain in the building after renovation. The plans call for the corner storefront to be used as a restaurant, although no tenant has been selected. The bank in the building will receive a drive-through lane that will pass behind the building. A parking lot will also be added in back.

On the same date, the Board heard the most recent of several presentations from the Lake Bluff Community Development Association in regard to senior housing in Lake Bluff. This group began as a committee formed by Grace Methodist Church to investigate senior housing needs in the Village. They have done a very thorough job of assessing needs and exploring the possibilities, updating the Village Board periodically on their findings. The Board has long known that the Association is looking at the use of an 11-acre piece of land owned by the Village on Route 176, just east of the water treatment plant. Under the Association's plan, the Village would retain ownership of the property.

Even though senior housing is one of the possible uses for this property in the Village's comprehensive plan, the Board is finding it difficult to make any commitment to the Association. The Association is ready to approach developers for plans for the senior housing complex, but until the Board tentatively approves this use of the land, the Association is unable to proceed. Board members have mentioned several other possible uses, including a park, a public safety facility, and some revenue-generating use.

In the past, the Board has sometimes taken a long time to make decisions. Caution is certainly advisable, but in this case the Board has had a very long lead time to consider the use of the property in question. The Lake Bluff Community Development Association has put a great deal of work into this project, for the benefit of the community, and they should be given an answer as soon as possible. This issue has possible relevance to the League in regard to our local positions on

affordable housing and land use. The latter position refers specifically to this property, stating, "The LWV-LF/LB will monitor the disposition of property owned by the Village west of the West Terrace, which is in its natural state and some of it is in the flood plain."

Lake Forest City Council Report

The City Council held a Strategic Planning Session in October. Highlights of the topics discussed follow.

Plans for the expansion of the Municipal Services Building on its present site have been on the City's agenda for several years. The Council is considering looking at alternatives to these plans with an eye to cost effectiveness.

Affordable Housing was also on the agenda and an Ad Hoc Affordable Housing Committee has been appointed. The committee will explore opportunities for diverse housing in Lake Forest including, but not limited to, Senior Housing. We will have an observer at these meetings.

Public/private initiatives in the area of preservation were suggested as a means of protecting the character and open space of the community. These initiatives will be pursued so keep

Lastly, the Council discussed the cultural and recreational opportunities that exist in the City, particularly those related to the 35 acres on Route 60 and Waukegan Road. A visioning session open to the public, was planned to get community input on what residents would like to see developed there. Subsequently, that session was held and about 100 people attended.

District 65 Report Summaries from Nov & Dec meetings

TRUTH IN TAXATION HEARING: The Lake Bluff Board of Education held a meeting on December 16, 2003 at which time a Truth in Taxation Hearing was held. It was suggested that the Board ask for a Levy higher than what the District might expect to receive to cover the possibility of asking for less than what is allowed since the allowable amount is known. The Board approved the Certificate of Tax Levy for 2003 of \$10,402,200 excluding bond interest, which represents a 9.2% increase over the 2002 extension of \$9,528,266. All Board members except Thomas Guido were present and voted "Aye."

DISTRICT WEB PROJECT: There was a lengthy discussion of development of District Web Design hardware and software and the two vendors being considered, SchoolCenter and Edline. Many questions remain to be answered before the Board takes action on this.

Full Day Kindergarten Pilot Program: Dr. Lisa Elliot presented information on full day kindergarten programs, which currently are being offered in 56% of public schools. There will be a parents informational meeting on the subject in February, 2004.

There was no follow-up discussion from the previous meetings regarding health care coverage for District 65 employees or on possible tenants for West School.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Please add the following new members to your membership directory:

Mary Pergander
33079 N. Shannon Dr.,
Grayslake, IL 60030
Home: (847) 816-6202
Office: (847) 234-2540
Fax: (847) 234-2649
E-mail: mpergander@excite.com

Kathleen P. Barton
813 Cherokee Rd., Lake Forest, IL 60045
Home: (847) 482-1403
E-mail: kathleen.p.barton@comcast.net

Elizabeth Teich
P.O. Box 169, Lake Forest, IL 60045
Home: (847) 234-8124
Office: (847) 782-4222
Fax: (847) 234-9286

City Info via E-Mail

Thanks to Diane Lloyd for sharing this information from the *City Ambassador Newsletter*

The Lake Forest E-Newsletter is an electronic news delivery service that provides quick access to meeting agendas and timely information on City issues and events. Distributed prior to the twice monthly City Council meetings, this e-newsletter is available to everyone, and postings are made only by City staff. To subscribe to this announcement only email service, visit the "What's New" section on the City's web site and follow the instructions displayed.

<http://www.cityoflakeforest.com>

Lake Forest Institute on Local Government Offered

This three-session class gives participants an overview of the history of Lake Forest and its government structure, an insight into municipal law and finance, tips on dealing with the press and conducting public meetings, and an update on development issues facing the community through a bus tour around the City. Leading the sessions are the City Manager, City Attorney, a local historian, the Finance Director, Director of Community Development, and a communications consultant. Plans are underway for a May 2004 Institute, and interested residents should contact Deputy City Clerk Beth Marquez at 847/615-4271.

Save the Date!!

League of Women Voters of
Lake Forest and Lake Bluff Area

President's Cocktail Party
and Fundraiser

Saturday, February 28
7:30 p.m.

featuring

"Capitol Capers"

with

Susan Garrett

Karen May

Corinne Wood

and others...?

Look for your invitation in the mail soon!

Mark Your Calendar

February 11 (<i>Wednesday</i>)	Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - Gorton Community Center
February 20 (<i>Friday</i>)	Genessee Theater Tour - 7:00 p.m. (<i>see article inside newsletter</i>)
February 28 (<i>Saturday</i>)	Presidents Day Cocktail Party Fundraiser - 7:30 p.m. (<i>invitation to follow</i>)

LWVLFLB Area Board of Directors

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Secretary: Joy Gibson (615-1504)

Vice President-Voter Service:

Christa Donnelly (234-1866)

Ann Walters (295-8671)

Treasurer: Mary Ritter (234-8215)

Vice President-Action: (open position)

DIRECTORS

LWVLC Liaison: Linda Bartmes (234-7069)

Membership: Nicki Snoblin (295-9059)

Newsletter/Publicity: Elaine Slayton (295-0275)

Program: Cynthia Morchead (295-6470)

Sally Zeit (244-1347)

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League of Women Voters
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

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March 2004
Volume 50, Number 5

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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area League
of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

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League Lines

Upcoming Primary Election

Remember to Vote March 16!

March 16 is the date of the Illinois primary election. It may seem like we've missed all the excitement, with so many states holding their primaries earlier than ours, but it's still important to cast your vote. In our area we will be voting at the federal level for presidential nominees, US senatorial nominees, 10th Congressional District nominees, and delegates to the National Conventions; at the state level for representative nominees; and at the county level for nominees for circuit court clerk, coroner, recorder, state's attorney, judges, and precinct committeemen. We will also see the Lake County referendum for a proposed sales tax for transportation improvements, and Shields Township residents will see a nonbinding referendum question about reducing salaries of township officials to the level they were before 1997.

The Lake County Clerk's Web site has a nice feature in which you can view the actual ballot for your location. Go to www.co.lake.il.us/ctyclk, then click on "What's on My Ballot?" You will need to enter your address and then select a Republican, Democratic, or nonpartisan ballot (the nonpartisan ballot contains only the referenda).

Another good site to visit is the Illinois Board of Elections at www.elections.state.il.us. This site has a great deal of useful candidate and voting information.

"Dead Presidents" Cocktail Party a Great Evening

The annual League cocktail party, held at Gorton Community Center on Saturday, February 28, had a "Dead Presidents" theme this year in honor of Washington's and Lincoln's birthdays. Cynthia Maloney did a fabulous job of decorating the Community Room in the theme by draping black crepe paper over the white tablecloths and placing a single calla lily on each table.

Entertainment was provided by the "Capital Capers," featuring State Senator Susan Garrett, State Representatives Karen May and Kathy Ryg, County Board members Anne Flanigan Bassi and Susan Gravenhorst, and Lake County Recorder Mary Ellen Vanderventer. The group sang a variety of traditional and popular songs with humorously modified lyrics and did a little acting to accompany the songs. What the group may have lacked in singing ability, they more than made up for in enthusiasm and good sportsmanship. They were assisted by State Senator Terry Link, who wasn't brave enough to sing with them, but whose support was much appreciated. Their act was hilarious and was very much enjoyed by the 50 or so partygoers.

Cynthia Maloney, Carol Gilbert, and Bev Adamczyk organized a silent auction as part of the fundraising effort. Through the generous donations of local businesses and League members, they were able to offer 13 items including a golf outing, dinner and theater, tickets to the Rembrandt exhibit at the Art

Institute, Lake Forest Symphony tickets, and more. The auction netted a total of \$1,000 to support League's activities; the overall net proceeds from the evening were more than \$1,800.

We thank the following generous auction donors for helping to make this evening a big success: Carol Gilbert, Steve Slayton, Happie and Jay Datt, Nicki Snoblin, Cynthia Maloney, Starbucks, Einstein's, Lake Forest Symphony, Lake Forest Bookstore, Peg Ann Kompany, Downtown Dog, CenterStage, Shelly Holmstrom, Southgate Cafe, Francesca's Intimo, Center Video, the Popcorn Factory, cJ Mirage, and Joy and Scott Gibson.

We also thank all of the people who supported League by attending the party, bringing a lovely array of buffet foods and wine, and bidding so generously on the auction items. Your donations are invaluable in helping League continue to serve the community.

Genesee Theater Tour an Interesting Evening

On February 20, League members were treated to a fascinating tour of the Genesee Theater in Waukegan, which is undergoing an extensive renovation and expansion. The theater was built in 1927 and holds many fond memories for long-time Waukegan residents.

The restoration is the cornerstone of the city of Waukegan's ambitious downtown revitalization project. The city has committed \$20 million to the restoration; an additional \$3 million has come from state and federal grants, and in-kind donations totaling \$750,000 have been received so far. The restoration group is still working to meet its budget of \$4 million to start operations and is actively soliciting donations.

The theater complex comprises the original Genesee Theater, the former Penney building adjacent to it, and the four-story L-shaped apartment wings that fronted the theater on two sides. The Genesee Theater's original 1800-seat capacity is being expanded to 2500. A new 350-seat "black-box" theater will be constructed in the Penney building portion. The former apartments will become expansive lobbies on each floor, containing coat check rooms, restrooms, lounges, and refreshment areas.

The theater complex is conceived of as both a source of revenue for the city of Waukegan and a community center. The developers expect to attract 750,000 theatergoers a year with a variety of major, nationally touring theatrical productions, concerts, ballets, and other acts. The main theater will be able to accommodate even the largest Broadway shows. The black-box theater will be used for small productions, community theater, and school-based arts programs.

The Genesee Theater is expected to offer more than 350 performances a year, anchored by 144 "season" performances. These will consist of a variety of widely known major productions arranged in three seasons of six productions each. Ticket price will be \$33.25 for a single ticket, and a number of packages and amenities will be offered, including a "buy three, get three free" season package.

After hearing all of this background information, League members were eager to see the historic theater for themselves. The hard-hat tour took them through the main theater all the way from the highest level of the balcony to the bottom of the orchestra pit and everywhere in between. The "stage house," or stage and backstage area, has been expanded to a depth of 60 feet from front to back, placing it in the top 5% of theaters in the country in terms of space to stage the production. The front of the balcony has been extended, adding 300 prime seats. Much of the theater's original ornate plaster work is

intact and in good condition. Many fixtures that were either lost or beyond repair have been replaced by similar pieces of the same vintage obtained from all over the country, such as the pipe organ, many small chandeliers, and a dazzling, 18-foot-long chandelier that hangs in the grand lobby of the theater (yes, it already hangs there—it was put in place despite the ongoing construction to serve as an inspiration).

The theater is expected to open in September or October of this year. The city is simultaneously beginning the first phase of its downtown revitalization and will be building a parking garage a half-block from the theater. This ambitious plan is hoped to change the image of Waukegan and form the first step toward renewing the economy and vitality of the city.

Thank you to Sally Zeit for arranging this interesting tour for us. The Friends of the Historic Genesee Theater can be contacted at (847) 782-2366 (www.genesee theatre.org).

News from LWV IL

This month, LWVIL has begun a new effort, The Democracy Project, "to strengthen citizen participation and restore public confidence in our state government." We hope you'll join in -- democracy needs you!

We are establishing an "Electronic Observer Corps" to monitor legislation of interest in Springfield and monitor the level of public input allowed in the legislative process overall. We do so out of concern that public input is increasingly limited and our democracy at risk as a result.

The Democracy Project will enlist League members and other interested parties to track legislation of interest, whether in relation to an issue close to your heart or because the legislation is sponsored by your local legislator. The beauty of this effort is that it can all be done from your home via email and access to the internet!

Please let us know if you are interested in being involved. As always, thanks for your help and your interest.

Eileen Hattan Lynch, Issues & Advocacy Coordinator
312/939-5935, ext. 39
elvnhc@lwvill.org

Join the March for Women's Lives!

The March for Women's Lives is just eight weeks away on April 24th! We have heard from Leagues all around the country who are mobilizing their members and communities to participate in this historic March. In an effort to keep you informed, we will be sending out periodic updates about the March. This update includes important information about organizing March delegations, increasing League visibility at the March, addressing special needs and helpful information available on the March for Women's Lives Web site.

Should you have questions about the March, please contact LWVUS Grassroots Lobbying Coordinator, Diana Onken at donken@lwv.org or (202) 263-1328.

Board Summary: February 11, 2004

At its regular meeting on February 11, the board discussed the Cocktail Party, set for February 28. President Cynthia Maloney informed the board that the party would be at Gorton Community Center and asked each board member to bring one item for the silent auction.

A series of new League bookmarks are ready and were displayed to board members. They are available free of charge at both public libraries and will soon be at other locations as well.

State League Lobby Day is April 21 in Springfield. Cynthia suggested getting a group together to carpool to go down to

Springfield. Also, LWV National Convention is in June, and we hope to send two delegates. Anyone interested in attending should mention it to Cynthia.

League held a voter registration drive at Lake Forest High School on February 11 and registered approximately 50 young people as new voters in time for the March 16 primary election. This was an outstanding response. Thanks to Ann Walter and Kitty Cole for devoting the day to this very successful effort. The reported that the students were eager to vote and well informed about the candidates in the presidential primary. The registrars will hold another drive in time for the election in November.

According to our official summary sheet to mailed to LWVUS in early February, our league has 103 local members, one student member, seven national members, and two honorary members, for a total 113. Since then, one new local member has joined and one national member has converted to become a local member. One of our membership goals this year is to convert our other national members to local membership when their year of national membership expires. This is the intent of LWVUS's Nationally Recruited Member program.

Two guests were present at the meeting: Susan Gravenhorst of the Lake County Board and Martin Buehler, director of the Lake County Division of Transportation. They came to discuss the county board's proposed sales tax of 0.25% to be used to ease traffic congestion throughout the county, which will be on the ballot as a referendum in the March 16 election. There has been a 284% increase in traffic volume to our county in the last 10 years, while road expansion has only been about 84%.

The new tax, if approved, would not apply to groceries, prescription drugs, and retail sales of cars and boats. The revenues would be earmarked as additional funds for the county and would be put in a special fund to be

used only for transportation purposes. This money would be targeted for keeping up with traffic growth by adding lanes, synchronizing traffic signals, etc. The tax is expected to generate approximately \$15 million annually.

Observer Corps



Report

Ad Hoc Affordable Housing Committee
February 19, 2004

Members: Mayor John Preschlack, Chair; Aldermen Timm Reynolds, Michael Burns and Roger Mc

Paul Fischer, Lake Forest College Professor and an authority on affordable housing was a guest of the Committee. He reported on affordable housing projects, including a major project undertaken in Montgomery County, MD. Such projects have no negative impact on property values in Professor Fischer's direct experience and studies on the subject, which include projects in a number of disparate areas, produced the same result—no negative impact on property values.

Five pieces of City-owned property plus undeveloped property on the campuses of Lake Forest College, Lake Forest Academy and Lake Forest Hospital are sites being considered for the development of affordable housing. "Affordable" was defined as condos in \$160,000-170,000 range and rental units in the range of \$800.00-900.00 a month. The City will consult with developers to get their ideas of what can be done and how projects can be executed. The Committee plans to go on to creating enabling ordinances that would include mixed use development. To quote the mayor: "We are serious. We are going forward." Kitty Cole is the Affordable Housing Committee Observer.

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Newsletter/Publicity: Elaine Slayton (295-0275)

Program: Cynthia Morehead (295-6470)

Sally Zeit (244-1347)

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Elaine Slayton
675 Pine Court
Lake Bluff, IL 60044



April 2004
Volume 50, Number 6

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Honorary League Member
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Presidents Letter

Cynthia Maloney

At the annual meeting of Voices for Illinois Children last month, Lisa Dietrich, Jane Partridge, Mary Ritter and I listened to James Houlihan, Cook County Assessor, lay out a compelling indictment of the present method of funding schools in our state. At present, 80% of the schools in Illinois are spending more than they take in. The tax cap in the collar counties, where property values are high, has created a funding crisis even in our affluent areas due to population growth and a rising "school price index" which is much higher than the CPI. Lower property values in downstate counties have placed added pressure on our schools there. Our reliance on property taxes for education has helped to drive us to the #12 spot nationally in property tax revenues, yet this regressive tax structure has left us with unconscionable disparities in educational opportunity. (Illinois received an "F" from Education Weekly for the disparity in educational opportunity that exists in our state.)

For instance, Northbrook schools spend approximately \$13,000 per student. Northbrook residents are taxed at about 6% of their assessed valuation. In Ford Heights, property owners are taxed at 18%, yet can spend only \$3,000 per child.

Houlihan's stated goals for a new tax structure to provide for education in Illinois rang true with League's positions on school funding: the tax structure should be broad based, progressive, and fair; it should not disincentivize business, it should provide high quality education for every

child, and THE STATE SHOULD BE THE PRIMARY FUNDER of education.

In LWVIL President Barb Lippa's recent letter to us via the Yellow Sheet, she suggested that in order to be more effective, Leagues might do well to limit the number of issues and projects they take on. Perhaps this should be our focus, for the next year. Maybe this one issue, education funding, which has vexed so many of us for so long, could be the one thing we finally take on as advocates to get right. The situation might at last be so critical that people will be willing to step outside their area of self-interest to work together with others across the state to affect a much needed change. (With the local High School planning to go to referendum next fall, Nicki Snoblin is currently forming a committee to study District 115's finances.)

Nobody says that how much money a school district spends per child is the only factor in that child's success in school, or in later life, but that does not excuse the disparities that exist. Equal opportunity under the laws is a basic tenet of our democracy. The way schools are funded in Illinois is legitimized discrimination against our most defenseless citizens, those who cannot vote. It's been said that a society can be judged by the way it treats its most marginalized members, the very old and the very young. How are we doing?

Cynthia

SAVE THE DATE!
LWV LF/LB ANNUAL MEETING
THURS, MAY 13TH @ 5:30 PM
MORE INFO TO FOLLOW.....

Betty Buker to Become Honorary Member

Please join us on Friday, April 23, as we honor long-time League member Betty Buker by awarding her honorary member status. A reception for Betty will be held on that date at the home of Diane Lloyd, 500 College Road in Lake Forest, at 11:30 a.m. (a light lunch will be served).

When League veterans are asked how long Betty has been involved in League, the usual response is "Forever!" Betty has seen many changes in our local League, from long before Lake Forest and Lake Bluff had a single unified chapter. One of the ways Betty stays active is by hosting the monthly Great Decisions meetings in her home, at which members learn about and discuss a different foreign policy issue each month.

Betty and her husband, Bud, try to stay on top of local, national, and international issues. Betty reports that they don't always agree on politics, which can lead to lively discussion. Betty always attends the annual League Holiday Luncheon, and she and Bud were both at the recent Dead Presidents Cocktail Party. Betty is also active in the American Association of University Women.

According to LWVUS Member Services, a local member may be granted honorary status after 50 years of membership, or at the discretion of the local League in the case of great longevity and/or service to the League.

Please watch for your reception invitation in the mail; RSVP to Nicki Snoblin (847 295-9059) or Diane Lloyd (847 615-9182).

**CHECK OUT OUR LOCAL
LEAGUE'S NEW WEB SITE!**
www.lwv-lflb.org

Welcome New Members!

Mary Ballantine (National member),
914 Barclay Circle, Lake Forest, IL
60045

Marian Barell, 1445 S. Ridge Rd.,
Lake Forest, IL 60045; 295-9812

Kaye Grabbe (Director, Lake Forest
Library), 360 E. Deerpath, Lake Forest,
IL 60045; 234-1453

Susan Loving Gravenhorst, 450 Oak
Ridge Ct., Lake Bluff, IL 60044; 234-
5741

Mary Pergander (Director, Lake Bluff
Library), 33079 N. Shaanon Dr.,
Grayslake, IL 60030; 816-6202

Trude Roselle, 484 Rockefeller Rd.,
Lake Forest, IL 60045; 234-7890

Elizabeth Teich, PO Box 169, Lake
Forest, IL 60045; 234-8124

Victoria Trauscht (National member),
W-76 Circle Dr., Mundelein, IL 60060;
566-8545

Board Summary: March 10, 2004

At its regular meeting on March 10, President Cynthia Maloney announced that future meetings will be held at 10:30 a.m., since evening meetings proved to be too difficult for many board members to attend.

The LWV National Convention will be held June 10 to 13. We can send two voting delegates, and any member is eligible. Anyone interested in attending

should mention it to Cynthia. The decision should be made by about April 10.

On Sunday, April 18, the Highland Park LWV will host a program on judicial appointments. The program will be at the Highland Park Library from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

During the past month, two new members have joined our League, bringing our total membership to 116. Membership chair Nicki Snoblin attended the Chamber of Commerce luncheon on March 10 to hand out membership materials.

The LWV-LFLB Web site will soon be redesigned and have new hosting, which will enable us to have a much simpler Web address to remember: www.lwv-lflb.org. The site will feature links to the most recent issue of *League Lines*, board meeting minutes, local government Web sites, election information, membership information, and more. The redesign is being donated, and cost of hosting will be approximately \$70 per year. The site is expected to be ready by late April.

Treasurer Mary Ritter reported that we have a checking account balance of more than \$7500 after this year's very successful "Dead Presidents" cocktail party. Of the proceeds from the party, almost \$1500 went into the Education Fund and about \$400 into the treasury for operating expenses.

A committee is being formed to study funding of Lake Forest High School District 115 in preparation for evaluating the district's upcoming referendum. The School Board, having accepted its Strategic Planning Committee's recommendation to ask for a property tax rate increase, is expected to vote in July 2004 to place the referendum question(s) on the ballot in April 2005. It is anticipated that the League committee will begin its work in mid- to late summer; anyone interested in participating should call Nicki Snoblin.

Program chair Sally Zeit reported on the recent Genesee Theater tour. It was very interesting but perhaps too long. The League is trying to set up another tour, possibly on a Saturday morning in June, to see the progress.

A "movie night" was proposed in conjunction with AAUW (American Association of University Women) to view *Jury of her Peers* and *Iron-Jawed Angels*, possibly around Mothers Day.

Update: Lake Forest High School Strategic Plan

Lake Forest High School is currently in the process of implementing parts of the Strategic Plan approved in December 2003. Comprehensive facilities and financial reviews are occurring and are set to be presented to the High School Board of Education by July 1, 2004. These reviews include a review of curriculum and best practices as detailed by the Strategic Plan. The Board of Education has recently approved the following:

- To engage Mr. Tom Taylor as Facilities Manager. He has worked with the High School previously and is a Partner at the firm AT Associates.
- To contract with the architectural firm Perkins & Will to aid in the facilities review of both East and West campuses.
- To purchase a modular classroom which will consist of one structure that houses two classrooms. The decision of where to place this portable classroom has not been made.

To go to the voters on April 5, 2005, to raise additional tax revenues. The structure and amount of this referendum has not yet been decided. This decision is expected in August, 2004.

The High School has recently hosted four community meetings to gather

feedback on the Strategic Plan and on the recent community survey. Both of these can be found on the High Schools web site, www.lfhs.org and community members are encouraged to visit this web site.

In addition, Mr. Chuck Gress, a math teacher at the High School recently received a Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching, an annual award given to 10 teachers in the Chicago area. This is quite an honor and delighted students, teachers and administration at the school.

Observer Corps



Report

Lake Bluff Village Board

On March 22, the Lake Bluff Village Board's agenda was filled with numerous readings of ordinances and resolutions. The first one was an ordinance to permit the Lake Bluff Park District to build an 8800-square-foot addition to its Blair Park facility. Park District General Manager Walt Schamber spoke to the board about the proposed addition, which was approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals on January 21 contingent on the Park District's working out an agreement with neighbors on preexisting issues regarding lights. The addition will include new classrooms and a dance room, as well as expanding the fitness center. The addition will not be financed through taxes; instead, the Park District will take out a 20-year loan, which will be repaid through user fees and revenues generated by the facility.

The Park District hopes to have the addition finished by August 20 in order to be ready for fall programming. To facilitate this, Mr. Schamber asked the board to waive the second reading of the ordinance. The board approved the ordinance unanimously but indicated they were unwilling to waive the second reading, wishing to give residents more

time for input. The second reading will be on April 12.

Next the board discussed an ordinance to allow placement of additional cellular antennas and related facilities at the Public Safety building at 45 E. Center Avenue. A tower serving three cellular telephone companies already exists on the property, and two additional companies wish to build a shared tower. The board approved the first reading.

Three agenda items dealt with fees, including impact fees for subdividing as well as zoning code application fees. Impact fees for subdivision of properties were more than doubled. The board approved the first reading of all of these ordinances.

President Tom Skinner commented on the proposed senior housing development that has come before the board several times in the past. He said he understood that some members of the community feel the board is "dragging its feet" on the issue, and he wanted to inform residents that the board has been discussing it in executive session, which is permissible because the plan involves possible property disposition. The questions of property use and disposition will require the board to make policy decisions that relate to the piece of property in question, and other possible sites for the senior housing development are being considered. While acknowledging that this has not been a public process as it has been in Lake Forest, President Skinner emphasized that the board is making progress.

The Village's tentative budget will be on display at the Village Hall beginning March 23; the public hearing on the budget will take place on April 12.

REMINDER: Please use the League's expense form (with receipt) to submit expenses for reimbursement, & send to:

Mary Ritter, 1041 Timber Lane, Lake Forest, IL (847-234-8215)

Dates to Remember

Betty Baker Reception April 23rd (Friday), 11:30 at the home of Diane Lloyd - *invitation to follow*

Annual Meeting May 13th (Thursday), 5:30 at the home of Linda Bartmes (*watch for your Annual Meeting packet for more information*)

LWVFLB Area Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President: Cynthia Maloney (615-1123)

Secretary: Joy Gibson (615-1504)

Vice President-Voter Service:

Christa Donnelly (234-1866)

Ann Walters (295-8671)

Treasurer: Mary Ritter (234-8215)

Vice President-Action: (*open position*)

DIRECTORS

LWVLC Liaison: Linda Bartmes (234-7069)

Membership: Nicki Snoblin (295-9059)

Newsletter/Publicity: Elaine Slayton (295-0275)

Program: Cynthia Morehead (295-6470)

Sally Zeit (244-1347)

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League of Women Voters
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

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May/June 2004
Volume 50, Number 7

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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area League
of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

Annual Meeting Highlights

The Annual Meeting of the LWV of Lake Forest & Lake Bluff Area was held on May 13th at the home of Linda Bartmes. Those in attendance voted to elect the following officers, directors, and members of the Nominating Committee:

2004 - 2005 Board Members

Officers

President - Cynthia Maloney
VP, Voter Service - Christa Donnelly
VP, Action - Jo-An Sabonjian
Treasurer - Liese Kant
Secretary - Joy Gibson

Directors

Program - Cindy Moorehead, Sally Zeit
and one Open position
Newsletter - Elaine Slayton
Membership - Nicki Snoblin
LWVLC Liaison - Linda Bartmes

Off-Board Positions

Affordable Senior Housing - Jane Partridge
Observer Corps - Open
Voter Registration - Open
Board Services - Carol Gilbert
Publicity Chair - Open

Nominating Committee (2005-2006)

Theresa Yakes
Marilyn Shineflug
Marilyn Harlow
(with two additional members to be appointed by the Board)

Please consider volunteering to fill an Open position - the League needs your help!

March with the League this year!

A million women showed up in Washington to march for women's lives. Let's follow suit by getting off the sidewalk to march with our local League to "get out the vote" and raise awareness of the League's important work.

Lake Bluff 4th of July Parade

Parade Theme:
"You Can Make a Difference"

League Theme:
"Don't let your vote go to the dogs"

- *Dogs and children welcome*
- *Costumes!*

- *Refreshments*
- *Exercise*

Call Joy Gibson at 615-1504 or Elaine Slayton at 295-0275 to join the march!

League Special Meeting this Week!

Happie Datt attended the LVW national convention recently and became very interested in international activities of the League. She proposes establishing a new board position and committee on international issues. She will be holding a planning meeting at her house on Thursday, June 24, at 10:00 a.m. (851 Lane Lorraine in Lake Forest). If this sounds interesting to you, please attend the meeting; call Happie at 234-6801 for more information.

CHECK OUT OUR LOCAL LEAGUE'S NEW WEB SITE!
www.lvw-lfb.org

Observer Corps



Report

CITY OF LAKE FOREST
AD-HOC HOUSING COMMITTEE

April 15, 2004

Reporting for the League of Women Voters of Lake Forest and Lake Bluff by Kitty Cole

Present: Mayor Jack Preschlack, Alderman Timm Reynolds, Alderman Roger Mohr, Chris Martin, Robert Kiely, Cathy Czernik

The city presented a draft of the "City of Lake Forest Plan for Housing Opportunity" which included a definition of income level targeted and the home value and mortgage of an "affordable" house in Lake Forest.

- Eligible household income \$53,578 for homeownership (80% of Lake County Median Income of \$66,963)
- Eligible household income for renting: \$40,177 (60% of Lake County Median Income \$66,963)
- A mortgage that would not exceed 30% of the monthly income of the eligible household, or, less than \$1,337 per month. This equates to a \$222,000 home at 6% at 30 years.

Some discussion was held about the percentage of affordable housing in Lake Forest. Based on a Lake Forest College student intern's evaluation of 2000 census figures Lake Forest has 7.39% of its housing stock as affordable. Some were surprised that the number was so high. The mayor asked that an inventory of that stock be made.

The committee reviewed the goals. To meet the 10% threshold required by the Affordable Housing Planning and Appeals Act, Lake Forest would need 182 more units. The mayor

pointed out though, that the goal is 15% for new construction.

Some discussion was held about the impact of teardowns – should there be an impact fee attached to the approval of a teardown? What is the city's response if the teardown is of affordable housing to be replaced with unaffordable housing?

There were 21 policies and tools for encouraging affordable housing development. They ranged from inclusionary zoning to an expedited permitting process. There was discussion about the development being proposed now by Blanchard Anderson developers for the property at Western and Laurel. Right now there is no affordable housing proposed. The mayor directed community development personnel to require 15% affordable in order to get zoning permission.

***Note: I was impressed by Mayor Preschlack's commitment to the quick implementation of this plan.**

Much discussion was held regarding a list of potential properties that the city controls. The committee directed the city to come up with a realistic list of properties in order to present to some developers for their ideas and analysis of feasibility for affordable housing development.

As a part of the plan, thought will have to take place as to how to present this to various groups and the community at large. Many thought that this will be the most challenging aspect of the plan.

The committee would like to present to the City Council a finalized plan with a list of 6-8 sites for possible development. It is their hope that this could be presented to the June City Council meeting. Their goal is

to "light a fire under these initiatives to get something going".

Questions for the League:

I am impressed with the proactive stance of the committee -- does the League agree?

What is our role in helping to "sell" this plan to the city?

OBSERVER REPORT

League of Women Voters - Lake Forest, Lake Bluff

Prepared by Kitty Cole - June 15, 2004

As the new Chair of the Observer Corps, I am just getting organized. This function has been so well covered by Pauline Mohr over the years. It's going to take a month or so for me to begin to cover things as well. I am looking for people to cover the Dist. 67 School Board and the Lake Forest Plan Commission. Being a LWV observer is fun and I am working to create a reporting form that will be easy to fill out.

Home Rule

There have been several meetings of the Lake Forest City Council on the subject of Home Rule. The Ad-Hoc Finance Committee appointed by the mayor recommended that Lake Forest seriously consider becoming a Home Rule community which would enable the city to explore new methods of income generation. It will be important for our members to become educated on this subject. Our President, Cynthia Maloney, has been attending these meetings.

Affordable Housing

Right now the Ad Hoc Housing Committee of the Lake Forest City Council is evaluating city-owned properties that may be suitable for housing in Lake Forest. Bara's closure may introduce some new opportunities as well as challenges

Membership Update

Nicki Snoblin has revitalized our Membership effort this year with the following initiatives:

- Bookmarks with useful tips on elections, voting, and candidacy
- Business Cards with our web-site and address
- Web-site update
- Focus on retention of existing members

Save this tentative date for an exciting Fall Membership Event:

Saturday, September 18th

Community Update

with

*Bob Kiely, Lake Forest City Manager
Kent Street, Lake Bluff Village*

This is an excellent opportunity to invite a friend to meet fellow Leaguers and consider membership. Send possible guest names with address or telephone number to Nicki Snoblin at nicki@snoblin.com.

News From National

Turn to DemocracyNet for Candidates' Views

DNet offers the most comprehensive voter information available, featuring statements from federal and state candidates. Want to help

us gather content? Contact dnet@lwf.org.

LWVUS Online Voter Registration Tool

LWVUS has an online voter registration tool where people can go to fill out, print and sign a registration form, then mail it to the address given. Offer this tool on your site by creating a link to www.lwf.org/voter/register.html

2004 Election is in Danger: Top Five Risks to Eligible Voters

Together with the civil rights community, the League held a press conference announcing the top five risks to voters on Election Day.

1. TROUBLES WITH VOTER REGISTRATION
2. ERRONEOUS PURGING FROM THE REGISTRATION ROLLS
3. PROBLEMS WITH THE NEW ID REQUIREMENT
4. PROBLEMS WITH VOTING SYSTEMS
5. FAILURE TO COUNT PROVISIONAL BALLOTS

For the full press release, and more news from our National League, go to media@lwf.org

REMINDER: Please use the League's expense form (with receipt) to submit expenses for reimbursement, & send to: Mary Ritter, 1041 Timber Lane, Lake Forest, IL (847-234-8215)

Dates to Remember

*June 24 Special Convention Highlights Meeting - Thursday, June 24, 10 a.m. at the home of Happie Datt,
851 Lane Lorraine, Lake Forest, 234-6801*

July 4 March in the Fourth of July parade with fellow League members - children and dogs welcome!

LWVFLB Area Board of Directors

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Elaine Slayton
675 Pine Court
Lake Bluff, IL 60044



Summer 2004
Volume 50, Number 8

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League Lines

League Has Fun with Winning July 4th Parade Entry

"Don't Let Your Vote Go to the Dogs" was the theme of LWV-LFLB's entry in this year's Lake Bluff Fourth of July parade. Several League members, at least one hardy spouse, a number of children, and some very well-behaved dogs marched in the parade, some carrying signs bearing the theme slogan. Marchers sang a customized version of "How Much Is That Doggie in the Window," followed by a chant of the slogan.

It was just plain good fun, maybe a little hokey, but creative enough to win third place in the Community category. Many thanks to Elaine Slayton and Joy Gibson for organizing the entry and for their boundless enthusiasm on the long and warm parade route. Thanks also to all those League members and friends who participated.

Voter Registration Drive Saturday, September 11, 2004

The American Library Association is sponsoring a nationwide voter registration drive to commemorate 9/11 and mobilize citizens to vote, and the League of Women Voters is pleased to be participating. If you are a deputy registrar and are available on Saturday, September 11, 2004, please contact Stephanie Victor at (847) 735-1228 (s2svictor@aol.com). The registration will take place at various libraries in the area; our specific locations are yet to be determined.

Membership News

Save the date . . . Fall Membership Event:

Community Update

with

*Bob Kiely,
Lake Forest
City Manager, and
Kent Street,
Lake Bluff Village
Administrator*

*Saturday,
September 18th
9:00 a.m.
Lake Bluff Park
District Recreation
Center
Light Breakfast*

We are looking forward to starting the new LWV membership year with the annual Fall Membership Event. This

year the event will feature the popular Community Update, in which Lake Forest City Manager Robert Kiely and Lake Bluff Village Administrator Kent Street will speak about new developments in our communities.

You won't want to miss this opportunity to chat with fellow League members whom you haven't seen over the summer and to learn about what's new in the area. Feel free to bring friends who may be interested in League membership; it's a good way to introduce them to what League is about. Watch for your invitation in the mail in early September.

Beat the Rush-- Renew Your Membership Now!

Do you find that life seems to speed up in September? Friends are back in town, and activities and organizations that have been on hold over the summer begin to gear up again. You can get one thing out of the way, and help us get a head start on membership renewal, by writing that membership check now. The membership renewal form appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

Each member is very important to our local League. Our strength derives from having a broad membership base consisting of people with diverse backgrounds and ideas. The more members we have, the more certain we can be that we represent the concerns and opinions of informed women from all over our community. Important things are happening at every level of government and in many aspects of our society. We want to be able to speak on these issues with all of your voices. We appreciate your ongoing support.

**CHECK OUT OUR
LOCAL LEAGUE'S
WEB SITE www.lwv-lfb.org**

Committee to Evaluate High School Referendum

The LWV-LFLB Board has authorized the formation of a committee to examine the proposed Lake Forest High School District 115 referendum and evaluate it for possible League endorsement. The referendum is expected to take place in April 2005; the League committee will begin its work in fall 2004.

A great many changes have occurred at the high school in recent months. The committee will need to take a thorough look at the recent events, long-range plans, and financial situation in the district and make a recommendation about any possible League action.

The committee will direct its efforts exclusively to the referendum question in District 115, and not the broader issue of school funding in Illinois. Although that issue is pressing and important, it is beyond the scope of the committee.

If you are interested in working on this committee, please contact Nicki Snoblin (847-295-9059; nicki@snoblin.com).

Annual LWVUS Convention Report

Report on the 46th National Convention of the LWVUS.

As a first time National Convention delegate, I tried to pack in as much as I could from 7:30 am to 11:00 pm! It was the most stimulating and energizing experience. The parliamentary procedures that were strictly adhered to on the convention kept it fast-paced and exciting. Election of the nominated slate for officers/directors was challenged by three nominations from the floor for Directors. Though the nominated slate was voted in, elections for Directors were by paper ballot during the 2-hour

lunch break. The two nominees from the floor, Barbara Simmonds and Debbie Nuss did receive over 200 votes each, but it was far behind the over 500 for the nominated slate.

There was a healthy debate on the new budget with some program proponents asking the PMP be raised to a higher level than the proposed 80 cents to fund a study. PMP was held to 80 cents. There was a lot of dissent in the ranks, regarding LWVUS interpretation of the position on "Citizens Right to Vote" as applied to electronic voting. I must mention, the debate was strong but civilized and the final language on the LWVUS position, *"In order to ensure integrity and voter confidence in elections, the LWVUS supports the implementation of voting systems and procedures that are secure; accurate; re-countable; and accessible"* was adopted by the convention delegates. This language gives all League chapters flexibility in dealing with their State Laws, which may or may not require paper back up for electronic voting machines. The State of Georgia has invested over \$54 million since the last presidential elections to put the same model of electronic voting machines in each and every county! Their state laws do not require a separate paper verification-audit trail and the LWV-G were very confident of the security and reliability of the system that they debated strongly against a paper audit trail.

I attended workshops on "Judicial Independence", "Global Democracy" and a special program by the Alliance for Better Campaigns, named "Our Democracy, Our Airwaves" and numerous caucuses. I have material in many formats, including books, CD's and video for those who would like more detail.

Doris Schapira, one of three LWVUS observer's to the UN, energized me to set-up an international committee within our chapter. My goal would be to do at least one program every year to achieve the following. 1) Help Americans understand their role in the world today.

2) Strengthening grassroots democracy abroad and 3) effecting change through pressure from civil society, using the UN to the fullest extent possible. As many of you may already know, (it was news to me) the LWV enjoys a special consultative NGO status at the UN.

Also very interesting was a program to host a Russian federation of 7-8 women interested in learning about our systems in March 2005. This program is fully funded and the host league receives \$2000 plus expenses. Anyone interested in hosting these women in their homes, please contact me.

The guest speaker at the Monday Banquet, **Helen Thomas** delighted us all – by regaling us with her encounters with President's since the time of John F. Kennedy. The program committee promised us her speech would be posted online on the LWVUS web-site. You may already have read it by the time this report reaches you via League Lines! Senator **Richard Lugar**, Chair Foreign Relations Committee, spoke to us on Monday about US role in bringing democracy to Guatemala and the Philippines. The panel on balancing civil liberties and homeland security, with David Cole, Professor Georgetown University Law Center; Jamie Gorelick, 9-11 commission member; and Ruth Wedgwood, Senior Fellow, Council of Foreign Relations on Sunday morning before the plenary session, was very informative.

For pure laughs we enjoyed the "Capital Steps" stand-up satire on Sunday night!

Submitted by Happie Datt

FYI...

**For Candidates' Views,
Turn to DemocracyNet
(www.dnet.org)**

DNet offers the most comprehensive voter information available, featuring statements from federal and state candidates. Want to help us gather content? Contact dnet@lwv.org.

LWV Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area Meeting Minutes July 21, 2004

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m. at the home of Cynthia Maloney.

Present: Kitty Cole (Observer Corps), Happie Datt (International Committee), Christa Donnelly (Voter Service), Dottie Fletcher (Voter Registration), Cynthia Maloney (President), Mary Ritter (outgoing Treasurer), Jo-An Sabonjian (Action), Nicki Snoblin (Membership), Stephanie Victor (Voter Registration), Sally Zeit (Program)

Minutes of Last Meeting: Minutes were not available. Secretary Joy Gibson is not able to come to every meeting, so assistance is needed with minutes.

New Appointments: Cynthia announced the following presidential appointments: Happie Datt to chair a new International Committee; Dottie Fletcher and Stephanie Victor to chair Voter Registration, with assistance from Sally Zeit. Jo-An Sabonjian and Kitty Cole offered to help Christa Donnelly with Voter Service, but an actual co-chair is still needed. The need for written job descriptions was discussed; Nicki Snoblin will obtain materials from LWVIL.

Treasurer's Report: No formal report was available. Mary Ritter is processing the final income and expenses for the year and will turn the books over to Liese Kant shortly.

Memorial Donations: Cynthia commented on the very moving memorial she attended for the late Eleanor Beidler, a long-time League member. Mrs. Beidler's family thoughtfully requested that donations in

her memory be sent to LWV-LFLB; at the time of the meeting, it was unknown how many had been received.

It was decided to create a position for administering awards and scholarships. Mary Ritter volunteered for this position, to be called Scholarships and Honors. LWV-LFLB already gives an award at Deer Path Middle School. Cynthia will speak with Mrs. Beidler's family about their wishes for use of the dona

Membership: The membership year will end with approximately 115 members. The Fall Membership Event will be a breakfast and community update on Saturday, September 18, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Lake Bluff Park District Recreation Center. Guest speakers will be Kent Street (Lake Bluff Village Administrator) and Robert Kiely (Lake Forest City Manager). Invitations will be mailed in early September.

The fall membership drive begins with the summer newsletter, followed by a renewal mailing in late August, then the fall event, then reminder phone calls. Ideally, renewals will be completed by early October and work will begin on the Membership Directory, which will be mailed to all members this year rather than distributed at events.

Newsletter: The newsletter deadline is July 21. Several news items were discussed and will be transmitted to Elaine Slayton, along with a summary of the minutes from the current meeting. **Program:** Happie Datt, Sally Zeit, Cindy Morehead, and Carol Gilbert met recently to discuss program. Happie reported on two major program initiatives: (1) The LWVUS United Nations observer, Doris Schapira, will come to town in November to give a presentation, cosponsored by the AAUW in Waukegan. A scholarship from We the People for \$500 will partially defray the cost of transportation and accommodations. (2) The LWVUS brings women to the US from a civic organization in Russia to learn about government here. Each

group consists of five to seven women who stay in local private homes. The women speak some English, and an interpreter is available. The host League receives \$2000 plus all expenses. The visitors will arrive in late March or early April; Happie recommends lining up 14 potential host families.

The tentative schedule of activities for the year is as follows:

September:	Fall Membership Event
October:	Candidate Forums
November:	UN observer forum Possible Illinois budget/school funding forum with Ralph Martire; cosponsor with AAUW; Nov. 9, 7 p.m., Zion Library
December:	Holiday event
January:	Possible showing of "A Jury of Her Peers"
February:	Dead Presidents Cocktail Party
March:	Candidate Forums Possible forum on School District 115 referendum
April:	Russian visitors
May:	Annual Meeting

Voter Service: Christa Donnelly has been in touch with Rhonda Diamond of the Glencoe LWV; they are organizing a multi-league candidate forum for the 10th Congressional District on Sunday, October 17, at 2:00 p.m. (location to be determined). Other forums will probably be needed. A co-chair is urgently needed for Voter Service.

Voter Registration: Stephanie Victor is working on our participation in a nationwide voter registration drive, sponsored by the American Library Association, to commemorate 9/11. It will be on September 11, 2004. Stephanie is contacting libraries all around the area to find out where our registrars will be needed.

Observer Corps: Kitty Cole introduced herself as the new Observer Corps

coordinator. She is looking for more volunteers.

High School Funding Research Committee: Nicki Snoblin will chair this committee, which should get under way in September or October in anticipation of a possible funding referendum in High School District 115 in April 2005. Nicki has been collecting material. Volunteers are needed to work on the committee.

Home Rule in Lake Forest: Cynthia will chair a committee to investigate home rule, which will be on the ballot in Lake Forest in November 2004. An information program should be held in October. Mary Ritter and Happie Datt offered to work with Cynthia; a few more volunteers are needed.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Submitted by Nicki Snoblin, July 21, 2004.

Observer Corps



Report

LAKE FOREST CITY COUNCIL Ad Hoc Housing Task Force Meeting Thursday July 15, 2004

Present: Mayor Preschlack, Ald. Timm Snodgrass, Ald. Roger Mohr; City Manager Keiley; Asst. City Manager Martin

Chris Martin attempted to clarify the state legislation as it was amended in the last General Assembly. The challenge for Lake Forest is getting an accurate count of affordable housing units. The most reliable numbers come from the census and it looks like Lake Forest only has 3.5% of its housing stock as affordable. According to the Affordable Housing and Builders Appeal law, Lake Forest needs to

increase its affordable housing stock by 7.8% or about 355 more units.

The city needs to get solid numbers; figure out where the gaps are; and explore what its requirements would be if they became a Home Rule community. All expressed that Lake Forest is committed to increasing its affordable housing stock, but wants to do it on its own terms.

After a discussion on what the demands are, the committee consented on the following market targets for affordable housing:

1. Lake Forest residents over 70
2. Former Lake Forest residents over 70
3. Parents of Lake Forest Residents over 70
4. Lake Forest Public sector employees
5. Lake Forest other employees
6. Lake Bluff residents over 70

The Committee discussed possible sites for the development of affordable housing. They will be talking to some developers to do an initial proposal. Also, the city will continue conversations with Lake Forest College about developing affordable housing for their employees.

News from National

As we count down to Election Day, our attention continues to be focused on safeguarding the vote of all Americans. To this end, last week the League issued its latest report, *Helping America Vote: Safeguarding the Vote*. This week, the League's Web site is showing a new "splash" page that focuses on that big day. Go to www.lwv.org and find everything you need in preparation for Nov. 2, 2004.

President LWVUS

Please help us get a head start on our fall membership drive! If you renew now, your membership will be in effect through September 2005. Please complete the following information and return the form with your check to:
LWV LF/LB, 400 E. Illinois Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045.

LWV LF/LB - 2004-2005 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Office) _____ (Fax) _____

E-mail: _____

Membership Category:

☐ Patron (\$150) ☐ Sustaining (\$100) ☐ Individual (\$55) ☐ Senior (\$50) ☐ Student (\$25)

Make checks payable to LWV LF/LB. Dues are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.

MEMBER INTEREST SURVEY

Programs, Activities: ☐ Illinois Student Vote project in school (national elections)
☐ Candidate Forums
☐ Be a Moderator (need training? _____)
☐ Be a League Observer (where? _____)
☐ Register Voters (need training? _____)

☐ *Are you already a voter registrar? (We want to list this in the Membership Directory.)*

Special Requests: ☐ Home Rule Research Committee
☐ Hosts for delegation of Russian women, 1 week in March/April
☐ High School District 115 Funding Research Committee
☐ Voter Service co-chair (organize Candidate Forums)

Hospitality, Support: ☐ Holiday Luncheon
☐ Annual Meeting
☐ Joint Meeting with AAUW
☐ Planning or refreshments for special programs
☐ Short-term jobs (phone calls, mailing, etc.)
☐ Fundraising
☐ Newsletter items
☐ Publicity/media services

Interests: ☐ Great Decisions discussion group on foreign affairs
☐ United Nations and international issues
☐ Preschool programs and services
☐ School funding
☐ Affordable senior housing
☐ Comprehensive plan
☐ Conservation and land use

☐ Let me be a guilt free member! I cannot be active this year but I am happy to support League's work.

Dates to Remember

Saturday, Sept. 11

Voter Registration Drive (see inside newsletter for details)

Saturday, Sept. 18

Fall Membership Event (Watch for your invitation in the mail)

LWVFLB Area Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President: Cynthia Maloney (615-1123)

Secretary: Joy Gibson (615-1504)

Vice President-Voter Service:

Christa Donnelly (234-1866)

Ann Walters (295-8671)

Treasurer: Mary Ritter (234-8215)

Vice President-Action: (open position)

DIRECTORS

LWVLC Liaison: Linda Bartines (234-7069)

Membership: Nicki Snoblin (295-9059)

Newsletter/Publicity: Elaine Slayton (295-0275)

Program: Cynthia Morehead (295-6470)

Sally Zeit (244-1347)

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League of Women Voters
Gorton Community Center
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Executive Director
LWV National Board
Lake Bluff, IL 60045



October, 2004
Volume 51, Number 2

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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area League
of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

President's Letter

Dear friends in League,

Oh, boy. Where do I begin? There is so much going on these days, League-wise, it makes me so proud to be a part of it. A little crazy, perhaps, but proud. First of all, I've missed writing my little part for the newsletter, but for some reason the muse deserted me and I ran out of things to say! Do you ever feel that way, like things are just so obvious, that it doesn't need to be discussed? We've all been working so hard lately. Besides, as League president I can't say anything much about anything these days. I'm always having to bite my tongue. Oh, well...I guess it's good for me.

Summer was great, a little short, but fun. I have come to some interesting conclusions about "having it all," but that is a topic for another newsletter.

Kudos are due to so many hardworking Leaguers for events in the recent past...The Lake Bluff forum on historic preservation was extremely informative and very well-attended. Phyllis Albrecht worked very hard, along with Janet Nelson, and members of the Vliet Center. Julie Marantos must provide us all with a copy of that chocolate chip cookie recipe. Nicki Snoblin served as liaison to the Vliet people and did much to organize the event. And speaking of Nicki, our new member breakfast was a wonderful, relaxing, fun and informative morning with Lake Bluff Village Administrator Kent Street and Lake Forest City Manager Bob Kiel. They did a wonderful job of bringing us up to date on issues around town, from affordable housing to home rule with everything in between.

"Home Rule" in Lake Forest - Discussion

Wednesday, October 6th
Deer Path Middle School
7:00 PM

(President's Letter continued)

We are moderating a discussion on Home Rule on Wednesday, October 6 at 7 p.m. at Deer Path Middle School. The discussion will be recorded and televised, so everyone will be able to see it, but please come in person if you can and ask all of your very good questions. Our next regular board meeting on October 13 will end with a brown bag lunch and informal discussion of home rule. Bring a sandwich - our board meeting will start at 10:30, but the home rule discussion won't start until about 11:30. So even if you are working that day, maybe you can still get away for an hour or so to share some lunch, some opinions and some information.

Speaking of timely issues, VOTER REGISTRATION and CANDIDATE FORUMS have kept many of us off the streets (actually, voter registration has kept some of us ON the streets) lately. Voter registration has been a very rewarding, ongoing project for us since July. We wrote to graduated seniors from the high school, reminding them to register if they had not already done so, and provided them with a form for voting absentee. We organized a training for deputy registrars, working with the community, several businesses and libraries to register voters. Now that this big drive is over for now, we can take a minute to thank everyone who helped, especially Stephanie Victor, who with Dottie Fletcher I think

did most of the organizing. Bravo, ladies!

Also in the Bravo department, Christa Donnelley has been working her fingers to the bone over candidate forums. We can look forward to our forum on October 14, the Lake County forum on October 19, the 10th District congressional forum on October 18 and the not-to-be-missed debate between Barack Obama and Alan Keyes on Thursday, October 21. This will be televised on Channel 7 at 7 p.m. JoAnn Sabonjian, Carol Gilbert, Nicki Snoblin and Bev Adamczek all helped Christa to prepare for our local candidate forums.

Happie Datt is very busy organizing the U.N. program coming up this November 7 at Lake Forest Academy. She applied for and received a grant of \$500 to cover some of the expenses in flying in and housing our speaker, and the rest will be covered by money from our Education Fund. It's nice to see your generous contributions at work, yes? And speaking of generous contributions, Eleanor Beidler's family named our League as one of two recipients for donations from family and friends in memory of Eleanor's life. Our League will work with Pru to decide on an appropriate use of the money. Any and all suggestions would be welcome.

Kitty Cole has been working to repopulate the observer corps. I understand there are some boards and commissions which still need observing.

And this is just a taste of what's going on...not to mention the upcoming Holiday Luncheon, again with AAUW, which is already being planned (call Cindy Morehead or Sally Zeit if you want to help), the school funding program coming up in February that Sally has organized with Ralph Martire, and our fabulous second annual Dead Presidents Cocktail Party, which we should be working on but frankly aren't, yet. Thanks to all the inspiring people who contribute to make our League so strong, so active, and so effective.

- Cynthia

Candidate Forum

Sponsored by LWV-LF/LB

Thursday, October 14, 2004
to 9 pm

Lake Forest Lake Bluff Senior
Center
100 East Old Mill Road
Lake Forest, Illinois 60045

Illinois Senate District 29

Susan Garrett (D)
Daniel Bryant (R)

Illinois House of Representatives

District 58 Karen May (D)
Marc Brown (R)

District 59

Kathy Ryg (D)
Paul Tully (R) invited

District 60

Eddie Washington (D) invited
Susan Tenzi (R)

Fall Membership Drive Under Way

The Fall Membership Drive is off to an excellent start. Last year our focus was on recruiting new members, and that effort met with considerable success. Many of our League members brought friends into our ranks, and we hope they are all happy they joined us--we're glad to have them.

This year we are emphasizing membership retention. At this writing, some 60% of our members have renewed, but we are aiming to increase that percentage to 100% as we go into October and begin to prepare the Membership Directory.

If you have not yet renewed, please do so at your earliest opportunity! We have

so much to offer our members and the community at large this year. Our calendar is crammed with important and interesting events and programs, starting with voter registration drives (one of our most important functions), the Historic Preservation in Lake Bluff forum that was held in September, the candidate forums planned for October, a speaker from the United Nations coming here to Lake Forest in November--and that's just the fall!

We need your support to provide these programs to the community. As you know, membership in LWV-LFLB also makes you a member of League at the State and National levels, and a large percentage of the dues you pay goes to fund their work as well. We need to maintain our membership base to have both the revenue and the volunteers to provide relevant and worthwhile programs. Whether you are able to be actively involved, or you are one of our "guilt-free members," who generously support us without a commitment of time, you are very important to us!

We thank those who have already renewed their membership and look forward to hearing from the rest of our members soon. The League of Women Voters was founded in 1920 by brave women who fought for the right to vote and then took on the responsibility of educating other voters. Help us continue doing that work; it's a job that never

Voter Registration

We registered 57 voters on Sat. 9/11 at a total of 4 libraries, and approximately 20 people during The Friends of Lake Forest Library Book Sale. Thanks to everyone who pitched in!

**CHECK OUT OUR
LEAGUE'S WEB
SITE**

www.lwv-lflb.org

District 6 Candidate Forum for County Offices

Co-sponsored by the LWV of
Lake County and the Daily
Herald

Monday, October 18, 2004
7:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.

College of Lake County
C-Wing Auditorium, Room C-
005

19351 West Washington Street
Grayslake, IL 60030-1198

Lake County Circuit Court Clerk

Sally Coffelt & Margo Nelson
Lake County Coroner

Richard Keller & Jim Wipper
Lake County Recorder of Deeds
Dana Sabonjian & Mary Ellen
Vanderventer

Lake County State's Attorney

Michael Jacobs & Michael
Waller

Lake Co. Board Commissioner

Dist. 6

Larry Leafblad & Steven Skinner

Visit the Daily Herald website
and submit questions prior to the
forum!

<http://www.dailyherald.com/special/election/lakeforum>

Sallie Hamm will be our
moderator. Question screeners,
time keepers, someone to set up
the literature table, general
floaters, etc, needed on day of
event. Contact Jo-An at
phone: 847-727-5158 if you can
help!

LWV LF/LB Board Meeting Highlights

September 2004

Genesee Theatre: Terry Link (Chair
the of the Friends of the Historic
Genesee Theatre Board)
reported that the Genesee Theatre in
Waukegan is nearing completion and
scheduled to open sometime in
November, with a "big name" special
event.

Observer Corps: We are looking for
observers for Lake Forest City Council,
School District 67 (Elementary School),
School District 115 (Lake Forest High
School) and the various planning
boards/commissions. Contact Kitty Cole
at

UN Program: Cynthia reported that the
UN Program will be held at Lake
Forest Academy on November 5.

Join us . . . For a Brown Bag Discussion of Home Rule in Lake Forest

*Following the next Board
Meeting:*

Date: Wed., October 13th

Place: Gorton Community Center (Card
Room - in the basement)

Time: Discussion will begin between 11:30
and noon

Annual Lake County Women's Coalition Tea

Fundraiser for College of Lake County
Scholarship Fund, featuring selected
readings by Barbara Rinella

Sunday, Oct. 17, at 1:00 p.m.

Highland Park Country Club
1201 Park Avenue West
Highland Park, Illinois 60035

The LWV of Lake County has reserved
a table and tickets at \$20 per person
are available through Sally Zeit
(847-244-1347).

The Lake County Women's Coalition
formed in 1995 to celebrate the 75th
anniversary of women's suffrage with a
tea party. Approximately 400 women
attended, and the organizations involved
decided to continue holding an annual
tea using the occasion to honor women
who have distinguished themselves in
various walks of life. The coalition has
established a scholarship fund at CLC
for women returning to school. This is
funded with proceeds from the tea.



Dates to Remember

<i>Wednesday, Oct. 6th</i>	<i>Home Rule in Lake Forest, 7 pm, Deer Path Middle School</i>
<i>Wednesday, Oct. 13th</i>	<i>Board Meeting, Gorton Community Center (card room in basement), 10:30 am, followed by Brown Bag discussion of Home Rule in LF</i>
<i>Sunday, Oct. 17th</i>	<i>Women's Coalition Tea (see inside newsletter for details)</i>
<i>Monday, Oct. 18</i>	<i>District 6 Candidate Forum (see inside newsletter for details)</i>

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Nicole Snoblin
1010 Atkinson Rd.
Lake Bluff, IL 60044



September 2004
Volume 51, Number 1

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Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area League
of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

LWV-LFLB Presents a Forum: *Historic Preservation in Lake Bluff*

Tuesday, September 14,
7:00-9:00 p.m.
Lake Bluff Middle School
31 E. Sheridan Place

Topics and Panelists:

- Overview of Landmark Preservation, by David Bahlman, Executive Director of the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois
- What Is Significant in Lake Bluff? by Susan Benjamin, author, architectural historian, historic certification consultant, and Project Director of the Lake Bluff Architecture/Historical Survey
- Preservation, Restoration, Replacement: How to Decide, by Robert Ruggles, AIA, local architect/developer and partner with Center Avenue Partners in Lake Bluff
- The Lake Bluff Preservation Ordinance: How It Was Developed and How It Can Be Implemented, by Steven Kraus, former chairman of the Lake Bluff Plan Commission

*Audience Questions
Welcome!*

Voter Registration Drive Saturday, September 11, 2004

The American Library Association is sponsoring a nationwide voter registration drive to commemorate 9/11 and mobilize citizens to vote, and the League of Women Voters is pleased to be participating. If you are a dependent registrar and are available on Saturday, September 11, 2004, please contact Stephanie Victor at (847) 735-1228 (s2svictor@aol.com). The registration will take place at various libraries in the area; our specific locations are yet to be determined.

We need registrars for four libraries on 9/11/04 and for two colleges and Chicago Med School on dates yet to be announced.

If you are an official Registrar, think about offering registration at your place of worship, work, or kid's school.

Also, to LWV members who are Registrars and attend First Presbyterian Lake Forest—we need you for Sunday, September 19 and 26 between services to register and hand out applications for snowbirds, college students, and long-term handicapped people. We'll also be at Lake Forest College, date to be determined.

Contact:
dottie@fletcher.com or Stephanie Victor S2SVICTOR@aol.com if you are available

District 6 Candidate Forum - Help Wanted!

The *League of Women Voters of Lake County* and the *Daily Herald Newspaper* are co-sponsoring a candidate forum for the contested countywide races and county board District 6.

Date: Monday, October 18

Time: 7 p.m. until 10 p.m.

Place: College of Lake County
Grayslake Campus

Invited Candidates:

Circuit Court Clerk Candidates:

Margo Nelson and Sally Coffelt (both confirmed)

Coroner Candidates:

Richard Keller and Jim Wipper (both confirmed)

Recorder of Deeds Candidates:

Mary Ellen Vanderventer and Dana Sabonjian (Vanderventer confirmed)

State's Attorney Candidates:

Michael Jacobs and Mike Waller (Waller confirmed)

County Board District 6 Candidates:

Steven Skinner and Larry Leafblad

The Daily Herald has an excellent partner and has worked hard to make this happen ... They secured the site, scheduled all of the candidates and will help with publicity. Now, we need to do our part!

Please let me know how you can help. Sallie Hamm will be our moderator. However, on the day of the forum we still need question screeners, time keepers, someone to set up the literature

table, general floaters, etc. If anyone has contacts at Comcast cable or LCTV that can help us get this video taped and on the air, please help us make that connection. Any ideas about how we can get people to the event — both physically and through publicity — will be appreciated.

Thanks! Jo-An
phone: 847-727-5158

Don't Forget!

Fall Membership Event:

Community Update

with

Bob Kiely,
Lake Forest
City Manager, and
Kent Street,
Lake Bluff Village
Administrator

Saturday,
September 18th
9:00 a.m.
Lake Bluff Park
District Recreation
Center
Light Breakfast

Fall Membership Event Agenda:

Start the new LWV membership year with the annual Fall Membership Event. This year the event will feature the popular Community Update, in which Lake Forest City Manager Robert Kiely and Lake Bluff Village Administrator Kent Street will speak about new developments in our communities.

You won't want to miss this opportunity to chat with fellow League members whom you haven't seen over the summer and to learn about what's new in the area. Feel free to bring friends who may be interested in League membership; it's a good way to introduce them to what League is about. Watch for your invitation in the mail in early September.

Beat the Rush-- Renew Your Membership Now!

Each member is very important to our local League. Our strength derives from having a broad membership base consisting of people with diverse backgrounds and ideas. The more members we have, the more certain we can be that we represent the concerns and opinions of informed women from all over our community. Important things are happening at every level of government and in many aspects of our society. We want to be able to speak on these issues with all of your voices. We appreciate your ongoing support.

Help us get a head start on membership renewal, by writing your membership check as soon as you receive your renewal packet in the mail. If you know of someone who might be interested in League, contact Nicki Snoblin at nicki@snoblin.com or 847-295-9059.

Do you have something to share with fellow League members? Submit interesting news and upcoming events to elaineslayton@yahoo.com (847-295-0275).

Great Decisions Discussion Group

This fall, the Great Decisions foreign policy discussion group, jointly sponsored by the American Association of University Women and the League of Women Voters, will finish the last three of the 2004 discussion topics. The September 10 meeting will be held at the home of Diane Lloyd, 500 College Road, Lake Forest. Meetings are always scheduled for the second Friday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00.

Upcoming dates and topics:

September 10: Latin America: the Price of Neglect

October 8: Middle East Reform: Is Democracy the Answer

November 12: Failure to Communicate: Public Diplomacy in Crisis

Discussion books are published by the Foreign Policy Association. Books for the 2005 season will be available later in January. If you would like to join us during the 2005 season, which begins on the second Friday in February, please let us know in advance and we will order a book for you at the discounted group rate.

Questions? Diane Lloyd 615-9182 or Betty Bunker 234-4509

LWV Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Area Meeting Minutes

AUGUST 11, 2004

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m. at Gorton Community Center.

Present: Happie Datt (International Committee), Dottie Fletcher (Voter

Registration), Cynthia Maloney (President), Nicki Snoblin (Membership)

Membership: Five new memberships and 13 early renewals have been received for the 2004-2005 membership year. The fall membership drive will commence on August 27 with the mailing of renewal letters. The fall membership event will be a breakfast and community update on Saturday, September 18, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Lake Bluff Park District Recreation Center. Guest speakers will be Kent Street (Lake Bluff Village Administrator) and Robert Kiely (Lake Forest City Manager). Invitations will be mailed on September 3. Members are encouraged to bring a friend.

Voter Service: Candidate forums are being planned for the November election. The Lake County LWV is sponsoring a forum for county-wide offices on October 25 at College of Lake County. A 10th Congressional District forum is planned in Arlington Heights. Forums will probably be needed for the 29th senate district and the 58th and 59th representative districts.

Voter Registration: As part of a nationwide voter registration drive on September 11 sponsored by the American Library Association, we will have registrars at the Lake Forest Library, Lake Bluff Library, Cook Memorial Library, and Fremont Public Library. All voter registrars are needed for this effort.

High School Funding Research Committee: This committee has not begun its work yet, and the School Board has not made a decision as to the timing of a referendum.

Home Rule Forum: Cynthia is trying to put together a forum on home rule in preparation for the November ballot question in Lake Forest. So far the City has not responded about a proposed date in late September.

Historic Preservation Forum: The League has been approached by

members of the Vliet Center board to hold a public forum on historic preservation in Lake Bluff. The request came out of interest from residents as well as concern that a historic preservation ordinance passed by the Village Board in 2000 has not yet been put into effect. There is a perceived urgency because potentially historic homes may be lost to the "tear-down" boom in the area.

The Vliet Center board has been instrumental in helping to organize the forum quickly. Nicki Snoblin is acting as liaison between the Vliet Center and the League. The forum will be on Tuesday, September 14, from 7 to 9 p.m., at the Lake Bluff Middle School. Panelists will be David Bahlman, Executive Director of the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois; Susan Benjamin, architectural historian, historic certification consultant, and author of the Lake Bluff historical survey; Robert Ruggles, local architect and developer; and Steven Kraus, former chairman of the Lake Bluff Plan Commission.

League volunteers will be needed as question screeners, runners, and ushers.

UN Program: Happie reported on progress in the plan to bring in a speaker from the United Nations. The program will be on Friday, November 5, in the evening. The probable location will be the David Miller Theater (the former Studio Theater) at Lake Forest High School. The theater seats 140 people. The focus of the presentation will be on UN work overseas and programs on the education of youth, with an emphasis on the Middle East. A \$500 grant has been applied for and additional sources of funding are being investigated. The format is expected to consist of a 30-minute reception, a one-hour talk, and a 30-minute period for conversation with the speaker.

**CHECK OUT OUR
LEAGUE'S WEB SITE
www.lwv-lfbl.org**

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, Sept. 8

Board Meeting, Gorton Community Center, 10:30 am

Saturday, Sept. 11

Voter Registration Drive (see inside newsletter for details)

Saturday, Sept. 18

Fall Membership Event (see inside newsletter for details and watch for your invitation in the mail)

Monday, Oct. 18

District 6 Candidate Forum (see inside newsletter for details)

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Nicole Snoblin
1010 Atkinson Road
Lake Bluff, IL 60044



November 2004
Volume 51, Number 3

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- 5 Historic Preservation event to be cablecast
- 6 Illinois Deficit Discussion
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League Lines

President's Letter

Dear friends in League,

BOO! It's such a goofy time of year...it's true, I think, that once we hit Halloween, it's all downhill after that. The driving litany of holidays and school and family obligations is unrelenting until spring break, when we can all maybe catch our breath. I'm especially feeling the pinch, because I'm suddenly aware that my TWO YEARS as League president will be up at our next annual meeting, and we really need to start planning for that now. People need to be thinking about what they would like to do with League next season, and someone needs to be thinking about stepping up. I'd really like to start hearing from you toward that end. I can say that my experience as your president has been entirely rewarding (I'm just starting to get the hang of it, it takes a while) and I'm sure it would be for you, too. It is such an honor to associate with this incredible group of women, let alone try to lead you. There is so much more work to be done. Being League president is a fantastic opportunity to grow and learn and actually have a wonderful time.

It's especially interesting to investigate all those grey areas that come up. Some people felt we shouldn't have been involved in the Lake Forest Home Rule program, largely organized by the City of Lake Forest. We didn't have a position on the question, even though we'd studied it in the past. I agonized over our involvement for weeks...but the City asked us to moderate the program, and enough of us felt that it was an appropriate role for League to play. Joan Kaltsas did a phenomenal job as moderator. We were able to get a League member, in the form of Rinda

Allison of Glen Ellyn, to be on the panel. Rinda, a past League president, Village Trustee and a municipal attorney, was uniquely qualified to represent a League perspective, and we were very lucky that she was so generous to join us.

And I don't know about you, but I think our Candidate Forum for State Representatives and State Senator was the best forum I've ever watched! The crisp moderating by Mary Lou Aagaard of Glenview and the fabulous questions, edited by Bev Adamczyk and Char Kreuz (and the spirit of Diane Lloyd, who spent quite a bit of time lending her acute vision to the process, even though she couldn't be there that evening) helped the candidates to all show their very best sides and informed the people present, and those who will watch at home, on the issues of the campaigns, the similarities and differences, and the great opportunity we have to vote on November 2. Christa Donnelly as Voter Service chair was amazing, and we need to thank Jo-An Sabonian, Nicki Snoblin, and especially Carol Gilbert for their help as well.

That Voting thing. That's what it's really all about, isn't it? I must say I will be relieved when this election is over. I was talking with Ginny Fredericks the other day, about our involvement in the Home Rule program, among other things, and she encouraged me with a story about how devastated she was when Lyndon Johnson was elected. "How will we survive?" she thought at the time, "with such a boorish man as President?" Then I remembered the time Richard Nixon beat George McGovern, how I thought the world was coming to an end, but it didn't. So, here we are again, with hotly contested, divisive races, and once again, we as a country will survive whatever outcome, we are strong

enough, and our friendships will survive, and with everybody's help, League will be there, too...a refreshing, intelligent, non-partisan oasis in a sometimes bitter desert of political ill-will. As an antidote, let's all come to the U.N. Program!

Vote early,

Cynthia

Fall Membership Drive Nearing Its Close

Our fall membership drive has gone well this year. As of this writing, we have 98 paid local members for 2004-2005, plus six National members and two honorary members. However, there are also 23 members from last year who have not yet renewed. If you are one of them, we'd appreciate it if you would send in your membership renewal at your earliest convenience. The Membership Directory will go to press in the second week of November, and we'd like to be able to include your name in it. Call Nicki Snoblin at (847) 295-9059 if you need a new membership form or have any questions about membership.

Of the 98 paid members at this point, 12 are new to LWV this year. We're thrilled that they've decided to join us, and we thank those of our members who have helped to bring friends into our ranks. Please remember that new members are welcome at any time of the year; call Nicki Snoblin at (847) 295-9059 if you'd like to have LWV information sent to a friend.

New Member News

New Member Herb Nelson directs another amazing production! Many thanks to Herb and Janet Nelson (she's the sound engineer, he runs the camera) for taping our recent Candidate's Forum at Stirling Hall. The board was so embarrassed to be asking Herb *again* to help us that we made him a member! Not fooled at all by the "honor," he

nevertheless was gracious enough to pretend not to notice that we were railroading him once more into helping us with our technical needs. Bravo, Herb, and congratulations on joining League!

Candidate Forums Well Attended

The Kirk/Goodman Candidate Forum for the 10th Congressional District took place at John Hersey High School in Arlington Heights on Sunday, October 17. Leagues from across the District participated in sponsoring the event: Glenview, Arlington Heights, Glencoe, Winnetka/Northfield/Kenilworth, Deerfield, Highland Park, Wilmette, Lake Forest/Lake Bluff and the Lake County LWV all cooperated in making arrangements. Sue Calder of the Evanston League moderated the forum in the packed school auditorium, where rowdy supporters of both sides interrupted the proceedings often with clapping and cheering. The event was videotaped by the High School A/V department, and will be distributed to local cable channels.

Last Thursday's county forum was also very well attended. There were over 80 audience members. It was taped by LFTV and should be on the air up to the time of the elections. One thing that was really neat is that a class of high school students came to watch, and even asked questions. The county forum was a long forum, 2 full hours for 4 candidates and rather exciting as League event's go; some questions came through the Daily Herald's web site and there was a mike set up at the forum to take questions from the floor. The voters were not shy about addressing tough issues affecting the coroner's race. The candidates were asked to clarify their opinion on how to dispose of the indigent, as well as how much it should cost, and who should bear the burden. The candidates were also asked to address the amount of time they would devote to the job (given their current obligations).

LWV / AAUW ANNUAL HOLIDAY EVENT

BARBARA RINELLA
presents
Alexander Hamilton
by Ron Chernow

Wednesday, December 15
St. James Lutheran Church
1380 N. Waukegan Road
Lake Forest

9:30 am - Coffee
10:00 am - Program followed by Luncheon

Last year's joint Holiday Luncheon with AAUW and the League of Women Voters received warm praise, and requests for an encore. Book dramatist Barbara Rinella will present a dramatic rendering of Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow. Coffee will be served at 9:30am. The presentation will begin promptly at 10am, with a luncheon following. Also joining the fun that day will be the gals from Lake Forest Bookstore dispensing reliable advice, Barbara Rinella's favorite books and a selection of holiday gift books. A portion of the book proceeds will be donated to the Education Funds of the two non-profits. So plan to take home a page-turner for yourself. For reservations call Cindy Morehead at 295-6470 or Carol Gilbert at 295-4044.

Historic Preservation on LFTV

The LWV forum, "Historic Preservation in Lake Bluff," will be cablecast on LFTV, Channel 19 in Lake Forest/Lake Bluff, throughout the month of November. It will be shown on Mondays at 4:00 p.m. and Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. The forum was held on September 14 and featured four panelists who spoke about preservation both within Lake Bluff and in a broader context. The speakers were David Bahlman, Executive Director of the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois; Susan Benjamin, author, architectural historian, historic certification consultant, and Project Director of the Lake Bluff Architecture/Historical Survey; Robert Ruggles, AIA, local architect/developer and partner with Center Avenue Partners in Lake Bluff; and Steven Kraus, former chairman of the Lake Bluff Plan Commission.

Illinois Budget Deficit Discussion

We're invited: Ralph Martire, Executive Director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, will be the featured speaker at a meeting sponsored by Waukegan Area AAUW. He will discuss the question of why Illinois faces budget deficits year after year - a situation that severely impacts vital services and programs including elementary and secondary education. He will offer possible future scenarios for the state including one for reforming our flawed tax system and eliminating the structural deficit. In addition to

being an engaging speaker, Ralph is a regular columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times on issues involving government accountability, tax, fiscal and budget policies. He also teaches a Master's level class on fiscal policy at Illinois State University. Ralph Martire is scheduled to speak to the LWVLF/LB in February but if you would like an advance preview of his presentation or are planning to be out of the area in February, this is an opportunity to hear him. He will be at the Zion-Benton Library on Tuesday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m. The library is located at 2400 Gabriel Ave. Gabriel runs north and south and can be accessed off 27th Street. The library is about 3 blocks north of 27th St. For information, contact Sally Zeit at 847/244-1347.



Did you know? League videos available

We traditionally keep two videotapes of every taped event we hold. These tapes are then available to League members who want to borrow them (Thanks to Alice Flaherty for the good organization of the video collection we inherited).

Following is list of those videos dated since 2000. For videos prior to 2000, or to borrow a video, contact Nicki Snoblin at 295-9059.

League of Women Voters of the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area Videotape Archive

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>
2/29/00	Candidate Forum: 10th Congressional District, Republican Primary
3/9/00	Candidate Forum: Lake Forest City Offices
9/27/00	Shields Township Study
10/5/00	Candidate Forum: 59th State Rep District, 30th State Senate District, and Two County Races
10/12/00	Discussion on Charter Schools
3/3/01	Candidate Forum: Lake Forest City Offices
3/3/01	Candidate Forum: School Districts 67 and 115
3/3/01	Candidate Forum: Shields Township
5/17/01	"When Your Vote Counts," with Willard Helander
11/15/01	"Fireside Chat," with Terry Link and Susan Garrett
3/7/02	Candidate Forum: Lake County Board District 13, Republican Primary; State Senate District 29, Democratic Primary
3/21/02	Shields Township Meeting
4/18/02	Shields Township Meeting
10/13/02	Candidate Forum: Lake County Candidates
10/22/02	Candidate Forum: State Rep District 59, State Senate District 30
10/27/02	Candidate Forum: 10th Congressional District, State Senate District 29, State Rep District 58
2/26/03	Candidate Forum: High School District 115 Board, Lake Bluff Park District Board
9/14/04	"Historic Preservation in Lake Bluff" panel discussion

Dates to Remember

Tuesday, Nov. 2nd

Wednesday, Nov. 10th

Wednesday, Dec. 15th

Election Day – Don't forget to VOTE

Board Meeting, 10:30 am

Gorton Community Center (card room in basement),

Annual Holiday Event (see inside for details)

LWVLFLB Area Board of Directors

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President: Cynthia Maloney (615-1123)

Secretary: Joy Gibson (615-1504)

Vice President–Voter Service:

Christa Donnelly (234-1866)

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Treasurer: Liese Kant (295-1415)

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Newsletter/Publicity: Elaine Slayton (295-0275)

Program: Cynthia Morehead (295-6470)

Sally Zeit (244-1347)

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Area
League of Women Voters
Gorton Community Center
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

WHY THE UN?

a public meeting to assess today's world featuring

Ramu Damodaran

Chief, Civil Society Service, UN Dept of Public Information

"The United Nations once dealt only with governments. By now we know that peace and prosperity cannot be achieved without partnerships involving governments, international organizations, the business community and civil society. In today's world we depend on each other."

Kofi Annan, UN Secretary-General

7PM Sunday November 7th 2004
Lake Forest Academy Cressey Center

Many thanks to "By the People/America in the World", a MacNeill endowment grant funded by the League of Women Voters Education Fund and Lake Forest Academy. Audience questions welcome. Public very welcome.



December 2004
Volume 51, Number 4

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- 1 Illinois Tax System –
Upcoming Program
- 2 Annual Holiday Event –
Still time to reserve!
- 3 UN Program a Success –
see inside for pictures
- 4 Mock Election at LFHS
- 5 Observer Core Report

Lake Forest–Lake Bluff Area League
of Women Voters
400 E. Illinois Rd.
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Lake Forest • Lake Bluff Area League of Women Voters

League Lines

Illinois' Flawed Tax System

*Do you wonder why Illinois
faces budget deficits year after
year? Save the date and bring
your questions!*

Wed, February 9

7:30 p.m.

**Gorton Community Center
Lake Forest**

*Ralph Martire, Executive Director of
the Center for Tax and Budget
Accountability* will be the featured
speaker at a program co-sponsored by
the LWV of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff and
AAUW Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Branch

Mr. Martire has identified a structural deficit in the Illinois tax system as the culprit (something with which the LWVIL concurs). He will discuss the problem confronting us and his proposed solution for eliminating the deficit (see insert in this "League Lines"). It is anticipated that HB 750, Senate Amendments 1 & 2, authored by Martire, will be acted upon in the spring session of the Illinois General Assembly (for more on LWVIL's position, see your Fall 2004 "Illinois Voter").

If successful, this will radically reform the way we fund education in Illinois. Ralph Martire is a regular columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times and also teaches a Master's level course in fiscal policy at Illinois State University. He is an outstanding speaker who will make the issue under discussion abundantly understandable and interesting. For information, contact Sally Zeit, 847/244-1347.

LWV/AAUW ANNUAL HOLIDAY EVENT

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presents

Alexander Hamilton

by Ron Chernow

Wednesday, December 15
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Book dramatist Barbara Rinella will present a dramatic rendering of Alexander Hamilton by Ron Chernow. Coffee will be served at 9:30am; the presentation will begin promptly at 10am, with a luncheon following. Also joining the fun that day will be the gals from Lake Forest Bookstore dispensing reliable advice, Barbara Rinella's favorite books and a selection of holiday gift books. A portion of the book proceeds will be donated to the Education Funds of the two non-profits.

If you have questions, call Cindy Morehead at 295-6470 or Carol Gilbert at 295-4044. For reservations, send your \$35.00 check, payable to LWV - Lake Forest/Lake Bluff, to LWV, 400 E.

Illinois Rd., Lake Forest.



Sam Dolby, Lake Forest Academy History Instructor, Cynthia Maloney, LWV president, Ramu Damodaran, UN Speaker, Happie Datt, LWV International Committee Chair

Why the UN? Program a Success

The LWV-LF/LB presented a very successful program, "Why the UN?" Sunday, November 7, 2004 at the Cressey Center – the Fine Arts Theater at Lake Forest Academy. We were honored to have Mr. Ramu Damodaran, Chief, Civil Society Service give us a complete overview of the various UN named bodies and how they interact with the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

He traced the roots of the UN to the International Postal Service Agreements of the 19th century – whereas a country would accept mail from another country without equivalent compensation for delivery of that piece of mail within its borders. Knowing the kind of crisis the USPS goes through every few years and the raises in rates – this took a lot of negotiating and agreeing back then – in the days before the telephone and the internet!

Surprisingly, 80% of the UN budget is used for development programming. Peacekeeping accounts for only 20% of the budget. Many of the UN named bodies, such as UNICEF, etc. are wholly supported by private donations.

Damodaran pointed out that some of the problems of the Security Council, such as the veto power and who has a permanent seat on the Council can only be addressed by changing the Charter of the United Nations, which may also be tweaked to make it gender neutral. He knew his audience!

Some of the questions from the audience were so specific reflecting a very knowledgeable crowd. The audience expressed admiration at the breadth/depth of his knowledge and his ability to speak so eloquently without the use of notes.

Thanks to all members of the international committee for making this happen. I would also like to recognize

Carol Gilbert, Cynthia Morehead, JoAnn Sahonjian, Jane Partridge, Robbyn Kilbane-MacFadden, Sally Zeit and guest committee member from the International Club – Tayo Sosan for providing a wonderful pre-program dinner for the speaker at my house. The program was video-taped by our able new member – Herb Nelson and was broadcast on Saturday and Sundays on LFTV. Thank you all.

For an encore the International Committee has started planning the next program – HOSTING VISITORS FROM RUSSIA, UKRAINE and UZBEKISTAN in Spring 2005. We are looking for more involvement from members who have Russian language skills or are willing to host a delegate in their homes for the duration of their



day, 5 to 6 days in Lake Forest or just join our dynamic new committee. Call or email Happie Datt, 847-234-6801; harpreetdatt@aol.com



LWV partners with LFHS Students for Mock Election



On Wednesday, October 27, the Lake Forest High School Debate Team and the Civility Committee jointly presented a mock presidential debate, in which students representing George Bush and John Kerry presented the candidates' views on foreign policy, domestic policy, and economic policy. They gave overviews, engaged in crossfire sessions, and answered questions from students in the audience. The debate was fairly well attended, the students did a superb job (especially with the difficult crossfire format), and the audience members asked many excellent questions.

The next day, the students held a mock presidential election during the school lunch periods. The League of Women Voters assisted by arranging for the loan of voting booths from the County Clerk's office, as well as by obtaining and donating 2,000 "I Voted" stickers. We were also able to put the students in touch with the Pioneer Press, which covered the event. Pictures from the election are attached. The outcome of the vote (which was available by 8th period the same day!) was as follows: George W. Bush won the election, with 510 votes; John Kerry received 336 votes; and 13 students voted for third parties, including Ralph Nader and Oprah! A total of 859 students voted, which is around half of the student body.

The talent and maturity of all the students involved in the debate and election were extremely impressive, and it was a pleasure to work with them. They also acknowledged and thanked League at every opportunity!



Observer Core Report

The Lake Forest City Council Affordable Housing Task Force continues to meet and are getting ready to put flesh on a plan. They will be engaging an architect to come up with a concept for a piece of city land. The first priority for housing would be for Lake Forest seniors. The Senior Center also monitors this effort.

Kitty Cole is still in need of observers. Please help! If anyone is interested, call Kitty.

Send newsletter submissions to
Elaine Slayton at
elaineslayton@yahoo.com or
call 847.295.0275.

Dates to Remember**Wednesday, Dec. 15th***Annual Holiday Event (see inside for details)***Wednesday, Feb. 9th***Illinois Tax System program (see inside for details)***LWVFLB Area Board of Directors****OFFICERS**

President	Cynthia Maloney	615-1123
Vice President—Action	Jo-An Sabonjian	336-5154
Vice President—Voter Service	Christa Donnelly	234-1866
Secretary	Joy Gibson	615-1504
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Program	Cynthia Morehead	295-6470
	Sally Zeit	244-1347
	Happie Datt	234-6801
Public Relations	Liese Kant	295-1415
Nominating Systems Chair	[open]	
LWVLC Board Liaison	Linda Barnes	234-7069
LMILO Board Liaison	Robbyn Kilbane-McFadden	625-9765

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